From the Chair

The second half of the 2014-15 academic year (January 1-June 30) saw a number of exciting developments in the Department of Surgery. The residency program expansion continued with the recruitment of eight new individuals joining in the first and second years of the residency program. A more detailed report is included within this E-News. We also had continued progress in several other key programs within the Department including the Rural Surgery Support Program, the Simulation program, the Surgical Anatomy program, and the spectrum of rotation opportunities for our residents. Our medical students continue to do well in the national match with several matching into very competitive surgical specialties. A full report on the match and UND students is also enclosed. We all anxiously anticipate the opening of the new medical school which is just one short year away. The academic year culminated in a very successful and invigorating Resident Research Colloquium and Chief Resident Banquet. We were fortunate to have Dr. Ajit Sachdeva as our Edwin C. James Lecturer, who is a nationally recognized surgical educator and founding Director of the Division of Education of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Sachdeva was very impressed and complimentary of activities within our program. We hope to continue and increase our collaboration with the American College of Surgeons in the future.

In summary, the 2014-15 academic year was very successful and encouraging for the continued growth and progression of the Department of Surgery. Please read through the E-News and get more information of all of the exciting developments and events that occurred during this time period.

With best regards,

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

Upcoming Events

- November 19-20 and December 3-4, 17-18: Interviews with residency program applicants
- December 5: Annual Christmas Party at the home of Dr. Robert Sticca, chair, Department of Surgery.
- January 30: ABSITE Exam. Surgery Department faculty may participate for review of current practice or preparation for American Board of Surgery recertification.
- June 24: Edwin C. James lectureship, Surgical Resident Research Colloquium and Graduation Banquet at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo. More detailed information to follow.

Medical Student Alumni News

Former UND medical students who are in surgical specialties, please e-mail Geralyn Lunski with news!
Medical Student News

Medical School Graduation
The medical school awards luncheon and graduation were held on Sunday May 9, 2015 at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND Campus in Grand Forks. 54 new physicians received their MD degrees, with 12 (22%) of them entering General Surgery or surgical subspecialties. Although the surgical specialties are highly competitive residencies, UND students continue to do well in matching in their desired specialties at very competitive programs. The students graduating in 2015 entered several competitive surgical specialties including one in General Surgery, four in Anesthesiology, one in Ophthalmology, two in Orthopaedic, one in Otolaryngology, and one in Plastic Surgery. The faculty of the Department of Surgery is commended for their continued support and inspiration of the medical students who desire careers in surgical specialties.

The “match”, a national computerized program through the NRMP (National Resident Matching Program), is held each year in March and matches prospective residents and residency programs based on their top choices. This year the following UND students matched in surgical specialties:

General Surgery:
Matthew Malek, MD, University of South Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Anesthesiology:
Thomas Botsford, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio
Sean Cooley, MD, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Nathan Hoaglund, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Medial Education Program, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Kyle Wilebski, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana
Ophthalmology:
Michael Jordan, MD, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Orthopaedic Surgery:
Joshua Johnson, MD, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minnesota
Lucas Teske, MD, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Otolaryngology:
Philip Gardner, MD, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas
Plastic Surgery:
Andrew Mills, MD, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minnesota

Department of Surgery Awards
Department of Surgery Awards were given to the following graduating medical students:

Department of Surgery Outstanding Student Award
L to R: Dr. Boe, Dr. Szlabick, (Associate Program Director of Surgery) and Dean Wynne

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. Brendan Boe MSIV of Grand Forks, North Dakota was the recipient for the 2014-15 academic year. Brendan matched in Obstetrics-Gynecology at University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado

Honors Award for 3rd year medical students
In order for a student to achieve Honors they must score above the 90th percentile on the 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 2014-15 year: SW Campus in Bismarck – Layne Egan (Leal, ND). From the SE Campus in Fargo: Scott Allen, (North Mankota, MN), Eric Dowling, (Moorhead, MN), Emma Swanson (Fargo, ND), and Michael Traynor, Jr., (Fargo, ND). From the NE Campus in Grand Forks: David Larson (Austin, MN).

Wayne M. Swenson, MD Award by the North Dakota/South Dakota Chapters of the American College of Surgeons
Medical students from first to fourth year, attending the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, are eligible to submit papers on surgery related research. Papers are judged and selected by a selection committee in the Department of surgery for submission to the joint North Dakota/South Dakota Chapter meeting. The paper that is selected is presented by the student at the joint North Dakota/South Dakota Chapter meeting. The award recipient will receive a $300 check and the Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award plaque.

