



TOA eConnect – September 2016

Q&A with Amy McIntosh of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Amy McIntosh, MD is an orthopaedic surgeon at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas (TSRHC).

Prior to her current stint at TSRHC, Dr. McIntosh was an assistant professor of orthopaedics at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and a 2006-2007 orthopaedic fellow at TSRHC.

The following is a Q&A that TOA recently performed with Dr. McIntosh.

TOA: One of your fields of expertise is pediatric spine deformity. How did you decide to specialize in this area?

Amy McIntosh: I sub specialize in pediatric spine deformity and treat scoliosis on a daily basis. I was drawn to scoliosis surgery because of the ability to obtain tremendous correction of the spine curvature and immediately improve the clinical appearance of patients. Also, with new implants (screws and rods), patients return to activities relatively quickly.

TOA: How did you decide to re-join the staff at TSRHC?

Amy McIntosh: I did my pediatric orthopaedic fellowship at TSRHC from 2006-2007 and then returned to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In 2014, I was asked to become a staff surgeon at TSRHC. It was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up.

TOA: You recently joined TOA and AAOS for visits to Capitol Hill in May. What did you think about the visit to advocate on behalf of orthopaedic surgeons and their patients?

Amy McIntosh: It was my first visit to Capitol Hill. I wasn't sure what to expect. It was amazing to see the city and get behind the scenes at the Capitol. Meeting the senators, representatives, and staffers was very enlightening. I gained more appreciation for what is important at the federal vs. state level, and the tremendous amount of effort that is being directed toward making national health care a reality. I also enjoyed meeting the other members of the TOA, and walked away with greater awareness of the relevance and vibrancy of the TOA.

TOA: At TSRHC, you are at the forefront of scoliosis research. What new breakthroughs are you seeing in the scoliosis field?

Amy McIntosh: The greatest scoliosis research that has come out of TSRHC in the last year revolves around brace treatment for scoliosis. Bracing is successful. Catching curves when they are smaller (<30 degrees) is important. We are more successful and able to avoid posterior spinal fusion surgery when we brace the smaller curves.

This research supports the efforts of school screens in the state of Texas.