

# SURGERY NEWS

Fall 2019

## Chair's Letter: Changes in the Department of Surgery

*"Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like." ~ Lao Tzu*



The end of the 2018–19 academic year on June 30 brought about several changes in the UND Department of Surgery. In addition to the regular changes that occur at this time each year (including the graduation of both medical students and general surgery residents, and the welcoming of new medical students and general surgery interns, covered in more detail below), we had several major changes in the Department that I would like to relay to you all.

First, our long time program coordinator, Lori Anderson, retired. Most former residents will fondly remember Lori, since she has been a key member of the Department and residency program for over 30 years. This position will be filled by Angie Flesberg, who joined our department in 2018 as the conference and faculty coordinator and is based in the Fargo Department of Surgery office. Angie will work closely with Lisa Steinbrink, the associate program coordinator in Grand Forks. Angie's former position will be filled by Kerri Hjelmstad, who worked for many years at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. I am confident that the residency program will continue to grow and succeed in the very capable hands of Angie, Lisa, and Kerri.

Second, Dr. Enej Gasevic, the residency program's associate director in Fargo since 2010, has stepped down from that position after nine years of service. His position will be filled by Kayla Burchill, MD, a graduate of NDSU (2005), the UND SMHS (2009), and UND's General Surgery Residency Program (2014). Kayla has previously served as the assistant director of surgical education and practices as a general surgeon at the VA Medical Center in Fargo.

The final administrative change we saw this year was in the program director position for the residency program. I have served as the program director for over 16 years, since I first came to UND. With the increasing demands of both the chairman and program director position, local and national healthcare committees, and a busy clinical practice, I stepped down from this position on June 30 and transitioned this role to Dr. Stefan Johnson, a graduate of UND (2005), the UND SMHS (2009), and the general surgery residency program (2014). Stefan practices general surgery at Altru Health System in Grand Forks and has served as the associate program director in Grand Forks for the past three years. He is

well-versed in graduate medical education and general surgery residency training, and will do an excellent job in the increasingly important position of program director for the residency program.

Finally, on a sadder note, one of our long time faculty members, Dr. Kurt Lindquist, lost his battle to cancer in June. Kurt was a respected teacher, general and vascular surgeon, and clinical professor of surgery who served the department and residency program for over 20 years (see memoriam below).

While we will miss the departing individuals and thank them for their many contributions to the department and residency program over the years, we welcome the qualified and talented new additions and look forward to their ideas and contributions to the department as they transition into their new roles. As the quote from the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu above notes, life is a series of changes, which we should accept and use as an opportunity to move forward. I feel that these changes will allow our department to progress and continue to achieve even greater accomplishments as we go forward. Until our next newsletter in the spring, have a happy holiday season and stay safe.

Robert Sticca, MD, FACS  
Chair and Professor  
UND Department of Surgery

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## Faculty News

### Remembering Kurt Lindquist

Kurt D. Lindquist, MD, a long time faculty member, passed away on June 15, 2019, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Lindquist committed years to medical mission work in Congo and subsequently 20 years at the VA Medical Center, Fargo. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Linda Lindquist, also a long-time faculty member and his children. We thank Dr. Lindquist and his family for the support and education he provided to our medical students and residents. For more information and memorials, please see:



<https://www.korsmofuneralservice.com/obituaries/Kurt-Lindquist#!/Obituary>

## Awards of note

### **Outstanding Teacher Awards**

We have awarded several of our faculty Outstanding Teacher Awards.

Congratulations to the 2018-19 academic year award winners by campus:

- Aaron J. Chalmers, MD - Southwest Campus 2018-19 Outstanding Teacher
- Robin K. Severud, MD - Northeast Campus 2018-19 Outstanding Teacher
- Michael D. Traynor, MD - Southeast Campus 2018-19 Outstanding Teacher
- Jay M. MacGregor, MD - Wayne M. Swenson, MD Award for Teaching Excellence



## Lori Retired!

As you might have heard, Lori Anderson, Department of Surgery residency coordinator, retired on June 30, 2019, after nearly 30 years with the Department and 35 years with the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences. She was indispensable to the program, helping us to grow from 10 residents per year to 28! Lori's influence and contributions to the department will long be remembered. Please join the UND Department of Surgery in wishing Lori and her family well in the next phase of their lives. She will be missed.



