14th Annual HTACA Conference:

2025 Speakers Headshots and Bios

Jeffrey Yao, MD

Dr. Jeffrey Yao, MD joined the Hand and Upper Extremity Service at Stanford University Medical Center in 2005 and became a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2020. He graduated from Cornell University Medical College in 1999 and completed his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2004, earning multiple accolades, including Surgical Intern of the Year and Orthopaedic Surgery Resident of the Year. He pursued advanced training through a Hand and Upper Extremity fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and achieved board certification in Orthopaedic Surgery in 2007, followed by a Certificate of Added Qualification in Surgery of the Hand in 2009.

Dr. Yao specializes in treating upper limb disorders, including the hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder, with expertise in minimally invasive and arthroscopic techniques for fractures, arthritis, tendon and ligament injuries, and nerve compression disorders. His research focuses on advancing these surgical approaches, and he has authored over 110 peer-reviewed publications. Currently, he serves as the Hand and Upper Limb Fellowship Director at Stanford, continuing to innovate and educate in his field.

Dr. Igor Immerman, MD

Dr. Igor Immerman is a UCSF orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand and upper extremity surgery, treating conditions of the hands, wrists, elbows, and peripheral nerves, including the brachial plexus. He earned his B.S. in Biomedical Engineering with honors from Johns Hopkins University and his M.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Immerman completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency at NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases and pursued advanced training in hand, upper extremity, and microvascular surgery at UC Davis Medical Center.

Further refining his expertise, he completed fellowships in hand and peripheral nerve surgery at Hadassah Medical Center in Israel, the Russian Scientific Research Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics, and the Russian Ilizarov Scientific Center for Restorative Traumatology and Orthopaedics.

An active researcher, Dr. Immerman has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications and is a fellow of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He is also a member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and the Russian American Medical Association. In addition to reviewing for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Dr. Immerman serves on multiple committees within the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and volunteers internationally with Health Volunteers Overseas.

Brady Tyler Evans, MD

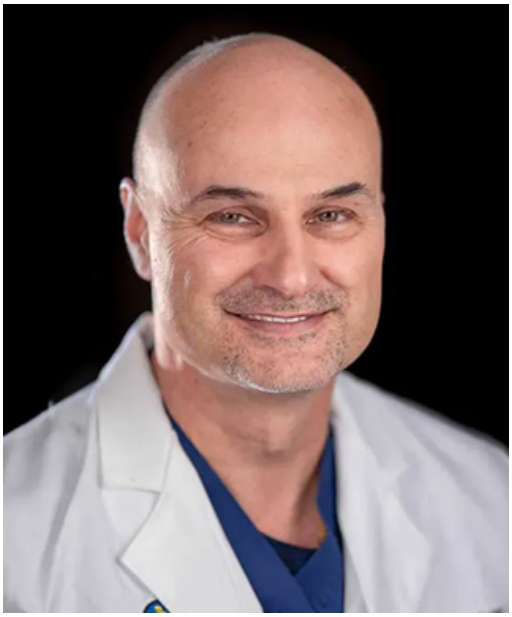
Dr. Evans is an orthopaedic surgeon and clinical assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, specializing in the treatment of hand and upper extremity conditions. He is highly skilled in a full

spectrum of treatment approaches, ranging from noninvasive therapies to advanced surgical procedures, including peripheral nerve and microvascular surgery. He treats a wide array of conditions, including joint, ligament, and tendon injuries; nerve and vessel disorders; arthritis; fractures; carpal and cubital tunnel syndrome; and pediatric and congenital hand and upper extremity disorders.

Dr. Evans is an accomplished author, having published extensively in journals such as the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics, and Archives of Surgery. His works span clinical topics and the financial aspects of care. He has also authored textbook chapters, including “Fractures of the Distal Radius and Ulna” in Rockwood and Green’s Fractures in Adults and “Carpal Tunnel Syndrome After Fractures and Other Trauma.” Additionally, Dr. Evans serves as a reviewer for HAND and the Journal of Hand Surgery Global Online.

Recognized for his research and scholarship, Dr. Evans has received honors such as the Richard J. Smith Award from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School for his clinical and translational research contributions.

Rudolf Buntic, MD



Dr. Rudy Buntic is a plastic, hand and microsurgeon. A native of Canada, his clinical interests include reconstructive microsurgery with a focus on reconstruction of traumatic injuries and defects caused by cancer. He emphasizes the most advanced microsurgical techniques that use the patient's own tissues for reconstruction. Dr. Buntic is the head of the division of microsurgery at California Pacific Medical Center.

