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### A message from Jerry Blanton, CEO



OA began as the orthopaedic physician's office of Dr. Joseph Lawrence in an older Victorian home on First Avenue in the mid-1930s. The country was in the midst of the Great Depression, and the Dust Bowl was still crushing the Great Plains. Since that simple beginning, Dr. Lawrence's dream of a group serving the community has grown into an organization that covers the entire region with five locations, 11 surgeons, 25 total providers, physical and occupational therapy, athletic training, X-ray, MRI, diagnostic ultrasound, electromyographic nerve studies, and a team of employees to support that full array of musculoskeletal services.

We're all very proud of what Orthopaedic Associates is today as a healthcare provider, an employer, and a community member. I'm confident that if Dr. Lawrence could see 88 years into the future on the day he opened his simple office, he'd be very proud of what we've become. In 2024, we celebrate the continued development of exceptional orthopaedic care in the region.

**Jerry Blanton**  
CEO, Orthopaedic Associates of Evansville



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## MEET THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC CARE

### Phillip Behrens IV, MD

**Specialty:** spine surgery, general orthopaedics

**Joined OA in:** May 2022



**Education:** Indiana University School of Medicine, Bloomington

**Hometown:** Evansville

**Accolades:** third place, Cervical Spine Research Society; Orthopaedic Research Society New Investigator Award; International Meeting on Advanced Spine Techniques Whitecloud Award (finalist); Scoliosis Research Society Hibbs Basic Science Award (nominated)

Phillip Behrens' orthopaedic surgery career has taken him across the country from California to Florida, but when the door opened for him to return to Evansville, he didn't hesitate.

"My hometown holds a special place in my heart," the Reitz Memorial High School graduate says. "My wife and I are thrilled to contribute to the health and lifestyle of the Evansville community. We appreciate Evansville's strong family values and sense of unity."

As a spine and general orthopaedics surgeon, Dr. Behrens seeks to optimize physical performance and function for patients of all ages. His practice and research focus on embracing rapid achievements in medicine.

"I am especially keen to integrate stem cell therapy, regenerative medicine, and biomechanics into my clinical practice," he says. "Additionally, surgical robotics and navigation afford greater precision and another exciting avenue to explore. These innovations seamlessly align with our focus on minimally invasive techniques and accelerated recovery."

On the horizon, Dr. Behrens sees his orthopaedic specialties leaning even more into minimally invasive and endoscopic spine surgery.

"These techniques not only reduce post-operative pain but also allow patients to recover in the comfort of their own homes — often the same day as their procedure," he says. "Coupled with accelerated rehab and physical therapy protocols, patients can resume work, sports, and recreational activities at an unprecedented pace."

