During the first half of the 2012 calendar year, important milestones were achieved by the Department of Surgery allowing for the continued growth and expansion of our department. Our general surgery residency program received final approval for its much-needed expansion to four categorical residents each year. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, this was a two-year process that initially involved approval by the North Dakota Legislature and subsequent approval by the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). The final approval necessary for expansion implementation was from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the national organization that governs all residency training in the United States. The ACGME approval was received on Feb 20, 2012, allowing our residency program to train four categorical residents each year. We are very grateful and indebted to the leaders in our state and the SMHS for its vision and continued support of the general surgery residency program. I am confident that expansion of the residency program will continue to benefit the people of North Dakota and the upper Midwest as it has in the past. Additionally this expansion has allowed the residency program to fully implement our rural surgery tract, one of the few specialized programs in the U.S. for training surgeons to practice in rural communities.

Within the SMHS, the surgery department has worked with other departments in the expansion of the medical school class and the beginning of third-year student rotations at the Northwest campus in Minot. The medical student rotations in Minot will be conducted in a new teaching format—a longitudinal clerkship—a new and exciting method for teaching the clinical rotations in medical school. Our graduating fourth-year students did very well in the match with several entering surgical specialties. The surgery department also implemented a new elective rotation for fourth-year students entering a surgical residency, helping them to be better prepared for the transition into surgical residency.

Other exciting news covered in this newsletter includes the high-quality surgery resident research colloquium, the top-notch class of incoming interns and the very successful chief resident banquet. Upcoming events this year include a fund drive for the Resident Development Fund and the recruitment of division chiefs for the surgical subspecialty divisions within the Department of Surgery. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and quality of everyone in the surgery department, including staff, faculty, students and residents, all of whom deserve credit for the great things happening in our department.

Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS
Chairman and Program Director
Medical Student News

Medical School Graduation
The medical school awards luncheon and graduation were held Sunday May 13, 2012, in Grand Forks. Sixty-one new physicians received their MD degrees, with 10 (16 percent) of them entering General Surgery or surgical subspecialties. The faculty of the Department of Surgery is commended for their continued support and inspiration of the medical students. Our students have entered a wide range of very competitive surgical specialties (General Surgery-5, Anesthesiology-3, Orthopedics-1, Plastic Surgery-1.

The following Department of Surgery awards were given to graduating medical students:

Department of Surgery Outstanding Student Award: This award goes to the senior student who demonstrates excellence in the specialty of surgery, and is based on a scoring system from both their third- and fourth-year rotations. Meredith A. Reisenauer, MSIV of Fargo, N.D., was the recipient for the 2011 academic year. Meredith matched in Dermatology at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester, Minn.

Honors Award for third-year medical students: In order for a student to achieve honors, they must score above the 90th percentile on the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) shelf exam, score 8 or higher on the oral exam, and be recommended for honors by the majority of their preceptors. Honors awarded for the 2011-'12 year: Southwest Campus, Bismarck - Marissa Brown (Scranton, N.D.), Bryn Putbrese (Grand Forks, N.D.), Rachel Peterson (Mandan, N.D.), Andrew Rodenburg (Sterling, N.D.). Southeast Campus, Fargo - Eric Schommer (Grand Forks, N.D.). Northeast Campus, Grand Forks - Ashok Jethwa (Grand Forks, N.D.). Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME): Andrew Stahl (Bismarck, N.D.) and Chelsea Traverse (Munich, N.D.).

Surgery Simulation Boot Camp
In the spring of 2012, the Department of Surgery introduced a new Surgery Simulation Boot Camp as an elective available to fourth-year medical students who have applied for residency in general surgery or a surgical subspecialty. The four-week elective is split into a two-week rotation on a surgical teaching service and two weeks in the simulation laboratory learning basic surgical skills including suturing, knot-tying, chest tubes, central lines, airway management and basic laparoscopy skills. While on the teaching service, students will participate in team management of critical/complex scenarios and writing pre- and post-operative orders. The Surgery Simulation Boot Camp activities are held on the UND Southeast Campus and Sanford Health Center in Fargo, N.D.

Residency Program Alumni News

Joel Harris, MD ’10, has a new addition to his family. Levi Harris was born January 17, 2012, at 2:31 a.m. He was 7 lbs. 4 oz. He has a big sister name Arie.

Medical Student Alumni News

Former UND medical students who are in surgical specialties, please e-mail us with news!
11th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

The Surgical Resident Research Colloquium is the annual Department of Surgery conference where the PGY 2-5 Categorical Surgery Residents present their annual research projects. This is held on the same day as the Edwin C. James lecture and Chief Resident Graduation Banquet. These presentations are judged by a panel of invited physicians, including the Edwin James lecturer. This year’s judges were Dr. William Kendall Jr., former surgical resident; A. Michael Booth, clinical professor of Surgery; Clint Hosford, PhD, senior statistician of the UND SMHS; and Dr. Mary McGrath, Edwin C. James Lecturer.

