

**MGL2:101**

Teamwork in Musculoskeletal Oncology

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The speciality of musculoskeletal oncology is very compelling and supports the value in reflecting on recent developments in the field including the challenges and problems encountered in order to meet the demands of a new era.

Currently efforts continue towards improving local control of the tumor while retaining function in the reconstructive limb. The major challenges include defining the adequacy of surgical margins and secondly developing biological and prosthetic reconstructions to match the improved life expectancy. Close collaboration between clinical practice, basic science, and bioengineering has expanded the range of biological and nonbiological methods to maximize function. The wealth of knowledge gleaned from physics, engineering, and metallurgy has been used to improve the manufacture and design of prosthesis. Efforts continue to develop techniques to maximize function and make the reconstruction more durable.

Much of the progress in this field is due to teamwork. From the historical perspective, the evolution of the specialty of musculoskeletal oncology has been enhanced by teamwork; all the disciplines working together to advance the science and make a real difference in the lives of our patients.

One of the most important areas where a team approach is indicated to enhance the success in achieving clear margins and to improve function is in tumors of the pelvis and sacrum. The specialization of our surgical practice mandates that we develop the best team to deal with these difficult problems. In addition to the teams' skill and preparedness, these cases require courage and a "hate to lose" attitude to have an aggressive approach to achieve a successful outcome.

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