



Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society

Giving Back to the Program that Trained YOU!

Highlights

**2014 - 2015
Annual Report**

**New Faculty
Announced**

**Division of Physical
Therapy Turns 40**

**Study Aims to Create
Low-Cost, Prosthetic
Limbs for Pediatric
Patients**

Crawfish Boil Turns Twenty !

Pictures from the 1997 and 2001 Crawfish Boils

Facing from left to right: Tom DeCoster, Frances Ting, **Victoria Matt (02)**, Adam Barmada (01), **Andy Veitch's head (03)**, Rich Aiken, and **Eric Thomas (04)** now deceased.



The crawfish boil was the brainchild of Louisiana native **Mike Willis (00)**. The attendees included **Matt Patton (2002)**, **Ali Motamedi (1998)**, **Tim McAdams (00)** and **Brian Robinson (98)**. They do not remember the location. Over the years, the boil has been held at various resident's houses including **Eric Benson (07)**, **Gehron Treme (06)**, the residency program director and his wife Michelle now host the annual event.



Left: Treme with Jonathan Shafer (06)



Above: Brent Milner (03) and Speight Grimes (04)

Left: Mike Willis, a friend, Ali Motamedi stir the pot in '97. Photo courtesy of Ali

Residents Enjoying Libations at El Patio Restaurant, 1990

From left to right back row: Sanagaram Shantharam (92), unknown student, Mark Crawford (94), Tom Ferro (90), Harry Cole (92), Foreground: Laurel McGinty (91) who passed away January 9, 2012

Tom Ferro holding the orthopaedic department's first cell phone



2014 - 2015 Annual Report

The department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation continues to grow with the recruitment of seven new faculty members and expanding its services within all divisions in the department. The department is continuously working on ensuring our care is patient centered with shared decision-making, focusing on the needs of patients and the multiple cultures which exist in New Mexico and the Southwest. We are in the process of creating a Total Joint Center of Excellence at Sandoval Regional Medical Center our clinicians can treat patients effectively with this new state of the art UNM facility.

As Chairman of the Department, I continue to see excellence in our residency and DPT programs. Our focus is to continue to recruit talented medical students with diverse backgrounds to not only train as Orthopaedic surgeons, but also show them the beauty of New Mexico and in turn, support their eventual practice in New Mexico.

Remarkably, we have added a significant number of Orthopaedic surgeons to the physician workforce in New Mexico. As Chairman, I continue to see the excellence of spirit and harmony of all of our faculty, residents, students, and staff. In my humble opinion, UNM Orthopaedics remains an outstanding place to work and learn, be it faculty, resident, mid-level, staff, or student.

Lastly, UNM Orthopaedics continues to grow in its production of quality research. We are product focused and continue to utilize the expertise of faculty and energy and intellect of the residents, fellows, medical students and graduate students to build on UNM Orthopaedic Research. This process of creating a research day in our monthly education process has been a productive strategy for the research initiatives in the department. Furthermore, starting the resident earlier in his/her career at UNM Ortho has added to the overall growth in ideas and publications.



Robert C. Schenck, Jr., MD
Professor and Chairman
UNM Department of Orthopaedics
and Rehabilitation

Education

We graduated five Residents in Orthopaedic Surgery, two Fellows in Hand Surgery, 2 Fellows in Sports Medicine, one Fellow in Orthopaedic Trauma, 29 students with doctorates in Physical Therapy.

In addition, we retooled our curriculum for the physical therapy to reflect changes in our profession including increasing content in differential diagnosis and plan of care development. Similarly the Orthopaedic residency program instituted several changes both externally required through the ACGME (goal based education, for example) and internally through creative ideas from residents and faculty.

Plans for the future

The department of Orthopaedics continues to grow with the recruitment of more faculty and expanding its services within all divisions in the department. The department is continuously working on ensuring our care is patient centered with shared decision-making, focusing on the needs of patients and the multiple cultures which exist in New Mexico and the Southwest.

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Clinical

Activity As the only comprehensive orthopaedic team in the state of New Mexico, the number of patients served by the providers in the department has grown year over year. The department continues to expand its service at the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center.

With the addition of two new providers and two advanced practice providers, we have been improving access to our patients. The clinical revenue generated by the faculty supports the education and research mission of the department. The Physical Therapy division is in the process of developing a contract with Santa Domingo Pueblo.

New Faculty Announced

Three new surgeons have joined The University of New Mexico's Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation this summer in the specialty areas of general orthopaedic surgery, sports medicine and podiatric medicine. Two of the three are returning UNM Orthopaedics alumni.



Brandee S. Black, MEd, MD, joined UNM Orthopaedics faculty in early August after completing an ACGME-accredited Sports Medicine Fellowship with the department. Black earned her Doctor of Medicine from Michigan State University and completed an Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at the University of Missouri—Columbia. Previously, she obtained a master's degree in exercise physiology in Texas and coached multi-sport athletes for 13 years. Black later shadowed UNM Orthopaedics Chair and Professor Dr. Robert Schenck as a year-long volunteer while considering an orthopaedics career. She is now an orthopaedic surgeon at UNM's Sandoval Regional Medical Center in Rio Rancho and assists with the care of UNM Lobo athletes. Black resides in Albuquerque.



