

News

WINTER 2026 Issue

90th Annual Meeting

July 29-August 1, 2026

The Broadmoor | Colorado Springs, CO



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Western Orthopaedic Association News

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President's Message



Greetings and salutations!

It's that time of year, to mark your calendars for the 90th Annual Meeting of the WOA from July 29th to August 1st, 2026! Our venue this year is the majestic Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, which was just ranked by Forbes as one of the most "iconic hotels on earth." This extraordinary property offers the perfect getaway for families, friends and colleagues to reconnect and enjoy the splendor of the Colorado Rockies.

There are endless outdoor activities offered in this region, including hiking, golfing, mountain biking and fly fishing, as well as touring the Garden of the Gods, exploring the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and climbing the famous Manitou incline. For those who are inclined to relax, the property features beautiful walking paths, a fantastic pool and guided art tours through the hotel.

We have an exceptional Scientific Program and Social Program in store for you, Co-Chaired by Dr. Luke Nicholson and Dr. Nicholas Alfonso. They have assembled a top-notch faculty to lead the educational charge in both symposia and ICL formats. The topics will be varied, including state-of-the-art advancements in multiple disciplines. The rapid fire presentations return this year as well, providing an opportunity for residents and fellows to showcase their research.

It is our privilege to welcome Dr. Valerae Lewis as our distinguished Presidential Guest Speaker, as well as Aron Ralston, acclaimed mountaineer, author and subject of the movie *127 Hours* as the Howard Steel Lecturer.

This will be a meeting to remember, and I would like to personally encourage each of you to invite a colleague who has not attended a WOA meeting to join us in Colorado Springs, and see how fabulous this organization is!

See you at the Broadmoor!

Cynthia M. Kelly, MD
WOA President

2026 Calendar of Events

March 2026 | Resident Award Manuscripts Requested

April 2026 | 2026 Annual Meeting Preliminary Program Mailed

May 2026 | Abstracts Selected and Notifications Mailed

July 29-August 1, 2026 | 90th Annual Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO

Register Today for the 90th Annual Meeting

The Western Orthopaedic Association will have its 90th Annual Meeting July 29-August 1, 2026, at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The WOA holds one of the premier meetings for orthopaedists practicing in the West. The Scientific Program will be developed to present timely reviews of practice-related techniques and clinical research findings in orthopaedic surgery through select outstanding abstracts. Nationally recognized speakers will also be invited to participate.

The Broadmoor is nestled on the southern edge of the Rocky Mountains, with 5,000 lush acres to explore. Enjoy a refreshing escape, complete with stunning views of Cheyenne Lake and the mountains in the "zero-entry" infinity pool. The Broadmoor Golf Club, with two iconic courses, is consistently ranked among the best in the world.

At The Broadmoor's gala grand opening in 1918, visitors found the lobby, halls, restaurants and 350 guest rooms exquisitely decorated and furnished. While much has changed at the resort more than a century later, one essential aspect remains the same: the resort's unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional experience for its guests, including unique activities and amenities to delight everyone.

We look forward to seeing you at The Broadmoor. Register today at www.woa-assn.org/current-annual-meeting.

