Many exciting things have occurred in the Department of Surgery and the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences over the past year, which I will try to summarize briefly. Because this E-News covers the whole year, it is a bit longer than our standard version. Please take some time to view all of the photographs and activities that have been held in the Department over the past year as I think you will agree they reflect an actively growing department with many interesting educational and social activities occurring during this time period.

Construction of the new UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences building began this past spring and is well underway with expected completion in the summer of 2016. The project is currently on schedule and on budget, and we hope to welcome the matriculating students in 2016 into the new building when they begin their course work. Information and photographs regarding the project can be found at www.med.UND.edu/construction, which is updated frequently.

The 78 medical students who comprise the Class of 2018, which began coursework this past August, is the largest class in the history of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. This is a direct result of the Healthcare Workforce Initiative (HWI) approved by North Dakota legislators in two phases in 2011 and 2013 to meet the healthcare demands for all North Dakota citizens now and in the future. The Class of 2014, which graduated in May, did exceptionally well in the surgical fields with 18 students matching in general surgery or surgical subspecialties. I continue to be impressed by our students and their ability to match in highly competitive specialties in surgery. This speaks well for our medical school and especially for the faculty in the Department of Surgery who foster and mentor these students in their pursuit of careers in surgical fields.

The general surgery residency program continues to prosper with the largest number of residents in the history of the program currently enrolled. Through HWI funding and with the support of the North Dakota Legislature, we have continued to expand to 24 residents per year. As the HWI expansion takes full effect over the upcoming years, our program will grow to a total of 28 slots per year by 2017. This expansion has allowed us to offer many exciting educational opportunities for our residents, including a rural surgery track, which is already reaping benefits for the rural hospitals within our state.

Finally, I would like to tell you about a new program that we have instituted over the past few months that will enable our Department to provide support and expertise to the rural surgery practices throughout North Dakota. We have formalized the Division of Rural Surgery within the Department of Surgery and have been fortunate to recruit experienced general surgeon and North Dakota native Dr. Mary O. Aaland to lead this division. This exciting new program will be featured in the next issue of our E-News.

As you can see, there are many exciting programs and events occurring within our Department at the present time. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the central office for the Department of Surgery at the UND SMHS Northeast Campus.

Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS
Chairman and Program Director
Medical School Graduation
The medical school awards luncheon and commencement ceremony were held Sunday, May 10, 2014, at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND Campus in Grand Forks. Sixty-four new physicians received their Medical Doctor degrees, with 18 (28%) of them entering General Surgery or surgical subspecialties. The students graduating in 2014 entered several competitive surgical specialties including seven in General Surgery, four in Anesthesiology, two in Orthopedic Surgery, three in Ophthalmology, one in Vascular Surgery, 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.

This year, the following UND students matched in surgical specialties. Read more.

Department of Surgery Awards
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. Krishan Jethwa of Minot, N.D., was the recipient for the 2013-’14 academic year. Krishan matched in Transitional at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Fargo and Radiation-Oncology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minn., for 2015-’16 year.

To see more award winners, read more.

Residency Program News

• Dr. Robert and Celeste Sticca hosted their annual Christmas Party in December. Many residents, faculty and staff attended. It was a great evening of friendship, food and fun!
• Julie Anderson, Dr. Eric Anderson’s wife, graduated from medical school and is now in pediatric residency at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Eric Anderson is a PGY IV surgery resident.
• Dr. Kayla and Joe Burchill welcomed Silas Joseph Burchill into the world on Dec. 10, 2013. He was 7 pounds, 21 inches.

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, PhD, upon his retirement as a gesture of recognition for his contributions to research at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. To see the surgery residents who presented posters at this year’s event, read more.
Weddings
Dr. Stefan Johnson and Courtney Cochran were married Sept. 21, 2013.

Dr. Eric Anderson and Julie Ewert were married Aug. 10, 2013.

Dr. Christopher Maki and Abigail Redfern were married on June 7, 2014.

