Each year in March, the Annual Resident Match Day is held. This is the day that all graduating medical students find out the results of their applications for residency in their chosen specialty. It is an important day for all medical students who have applied to US residency programs. This is the day that will determine where most medical students will spend the next three to six years of their lives training for their chosen specialty. It is also an important day for the UND Department of Surgery from two different aspects. From the standpoint of the medical students, all UND students who have made the decision to dedicate their careers to general surgery or a surgical specialty see the results of their previous 3 ½ years of hard work as a medical student. The results of our students match are included in this addition of our Department newsletter. As you will note, our students did very well matching in some very competitive and prestigious institutions in the increasingly competitive surgical specialties. Traditionally, from 15-20% of the UND medical school class enter surgically related specialties each year. In my conversations and interactions with other surgical residency programs around the country and especially in the Midwest, I am always happy to hear how highly our medical students are regarded after they entered residency programs at other institutions. This is a credit to both our Department and the School of Medicine.

On another front, Match Day is critically important for the UND General Surgery Residency program. On that day, we find out the students who have matched into our program and will spend their next five years in training as general surgeons. It is also gratifying to see how our residency program has improved in the quality and number of applicants over the years. Training in the UND General Surgery Residency Program is highly regarded by applicants for several reasons including, our specialized rural surgery tract, the broad-spectrum training with high surgical case volumes, and the camaraderie and educational atmosphere in our training program and our affiliated hospitals. For those who are not familiar with the medical student matching process, there has been significant changes over the last one to two decades making the matching process increasingly competitive. Much of these changes are due to Federal policies, which have kept the funding for Graduate Medical Education training at the same level as in the 1990s while increasing the number of medical students by about 50%. The net result is a much higher number of students competing for the same or slightly higher number of residency spots. As you can imagine, this has increased the competitiveness in many areas especially the most desirable of specialty training programs. Our program continues to receive a high number of well-qualified applicants, which allows us to fill our program each year with future surgeons who in many cases remain in North Dakota and in the upper Midwest. Our entering residents, whom are highlighted in this edition of our newsletter, are a reflection of our program quality and competitiveness, which I am confident will continue to improve in the future.

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

RESIDENCY PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWS

Andrew McCoy, MD - 2007 Graduate of the Surgery Residency Program recently joined the Mark Twain Specialty Care Practice in San Andreas, California as a general surgeon. McCoy obtained his fellowship in an advanced Gastrointestinal and Laparoscopic Fellowship program at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. He is board certified.
Medical School Graduation – May 14, 2017: The medical school awards luncheon and graduation were held on Sunday May 14, 2017 at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND Campus in Grand Forks. 63 new physicians received their MD degrees, with 16 (25%) 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 2017 entered several competitive surgical specialties including eight in General Surgery, one in Pediatric Anesthesiology and three in Anesthesiology, one in Ophthalmology, two in Orthopaedic Surgery, and one in Otolaryngology. The faculty of the Department of Surgery is to be commended for their continued support and inspiration to 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:**
- Andrew Dockter, MD Preliminary year-University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- Tyler Downing, MD Preliminary year-University of Colorado, Denver School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado.
- Erin Follman, MD University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Zachary Fowler, MD Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, New Hyde Park, New York.
- Marcus Geffre, MD Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Wesley Halseth, MD Preliminary year – University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- Heather Liebe, MD Ochsner Clinic Foundation, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Joclyn Seiler, MD Preliminary year – University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, North Dakota

**Pediatric Anesthesiology:**
- Kelsey Gladen, MD Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

**Anesthesiology:**
- Michael Gruchalla, MD Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, Rochester, Minnesota.
- Cole Laber, MD, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, Rochester, Minnesota.
- Brandon Potter, MD, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisconsin.

**Ophthalmology:**
- Jamie Odden, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Medical Education, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Orthopaedic Surgery:**
- David Parker, MD, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee.
- Christopher Traynor, MD, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker, MD, School of Medicine, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Otolaryngology:**
- Ethan Kraft, MD, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Department of Surgery Awards were given to the following 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. Amy Borys, MSIV of Cando, North Dakota was the recipient for the 2016-17 academic year. Amy matched in Emergency Medicine at HealhPartners Institute for Education and Research/Regions Hospital St. Paul, Minnesota.

