



Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society

Giving Back to the Program that Trained YOU!

Highlights

**‘Biodesign’ Course
Teams UNM Faculty
and Physicians with
Engineering Students**

**UNM is a New METRC
Research Satellite Site**

**New Faculty: Additions
to Expand Pediatrics
and Develop ‘Toe and
Flow’ Program**

**Where are They Now:
Dean Smith**

**Incoming and
Outgoing Fellows**



Greetings from Albuquerque. This quarter’s SOAS newsletter marks the culmination of a career well spent in Orthopaedics.

Paul Echols, MD (class of 1978) has retired from the University of New Mexico Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation after 37 years serving both his country and the citizens of New Mexico as an orthopaedic surgeon. I first met Paul in 1998 during my intern year

at UNM where he had joined the staff after leaving private practice in South Central New Mexico. While I learned many tangible skills from Paul, it was the intangibles of his approach to Orthopaedics that really struck a cord with me. You see operating in a battlefield and as a solo practitioner seemed to impart an amazing sense of calm onto Paul that I desperately needed as a resident trying to survive in the chaos UNM Trauma ward deals with daily.

From Paul, I learned to be calm under pressure, to figure out what needs to be done and in what order, and to recognize when it was time to take a break and re-energize. These were important attributes to assimilate when taking call with Paul, who seemed to have the thickest black cloud of all!

Paul was a renaissance orthopaedist. When the department needed a hand surgeon, he was up for the task. When the department needed a capable spine surgeon, he morphed his skill set once again. Need of a Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Veterans Hospital? Paul answered the call.

It would be difficult to give more to UNM Orthopaedics, but Paul did. He joined Dean Smith in forming the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS) and created a foundation for financial support of resident education that helps keep the UNM Orthopaedic Residency program one of the top programs in the nation.

While few UNM Orthopaedic alumni can give back to the program in the countless ways Paul has, we can all do our part by financially supporting SOAS through a monthly, yearly, or lifetime financial contribution.

Paul, as one of your former residents, I extend heartfelt thanks for my time in the “trenches” with you and wish you a long and enjoyable retirement.

John C. Franco, MD
Class of 2003
SOAS President

UNM Faculty, Physicians and Students Team for New 'Biodesign' Course

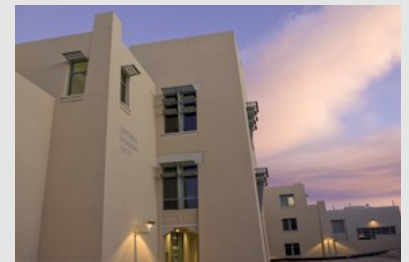


A new three-credit course at the University of New Mexico School of Engineering is giving two student teams the chance to shadow a trauma surgeon, identify clinical problems and brainstorm solutions that could lead to research funding of up to \$50,000, plus a patent application.

The course, Biodesign, uniquely pairs a practicing physician with engineering faculty members to guide student teams in crystalizing one idea - from lab prototype to clinical product - over the course of 16 weeks.

"This interdisciplinary class is targeted at students interested in engineering-based medical technologies," says Christina Salas, PhD, an assistant professor with the UNM Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation who also has a faculty appointment in mechanical engineering.

"It gives students an opportunity to make in-clinic observations of potential areas for improvement and apply what they've learned toward a solution," adds Salas, who serves as the School of Engineering's faculty lead for the course, along with Sang M. Han, PhD, professor of chemical and biological engineering and director of UNM's Nanoscience & Microsystems Program.



Biodesign is patterned after a popular biomedical innovation program at Stanford University, which engages students in taking a systematic approach to finding needs for, and later inventing and implementing, new biomedical technologies. "It's an awesome experience for participating students who gain mentorship from both Health Science Center and School of Engineering professors," says Salas.

This fall's Biodesign course focuses on trauma and critical care. It allows students to shadow UNM trauma surgeon Thomas Howdieshell, MD, from initial emergency room treatments to surgical care in the operating room. After identifying a key clinical practice problem and finalizing an idea to address it, each team will generate a proposal for subsequent research, development and prototyping of their work to present before a panel of judges on the last day of class. The winning team will then be invited to submit a full proposal to Health Sciences Center's Clinical and Translational Science Center for possible pilot funding.

