Greetings from Albuquerque. On behalf of SOAS, I would like to wish our entire UNM Orthopaedic Alumni Family a happy holiday season. As we reach the end of 2016, it is time to reflect on another year of orthopaedic training at UNM. This year, the program sent five outstanding orthopaedic surgeons across the country to serve their respective communities: Luke Bulthius, Sports - Kaiser Permanente; Judd Fitzgerald, Sports - Vanderbilt; Mischa Hopson, Sports - Methodist Hospital Houston; Reilly Kuehn, Trauma - UC Davis; and Heather Menzer, Sports - University of Virginia. Like those of you who have gone before them, I am confident they will be extraordinarily successful and further the exceptional reputation of our program. Once again, SOAS played a significant role in fostering each of our residents education by providing loupes and lab coats to incoming residents, travel and expenses for educational conferences, books and study materials, Part I of board exam's fees, visiting professorships, and past and upcoming cadaveric training labs. Of course, the lion's share of the thanks goes to all of you who have paid it forward by donating to SOAS. For those of you who are considering joining SOAS through the Sandia Circle ($5,000/year for five years or $417/month for five years) or an annual monetary contribution, I encourage you to follow through. Industry support for residency has essentially dried up. Gone are the days when residents had to choose between industry-sponsored educational conferences at ski resorts across the Southwest. Industry support for loupes, research projects, or motor skills workshops no longer exists. SOAS has attempted to fill this financial void, but we need your support to continue.

The return on this investment comes in the form of potential practice partners. UNM alumni continue to return to the Land of Enchantment to serve our diverse population. Locally, the majority of orthopaedic surgeons currently on staff at The University of New Mexico, New Mexico Orthopaedics, and the Presbyterian Medical Group have ties to the UNM Orthopaedic Residency program. The same can be said for numerous practices throughout the state. SOAS is equally thankful for those who practice outside of the New Mexico borders. We see you roaming the sidelines on Saturday or Sunday, on the podium at national meetings, and spreading the positive perception of our program throughout communities across the nation.

I hope 2017 finds you and your family safe, healthy, and prosperous. Best wishes in the new year.

Sincerely,

John C. Franco, MD
Class of 2003
Twenty Years Ago at the UNM Orthopaedic Alumni Conference

1996 alumni speakers included Brian Robinson (‘98), Jeff Garst (hand fellow ‘94), Greg Voit (hand ‘96), Chuck Pribyl (hand ‘89), Louis Murdock (hand ‘96), Robert Lee (‘95), Gregg Hartman (‘97), Jeremy Becker (‘97), Cathleen VanBuskirk (‘99), Dwight Burney (‘80), and Mike Willis (‘00).

Guest speakers included W. Dilworth Cannon Jr. from UCSF and Keith Markolf, PhD, from UCLA. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Travelling Fellows (ASEAN) were also present and are pictured to the right with a young Richard Miller (‘90).

1997 alumni speakers included Joe Newcomer (‘98), Dan Downey (‘92), Ali Motamedi (‘98), Matt McKinley (‘98), Bill Paton (‘77), Brian Robinson (‘98), Gregg Hartman (‘97), Paul Echols (‘78), Sergio Ilic (‘77), Jimmy Slauterbeck (‘93), Ray Reyna (‘83), Mike McGuire (‘95), Chuck Pribyl (hand ‘89), Ron Ford (hand ‘97), Dominic Gross (hand ‘97)

Guest speakers included Daniel Benson, MD, from UC Davis, and Thomas Kristiansen, MD, from the University of Vermont

We hope to see you at the 36th Annual Orthopaedic Alumni Conference, slated for June 2, 2017 at the UNM Domenici Center. We are fortunate to have a phenomenal visiting professor Dr. Matthew Saltzman, scheduled to speak from Northwestern University. For more information, please email Ryan Wood at rwood03@salud.unm.edu.
Our Division of Sports Medicine consists of Department Chairman Bob Schenck, Andy Veitch ('03), Gehron Treme ('06), Eric Benson ('07), Dan Wascher and Dustin Richter ('15). Four of our five 2016 graduating orthopaedic residents are now doing a sports fellowship including Mischa Hopson ('16) seen on the sidelines of the Texans NFL game below. Also pictured are other alumni and faculty in action.

Mischa Hopson ('16)

Erika Garbrecht, ('18) Soccer, OCU

Andrew Parsons ('20) Soccer, UNM

Aditi Majumdar, ('20) Track and Field, UNM

Tom DeCoster
Taking it to the House in 1989

Bob Sotta #29, ('87). Played quarterback at Stanford and seen here on the softball field in 1986. Bob went on to do a sports fellowship

North Golf Course with Rich Miller ('90), Adam Barmada ('01), John Franco ('03) Charlie and Andy Veitch ('03), and a German visiting resident in 2001.

Taylor Jobe ('14), Seth McCord ('14), Dustin Briggs ('13), Aaron Dickens ('13) at our 2011 Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tourney. Hole sponsor was Tim McAdams ('00) Professor at Stanford and Head Team Physician for San Francisco 49ers. Taylor played wide receiver in college. Dustin played baseball and was on the swim team, and Seth also a collegiate athlete in soccer.

Katherine Gavin, ('17) Basketball
Objectives:
1) Evaluate the safety and efficacy of the autologous cell matrix, NeoCart, in the repair of cartilage defects of the medial or lateral femoral condyle.
2) Compare NeoCart safety and efficacy to microfracture treatment.

Study Design:
This is a prospective, controlled, randomized, multi-center clinical study. The initial planned sample size of 245 will be randomized 2:1 between NeoCart and microfracture at up to 40 investigational sites. Randomization is done at arthroscopy, at which time final patient eligibility will be determined. Neither surgeon nor patient is blinded to treatment. The IKDC Objective knee examination and the MRI reads will be blinded. An adaptive design, which includes a sample size re-estimation analysis based on 80-90% of the initially planned sample size, allows for sample size expansion up to an additional 120 patients in order to maintain adequate statistical power. There is no provision for early stopping for superiority. A futility analysis based on conditional power will be conducted when 50% of the initially planned sample size is theoretically due for Month 12 clinical evaluation.

The primary study endpoint will be improvement in knee specific pain and function at one year using the IKDC Subjective and KOOS pain surveys. The response rate of the treatment arm (NeoCart) will be compared to the response rate of the control arm (microfracture). Ewa Roos, who developed the KOOS, has reported that an improvement of ≥ 10 points represents a clinically significant difference. Irrgang et al. evaluated the responsiveness of the IKDC Subjective instrument using a receiver operating curve characteristics analysis and concluded that a 20-point improvement in IKDC Subjective score would be perceived as clinically meaningful by the patient.

In this study, a responder is defined as a patient with an increase of at least 12 points on the KOOS pain assessment and at least 20 points on the IKDC. Subjective assessment at the 12-month visit. The data will be tested for superiority.

References:

Study Timelines:
The study was initiated in 2012. The primary endpoint is at 12 months. Patients will continue to be followed for three years to gather long-term safety and efficacy data. Data analysis may take up to five years.
The UNM School of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation brought together 10 orthopaedic clinicians and more than 30 occupational and physical therapists for a nationally renowned wound care course.

The course titled, “Doctors Demystify,” was held for the first time in Albuquerque at UNM’s Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education.

“Bringing together clinicians and therapists under one roof is an important goal,” says Deana Mercer, MD, a pediatric hand surgeon and associate professor at UNM Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. “We collaborate on patient care but we are on different parts of campus,” she adds.

Mercer and a team of specialty surgeons shared some of their best practices in various areas, including trauma, hip, knee, hand reconstructive surgery, and sports medicine. The interactive exchange also gave experienced clinicians like Mercer an opportunity to gain knowledge from new and upcoming therapists. “It’s an opportunity not just to teach them but also to learn from them,” says Mercer, who is also a shoulder and elbow surgeon.

“Their approach to wound care is different than our approach,” Mercer notes. “Their teaching is more amenable to thinking outside the box than ours might be.”

Mercer says the course helps therapists provide enhanced patient care and share their knowledge with peers. “We really push for open access,” she says.

“It’s good to have this platform to ask questions,” says Matt Huffman, an occupational therapist at UNM Hospital. Huffman is learning the ropes in wound care and answers a lot of questions from patients and their families. “The more information we can provide to them, it will help to put them at ease, Huffman says. “It will make a big difference.”

In 1990, Roy A. Meals, a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at University of California - Los Angeles, initiated the continuing education course. Every year, it brings together more than 1,200 occupational and physical therapists.

‘Doctors Demystify’ Nationally Renowned Class Lets Therapists Learn from Surgeons

**STANFORD UNIVERSITY FELLOW WITH PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION EXPERTISE JOINS ORTHOPAEDICS SPORTS MEDICINE STAFF**

Part of collaboration with UNM Neurology to expand pain management services

Rebecca Dutton, MD, has joined UNM Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation's faculty and will assist in the development of UNM's Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) Program. She recently completed a PM&R Sports Medicine Fellowship at Stanford University and is also a graduate of Stanford's PM&R Residency Program. She earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of California - San Francisco.

“Dr. Dutton is an extraordinarily well-trained PM&R physician and a welcome addition to UNM’s PM&R Program which focuses on both improving patient recovery and minimizing disability,” said Dr. William E. Rivers, DO and Assistant Professor with UNM Neurology. Rivers works closely with UNM Orthopaedics surgeons as a specialist in rehabilitative medicine and will partner with Dutton on expanding UNM's PM&R Program.

“Our PM&R Program helps coordinate care for UNM Health System patients who need treatment for injuries and conditions requiring recovery or ongoing support,” said Rivers. “These patients include adults and children with serious spinal cord, bone and joint injuries as well as those with chronic pain and congenital conditions.”

In addition, Dutton will provide non-operative sports medicine care alongside other Orthopaedics surgeons and physical therapists plus work with UNM Lobo athletes to keep them playing strong. “We are pleased to have Dr. Dutton aboard as a key contributor to the UNM PM&R Program's further growth,” said UNM Orthopaedics Chair and Professor Dr. Robert Schenck.
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
47th Annual
Primary Care Pediatrics
Winter Conference
Carrie Tingley Hospital