Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are having a wonderful spring. In March, many of us had a chance to catch up at this year’s annual alumni reception in New Orleans during the AAOS meeting. We had over 60 alumni attendees spanning 30 years from our program.

Highlighted earlier this year, SOAS continues to offer a lifetime membership option. Please join myself, Bob Schenck, Brian Robinson (1998), Sanagaram Shantharam (1992), John Franco (2003), Diana Mercer (2008) and Kevin McGee (2008) as lifetime members in the Sandia Circle. In addition to furthering all of our causes as an alumni society and assisting the Department of Orthopaedics and residents, membership in the Sandia Circle will accelerate our ability for SOAS to reach endowment status with the University.

On April 2nd, we hosted our 2nd Annual Joel Lubin Memorial Professorship. The focus of the 1 day program remains directed towards topics related to life, stress, and relevant non-orthopaedic issues following completion of residency training. Our honored guests this year included Dr. John Kelly from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Brian Robinson (class of 1998) from Silver City, New Mexico, and Linda Lubin from California. Dr. Kelly spent a day with the residents and faculty, interacting and discussing relevant topics related to life, stress management, and orthopaedic sports medicine. Dr. Robinson gave an in depth presentation on life outside of orthopaedics and hosted a cadaver lab for the reverse shoulder technique. I discussed financial management after residency. Based on feedback we received from the residents and the department, the day event was another huge success. I would like to again thank Dr. Kelly, Dr. Robinson, and Linda for their commitments to making this event outstanding in every way. In honor of Joel, this professorship will continue to occur annually.

This summer, our 3rd publication of the University of New Mexico Orthopaedic Research Journal will be released and sent to all of our alumni, affiliates of the Department, and every orthopaedic residency program in the country. Information in this year’s journal will include updates about the Department and original articles from the residents, faculty, division of physical therapy, and alumni.

This fall, I hope to see you all at our 4th Annual Eric Thomas SOAS Memorial Golf Tournament slated for September 6, 2014. Please make plans to attend. To sign up, call Ryan Wood at (505) 272-8745.

Please visit our webpage at http://orthopaedics.unm.edu/soas/join-soas.html for additional information about SOAS, Sandia Circle, the Joel Lubin Professorship fund, the Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament, and the Department of Orthopaedics. If you have not yet renewed your SOAS membership or made a contribution to SOAS, we encourage you to get involved.

You can also call Ryan Wood at (505) 272-8745, should you have any questions about your 2014 dues, lifetime membership opportunities, or other upcoming events.

Dean Smith, MD
The 2nd Annual Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship was held Wednesday, April 2, 2014 and we received stellar comments. Last year’s event was a huge success attracting local and national alums who knew Joel and others who simply wanted to show their support which was the case this year.

Last year, Dr. Larry Marsh from the University of Iowa presented on teaching and assessment of motor skills acquisition training in orthopaedic surgery residency and for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The second presenter of the day was Dr. Mike Willis (Class of 2000) who gave an engaging lecture on the importance of balance in work and family for orthopaedic surgeons. Sadly, soon after the event, Dr. Willis suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in a rehabilitation hospital in Denver. Dr. Willis is now recovering with help from family and friends at home from. Our well wishes go out to Dr. Willis and his family at this time.

2014 Presenters

This year, Dr. John Kelly from Penn University lectured on “How to Find the Sweet Spot - Stress RX for Orthopaedic Surgeons” also Dr. Brian Robinson (Class of 1998) presented on “Life Skills”, and Dr. Dean Smith (Class of 2000) discussed “Financial Management.” After the morning lectures our visiting professors spent the remainder of the day with current residents and fellows sharing their knowledge and skills. "These visiting physicians represent the high caliber of speakers the Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship continues to attract since it launched a year ago,” says Dr. Gehron Treme (Class of 2006), Assistant Professor and Residency Program Director for the UNM Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. "The professorship also provides a great opportunity for current residents and fellows to network with our talented alumni and make valuable lifetime connections."

Added to this year’s program was a total reverse shoulder cadaveric course in the evening proctored by Dr. Robinson and faculty. “We have had outstanding support and interest in this event from alumni, faculty, and many friends and family and hope this event continues for many years to come,’ said Dr. Dean Smith.

Get Involved

If you have any questions about the Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship or would like to offer your time, talent, or treasure to the event please contact Ryan Wood at 505-272-8745 or by email at rwood03@salud.unm.edu. Thank you to all who have supported this event in the past. We hope you choose to continue supporting for future years to come.
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 which features their academic background and post-UNM activities. In this issue, we proudly spotlight SOAS member John Franco, MD.

What do you get when you combine an undergraduate interest in mechanical engineering, a Master’s of Science in Kinesiology and Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree? Add a sports medicine fellowship into the mix and what results is a talented medical specialist named Dr. John Franco. His unique skillset helps athletes not only recover from sports injuries but avoid them for the future!

After earning his MD from the University of California at San Francisco, John migrated to New Mexico once selected for the UNM Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation Residency Program. He later fulfilled a Fellowship in Sports Medicine with the Santa Monica Orthopaedic Group back in California. Then John returned to Albuquerque, where he now resides with his wife and two sons, to serve New Mexico Orthopaedics as a sports medicine physician. “I enjoy helping patients accept and understand their injuries,” says John, who advocates non-surgical treatment whenever possible and uses minimally invasive techniques like arthroscopy to help his patients resume active lifestyles. His expertise in adolescent injury prevention, joint cartilage repair and regeneration comes in handy as a team physician for Albuquerque’s Manzano High School and assistant coach for area youth sports.

John is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Arthroscopy Association of North America, International Society of Hip Arthroscopy, International Society of Arthroscopy and Knee Surgery and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. He also commits time to the Santa Monica ACL Prevention Project which offers a training program aimed at decreasing ACL injuries sustained by female soccer players.

To unwind from work, John enjoys sports ranging from skiing and hiking to running, golf and tennis. He also appreciates family trips like a recent RV adventure to Moab, Utah. Watching movies (the 1976 Dino DeLaurentiis remake of “King Kong” is a personal favorite!) and reading Roald Dahl books to his sons are other valued pastimes.

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is the Golden Rule that John strives to live by—especially regarding the SOAS. He not only serves as its Vice President but joined its Sandia Circle by pledging $5,000 annually for five years. “I joined the Sandia Circle to make an enduring commitment to support the training program that believed in my potential as a physician and surgeon,” says John, who gained lifetime SOAS membership as a result.

Thanks, John, for your outstanding leadership and generous support!
Current Research

TMC Joint High Resolution Analysis

The trapeziometacarpal (TMC) joint is one of the most important joints in the human body. It provides the thumb with the ability to cross over the palm of the hand, thus enabling motions of pinch and grip essential in performing routine daily activities. In the case of repeated use of this joint, the articular cartilage may wear through a progressive joint disease known as osteoarthritis. This disease is characterized by pain at the base of the thumb, decreased range of motion, thumb instability, and decreased grip and pinch strength leading to impairment in vocational activities, significantly affecting quality of life.

Much of the research surrounding this joint has focused on development of non-surgical and surgical options for treatment of this disease in early and late stages. Unfortunately, the extent of research on characterizing the biomechanical properties of this joint and surrounding tissue is limited.

This research will seek to identify the ligamentous structures hypothesized to act as primary stabilizers of the TMC joint through advanced, high-resolution motion analyses coupled with patient-specific finite element modeling of the joint. Mechanical properties of the primary ligamentous stabilizers will be obtained through uniaxial tensile testing of ligamentous tissue and output data will act as primary input to the computational models. This tissue will be further characterized through histology, staining for identification of the presence and orientation of essential proteins which may serve to support the argument for primary stabilizing tissue.

Using results from tissue characterization studies, the final chapter will present two techniques for treatment of TMC osteoarthritis in early and late stages, designed to maintain and/or regain stability of this joint.

For more information or if you’re interested in a future research collaboration please email Christina Salas, PhD at ChrSalas@salud.unm.edu.
Thank you to all who joined us in New Orleans...

We hope to see you next year in Las Vegas!!!
Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership

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

Register online at:
http://som.unm.edu/cme/2014/Ortho_Alumni.html

UNM Domenici Center for Health Sciences
Friday, June 6, 2014
Alumni Conference
33rd Annual UNM Orthopaedic Alumni Conference

Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership

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

Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation
MSC 10 5600
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership

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

Register online at:
http://som.unm.edu/cme/2014/Ortho_Alumni.html

UNM Domenici Center for Health Sciences
Friday, June 6, 2014
Alumni Conference
33rd Annual UNM Orthopaedic Alumni Conference

Sandia Circle Lifetime Membership

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