The top two presenters are honored at the Chief Resident Graduation Banquet that follows the same evening. This year we had a number of excellent presentations, many of which will be subsequently submitted for publication or presentation at regional or national meetings. The winners were:

- First place: Brady Mullin, MD PGY-3, “More White Trash for a Greener OR”
- Honorable Mention: Irminne G. Van Dyken, MD PGY-4, “Simulated Surgical Dexterity After an Evening of Moderate Alcohol Intake”

Additionally two new competitions were added to the Colloquium this year: The North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Competition and the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Competition.

The winners of the Commission on Cancer Competition were:

- First place: Kyle Barker, MD PGY-4, “Reasons for Conversion from Laparoscopic to Open Colectomy in the N CCTG NO147 Trail”
- Second place: Bree Dewing, MD PGY-5, “Results of North Dakota State Grant Providing Screening Colonoscopies for Underinsured patients”

The winners of the Committee on Trauma Competition were:

- First place: Christopher Maki, MD PGY-2 “CT Radiation Exposure in Pediatric Trauma in North Dakota”
- Second place: Kayla Burchill, MD PGY-3 “A Comparison of Farm Trauma Today & Thirty Years Ago”

Colloquium brochure and agenda
Residency Program News (continued)

North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Competition first place winner: Kyle Barker, MD PGY-4, “Reasons for Conversion from Laparoscopic to Open Colectomy in the NCCTG NO147 Trail”

North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Competition second place: Kayla Burchill, MD PGY-3 “A Comparison of Farm Trauma Today & Thirty Years Ago”

Faculty and residents at the Surgery Resident Research Colloquium in Fargo

Dr. Andy McCoy, PGY IV, presenting his research project titled “Resident Volume of Open vs. Laparoscopic Abdominal Surgery”

North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Competition first place: Christopher Maki, MD PGY-2 “CT Radiation Exposure in Pediatric Trauma in North Dakota”

2012 Resident Research Colloquium Honorable Mention: Irminne G. Van Dyken, MD PGY-4 - “Simulated Surgical Dexterity After an Evening of Moderate Alcohol Intake”

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28th Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet

The 28th Surgical Chief Resident Graduate Banquet was held Friday June 22, 2012, at the Ramada Plaza & Suites in Fargo. The graduating residents were:

- Siddharth Agarwal, MD, who will be entering a vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Minnesota in 2013.

- Zachary Bastian, MD, who will be joining the Mercy Medical Center in Williston, N.D., in the practice of general surgery.

- Bree Dewing, MD, who will be joining Sanford Health (formerly Medcenter One) in Bismarck, N.D., in the practice of general surgery.

- Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD, who will be entering a surgical oncology fellowship at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute Inc. in Tampa, Fla. Sangeetha is also expecting a baby in November.

In addition, Christopher Maki, MD PGYII, received the Outstanding Resident of the Year Award from the Southeast Campus medical students.

Associate Program Director Dr. Randolph Szlabick, Chair and Program Director Dr. Robert Sticca, and Associate Program Director Dr. Enej Gasevic along with graduates Drs. Bastian, Prabhakaran, Dewing and Agarwal in their UND Boston Chairs.

In addition, Christopher Maki, MD PGYII, received the Outstanding Resident of the Year Award from the Southeast Campus medical students.

Faculty at the Graduation Banquet – Drs. Robin Hape, Linda Lindquist and Kurt Lindquist enjoying some quality time visiting.

Graduate Dr. Sidd Agarwal with Drs. Gasevic, Fetner and Mistry, and parents Mr. and Mrs. Agarwal.

Dr. David Antonenko, his wife Sue and many others enjoying themselves at the Graduation Banquet.
Residency Program News (continued)

9th Annual Edwin C. James Lectureship

The 9th Annual Edwin C. James Lectureship was established in honor of Edwin C. James, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1980-’89 and was the founder of the Surgical Residency Program. Each year we invite a nationally recognized speaker to honor this lectureship. This year’s lecturer was Mary McGrath, MD, professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery; and associate chair of Quality and Safety, Department of Surgery at the University of California in San Francisco, Calif. Her talk, given June 22, 2012, was on “Dimensions in the Life of a Surgeon.”

Resident Notes

Dr. Zachary Bastian, a recent graduate, and his wife Ali are enjoying their new addition Sylvie Anne Bastian, who was brought into this world July 10, 2012, weighing in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. Congrats!

