

SURGERY NEWS

Spring 2019

Department Chair's Message

In July 2017, the new Sanford Medical Center in Fargo (SMCF) first opened its doors. The capabilities of the new facility were multiple, but one of its key functions was to serve as the acute care center for the Sanford Health System in Fargo. To this end, all of the emergency facilities for Sanford were relocated in SMCF, including an expanded, state-of-the-art emergency department. A simultaneous goal at Sanford was to achieve the designation of a Level 1 trauma center. This designation, granted by the American College of Surgeons, indicates that the highest level of trauma care is available at the facility. After much work and a rigorous approval process this designation was achieved in the fall of 2018. The UND General Surgery residency program has been an integral part of this process and continues to support and participate in the Level 1 trauma program at SMCF. The trauma program has allowed our residents to get excellent training in the initial assessment and management of acute trauma patients, which is vital to the training of all general surgeons. Together with the trauma training that residents acquire in our other participating institutions (Altru Health System in Grand Forks, Trinity Health System in Minot, Essentia Health System in Fargo, and several rural community hospitals across the state), the general surgery residents acquire a high level of proficiency in managing acute trauma, which complements their capabilities as general surgeons. The addition of a Level 1 trauma program to our department has improved and benefited our teaching of both general surgery residents as well as our medical students.



Department activities from July to December included a busy interview season for the general surgery residency program, during which time we interviewed over 70 applicants for our five categorical positions. There are many exciting new initiatives going on in the medical school, including the planning for a new curriculum for the medical students as well as an increased emphasis on research collaborations throughout the state. We have added several new faculty members and continue to build and recruit for the surgical educational programs in our state. Please let us know if there are any news items, either professional or personal, that you would like disseminated in *Surgery News*.

Best Regards,

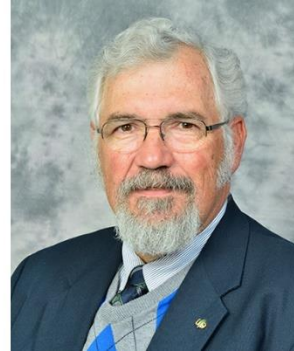
Robert P. Sticca, MD, FACS
Professor and Chairman, Program Director
Department of Surgery
UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences



Dr. Robert Sticca (right) recently attended a Boss Appreciation Luncheon at the North Dakota Air National Guard along with the Department of Surgery Administrative Officer, Paul Dosch, pictured here in front of an Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Employers were given a base tour, and received briefings and demonstrations of the mission of the ND National Guard. Dosch, a traditional guardsman, is the 119th Wing Force Support Commander.

Faculty News

Booth Awarded NDMA 2018 Physician Community and Professional Services Award



Michael Booth, MD, cardiovascular surgeon and associate dean of the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Southwest Campus in Bismarck, is this year's recipient of the North Dakota Medical Association's Physician

Community and Professional Services Award. The award is recognized as North Dakota's most prestigious physician award and since its inception in 1977, has been awarded to forty-five distinguished physicians across the state.

Dr. Booth practices cardiothoracic surgery at CHI-St. Alexius and Sanford Health in Bismarck, N.D. He serves on many committees in those capacities, including Laser Safety, Critical Care Committee, Credentials Committee, Operating Room Committee, Department of Surgery, and the Medical Executive Committee at CHI. At UND, he serves on the Clinical Sciences Curriculum Subcommittee; the Medical Curriculum Committee (ex-officio); Campus Dean's Committee; the UND Center for Family Medicine Advisory Committee; the Search committee, Dean of Medicine, 2015; the Search committee, Chairman of Internal Medicine, 2015-16; and the Committee on Promotion and Tenure (Chair) for the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Booth is a faithful participant in organized medicine, being a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American College of Surgeons (Fellow), American College of Cardiology (Fellow), American College of Chest Physicians (Fellow), American Medical Association, Association for Surgical Education, Society of Endovascular Specialists, Heart Rhythm Society, and the North Dakota Medical Association.