Haywan Chiu, DPM, joined UNM Orthopaedics in early September. He received his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia. Earlier this year, Chiu completed a podiatry residency program with the Department of Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Healthcare System in California. He is now practicing at the UNM Center for Healing in the Lower Extremity (CHILI) which focuses on reducing foot amputations due to diabetes complications. Chiu and his wife, Allyssa, presently reside in Albuquerque.



Dustin L. Richter, MD, came aboard with UNM Orthopaedics in late August. He was introduced to the department in 2004 as an undergraduate chemical engineering student. Under the mentorship of Schenck, Richter observed patient care and performed multi-ligament knee injury research which inspired him to pursue an orthopaedic surgery career. He has since graduated from UNM's School of Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program and recently completed the University of Virginia's Orthopaedic Surgery Sports Medicine Fellowship Program. Richter now practices with UNM's Division of Sports Medicine, serving patients at UNM Hospital's OSIS Sports Medicine and General Orthopaedic clinics. He also assists in the care of some 600 Division I athletes at UNM. Richter lives in Albuquerque with his wife, Lynsey, and their two children.

"We are very fortunate to have recruited such a high caliber of physicians," says Dr. Robert Schenck Department Chairman. "The top-notch training and experience they bring enhance our ability to provide comprehensive, high-quality care to patients from Bernalillo County and beyond," he adds. Visit <http://orthopaedics.unm.edu/> for more department information.

UNM Orthopaedics Division of Physical Therapy Turns 40

When Barbara Bradley Fuller graduated from the UNM Physical Therapy program in 1976 she was one of three members of the fledgling program's first class. In the 40 years since, the program has educated more than 700 physical therapists, 75 percent of whom practice in New Mexico.

"It's been a very rewarding career helping patients resume their lives after injury," Fuller says. "You meet the patient where they are at, work with them to understand and use their body in a different way — and, in the process, you learn about their families and develop a relationship that is life-long."

The physical therapy program was launched with funding from a Federal Allied Health Manpower Training grant in 1974. The U.S. economy was gripped by recession and unemployment was reaching 9 percent, yet the need for physical therapists was increasing.

New Mexico had the lowest number of physical therapists per hospital beds in Western states. The recommended ratio was one therapist per 20 beds, and New Mexico averaged one per 142 beds. It was clear the growing physical therapy needs could not be met without an in-state educational program.

The program was launched within the Department of Orthopaedics with a few core faculty members: Don Owens, founding program director Elizabeth Barnett and William O'Brien, the architect behind the program's curriculum and the second program director.

George Omer, MD, chair of Orthopaedics and the chief of the Physical Medicine service at Bernalillo County Medical Center, saw the physical therapy program as necessary not only to address the clinical need in the state, but as an essential building block in developing a comprehensive medical school.

Early on, the program took an interdisciplinary approach, collaborating with physicians to teach the medical aspects of the curriculum and contributing those portions relating directly to physical therapy. This provided better integration of both medical and physical therapy content.

The program has come a long way since its early days, mirroring changes in the profession's entry-level requirements. It transitioned from offering a bachelor of science to a master of physical therapy degree in 2000 and switched to a three-year doctor of physical therapy degree in 2009.

The main impetus behind this rapid progression is the more rigorous preparation students now need to master a growing body of knowledge. The curriculum has expanded in the areas of gender health, differential diagnosis, imaging, pharmacology and cultural aspects of patient care.

The profession took a huge leap forward in 2015 when the New Mexico Legislature approved a provision allowing pa-

tients direct access to physical therapy.

"This represents a paradigm shift in our practice," says the program's current director, Burke Gurney, PhD.

"In essence we are moving away from what has been historically a prescription-based model," he says. "Patients can benefit from quicker interventions, quicker results, and as studies suggest, at a lower cost to the system."

UNM's program is uniquely service oriented and requires students to provide 48 hours of physical therapy services in the community.

"While that does not sound like much," Gurney says, "it teaches students valuable lessons while making a real difference to patients who are under-insured and unable to pay."

Another advance was the establishment of the Fred Rutan Center for Gait and Motion Analysis in 2012. The lab was named in honor of the program director from 1985-1988, and provides the much-needed infrastructure for the program's research projects.

Gurney, along with Ron Andrews, PhD, associate professor and previous program director, are hopeful that sometime in the near future UNM will be able to offer a PhD track focusing on research specific to physical therapy.

Meanwhile, UNM's Physical Therapy program has proved vital to improving the health of New Mexicans. "We still place 100 percent of our graduates, and most choose to practice in the state," Gurney says.

Physical therapists have remained over the years the quintessential "hands-on" members of the health care team, focusing on quality of life for the individual patient, Gurney says, adding, "There's an old saying: medical doctors add years to your life and physical therapists add life to your years."



Physical therapy at UNM, 1975

Hugh Hennigh, George Omer and William Gipson with a patient in 1975.

