



**GUILFORD
ORTHOPAEDIC**
AND SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER
A Division of Southeastern Orthopaedic Specialists, P.A.

GUILFORD ORTHOPAEDIC CHRONICLES

It is my honor to recount the history of Guilford Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center. Like all human endeavors and lives, it has a very complex, multifaceted past with; as you will see, a particular glue that holds it all together.

In 1983 I started my own practice at 530 North Elam Avenue across from Wesley Long Hospital. An empty shell in the building of Dr. Fred Lopp, DDS; the office plans were drawn by Carl Myatt, AIA, and hammers swung, and Guilford Orthopaedic Center became a reality.

After three months, I was joined by a resident pal of mine from UNC Chapel Hill Orthopaedics, Dr. Robert V. Sypher. Having just completed his fellowship in Hand surgery at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, we became Guilford Orthopaedic and Hand Center.

Dr. Sypher did a lot of general orthopaedics and trauma, but he also built the first true hand practice in Greensboro. I, too, helped and did a number of hand cases but focused on general orthopaedics and spine.

Credit goes to Dr. Sypher for the first time one-on-one incorporation of physician assistants into the practice (side-by-side with their doctor). Mike Carnaghi, PA and Steve Chabon, PA were the vanguards, having both previously worked with Dr. Jim Maultsby. This system still exists currently with our fine group of physician assistants. Dr. Sypher also pioneered the use of the computer in medical practice with this rather large, boxy Apple Macintosh. Veona Oakley was our office manager, a wonderful woman, feisty and active. She previously ran the office of Dr. Eulyss Troxler, one of Greensboro's first orthopedists. So with this team we were off and running.

In 1987 Dr. Sypher decided to concentrate entirely on his own hand practice, and two new associates joined the group, Dr. David Dye and Dr. Dan Murphy. It was a fertile time, and new ideas in orthopaedic sports medicine were taking off in the country. Techniques of ACL surgery were being introduced. It was decided that sports medicine was the exciting new subset of the field; and so, Dr. Murphy was instrumental in developing the next iteration of the practice, Guilford Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center. With Petra Lilly, our energetic administrator at that time, we moved to a new location two years later in 1989.

Having expanded out of the North Elam space, we constructed the interior of the new site at 809 Green Valley Road, again with the help of Mr. Carl Myatt. Next to what is now the Cone Women's Hospital location; then Greensboro Hospital Humana, this facility incorporated comprehensive sports medicine rehabilitation center. This seemed fitting especially in light of the fact that the building had originally been built (but

not used) to house the headquarters of the Atlantic Coast Conference. I do not think it could have long contained that entity; however, given its rapid expansion over the years.

Although for our purposes, we were pleased to see how our patients thrived in the enlarged environment and how our practice grew. Looking back on it now, great strides were being made in shoulder arthroscopy, global knee ligament reconstruction, and cementless total hip replacement. Lower-friction total knee replacements were also being introduced. New fracture rodding and plating techniques were at the same time coming to the forefront. After this period, Dr. Murphy and Dr. Robert Wainer, who had later joined us, ultimately became Murphy-Wainer Orthopedics, and Guilford Orthopaedic was pleased to welcome Dr. Frank Rowan who brought new expertise in total joint arthroplasty and trauma techniques as well as formidable computer skills. Soon thereafter, Dr. Peter Dalldorf, a Chapel Hill native, complemented our sports medicine unit with marvelous professional team experience with his fellowship in Houston, Texas and also brought strengths as a gifted general orthopaedist.

Many satisfied patients came and stayed, happy with the results of their care and pleased with their experience. In 1987 Dr. Dye retired, and Dr. John Lee Graves joined the group. Once again we attracted a talent with a knack for meticulous patient care combined with warmth and dedication.

In a few years, the consolidated groups of Guilford, Murphy-Wainer, Piedmont and Sports Medicine and Orthopedics (SMOC) joined forces to combine management functions and assets and reduce duplication. Hence, Southeastern Orthopaedic Specialists was founded and remains to this day.

Later we were also very fortunate to have been joined by Dr. Dominic McKinley who greatly enhanced our sports medicine mission. Working closely with the Cone Health Sports Medicine fellowship program, we began to host a fellow every year and have greatly benefited from Dr. McKinley's calm, sage demeanor and each year's new fellow's latest knowledge, techniques and enthusiasm.

Continuing to grow, we bought the "White Giant" building on Lendew at the 1915 Lendew Street address. Formerly the home of the orthopaedic practice of Dr. Maulsby and later to an OB/GYN group, we remodeled and devoted half the space to our new rehabilitation center. Mr. John O'Halloran taking the helm then, and now in the most capable hands of Mr. Ray Kargo.

A few years later the obstetric group vacated the remaining half of the building, and in we moved. Now our entire facility was at the 1915 Lendew Street site, the hand of our favorite architect still at work.

In addition, for a time, Dr. Michael Tooke, a spine surgeon from California, joined us and extended our spinal surgery program. His expertise was most appreciated. He later moved to a two-man spine practice in Greensboro.

In the intervening period, we have added Physiatry services providing spinal injections, nerve testing, and pain alleviating techniques to the facility. Dr. Al Bartko first provided service for this mission, and now we are graced by Dr. Hao Wang who watches over administering these fine techniques to our new patients who suffer pain of all kinds. In 2010, coming back full circle from Dr. Sypher, we were so happy to welcome, from their fellowships at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Dr. Mark Dumonski in spine and Dr. Jesse Chandler in shoulder and elbow. With these two young men, our complement of surgeons has been joyously

full and greatly expanded in expertise. That having been said, we are most pleased recently to welcome also Dr. David Thompson, hand surgery specialist, from a Duke University hand fellowship. We truly appreciate his kind demeanor and are grateful for his learned approach to patient care.

Therefore, if you return to the beginning of this history, you will see that it has repeated itself with his addition, hand surgery being the common thread. We are, in conclusion, most fortunate to have all this enterprise watched over and cared for by Melissa Strickland, our administrator, and all of our skilled and dedicated staff.

As for myself, I have slowed down a bit with some physical infirmities that have inhibited my ability to perform surgery. Now I see patients in the office and try to impart counsel and orthopaedic medicine, diagnostics, localized injections, and second opinions. What was new is older now, as the saying goes.

All in all, it should be clear that this place has grown and grown; a product of careful tending, mindful watching, innovation, and the gathering of so many talented people together for one purpose: the able and compassionate care of you, the patient.

For in the end, for the ties that bind, that is the glue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Paul", written in a cursive style.

Vincent E. Paul, MD