Dr. Booth has an outstanding record of community service, apart from his specific identification as a physician, that reflects well on the profession of medicine. He has served the Bismarck community for decades, including his service on the Board of Directors of the Missouri Valley Historical Society from 1996 to now, and his service to the Boy Scouts from 2000-2010. Through his service to the Missouri Valley Historical Society, Dr. Booth was instrumental in enriching Buck Stop junction and preserving the history of the Missouri River Valley and the surrounding area.

Welcome New Faculty!

Welcome to all new faculty serving the UND Department of Surgery! Left-to-right in the top row are [Daniel Persinger, MD](#), Clinical Instructor; [Karel deLeeuw, MD, DDS](#), Associate Professor; and Peter Papapetrou, MD, Clinical Instructor. Left-to-right in the bottom row are [Jimmy Chim, MD](#), Clinical Instructor; [Tuan Bui, MD, DMD, FACS](#), Assistant Professor; and [Melanie Brumwell, MD](#), Assistant Professor.



Surgery Faculty Service Awards

The following volunteer faculty with the Department of Surgery were recently honored with years of service awards:

Five Years of Service

- Warren Albrecht, DO
- Andrew Bakken, MD
- Erik Fetner, MD
- Joshua Gebur, MD
- Jeffrey Keim, MD
- Gary Kubalak, MD
- Adib Moussa, MD
- Tochukwu Onuora, MD
- Todd Reil, MD
- Lesley Soine, MD
- Thomas Wambach, MD

10 Years of Service

- Nathaniel Reuter, MD

20 Years of Service

- Timothy Mahoney, MD

Congratulations, everyone! Thanks also for your continuing service to UND and the State of North Dakota.

Odds and Ends

Mary Aaland, MD, associate professor in UND's Department of Surgery (top-left), was part of a recent effort to bring surgical services back to Tioga Medical Center in Tioga, N.D. The new program brings surgical services to the western North Dakota community for the first time in 20 years. Read more about Tioga, Dr. Aaland, and Department of Surgery Chair, Dr. Robert Sticca, here: <https://www.journaltrib.com/articles/homepage-slider/surgical-services-return-to-tioga-under-new-program/>.



Cody Pratt, MD, PG-V surgery resident (top-middle), was the first surgery resident in North Dakota to perform robotic surgery at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks. UND's Department of Surgery began a robotic curriculum in July 2018.

Benjamin Noonan, MD, clinical faculty through Sanford Health (top-right), was recognized by first- and second-year medical students with an Outstanding Instructor Award for medical curriculum blocks two and six for academic year 2018-19.

Robert Sticca named the president of Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society



Robert Sticca, MD, FACS, chair of the UND Department of Surgery, was named President of the Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society (NPRSS) at the January 2019 annual meeting. The NPRSS is the only surgical society in the United States dedicated to supporting and promoting surgical education for the unique challenges of surgical care in rural settings. The UND Department of Surgery has a long history as a leader in training, continuing education, and support of rural surgeons and was a founding member of the NPRSS. The Northern Plains Rural Surgical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to supporting and promoting surgical education, and maintenance of that education, to surgeons across Northern Plains states. Dr. Sticca's terms expires in January 2021. For more information, visit: www.northernplainsrss.com/.

Faculty Scholarship

Several faculty with the UND Department of Surgery published papers and/or gave presentations since our most recent newsletter, including:

Publications

- Johnson, B., & **Basson, M.** (2018). Absence of Complications after Endoscopic Mucosal Biopsy. *Digestive Diseases* (Basel, Switzerland), 36(4), 328-332.
- **Dyke, C.**, Benz, C., Taggart, C., Klug, M., & **Basson, M.** (2019). Systolic and Diastolic Blood Pressure Variability as Risk Factors for Adverse Events After Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting. *JAMA Surgery*, 154(1), 92-94.

New Staff

Angie Flesberg has joined the Department of Surgery as the Faculty and Conference Coordinator. Angie came to UND from the NDSU Career Center. Angie and her family farm north of Harwood, N.D. Angie is located in Fargo at the SE campus. She can be reached at 701.293.4151 or angie.flesberg@und.edu.



