From the Chairman

Welcome to “The Cutting Edge,” the new newsletter for the Department of Surgery at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. We plan to publish this newsletter twice each academic year to keep all faculty, former residency program graduates, medical students and friends of the department abreast of news and developments in the department. As our department has grown, we feel it is important for everyone with connections to the department, both past and present, to be aware of the progress and events that occur each year. Each fall, we will send out the newsletter with news from the second half of the previous academic year, January-June, which will include our chief resident graduation, as well as an introduction to our new residents who will start on July 1. Each spring, we will update you on the accomplishments and events that have occurred during the first half of the academic year, from July through December. We welcome input from all who have been part of the department over the years and will plan to have sections for alumni, medical students, and current faculty and residents.

The current academic year has been both challenging and rewarding. Our program has expanded to 18 total residents, with 15 categorical residency positions and three preliminary residency positions. The accrediting body for all U.S. allopathic residency training programs in medicine, the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) has issued new work hours guidelines for residency training. These guidelines include the requirement that PGY-1 residents cannot work any more than 16 hours at a time and that they must have direct supervision (by either an attending physician or senior resident) immediately available whenever they are working. These requirements have been hotly debated by many residency training programs, especially in the surgical specialties. Whether we like them or not, by virtue of the ACGME’s accrediting authority we are bound to abide by these new regulations. Like many surgical programs, implementation of these regulations will be a significant challenge for the UND program, but we will be in compliance by the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. Despite the recent regulatory challenges, the department has continued to progress with many accomplishments and improvements of which some are listed below. I continue to be impressed and proud of all of our accomplishments and the good that our department does for the school and the communities which we serve. My thanks to everyone for their participation.

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

Medical School Graduation: May 9, 2010
The medical school awards luncheon and graduation were held on Sunday, May 9, 2010, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks and the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND Campus. Fifty-five new physicians received their MD degrees, with 16 of them (29 percent) entering General Surgery or surgical subspecialties. The faculty of the Department of Surgery is commended for their continued support and inspiration of the medical students. Our students have entered a wide range of very competitive surgical specialties (General Surgery–8, Anesthesiology–4, Otolaryngology–2 and Orthopedic Surgery–2) at some very prestigious institutions including Creighton University, the University of Michigan, Harvard University, and the Mayo Clinic. 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. Miran Blanchard, MSIV of Dickinson, N.D., was the recipient for the 2010 academic year (pictured at right).

**Honors Award for third-year medical students:** In order for a student to achieve Honors, they must score above the 90th percentile on the National Board of Medical Examiners (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 2009-’10 year: Southwest Campus in Bismarck - David Brown (Larimore, N.D.), Cameron Charchenko (Dickinson, N.D.), Andrew Miller (Bismarck, N.D.), and Elizabeth Rau, (Bismarck). Southeast Campus in Fargo - Fallon Hoverson (Manvel, N.D.), Jared Mahylis (Fargo, N.D.), Ryan Siewert (Grand Forks, N.D.), and Jessi Smith (West Fargo, N.D.).

**Residency Program Graduation/End-of-Year Activities: June 25, 2010**
The 7th Annual Edwin C. James Lectureship 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 Frederick L. Greene, MD, chairman of surgery from the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., and past chair of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. His talk was on Cancer Staging and Prognostic Factors—2010 and Beyond. Afterward, Dr. Sticca presented the Edwin James Lectureship plaque to Dr. Green (pictured at right).

The 9th Annual Surgical Resident Research Colloquium is the annual Department of Surgery conference where the PGY 2-5 Categorical Surgery Residents give a 10-minute presentation on their required research project. This is held on the same day as the Edwin C. James 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 Dr. Greene; Dr. Gwen Halas, senior associate dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs; Dr. Nathaniel Reuter, clinical instructor of surgery and former surgical resident; and Dr. Robert Wroblewski, clinical instructor of surgery and former surgical resident. The top two presenters are honored at the Chief Resident Graduation Banquet that follows that 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.

2010 resident winners:

- First place: Joel Harris, MD PGY-5, “Trauma in the Elderly”
- Honorable Mention: Jay MacGregor, MD PGY-4, “Performance and Fatigue: Are Residents Wimps?”

Click on this link to see the Edwin C. James Lectureship and the Surgical Resident Research Colloquium brochure.

The 26th Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held on Friday, June 25, 2010, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grand Forks. The graduating residents were:

Joel Harris, MD, MPH, has entered general surgery practice at the Wilkinson Medical Clinic in Hartland, Wis., with two past UND Surgery Residency program graduates Dr. Tom Derrig (2001) and Dr. Peter Garza (2003). Joel is originally from Fergus Falls, Minn., and received his MD degree at the University of Minnesota.

After graduation, Torfi Hoskuldsson, MD, began a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the University of Minnesota. He is originally from Reykjavik, Iceland, and received his MD degree at the University of Iceland.

Julie Lorber, MD, entered general surgery practice at St. Joseph Hospital in Breese, Ill. She is originally from St. Louis, Mo., and received her MD degree at the Saba University School of Medicine in Netherlands, Antilles.
To view additional photos from the Graduation Banquet, visit the SMHS [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com) account.
Arun A. Andrews, MD: PG I Preliminary; New Orleans, La.; Kasturba Medical College Manipal, India

Tracy B. Boschee, DO: PG I Preliminary; Minot, N.D.; Des Moines University-Osteopathic Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa

Noelle A. Thomas, MD: PG I Preliminary; San Diego, Calif.; University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle

Christopher J. Maki, MD: PG I Categorical; Bremerton, Wash.; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Matthew J. Nielsen, MD: PG I Categorical; born in Bemidji, Minn.; went to medical school at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, Mich.