Book Your Room

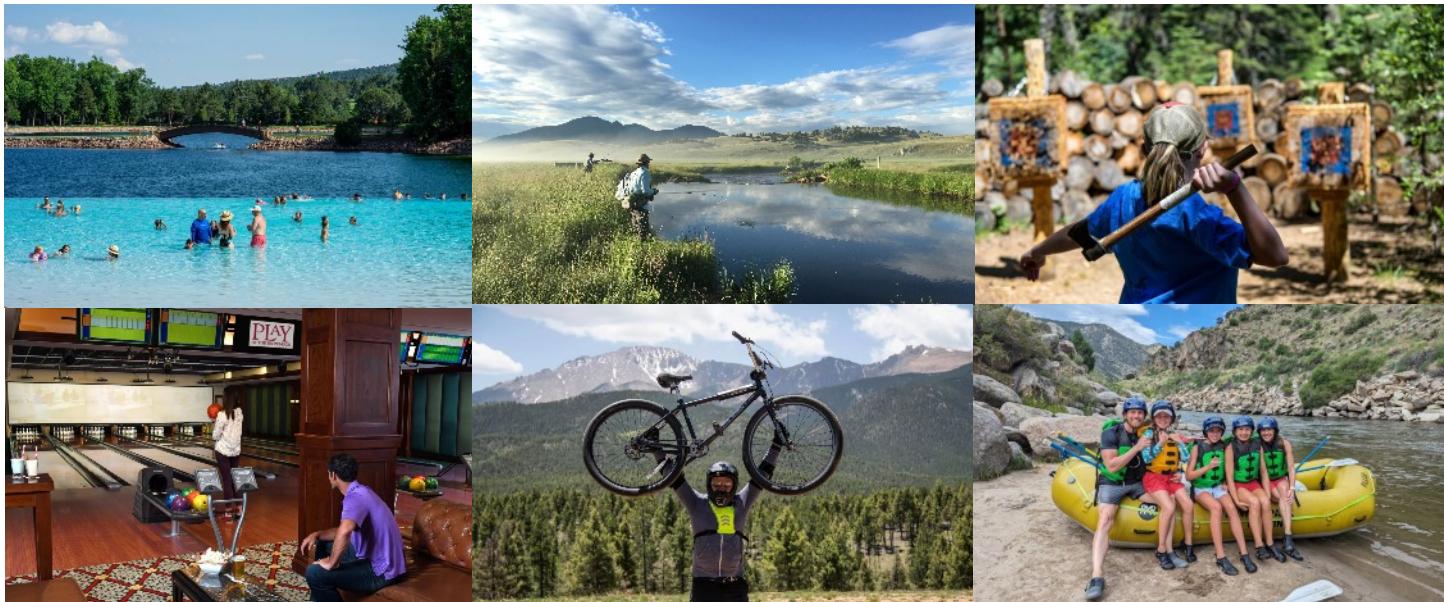
The Broadmoor

1 Lake Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Room Rates

Classic Double/King - \$460
Superior Double/King - \$485
Premier Queen/King - \$510

Call 1-855-634-7711 and mention you are attending the WOA Annual Meeting or scan the code below to book online.



Meeting Activities

Check out the activities being offered during the Annual Meeting! Discover an array of inspiring outdoor excursions that include personalized instruction from the knowledgeable staff of experts at Broadmoor Outfitters, as well the equipment you need to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Scan the code to view the offerings and to book online.





2026 Presidential Guest Speaker

Valerae O. Lewis, MD

Dr. Valerae O. Lewis will be the WOA 2026 Presidential Guest Speaker. Dr. Lewis is Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She is also the Associate Director of the Department of Thoracic/Orthopaedic Center and Associate Director of the Sarcoma Center. Dr. Lewis is a leader in the field of Orthopaedic Oncology with particular expertise in limb salvage and pelvic sarcoma surgery in adult and pediatric patients.

In 2011, she started the Multidisciplinary Pelvic Sarcoma Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center that not only addresses the clinical needs of this unique group of patients but also works to improve both the clinical and functional outcomes of patients with pelvic sarcoma. For the past ten years, Dr. Lewis has served as Director of the Musculoskeletal Oncology Fellowship Program at symposiums throughout the year and is active in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), American Orthopaedic Association (AOA), the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (MSTS), the International Society for Limb Salvage (ISOLS), and the Western Orthopaedic Association (WOA), where she served as President in 2014.

2026 Howard Steel Lecturer

Aron Lee Ralston

The WOA is pleased to have Aron Lee Ralston as the Howard Steel Lecturer for our 90th Annual Meeting. He is an American mountaineer, mechanical engineer, and motivational speaker best known for surviving a canyoneering accident in 2003 by amputating part of his right arm. On April 26 of that year, while descending Bluejohn Canyon in southeastern Utah alone, a dislodged boulder trapped his wrist against the canyon wall. After five days, he broke his forearm and used a dull pocketknife to amputate it, then continued through the canyon, rappelled a 65-foot drop, and hiked 7 miles to safety.



Mr. Ralston's ordeal is recounted in his autobiography *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* and was later adapted into the 2010 film *127 Hours*, in which he was portrayed by James Franco. Following the accident, Ralston continued his mountaineering pursuits and became the first person to climb all of Colorado's fourteeners solo in winter.

Welcome New Members

The WOA is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Western Orthopaedic Association.