UNM Orthopaedics Chosen as New Satellite Clinic for METRC

The Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation is proud to become a new satellite site for the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium (METRC). METRC is comprised of a network of clinical centers and one Data Coordinating Center that work together with the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct multi-center clinical research studies relevant to the treatment and outcomes of orthopaedic trauma sustained in military and civilian populations. METRC was established in September 2009 with funding from the Department of Defense (DoD) and its overall goal is to produce the evidence needed to establish treatment guidelines for the optimal care of wounded warriors and ultimately improve the clinical, functional and quality of life outcomes of both service members and civilians. Joining METRC is one step of many that the department is taking to enhance our research and to further collaborations across the country. Dr. Deana Mercer will be Principal Investigator for upcoming METRC studies.



UNM Orthopaedics Announces Two New Faculty Members

Additions to Expand UNM's Pediatric Orthopaedics Faculty and Develop 'Toe and Flow' Program

The University of New Mexico's Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation has successfully recruited two new faculty this summer: one specializing in pediatric orthopaedics to enhance services at both Carrie Tingley Hospital and UNM Children's Hospital; and a Podiatrist with diabetic limb salvage expertise to help launch the UNM Center for Healing in the Lower Extremity (UNM CHILE)—a 'toe and flow' program. Both physicians gained post-graduate training at the University of Arizona (UA).



David Michael Bennett, MD, joined UNM Orthopaedics in mid-August. Originally from Flagstaff, Arizona, Bennett is a graduate of Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC where he served as Vice President of Admissions for the Medical Student Council. He later completed an Orthopaedic Residency at UA—Tucson where he served as the Administrative Chief Resident. Earlier this year, he completed an ACGME-accredited Pediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship at the University of Utah and Shriners's Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City with an emphasis on pediatric spine, deformity and trauma. He resides in Albuquerque with his wife, Lisa, and their three children.



Eric J. Lew, DPM, came aboard with UNM Orthopaedics in early September after completing a Diabetic Limb Salvage and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at UA School of Medicine and with its Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance (SALSA) in Tucson. He is a graduate of Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in Iowa and completed a Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery Residency at Cleveland Clinic – Kaiser Permanente in Ohio. Lew will partner with UNM Vascular Surgery, UNM Orthopaedics and Diabetic Comprehensive Care Specialists in creating UNM CHILE which is aimed at reducing foot amputations due to diabetes complications. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife, Marianne, and their three children.

“Both of our new faculty members bring high levels of leadership and caring to UNM Orthopaedics,” says Department Chair and Professor Dr. Robert Schenck. He notes that Bennett has served hospitals in the Birmingham, Alabama area as a mission volunteer while Lew has helped further SALSA’s mission to advance diabetic foot care and prevent amputations as a clinical instructor. “We are fortunate to have them joining UNM Orthopaedics as dedicated practitioners and active researchers,” adds Schenck. Visit orthopaedics.unm.edu for more department information.

Where are They Now: Dean Smith, MD



Each quarter, we select an alumnus from the University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation to highlight in our Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS) newsletter's "Where Are They Now?" column. In this issue, we proudly spotlight **Dean W. Smith, MD, Class of 2000.**

Treating patients with hand injuries that range from arthritis and fractures to complex, upper extremity conditions involving tumors and nerve damage is all in a day's work for Dr. Dean Smith. And he wouldn't have it any other way. "It keeps my practice very interesting and stimulating," says Dean, who is a Hand Surgery Specialist and Orthopaedic Surgeon in Houston and sees patients from Southwestern United States

as well as other countries.

Indeed, Dean's professional reputation has earned him recognition as one of Houston's "Top Docs" in both *H Texas* and *Houstonia* magazines plus gained him the "Patient's Choice Award" from *Vitals.com* on multiple occasions. People who know Dean well would likely not flinch if they found his photo beside the term "over-achiever" in a dictionary. Examples of why include his graduating summa cum laude from the University of Missouri—School of Medicine after earning a Bachelor of Art in Education and Exercise Science from the University of Kentucky and holding membership two national honor societies: Alpha Omega Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi.

Dean is proud of the fellowship training he received in hand and upper extremity surgery at the University of Florida and especially values the Residency Program he graduated from at the University of New Mexico's Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. The latter experience inspired Dean to eventually found the UNM Orthopaedics' Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS) and serve as its president for the past eight years.

Besides overseeing his busy practice, Dean is a clinical instructor in hand and upper extremity at the University of Texas—Houston School of Medicine. He also consults with professional and collegiate athletes locally and abroad on sport-related hand conditions.

Outside of work, Dean and his wife, Kristina, stay actively involved at the school their 5-year-old twin sons attend and recently shared a fun, family vacation in Seattle with them. To wind down, Dean passionately pursues underwater photography while scuba diving and travels to exotic places like the Republic of Palau (part of the Western Pacific Ocean's Micronesia island group) to enjoy both hobbies.

Dean's time with UNM Orthopaedics recently motivated him to join the SOAS Sandia Circle. Members make a tax-free pledge of \$5,000 annually for five years to help sustain high-caliber education and research programs through UNM Orthopaedics.

Thank you, Dean, for your past SOAS presidency and continued support!



Saying “Hellos” & “Goodbyes” to Fellows

Incoming

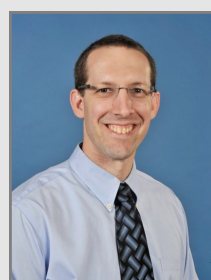


Brandee Black, MD - Sports

Undergraduate: University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI

Medical School: Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

Residency: University of Missouri - Columbia, MO

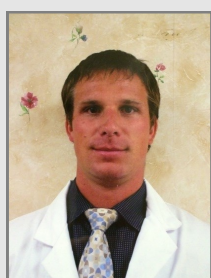


Seth Criner, MD - Trauma

Undergraduate: University of California - San Diego, CA

Medical School: Western University - Pomona, CA

Residency: Good Samaritan Medical Center - Corvallis, OR



Ray Jensen, MD - Sports

Undergraduate: Utah Valley University - Orem, UT

Medical School: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine - Kirksville, MO

Residency: Des Peres Hospital - St. Louis, MO



Dustin Larson, MD - Hand

Undergraduate: University of Washington - Seattle, WA

Medical School: Oregon Health Sciences University - Portland, OR

Residency: University of Oregon - Eugene, OR



David Peterson, MD - Hand

Undergraduate: University of Utah - Salt Lake City, UT

Medical School: University of Toledo - Toledo, OH

Residency: University of Toledo - Toledo, OH

Outgoing



Tamas Bardos, MD - Sports

Medical School: University of Pecs - Hungary

Residency: University of Pecs - Hungary

Practice: Emerson’s Treatment Centre - Bristol, UK



Blake Clifton, MD - Sports

Medical School: University of Vermont - Burlington, VT

Residency: Texas Tech University - Lubbock, TX

Practice: Alpine Orthopaedics - Gunnison, CO



Andrea Lese, MD - Hand

Medical School: Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Medical - Heidelberg, Germany

Residency: Yale University - New Haven, CT

Practice: University of West Virginia - Morgantown, WV



Ahmed Thabet, MD - Trauma

Medical School: Benha University - Egypt

Residency: Benha University - Egypt

Practice: Texas Tech University - Lubbock, TX



Norfleet Thompson, MD - Hand

Medical School: University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

Residency: University of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN

Practice: Campbell Clinic - Nashville, TN



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 & REHABILITATION

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In Memoriam: 6/5/1969 - 3/31/2012



out to the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society. However you choose, we hope you continue to support this momentous educational event in memory of Dr. Joel Lubin.

All monetary donations are 100% tax deductible. Make checks

Joel Lubin, MD, Class of 2001



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 Attn: Ryan Wood

If you have ideas for future programs, or would like to present at an upcoming Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship please email Ryan Wood at rwood03@salud.unm.edu. If you choose to support this event in way of gift, checks can be mailed to;

Call for Support for the 4th Annual Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship

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

Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership