From the Chairman

The spring UND Department of Surgery E-News covers events within the Surgery Department from July-December 2011. I am happy to report that during this time, the Department was successful in gaining approval from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences administration to expand the general surgical residency program with an additional categorical resident each year, for a total of four categorical residents in each year of residency training.

This is a direct result of the approval by the North Dakota Legislature for funds to expand both the residency programs and medical students at the medical school. The final step in this approval process was the approval by the Accreditation Committee for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Surgery Residency Review Committee (RRC) of this resident compliment increase. The ACGME approval was applied for in the fall of last year, and on February 20, 2012, we received notification from the ACGME that we had been approved to expand to four categorical residents each year.

This will greatly enhance the educational opportunities for our residency program as well as provide appropriate resident coverage for our three core hospitals at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, Sanford Hospital and VA Medical Center in Fargo. We were gratified to receive this approval and are thankful to our State Legislation, the medical school, and the faculty, staff, and residents in the Department of Surgery, all of whom supported this program expansion.

Other news from last summer and fall included a record number of general surgery residency applicants to our program (over 375) which culminated in a very successful match in March of this year. These residents who matched into our program are briefly introduced below. More details will be given in the next edition of Surgery E-News after these new interns start in July.

In this edition of Surgery E-News, Dr. Randolph Szlabick, associate program director of the Residency Program in Grand Forks, reviews the Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) General Surgery curriculum, which is standardized for all general surgery residents across the United States. Additionally, a review of the accomplishments and social activities held within the Department are also included. I thank all faculty, friends, and supporters of the general surgery residency program for their continued support as our program continues to grow and improve.

Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS
Chairman and Program Director

Surgery Residency Program Match

Categorical residents:
Mark Hightower, University of Nebraska
Katie Senter, University of Washington
Shawn Olson, University of Minnesota

Preliminary residents:
Dan Persinger, Wright State University
Adam McGauvran, University of North Dakota

Details to be included in the fall edition

Table of Contents

From the Chairiman..............................Page 1
Surgery Residency Program Match........Page 1
SCORE Report....................................Page 2
Resident Publications/Presentations.......Page 3
Welcome New Faculty.........................Pages 3-5
Faculty Spotlight: Timothy J. Juelson....Page 5
Residency Program Alumni News........Page 5
Upcoming Events.........................Page 5
Faculty Accomplishments...............Page 6
SCORE Report

Over the past decade, numerous surgical organizations have questioned the relevance of the existing model of resident education in general surgery. These questions arose due to the introduction of new technology such as laparoscopy and fiber optic endoscopy as well as, increasing demands for residents to provide critical patient care to an increasingly “sick” hospital inpatient population. At the same time, there has been a transition to more outpatient services and increasing competition for prime teaching cases from subspecialty surgical fellowship programs.

Simultaneously many of the same organizations began expressing some concerns about the capability of graduating trainees to successfully complete the ABS certifying examination and the ability to practice independently.

In response to the concerns, several of these surgical organizations began to evaluate the existing state of general surgical education. The first organization was the American Surgical Association (ASA) in 2002 when they formed an expert panel which made several recommendations, one of which was a standardized curriculum for general surgical residency training. During this same time, the American Board of Surgery (ABS) had established a new General Surgery Resident Education Committee, which recommended bringing all of the organizations with an interest in surgical resident education together for the common goal of addressing curricular reform.

The original six organizations—the American Board of Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the Association of Program Directors in Surgery, the Association for surgical Education, and the Surgery Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)—held a joint meeting in 2004 and identified two goals.

The first goal was to develop a competency-based curriculum for general surgery residency programs based on the competency domains as currently defined by the ACGME, and secondly to develop a web-based reference site for the educational material of the curriculum.

The initial group of six organizations was soon joined by a seventh organization, the Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and by then the initiative had adopted the name SCORE for the Surgical Council on Resident Education. Over the next several years, SCORE began defining the competencies expected of graduating general surgery residents in the area of patient care, one of the six ACGME competencies.

During this time, the ABS General Surgery Residency Education Committee began the task of defining what diseases and conditions a general surgeon should be capable of performing. Eventually 700 patient care topics were identified and included in the initial SCORE curriculum.

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences became a beta test for the curriculum in 2008. SCORE was initially used as a replacement for previously scheduled Schwartz’ textbook chapter reviews; the remaining conference schedule and teaching activities remained unmodified. The SCORE curriculum has been well accepted by the faculty and residents, and seems to be a relatively efficient learning/teaching tool. We obtain regular input from the residents concerning content, volume of material, and quality of faculty teaching during interactive sessions.

An example of a past assignment was two modules—liver and splenic injuries, along with the open-ended questions included within the modules. Our residents submit written answers to each assigned module’s open-ended questions on Tuesday near the end of each two-week period. Two days later, on Friday at 7 a.m., a faculty member leads an interactive discussion on the open-ended questions, which allows residents to justify/defend/discuss their responses.

The residents are awarded one point each for attending the discussion sessions and for completing their test question responses on time. These points are utilized as part of our point system, which is utilized as an objective measurement of resident performance. Overall, the SCORE curriculum is an integral part of our educational program, which continues to mature and improve. The goal of a single web-based destination for the resident’s learning needs is gradually becoming a reality.

Randolph Szlabick, MD
Associate Program Director of Surgery
Resident Publications/Presentations

MacGregor JM (Resident), Sticca RP (Faculty), Szlabick, RE (Faculty). The University of North Dakota S.C.O.R.E. Experience. Journal of Surgical Education. 68(5), 428-29. September-October 2011

Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD (resident); Marisa Cevasco, MD; and Nicolas J. Mouawad, MD, MRCS “Financial Planning for Residents”. Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons, Vol 96, No. 8, August 2011

Matthew Nielsen, MD (Resident) - “Metastatic Carcinoid”, MDCC Tumor Board, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Fargo, ND. - July 13, 2011

Kayla Burchill, MD (Resident) - “Death/Resuscitation”, Trauma Physician Meeting, Sanford Health, Fargo, ND - July 18, 2011

Noelle Thomas, MD (Resident) - “Stabbings/Missed Injury/Pneumothorax/Chest Tubes”, Trauma Physician Meeting, Sanford Health, Fargo, ND - July 18, 2011

Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD (Resident) - “Abdominal Sarcomas”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - August 5, 2011

Siddharth Agarwal, MD (Resident) - Trauma Physician Meeting, Sanford Health, Fargo, ND – August 15, 2011

Stefan Johnson, MD (Resident) - “Ventral Incisional Hernias”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - September 2, 2011

Andrew McCoy, MD (Resident) - “Thermal Burns”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - October 7, 2011

Stefan Johnson, MD (Resident) - “Thoracic Trauma” - Paramedic Training at Altru, Grand Forks, ND - October 27, 2011

Kayla Burchill, MD (Resident) - “Operating Room Distractions”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - November 4, 2011

Zach Bastian, MD (Resident) - “Compartment Syndrome” - Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting, Fargo, ND - November 10, 2011

Siddharth Agarwal, MD (Resident) - “Acute Limb Ischemia”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - December 2, 2011

Welcome New Faculty

Northeast Campus (Grand Forks)

Alan W. Johnson, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an otolaryngologist from Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on December 8, 2011. Dr. Johnson completed his medical school and otolaryngology residency at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Billie Jo Grieve, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is a general surgeon from Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on August 8, 2011. Dr. Grieve completed her medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and her general surgery residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Robert Guttormson, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is a general surgeon from Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on June 23, 2011. He completed his medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and also his transitional internship. From there he went on to complete his general surgery residency at the Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine, Saginaw Campus, Synergy Medical Education Alliance.

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David J. Jacobs, MD, clinical assistant professor of Surgery, is an ophthalmologist from Trinity Regional Eyecare in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on December 27, 2011. He attended medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and attended Wake Forest University for his ophthalmology residency. He also entered a Vitreoretinal fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Aaron D. Lewis, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Trinity Hospital in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on August 11, 2011. He attended medical school at Saba University School of Medicine, Saba, Netherlands-Antilles and his residency (internship) at the Wayne St. School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; (anesthesiology) Wayne St. School of Medicine, Detroit, Mich.

Steven C. Lin, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Trinity Hospital in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on August 2, 2011. He attended medical school at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill., and his residency in Surgery at the Santa Barbara, Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, Calif., and his Anesthesiology residency at the Mont de Leon Hospital, Montauban, France and Parkland Medical Hospital, Dallas, Texas.

Christopher C. Phillips, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is a cardiovascular surgeon at Trinity Hospital in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on August 17, 2011. He attended medical school at the University of Buffalo, Dominica West Indies and his general surgery residency at University of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. He also did a fellowship on Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Indiana University, Indianapolis, Ind.

E. Dexter Scott, MD, FRCS, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an orthopaedic surgeon from Trinity Health Center in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on December 22, 2011. He attended medical school at the University of Alberta and Orthopaedic residency at University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta.

### Southeast Campus (Fargo)

Brian D. Harris, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on October 27, 2011. He attended medical school at the Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine and did his residency at the University of California, San Diego Medical Center.

R. Scott Childs, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on December 28, 2011. He went to medical School at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and did his residency at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.

Arundhati Goswami, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on December 22, 2011. She attended medical school at Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital and did an Anesthesia residency at the same location. She also did a transitional year at the University of North Dakota and from there did an anesthesia residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Anne M. Keating, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an ophthalmologist from Essentia Health in Fargo. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on August 8, 2011. She attended medical school at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a transitional residency at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She also did a fellowship on Cornea, External Disease at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School.

Eric A. Pezhman, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on September 22, 2011. He attended medical school at American University of the Caribbean and Anesthesia residency at Wayne State University Detroit Medical Center.

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Southeast Campus (Fargo)

Robert Raad, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on October 6, 2011. He attended medical school at the University of Beirut, Lebanon and his otolaryngology residency at the American University of Beirut, a preliminary general surgery residency at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., and an anesthesiology residency at the Wayne State University at the Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, Mich.

Faculty Spotlight: Timothy J. Juelson

Timothy J. Juelson, MD, clinical instructor of Surgery and orthopaedic surgeon from Bone & Joint Center in Bismarck, joined UND Surgery Department faculty on November 21, 2011. He attended medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Missouri. He also did a fellowship in sports medicine at the Andrew Institute in Florida. He is pictured here at an Auburn football game with his colleague Dr. James Andrews (left) of The Andrews Institute in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

Residency Program Alumni News

Joel Harris, Julie Lorber and Torfi Hoskuldsson—all June 2010 graduates—have passed their American Board of Surgery examinations and are now Board Certified. Congratulations!


Upcoming Events

Friday, June 22, 2012
The Edwin C. James lectureship (noon), Surgical Resident Research Colloquium (1:30 p.m.) and Graduation Banquet (6:30 p.m.) will be held at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo.

The guest speaker for the lectureship is Mary McGrath, MD, MPH, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of California. Her topic for the lectureship is “Dimension in the Life of a Surgeon”.

More detailed information will follow by mail.

Sunday, July 1, 2012
Orientation and picnic at a Faculty member’s home.
Faculty Accomplishments

Publications

Randolph Szlabick, MD (Faculty) - “Incorporating the SCORE Curriculum and Website into Your Residency”. Journal of Surgical Education (JSE), Vol. 68, No. 4, pgs.294-7. July/August 2011


Anne M. Keating, MD (faculty), and Deborah S. Jacobs, MD. “Anti-VEGF Treatment of Corneal Neovascularization”. The Ocular Surface, October 2011, Vol 9, No 4 pgs 40-51.

Vachon CM, Aaland M (faculty), Zhu TH - “Readmission of Trauma Patients in a Nonacademic Level II Trauma Center”. J. Trauma, October 24, 2011 (no other info yet as ahead of publication. Article already printed and on board though - GL11/29/11)


Presentations:

14th Annual North Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference

The Department of Surgery faculty and surgery residents played an active role in the North Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference held Oct. 5-6, 2011, in Bismarck, ND.

Dr. Mike Schmit, Clinical Instructor of Surgery and past surgery resident presented on “Building Blocks of Pediatric Trauma”.

Dr. Derek Kane, Clinical Instructor of Surgery, presented “Down & Dirty Session” & “The Case of the Missing Bullet: Initial Management of Penetrating Trauma”.

Dr. Steven Briggs, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, presented “Case Studies - Trauma Treatment Manuel”.

Dr. Fady Nasrallah, Clinical Instructor of Surgery, presented “Frostbite and Cold Injuries”.

Dr. Philip Gattey, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, presented “Fun with Fractures Part II”.

Dr. Kimber Boyko, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, presented “Ruptured Diaphragm Case Study”.

Dr. Lane Lee, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, presented “Penetrating Trauma and Impalement Injuries”.

Dr. Davis Bronson, Clinical Professor of Surgery, presented “Overview of Electrical Burns”.

Dr. Bree Dewing, Chief Surgery Resident, presented “Morbidity & Mortality of Trauma Time to Transfer”.

Dr. Zachary Bastian, Chief Surgery Resident, presented “Relative Risks of Snow Machines, ATVs & Motorcycles”.

Dr. Kayla Burchill, PGY II Surgery Resident, presented “Farm Injuries in ND”.

Other Presentations

Dr. Robert Sticca, Chairman and Program Director of Surgery presented “Management of Peritoneal Carcinomatosis - Staging, Prognostic Factors and National Treatment Guidelines”, Grand Rounds, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Fargo, ND-August 17, 2011

Dr. Robert Sanke, Clinical Professor of Surgery presented “Trauma to the Eye”, Ralston Lecture Series, Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, ND - September 21, 2011


Dr. Scott Lee, Clinical Instructor of Surgery presented “Hear Today, Gone Tomorrow”, Ralston Lecture Series, Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, ND - September 28, 2011

Dr. Jeremy Gardner, Clinical Instructor of Surgery presented “Clavicle Fractures”, Ralston Lecture Series, Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, ND-10/5/11

Dr. Xenofon Papadopoudlos, Clinical Instructor of Surgery presented “Prostate Cancer: New Frontiers”, Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - October 21, 2011


Dr. Fady Nasrallah, Clinical Instructor of Surgery presented “Abdominal Compartment Syndrome: Things to Know”, Surgery Grand Rounds, University of North Dakota SMHS Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - December 16, 2011