Ioanna K. Bolia, MD, MS, PhD, Los Angeles, CA
Eduardo Chen, MD, Palo Alto, CA
Antonia Chen, MD, MBA, Dallas, TX
Foster Chen, MD, Seattle, WA
Jessica Lynne Churchill, MD, Denver, CO
William L. Crutcher, MD, Seattle, WA
Daniel K. Davis, MD, Simi Valley, CA
Matthew Frederickson, MD, Sacramento, CA
Francis Gonzales, MD, San Diego, CA
Theodore Gregorius, MD, Newport Beach, CA
James S. Hamada, MD, Hawaiian Gardens, CA
Justin E. Hellwinkel, MD, Denver, CO

Suezie Kim, MD, Tucson, AZ
Arnoldas S. Kungys, MD, Mather, CA
Amanda Paige Marinko, PA, Orange, CA
Luke Nicholson, MD, Los Angeles CA
Rachel Roller, MD, Stanford, CA
Spencer Schulte, MD, Augusta, GA
Peter Robert Seipel, MD, Globe, AZ
Christopher L. Shultz, MD, Albuquerque, NM
Neil Arif Tayyab, MD, San Diego, CA
Daniel Vande Lune, MD, El Paso, TX
Paul Yang, MD, West Covina, CA

2025 Resident/Fellow Award Winners

Congratulations to the following 2025 WOA Resident/Fellow Award Recipients. The award winners were selected during the Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

Lloyd Taylor Award Winner

Anterior-Humeral-Circumflex Artery Ligation Ablates Blood-Flow to Lesser Tuberosity Osteotomies
Tyler Thorne, MD, University of Utah

Vernon Thompson Award Winner

Dynamic Limb Assessment of High-Energy Lower Extremity Trauma Improves Prediction of Amputation

Christopher Stewart, MD, University of California, San Francisco

Harold and Nancy Willingham Award Winner

Surgeon vs. Hospital Medicare Reimbursement for Revision Total Joint Arthroplasty

Jack Haglin, MD, Mayo Clinic

Sanford and Darlene Anzel Award Winner

Wait to Check: Do Early Post-Intervention Radiographs Change Management After Pediatric Femur Fractures?
Kylie Shaw, MD, University of Colorado

WOA/WOF Resident Award Winner

Aspirin is an Effective Method of Prophylaxis in Primary TJA Patients with a History of VTE

Jens Verhey, MD, Mayo Clinic Arizona

WOF Resident Award Winners

Randomized Controlled Trial: Multimodal Pain Protocol After Outpatient Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeries
Brendan C. O'Leary, MD, University of California, San Diego

Patients Receiving GLP-1 agonists Have Reduced Odds of Pseudoarthrosis Following Lumbar Decompression and Fusion Surgery

Abhinav K. Sharma, MD, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine

Revision and Postoperative Complication Rates after Conversion Total Hip Arthroplasty after Cephalomedullary Nailing of Intertrochanteric Femur Fractures: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Harsh Wadhwa, BS, Stanford University

Recap of the 89th Annual Meeting



The 89th Annual Meeting was a great success with a wonderful Scientific Program. Program Chairs Drs Kathryn L. Schabel and Jennifer Van Warmerdam along with the WOA Program Committee did an incredible job of putting together the Scientific Program.

Program highlights included the Presidential Guest Speaker, Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Vori Health and Professor Emerita of Orthopedics at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Mary O'Connor, gave a thoughtful talk "Leadership and Diversity." On the last day the Howard Steel Guest Lecturer, best-selling author, keynote speaker, philanthropist and college professor, Damon West, gave an entertaining talk "Be a Coffee Bean." In addition to the exceptional Scientific Program, there were also E-Poster presentations.

The meeting kicked off with the Exhibitor Reception followed by a wonderful Welcome Dinner overlooking the beautiful ocean, where everyone had a chance to visit with old and new friends. The meeting was brought to a close with the always fun Family Luau.

It was a memorable meeting, and we want to thank everyone who attended. If you missed the event, we encourage you to view the 2025 Grand Hyatt Kauai pictures online at www.woa-assn.org and see what a great time it was.

Come See the WOA Award Winners at AAOS 2026

Come support the 2025 top two WOA Resident Award Winners at the AAOS 2026 Annual Meeting.