Dr. Buntic is the hand and microsurgery fellowship director at The Buncke Clinic. He did his post-graduate residency training in general and plastic surgery at Stanford University. He did a fellowship in hand and microsurgery at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco with Harry and Gregory Buncke. Dr. Buntic is Board Certified in Plastic Surgery by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, and is board certified in the Subspecialty of Surgery of the Hand by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Dr Buntic is an Associate Professor Affiliated in Plastic Surgery at Stanford and on the Clinical Faculty of the University of California. He is a member of several societies, including the American Association of Plastic Surgeons, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery. Dr. Buntic has published scientific articles, book chapters and presented at national meetings related to a wide variety of plastic, hand and microsurgery topics caused by cancer.

Amy Ladd, MD

Dr. Ladd is a fellowship-trained, board-certified orthopaedic and hand surgeon. She serves as Chief of Stanford's Chase Hand & Upper Limb Center and the Children's Hand Clinic at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Renowned for her expertise, Dr. Ladd's research focuses on arthritis, musculoskeletal biomechanics, patient outcomes, and sex/gender differences in musculoskeletal conditions. She is internationally recognized for her work on carpometacarpal (CMC) joint osteoarthritis, a debilitating condition prevalent in postmenopausal women.

Dr. Ladd has authored over 175 publications spanning hand surgery, biomechanics, osteoarthritis, and orthopaedics. She has developed innovative tools to study 3D upper limb kinematics, including applications in elite sports like golf.

Her accolades include being named one of the Best Doctors in America for two decades and receiving prestigious honors such as the Andrew Weiland Award, Nicolas Andry Award, and the Emanuel B. Kaplan Excellence in Anatomy Award. She also earned the Distinguished Clinician Educator Award from the American Orthopaedic Association.

Dr. Ladd has held leadership roles, including as a former board member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and president-elect of the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons. She has provided volunteer surgical care for underserved populations, including the Navajo Nation and children in Vietnam.

Kristen Valdes, OT, CHT

Kristin Valdes, OTD, OT, CHT, is an associate professor at Touro University in Nevada and a nationally recognized leader in hand therapy. She earned her Doctorate in Occupational Therapy with a specialization in hand rehabilitation from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. With over 30 years of private practice experience, Dr. Valdes specialized in treating upper extremity conditions, including carpometacarpal osteoarthritis, distal radius fractures, and trigger finger, while also managing four outpatient therapy clinics in Florida.

A past president of the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT), Dr. Valdes has served on its Board of Directors for nine years and contributed to the American Association of Hand Surgery. She is a peer reviewer for the Hand Therapy Foundation and has reviewed grants for the British and American Societies of Hand Therapists. Renowned for her expertise in orthotic fabrication and hand rehabilitation, she has published over 70 peer-reviewed studies, advancing knowledge in her field.

Dr. Valdes has been honored with the Natalie Barr Award, one of ASHT's highest accolades, recognizing her outstanding contributions to research and the development of hand therapy. Her career exemplifies dedication to advancing hand therapy practice and education at both national and international levels.

Kevin Vogeli, MD

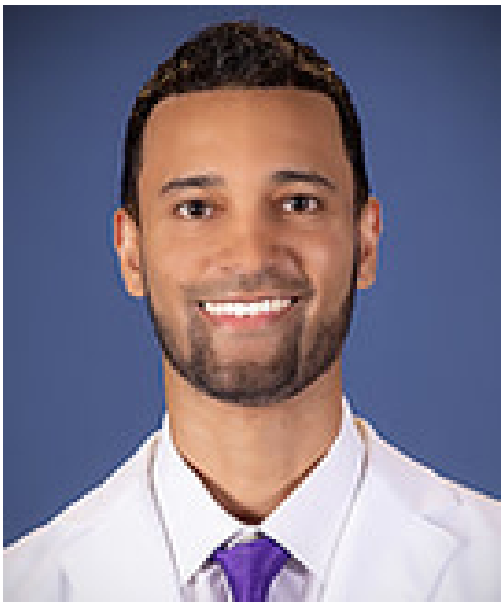
Dr. Kevin Vogeli, M.D., Ph.D., is a distinguished orthopedic hand surgeon and educator with extensive expertise in managing complex upper extremity injuries. He currently serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Orthopaedic Trauma Institute at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital/UCSF and practices as an Orthopedic Hand Surgeon at Kaiser Permanente East Bay.

Dr. Vogeli is board-certified in Orthopedic Surgery and Hand Surgery, with training from the University of Washington's Hand Surgery Fellowship. Prior to his current roles, he was on staff at Highland

Hospital/East Bay Medical Group, where he provided advanced surgical care and mentored residents in a Level 1 trauma center environment.