## Welcome New Faculty Surgery

The UND Department of Surgery would like to welcome the following faculty to the Department. Faculty come from all across the state of North Dakota and beyond and represent too many organizations to name. Glad to have you on board!



- Jacob Schaeffer, MD, Clinical Instructor, Prairie Lakes - Watertown S.D., Ortonville, Minn., General Surgery
- Leonard Armstrong, MD, MS, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Fargo, N.D., Colorectal
- Neil Karjalainen, MD, Clinical Instructor, Essentia - Fargo, N.D., Anesthesiology
- Thomas Frimpong, DO, Clinical Instructor, Trinity - Minot, N.D., Neurosurgery
- Jeffrey Ottmar, MD, Clinical Instructor, Essentia - Fargo, N.D., Anesthesiology
- Hannah Addom-Tetteh, MD, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Dickinson, N.D., General Surgery
- Jeffrey Nelson, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Sanford - Bismarck, N.D., ENT
- Danielle Hohbein, MD, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Bismarck, N.D., Anesthesiology
- Behzad Sabit, MD, MSC, FRCSC, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Fargo, Neurosurgery
- Zachary Ernst, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Essentia - Fargo, N.D., General Surgery
- Arshad Khan, MD, Clinical Instructor, Altru - Grand Forks, N.D. Lifecare, Roseau, Minn., General/Transplant Surgery
- Brian Sauer, MD, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Fargo, N.D., Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
- Marcus Keep, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, Sanford - Fargo, N.D., Neurosurgery
- Ellen Vogels, DO, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Fargo, N.D., General/Bariatric Surgery
- Kyle Johnson, MD, Clinical Instructor, Sanford - Bismarck, N.D., Otolaryngology

# Resident News

## New Residents

*Dr. Stefan Johnson (center) with the general surgery residents on orientation day, June 28, 2019.*



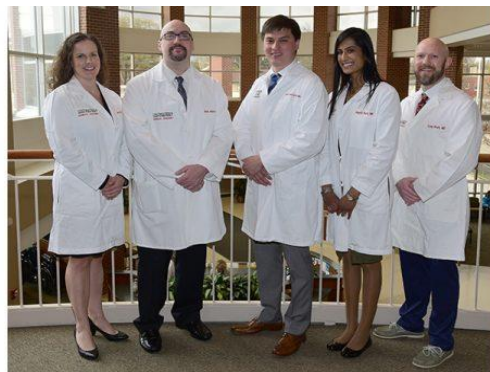
The UND Department of Surgery has taken on a new group for residents. Keep an eye out for these first-year residents in 2019-2020. Resident pictures can be seen on the Department of Surgery Residency website at: <https://med.und.edu/residency-programs/surgery/current-residents.html>.

- Dana Nielsen: University of Washington School of Medicine – Clinical Campus; University of Washington - Alaska WWAMI. General Surgery Categorical Track.
- Charles Peebles, MD: University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine. Rural General Surgery Categorical Track.
- Kristen Reede, MD: University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. General Surgery Preliminary Track.
- Conor Roche, MD: University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. General Surgery Categorical Track.
- Andrew Roy, MD: Saint Louis University School of Medicine. General Surgery Preliminary Track.
- Alessandra Spagnolia, MD: University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. General Surgery Categorical Track.
- Zachery Staskywicz, MD: University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Rural General Surgery Categorical Track.
- Eric Torkelson, MD: University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. General Surgery Preliminary Track.

Welcome!

## Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet...

