Looking into the past, present, and future of JRGOS to understand its relevance to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS®)

Past

No clear path existed to board certification for black orthopaedic surgeons, given that they were not allowed to train at many premier orthopaedic departments

JRGOS was founded in 1998 in the memory of Dr. J. Robert Gladden, who was the first Black orthopaedic surgeon to be certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

JRGOS originally comprised 59 members

Present

Over the years, JRGOS has provided multiple resources for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the orthopaedic community

Mentorship

- Major role played by partner organization called Nth Dimensions
- Solicits nominations for the Alvin H. Crawford mentoring award
- Social media outreach efforts

Research support

- Actively encourages research, and produces literature related to the core ideals of JRGOS
- Offers multiple research grants

Leadership

- Worked towards the creation of AAOS® Diversity Advisory Board

Now, JRGOS comprises >600 members from all races and ethnicities

Future

JRGOS is working towards increasing the number of Black, indigenous, and persons of color applicants in orthopaedic surgery

In partnership with surgeons across AAOS®, organizations like JRGOS are making the society, and the orthopaedic workforce, as diverse as the contemporary United States of America