

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) Annual Meeting

February 7- February 11, 2025

Phoenix, AZ

[Click this link for details.](#)

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) Annual Meeting

March 10-March 14, 2025

San Diego, CA

[Click this link for details.](#)

International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery (ISASS) Annual Meeting

April 10- April 12, 2025

Miami Beach, FL

[Click this link for details](#)

American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM) Annual Meeting

July 10-July 13, 2025

Nashville, TN

[Click this link for details.](#)



IVETTE CHEN WINS RESEARCH HONORS AWARD

Ivette Chen, a 4th year medical student, was selected to receive the Research Honors award for her contributions in orthopedic trauma research. Chen has successfully presented her studies on 1.) Social Determinants of Health and Traumatic Fractures During COVID-19 Pandemic 2.) Socio-demographic Disparities in Long Bone Fractures: Level-1 Trauma Center Retrospective Cohort Study and 3.) Analysis of Open Fracture Cohort in the Context of Race and Poverty Status at the Annual Orthopedic Research Society and Eastern Orthopedic Association conferences. Together with the orthopedic trauma research team, Chen investigated a critically important healthcare topic on social health determinants in Western NY utilizing the ECMC trauma fracture registry, US Census, and patient zip code data. Chen's knowledge and dedication to research makes her a valuable team member as well as a trusted mentor to junior medical students. Please join us in congratulating her on this award!

HIGHLIGHTS

Featured Staff Profile

Alyssa Lickfeld graduated with a Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University at Buffalo (UB) in 2024. Prior to that, she completed her Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Psychology from UB in 2023. Her previous research experience includes working with the Biomedical Engineering department at UB to innovate the ergonomic design of a human-machine interface used for neuroplastic training in volitional movements of the wrist. She also worked with the Maternal and Childhood Health Department to investigate the impact of smoking cessation efforts on pregnant women. Currently, Alyssa works with the concussion team under the supervision of Dr. John Leddy. Her primary project is the Exercise Reset Trial through the Department of Defense, where she analyzes fluid biomarkers from service members to track concussion recovery over time.



Alyssa Lickfeld, MS
Research Assistant

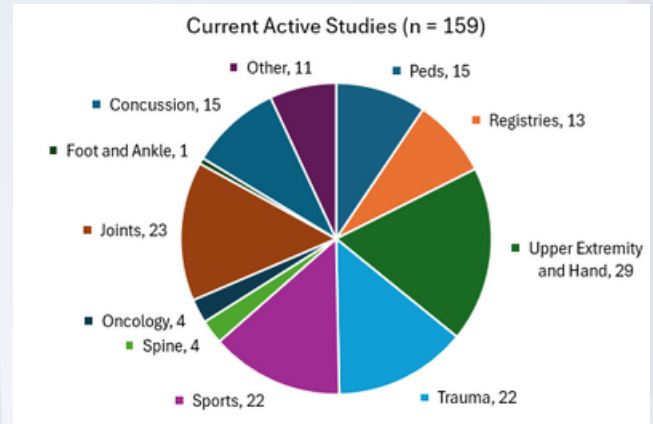
A YEAR IN REVIEW FOR ORTHOPAEDIC RESEARCH

Dr. Sonja Pavlesen, MD, MS

Clinical Epidemiologist

Research Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics

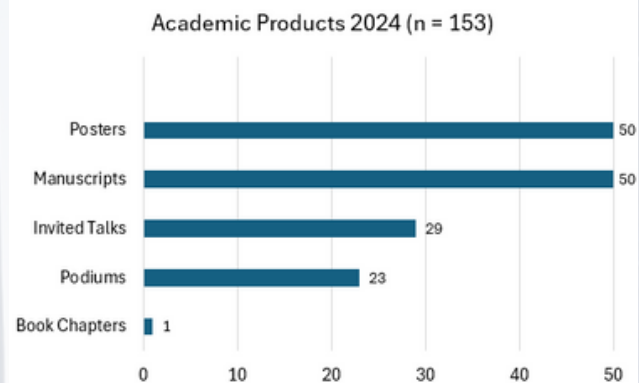
Dr. Sonja Pavlesen was named the 2025 Chair for Strategies in Clinical Research (SCR) Section of the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS). In this new role, Dr. Pavlesen will be leading a team of renowned musculoskeletal clinical research experts in advancing clinical research methodology, education, and collaborations. When asked about her goals as the Chair of the SCR section, Dr. Pavlesen answered, "Mentoring the next generation of orthopedic researchers is something that I am passionate about. It is crucial to support and prepare them for the challenges ahead, especially as the field of musculoskeletal research is rapidly evolving." On behalf of our team, we extend a heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Pavlesen on this well-deserved achievement!



Alexa Streicher, MPH, CRC

Clinical Research Coordinator I

Alexa Streicher, MPH received a promotion to Research Coordinator I in November '24 after successful acquisition of her Certified Research Coordinator certification. After months of preparation, Streicher passed the ACRP certification exam in October '24. She is now a member of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals; a community of public health and other researchers working together to advance their education and support one another in growing their careers. Alexa is currently working on a number of studies, most notably the Alliance Clinical Trial with Zimmer Biomet, the Periprosthetic Joint Infection Registry with the University of Washington, and the KARAT Randomized Controlled Trial with Harvard University. She hopes to continue to advance her knowledge and skills in leadership, mentoring, and study start-up as she takes on new projects with the upper extremity team in 2025.



Jenna Betterson

Research Administrative Assistant

After previous positions with the Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Jenna Betterson joined UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in 2012, working with Dr. Mark Ehrensberger in the Orthopaedics Research Laboratory as the Research Administrative Assistant. Jenna manages budget reports for research lab accounts and research purchasing and coordinates personnel appointments for students and staff within the lab. She is excited to have an additional role in the Clinical Research Department supporting post-award management of clinical research studies.



Grant Milestones in 2024

- A total of 29 grants were submitted in 2024 across all orthopaedic specialties.
- Over 1 million dollars have been awarded across 7 projects.
- Awarded projects were funded by the University at Buffalo and other external sources (sponsors and foundations).

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions? Contact Us!

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