

Austin T. Fragomen, MD

Summer 2008 Newsletter

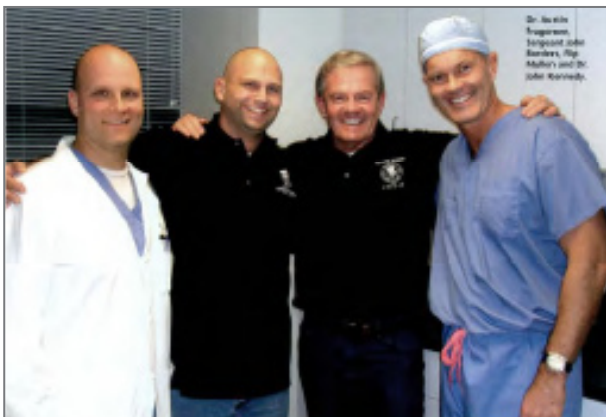
International Events

In December 2007 Dr. Austin Fragomen attended the Argentine Trauma Association as an invited speaker. The meeting, held in the southern city of Mar del Plata, is the best attended and most prestigious orthopaedic conference in South America. The topics presented focused on original research performed by the Limb Lengthening and Deformity Service at Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) which includes Dr. Fragomen, Dr. S. Robert Rozbruch, and Dr. Svetlana Ilizarov. Dr. Fragomen's lectures, delivered in Spanish, were very well received and included results from studies in limb salvage through ankle fusion and simultaneous lengthening and ankle distraction arthroplasty, a novel treatment for ankle arthritis.

Dr. Fragomen demonstrated his Spanish speaking ability again when educating a group of 22 orthopaedic surgeons from Medellin, Columbia, at a Biomet International educational conference. This full-day course, held in Parsippany, New Jersey, was geared toward applications of monolateral external fixation in bone reconstruction.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery 2008

The 2008 AAOS National meeting was held in San Francisco in March and was a successful showcase for the latest work of the HSS Limb Lengthening and Deformity Service. Presentations given by Dr. Fragomen included techniques in correction of equinus deformity of the ankle, lengthening, and then nailing, and an entire scientific exhibit dedicated to distraction arthroplasty of the ankle as an alternative to ankle fusion.



From left to right: Dr. Fragomen, John Borders (Wounded Warrior patient), Flip Mullen, Dr. Kennedy.

The Wounded Warrior Project

The Wounded Warrior Project is a non-for-profit national organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for U.S. military veterans who have been wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Together with Dr. John Kennedy, Dr. Fragomen has volunteered his time and expertise to help these brave people who have given so much to our country. For his dedication to the care of three U.S. Army veterans, Dr. Fragomen has received awards from both the Wounded Warriors Project and from the Marine Society of New York. He and Dr. Kennedy have been publicly recognized by the *Daily News* on several occasions and were interviewed by CBS News' *The Early Show*.

Recent Publications

Co-authors of several publications in peer-reviewed orthopaedic journals, Drs. Rozbruch, Ilizarov, and Fragomen remain dedicated to clinical research.

Fragomen A, Meyers K, Davis N, Shu H, Wright T, Rozbruch SR. "A biomechanical analysis of two methods of ankle arthrodesis, Ilizarov fixation and intramedullary nailing". *Foot & Ankle International* 2008, 29(3):334-341.

Fragomen A, Rozbruch SR. "Mechanics of External Fixation." *Hospital for Special Surgery Journal* 2007;3:13-29.

Rozbruch SR, Pugsley J, **Fragomen A**, Ilizarov S. "Repair of tibial nonunions and bone defects with the Taylor Spatial Frame". *J Orthop Trauma* 2008, 22(2):88-95.

Tellisi N, **Fragomen A**, Ilizarov S, Rozbruch SR. "Limb salvage reconstruction of the ankle with fusion and simultaneous tibial lengthening using the Ilizarov/Taylor Spatial Frame." *Hospital for Special Surgery Journal* 2008, 4:32-42.

Tellisi N, Ilizarov S, **Fragomen A**, Rozbruch SR: Lengthening and Reconstruction of Congenital Limb Deficiencies for Optimal Prosthetic Wear. *Clin Orthop Rel Res* 2008, 466(2):495-9.



Future surgeons practice the Ilizarov technique at the Garden School.

National Educational Courses

Dr. Fragomen has lectured extensively this year throughout the United States in cities including Boston, Milwaukee, and Las Vegas. His presentations have focused on the proper application and use of external fixation in orthopaedic surgery. Audiences were comprised of orthopaedic surgeons specialized in the fields of trauma, foot & ankle, and pediatrics who were interested in learning more about the Ilizarov Method and external fixation. Dr. Fragomen also enjoys giving lively, interactive talks to elementary school students on bone anatomy with clinical applications.

Current Research

Dr. Fragomen is currently involved in several exciting original research projects. Together with the HSS biomechanics department, he is investigating the mechanical properties of the popular Taylor Spatial external fixator, which uses computer technology and flight simulation mechanics to correct complex bone deformities and lengthen short limbs. Dr. Fragomen and Dr. Kennedy are working in the laboratory to develop improved techniques to restore cartilage and decrease surface friction in arthritic ankle joints. These new techniques are being explored as an adjunct to the already successful joint distraction method.



Portrait by Austin Jr., age 7

Institute for Limb Lengthening & Reconstruction

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