



Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society

Giving Back to the Program that Trained YOU!

Highlights

Dr. Paul Echols Named CMO at UNM SRMC

4th Annual Perry Initiative

Incoming and Outgoing Residents and Fellows

Orthopaedic Research Team Wins NIH Biodesign Award

35th Annual UNM Orthopaedics Alumni Conference



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



Dr. Paul G. Echols

Professor UNM Orthopaedics

Class of 1978

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 long-time 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

Intern Resident Class of 2021



Scott Plaster, MD

Hometown: Tulsa, OK

Medical School: University of Oklahoma



Judd Fitzgerald, MD

Hometown: Delta, UT

Medical School: Medical College of Wisconsin

Fellowship: Sports - Vanderbilt



Jordan Polander, MD

Hometown: Shreveport, LA

Medical School: Louisiana State University Shreveport

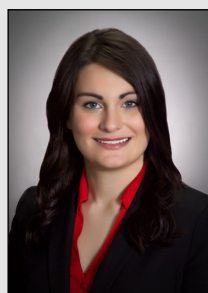


Mischa Hopson, MD

Hometown: Los Alamos, NM

Medical School: University of New Mexico

Fellowship: Sports - Methodist Hospital - Houston, TX



Amber Price, MD

Hometown: Monte Vista, CO

Medical School: Creighton University



Reilly Kuehn, MD

Hometown: Madison, WI

Medical School: University of Wisconsin

Fellowship: Trauma - University of California Davis



Jory Wasserburger, MD

Hometown: Gillette, WY

Medical School: University of Washington



Heather Menzer, MD

Hometown: Silver City, NM

Medical School: University of New Mexico

Fellowship: Sports - University of Virginia



Matthew Wharton, MD

Hometown: Mesa, AZ

Medical School: University of Arizona

Incoming and Outgoing Fellows

Class of 2016

Brandee Black, MD - Sports



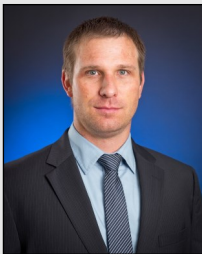
Medical School: Michigan State
Residency: University of Missouri Columbia
Practice: UNM SRMC - Rio Rancho, NM

Seth Criner, DO - Trauma



Medical School: University of California San Diego
Residency: Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center
Practice: Kaweah Delta Regional Medical Center - Visalia, CA

Ray Jensen, DO - Sports



Medical School: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
Residency: Des Peres Hospital
Practice: Spearfish Regional Health - Spearfish, SD

Dustin Larson, MD - Hand



Medical School: Oregon University
Residency: Oregon University
Practice: Center for Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Care and Research - Bend, OR

David Peterson, MD - Hand



Medical School: University of Toledo
Residency: University of Toledo
Practice: Alpine Orthopaedics - Logan, UT

Class of 2017

Erica Gauger, MD - Hand



Medical School: University of Minnesota
Residency: University of Minnesota

Samir Kakish, MBBS - Trauma



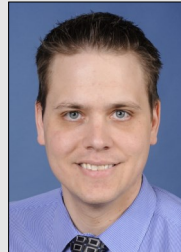
Medical School: Jordan University of Science and Technology
Residency: Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland

Matthew Lilley, MD - Sports



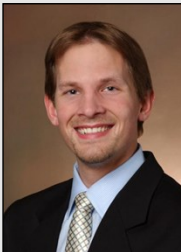
Medical School: University of Southern California
Residency: San Francisco Residency Program

Blake Obrock, DO - Sports



Medical School: Midwestern University
Residency: Good Samaritan Medical

James Rose, MD - Hand



Medical School: University of Colorado
Residency: Louisiana State University New Orleans

UNM orthopedics research team contributes to "Biodesign" class award

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



(from left) Thomas Howdieshell, MD, Trauma Surgery; Sherif Aboubakr, Civil Engineering PhD student; Rachel Tufaro, Orthopaedics Biomechanics & Biomaterials Laboratory Research Team member and master's student; Aneesha Kondapi, Aneesha Kondapi, electrical engineering master's student; and Christina Salas, PhD, Orthopaedics Research Division assistant professor.

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.



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For more information call 505.272.3942 or visit orthopaedics.unm.edu.

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

35th Annual UNM Orthopaedic Alumni Conference

Save the Date

June 3, 2016

Guest Faculty:

William Geisler, MD
 University of Mississippi
 Medical Center

and

David S. Ruch, MD
 Duke University
 Medical Center

Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education
 Albuquerque, NM

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.



Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership