From the Chairman

In January through April of 2013, the legislature of the state of North Dakota met and passed bills in health care that will be very beneficial to the people of North Dakota and the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. One initiative, called the Health Care Workforce Initiative (HWI), will also positively impact the UND Department of Surgery and its General Surgery Residency Program. The HWI is a plan for meeting North Dakota’s health care workforce needs by reducing disease burden, increasing the retention of medical school and residency graduates, increasing class sizes and improving the health care delivery system. Once implemented, this program will add to the number of medical school faculty as well as medical students and residents at UND. In the initial plans for expansion of the medical school (implemented two years ago), the surgery program successfully competed for increases in faculty and residents to develop its rural surgery training program. We are hopeful that with the approval of the HWI, we will be able to complete the implementation of the rural surgery training program with the additional faculty, residents and resources necessary to fully implement this program.

In addition, the HWI called for a new facility to house the increased numbers of staff, faculty and students needed to successfully implement the HWI. Multiple options were considered of which the legislature approved the construction of a new medical school building in Grand Forks which will be over 350,000 square feet in size and cost $124 million dollars. The initial planning and design of this building are currently underway as the new facility is scheduled to open in 2016. All are grateful for the state legislature’s foresight and willingness to approve this significant legislation, which will continue to benefit our state for many years to come. For building updates, visit www.med.und.edu/construction.

Within the Department of Surgery we again had a very successful year recruiting new individuals within our program (see New Incoming Residents below). I continue to be impressed with the quality and caliber of the applicants to our program and the highly competitive residents who match in our program. UND medical students also continue to successfully compete for residency positions in the highly competitive surgical specialties (see Medical Student Graduation below), attesting to the excellent teaching and leadership of our surgical faculty. All of these developments certainly portend a bright and promising future for the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Department of Surgery.

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

Medical Student News

Medical School Graduation and Awards
The medical school awards luncheon and graduation were held Sunday, May 12, 2013, at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND Campus in Grand Forks. Fifty-nine new physicians received their MD degrees, with 11 (18.6%) 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 2013 entered several competitive surgical specialties including four in General Surgery, four in Anesthesiology, one in Otolaryngology, one in Plastic Surgery, one in Ophthalmology, and one in Urology. 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.

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

- **General Surgery**
  - Shannon Nord, MD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
  - Cody Pratt, MD, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Forks, N.D.
  - Andrew Stahl, MD, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.

- **Anesthesiology**
  - Kevin Bradley MD, Louisiana State University, Shreveport Program, Shreveport, La.
  - Marissa Brown MD, Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minn.
  - Megan Christensen MD, University of Nebraska Affiliated Hospitals, Omaha, Neb.
  - Bethany Gourneau MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan.

- **Ophthalmology**
  - Andrew Rodenburg MD, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Okla.

- **Otolaryngology**
  - Ashok Jethwa MD, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

- **Plastic Surgery**
  - Nicholas Adams MD, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Michigan State University Program, Grand Rapids, Mich.

- **Urology**
  - Eric Schommer MD, College of Medicine Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville Program, Jacksonville, Fla.

The Department of Surgery Outstanding Student 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. Andrew Stahl, MSIV of Bismarck, N.D., (pictured below) was the recipient for the 2012-’13 academic year. Andrew matched in General Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta Ga.

### Other Awards

- **Honors Award for third-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 2011-’12 year: Southwest Campus in Bismarck–Michael Jundt (Bismarck, N.D.) and Steve Inglish (Medina, N.D.); Southeast Campus in Fargo–Catherine Arnold (Sidney, Mont.) and Krishan Jethwa (Minot, N.D.); Northwest Campus in Minot–Julia Baltz (Delaplane, Va.)

- **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 UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 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 2013 recipient was Craig A. Meiers, MSII, for his research paper “A Retrospective Analysis of the Effectiveness of MRI and Ultrasound in Identifying Rotator Cuff Tears.”

### Surgery Simulation Boot Camp

Beginning in spring 2012, the Department of Surgery introduced a new Surgery Simulation Boot Camp as an elective available to fourth-year medical students who have applied for residency in general surgery or a surgical subspecialty. The four-week elective is split into a two-week rotation on a surgical teaching service and two weeks in the simulation laboratory learning basic surgical skills including suturing, knot-tying, chest tubes, central lines, airway management and basic laparoscopy skills. While on the teaching service, students participated in team management of critical/complex scenarios and writing pre- and post-operative orders. The Surgery Simulation Boot Camp activities are held on the UND Southeast Campus and at Sanford Health.
Residency Program

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 at UND in Grand Forks. This year Drs. Kyle Barker, PGY V, Kayla Burchill, PGY IV, Chris Maki, PGY III, Brady Mullin, PGY IV, Andy McCoy, PGY V, and Shawn Olson, PGY I, attended.

