

Departmental Newsletter Summer 2023

Summer months are “payback” season for our long winters, and also a great time of change as we say goodbye to our departing Chiefs, welcome our new Chiefs and advancing residents, and welcome the newest members of our resident family, our interns. We had a great amount of interest in the program in the Match this past year, with 555 total applications, 257 of which were targeted towards the rural track. We interviewed over four days in the winter and did not have to go down far on our list at all to Match an outstanding class. Our categorical interns are:

Grayson Baden (University of Washington School of Medicine)

Ikttesh Chahal (St George’s University School of Medicine and preliminary PGY1 this year)

Ryan Griffin (University of Colorado School of Medicine)

Wade Hopper (Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine)

Holly Winn (University of Washington School of Medicine).

Additionally, we have a talented group of preliminary track interns joining us:

Alex Hecker (University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences)

Ergest Isak (Michigan State College of Medicine)

Tatsuma Yanagimoto (Gifu University School of Medicine- Japan).

You will notice that Dr. Chahal will be joining the program as a categorical intern after working this year as a preliminary intern. Our preliminary track continues to attract high quality people and I am pleased that our two other preliminary interns this year (**McKayla Wieczorek** and **Kirsten Hager**) also successfully matched this year as well. The Department is proud of our history of helping our preliminary residents achieve their goals.

Graduation is behind us, and it is with great pride that we graduated five new surgeons who I’m confident we will be hearing from in the future. I know our alumni remember the excitement, and perhaps some trepidation, of successfully completing the program and getting ready for the next phase of your careers. We are very proud of our graduated Chiefs:

Reid Bartholomew: Headed to Memphis and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Eric Curto- Joined Allina Faribault Medical Center in Faribault, MN.

Joclyn Seiler- Staying at Sanford Fargo as an acute care surgeon.

David Velez- Headed to University of Nevada and ACS Fellowship

Matthew Zweerink- Headed to Michigan State for his Vascular Surgery Fellowship.

Also excited are our incoming Chiefs: **Dana Nielsen, Kristen Reede, Conor Roche, Alessandra Spagnolia, and Zach Staskywicz.** Dr. Spagnolia has also matched in Plastic Surgery at the University of Louisville, and Dr. Nielsen has matched in Vascular Surgery in Buffalo. We are proud of them all and look forward to their next step as Chiefs. Also, **Connor Roche** and **Jocelyn Seiler** and our Program Director **Stefan Johnson** were elected into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society this Spring, a real honor which brings distinction to the program. In

the office, we welcomed **Cassandra Cunningham** as our new Faculty and Conference Coordinator.

We have had exciting life events too within the Department. **Sam Bloomsburg and Kristina Lahr** were married in April and **Dana Nielsen and Shane McCullough** announced their engagement, as did **Nicole Lee and David Maycock** and **Valerie Pendleton and Ethan Rush**. Meanwhile, **Hunter and Alexandra Row** welcomed Claudia into the world on January 15th, and **Reid and Megan Bartholomew** welcomed Leo March 3rd, while **Zachery and Lyndsey Staskywicz** welcomed Adler on June 16, and **Conor and Stacey Roche** welcomed Rowan on July 31. In other fun news, our Wellness Committee, led by **Daniel Tuvin** and **Kristen Korderas** hosted fun events at our local bowling alley and curling clubs this past winter.

Finally, as another means of strengthening the ties between alumni and the Department, we are very pleased to announce the creation of the **Robert P. Sticca UND Department of Surgery Alumni Society**. All graduating members of the UND Department of Surgery program are eligible for membership. **Jay Macgregor** has graciously agreed to lead this alumni society and we are planning an annual meeting with the inaugural event in early November 2023 in Fargo, with an alumni speaker, case presentations, and social events. More to come, but it is our hope that the Fall Alumni Weekend will become a yearly highlight of the calendar

Please let us know what we can do as a Department to keep our connections strong. The faculty want to know what our alumni are doing, and we want you to know how we are doing. And perhaps most importantly, the current residents gain a tremendous amount of knowledge and support interacting with alumni. Please visit and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible in November.

Cornelius Dyke, MD
Stefan Johnson, MD
Kayla Burchill, MD
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