Julie A. Zohner, MD: PG I Categorical; Idaho Falls, Idaho; University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle
Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Enej Gasevic, MD, has joined the department as associate program director and assistant professor of surgery at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Southeast Campus in Fargo. He received his MD from the UND SMHS. He completed his general surgery residency at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Dr. Gasevic also completed a critical care fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Gasevic is board certified in general surgery and surgical critical care.

Cindy Stromme, administrative secretary for the General Surgery Residency Program, joined the UND SMHS Department of Surgery on Nov. 1, 2010. She has worked for UND since August 1988 after graduating from the University of Minnesota, Crookston with an associate degree in dietetics. After working 17 years at the Human Nutrition Research Center, she worked at Dining Services Administration for one year and four years at the Counseling Center. She and her husband Scott enjoy spending time with family, are huge UND hockey fans and also like to attend UND football games.

David R. Antonenko, MD, PhD, retirement

Dr. David Antonenko, former chairman of the Department of Surgery retired from UND on July 15, 2010. Dr. Antonenko is originally from Alberta and was educated at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where he received his MD and PhD degrees, and surgical training in general surgery. He then completed a trauma/critical care fellowship at Wayne State University in Detroit. Dr. Antonenko became a member of the department in 1986 while in practice in Thief River Falls, Minn. He became chairman of the department in December 1989 and is the longest-standing chairman in the Department of Surgery since its inception. Throughout his more than 24 years of service to the UND Department of Surgery, he served many roles and was a dedicated teacher for both medical students and residents. Although Dr. Antonenko is officially “retired,” he will continue to work with the department on a part-time basis as the director of the surgical simulation program, a program which he helped to build and develop over the past three to five years. Dr. Antonenko’s contributions to the department will long be remembered. Read more about Dr. Antonenko and his contributions to the Department of Surgery in North Dakota Medicine.

Faculty Accomplishments
Publications


Barbara A. Pockaj, MD, Nabil Wasif, MD, Amylou C, PhD, Dennis A. Wigle, MD, Judy C. Broughey, MD, Amy C. Degnim, MD, Richard J. Gray, MD, Sara A McLaughlin, MD, Donald W. Northfelt, MD, Robert P. Sticca, MD (faculty), James W. Jakub, MD, and Edith A. Perez, MD. "Metastasectomy and Surgical Resection of the Primary Tumor in Patients with Stage IV Breast Cancer" Ann Surg Oncol Sept 2010 17:2419-2426.


Robert Sticca, MD (Faculty); Jay MacGregor, MD (Resident); Randolph Szlabick, MD (Faculty): "Is the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education resident/fellow survey a valid tool to assess general surgery residency programs compliance with work hours regulations?" Journal of Surgical Education November/December 2010, Vol 67, No 6, pgs 406-11.

Robert Sticca, MD (Faculty); Jay MacGregor, MD (Resident): "General Surgery Residents' views on work hours regulations." Journal of Surgical Education November/December 2010, Vol 67, No 6, pgs 376-80.

Joel Harris, MD (Resident); Robert Sticca, MD (Faculty); CC Hosford, PhD: "A Comprehensive Analysis of Surgical Procedures in Rural Surgery Practice." The American Journal of Surgery (2010) 200, 820-26.

Presentations (regional/national)

Steven Briggs, MD (faculty): "Case Presentation/Trauma Treatment Guideline" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.

Donald DeBeltz, MD (faculty): "When Animals Attack" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.


Derek Kane, MD (faculty) and Randolph Szlabick (faculty): "Chest Tube/Intraosseous Lab (Mid-Level Practitioners and MDs)" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.

Lane Lee, DO (faculty): "Coagulopathy in the Trauma Setting" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.


David Schall, MD (faculty): "Pelvic Fractures" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.

Randolph Szlabick, MD (faculty): "Trauma in the Elderly" 13th Annual North Dakota State Trauma Conference, Fargo, North Dakota.


Awards

William E. Altringer, MD, Clinical Professor of Surgery, Mid Dakota Clinic in Bismarck received the Alumnus Membership of the AOA Honor Medical Society - April 2010.

Residency Program Alumni News
Joel Harris ('10) and his wife Stephanie Borchardt had a baby girl Arie Joy on October 18, 2010.

Teimor Nasirov ('05) started practice in Sacramento, Calif., in July 2009 after finishing two fellowships (cardiothoracic and pediatric cardiothoracic surgery). Teimour also passed his cardiothoracic boards in 2010.

Nathan Reuter ('07) started practice in St. Cloud, Minn., in July 2009 after completing his surgical oncology fellowship.

David Cox ('09) is the trauma director at St. Mary-Corwin Regional Medical Center in Colorado.


**Medical Student Alumni News**

Former medical students who trained in general surgery outside of North Dakota have returned to North Dakota to practice in surgical specialties: Dr. Robert D. Guttormson (general surgery) and Dr. Billie Jo Grieve (general surgery) are practicing at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. Dr. John Eickman (neurosurgery) is now at Sanford Health in Fargo, and Dr. Josh Gebur (general surgery) is at Essentia Health in Fargo.

**Upcoming Events**

The Edwin C. James lectureship, Surgical Resident Research Colloquium and Graduation Banquet will be held June 24, 2011, at the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo. More detailed information to follow.

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