An accomplished scholar, Dr. Vogeli earned his M.D. from USC Keck School of Medicine and holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Biology from UCSF. Dr. Vogeli is a dedicated clinician, researcher, and educator passionate about advancing orthopedic care and training the next generation of surgeons.

Christopher Bayne, MD



Dr. Bayne specializes in hand, upper extremity and microvascular surgery. His clinical interests include hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder surgery; upper extremity joint replacement and reconstruction; arthroscopy; microvascular reconstructive free tissue transfer; brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery, tumors and congenital deformities. He is affiliated with UC Davis and Shriners Hospital.

Dr. Bayne's research interests include wrist instability, biomechanics, international surgical health care, microvascular skeletal reconstruction and surgical outcomes investigation.

Kyle Bickel, MD

Dr. Kyle D. Bickel is a board-certified plastic and hand surgeon with extensive expertise in treating injuries and conditions of the hand, wrist, and upper extremity in both adults and children. He earned his medical degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine and completed

his plastic surgery residency at Stanford University Medical Center. Dr. Bickel received advanced training in microsurgery at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco, an AO International Fellowship in Hand Surgery in Switzerland, and a Hand Surgery Fellowship at the Curtis National Hand Center in Baltimore.

Dr. Bickel was the Founder and Co-Director of the Hand Surgery Service at The Johns Hopkins University and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is an active member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, serving as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Hand Surgery. An instructor for AO North America, he educates surgeons worldwide in fracture fixation techniques.

Dr. Bickel specializes in wrist injuries, complex hand and wrist fractures, arthroscopic wrist surgery, nerve injuries, arthritis treatment, Dupuytren's disease, and minimally invasive fracture care. His commitment to innovation and patient care has made him a leader in hand and upper extremity surgery.

Shrikant Chinchalkar, OT, CHT

Shrikant is a renowned hand therapist with over 47 years of clinical experience, 40 years of teaching, and 30 years of research. He served as a senior hand therapist at the Roth-McFarlane Hand & Upper Limb Centre, St. Joseph's Health Centre in London, Ontario, Canada, for 26 years. Shrikant designed and developed hand therapy programs at four major teaching centers in Canada, including specialized rehabilitation programs for brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injuries, as well as elbow, wrist, and hand conditions. He also created the structured "Chinchalkar Hand Therapy Fellowship Program," which now bears his name.

As a guest lecturer at institutions like the University of Manitoba, University of Toronto, and Western University, Shrikant conducted instructional courses in over 28 countries and has delivered more than 300 presentations. His contributions have earned prestigious awards, including the Dr. Paul Brand Award of Excellence (ASHT), Lifetime Membership Award (CSHT), and Lifetime Achievement Award (IFSHT).

Shrikant has authored six book chapters, 37 papers, and 15 abstracts in peer-reviewed journals. In 2019, he was named Honorary Advisor to the Asia Pacific Wrist Association. His dedication has significantly advanced hand therapy education, research, and clinical care worldwide.

Vivianne Tawfik, MD

Vivianne Tawfik, MD, PhD is a board certified Anesthesiologist and Pain Medicine physician who specializes in the treatment of complex chronic pain disorders including chronic post-operative pain, complex regional pain syndrome and peripheral nerve injury.

She obtained her MD and PhD in Neuroscience, with a focus on basic pain mechanisms, at Dartmouth Medical School before joining the Stanford Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative & Pain Medicine as an anesthesiology resident in the Fellowship in Anesthesia Research and Medicine (FARM) program, of which she now serves as the Director. After completion of her subspecialty fellowship training in Pain Medicine, Dr. Tawfik joined the faculty at Stanford and continues to research the immune contribution to persistent pain while treating patients suffering from chronic pain.

Paige Fox, MD

Dr. Paige Fox is Board Certified Plastic Surgeon who specializes in hand surgery, reconstructive microsurgery including facial reanimation, as well as peripheral nerve and brachial plexus surgery. She is an Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery in the Department of Surgery. She works with adult and pediatric patients. Her lab focuses on wound healing and nerve compression. She has clinical research interested in optimizing care of upper extremity and nerve disorders both in the US and internationally. Dr. Fox has a passion for sustainability and health care's effect on the environment. She is involved in efforts to green the OR and the clinics at Stanford.

Raymond Chou, MD

Dr. Chou is a hand and upper extremity specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. He provides non-operative care for musculoskeletal and neurologic conditions affecting the shoulder, arm, wrist, and hand, including arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, rotator cuff disease, and tennis elbow.

