



**J. ROBERT GLADDEN ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY**  
A MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

## Gladden Society Holds 2022 AAOS Luncheon

Whether due to the two-year hiatus secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic or the ever-expanding numbers of physicians of color or both, the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society (JRGOS) Luncheon attracted a record crowd this year. The JRGOS Luncheon has been held annually since 1974, even before the formal chartering of the organization in 1998, during the annual American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) Annual meeting. This year's Luncheon was held in Chicago, Illinois on Thursday, March 24, 2022 with nearly 300 attendees. The excitement within the room and outside the event hall was truly electrifying as friends renewed in-person relationships and were introduced to the new, energetic younger members of the JRGOS.

The attendees included a record number of more than 100 medical students who are involved in the highly successful Nth Dimensions Educational Solutions (NDES) program. By the time outgoing JRGOS President, Eric Carson, MD, began the Luncheon program, it was standing room only. The event, sponsored by Zimmer Biomet, included presentations by longtime Zimmer Director of Minority Initiatives, Verona Brewton, along with Zimmer President and Chief Executive Officer, Bryan C. Hanson. The Society also recognized other industry partners represented at the event including DePuy-Synthes/Johnson & Johnson and Medtronic. William McDade, MD, PhD, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), delivered a stirring yet sobering keynote address. Dr. McDade offered an inside, historic look at the plight of minorities in achieving and completing graduate medical education. His messaging that progress has been slow, highlighted the need today for action by organizations such as the Gladden Society.

The program also included informative updates by JRGOS Membership Committee Chairperson, Jaysson T. Brooks, MD, and Addisu Mesfin, MD, JRGOS Scientific Committee Chairperson. Julius Oni, MD, Chairperson of the JRGOS Mentorship Committee, presented the 2022 Alvin H. Crawford, MD Mentorship Award to Letitia Bradford, MD. The Alvin H. Crawford, MD award, named for the pioneering, founding JRGOS Member and renowned innovative Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Director, recognized Dr. Bradford's ongoing leadership as the second Director of NDES and as the first female Chairperson of the National Medical Association Orthopaedic Section.

Randall Morgan, MD, a founding member of JRGOS and its second Executive Director, recognized outgoing President Eric Carson, MD for his three years of transformative leadership. During his tenure, and with the leadership of Jaysson Brooks, MD, the Society developed and launched an ultramodern website, stepped into the third decade /21st Century social media realm, transitioned away from dependence on the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons into an administrative relationship with Data Trace Management Services, and re-vitalized finances and fundraising for the Society.

The program came to a formal end with incoming President Lawrence Wells, MD, addressing the audience and giving thanks to his executive team while also setting the table for his upcoming leadership tenure. As always, the informal acquaintance renewal and new relationship formation which makes this Luncheon so unique, continued outside the event doors long afterwards!

*Darryl Wayne Peterson, MD*

Darryl Wayne Peterson, MD  
JRGOS Historian

### JRGOS 2022 Annual Meeting Photo Gallery



*(Left to right) Audley Mackel, III, MD (JRGOS Senior Advisory Board Member), James McGlowan, Jr., MD, and Cato Laurencin, MD, PhD (2022 AAOS Diversity Award Winner) share a moment at the 2022 JRGOS Annual Luncheon held during this year's AAOS Annual Meeting.*



*2022 Gladden Luncheon Guest Speaker, William McDade, MD, PhD, Chief for Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), delivered a stirring, keynote address.*



*Zimmer Biomet President and Chief Executive Officer, Bryan Hanson, speaks at the 2022 Gladden Luncheon that Zimmer Biomet so graciously sponsored.*



*Letitia Bradford, MD (left) receives the 2022 Alvin H. Crawford Mentoring Award from Julius Oni, MD. Dr. Bradford's well-earned recognition includes her roles as the first (and only) female Chair of the Orthopedic Surgery Section of the National Medical Association and as the Executive Director of Nth Dimensions.*



*Eric Carson, MD (left), outgoing Gladden Society President, receives a recognition plaque and congratulatory embrace from Randall Morgan, MD, Gladden Society's Executive Director for his three years of dedicated service as JRGOS President.*



*JRGOS Members and DePuy Synthes/Johnson & Johnson staff gather during the 2022 STEM Program event, "My Orthopaedic Surgeon Looks Like Me," jointly held during the AAOS Annual Meeting for more than 100 diverse high school students in the Chicago Area.*