Awards
The 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. The Resident Achievement Award is given to the resident who has accomplished above-average milestones in their clinical performance, knowledge, education, research and scholarly activity in general surgery. The Outstanding Resident of the Year Award is presented by incoming surgery residents. To see who won these awards this year, read more.

New Incoming Residents
Seven recent medical school graduates started their residency training July 1, 2014. To see the full list with photos, read more.

Edwin C. James Lectureship and Research Colloquium
The 11th 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 Ronald V. Maier, MD, FACS, Jane & Donald D. Trunkey Professor and vice chair of Surgery at the University of Washington. His talk was titled, “A Century of Resuscitation for Trauma.”

The 13th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium is the annual Department of Surgery conference where the PGY II-V categorical surgery residents present their annual research projects. 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. To see this year’s award winners, read more.

Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet
The 30th Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held Friday, June 20, 2014, at the Ramada Plaza & Suites in Fargo. The graduating residents were:
- Kyla Burchill, MD: She has joined Sanford Health in Fargo to begin her career in general surgery.
- Stefan Johnson, MD: He has joined Altru Health System in Grand Forks to begin his career in general surgery.
- Brady Mullin, MD: She has joined Western Maine Surgery at Stephen’s Memorial Hospital in Norway, Maine, to practice general surgery.

To see photos from the event, read more.

Resident Orientation
The annual resident orientation was held June 30, 2014.
Residency Program Alumni News

Kyle Barker, MD ’13, and Irminne Van Dyken, MD ’13, have passed their boards. Congratulations!

Scholarly Activity
To see a complete list of recent residency posters and presentations, as well as faculty publications and presentations, read more.

Simulation Training
The Surgery Department’s Surgical Simulation and Education Program offers SAGES Certified Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) testing. It is the only certified FLS test center in North Dakota, serving the northern plains region and Canada.

Faculty News

- Dr. Mary Aaland, clinical assistant professor of surgery, was appointed as director of clinical research for the Department of Surgery in October 2013 and was just recently appointed as associate professor of surgery and director of the Division of Rural Surgery in July 2014, while continuing her duties as director of clinical research.
- Lejla Gasevic, Dr. Enej Gasevic’s wife, has started medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences in Grand Forks. Dr. Enej Gasevic is the Associate Program Director of Surgery on the Fargo Campus.

Births

Left: Dr. Enej and Lejla Gasevic welcomed Mia Gasevic on Dec. 13, 2013. She is sitting with her big sister Luna.

Right: Dr. Cornelius and Sarah Dyke welcomed Perry Elizabeth on Jan. 29, 2014.

Welcome New Faculty
Seven new faculty members joined the Department of Surgery recently. To see more information with photos, read more.

Adopt-a-Med-Student
The Adopt-a-Med-Student Program was created in 2011 by Dean Joshua Wynne and the UND SMHS Office of Alumni and Community Relations. For a gift of $250, sponsors give first-year medical students stethoscopes. The students select the model and color they want and their names are engraved on the diaphragm. The stethoscopes are presented to the students at a luncheon in October.

Sponsors are paired with students mostly based on geographic location, possibly by other interests such as sports or hobbies but sometimes simply by random. Thank you to the following faculty members who adopted students this past year: Steve Bagan (West Fargo, N.D.), James Frisk (Fargo, N.D.), Andrew Hvidston (Fargo, N.D.), Rick Paulson (Bismarck, N.D.) and Michael Traynor (Fargo, N.D.).

If you are interested in sponsoring a member of the Class of 2018 next fall, please contact the Office of Alumni and Community Relations at 701.777.4305 or e-mail kristen.peterson@med.und.edu.

Promotions
Six clinical faculty were recently promoted. To see more information with photos, read more.

Awards
Derek Kane, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, was honored by receiving the Dean’s Special Recognition Award for the Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Award at the 2014 Medical Doctor Commencement Ceremony in May.

Upcoming Events
Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015
ABSITE Exam
Surgery Department faculty may participate for review of current practice or preparation for American Board of Surgery Recertification.

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.