From the Chairman

July 31, 2012, began the 31st year of general surgery residency training at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. From a small program with 10 residents at its inception to the current resident compliment of 21 residents, the surgical residency program continues to grow while providing state-of-the-art surgical education for the future surgeons of North Dakota and the upper Midwest. The summer and fall of 2012 proved to be a busy time with our seven new residents (two PGY I categorical, two PGY I rural surgery tract, two PGY I preliminary, and one PGY II preliminary) entering the program and getting acclimated to their new surroundings. In addition, we had an outstanding year for applicants to our residency program. The qualifications and numbers of applicants have continually increased over the past few years. We are especially encouraged by the large number of applicants for the rural surgery tract (see article below). Needless to say, this made for a very busy interview season which we conducted in November and December 2012.

Other activities during this time included the UND Department of Surgery dinner at the American College of Surgeons Meeting in Chicago where both current and former members of the program gathered for an enjoyable evening. The departmental Christmas party was held Saturday, Dec. 1, with members of the residency program and faculty welcoming the holiday season. We hope you enjoy this newsletter with information on the events in the Department of Surgery during the summer and fall of 2012.

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

Residency Program Alumni News

Dr. Sangeetha Prabhakaran (2012) and Ganesh Shammugam delivered a baby girl Adhya on Sept. 25, 2012. Congratulations!

Upcoming Events

The Edwin C. James Lectureship on Friday, June 21, 2013, at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, will feature guest speaker Thomas H. Cogbill, MD, clinical professor of surgery at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Cogbill is the current chairman of the American Board of Surgery. His topic for the lectureship is “General Surgery Residency Training – 2013 and Beyond.”

The Surgical Resident Research Colloquium and Graduation Banquet will also be held on June 21, after the Edwin C. James Lectureship.

Below is the schedule of the day’s events:

- Noon: Edwin C. James Lectureship featuring Dr. Thomas Cogbill
- 1:30 p.m.: Surgical Resident Research Colloquium
- 6:30 p.m.: Graduation Banquet

The Department of Surgery Picnic will be held June 30, 2013, in Grand Forks.
Residency Program

Scholarship Award
Eric Anderson, MD, second-year UND Surgical Resident, has received the STS Looking to the Future Resident Scholarship to attend the Society of Thoracic Surgeons 49th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, Calif., on Jan. 27-30, 2013.

Since 2006, 180 scholarships have been awarded to underwrite expenses for attendance at the STS Annual Meeting and to provide mentorship to aspiring cardiothoracic surgeons.

Qualified applicants include general surgery residents and medical students training in the U.S. or Canada who are considering, but not yet committed to, a career in cardiothoracic surgery. Anderson is one of 20 surgical residents who received this scholarship for 2013.

Christmas Party
The Christmas Party, which was held at Dr. Robert Sticca’s house in December, was attended by many of the residents pictured below but also by many faculty and staff.

Fellowships
Kyle R. Barker, MD, has been accepted into a Colorectal Fellowship at Colon & Rectal Associates in Shreveport, La. He will begin his fellowship July 1, 2013.

Andy C. McCoy, MD has been accepted into the Minimally Invasive Fellowship program at the St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. He will begin his fellowship July 1, 2013.

Engagements
Dr. Stefan Johnson recently became engaged to Courtney Cochran. They are planning a September 21, 2013, wedding.

Dr. Eric Anderson recently became engaged to Julie Ewert. They are planning an August 10, 2013, wedding.

Drs. Daniel Persinger and Christina Lee recently became engaged. They are planning a May 18, 2013, wedding.

Wedding
Drs. Eric Cohen and Kai Sharbono (PGY II) were married in Idaho on October 11, 2012. They had a barn wedding in the woods. Congratulations!

