

5/10/23

RE: Nomination of Paul A. Lotke, MD

Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Board of the Knee Society and Colleagues,

I am writing you in support and to second Dr. Jess Lonner's nomination of Paul Lotke for the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Lotke has had a profound and lasting impact on the field of knee arthroplasty and surgery. As a founding member of the Knee Society, Paul and others have developed and advanced the techniques of modern knee arthroplasty turning it into a reliable, reproducible, and durable procedure that have benefited the lives of millions.

While he worked collectively with others to further all the missions of our organization, Dr. Lotke was not afraid to be an independent thinker. Always looking to improve, he critically looked at every facet of his practice and was unafraid to change and go against the grain when he felt that the current standards of care either did not make sense or was detrimental to his patients. His advocacy for a practical and minimalist approach to postoperative anticoagulation using aspirin is a perfect example.

Paul's reach, influence and impact has been trans-generational. Over the years, Dr. Lotke has positively influenced a countless number of arthroplasty surgeons. Personally, while our paths never really crossed professionally, he was extremely supportive of my career starting as a visiting medical student, as a young attending starting out in academic practice, and even today. His friendliness and humility made him very comfortable to approach even though he is a giant of our field. He is great source for sound, practical advice and/or kind words of encouragement.

Dr. Lotke is an exemplary master clinician, researcher, educator and man. He represents all of the qualities of our profession and society. He is a mentor, friend and inspiration to many members in our organization. Therefore, it is with great enthusiasm that I strongly endorse the nomination of Dr. Paul A. Lotke for the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gwo-Chin Lee, MD
Hospital for Special Surgery

RE: Nomination of Paul A. Lotke, MD

The Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Colleagues:

It is a privilege to recommend Paul A. Lotke, MD, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, for the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award. I had the privilege and honor of working with Paul Lotke as both a junior and senior orthopaedic resident at Penn. Paul was the best thinker, communicator, educator and surgeon whom I have had the pleasure to learn from. I was also fortunate to work with him as a partner during the first decade of my career and he has been a gracious and important mentor throughout my career. Even following his retirement, Paul continued to attend adult reconstruction conferences at Penn and provide his tremendous insight, wisdom and experience to our residents, fellows and faculty. He served as an associate editor for *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research* following his retirement from clinical practice and maintained the curiosity that led to so many of his important contributions to knee surgery.

Paul has made many unique and important contributions to our specialty. At a time when most orthopaedic surgeons were hesitant to question the chest physicians recommendation of routine use of powerful pharmacologic anti-coagulants after total knee arthroplasty, Paul made certain we focused not only the risk of thromboembolic disease, but also the bleeding risks and complications related to routine use of powerful anticoagulants. Warfarin and low molecular weight heparins were the dominant forms of VTE prophylaxis at the time, but with his research and leadership, Paul helped us understand the safety of use of aspirin for VTE prophylaxis in low-risk patients. Today, even with the introduction of direct oral anticoagulants that do not require monitoring, aspirin remains the predominant form of post total knee arthroplasty DVT prophylaxis for most high-volume surgeons.

Paul scientific and educational contributions extend well beyond the use of aspirin for VTE prophylaxis. Paul wrote some of the early peer review manuscripts evaluating the importance of component and limb alignment, helped us understand the natural history of spontaneous osteonecrosis of the femoral condyle or tibial plateau, and when faced with increasing numbers of patients presenting with extensive bone loss after primary and revision total knee arthroplasty, Paul developed a new bone loss classification system and was instrumental in adapting impaction bone grafting techniques from the hip, and teaching us how to apply those techniques to the knee.

I believe one of the reasons Paul has made such important contributions is his curiosity, intellect, skill, humility and leadership. He was a founding member and a former President of the Knee Society and remained dedicated to the Knee Society throughout his career. He has been a leader in knee arthroplasty for several decades and mentored generations of orthopaedic knee surgeons, including myself. I have had the fortune of personally witnessing Paul's tremendous communication and technical skills, and I can attest to his skill as a Master clinician and surgeon. It is not surprising that he edited the Knee Arthroplasty textbook in the Master Techniques in Orthopaedic Surgery series.

Paul is not only a great clinician, educator, leader and surgeon. He is a great person a great family man and has dedicated his career to helping others. Whether it be through direct patient care, teaching, mentoring, research or volunteering across the world in underserved communities, Paul has always lived a purposeful life. He embodies the true spirit of the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award and I enthusiastically support his nomination.

If there are any questions regarding my letter of recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Nelson, MD

Penn Orthopaedics

May 9, 2023

RE: NOMINATION OF PAUL A. LOTKE, MD
KNEE SOCIETY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dear Colleagues:

It is a privilege for me to recommend Paul A. Lotke, MD, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, for the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award. Having read its description, it is clear that Paul Lotke best embodies the spirit of the award. One could argue that not only are Paul's contributions "pioneering and/or creative, with legacy value..." and indeed "durable in print, either in books or in peer-reviewed articles," they include some of the most impactful and influential in our specialty. After all, without his

Paul was at the forefront of knee arthroplasty surgery for decades, and he continued to advance the field, even as he matured and approached retirement. He mentored several generations of knee surgeons, helping those surgeons to develop clinically and academically. He took great pride in watching his trainees or junior partners grow in reputation and stature and eagerly provided opportunities to nurture that growth. I know I was a beneficiary of his generosity, having had the good fortune to work as his partner from 1997 until 2001, and then as a colleague and collaborator – despite being in a competitive practice -- for years thereafter, until his retirement.

Paul co-designed several highly touted and successful total and partial knee systems over the years and was as quick to heed others' opinions, as he was to give input. But perhaps his greatest contributions stemmed from his strong convictions about optimizing perioperative care to ensure safe and effective patient recovery and outcomes. For many years, a number of his ideas were considered radical by the orthopaedic and medical communities; however, now looking back we can proudly acknowledge that much of what we do today in terms of perioperative care of knee replacement patients is a product of Paul's persistence as a lone contrarian. For many knee replacement surgeons it is now the norm to prescribe aspirin for VTE prophylaxis; minimize use of formal physical therapy after TKA; avoid inpatient postoperative rehabilitation; and streamline instrumentation and workflow during surgery. These are Paul's legacies. He had other important contributions to our field as well, including defining the importance of component and limb alignment in TKA in an often-cited publication; describing

the pathophysiology, natural history, imaging and treatment strategies for spontaneous osteonecrosis of the knee; and classifying bone loss in revision TKA.

While Dr. Lotke was undoubtedly a master clinician, he never lost his humility and always had time for his colleagues, residents, and medical students on the Arthroplasty Service. Despite his clinical and academic accomplishments, Paul would likely humbly suggest that even upon retirement, he felt at once both a student and a teacher. As a Founding Member and Past President of the Knee Society, Paul was loyal to, and proud of, our auspicious society. When I considered applying to the Knee Society years ago, he advised me to use my membership not only to share my personal research with our community, but more importantly, to learn from our peers. He has always welcomed members who share his commitment to education, research and the advancement of knee surgery. Outside of his professional life, Dr. Lotke defines altruism. For decades he donated his time several months each year to the care of patients in under-developed third world countries. In short, Paul A. Lotke, MD is doubtless a most deserving candidate for the Knee Society Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Lonner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jess H. Lonner, MD
Rothman Institute