**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 2016-17 year: SW Campus in Bismarck – Anthony Arveschoug (Billings, MT), Jennifer Glatt (Bismarck, ND), Katherine Witt (Williston, ND). From the SE Campus in Fargo: Whitney Bettenhausen (Mandan, ND), Katherine Benedict (Sabin, MN), Gregory Wieland (Casselton, ND). From the NE Grand Forks: Marc Granrud (Minneapolis, MN), Jill Wieser (Whapeton, ND).

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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 receives a $300 check and the Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award plaque.

The 2016 recipient was Laurel Wessman, MSIV for her research paper “Increasing Body Mass Index and Complication Rates Following Peripheral Lung Biopsy at a Local Hospital”

Dr. Jay MacGregor (2011) and his wife Kjerstin welcomed their daughter Alma Katherine on March 14, 2017. Congrats!

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 the general surgery residents submit their abstracts to the Frank Low Research Day. This year Drs. Travis Swartz, PGY V and Cecilia Benz, PGY III presented posters at the Frank Low Research Day.

Dr. Travis Swartz, PGY V with his poster “Evaluation of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Delivered to Post Vascular Surgery Closed Groin Incisions”. Dr. Swartz won the “The Best Student Award” at the Frank Low Research Day.

Dr. Cecilia Benz, PGY III with her poster “Video Assisted Endoscopic Surgery as an Adjunct to Rib Plating”

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14th 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 Donald E. Fry, MD, FACS, Executive Vice-President Clinical Outcomes Management MPA Healthcare Solutions Professor of Surgery.

16th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

was held June 23rd and was attended by over 60 physicians, students and friends. The fourteen presentations by the PGY III, IV, and V's were judged by Donald E. Fry, MD, FACS (Executive Vice-President Clinical Outcomes Management MPA Healthcare Solutions Professor of Surgery Northwestern University Chicago, Illinois and University of New Mexico Albuquerque, New Mexico), Paul Mariani, MD (Associate Chief of Staff-Education, VA Medical Center) and Wen-yu Vicky Haines, MD, (2015 UND Surgery Residency Graduate and General Surgeon at Winona, MN).

To add to the day, junior residents presented posters on the preliminary findings of their research projects. This afforded each resident the opportunity to discuss their projects with fellow surgeons and researchers to further improve their research.

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.

Dr. Karen Luk, PGY II with her poster titled: "Opiate Happy: Are we doing harm trying to "do no harm" for our general surgery patients?"

Dr. Michael Dixon, PGY I with his poster titled: “Pediatric Trauma System Evaluation Before and After Level 2 Verification at Sanford Medical Center Fargo”.

Dr. Mark Hightower, PGY IV presenting his research project titled “Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma at Altru”.

Dr. Angela Kaza, PGY III presenting her research project titled “Retrospective Review of Rates of ED Revists and Hospital Readmissions in Patients with Rib Fractures”.

Continued
Surgery Resident Research Colloquium Winners: presented by Dr. Mary Aaland

Colloquium Winners:

1st place: Shawn Olson, MD PGY-V “Multivariate Analysis of Organ System Injuries by ATV Type”

Honorable Mention: Daniel Persinger, MD PGY-V “Acute Appendicitis After Screening Colonoscopy”


North Dakota Chapter American College of Surgeons Resident Competitions:

This year we had two 1st Place winners. In the Basic Science: Patrick Kane, MD, PGY IV “Identifying a Novel Immunomodulation Pathway in Pneumosepsis” and In the Clinical Science: Shawn Olson, MD PGY-V “Multivariate Analysis of Organ System Injuries by ATV Type”

Click on the link to see the Edwin C. James Lectureship and the Surgical Resident Research Colloquium brochure and agenda. http://www.med.und.edu/surgery/lectureship-colloquium.cfm

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33rd Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held on Friday, June 23, 2017 at the Delta Hotels Marriott (Formally the Ramada Plaza & Suites) in Fargo. The graduating residents were:

Mark Hightower, MD has joined Essentia Health in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Shawn Olson, MD – has joined Grand Itasca Hospital, Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Daniel Persinger, MD has joined Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Katherine Senter, MD will be entering the Trauma & Critical Care Fellowship at Regional One, Memphis, Tennessee.

Travis Swartz, DO has joined Essentia Health in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Graduating residents with Chair & Program Director Dr. Robert Sticca, and Associate Program Directors Drs. Enej Gasevic and Randolph Szlabick. (L to R) Drs. Enej Gasevic, Mark Hightower, Daniel Persinger, Robert Sticca, Katherine Senter, Travis Swartz, Shawn Olson and Randolph Szlabick.

