

# He's Got

Dr. George M. Wahba joins the surgical team at Mercy's Orthopedic & Hand Center.



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ORTHOPEDIC  
&  
HAND CENTER

# Your *back*

Mercy Welcomes Harvard-Trained Spine Surgeon

*The best orthopedic specialty center  
in the region just got better!*

**M**ercy Hospitals of Bakersfield's Orthopedic & Hand Center is pleased to welcome spine surgeon George M. Wahba, MD, to Bakersfield. Dr. Wahba is a Harvard-trained surgeon who specializes in treating a wide variety of spine conditions, including degenerative disease, spinal deformities such as scoliosis, spinal trauma and tumors.

Dr. Wahba is the latest distinguished physician to join Mercy's Orthopedic & Hand Center. He will partner with Dr. Alfred Coppola, Dr. Matthew Malerich and Dr. Albert Swafford to provide the most comprehensive orthopedic services available in the area.

"I've know Dr. Malerich for a long time, and for quite some time now he's always been telling me about how great Bakersfield is and how it's just a fantastic place to be a doctor and a surgeon," said Wahba. "When the time came, I took him up on his offer."

Mercy's caring staff, together with community physicians Alfred Coppola, M.D., Matthew Malerich, M.D., Albert Swafford, M.D., and George Wahba, M.D., who see their patients at the Orthopedic and Hand Center, have helped thousands of patients suffering from a variety of bone and soft-tissue injuries, diseases, and deformities. The staff and physicians consistently provide the finest in diagnostic services, as well as surgical and non-surgical treatments. Each physician is board certified and has years of experience in the medical and surgical treatment of orthopedic injuries or disorders.

Prior to moving to Bakersfield, Dr. Wahba obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and graduated Summa Cum Laude with College Honors. He then graduated at the top of his class from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine, which is consistently ranked as one of the top medical schools in the country. After medical school, he completed a five-year residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) before completing a prestigious fellowship in spine surgery from Harvard Medical

School. During that time, he trained at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, two of the most renowned medical centers in the world.

Along with the opportunity to work alongside some of the most respected orthopedic surgeons in the community, Dr. Wahba was also drawn to Bakersfield thanks to the advanced surgical facilities available at Mercy.

The addition of a spine surgeon with Dr. Wahba's extraordinary background and training further enhances the services at the Orthopedic & Hand Center. Along with comprehensive spine services, the Center also offers joint replacement and construction, foot and ankle repair, hand and wrist surgery, shoulder and elbow repair, and diagnosis and treatment of sports injuries.

Thanks to Dr. Wahba's high levels of training and the advanced technology available at Mercy, he can perform minimally invasive surgical techniques whenever possible. This allows surgeons to accomplish the same goal of traditional "open" surgeries with smaller incisions and less disruption to the muscle and surrounding soft tissue. The end result is usually a shorter hospital stay, decreased post-operative pain, lower blood loss, and a faster recovery time.

Having access to these sub-speciality orthopedic surgeons under one roof is also major benefit to orthopedic patients throughout Kern County, Wahba said.

"It is a very tight-knit relationship and I think it's great for patients because it definitely helps increase access to high quality orthopedic care. Here, you have a strong collection of very well trained, highly specialized surgeons who are all in one place and can collaborate with each other. "

With the surgeons, staff and facilities available at Mercy's Orthopedic & Hand Center, Dr. Wahba believes there is no reason for Kern County's orthopedic patients to seek services elsewhere.

"It's a one stop shop where patients can come for the full spectrum of orthopedic care—everything from general ortho, sports medicine, hand surgery, joint replacement to spine surgery—and you have people in each of those specialties who are at the top of their fields and very widely respected nationally," he said.

"To top it all off, beyond just having that expertise in their field, they are people who will treat you the way they would want their families to be treated.

"The bottom line is: you've got the best, the brightest and the most trained right here in town." 

For more information on the Orthopedic & Hand Center please visit [www.mercybakersfield.org](http://www.mercybakersfield.org).