Resident News

Resident Scholarship

Several resident members of the UND Department of Surgery published papers and gave presentations since our most recent newsletter, including:

Publications

- **Johnson, B.**, & Basson, M. (2018). Absence of Complications after Endoscopic Mucosal Biopsy. *Digestive Diseases* (Basel, Switzerland), 36(4), 328-332.
- Dyke, C., **Benz, C.**, **Taggart, C.**, Klug, M., & Basson, M. (2019). Systolic and Diastolic Blood Pressure Variability as Risk Factors for Adverse Events After Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting. *JAMA Surgery*, 154(1), 92-94.

Presentations

- **Elleson Schurtz, MD (resident), Jensen, M (faculty)**, "Crisis in Open Operative Instruction: One Solution" – American Association of Clinical Anatomist
- **Elleson Schurtz, MD**, "Pregnancy, Parenthood and the Female Surgeon" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Brian Johnson, MD**, "Clostridium Difficile Infection: A review with discussion of newest treatment guidelines" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Cody Pratt, MD**, "Melanoma: Overview and Treatment" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Michael Dixon, MD**, "Current Surgical Treatment of Gastroesophageal Carcinoma" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Karen Luk, MD**, "The Aging Surgical Patient" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Raelene Zospah, MD**, "Management of Rectal Cancer" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Angela Kaza, MD**, "Updates in Wound Care: A Physicians guide" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Mallory Yelenich-Huss, MD**, "Ultrasound in Breast Disease" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Lucas Holkup, MD**, "Case Presentation Bleeding Arterio-Venous fistula" – North Dakota State Assembly for the Association of Surgical Technologists
- **Tyler Van De Voort, MD**, "A Review of Palliative Care in Modern Surgery" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Lukas Mueller, MD**, "A Review of Transplant Immunology, Immunosuppression Medications, and its Impact on the General Surgery Practice" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Cecelia Benz, MD**, "The Evolving Operative Management of Stage III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer" – UND Surgery Grand Rounds
- **Adeseye Adekeye, MD, PhD (resident), Sticca, R (faculty)**, "Rectal Cancer Local/Regional Staging: Endorectal Ultrasound Compared to High Resolution Pelvic MRI" – Southwest Surgical Congress
- **Elleson Schurtz, MD (resident), Traynor, M (faculty)**, "Crohn's Disease of the Gallbladder" – ACS Case Reviews
- **Cecelia Benz, MD (resident), Briggs, S (faculty)**, "Outcomes After Rib Fixation: Age Not A Factor?" – Chest Wall Injury Summit
- **Michael Dixon, MD (resident), Engum, S (faculty)**, "Pediatric Trauma System Evaluation Before and After Level 2 Verification at Sanford Medical Center Fargo" – Southeast Surgical Congress
- **Max Hansen, MD, Larkins, M (faculty), Szlabick, R (faculty)**, "All the King's Horses and All the King's Men" – Southwestern Surgical Congress

- **Lukas Mueller, MD (resident), Cecelia Benz, MD (resident)**, "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
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Medical Student News

Survey Results: AAMC medical school graduation questionnaire

The UND Department of Surgery is pleased to report the results from the July 2018 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Medical School Graduation Questionnaire pertaining to the department:



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

- For the statement: "Rate the quality of your educational experiences in surgical clerkships," the national average for students marking "Good" or "Excellent" was 81.8. UND's score was 87.1.
- For the statement: "Surgery faculty provided effective teaching during the clerkship," the national average for students marking "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" was 74.7. UND's score was again 87.1.
- For the statement: "Surgery residents provided effective teaching during the clerkship," the national average for students marking "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" was 78.7. UND's score was 83.7.

Well-done academic and clinical faculty, and residents. Thanks for your efforts to help the UND Department of Surgery rate much higher than the national average on these measures as recorded by the AAMC.