Dear friends and colleagues,

I hope that winter has treated you well and that your summers are filled with enjoyment for you and your families. As spring winds down, it brings with it the completion of training for another great group of orthopaedic residents here at The University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. Please join me in congratulating Drs. Luke Bulthuis, Michael “Mischa” Hopson, Judd Fitzgerald, Heather Menzer, and Reilly Kuehn on successfully navigating the last 5 years, and welcome them into our group as alumni of our program. It has been a real pleasure for all of us at the university to witness their growth and maturation during the past five years. I am honored to call them graduates, and I hope that each one will remain active in our program through involvement in the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS).

As is always the case, saying goodbye to a group of residents is coupled with welcoming a new class of interns. Amber Price (Creighton University), Matthew Wharton (University of Arizona), Jory Wasserburger (University of Washington), Scott Plaster (University of Oklahoma), and Jordan Polander (LSU Shreveport) will be joining us this summer to embark on journeys of orthopaedic residency. We are thrilled to have them here at UNM and know that each will carry on our tradition of excellence in training the future generations of orthopaedic surgeons.

We recently completed another lecture series of the Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship. Many thanks to SOAS for financially supporting the endeavor and Dr. Jonathan Bolton for educating us all on stress management during the perioperative period of working as a surgeon. A round-table discussion with Drs. John Franco, Judd Fitzgerald, Mischa Hopson, David Chafey, Antony Kallur, and Christopher Hanosh provided great insight in handling the difficulties that we all face when operatively treating patients. Furthermore, Dr. Brian Blackwood took time out of his practice to return to UNM and discuss innovative techniques used in knee replacement procedures.

SOAS continues to financially support our residents in education, travel-related necessities for interviews, visiting professorships, and team-building exercises, and all of us in the program are greatly appreciative. In a time of limited external-funding sources, we are grateful to have a group like this to turn to in advancing our program. Thank you to each individual who has contributed to SOAS and especially to those who joined the Sandia Circle and made support of SOAS a priority. We hope to expand this circle further and welcome anyone interested to discuss donation options.

As the seasons change and we bid farewell to the graduating class and greet the incoming interns, it is important to note that an end of one phase in life only means the beginning of another. Luke, Mischa, Judd, Heather, and Reilly—best of luck to you and your family for the rest of this year, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Gehron Treme, MD
UNM Orthopaedics Residency Director
SOAS Vice President
Dr. Paul Echols Named Chief Medical Officer at SRMC

Paul G. Echols, MD, has been named chief medical officer for UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) in Rio Rancho, the UNM Health Sciences Center announced Thursday. Echols, a longtime UNM orthopedic surgeon, comes to the role with more than 40 years of physician experience, according to Jamie Silva-Steele, SRMC president and CEO.

"In addition to his work within the UNM Health System, Echols has extensive clinical and administrative experience in venues including the Albuquerque Veterans Administration Medical Center, as well as military facilities and community hospitals," she said. "We are excited to have Dr. Echols join the UNM SRMC team."

Echols completed residency training in orthopaedic surgery at UNM in 1978, and he has been board-certified in orthopedic surgery since 1979. His career at UNM started in 1992 with the UNM Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. In 2005, he received an academic promotion to professor, and was vice chair of clinical services from 2006-2011. He arrived at UNM SRMC in June 2012 as the Orthopaedic Site Director, and served in that capacity until July 2015, retiring as professor emeritus during the same time.

He is a military veteran and served in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon and was an active duty staff orthopedic surgeon during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as Operation Noble Eagle/Operation Enduring Freedom. Echols retired from the USAF in 2003 at the rank of colonel.

UNM Orthopaedics Hosts 4th Annual Perry Initiative Workshop

Young women in high school and college interested in pursuing careers in medicine and engineering were invited to apply to participate in a one-day, hands-on workshop with the University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. The Perry Initiative Workshop was held Saturday, March 19, on UNM’s North Campus. Students heard from women leaders in the medical field and performed mock orthopaedic surgeries plus biomechanics experiments.

Participation is open to females in grades 10 and up with an expressed interest in science, medicine and/or engineering. A total of 40 participants were chosen for the program.

The Perry Initiative’s mission is to increase the numbers of women in orthopaedic surgery and engineering through running hands-on outreach programs across the country for women students in high school, college, and medical school. Women currently comprise just 12 percent of academic faculty in orthopaedics and 7 percent of practicing orthopaedists, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Only 14 percent of engineers are women according to a 2012 Congressional Joint Economic Committee report.