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Residency Program (continued)

Publications/presentations

- Kyle Barker, MD (Resident) - “Post-operative Physiology” - July 10, 2012
- Kayla Burchill, MD (Resident) - “Benign Esophageal Diseases”, Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - August 3, 2012
- Kai Sharbono, MD (Resident) - “Pediatric-Depressed Skull Fracture”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - August 20, 2012
- Kayla Burchill, MD (Resident) - “Adult-MVC with multiple orthopedic injuries”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - August 20, 2012
- Kai Sharbono, MD (Resident) - “Adult-Penetrating Injury to Neck”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - September 17, 2012
- Matt Nielsen, MD (Resident) - “Pediatric Blunt Injury-MVC resulting in death”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - September 17, 2012
- Katie Senter, MD (Resident) - “Adult Blunt Injury-MVC with thoracic dissection”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - September 17, 2012
- Kayla Burchill, MD (Resident) - “Review of Pelvic Fractures”, Sanford Health Trauma Review Meeting - October 11, 2012
- Katie Senter, MD (Resident) - “adult-fall with parenchymal bleed” and “adult-penetrating injury-stab wound”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - October 15, 2012
- Andrew McCoy, MD (Resident) - “Diverticular Disease”, Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - October 19, 2012
- Irminne Van Dyken, MD (Resident) - “Oncoplastic Surgery for Breast Cancer: an Overview”, Surgery Grand Rounds, UND School of Medicine & Health Science Department of Surgery, Grand Forks, ND - November 16, 2012
- Kai Sharbono, MD (Resident) - “Adult Male-Motorcycle Collision with Pelvic Fractures”, Sanford Health Trauma Physician Meeting - November 19, 2012
- Sheri Jamal, MD (Resident) - “Review of Chest Trauma”, Sanford Health Trauma Review Meeting - December 13, 2012

Regional

- Eric Anderson, MD (Resident) - “Ground vs. Air Transport/Auto Air Launch” - ND Statewide Trauma Conferences, Grand Forks, ND - September 13, 2012
- Irminne Van Dyken, MD (Resident) - “Clinical Clearance of the Cervical Spine” - ND Statewide Trauma Conferences, Grand Forks, ND - September 13, 2012

UND General Surgery Residency Applicant Information, 2013-'14

There were 413 total applications for the UND General Surgery Residency Program with 256 applying for the rural tract and 369 applying for the categorical tract (some applied for both tracts). Interviews were held on Nov. 15-16, Nov. 29-30, and Dec. 13-14, 2012, in which we interviewed a total of 48 applicants for both categorical and rural.

UND Rural Surgery Tract attract national attention

The UND Department of Surgery General Surgery Residency Program has been a leader in training rural surgeons since its inception in 1982. There are several reasons for this, some of which include the rural nature of our state, the absence of other surgical training programs, access to a broad spectrum of surgical cases in general surgery and surgical specialties, the availability of surgery rotations in rural areas and the willingness of our state legislature to fund the training of rural surgeons to benefit the people of our state. Our residency program has been designed to answer the needs of our state and region for the provision of general surgery services. Principle considerations of the program are the training, recruitment and retention of surgeons for rural areas. The UND General Surgery Residency Program has trained many general surgeons to practice in rural communities over the years, and recently this training has been formalized with the development of a specialized rural surgery tract. This tract was implemented in 2009 and has gained a national reputation. The rural surgery tract, which is currently available for two of the four UND General Surgery resident slots each year, was first listed as a separate tract in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) in 2012.

Recent developments by the primary governing organizations in general surgery, including the American Board of Surgery (ABS), the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) and the Residency Review Committee (RRC) in Surgery of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have recognized the role of rural surgeons as distinct from their urban counterparts. This concept has been advocated by the UND Department of Surgery for many years but has only recently received national attention by the principle organizations in surgical education. Rural surgeons are the lifeblood of the smaller rural hospitals, often accounting for more than 40 percent of the inpatient revenue. The predicted shortage of general surgeons in the next two decades will especially affect rural communities as it is well documented that rural hospitals have a more difficult time recruiting and retaining general surgeons. Rural surgeons must be trained with a different skill set than general surgeons in metropolitan areas as they are often the only surgical providers in their communities and are often called upon to provide surgical services in several subspecialty areas such as obstetrics/gynecology, ENT, urology and orthopedics.
The UND Rural Surgery Tract is composed of nine months of subspecialty surgery rotations that were developed based on studies conducted in our department, which delineated the types of surgical cases that general surgeons in rural communities perform. These rotations are completed during the second, third and fourth years of the five-year general surgery training program. The rotations are designed to give the general surgery resident experience in areas of surgery that are not typically taught in a general surgery residency training program but are important for a surgeon who wishes to practice in a rural community. In addition, as part of the rural surgery tract training experience, rotations in rural communities are included. These rotations allow the prospective rural surgeon to gain valuable experience practicing surgery in a rural community.

The studies conducted by our Department demonstrated that a rural general surgeon has a different type of practice than a general surgeon in a metropolitan area. They revealed that a rural surgeons practice is composed of 40 percent endoscopic procedures and 12 percent subspecialty surgery procedures (such as Obstetrics/Gynecology, Orthopedic Surgery, ENT, and Urology) which are not usually taught in a general surgery residency. By including rotations in these disciplines in the rural surgery tract training, we feel the general surgery residents who graduate from our rural surgery tract will be better prepared to serve the range of patients they encounter in the rural communities in which they plan to practice.

The healthcare of the 20 percent of the U.S. population that who live in rural areas has increasingly come to the forefront as our country continues to struggle with the many challenges in adjusting to the current financial and political influences in medicine. The UND Rural Surgery Tract has received national attention as one model for the training of general surgeons for rural practices. The UND Department of Surgery remains committed to producing highly trained surgeons for all types of practices, with an emphasis in rural surgery.

Faculty

New Faculty

Michelle Cho, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an ophthalmologist from Altru Health System in Grand Forks. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on Oct. 31, 2012. Dr. Cho completed her medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore and her ophthalmology residency at New York University in New York.

Ronald P. Skipper, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby, N.D. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on July 31, 2012. He attended medical school at the Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the Akron City Hospital in Akron, Ohio, for his general surgery residency.

Zachary N. Bastian, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Mercy Medical Center in Williston, N.D. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty on Nov. 9, 2012. He attended medical school at the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, and attended the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery for his general surgery residency. He graduated from our program in June 2012.

Warren Albrecht, DO, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general/vascular surgeon from Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Oct. 29, 2012. He attended medical school at the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and did his residency at the Botsford Hospital/Michigan State University in Farmington Hills, Mich. He also did a vascular fellowship at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J.

Joshua J. Gebur, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Essentia Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty July 27, 2012. He went to medical school at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and did his residency at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

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Jeffrey R. Keim, MD, clinical assistant professor of surgery, is a general/plastic surgeon from Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty July 12, 2012. He attended medical school at Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine and did his general surgery residency and plastic surgery at William Beaumont Army Medical Center Program in El Paso, Texas.

Gary M. Kubalak, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general/vascular surgeon at Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty July 27, 2012. He attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and his general surgery residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis., and Houston, Texas. He also did a trauma/critical care fellowship at Lehigh Valley Hospital Center in Allentown, Pa. and a vascular fellowship at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta, Ga.

Adib Moussa, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an anesthesiologist from Sanford Health in Fargo. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Sept. 12, 2012. He attended medical school at the American University of Beirut, and anesthesia residency at American University of Beirut and Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich.

Leslie A. Soine, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an otolaryngologist from Plains Ear, Nose, Throat & Facial Plastic Surgery in Fargo. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Nov. 2, 2012. She attended medical school at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and her otolaryngology residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colo.

W. Thomas Coombe, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is an otolaryngologist from Sanford Health in Bismarck. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Oct. 4, 2012. He attended medical school at the University of Nebraska and his ENT residency at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Bree D. Dewing, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Sanford Health in Bismarck. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Oct. 12, 2012. She attended medical school at the Saba University School of Medicine in Saba, Netherlands-Antilles and attended the UND School of Medicine and Health Science Department of Surgery for her general surgery residency. She graduated from our program in June 2012.

Boyd C. Marts, MD, PhD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a cardiothoracic surgeon from St. Alexius Heart & Lung in Bismarck. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Oct. 15, 2012. He attended medical school at Indiana University in Bloomington and Indianapolis, Ind., and his general surgery residency at the St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo. He did a cardiothoracic fellowship at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Brook V. Nelson, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon from St. Joseph Surgical Care in Dickinson, N.D. She joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Nov. 15, 2012. She attended medical school and her general surgery residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

Steven S. Riddick, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a cardiothoracic surgeon from St. Joseph Surgical Care in Dickinson, N.D. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Nov. 5, 2012. He attended medical school at Brown University in Providence, R.I., and his general surgery residency at the Naval Hospital Oakland in Oakland, Calif. He also did a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Joel D. Harris, MPH, MD, clinical instructor of surgery, is a general surgeon from Aurora Medical Center in Summit, Wis. He joined the UND Surgery Department faculty Aug. 10, 2012. He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and attended the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery for his general surgery residency. He graduated from our program in June 2010.
Faculty Accomplishments

Brent P. Bruderer, MD, clinical associate professor of surgery, was appointed the director of minimally invasive and simulation for the UND Department of Surgery. He started his new role on Oct. 1, 2012. We are excited to have him on board!