Residents, Faculty, family, and guests at the Graduation Banquet.

Marlys Peterson, UND Surgery Office Staff pinning a flower on one of the graduates.

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The Graduation cake was the talk of the party this year. Cake was made by our past graduate Scott Charette’s wife Laurie. She does a wonderful job each year.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Interviews dates** with residency program applicants are October 30, November 13, 27, and December 18, 2017.

**Christmas Party** – Saturday, December 9, 2017 at the home of Dr. Mary Aaland, Director of Rural Surgery, Department of Surgery

**ABSITE Exam:** Saturday, January 27, 2018 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 22 2018 at the Delta Hotel Marriott (formally the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center) in Fargo. More detailed information to follow.

Dr. David A. Rothenberger, Professor of Surgery, Past Chair of the Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota School of Medicine, and Colorectal Surgeon in Minneapolis, MN is our 2018 Edwin C. James Lecturer.
**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.

Dr. David Antonenko presented Dr. Katherine Senter, PGY V with the David R. Antonenko Award for 2016-17 year.

**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.

American Board of Surgery Board Certification Results: Recent graduates of the UND Surgical Residency Program have continued to do satisfactory on the American Board of Surgery (ABS) Examination. The recently published data from the ABS shows that the UND General Surgery Residency Program 5 year 1st time pass rate on the Qualifying Exam (written exam) is 87% (13/15 passing) and for the Certifying Exam (oral exam) is 77% (10/13 passing). Our congratulations to our recent graduates who have successfully obtained board certification.

Wen-yu Vicky Haines, MD – 2015 Graduate  
Christopher Maki, MD – 2015 Graduate  
Eric Anderson, MD – 2016 Graduate  
Zachary Ernst, MD – 2016 Graduate  
BreAnn Neiger, MD – 2016 Graduate  
Kai Sharbono, MD – 2016 Graduate

Katherine Senter, MD, Chief Surgical Resident received the AOA Resident award.

**SURGICAL VOLUNTEERISM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY**

Mission work:

Dr. Robert Sticca, Chair and Program Director of Surgery and Patrick Kane, PGY IV spent a week in February 2017 with Medical Mission Ecuador

Dr. David Antonenko presented Dr. Shawn Olson, PGY V with the Resident Achievement Award for 2016-17 year.
NEW INCOMING RESIDENTS started July 1, 2016:

Andrew Dockter, MD – PG I Preliminary – born in Bismarck. Undergraduate – Microbiology from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. Medical School - University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Bismarck, ND.

Paul Rozeboom, MD – PG I Preliminary – born in Sioux Falls, SD. Undergraduate – in Integrative Physiology at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa & Graduate School at the University of Iowa in Anatomy, Physiology and Neurosciences. Medical School - University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Vermillion, SD.

Joclyn Seiler, MD – PG I Preliminary – Born in Rugby, ND. Undergraduate - Biology from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND. Medical School – University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, ND.

Dwayne (Max) Hansen, DO – PG I Rural Categorical – born in Logan, UT. Undergraduate – Biochemistry, Utah State University-gan, Utah. Medical School – Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dustin Nowotny, DO – PG I Categorical – born in Spearfish, SD. Undergraduate – Physics and Mathematics at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. Medical School – Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University, Chicago, IL.

Chani Taggert, MD – PG I Categorical – born in Boise, ID. Undergraduate – Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences at the Regis University, Denver, CO. Medical School – Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Parker, CO.

Erin Follman, MD – PG I Categorical – born in Devils Lake, ND. Undergraduate – Medical Laboratory Science at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND. Medical School – University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, ND.

Tyler Van De Voort, MD – PG I Rural Categorical – Born in Appleton, WI. Undergraduate-History, Molecular Biology from University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Medical School – University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health, Madison, WI.

The annual resident orientation was held on June 30, 2017.

Dr. Robert Sticca with all 28 surgery residents in the general surgical residency as of July 1, 2017
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. Timothy Pansegrau, Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Troy Russon, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Aaron Chalmers, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery received the Wayne M. Swenson, MD Award for Teaching Excellence.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Jonathan Germscheid, PGY 4 and his wife Teran welcomed their daughter Ava Germscheid on March 7, 2017. Congrats!

MEDICAL STUDENT ALUMNI NEWS

Former UND medical students who are in surgical specialties please email us with news!