

# The Pulse

A Hoag Hospital Foundation Publication for Practicing and Retired Physicians

## Walking the Walk: Building a Lasting Legacy of Orthopedic Excellence

The founders of the Hoag Orthopedic Institute reflect on its “privademic” model, the mission to expand and the importance of philanthropy in that endeavor.

“Who foresaw then what this campus was going to become?” Dr. Alan Beyer pondered of a storied past that includes him, Drs. James Caillouette, Carlos Prietto and Robert Gorab, founders of the Hoag Orthopedic Institute. “What’s happened in 12 years here, thanks to the community, thanks to the administration at Hoag and thanks to the physicians, it’s absolutely mind-boggling.” There is a recurring word that permeates the narrative of any conversation about Hoag Orthopedic Institute: different. This desire to stand out is what has made the institute successful, its founders say. That was the vision, and it’s still the mission.

### A New Model

With decades of orthopedic surgery experience between them and a long history of knowing each other, Drs. Beyer, Caillouette, Gorab and Prietto set out to create a venture combining their passions for delivering exceptional support to not only patients but future generations of orthopedic professionals. “We wanted more of what we’re going to call a ‘privademic’ model,” said Dr. Caillouette, Joan & Andy Fimiano Endowed Chair in Orthopedic Surgery. In this model, physicians at the institute can research and teach but also perform surgeries and care for patients.

A venture between orthopedic specialists and the community hospital—where governance and a

commitment to service are shared—was and still is unique in the national market. Despite enormous obstacles, including the 2008 financial crisis and Affordable Care Act restrictions, Hoag’s board and administration committed to this new model. This risk opened doors that led the way for everything the institute has become.

In 2010, the institute opened its doors to those in need of orthopedics and spine clinical care. It took an investment of time, talent and philanthropic funds from its founders, a trend that continues to this day. “The doctors, all of the founders and many others have committed funds personally to get that off the ground,” said Dr. Caillouette. Both Dr. Caillouette and Dr. Gorab have endowed chairs and use funds from those toward the fellowship program, which has become a prominent institute offering.

### Building the Future

When people talk about innovation in orthopedics, they often think about the next instrument or tool. But the institute’s most innovative product is people, said Dr. Prietto. “It’s the fellows, it’s the nurses, it’s the people doing the research,” he said. “We have innovative minds, and that’s what we need support for. Funding the fellowships funds the thinking.” Each year, the institute names fellows, many funded by philanthropy. For the 2022-2023 academic year, the institute’s five fellows will be completing the program in either arthroplasty, sports medicine or health policy and management. The institute’s renowned surgeons serve as faculty to the fellowship programs, donating their time to teach advanced skills and provide mentorship.

“If you’re blessed enough to do the kind of things that we do, you give back,” Dr. Prietto said. “Educating the next generation is important. There’s nothing better than having your student accomplish and be better than you.”

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# SOAR in the NEW YEAR

## Fly high with your estate planning

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The fellowship programs are highly sought-after and have garnered recognition as elite post-residency orthopedic training centers across the country.

### Elevating Patient Care

Specialization is a major tenet of the Hoag Orthopedic Institute model. Dr. Beyer calls it a “focus factory,” which is crucial for better patient outcomes and experiences. “When you want to have a specialized procedure done, you want to have someone who has done it a lot,” he said. “But it’s not just the surgeon; it’s the scrub tech and everyone else involved in that procedure.” Nurses at the institute focus solely on orthopedics, mirroring the expertise of the surgeons to ensure a patient’s smooth journey. That translates into elevated patient experiences, whether in the operating room or at the bedside.

Philanthropy has supported the fostering of knowledge in Hoag Orthopedics, funding research coordinators, fellowships and more, continuing the legacy of focused specialization that runs deep at the institute. This culture of service is woven into the fabric of the institute, kicked off by its founding physicians who feel the duty to give back for the good of today and tomorrow, Dr. Beyer said. “When somebody helps you and you’ve achieved what you want to achieve and are in the position to pass it on, that’s what you do,” he said.

The institute’s elevated and focused care is a draw for staff and patients alike, and the founders are determined that this trend continues. “Our goal is that no one has to migrate from Orange County for anything orthopedic care. We want to be able to say that we’ve got everything covered,” said Dr. Beyer.

### Growing the Legacy

The founders acknowledge the successes of the past 12 years, yet they also count the goals that still lay ahead. With each fellow or researcher that comes through the institute, Dr. Gorab, Tom & Mayumi Adams Endowed Chair in Orthopedic Surgery, sees the trove of skills and tools they gain. “Our fellows come here specifically to learn certain techniques and approaches, then they take that with them to hospitals and patients,” he said. “If you think about the impact of philanthropy on the contributions we’re making to society, it’s very impactful.”

There is a crucial need to keep the emphasis of the institute on education and research. So much so that the institute gives a percentage of its profits back to the organization to support research and education. “Data mining, research, developing ideas...all of that takes time and resources,” Dr. Gorab said. He, like his colleagues, sees the return of their philanthropic investments and those of others who’ve shared their vision. “We need to grow even more to expand every subspecialty of orthopedics,” he said. On the horizon, they see programs for foot, ankle and hand surgeries and spaces to focus on sports performance and biometrics.

Hoag Orthopedic Institute physicians and the team they’ve assembled have the vision, talent and drive to make those programs, and more, a reality. What these goals will thrive on is community support. What comes with high rankings, outstanding patient outcomes and a prominent “privademic” model is the encouragement to expand it.

Hoag’s Milestones are Your Milestones.

## Thank You.

Your support, expertise and dedication to Hoag and the well-being of the community shaped a legacy that has spanned 70 years. Due in large part to the innovative programs and best-in-class technology provided by philanthropy, Hoag was once again the highest ranked hospital in Orange County in 2022-2023 by the *U.S. News & World Report*. This marks the sixth year in a row Hoag has achieved this level of recognition.



#### Office of Gift Planning

**Julie Heggeness, JD, CSPG, TEP**

*Vice President, Legal & Executive Director, Gift Planning  
Hoag Hospital Foundation*

(949) 764-7206  
Julie.Heggeness@hoag.org

#### Hoag Hospital Foundation

**Coufos Family Center for Philanthropy**

330 Placentia Ave.  
Newport Beach, CA 92663  
(949) 764-7217  
HoagHospitalFoundation.org/GiftPlanning