Dr. Shawn Olson, PGY I, with his poster “Acute Cholecystitis as the Presenting Symptom of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma”

Dr. Kyle Barker, PGY V, with his poster “Reasons for Conversion of Laparoscopic to Open Colectomy in Stage III Colon Cancer”

Dr. Kayla Burchill, PGY IV, with her poster “Farm Trauma 30 Years ago and Today: A Comparative Analysis.” Kayla was awarded “honorable mention” for the Medical Residents Poster Presentation.

Residency Program Graduation/End-of-Year Activities
The 10th Annual Edwin C. James Lectureship was established in honor of Edwin C. James, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1980-89 and founder of the Surgical Residency Program. Each year, we invite a nationally recognized speaker to honor this lectureship. This year’s lecturer was Thomas H. Cogbill, MD, chair, American Board of Surgery, and clinical professor of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School in La Crosse, Wis. (pictured). His talk, held June 21, 2013, was titled “General Surgery Residency Training: 2013 and Beyond.”

The 12th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium is the annual Department of Surgery conference where the PGY 2-5 categorical surgery residents present their annual research projects. This is held on the same day as the Edwin C. James

(continued on next page)
Residency Program (continued)

lecture and Chief Resident Graduation Banquet. These presentations are judged by a panel of invited physicians, including the Edwin James lecturer. This year’s judges were (pictured on previous page, left to right) Thomas Cogbill, MD, Edwin C. James Lecturer; John Lee, MD, chairman of otolaryngology at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Robert Riddick, MD, UND clinical instructor of surgery at St. Josephs Hospital in Dickinson, N.D.; and Thomas Wambach, MD, UND clinical instructor of surgery and former surgical resident at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Health Care System in Fargo, N.D.

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.

Colloquium winners:
• First place: Brady Mullin, MD PGY-4 (pictured above) - “More White Trash for a Greener OR”
• Honorable Mention: Kyle Barker, MD PGY-5 (pictured right) - “Factors Associated with Conversion from Laparoscopic to Open Colectomy in the NCCTG NO147 Trial”

North Dakota Chapter, American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Competition winners:
• First place: Kyle Barker, MD PGY-5 (pictured above) - “Factors Associated with Conversion from Laparoscopic to Open Colectomy in the NCCTG NO147 Trial”
• Second place: BreAnn Neiger, MD PGY-3 (pictured below) - “Urinary Expression of ADAM 12 as a Tumor Marker for Breast Cancer Treatment Response”

North Dakota Chapter, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Competition winners:
• First place: Andy McCoy, MD PGY-5 - “Pediatric All-Terrain Vehicle Injuries: Does Being the Driver vs. The Passenger Make a Difference in Severity of Injuries”

(continued on next page)
Residency Program (continued)

• Second place: Irminne Van Dyken, MD PGY-5 (pictured above) - “Mobile Device Communication in Today’s Healthcare Climate: Is It Time for a Paradigm Shift?”

The 29th Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held Friday, June 21, 2013, at the Ramada Plaza in Fargo. The graduating residents were:

• Kyle Barker, MD, who has entered a Colorectal fellowship at Colon & Rectal Associates in Shreveport, La.

• Andy McCoy, MD, who has entered a Minimally Invasive Fellowship program at the St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.

• Irminne Van Dyken, MD, who has joined Altru Health System in Grand Forks until January 2014 when she will move to Wailuku, Hawaii, to start her practice of general surgery.

Picture at right: Left to right: Drs. Enej Gasevic, associate program director; Kyle Barker; Andy McCoy; Irminne Van Dyken; and Robert Sticca, chair and program director

Associate program directors and program director in the “hot seats” at the Graduation Banquet for a game of “How Well Do You Know Your Residents and Attendings?” put on by the graduating residents.

