

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael J. Kazanow
The American Orthopaedic Association
E-mail: Kazanow@aoassn.org
Tel: (847) 318-7481
Web: www.aoassn.org

The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) Confirms Ann E. Van Heest, MD, as 2023-2024 President

Rosemont, IL, June 17, 2023 – Ann E. Van Heest, MD, was confirmed as the 136th president of the American Orthopaedic Association during the organization’s 2023 Annual Leadership Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT.

During her installation, Dr. Van Heest shared the focus for her presidential year in a speech entitled, *Competence and Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a New Normal*. She has held leadership positions at the AOA for several years, and most recently served as the First President-Elect on the AOA Executive Committee.

Dr. Van Heest presently serves in a number of national leadership positions. She is presently a Director at the ABOS, and a member of the ACGME orthopedic RRC. She is past president of Ruth Jackson Orthopedic Society, and on the BOD for Perry Initiative.

Education and Training

Dr. Van Heest is Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Van Heest trained at the University of Minnesota for medical school and orthopedic surgery residency, followed by completion of the Harvard Hand and Upper extremity fellowship.

Awards and Honors

At the University of MN, Dr. Van Heest was the 2016 resident teacher of the year and 2015 hand fellowship teacher of the year, the 2011 University of Minnesota Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education. In 2022, Dr. Van Heest received the University of Minnesota GME Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Van Heest is the 2010 recipient of the ACGME Parker J Palmer Courage to Teach Award (only two orthopedic surgeons have gotten this award). She is the 2018 AOA Distinguished Clinical Educator Award (only female ever to get this award).

Interests

Dr. Van Heest has a strong interest in orthopedic education. She served as the University of Minnesota Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program Director for over 20 years. She also has over 20 publications on orthopedic surgery education, with a focus on innovations in surgical simulation.

In her clinical practice, Dr. Van Heest sees patients at the University Of Minnesota Medical Center, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare and Shriners Clinic for Children. Her academic interests include congenital disorders of the pediatric hand and upper extremity, neuromuscular disorders, and storage disease disorders. She is co-founder of the Pediatric Hand Study Group and a member of Congenital Hand Anomalies Study Group.

###

About The American Orthopaedic Association

Founded in 1887, and the first orthopaedic association in the world, The American Orthopaedic Association is a small, select organization of elected orthopaedic leaders.

Membership in The American Orthopaedic Association is an earned membership that comes at the end of a stringent peer-reviewed process. Fewer than 10% of practicing orthopaedic surgeons have achieved AOA Membership. Members of The American Orthopaedic Association are referred to as Fellows of The American Orthopaedic Association (FAOA). This designation after a surgeon's name means that the surgeon has achieved recognition for exceptional accomplishments and leadership in the orthopaedic specialty.

AOA programs are designed to provide leadership education for surgeons from residency through retirement. The AOA helps orthopaedic surgeons gain and enhance skills and concepts not taught during residency. This includes leadership development courses, content and training for academic orthopaedists, and providing thought leadership on and solutions for critical issues facing the broad orthopaedic community. Find out more at www.aoassn.org, and follow us on Twitter @aoa1887, LinkedIn, and Instagram.