Dr. Chou is an expert in ultrasound for diagnosis, evaluation, and guiding precise treatments such as injections and nerve blocks. His skills also include electromyography (EMG) and extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT). His research focuses on improving upper extremity neurologic function in cervical spinal cord injury patients through electrical stimulation, with findings published in leading journals like Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord.

He has co-authored textbook chapters in the Handbook of Clinical Neurology and Basics of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. Dr. Chou has earned honors from Harvard Medical School/Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and Northwestern University.

A member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and the Association of Academic Physiatrists, Dr. Chou also volunteers to help his community optimize their musculoskeletal health.

Jason Braley, PA

Jason Braley, PA-C is a physician assistant at the Stanford Robert A. Chase Hand and Upper Limb Center. He has 16 years of experience as an advanced practice provider, with a background in upper limb and shoulder surgery, neurosurgery, head and spine trauma. His personal interests include surgical treatment and rehabilitation of the injured athlete and wilderness medicine.

James Chang, MD

Dr. James Chang is the Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Professor and Chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Stanford University. He holds joint appointments as a professor of Plastic Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery and serves as an attending surgeon at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

A graduate of Stanford University with dual degrees in Biology and Economics, Dr. Chang earned his medical degree from Yale University with Alpha Omega Alpha and Cum Laude honors. He completed a residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Stanford and a Hand & Microsurgery Fellowship at UCLA.

Dr. Chang's research focuses on tissue engineering and molecular biology, with an emphasis on scarless tendon healing and bioengineered grafts for hand reconstruction. He has been federally funded for his research since 1998 and has received multi-year Federal Merit Review Awards.

He is a past president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) and has held numerous leadership roles, including Treasurer of ASSH and Vice-Chair of the ACGME Plastic

Surgery Residency Review Committee. Dr. Chang specializes in reconstructive surgery of the hand and extremities, pediatric hand surgery, and microsurgical reconstruction.

Wendy Moore OT, CHT

Wendy Moore, OTR/L, CHT, is a Certified Hand Therapist and Assistant Manager of the Outpatient Hand Therapy Department at Stanford Healthcare. She earned a BA in Sociology and Education from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master's in Occupational Therapy from the University of Puget Sound in 2001. Wendy discovered her passion for hand rehabilitation through her love of anatomy and science.

She began her hand therapy career in private practice in San Diego, where she focused on continuing education, research, and residency training. In 2009, Wendy earned her Certified Hand Therapist designation and opened her own hand therapy clinic. She later moved to London, working as a Clinical Specialist at a private hospital, managing a therapy team, and expanding her expertise.

Upon returning to San Diego, Wendy became the lead hand therapist at UCSD, specializing in complex trauma cases, burn rehabilitation, and collaborating closely with surgeons. In 2016, she joined Stanford Healthcare, where she continues to lead, teach, mentor, and care for patients.

Outside of work, Wendy enjoys traveling, snowboarding, reading, and spending time with her family. Her dedication to learning, teaching, and advancing hand therapy continues to shape her career and positively impact her patients.

Corey McGee, OT, CHT

Dr. Corey McGee brings over 23 years of experience as an upper limb rehabilitation clinician, educator, and researcher. An accomplished author, he has contributed to numerous research publications and book chapters and is an international speaker on hand therapy and musculoskeletal health. He is a lead author of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy white paper on musculoskeletal health and a member of an expert consensus group on thumb osteoarthritis management.

Dr. McGee has received prestigious accolades, including the 2019 Nathalie Barr Lectureship Award and multiple honors from the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) for best poster, presentation, and surgeon-therapist collaborative research. Additionally, he has been named "OT of the Year" and "Researcher of the Year" by the Minnesota OT Association. He serves as a peer reviewer for various journals and has been a grant reviewer and editorial board member.

As an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Minnesota, Dr. McGee teaches orthotic fabrication, anatomy, and hand therapy practice. He researches hand therapy interventions for osteoarthritis, mentors students, and serves as the academic coordinator for the MHealth-University of Minnesota Hand Therapy Fellowship.

Deborah Kenney, OT

Deborah Kenney, OT, is a Research Manager and Scientist for hand related research both at VA HCS and Stanford Hospitals and Clinics. She is an experienced occupational therapist with over 30 years of expertise in hand therapy and neurologic rehabilitation research. Currently, she splits her time as a medical researcher between the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and Stanford University, where she

lectures on assistive technology and collaborates on research design and study implementation with engineers, biomechanists, medical students, orthopedic residents, and hand surgeons.

Ms. Kenney's current research interests include the biomechanics and early treatment of thumb CMC arthritis, the development of a hand surgery decision aid for people with SCI-quadriplegia as well as the diagnosis and management of double crush syndrome

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