*The thirty-fifth Surgical Chief Resident Graduation Banquet was held on June 21, 2019, at Avalon Event Center in Fargo. The graduating residents were (from left to right): Elleson Schurtz, MD; Brian Johnson, MD; Patrick Lamb, MD; Angela Kaza, MD; and Cody Pratt, MD.*





## ...and award winners

- **David R. Antonenko Resident of the Year 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: *Cecilia Benz, MD. Award presented by Robert Sticca, MD.*

- **The Resident Achievement Award** is given to the resident who accomplished above average clinical performance, knowledge, education, research, and scholarly activity in general surgery: *Lucas Holkup, MD. Award presented by Robert Sticca, MD.*

- **Outstanding Resident of the Year Southeast Campus:** *Patrick Lamb, MD. Award presented by Robert Sticca, MD.*



## Surgical Residency Research Colloquium

*Drs. Bartholomew, Benz, and Holkup receive their awards from Dr. Mary Aaland, Director of Surgical Research.*

### **Colloquium Winners**

1st Place: Lucas Holkup, MD - "Impact of early versus late palliative care consultation on disposition in a trauma population: A performance improvement analysis."

Honorable Mention: Cecelia Benz, MD - "Age or comorbidities: Which is a bigger factor in predicting complications after rib fixation?"

Best Poster: Reid Bartholomew, MD - "Direct peritoneal resuscitation vs. negative pressure therapy in the open abdomen following non-traumatic emergency surgery: A randomized controlled trial."



*Drs. Dixon and Holkup receive their awards from Dr. Randy Szlabick, of the ACS Committee on Trauma.*

### **N.D. Chapter American College of Surgeons Resident Awards: Committee on Trauma**

1st Place: Lucas Holkup, MD, "Impact of early versus late palliative care consultation on disposition in a trauma population: A performance improvement analysis."

2nd Place: Michael Dixon, MD, "Pediatric trauma system evaluation before and after level 2 verification at Sanford Medical Center Fargo."



*Drs Yelenich-Huss, Heberer, and Kaza receive their awards from Dr. Daniel Tuvin of the ACS Commission on Cancer.*

### **N.D. Chapter American College of Surgeons Resident Awards: Commission on Cancer**

1st Place: Mallory Yelenich-Huss, MD, "Re-excision rates after SSO-ASTRO guideline changes: A single surgeon's practice."

2nd Place (tie): Matt Heberer, MD, "Thyroid Ultrasound Elastography" and Angela Kaza, MD, "The effects of neoadjuvant chemotherapy on moderately resectable pancreatic cancer."



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## Medical Student News

### Congratulations graduates!

The Class of 2019 medical students graduated on May 12, 2019, of course, with more than 30 percent of the class (22 of 71) entering residency in general surgery or a surgical subspecialty (e.g., orthopedic surgery). The following awards were presented by the Department of Surgery at the pre-graduation awards brunch:



- Outstanding Student in Surgery Award: **David Anderson, MS4 (Ophthalmology)**

#### **Wayne M. Swenson Award**

**Nolan Schwarz**, MSI, won the Wayne M. Swenson, MD, Award for his paper "To assess the use of self-maintaining inferior vena cava (IVC) filters to actively denature blood clots, instead of just capturing clots, to replace long term anticoagulant use," co-authored by Ivan T. Lima Jr., Ph.D. The award, plaque, and \$300 prize were presented at the the North Dakota Chapter meeting of the American College of Surgeons to be held May 3-4, 2019.

Congratulations to all graduates and award winners!

## Surgery and Anesthesiology interest groups to organize

*Dr. Follman instructs medical students on proper suture techniques.*

Faculty, staff, and students in the UND Department of Surgery coordinate two interest groups that might be of interest to medical students:

The **Surgery Interest Group** introduces first- and second-year medical students to the lifestyle and requirements for a surgical career. The group had approximately 45 members enrolled for the 2018-2019 academic year and they held three meetings in the past year. The topics presented include Surgery Residency (Dr. Robert Sticca, Chairman and Program Director, UND SMHS Dept. of Surgery); Orthopedic Surgery Residency (Dr. Bruce Piatt, Program Director of Orthopedic Residency Program – Sanford Health, Fargo); and Third- and Fourth-Year Expectations and Match Process (Panel of fourth-year students: Spencer Uetz, Emily Olig, Matt Winkels, Dylan Dangerfield, Conor Roche, and Neil Antonsen). Attendance at these meetings averaged 30-40 students.



At the request of the Surgery Interest Group, two suture clinics were held on Jan. 31 and Feb. 13 at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Each session consisted of a group of fifteen first- and second-year med students. Using animal tissue, Dr. Stefan Johnson (associate program director) and several of the surgery residents assisted with instructing the students on proper suturing techniques, including simple interrupted, simple running, vertical mattress, and subcuticular. Based on the positive student responses, it was decided to conduct a suture clinic every year. Residents who participated in teaching included Drs. Matt Zweerink, Chani Taggart, Carter Rohling, Erin Follman, and Cody Pratt.

In January 2019 an **Anesthesiology Interest Group** was established within the UND Department of Surgery. This group had an initial enrollment of 34 students and held its first meeting in April 2019 with Drs. Jonathan Haug, Robin Severud, and Betsy Gorneau (Anesthesiologists from Altru Hospital) speaking very enthusiastically about the duties, staff, and work environment of the anesthesia teams. They also answered questions from students regarding the requirements for applying for residency in this field.

**If you're interested in participating in either interest group, please contact Marlys Peterson at 701.777.3069 or [marlys.peterson@und.edu](mailto:marlys.peterson@und.edu).**

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# Department Scholarly Activity

## Resident Presentations

**Adeseye Adekeye, MD, PhD**, "Rectal cancer local/regional staging: endorectal ultrasound compared to high resolution pelvic MRI" – Southwestern Surgical Congress

**Cecilia Benz, MD**, "Outcomes After Rib Fixation: Age Not A Factor?" – Chest Wall Injury Summit

**Michael Dixon, MD**, "Pediatric Trauma System Evaluation Before and After Level 2 Verification at Sanford Medical Center Fargo" – Southeast Surgical Congress



**Max Hansen, MD**, "All the King's Horses and All the King's Men" – Southwestern Surgical Congress

**Lukas Mueller, MD, & Cecilia Benz, MD**, "Management of Complex Chest Wall Injury" – Chest Wall Injury Summit

**Elleson Schurtz, MD**, "A training Curriculum for Rural Surgeons" – Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society

**Michael Dixon, MD**, "Regionalization of Colon Cancer Management?: Should be done at home in a Rural Setting" – Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society

**Robert Steininger, MD**, "Colon Cancer- appropriate work up before Surgery" – Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society

**Patrick Lamb, MD**, "Introduction to the Reconstructive Ladder" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Adeseye Adekeye, MD, PhD**, "Management of Recurrent Papillary Thyroid Cancer" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Dustin Evans, MD**, "Vascular Trauma" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Robert Steininger, MD**, "Current Recommendations in the surgical Management of Diverticulitis" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Chani Taggart, DO**, "Perioperative Cardiac risk assessment and optimization" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Raelene Zospah, MD**, "Chest Trauma" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Mallory Yelenich-Huss, MD**, "Positive Biopsy: Now What?" – North Dakota Society of Radiological Technologist

**Erin Follman, MD**, "Case Report: Pheochromocytoma in the Setting of Coronary Artery Disease" – UND Frank Low Research Day



**Raelene Zospah, MD**, "Injury Types, Severity, and Outcomes among American Indian and Alaska Native Pediatric Trauma Injury Patients in the Central Midwest United States" – UND Frank Low Research Day

**Brian Johnson, MD**, "Opioid Prescription Habits for Common General Surgery Procedures in North Dakota" – American College of Surgeons, ND/SD Chapter Meeting

**Karen Luk, MD**, "A time to live, a time to die: A retrospective review of patients with Terminal Disease" – American College of Surgeons, ND/SD Chapter Meeting

**Robert Steininger, MD**, "Survivability and Outcomes Associated with Locally Advanced Distal Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Following Neoadjuvant Chemoradiation and Surgical Resection: Is Surgical Resection Necessary?" – American College of Surgeons, ND/SD Chapter Meeting

