From the Chair

This E-News covers the Department of Surgery events from July 1-Dec. 31, 2014. In November, we were excited to hear from the Surgery Resident Review Committee (RRC) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) that we were approved for our fifth categorical residency position in the General Surgery Residency Program. This now completes our planned expansion to five categorical residents per year, which will allow us to fully implement our Rural Surgery Tract with two residents per year training in rural surgery. We will continue to have three residents training each year in categorical general surgery positions. This will bring our total resident compliment to 28 residents in the program when fully implemented in 2017. We are in gratitude to the North Dakota Legislature for its continued support through the Healthcare Workforce Initiative (HWI) program, which has enabled our expansion to its current levels. We are confident that this will allow us to continue to provide general surgeons for North Dakota and the upper Midwest, and allow us to train surgeons for rural surgery positions, which are a great need in our area.

During the fall of 2014, we completed our interview process for applications to our program for the 2015 academic year. As you will see from the numbers reported below, we again had an excellent response and interviewed many highly qualified applicants for our residency program. We are confident that we will again recruit an excellent intern class to begin July 1, 2015.

The new School of Medicine and Health Sciences building is well underway in construction and is on schedule to open in approximately 1 ½ years in the summer of 2016. Our Department is currently planning for the transition, and all are excited about the new and updated facilities.

The Surgery Department continues to grow and provide essential services in the area of medical student and resident training, as well as educational and training efforts for all general surgeons in North Dakota. As always, we are appreciative of all of our faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication in teaching and training our medical students and surgeons of the future.

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

Residency Program News

UND General Surgery residency applicant information for 2015-'16

This year, the General Surgery Residency Program received 469 total applications. Because applicants may apply for more than one tract, the combined number of applications received in each of our tracts were 418 categorical, 255 rural surgery, and 233 preliminary. Seventy-four applicants were invited for an interview. Interviews were held Nov. 20-21, and Dec. 4-5, 18-19, 2014, at which 45 applicants were interviewed. In addition to the usual applications normally received from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, we also received a diverse group of applications from New York, Washington, Ohio, Iowa, Texas, Florida, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, Nebraska, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Missouri, California, New Mexico and the District of Columbia. We are looking forward to another successful Match Day this year!

Wedding

Dr. Jonathan Germscheid, PGY 2, and Teran Ferguson were married July 5, 2014. Congratulations!
Medical Student News

- In October, the UND Department of Surgery invited all current UND medical students to submit a surgically related clinical or research paper for the Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award at the North Dakota Chapter meeting of the American College of Surgeons to be held May 1-2, 2015. This year, eight papers were submitted by students. The author(s) of the winning paper will receive a $300 check and Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award plaque and will be asked to present their paper at the North and South Dakota chapters meeting in May.

- The Surgery Interest Group introduces first- and second-year medical students to the lifestyle and requirements for a surgical career. The group has 65 members enrolled for the 2014-'15 academic year and has held three meetings so far. The topics presented include general surgery (Dr. Robin Hape, Altru Health System, Grand Forks), orthopedic surgery (Dr. Benjamin Noonan, Sanford Health, Fargo), and trauma/critical care (Dr. Enej Gasevic, Sanford Health, Fargo). Attendance at these meetings has averaged 30 to 40 students.

- The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences’ Medical Curriculum Committee has just approved the addition of a new elective in Pediatric Surgery to be offered to fourth-year medical students. This four-week elective will be conducted by Dr. Scott Engum, a pediatric surgeon at Sanford Children’s Hospital in Fargo. Students will receive instruction in the basic concepts of common pediatric surgery disorders, and experience the surgical intervention and management of infants and children with congenital anomalies, cancer and trauma.

- On Dec. 29, 2014, the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences implemented the use of the E*Value system for medical students. This system will be used for curriculum mapping, clerkship/rotation scheduling, student and faculty evaluations, and logging of patient encounters. Many of the surgical faculty are familiar with the E*Value program as it has been used by the Surgical Residency Program for several years.

Medical Student News

Faculty News

New Faculty

Twelve new clinical faculty recently joined the Department of Surgery.

Abdul A. Baker, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a neurosurgeon at Essentia Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department on July 10, 2014. He received his MD degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; completed his neurosurgery residency at the University of Louisville Department of Neurosurgery; and went on to do a Peripheral Nerve and Spine Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

Gregory D. Casey, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a general surgeon for trauma/critical care at Trinity Health in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department on Aug. 14, 2014. Dr. Casey received his MD degree from Johns Hopkins University’s School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md., and completed his general surgery residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. He also completed a trauma/critical care fellowship at Henry Ford. He is board-certified in general surgery.

Blendi C. Cumani, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a hand surgeon at Trinity Health in Minot. He joined the UND Department of Surgery on March 13, 2014. Dr. Cumani earned his MD degree from the Medical University of the Americas in Nevis, Wis., and completed his general surgery residency at Saint Vincent’s Catholic Medical Center in Manhattan, N.Y. He also did a fellowship in hand surgery at the Kleinert-Kurtz Hand Care Center in Louisville, Ky. He is board-certified in hand surgery.

Stefan W. Johnson, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. He joined the UND Surgery Department on Sept. 30, 2014. Dr. Johnson earned his MD degree at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, where is also completed a surgery residency in 2014.

Hong J. Jun, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon at Trinity Health in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department on Nov. 24, 2014. Dr. Jun earned is MD degree at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed his general surgery residency at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He is board-certified in general surgery.

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Mark V. Larkins, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a neurosurgeon at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. He joined the UND Surgery Department on July 10, 2014. Dr. Larkins received his MD from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, where he also completed his neurosurgery residency.

Vinita J. Parikh, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an anesthesiologist at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. She joined the UND Surgery Department on June 23, 2014. Dr. Parikh received her MD degree at the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb., and did her anesthesia residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill. She went on to do a fellowship in pain management at the Cornell Tri-Institute in New York City. Dr. Parikh is board-certified in anesthesiology and pain management.

Bruce E. Piatt, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is an orthopedic surgeon at Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department on June 23, 2014. He received his MD degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, Colo., where he also did his orthopedic residency. He went on to do a fellowship at Steadman-Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colo. Dr. Piatt is board-certified in orthopedic surgery.

Farooq Shahzad, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a plastic surgeon at Essentia Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department on Oct. 10, 2014. He received his MD degree from Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. He completed his general surgery residency at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, and his plastic surgery residency at Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, Ore. He also did a craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery at St. Louis Children’s Hospital/Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Shahzad is board-certified.

Randel T. Stolee, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a general surgeon at Sanford-Perham Health in Perham, Minn. He joined the UND Surgery Department on July 10, 2014. He received his MD degree from the University of Southern California School of Medicine in Los Angeles, Calif. He completed his general surgery residency at Gundersen Medical Foundation in LaCrosse, Wis. Dr. Stolee is board-certified.

Juan J. Ulloa, DDS, clinical instructor of surgery, is an oral/maxillofacial surgeon at Trinity Health in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department on July 10, 2014. Dr. Ulloa earned his DDS degree at Columbian College of Dentistry and completed his oral/maxillofacial surgery residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in affiliation with the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami.

Gary L. Wease, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Trinity Health in Minot. He joined the UND Surgery Department on May 2, 2014. He earned his MD degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his general surgery residency at the William Beaumont Hospital in Royal, Mich. He is board-certified in general surgery.

Clinical professor of surgery named associate dean for Southwest Campus

Michael Booth, M.D., Ph.D. has been named associate dean for the Southwest (Bismarck) Campus at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Booth is a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon. He practices at the St. Alexius Heart and Lung Clinic in Bismarck.

Booth succeeded Dr. Nicholas Neumann as Southwest Campus dean. Neumann retired at the end of September 2014. Read more.

Promotions

Four clinical faculty were promoted within the Department of Surgery on May 9, 2014.

David M. Beard, MD, was promoted to clinical assistant professor of surgery. Dr. Beard is an orthopedic surgeon at Essentia Health in Fargo. Dr. Beard received his MD degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, and he completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Vermont. Dr. Beard also did a fellowship in hand and upper extremities at Washington University in St. Louis.

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Faculty News (continued)

Jeremy Gardner, MD, was promoted to clinical assistant professor of surgery. Dr. Gardner received his MD degree from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa, and completed his orthopedic residency at the University of Minnesota.

Gary Kubalak, MD, was promoted to clinical assistant professor of surgery. Dr. Kubalak received his MD degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed his general surgery residency at St. Joseph Hospital. Dr. Kubalak also completed a trauma/critical care fellowship at Lehigh Valley Hospital Center in Allentown, Pa., and a vascular fellowship at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta, Ga.

David A. Stover, MD, was promoted to clinical assistant professor of surgery. He received his MD degree at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in Minneapolis and completed his general surgery residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Scholarly Activity

Residency publications

Residency presentations (local/state)
Matthew Nielsen, MD: “Surgical Tourism,” Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND, August 1, 2014

Priscilla Thomas, MD: “The Role of Technology in the Future of Surgical Education,” Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND, September 5, 2014

BreAnn Neiger, MD: “Renal Malignancies,” Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND, November 7, 2014

Eric Anderson, MD: “Esophageal Resection and the Esophageal Leak,” Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND, December 5, 2014

Faculty presentations (local/state)
Surgery Department faculty presented the following topics at the 17th Annual North Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference on Sept. 24-25, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, N.D.:
• Abdul Baker, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, “Brain and Spine Trauma”
• Steven Briggs, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, “Trauma Cases: Lessons Learned”
• Kimber Boyko, MD, clinical assistant professor, “What Did I Do to Deserve This?”
• Derek Kane, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, “Double Trouble”
• Khaled Zreik, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, “Facial Trauma Assessment”


Upcoming Events

Friday, June 26, 2015
Edwin C. James Lectureship
Ramada Plaza and Suites, Fargo, N.D.

We are pleased to announce that Ajit Sachdeva, MD, director, Division of Education, American College of Surgeons, will be the guest speaker for the Edwin C. James Lectureship.

The Surgical Resident Research Colloquium and Graduation Banquet will take place after the Lectureship.

Agenda:
• Noon: Edwin C. James lectureship featuring Ajit Sachdeva, MD
• 1:30 p.m.: Surgical Resident Research Colloquium
• 6:30 p.m.: Graduation Banquet

June 2015
The Department of Surgery Welcoming Picnic is tentatively being planned around June 28-30, 2015.
Scholarly Activity (continued)


Alan Johnson, MD: "Facial Trauma Pearls-A Review of Local Facial Trauma Care," Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND. November 21, 2014.

Mary Aaland, MD: "Top 10 Changes in Trauma Over the Last 25 Years," Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND. December 19, 2014.

Residency Program Alumni News

Andy McCoy, MD ’13, Brady Mullin, MD ’14, and Kayla Burchill, MD ’14 have passed their boards. Congratulations!