



# Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society

*Giving Back to the Program that Trained YOU!*

## Highlights

**Happy Holidays from  
UNM Orthopaedics**

**Annual Giving**

**Resident Position on  
Delivery System  
Reform**

**Sports Medicine  
Faculty Mentor  
Medical Student and  
Receive Vernon Nickels  
Award for Research**

**46th Annual  
Carrie Tingley Hospital  
Winter Conference**



Greetings from Albuquerque and SOAS. As 2015 winds down and 2016 rolls in, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to SOAS this year. Your support went towards the purchase of resident supplies, funding the Joel Lubin Professorship which focuses on mindfulness and stress management, and sponsoring resident conference attendance. These contributions are invaluable in filling

the void in resident education funding created by the withdrawal of industry support. We are striving to build an endowment that will fund resident support and the support of alumni in times of crisis for years to come. While we have made strides in reaching that goal we are far from making that goal a reality. I encourage all former UNM Orthopaedic Residents to financially support the program that believed in your potential by joining and contributing to SOAS.

While financial support towards resident education is a key goal, SOAS is far more than a fund raising vehicle. SOAS is a network of support and a community of orthopaedic surgeons with a common heritage. 2015 put our orthopaedic "family" to the test both at UNM and in outside communities. The Orthopaedic Staff at UNM has shown its resiliency this year flourishing despite the painful loss of colleagues and health challenges. Our alumni outside the university including my former chief continue to fight back from serious injury and unexpected life changes. We are stronger collectively as we face whatever challenges the changing practice climate or stress of orthopaedic practice throws our way. SOAS provides an opportunity for your alumni association to meet these challenges and I look forward to hearing from our members in 2016 with ideas on how we can further serve our community.

On that note, I would like to officially invite all of you to our annual SOAS Alumni Reception on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida during this year's AAOS annual meeting. There we can all look forward to reconnecting with former residents, meet the current crop of future orthopaedic superstars, and discuss how SOAS can further serve our alumni. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and have a happy new year.

John Franco, MD  
Class of 2003  
SOAS President

## Happy Holidays from UNM Orthopaedics



Robert Schenck Jr., MD

### Holiday message from the Chair:

I would like to send our warmest wishes of health and happiness during this holiday season. The Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation continues to grow with phenomenal students, staff, residents, fellows, mid-levels, and faculty.

We recently celebrated the season with a wonderful gathering at the Krinsky/Benson home on Sunday, December 13th. My warmest thanks to Eric and Clarissa for hosting this event. It was great seeing colleagues in a beautiful family setting.

We have much to be grateful for in the department, and I want to thank everyone in Orthopaedics and, institutionally, for all of their support throughout the year.

Best wishes for the season with safe travels and time for relaxation with my (our) appreciation for the many positives in our lives.

Bob & Trish Schenck



*In-Kind Donations to All Faiths Receiving collected at UNM Orthopaedics 2015 holiday party will benefit families in crisis.*

*All Faith's Receiving*



We want to send a huge thank you to UNM Department of Orthopedics

# SUPPORT THE PROGRAM THAT TRAINED YOU!

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The Sandia Orthopaedics Alumni Society was formed in 2007 as a way to enhance the educational experience of current residents and fellows in orthopaedic surgery training at UNM, highlight alumni successes and create opportunities for networking.

We sincerely need your assistance so we may continue to provide:

- ◆ Support to our residents by purchasing their lab coats, providing necessary technology, sponsoring cadaveric labs as well as educational travel expenses, part I of board exams and the opportunity to present their research.
  - ◆ Host our annual reception at AAOS as well as the Joel Lubin Visiting Lectureship each spring.
  - ◆ Publish our quarterly newsletter.
  - ◆ Underwrite the *University of New Mexico Orthopaedics Research Journal*. A peer-reviewed journal that highlights the research done in orthopaedics by physicians associated with the UNM program.
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There are many ways to make a gift to Sandia Orthopaedics Alumni Society. Please know your gift will make a sincere difference! We invite you to consider one of the following payment options:

- BY CREDIT CARD      Please visit [www.unmfund.org/SOAS/](http://www.unmfund.org/SOAS/)
- BY PHONE      Please contact **Ryan Wood at 505.272.4107 or Megan Dugan at 505.328.6529**
- BY CHECK      Please complete the form beneath
  - \$250    \$500    \$1,000    Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - I would like to commit to the Sandia Circle, \$5,000 per year for five years totaling \$25,000.

\*Please note that multi year pledges and monthly giving can be arranged by contacting Ryan or Megan at the contact information referenced below. Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to "The UNM Foundation" and note "SOAS, allocation #202097" on the memo line and send to:**

Megan Dugan, Director of Development

UNM Foundation | UNM School of Medicine

700 Lomas Blvd., NE, Two Woodward Place - Suite 108

Albuquerque, NM 87102

**If you have questions please contact Ryan Wood at [RWood03@salud.unm.edu](mailto:RWood03@salud.unm.edu) or 505.272.4107,**

**or Megan Dugan at [Megan.Dugan@unmfund.org](mailto:Megan.Dugan@unmfund.org) or 505.328.6529.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT!**

## Left Behind: Why Excluding Residents from Delivery System Reform Hurts Us All

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Several weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on a new mandatory payment model for joint replacement. I was the only resident physician among the more than 70 health professionals at the meeting. What I learned is that for most trainees in medical school and residency, little time is spent understanding the nuances of health care finance or practice management.

At some point, we will all start our own practices, and the clinical decisions we make will have direct financial impact on our patients, our practice, and ourselves. Many of us are prepared to survive in a system utilizing fee-for-service reimbursement models that we have experienced in training. However, the world of health care finance is changing. With increasing pressures to control cost, payers are responding by developing new models of reimbursement. With an aging population, Medicare is seeing an ever-increasing cost burden and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking ways to control costs while continuing to provide essential patient services. This necessitates creative new reimbursement models that promote cost control and consistent, quality patient care. The Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model (CCJR) is one such example that has been proposed by CMS. CCJR is centered on a bundled payment to a hospital for a total joint replacement and the subsequent 90 days of care with the goal of incentivizing hospitals and physicians to control cost and improve perioperative care. Such a model shifts risk from the payer (CMS) to the providers of care.

As medical students and residents, the majority of our training is spent obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively treat patients in our chosen specialty. Little, if any, time is spent on learning about practice management, or reimbursement models, and how they impact the care we spend so much time learning how to deliver. This is an unfortunate shortcoming of our current medical education. We should be demanding that our faculty and trainees gain knowledge of these emerging models that are directly influencing our practices.

The CCJR model provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the downstream consequences of payment models for our health systems. In a fee-based reimbursement model, volume is incentivized and implant cost, physician fees, hospital stay, rehabilitation, and other medical services are all billed on an individual basis. In a bundled repayment model where 90-day episode costs

must be accounted for, attention must be paid to a wider variety of cost control and quality of care measures as the surgeon and hospital assume much higher risk. The bundled payment reconciles historical baseline costs with actual costs, and health systems must either pay CMS excess episode costs or may generate savings if they more efficiently delivered care. In the bundled payment world, more extensive collaborative care with anesthesiologists and primary care providers can better optimize preoperative medical care. Postoperative rehabilitation and medical care may need to be focused on better preparing patients for a discharge home. More intensive postoperative care plans may need to be implemented for patients to minimize their postoperative medical or surgical complications. Access to more extensive home health care resources may need to be developed. Graduating resident orthopaedic surgeons planning to perform total hip and total knee replacements could be ill-prepared to develop a sustainable practice without a sound understanding of this emerging model. This is but a single example in a single specialty. Every medical specialty will see changes in their practices as payers develop new reimbursement models.

Educating residents and students on upcoming changes to payment models is in the direct interest of practicing physicians in academic practices as well. Resident physicians and medical students help deliver medical care in the operating room and on call every day throughout the country. It is vital for resident physicians to have the skills and knowledge necessary to provide excellent and cost-effective patient care. Our knowledge of historical and emerging reimbursement models will allow us to be more proactive and influential in the evolution of these systems. In addition, being aware of the influence of reimbursement models on our ability to provide effective, appropriate patient care allows us to be better prepared to advocate for our patients and our practices.

There is little doubt that physicians must play an active role in reducing health care costs and improving patient care, and we must become engaged early in our medical education. We must be able to influence, instead of react to, the ever-changing environment of our health care system.

**Michael Decker, MD**  
**4th Year UNM Orthopaedic Resident**

## SPORTS MEDICINE FACULTY MENTOR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT

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### *Collaborative Research on Knee Pain Results*

#### *in Research Award and Paper Presentation in France*



Lauren Eberly, MD

A University of New Mexico School of Medicine alumna who collaborated on a knee pain study during 2013-14 with two UNM Orthopaedics faculty members and a former Chief Resident has earned the 2015 *Vernon L. Nickel Award* for excellence in research from the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Association (ORA). Lauren Eberly, who graduated from UNM this spring, was recently notified by the ORA of the award following her submission of a research paper she served as the primary author of titled *Psychological and Demographic Factors Influencing Pain Scores with Knee Osteoarthritis*.

“The award is such a huge honor and definitely was earned from a team effort,” says Eberly, who lauds the paper’s following five UNM co-authors for being “nothing but supportive” of her research: Dr. Robert Schenck, Orthopaedics Professor and Chair; Dr. Daniel Wascher, Orthopaedics Professor and Assistant Team Physician of UNM Lobos; and Dr. Dustin Richter, 2015 Orthopaedics Residency Program graduate and current Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellow at the University of Virginia School of Medicine; Dr. George Comerchi, General Internal Medicine Professor; and Dr. Gary Mlady, Associate Professor and Chair of Musculoskeletal Radiology.

The award-winning paper gained both national and international recognition from Eberly’s presentation of it at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons in Dallas, Texas and at the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine’s 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress this past June in Lyon, France. It reports on a year-long pain study which involved an ethnically diverse group of 355 patients with knee osteoarthritis, results from which “suggest that psychological and sociodemographic factors may be important determinants of pain levels” as noted by the patients.

“Our study was the first one to look at a large number of psychosocial and sociodemographic factors of pain,” says Eberly. “Hopefully this is just the first of many studies of this kind,” adds Eberly, who now participates in Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s Internal Medicine Residency Program in Boston but hopes to one day return to her home state of New Mexico to practice medicine.

“Lauren was the perfect student to partner with on this ground-breaking study,” says Schenck. “She has past experience providing health services in rural communities of Central America and served as a senior mentor while at UNM to better understand our growing geriatric population.”

A presentation of the research paper took place in October at the ORA’s Annual Meeting Carlsbad, California. Eberly’s award was accepted there on her behalf by UNM School of Medicine student Justin Ocksider, a former research colleague, while Eberly continues her studies back east.



Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation  
 MSC 10 5600  
 1 University of New Mexico  
 Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001



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 & REHABILITATION

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**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Carrie Tingley Hospital Winter Conference**

**Pediatric Orthopaedic Spine Disorders**

**Featuring Paul D. Sponseller, MD**  
**Division Head of Pediatric Orthopaedics**  
**Johns Hopkins Hospital Baltimore, MD**

For more information, contact the  
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 or Fax: (505) 272-8604 or Website:  
<http://som.unm.edu/cme>.

UNM Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education  
 Albuquerque, NM  
 January 22, 2016

**Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership**

Join the Sandia Circle today by committing a pledge of \$25,000 over 5 years (\$416/month) to help current UNM Orthopaedic residents with financial burdens and better their experience in the same program that trained you.

Deana Mercer ♦ Sanagaram Shantharam ♦ Brian Robinson ♦ Jean Smith ♦ Jennifer FitzPatrick ♦ Robert Schenck, Jr. ♦ John Franco ♦ Kevin McGee ♦ Thomas Ferro ♦ Joseph Newcomer ♦ Gailton Treme ♦ John Veitch

For more information, or to join, please contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or [rwood03@saiud.unm.edu](mailto:rwood03@saiud.unm.edu).