

Departmental Newsletter Fall 2022

Greetings from the Department of Surgery! After a few year's hiatus, we would like to reintroduce the Department of Surgery newsletter in the hope of engaging our surgical alumni and reconnecting you with the Department. Graduates of the UND Department of Surgery are our "raison d'être" and are a vital of the department and it's my hope that this newsletter is one way to strengthen our connections. At a minimum, we hope that you will find this newsletter informative and enjoyable. We want this newsletter to be a vehicle for two-way communications also, so if you have news to share (job news, family news, Nobel prizes, or the best vacation of your life) please let us know.

We are well into our new year and the interns are settling in fantastically well. **Audra King, Nicole Lee, Valerie Pendleton, Lily Tam, and Jackson Walsh** are our categorical interns and **Iktesh Chahal, Kirsten Hager, and McKayla Wieczorek** are our preliminary interns. It is a very talented group, and you will be hearing more about them in the years ahead. Also, the Department now has a one year research fellowship available for a surgery resident after their PGY2 year. This year's fellow is **Hunter Row**, and he will be assimilated back into the program next summer. To fill his position this year, we have welcomed **Tadiwa Kusema** into the program.

One of the pleasures of being a faculty member is watching residents develop and grow as surgeons. We miss our newest alumni, last year's Chiefs, yet the new Chiefs (**Reid Bartholomew, Eric Curto, Jocelyn Seiler, David Velez, and Matthew Zweerink**) have stepped into their roles without a hitch. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate our departed Chiefs on their new positions. **Erin Follman** is a Fellow in Endocrine Surgery at Duke University, **Max Hanson** is practicing in Rexburg Idaho, **Dustin Nowotny** is practicing at Essentia in Fargo and is a new faculty member teaching our residents, while **Chani Taggart** and **Tyler Van de Voort** are Fellows in Surgical Critical Care at Creighton University, AZ and University of Louisville, KY respectfully. From a family perspective, **Conor and Stacy Roche** welcomed their son **Rowan** into the world on July 31, 2022!

It is also a pleasure to report that **David Velez** was recently selected to receive the 2022 David C. Leach Award from the ACGME for his efforts in graduate medical education. David's website and award will be recognized at the ACGME 2023 Annual Educational Conference in Nashville. This is a prestigious award and we are very proud of him!

This past year in Fargo we welcomed **Dr. Daniel Dent**, Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Education at the University of Texas San Antonio and Chair of the American Board of Surgery Certifying Committee for a Grand Rounds and extraordinary two day event. **Dr. Clifford Ko** from the UCLA Department of Surgery was a special guest and did an outstanding job at the colloquium at graduation last

year. Additional national speakers are scheduled in 2023 that we will communicate about further- if possible, please join us for these special events.

As another means of strengthening the ties between alumni and the Department, we are very pleased to announce the creation of the **Robert P. Sticca UND Department of Surgery Alumni Society**. All graduating members of the UND Department of Surgery program are eligible for membership. **Jay Macgregor** and **Robert Sticca** have graciously agreed to lead this alumni society. We are planning an annual meeting with the inaugural event in the Fall of 2023 in Fargo, with an alumni speaker, case presentations, golf outing, and social events. More to come, but a Fall alumni weekend has the potential to be a highlight of the calendar. Additional activities (such as yearly reception at the American College of Surgeons annual meeting) are being developed as well. Knowing our alumni, I know this will be lots of fun.

Please let us know what we can do as a department to keep our connections strong. The faculty want to know what our alumni are doing, and we want you to know how we are doing. And perhaps most importantly, the current residents gain a tremendous amount of knowledge and support interacting with alumni.

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