

BOS @ 60: Where Do We Stand Today?

Ashish Phadnis¹

The Bombay Orthopaedic Society (BOS), founded on Makar Sankranti in 1965, rests on the legacy and ethos laid down by our visionary founding fathers. The values they championed – academic excellence, discipline, camaraderie, and service – have not only endured but have strengthened with each passing decade. Over 60 years, BOS became synonymous with high-quality orthopaedic education and set new benchmarks in training surgeons for the service of their patients.

This unwavering commitment ensured that our flagship activities continued to evolve while retaining the same intensity and dedication that defined our early years. Today, BOS remains as democratic and inclusive as it was at inception. From a small group of passionate orthopaedic surgeons, we have grown into a vibrant community of over 3,000 members across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, Palghar, and beyond. Few city-based medical bodies in the country can claim such numbers or this level of sustained participation. Importantly, BOS continues to be professionally run by its own members – a tradition that has preserved our identity and integrity.

A Changing Academic Landscape

In earlier decades, academic hunger was met through monthly physical meetings and a few flagship courses. Today, however, the learning landscape has transformed. Surgeons consume knowledge through multiple formats; attention spans are shorter; and the need for concise, relevant, clinically applicable content is greater than ever. In this era of information overload, the challenge is no longer access to knowledge – it is filtering what is authentic and useful.

This is where BOS stands tall. We have become a “filter of truth”* for our members – sifting through noise, curating unbiased, peer-reviewed academic content, and presenting it in formats surgeons can directly apply to practice.

Our Academic Activities Today

Our bimonthly clinical meetings continue to attract both senior surgeons and trainees. The Master Series has matured into a focused, no-holds-barred platform for discussing contentious problems, differing viewpoints, and real-world dilemmas. During the pandemic, our Video Journal Club gained tremendous traction. Today, the BOS YouTube channel hosts a rich repository of surgical techniques, debates, and clinical pearls. With over 3,500 subscribers, it has become a valuable academic resource, especially for younger surgeons. Our Instagram handle is also gaining popularity and helps us reach out to the next generation in a language and format they relate to.

Subspecialty affiliate programs in different suburbs of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Mira-Bhayander, Vasai-Virar, and Kalyan-Dombivli have strengthened regional engagement.

The BOS Courses have blossomed into comprehensive teaching experiences – with pre-course and post-course material, cadaver dissections, surgical videos, live surgeries, opportunities to scrub in with mentors, and mandatory case discussions. These courses are routinely oversubscribed, reflecting their academic depth and practicality.

At the Cusp of Sixty: The Challenge of Relevance

As the BOS steps into its 60th year, we stand at an important cusp – where the weight of past glory meets the challenge of future uncertainty. Learning habits have changed, and member expectations have evolved. To stay relevant, we must reimagine how we teach, engage, and support our members.

Simon Sinek reminds us that people don’t buy “what” we do; they buy “why” we do it. BOS’s deeper purpose – to serve as a trusted academic home built on mentorship, authentic dialogue, and unbiased knowledge – must remain our guiding

¹Department of Orthopaedics, Jupiter Hospital, Thane, Maharashtra, India

Address of Correspondence

Dr. Ashish Phadnis,

Department of Orthopaedics, Jupiter Hospital, Thane, Maharashtra, India

E-mail: aaphadnis@gmail.com

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force in the years ahead.

Meaningful progress, as Morgan Housel writes, is the result of small, consistent actions that compound over time. BOS itself is

proof of this: sixty years of disciplined academic activity, generous faculty involvement, and a culture of camaraderie have collectively built an institution of substance and credibility.

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