3-Dimensional Printing of Prosthetic Hands and Fingers

The availability of affordable, upper extremity prosthetics for children with congenital defects and amputations may be a mere year away thanks to a Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation grant awarded earlier this summer to The University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation's Research Division. The grant monies fund a one-year study on use of 3-dimensional printers to create prosthetic hands and fingers for pediatric patients.

"We'll examine various design options and materials and then mechanically test them to determine best designs for use with pediatric patients," says Christina Salas, PhD, Assistant Professor and Director of UNM Orthopaedics Biomechanics & Biomaterials Laboratory. Noting that 3-D printed devices show promise as low-cost pediatric prosthetics, Salas points out that no mechanical test data currently exists to support that possibility. "Our goal is to optimize existing prosthetic designs for strength and durability and to develop new designs that enable better gripping for both partial finger and partial hand prosthetic devices," she adds.



Chlöe Van Meter-Ellis models a 3-D-printed hand

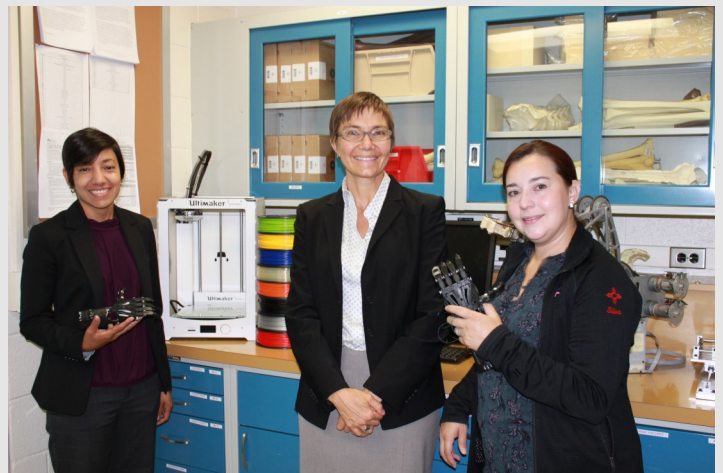
Benefits to State's Pediatric Population

Since children with prosthetic needs during their growth years typically require new devices every six to 12 months that cost upwards of \$700 apiece, the prospect of 3-D printing each device for under \$75 is appealing to pediatric orthopaedic surgeons like Selina Silva, MD. "This would be extremely beneficial in New Mexico where nearly 22 percent of our population lives below the poverty level," says Silva, who serves as interim medical director of Albuquerque's Carrie Tingley Hospital (CTH).

Currently, CTH serves more than 300 pediatric patients needing an upper extremity prosthesis due to a congenital defect or amputation. "Making prosthetics more affordable for our pediatric patients would not only improve their daily quality of life but help ease the financial burden on their families who can frequently find their health insurance coverage, if they even have it, is limited when it comes to new hardware," Silva says.

Testing Set to Get Underway

Testing of the 3-D printing technology for building pediatric prosthetics is set to begin later this month in UNM Orthopaedics Biomechanics & Biomaterials Laboratory under the guidance of Salas with Silva serving as lead clinical faculty advisor on the study along with her Orthopaedics colleague Deana Mercer, MD, a pediatric hand surgeon at CTH. "We are excited about the opportunity to pursue this groundbreaking study to improve upper extremity function in children, thanks to our generous grant from the Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation," says Mercer. "Their dedication to New Mexico children is exemplified by this study."

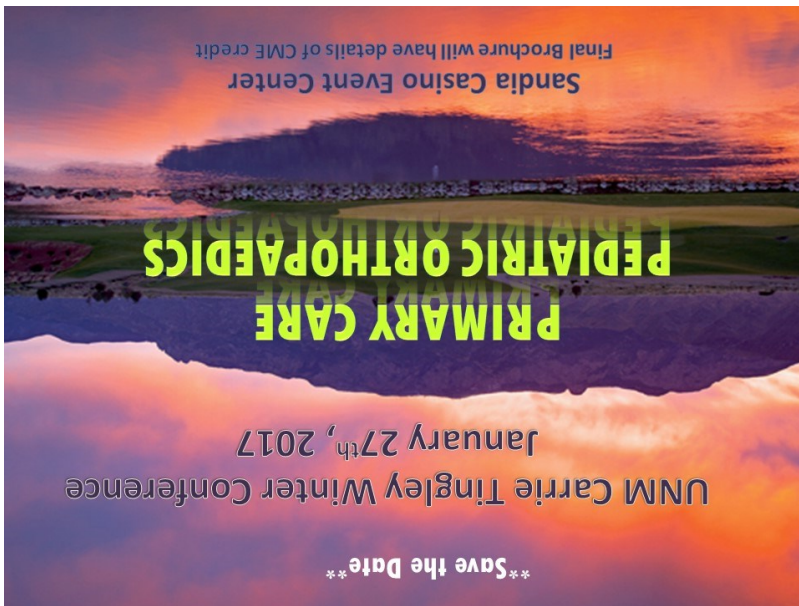


Collaborators on a UNM Orthopaedics research study aimed at designing low-cost, functional prosthetics for pediatric patients include (from left) Christina Salas, PhD; Deana Mercer, MD; and Selina Silva, MD.



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

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