This year’s Perry Initiative Workshop, the fourth one offered by UNM Orthopaedics, is generously sponsored by Acumed with support from Summit Medical.
Incoming and Outgoing Residents

Chief Resident Class of 2016

Luke Bulthuis, MD
Hometown: Gallup, NM
Medical School: Duke University
Fellowship: Sports - Kaiser Permanente - Orange County, CA

Judd Fitzgerald, MD
Hometown: Delta, UT
Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin
Fellowship: Sports - Vanderbilt

Mischa Hopson, MD
Hometown: Los Alamos, NM
Medical School: University of New Mexico
Fellowship: Sports - Methodist Hospital - Houston, TX

Reilly Kuehn, MD
Hometown: Madison, WI
Medical School: University of Wisconsin
Fellowship: Trauma - University of California Davis

Heather Menzer, MD
Hometown: Silver City, NM
Medical School: University of New Mexico
Fellowship: Sports - University of Virginia

Intern Resident Class of 2021

Scott Plaster, MD
Hometown: Tulsa, OK
Medical School: University of Oklahoma

Jordan Polander, MD
Hometown: Shreveport, LA
Medical School: Louisiana State University Shreveport

Amber Price, MD
Hometown: Monte Vista, CO
Medical School: Creighton University

Jory Wasserburger, MD
Hometown: Gillette, WY
Medical School: University of Washington

Matthew Wharton, MD
Hometown: Mesa, AZ
Medical School: University of Arizona
## Incoming and Outgoing Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2016</th>
<th>Class of 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brandee Black, MD - Sports</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image1">Photo</a></td>
<td><strong>Erica Gauger, MD - Hand</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image2">Photo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School: Michigan State&lt;br&gt;Residency: University of Missouri Columbia&lt;br&gt;Practice: UNM SRMC - Rio Rancho, NM</td>
<td>Medical School: University of Minnesota&lt;br&gt;Residency: University of Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seth Criner, DO - Trauma</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image3">Photo</a></td>
<td><strong>Samir Kakish, MBBS - Trauma</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image4">Photo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School: University of California San Diego&lt;br&gt;Residency: Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center&lt;br&gt;Practice: Kaweah Delta Regional Medical Center - Visalia, CA</td>
<td>Medical School: Jordan University of Science and Technology&lt;br&gt;Residency: Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ray Jensen, DO - Sports</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image5">Photo</a></td>
<td><strong>Matthew Lilley, MD - Sports</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image6">Photo</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical School: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine&lt;br&gt;Residency: Des Peres Hospital&lt;br&gt;Practice: Spearfish Regional Health - Spearfish, SD</td>
<td>Medical School: University of Southern California&lt;br&gt;Residency: San Francisco Residency Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dustin Larson, MD - Hand</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image7">Photo</a></td>
<td><strong>Blake Obrock, DO - Sports</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image8">Photo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School: Oregon University&lt;br&gt;Residency: Oregon University&lt;br&gt;Practice: Center for Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research - Bend, OR</td>
<td>Medical School: Midwestern University&lt;br&gt;Residency: Good Samaritan Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>David Peterson, MD - Hand</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image9">Photo</a></td>
<td><strong>James Rose, MD - Hand</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="image10">Photo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School: University of Toledo&lt;br&gt;Residency: University of Toledo&lt;br&gt;Practice: Alpine Orthopaedics - Logan, UT</td>
<td>Medical School: University of Colorado&lt;br&gt;Residency: Louisiana State University New Orleans</td>
</tr>
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UNM orthopedics research team contributes to “Biodesign” class award

$25,000 prize to fund device aimed at improving pelvic fracture outcomes

A Biodesign course launched at the University of New Mexico this past fall has resulted in a $50,000 National Institutes of Health award aimed at translating university inventions into commercial products for medical practitioners. Administered by UNM’s Clinical & Translational Science Center, the award is being equally split between two Biodesign teams - one led by Christina Salas, PhD, an assistant professor in the UNM Orthopaedics Research Division who also serves as a faculty appointee in mechanical engineering.

During the 16-week class, each team was charged with developing an idea to solve a clinical problem identified after shadowing UNM trauma surgeon Thomas Howdieshell, MD, from initial emergency room treatments to surgical care in the operating room. Salas and her team brainstormed a device aimed at improving trauma surgery outcomes on pelvic fractures and presented it to a panel of judges late last year.

“Our Pelvic Ring Emergency Stabilizer System impressed the judges because it requires limited training to use and can stabilize the pelvis while allowing for full abdominal and groin access - all while being low-cost and disposable,” says Salas. Howdieshell also commended the team for its “profound insight” into a real clinical problem. “I believe its novel approach to pelvic compression will reduce pelvic bleeding,” he adds.

Salas’ team included Rachel Tufaro, a member of UNM’s Orthopaedics Biomechanics & Biomaterials Laboratory research team and master’s student in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering; Aneesha Kondapi, master’s student in electrical engineering, Center for High Technology Materials; and Sherif Aboubakr, PhD student in the Department of Civil Engineering’s Nanomaterials and Structural Health Monitoring Laboratory. The Biodesign course was instructed by Scott S. Sibbett, PhD, a research professor in the UNM Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.
Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation
MSC 10 5600
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

For more information, or to join, please contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or rwood03@salud.unm.edu.

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.

For more information call 505-272-3942 or visit orthopaedics.unm.edu.