

# THE BULLETIN

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## President's Message

Robert Fields, MD



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We have begun the new administrative year for WNC/BCMS with a bang.

Led by Dr. Scott Langford, local physicians recently joined other physicians from around the state on a trip to Raleigh to campaign for Senate Bill 33. This is the most significant tort reform legislation we have seen in decades. After a rather decisive win in the Senate, we will wait to see what the House does with the bill. Regardless, it seems remarkable that just a few months ago we all felt there was little hope for progress on this issue.

Our Annual Meeting was a success in many ways. We had much greater participation from western NC physicians, younger physicians, and residents who don't normally get involved in WNC/BCMS activities. The condensed business section also gave us the opportunity to interact in a much more casual manner. Specialists, primary care docs, and community leaders were all there discussing family, work, policy, music, and life. We just don't do that enough. Physician advocacy cannot be about just the few who choose to get involved. My message to the regional physicians, residents and newcomers at the annual meeting was to, at the very least, pay attention. Read the emails and newsletters, and stay informed. Make a call to a legislator when called upon to do so. Not everyone chooses to be involved in leadership, but no one should choose to hide their head in the sand either.

The next few years will be challenging for all of us. No matter how we feel about healthcare reform, there is no doubt our professional lives will change in rather dramatic ways. As an organization, our priority will need to be to provide information and advocacy for the issues that affect us all. We will only succeed by trying to find common ground among our varied opinions with the goal of designing the best system for the patients of WNC. The recent push (again) for tort reform is a great example of how we can all get behind a common cause regardless of our political views. I would encourage us to not stop there. The WNC/BCMS strategic priorities such as reimbursement, patient access, health parity, hospital employment versus private practice, health information technology, patient-centered medical homes, accountable care organizations, quality improvement and prevention/wellness efforts, regionalizing the medical society, etc. are all issues we can get behind to get things done.

We are lucky to have such a wonderful group of administrators to help facilitate these endeavors and to provide a strong infrastructure to be effective. Take a moment to read about [our successes in 2010 here](#). I hope that we continue to see renewed energy to take on the challenges of the next few years as we will need new ideas and a cooperative spirit for all of us to be successful.

Thanks for your support.

## *Research on Shoulder Replacement Surgery Led by WNC/BCMS Member is Published in Clinical Journal*

Research recently published in the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*, led by orthopaedic surgeon and WNC/BCMS member Gordon I. Groh, MD will provide critical information for other specialists treating patients who require shoulder replacement surgery.



Gordon Groh, MD

A board-certified specialist in shoulder, elbow, and hand surgery at Blue Ridge Bone & Joint, Dr. Groh conducted two studies in which he examined the records of patients who had undergone shoulder replacement surgery, most often for shoulder arthritis.

In the first study, Dr. Groh reviewed the records of more than 80 patients on which he had performed total shoulder arthroplasty (TSA), or a total shoulder replacement. The purpose was to evaluate the clinical results of a new type of prosthetic glenoid, or artificial shoulder socket. Dr. Groh's research indicated favorable results for the patients and provides vital information for the further development of such clinical products.

In the second study, Dr. Groh studied another clinical product, a modular component system, as part of a technically demanding procedure called revision total shoulder arthroplasty (RTSA). A patient who continues to have pain following a hemiarthroplasty (HA), or partial shoulder replacement, sometimes must undergo RTSA, replacing the entire shoulder. Results of this complicated procedure have been inconsistent, but Dr. Groh's research revealed that the use of the new modular component system minimizes the complexity of RTSA and patients see good improvements in pain, range of motion, and function.

Dr. Groh is one of only four orthopaedic surgeons in the nation to hold memberships in the professional society, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES), as well as the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH). The ASES, open by invitation only, is an educational body of select leading national and international orthopaedic surgeons who specialize in surgery of the shoulder and elbow. It is responsible for the development of scientific programs and the publication of scientific materials. ASSH is the oldest medical specialty society in the US devoted entirely to continuing medical education related to hand surgery.

Prior to joining Blue Ridge Bone & Joint 16 years ago, Dr. Groh served as a full-time faculty member and director of shoulder and elbow surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver. He continues to actively pursue research and teaching opportunities, and has presented in every major city in the US, as well as in Mexico, Canada and Japan.

He is also active with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), and serves on key committees for developing continuing medical education for its members. The AAOS is the preeminent provider of musculoskeletal instruction to orthopaedic surgeons and others in the world.

For more information about Dr. Groh, call Blue Ridge Bone & Joint at 258-8800, or visit [www.DrGordonGroh.com](http://www.DrGordonGroh.com).

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## *Cosmetic Plastic Surgeon Launches Asheville Aesthetic Plastic Surgery*

Cosmetic plastic surgeon Brenda M. Draper, MD, announces the launch of Asheville Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, at 10-A Yorkshire Street, just south of Biltmore Village in Asheville. Services include non-surgical procedures such as facial rejuvenation with Botox, fillers, and DOT laser therapy, as well as surgical procedures such as breast and body contouring and face and eye lifts.



Brenda Draper, MD

Dr. Brenda Draper is hosting an open house at her new office, 10A Yorkshire St. Suite D, 28803, near Grace Ob/GYN. Stop by to enjoy some sparkling water, wine and appetizers from 4-8pm on Thursday, May 12. She looks forward to meeting you if your schedule allows.

For more information and a complete menu of services, visit [www.drdraper.com](http://www.drdraper.com).