The Lloyd Taylor Award Winner, Tyler Thorne, MD, will present "Anterior-Humeral-Circumflex Artery Ligation Ablates Blood-Flow to Lesser Tuberosity Osteotomies" on Monday, March 2 in Case Chats: Shoulder and Elbow II Papers in Room 226 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

The Vernon Thompson Award Winner, Christopher Stewart, MD, will present "Dynamic Limb Assessment of High-Energy Lower Extremity Trauma Improves Prediction of Amputation" on Monday, March 2 in Case Chats: Trauma IV Papers in Room 229 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

EXCITING WOA NEWS!

SUBMIT TODAY!

RESEARCH AWARDS

1st Place: \$10,000

2nd Place: \$5,000 3rd Place: \$2,000

Submissions for the 2026 WOA Annual Meeting Research Awards will open August 04, 2025 and close January 12, 2026.

See the WOA Website for eligibility & submission details.



Grantor & Exhibitor Acknowledgements

The Western Orthopaedic Association would like to thank the grantors and exhibitors of the WOA's 89th Annual Meeting. Without the unrestricted educational support of the companies listed below, we would not have been able to provide this conference.

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Support the Western Orthopaedic Foundation



Make your mark on the future by helping to support the WOF Education Fund (a 501[C]3 tax-exempt fund) with your charitable contribution. The WOA established this fund to provide educational opportunities for young orthopaedists throughout the territory. We encourage you to make a donation to help the WOA achieve its goals for funding educational programs for residents. It is a worthy endeavor, and one that will endure for generations.

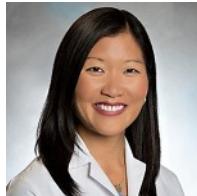
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Scan the QR code and complete your transaction online.



The office can be reached directly at 866-962-1388 or info@woa-assn.org

Meet the New Board Members



Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA | Dallas, TX

Dr. Chen is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She specializes in primary and revision total knee and hip replacement surgeries and partial knee replacements, as well as total joint replacement infection management. She holds the Dr. Charles F. Gregory Distinguished Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Chen earned her medical degree at Rutgers' Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She also earned a master's in business administration at Rutgers Business School. She then completed a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and received advanced training through an adult reconstruction fellowship at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia.

Certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, she joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 2024. She previously served as an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and was Chief of Arthroplasty and Joint Reconstruction and Director of Research for the Arthroplasty Service at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Chen holds significant editorial roles with several academic journals. She sits on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Arthroplasty*, the *Journal of Bone and Joint Infection*, and the *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*; is a Deputy Editor for the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*; and is an Associate Editor for *Arthroplasty Today*. She also holds leadership positions in national organizations such as the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, for which she is currently second Vice President. She also serves on UT Southwestern's ASC Strategy Steering Committee.

She has served as a principal investigator (PI) on several grants, including studies examining the role of vitamin D in joint arthroplasty outcomes and the use of decision-making aids to reduce racial disparities in joint replacement surgeries. She also served as Site PI for a large multicenter trial comparing venous thromboembolism prevention strategies after hip and knee replacements, supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Chen has authored several books, including *Management of Orthopaedic Infections: A Practical Guide*, *The Little Ortho Book: The Bare Bones of Orthopedics*, and *Quick Reference Dictionary for Orthopedics*, and has contributed chapters to more than 50 other books. She has delivered scores of invited lectures and published more than 400 peer-reviewed articles related to her areas of expertise.

The recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Chen earned the Nancy J. Tarbell Dean's Leadership Award for an Emerging Leader in Women's Careers in 2024. The award is given by the Joint Committee on the Status of Women at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine.



Graham J. DeKeyser, MD | Portland, OR

Dr. Graham DeKeyser is an orthopedist Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon. He specializes in treating traumatic injuries and fractures of both the upper and lower extremities.

He received his bachelor's degree at Emory University and his medical degree from Medical College of Georgia. He did his Residency at the University of Utah followed by a fellowship in Orthopaedic Trauma at Harborview Medical Center at the University of Washington.

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, he has strong ties to the Pacific Northwest. He's married and has two young daughters. In his free time, he enjoys camping, fishing, skiing and spending quality time with his family.



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A scenic photograph of a golf course in a mountainous region. The foreground shows a well-maintained green with a red flag in the hole. A line of tall evergreen trees runs along the left side. In the background, majestic mountains with rocky peaks are covered in green forests under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

See you this summer!

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