The 2015 recipient was Eric Dowling, MSIII for his research paper “Incidence of Residual Malignancy after Neoadjuvant Chemoradiotherapy for Adenocarcinoma of the Distal Esophagus”
Residency Program Activities

Frank Low Research Day
Frank Low Research Day provides a forum where faculty and students can be exposed to the latest research interests and activities of their colleagues. Held for the first time in the spring of 1981, Research Day was dedicated in the name of Frank N. Low, Ph.D., upon his retirement as a gesture of recognition for his contributions to research at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Every year for the past few years, we have had surgical residents submit their abstracts to the Frank Low Research Day held every spring here at UND in Grand Forks. This year Drs. Eric Anderson, PGY IV, Zachary Ernst, PGY IV, Daniel Persinger, PGY III, and Travis Swartz, PGY III attended. Below are some of the pictures taken at Frank Low Research Day.

**Dr. Travis Swartz, PGY III with his poster “Medical Supplies Exposed to an Environmental Control System Failure”**

*Residency Program Graduation/End of Year Activities (June 26, 2015)*

12th Annual Edwin C. James Lectureship
which was established in honor of Edwin C. James, MD who was 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 Ajit Sachdeva, MD, Director, Division of Education at the American College of Surgeons. His talk was on Preparation of Residents for Surgical Practice: Challenges, Opportunities, and New Directions.

14th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium was held June 26th and was attended by over 50 physicians, students and friends. The thirteen presentations by the PGY III, IV, and VIs were judged by Ajit Sachdeva, MD (Director, Division of Education at the American College of Surgeons), Cornelius Dyke, MD (Associate Dean of the SE Campus and Assistant Professor of Surgery), and Jyotika Sharma, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology at UND.

To add to the day, posters were made by the PGY I and II residents showcasing the preliminary work on their research projects. This afforded each resident the opportunity to discuss their projects with fellow surgeons and researchers to further improve their research.

**Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FRCSC FACS**
Edwin James lecturer

*Dr. Jonathan Germscheid, PGYII with his poster titled: “A Community Hospital Experience with Laparoscopic Gastric Banding” (continued on next page)*
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 colloquium also includes presentations that are judged for the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Competition and the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeon Committee on Trauma Competition.

**Program Announcements**

In May, the Department of Surgery was approved to become a SAGES FES (Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery) Testing Center. The FES test consists of “a web-based multiple choice exam for evaluating cognitive knowledge and judgement” as well as “a virtual reality platform to evaluate fundamental technical and psychomotor skills.” Residents graduating in the 2017-2018 academic year will be required to pass the FES to be eligible for board certification.

The establishment of the FES Testing Center compliments our already exiting FLS (Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery) Testing Center which was launched in 2010.

Learn more about the FES Program [here](#).
2015 Resident Research Colloquium Winners

Surgery Resident Research Colloquium Winners

**Colloquium Winners**
Presented by Dr. Mary Aaland

1st place: Priscilla Thomas, MD PGY-V
“14 Year Review of the UND Colloquium.”

Honorable Mention:
Christopher Maki, MD PGY-V
“Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in Acute Care Surgery.”

North Dakota Chapter American College of Surgeons Resident Competitions:

**Commission on Cancer**
Presented by Dr. Robert Sticca

1st place: BreAnn Neiger, MD PGY-IV
“Breast Nipple Discharge: An Analysis of a Single Surgeon’s Practice.”

2nd place: Daniel Persinger, MD PGY-III
“Follow up of Biopsy Proven Melanoma in a Community Hospital: Who is Doing the Biopsy and is Appropriate Care being Provided.”

Committee on Trauma
Presented by Dr. Randolph Szlabick

1st Place: Shawn Olson, MD PGY-III
“A Comparison of the Injuries Sustained and the Type of ATV-Part 1.”

Honorable Mention:
Christopher Maki, MD PGY-V
“Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in Acute Care Surgery.”

Learn more about the the Edwin C. James Lectureship and the Surgical Resident Research Colloquium [here.](#)
31st Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet
The 31st Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held on Friday, June 26, 2015 at the Ramada Plaza & Suites in Fargo. The graduating residents were:

**Wen-yu Vicky Haines, MD** has joined the Winona Health System in Winona, Minnesota.

**Christopher Maki, MD** has joined Sanford Health Jamestown in Jamestown, North Dakota.

**Matthew Nielsen, MD** has joined Sanford Health Bemidji in Bemidji, Minnesota.

**Priscilla Thomas, MD** will be entering into the Transition into Practice Fellowship at Crisp Regional hospital in Cordele, Georgia.

Graduating residents with Chair & Program Director Dr. Robert Sticca, and Associate Program Directors Drs. Enej Gasevic and Randolph Szlabick.


Residents, family, and guest at the Graduation Banquet

*Dr. David Antonenko and Edwin C. James lecturer, Dr. Ajit Sachdeva visiting during the Graduation Banquet*

Some of our new incoming residents visiting at the Graduation Banquet. (L to R) Celia Benz, Adeseeye Adekeye, Erin Clough, and Ann Hulme with many other faculty, residents, family, and friends in the background

*(continued on next page)*
2015 Resident Research Colloquium Winners (continued)

First Year surgery residents with Dr. Robert Sticca, Chairman and Program Director after receiving their certificates for their first year.