Left to right: First-year surgery residents Katie Senter, Travis Swartz, Shawn Olson and Mark Hightower with Robert Sticca, chairman and program director
Other Awards

Irminne Van Dyken, MD, PGY V, received the Jack A. Barney Resident’s Award for her paper presentation at the Southwest Surgical Congress 2013 Annual Meeting. Her research was voted the best Resident research submission at the meeting. The title of her presentation was “Effects of Alcohol on Surgical Dexterity After a Night of Moderate Alcohol Intake – A Follow Up Study.” Dr. Van Dyken (pictured above with Dr. Randy Smith) is the first North Dakota resident to receive this award.

The Jack A. Barney Resident’s Award was established in 1986 to recognize the dedicated service of Dr. Barney, who served at secretary-treasurer of the Southwester Surgical Congress from 1966-86. It is awarded to the best paper presented by a resident. The first Jack A. Barney award was presented at the 1987 Annual Meeting.

Program Announcements

Recent graduates of the UND Surgical Residency Program have continued to do well on the American Board of Surgery (ABS) Examination. The recently published data from the ABS shows that the UND General Surgery Residency Program five-year, first-time pass rate on the Qualifying Exam (written exam) are 83 percent (10/12 passing) and 89 percent for the Certifying Exam (oral exam) (8/9 passing). Our rates compare favorably to the 2013 national average first-time pass rates of 86 percent for the Qualifying Exam and 82 percent for the Certifying Exam. We congratulate our recent graduates who have successfully obtained board certification:

- Corey Kroetsch, MD: 2011 graduate
- Zachary Bastian, MD: 2012 graduate
- Sangeetha Prabhakaran, MD: 2012 graduate

Wedding

Dr. Travis Swartz, PG Y I, and his wife Carissa were married on March 23, 2013. Congrats!

Incoming Residents Started July 1, 2013

Khider A. K. Elnimeiry, MD: PG I Preliminary. Born in Khartoum, Sudan. Undergraduate degree in Human Biology and Religion from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Medical school: University of St. Eustatius School of Medicine, Dutch Caribbean, Netherlands.

Trent G. Waage, MD: PG I Preliminary. Born in Aberdeen, S.D. Undergraduate degree in Biology from Black Hills State University, Spearfish, S.D. Medical school: University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Vermillion.

(continued on next)
Daniel C. Persinger: PG II Preliminary. Born in Dayton, Ohio. Undergraduate degree in Biology from Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Ind. Medical school: Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, Ohio.

Jonathan J. Germscheid: PG I Categorical. Born in Arlington, Minn. Undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from University of Minnesota, Duluth. Medical school: University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis.

Patrick J. Kane, MD: PG I Categorical. Born in Butte, Mont. Undergraduate degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Software Engineering from Montana Tech of the University of Montana-Butte. Medical school: University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle.


Cody J. Pratt, MD: PG I Categorical. Born in Northwood, N.D. Undergraduate degree in Microbiology from North Dakota State University, Fargo. Medical school: UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Forks.

Priscilla G. Thomas, MD: PG IV Categorical. Born in Riffa, Bahrain. Undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts from University of Missouri, Kansas City. Medical school: University of Missouri, Kansas City.

Residency Program (continued)

Resident Orientation and Welcoming Picnic
The annual resident orientation and welcoming picnic was held on June 30, 2013. New interns and residents were welcomed and able to meet faculty and their co-residents at the picnic at the Lincoln Park in Grand Forks. We had a great turnout with faculty, staff and residents.
Faculty News

David R. Antonenko, MD, PhD, professor of surgery, recently gave the presidential address at the 65th Annual Southwestern Surgical Congress in Santa Barbara, Calif. His presentation was titled "Is the General Surgeon Becoming Obsolete?" Antonenko holds the distinction of being the first North Dakota surgeon to serve as president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress. He served as president from March 2012 to March 2013.

Robert P. Sticca, MD, chairman and program director, has been appointed chair of the Skin/Soft Tissue Section of the American Board of Surgery Certifying Examination Consultant Committee. Sticca has been asked to speak on rural surgery at the 2014 Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), which will be held in Singapore in May 2014. Sticca has also been asked to be a keynote speaker at the 42nd Annual Phoenix Surgical Society Symposium to be held in January 2014 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Residency Program (continued)

Dr. Anatolie Usatii (Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and past surgery resident) with wife Natalia and their children along with Celeste Sticca enjoying the wonderful day at the picnic.

Surgery residents Dr. Eric Anderson, and Dr. Travis Swartz enjoying the picnic with new incoming resident Dr. Patrick Cane and his wife Dori.