Dr. Bree Dewing, a recent graduate, is engaged to Andrew Nelson. A 2013 wedding is planned.

Dr. Travis Swartz, PGY I, recently popped the question to Carissa Jahner. She accepted!

Residency Program American Board of Surgery Results

Recent graduates of the UND Surgical Residency Program have continued to do well on the American Board of Surgery (ABS) Examination. The recently published data from the ABS shows that our five-year, first-time pass rate on the Qualifying Exam (written exam) is 100 percent (9/9), and the Certifying Exam (oral exam) is 86 percent (6/7 passing). The overall first-time pass rate for our program is 89 percent (15/16). Our congratulations to our recent graduates who have successfully obtained board certification.

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New Incoming Residents (July 1, 2012)

Adam M. McGauvran, MD: PG I Preliminary. Born in Grand Forks, N.D. Undergraduate degree in biology/Pre-Health Emphasis from the University of North Dakota. Medical School: University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.

Daniel C. Persinger: PG I Preliminary. Born in Dayton, Ohio. Undergraduate degree in Biology from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. Medical School: Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio.

Ada L. Rivera Cruz, MD: PG II Preliminary. Born in Guayama, Puerto Rico. Undergraduate from Pontifical Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Medical School: San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas, Puerto Rico.

Mark R. Hightower, MD: PG I Categorical. Born in Omaha, Neb. Undergraduate degree in Nutrition Science from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Medical School: University of Nebraska College of Medicine, Omaha.

Shawn P. Olson, MD: PG I Categorical. Born in Thief River Falls, Minn. Undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of Minnesota Morris in Morris, Minn. Medical School: University of Minnesota-Duluth School of Medicine in Duluth and the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis.

Katie (Katherine) A. Senter, MD: PG I Categorical. Born in Anchorage, Alaska. Undergraduate degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. Medical School: University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

Vicky (Wen-Yu) Haines: MD– PG III Categorical. Born in Taipei, Taiwan. Undergraduate degree in Mathematics from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Medical School: University of Minnesota.

Resident Orientation and Welcoming Picnic

The annual resident orientation and welcoming picnic was held on July 1, 2012.

New interns and residents were welcomed, and had the opportunity to meet faculty and their co-residents at the Oak Grove Park in Fargo. We had a great turnout of faculty, staff and residents.
Faculty News

Randolph Szlabick, MD, Associate Program Director and Assistant Professor of Surgery named North Dakota’s First State EMS and Trauma Medical Director by the North Dakota Department of Health, February 15, 2012.

Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS, Professor and Chairman was appointed the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Transitional Year Residency Review Committee and the newly formed Advisory Council for Rural Surgery to the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons.

Upcoming Events

Interviews dates with residency program applicants are Nov. 15-16, Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 13-14, 2012.

The annual Christmas Party is Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012, at the home of Dr. Robert Sticca, chairman, Department of Surgery.

ABSITE Exam: Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. Surgery Department faculty may participate for review of current practice or preparation for American Board of Surgery Recertification.

The Edwin C. James lectureship, Surgical Resident Research Colloquium and Graduation Banquet will be held on Friday, June 21, 2013, at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo. More detailed information to follow.

Facility Promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty on their promotions:

- Randolph Szlabick, MD: Promoted from assistant professor of Surgery to associate professor of Surgery. He is a general surgeon-trauma critical care located on the Northeast Campus in Grand Forks.
- Michael Bouton, MD: Promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of Surgery. He is a general surgeon specializing in breast surgery located on the Southeast Campus in Fargo.
- John Jones Jr., MD, PhD: Promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of Surgery. He is an otolaryngologist located on the Southeast Campus.
- Derek Kane, MD: Promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of Surgery. He is a general surgeon on the Southwest Campus in Bismarck.
- David Montes, MD: Promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of Surgery. He is an oral/maxillofacial surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo.
- Gail Waldby, MD: Promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of Surgery. She is a general surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo.

Facility Awards

The following faculty members were presented with awards at the medical school awards luncheon held on Sunday May 13, 2012, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The following awards were presented:

- Alexandre Kindy, MD, clinical associate professor of Surgery, received the Alpha Omega Alpha Faculty Recognition Award

- Dr. Robert Sticca, chairman, program director and professor of Surgery, received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Fargo Medical Students

- Dr. Kenyon W. Kruse, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, was presented with the Outstanding Clinical Teacher Award by the Bismarck Medical Students

New Faculty

Diane R. Schmidt-Krings, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is a plastic surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. She trained at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn., for her general surgery and critical care. She did her plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio. She is board certified in both general surgery and plastic surgery.