David R. Antonenko, MD, PhD, FACS, professor of surgery, was passed the gavel and became president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress in March 2012. Dr. Antonenko holds the distinction of being the first North Dakota surgeon to serve as president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress.

Faculty Promotion

Steven G. Yearsley, MD, plastic surgeon at Mid Dakota Clinic in Bismarck, was promoted to clinical assistant professor in June 2012.

Publications

- Sticca RP (Faculty), Mullin BC (Resident), Harris JD (Faculty), Hosford CC. Surgical Specialty Procedures in Rural Surgery Practices: Implications for Rural Surgery Training. American Journal of Surgery. 204(6), 1007-1012. 2012
- Sticca RP (Faculty), American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer, Cancer Program Standards 2012: Ensuring Patient Centered Care. v1.0. American College of Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois, USA: 2012
- Sticca RP (Faculty), Fetner EG (Faculty), and MacGregor JM: “Colon and Rectal Cancer Including Adjuvant” in the Surgery Evidence Based Practice - 2012. Chapter 29, pgs 245-252

Presentations

The Department of Surgery faculty and surgery residents played an active role in the 15th Annual North Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference, held Sept. 12-13, 2012, in Grand Forks, N.D.

- Dr. David Schall, clinical associate professor of surgery, presented on “Compartment Syndrome”
- Dr. Steven Briggs, clinical assistant professor of surgery, presented on “Trauma Resuscitation & TXA” and “Trauma Case Studies”
- Dr. Fady Nasrallah, clinical instructor of surgery, presented on “Initial Resuscitation of the Trauma Patient”
- Dr. Kevin Mork, clinical instructor of surgery, presented on “Disaster Preparedness: Lessons Learned from the FT. Hood Shootings”
- Dr. Robin Hape, clinical assistant professor and past surgery resident, presented on “Mangled Extremities”
- Dr. Lane Lee, clinical assistant professor of surgery, presented on “Endovascular Treatment of the Trauma Patient”
- Dr. Randolph Szlabick, assistant professor and associate program director of surgery and state trauma director, presented on “Oil Impact on Healthcare in North Dakota”
- Dr. Michael Schmit, clinical instructor and past surgery resident, presented on “Mortality in Blunt Trauma”.
- Dr. Eric Anderson, PGII surgery resident, presented on “Ground vs. Air Transport/Auto Air Launch”
- Dr. Irminne Van Dyken, chief surgery resident, presented on “Clinical Clearance of the Cervical Spine”

Other presentations:

- Dr. Alan Johnson, clinical instructor of surgery, presented “Facial Trauma and Reconstruction - Basic Management and Recent Experience at Altru, Altru Hospital Ralston Lecture Series, Grand Forks, ND - August 1, 2012.
- Dr. Xenofon Papadopoulos, clinical instructor of surgery, presented “The PSA Controversy”, Altru Hospital Ralston Lecture Series, Grand Forks, ND - September 5, 2012.

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Faculty (continued)


Simulation Training Available

The Surgery Department’s Surgical Simulation and Education Program is excited to offer SAGES Certified Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) testing. We are the only certified FLS test center in North Dakota and look forward to serving the northern plains region and Canada. See the flyer (left or at http://bit.ly/ssep-sages) for more information or to schedule your test.

University of North Dakota Surgical Simulation & Education Program

UN School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, ND

Now offering SAGES Certified Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) testing:

- FLS certification is now **required** for initial American Board of Surgery certification.
- FLS certification is **accredited** for a maximum of 12 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s), which are also **designated** as Self-assessment CME credit, **applicable** to Part 2 of the American Board of Surgery (ABS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements.
- FLS certification is **strongly recommended** for all surgeons performing laparoscopic surgery.

**FLS training sessions are also available:**

- One day course, with didactic and hands on training.
- $500 (does not include FLS testing voucher).

Certification Tests available each Monday of every month. (except holidays)
Time: 5:00—8:00 pm
Alternate testing dates can be scheduled by contacting Tonya Murphy, Surgical Simulation Program Coordinator:
Phone: 701-777-3282
Fax: 701-777-2609
E-mail: tonya.murphy@med.und.edu
Location:
UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Surgery (southeast campus)
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