Four of the new incoming residents at the picnic Drs. Patrick Kane, Trent Waage, Cody Pratt, and Jonathan Germschied along with Fiance’ Teran Ferguson.
Promotions
Robert D. Guttormson, MD, has been promoted from clinical instructor of surgery to clinical assistant professor of surgery. He is a general surgeon located on the Northeast Campus in Grand Forks.

Robin T. Hape, MD, has been promoted from clinical assistant professor of surgery to clinical associate professor of surgery. He is a general surgeon specializing in breast surgery located on the Northeast Campus in Grand Forks.

Jeffry M. Pitcher, MD, has been promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of surgery. He is a plastic surgeon located on the Northwest Campus in Minot.

Troy S. Russon, MD, has been promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of surgery. He is a thoracic surgeon on the Southwest Campus in Bismarck.

Andrew R. Hetland, MD, has been promoted from clinical instructor to clinical assistant professor of surgery. He is an otolaryngologist on the Southwest Campus in Bismarck.

New Faculty
Erik G. Fetner, MD, FACS, clinical instructor of surgery, is a colorectal surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, for his general surgery residency and went on to do a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas. He is board certified in both general surgery as well as colon and rectal surgery.

Timothy E. Lindley, MD, PhD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a neurosurgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa, for his general surgery and neurosurgery residency and went on to do a mini fellowship in orthopedic spine at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Frank J. Lomagistro, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a plastic surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, for his general surgery residency and University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., for his plastic surgery residency. He is board certified in plastic surgery.

Anatolie A. Usatii, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery and graduate of UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Surgery Department, is a vascular surgeon on the Northeast Campus in Grand Forks. He trained at the UND SMHS, Grand Forks, N.D., for his general surgery residency. He went to a fellowship in solid organ transplantation at Ohio State University, Columbus, and also did a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He is board certified in general surgery and vascular surgery.

Cornelius M. Dyke, MD, assistant professor of surgery, is a cardiovascular surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, for his general surgery residency and cardiothoracic research fellowship. He also did a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the same place. He is board certified in general surgery and thoracic surgery.

Todd D. Reil, MD, associate professor of surgery, is a vascular surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at UCLA Department of Surgery, Los Angeles, Calif., for his general surgery residency. He also did a fellowship in vascular and endovascular surgery in the same place. He is board certified in general surgery and has added qualifications in vascular surgery.

Andrew M. Bakken, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a vascular surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., for his general surgery residency. He also did a fellowship in vascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. He is board certified in general surgery.

Tochukwu O. Onuora, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an anesthesiologist on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, for his anesthesia residency. He is board certified in anesthesia.
Faculty News (continued)

Andrew R. Hetland, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is an otolaryngologist on the Southwest Campus in Bismarck. He trained at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for his otolaryngology residency.

Roxanne R. Keene, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an orthopaedic surgeon on the Northwest Campus in Williston. She trained at Southern Illinois University, Springfield, Ill., for her orthopaedic residency.

Thomas G. Wambach, MD, clinical instructor of surgery and graduate of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Surgery Department, is a general surgeon on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at the UND SMHS for his general surgery residency. He is board certified in general surgery.

Farhan Khan Galzie, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a urologist on the Southeast Campus in Fargo. He trained at the University of California, Irvine for his general surgery/urology residency.

Awards
The following faculty were honored by receiving the Dean’s Special Recognition Award for the Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award:

- Douglas Berglund, MD, clinical associate professor of surgery
- Charles P. Dahl, MD, clinical associate professor of surgery
- Chi Kong Yeung, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery

Barry A. Bjorgaard, MD, clinical associate professor of surgery, received the Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award for Teaching Excellence.

Residency Program Alumni News

Dr. Jay MacGregor, a 2011 graduate, (pictured above) and his wife Kjerstin are enjoying their new addition Elsa MacGregor, who was brought into this world May 2013. Congratulations!

Drs. Zachary Bastian and Sangeetha Prabhakaran, both 2012 graduates, have passed their boards. Congratulations!

Medical Student Alumni News

Former UND medical students who are in surgical specialties, please e-mail news to geralyn.lunski@med.und.edu!

Upcoming Events

Interviews dates with residency program applicants are Nov. 22-23, Dec. 5-6, and Dec. 19-20, 2013.

Christmas Party: Sat., Dec. 7, 2013, at the home of Dr. Robert Sticca, chairman, Department of Surgery

ABSITE Exam: Sat., Jan. 25, 2014. 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 Fri., June 20, 2014, at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo. More detailed information to follow.