**Matthew Cziep, MD**, "Prehab: Can pre-operative diet and exercise improve outcomes?" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Dustin Nowotny, MD**, "Conquering the Mountain of Student Loan Debt" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Lucas Holkup, MD**, "Understanding Bowel Prep: In Support of a Progressive Movement" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Erin Follman, MD**, "Sepsis in the Postoperative Patient" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Matthew Heberer, MD**, "Management of Barrett's Esophagus"

**Reid Bartholomew, MD**, "Direct Peritoneal Resuscitation Vs. Negative Pressure Therapy in the Open Abdomen Following Non-traumatic Emergency Surgery A Randomized Controlled Trial" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds

**Eric Curto, MD**, "Colonoscopies and Anatomical Considerations of Iatrogenic Perforation" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Joclyn Seiler, MD**, "A Brief History of Opioid Analgesia and the Opioid Epidemic - Alternative Options for Post-operative pain control" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**David Velez, MD**, "Anastomotic rupture associated with Clostridium difficile enteritis: a case report and literature review" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Matthew Zweerink, MD**, "Incidental Finding of Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor During Laparoscopic Appendectomy" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Erin Follman, MD**, "Sepsis induced immune dysfunction: Store operated calcium entry channel TRPC1 controls M1-inflammatory macrophage phenotype" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Max Hansen, MD**, "Ground Level Falls: A Headache to Fix" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Dustin Nowotny, MD**, "Acute small bowel obstruction caused by ingested chicken bones" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Chani Taggart, DO**, "Performance Evaluation: Incidence of Complications Occurring During Treatment of Rib Fractures in Elderly Patients at Sanford Medical Center Fargo" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Tyler Van De Voort, MD**, "Immune Regulatory Mechanisms in Patients with Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome Neutrophil Extracellular Trap Formation in SIRS" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Mallory Yelenich-Huss, MD**, "Re-Excision Rates After SSO-ASTRO Guideline Changes – Invasive Cancers and a Look at DCIS" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Matthew Heberer, MD**, "Thyroid Ultrasound Elastography" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Seye Adekeye, MD, PhD**, "Rectal Cancer Locoregional Staging: Endorectal Ultrasound Compared to High Resolution Pelvic Magnetic Resonance Imaging" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Angela Kaza, MD**, "The Effects of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy on Moderately Resectable Pancreatic Cancer" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Robert Steininger, MD**, "Esophageal Adenocarcinoma Outcomes Following Neoadjuvant Therapy & Surgical Resection: A North Dakota/South Dakota Case Series" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Cecilia Benz, MD**, "Age or Comorbidities: Which is a Bigger Factor in Predicting Complications After Rib Fixation?" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Michael Dixon, MD**, "Pediatric Trauma System Evaluation Before and After Level 2 Verification at Sanford Medical Center Fargo" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Dustin Evans, MD**, "Immune Regulatory Mechanisms in Patients with Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS): A Translational Study" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Lucas Holkup, MD**, "Impact of Early Versus Late Palliative Care Consultation on Disposition in a Trauma Population-A Performance Improvement Analysis" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Patrick Lamb, MD**, "Quality Improvement in Private Practice" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Matthew Cziep, MD**, "Gastric Volvulus: Outcomes and Treatment at a Community Referral Center" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Cody Pratt, MD**, "Atrial Myxoma and Abdominal Aortic Occlusion" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Elleson Schurtz, MD**, "Crohn's Disease of the Gallbladder" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Brian Johnson, MD**, "Opioid Prescription Habits of General Surgeons Following Common Procedures" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Lukas Mueller, MD**, "Parathyroid Adenomas: Determining Imaging Sensitivity & Necessity of Bilateral Exploration" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

**Karen Luk, MD**, "A Time to Live, A Time to Die: A Retrospective Review of Patients with Terminal Disease" – UND Surgical Resident Research Colloquium

### Research Award

**Brian Johnson, MD** - UND Graduate Medical Education Research Award

### Faculty Presentations

**Mary Aaland, MD**, "Rural Surgery in the 21st Century" – UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences

**Mary Aaland, MD**, "Rural Surgery in the 21st Century" – Grand Rounds Medical College of Wisconsin, Department of Surgery



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