Awards

**David R. Antonenko Award** is in recognition of and appreciation for the many years of excellence in teaching and dedication to the Surgical Residency Program. Given to the resident who has excelled in clinical performance, knowledge, education, research and scholarly activity in general surgery.

**Resident Achievement Award** is given to the resident who has also accomplished above average milestones in their clinical performance, knowledge, education, research and scholarly activity in general surgery.

L to R: Dr. David Antonenko presented Dr. Wen-Yu Vicky Haines, PGY V with the Resident Achievement Award for 2014-15 year and Dr. Robert Sticca, Chairman and Program Director
American Board of Surgery Board Certification Results

Recent graduates of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Surgical Residency Program have continued to do satisfactorily on the American Board of Surgery (ABS) Examination. The recently published data from the ABS show that the UND General Surgery Residency Program’s five-year, first-time-pass rate on the Qualifying Exam (written exam) is 87 percent (13/15 passing) and on the Certifying Exam (oral exam) is 77 percent (10/13 passing). Our congratulations to our recent graduates who have successfully obtained board certification:

• Bree Dewing, MD – 2012 Graduate
• Kyle Barker, MD – 2013 Graduate
• Andrew McCoy, MD – 2013 Graduate
• Irminne Van Dyken – 2013 Graduate
• Kayla Burchill – 2014 Graduate
• Brady Mullin – 2014 Graduate

New Incoming Residents started July 1, 2015

Adeseye Adekeye, MD, PhD
PG I Categorical. Born in Lagos, Nigeria. Undergraduate: BS, molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL. Medical School: SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY. PhD- Sunny Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY. Dissertation: Retinitis Pigmentosa: Investigating the Role of the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR) Pathway in Regulating Photoreceptor Death.

Cecilia L. Benz, MD
PG I Categorical. Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Undergraduate: BA, Biology – Baylor University, Waco, TX. Medical School: Texas A&M Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine, Station, TX.

Erin H. Clough, MD
PG II Preliminary. Born in Thorton, CO. Undergraduate: BS in Biochemistry and BA in Mathematics from University of Denver, CO. Medical School: University of Medicine & Health Sciences, St. Kitts. Erin did a Preliminary year in General Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI.

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New Incoming Residents started July 1, 2015 (continued)

Dustin L. Evans, MD
PG II Categorical. Born in Fort Morgan, CO. Undergraduate: BS in Biology/Biomedical Sciences from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. Medical School: University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO. Dustin did two Preliminary years in General Surgery at University of Colorado, Aurora, CO.

Matthew R. Heberer, MD
PG I Rural Categorical. Born in Geneseo, IL. Undergraduate: BS in Community Health with Honors at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL. Medical School: University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Peoria, IL.

Ann E. Hulme, MD
PG I Preliminary. Born in Cleveland, OH. Undergraduate: BS in Health Promotion/Wellness from University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI. Medical School: University of Toledo College of Medicine, Toledo, OH. She was accepted into Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia which will begin July 1, 2016.

Anthony H. Loewen, MD
PG I Preliminary. Born in Kansas City, MO. Undergraduate: BA in Biochemistry from Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS. Medical School: University of South Dakota, Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, SD.

Trent G. Waage, MD
PG III Categorical. Born in Aberdeen, SD. Undergraduate: BA in Biology from Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD. Medical School: University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Vermillion, SD. Trent did two years as a Preliminary resident in general surgery at UND Department of Surgery and has now earned a position as a 3rd year categorical resident.

Mallory J. Yelenich-Huss, MD
PG I Categorical. Born in Virginia, MN. Undergraduate: BS in Clinical Laboratory Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN and BA in Behavioral Neuroscience-Psychology, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. Medical School: University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN. Mallory did a Preliminary year in General Surgery at the University of Minnesota Surgical Residency Program.

Raelene D. Zospah, MD
PG I Rural Categorical. Born in Shiprock, NM. Undergraduate: B.S. in Biochemistry from Montana State University-Bozemen, MT. Medical School: University of New Mexico School of Medicine – Albuquerque, NM. Raelene did a Preliminary year in General Surgery with us last year and has now earned a rural categorical position.

Resident Orientation
The annual resident orientation was held June 30, 2015. Pictured is Dr. Sticca with all 27 surgery residents in the general surgery residency as of July 1, 2015.
Faculty News

**Dyke new associate dean for the Southeast (Fargo) Campus**

Cornelius McKown “Mac” Dyke, MD, has been named associate dean for the Southeast (Fargo) Campus at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dyke is an assistant professor of surgery at UND and an attending cardiothoracic surgeon for Sanford Health in Fargo.

Dyke will succeed Dr. Julie Blehm as Southeast Campus dean. She is retiring on June 30. He will begin work at the UND SMHS on July 1.

“Dr. Dyke has been an outstanding faculty member at UND for the past four years, and has demonstrated a commitment to the School and our medical students and surgical residents,” said Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH, UND vice president for health affairs and dean of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. “He has a strong commitment to medical education and will be devoted to this new position. As an added benefit, he also has a strong commitment to clinical research, and just recently coauthored a paper published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine. I am thrilled that he has accepted our offer to be the next Southeast Campus dean.”

**Welcome**

**Kayla Burchill, MD**
Clinical Instructor of Surgery and graduate of UNDSHMS Surgery Department is a General Surgeon on the SE Campus in Fargo. She trained at University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, ND for her general surgery residency. She is board certified in General Surgery.

**Marc E. Eichler, MD**
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery is a Neurosurgeon on the SE Campus in Fargo. He trained at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO for his Neurosurgery residency and did Fellowship training at University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles. He is board certified in neurosurgery.

**Theresa A. Hegge, MD**
Clinical Instructor of Surgery is a Plastic surgeon on the NW Campus in Williston. She trained at Southern Illinois University, Springfield, IL for her plastic surgery residency. She is board eligible.

**Ralph A. Highshaw, MD**
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery is a Urologist on the NE Campus in Grand Forks. He trained at USC/LAC Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, PGY 1-2 General Surgery/Urology Residency UC Davis Medical Center, PGY 3-6, Sacramento, California, PGY 3-6 Department of Urology. He is board certified in Urology.

**Jeffrey A. Horak, MD, FACS**
Clinical Instructor of Surgery is a General surgeon in Fergus Falls, MN. He trained at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan for his general surgery residency. He is board certified in General Surgery.

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Joshua J. Knudson, MD
Clinical Instructor of Surgery is a General surgeon on the SW Campus in Bismarck. He trained at the TriHealth Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, OH for his General surgery residency. He is board certified in General Surgery.

Sapoora Manshaii, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery is a General surgeon with Surgical Critical Care in Alexandria, MN. She trained at St Louis University Hospital, St. Louis, MO for her general surgery residency. She also did a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD. She is board certified in General Surgery and Critical Care.

Tong Yang, MD
Clinical Instructor of Surgery is a Neurosurgeon on the SE Campus in Fargo. She trained at University of Washington in Seattle, WA for her neurosurgery residency. She also did a fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles in Los Angeles, CA. She is board eligible.

Joshua G. Yorgason, MD
Clinical Instructor of Surgery is an ENT surgeon on the SW Campus in Bismarck. He trained at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT for his Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery residency. He did a Fellowship in Neurotology-Paprella Ear at the Head & Neck Institute, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. He is board certified in Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.

Faculty Awards
The Following Faculty were honored by receiving the Dean’s Special Recognition Award for the Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award: Congratulations to all.

Dr. Aaron J. Chalmers, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Mark O. Jensen, Professor of Surgery received the Wayne M. Swenson, MD Award for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Kenyon W. Kruse, Clinical Instructor of Surgery received the Alumnus membership of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society.

Dr. J. Donald Opgrande, Professor of Surgery received the Outstanding Teacher of the 2014-15 academic year on the SE Campus.

Dr. Sean S. Russell, Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery received the Outstanding Teacher of the 2014-15 academic year on the SW Campus.

Dr. Gary L. Wease, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Surgical Volunteerism within the Department of Surgery

Feed the Starving Children Campaign
For the 2nd year in a row, staff in the Department of Surgery have dedicated a several hours to helping pack meals.

Mission Work
Dr. Mary Aaland, Associate Professor of Surgery and Katherine Senter, PGY III surgery resident spent a week in January 2015 in San Lorenzo, Ecuador with the San Lorenzo Clinic which is run by Jane Weaver, MD.

Dr. Robert Sticca, Chair and Program Director of Surgery spent a week with his son Jonathan in February 2015 in Ambato, Ecuador with the Medical Mission Ecuador.

Dr. Billie Jo Grieve, Clinical Instructor of Surgery and Dr. BreAnn Neiger, PGY IV spent a week in January 2015 in Pignon, Haiti with the FM Haiti Medical Mission Team. They were joined by Dr. Joel Harris, graduate of UND Surgery program (2010).

Residency Program Alumni News

Announcements
Dr. Stefan Johnson (2014) and his wife Courtney welcomed their daughter Quinn Marjorie Johnson on May 14, 2015. The outfit she is wearing was knitted by a friend. Future surgeon! Congrats!

Dr. Andrew McCoy (2013) and his wife Jane welcomed their daughter Nora Linn McCoy on March 16, 2015. Her sister Emma is enjoying being a big sister! Congrats!