Letter from the Chair 2018:

Happy Holidays for 2017 and best wishes for 2018. It has been another busy but fun year at The University of New Mexico (UNM) and in the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation here in Albuquerque. The UNM Orthopaedics faculty continues to grow alongside a wonderful residency program. I am continually impressed by the great camaraderie of our residents, faculty, and fellowship programs. UNM and Albuquerque have always been great places to work and live, and our department truly strives to make our home of patient care, teaching, and research a shining star in the intermountain west.

I would like to thank John Franco and all of our loyal alumni in the great efforts and results with the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society over the past year.

The faculty continues to be vibrant, and we welcome many new additional faces to the department. Sam McArthur and Samer Kakish have joined us to work in trauma and adult reconstruction. We currently have 29 faculty and continue to grow. As Chair, I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead such a phenomenal group of faculty members, residents, and advanced practice providers. I would like to thank Gehron Treme (our talented program director), Eric Benson (Vice Chair for clinical affairs), Deana Mercer (Director of Research), and Selina Silva (Medical Director for Carrie Tingley Hospital/Clinics) for their outstanding leadership. Having such a talented group is rounded out by our amazing Orthopaedics Administrator Gail Case. With such a team, I was able to leave for South America to be Godfather for the 2017 AOSSM/SLARD travelling fellowship this past summer. My many thanks to all.

As I said earlier, my best wishes for the holiday season and the 2018 New Year. I look forward to seeing the friends and colleagues of UNM Orthopaedics at our reception at the Omni Hotel in New Orleans for this AAOS (Friday, March 9, 2018 from 6 to 10 pm). We look forward to seeing you and your family then. Please contact us for ways in which you can participate with the growth and success of UNM Orthopaedics.

Sincerest regards,

Bob

Robert C. Schenck, Jr. MD
Professor & Chair
UNM Orthopaedics
Samuel McArthur, MD has joined the UNM Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation faculty part-time as of April 2017 and will join our Trauma Division full-time in September. Dr. McArthur comes to us from Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe where he practiced alongside alumni Leroy Rise, MD who completed an orthopaedic trauma fellowship with us in 2012.

He completed a fellowship in orthopaedic trauma at Penn State University Hershey Medical Center (2012) Hershey, PA, and residency at Rush University (2011) Chicago, IL, and received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University Health Sciences Center (2006) Bethesda, MD. Dr. McArthur will be joining Drs. David Chafey, Thomas DeCoster, Rick Gehlert and Urvij Modhia as a part of our trauma division.

Prior to his medical education and training, Dr. McArthur was a certified Emergency Medical Technician. He is board certified and holds medical licenses in both New Mexico and Oklahoma. Before coming to sunny Albuquerque he practiced at Claremont Indian Hospital, WW Hastings Indian Hospital, and Phoenix Indian Hospital and as mentioned, Christus St. Vincent. Dr. McArthur enjoys spending time with his wife and three children as well as playing rugby.

**Specialty:** Adult Lower Extremity Reconstruction, Orthopaedic Trauma  
**Medical School:** Jordan University of Science and Technology  
**Orthopaedic Training:** FRCS (Tr and Orth); Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland  
**Higher Education:** Masters in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery; University of Warwick, England  
**Fellowship:** Lower Extremity Reconstruction; University at Buffalo, NY   
**Fellowship:** Orthopaedic Trauma; University of New Mexico, NM
The Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Clinic of Kansas City is pleased to announce that one of our partners, Chris Peer, MS, MD, was recently chosen by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons as a Faculty Instructor. This is a tremendous recognition of Dr. Peer’s skills and accomplishments in the field of arthroscopic surgery. Arthroscopic surgery is commonly used in orthopaedic sports medicine for minimally invasive repair and reconstruction of injuries to the knee and shoulder. Dr. Peer has treated thousands of athletes, from professional to weekend warrior level, over the past 12 years.

Dr. Peer served as Faculty Member for the AAOS Fundamentals of Knee and Shoulder Arthroscopy for Orthopaedic Residents. The course was held outside Chicago at the Orthopaedic Learning Center at the AAOS National Headquarters. Orthopaedic surgery residents from around the country and around the world attended a three-day intensive arthroscopic skills course taught by some of the leading sports arthroscopic surgeons from the U.S. The course was held over a long weekend in October.

Dr. Peer has experience teaching at many levels, all the way from College to Surgical Residency and Sports Medicine Subspecialty Fellowship training. He says, “I have always had an interest in teaching. From my time as a researcher at the National Cancer Institute I was an ‘NIH Science Alliance’ team leader for elementary school outreach in science education. I was thrilled to be asked recently to return to Kansas City to join my partners in the UMKC Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship. I think my aptitude in teaching shows in the way I care for patients who often are underwhelmed by the amount of accurate applicable information they have about their OWN orthopaedic issue. And of course, the internet often makes matters more confusing.”

Indeed, Dr. Peer was awarded the University of New Mexico Resident Teaching award in 2005 as well as the Staff Leadership Award in the same year. Dr. Peer holds multiple academic awards and is Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery and holds a Subspecialty Certificate in Orthopaedic Sports Medicine.

Chris Peer, MD - Class of 2005

Third Successful Bone and Cartilage Transplant Performed in Alaska

From Own Ala

We performed another microvascular bone and cartilage free tissue transfer. In essence we transplanted a small piece of living bone and cartilage from the knee to replace a dead bone in the wrist. We then connected the small blood vessels from the living bone into the radial artery so that it would continue to live. This is the third time this procedure has been performed in Alaska and we have performed them all at Orthopedic Physicians Alaska OPA.

Owen Ala, MD - Class of 2013
Lovelace Health System and UNM Medical Group, Inc., have partnered to provide expanded rehabilitation services for patients recovering from stroke, brain injury and musculoskeletal disorders. The newly opened Lovelace UNM Rehabilitation Hospital was celebrated at a May 31 ribbon cutting ceremony.

The joint venture is unique. “It is extraordinary in the US for a for-profit entity to collaborate with a public academic institution to build a partnership such as this,” said Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, chancellor for Health Sciences, CEO, UNM Health System, Dean, UNM School of Medicine. “The partnership we are celebrating today is a trifecta: we have superb management in Lovelace; excellent standard of care; and a large academic research institution.”

Lovelace and UNM providers will deliver services at the hospital to expand clinical resources and further develop continuity of care. “Today I am proud of this outcome,” said Derrick Jones, CEO of Lovelace UNM Rehabilitation Hospital. “This new partnership is going to make our future bright and provide access to cutting-edge technology.”

In addition, UNM’s academic and educational expertise will play a critical role as plans are underway to launch a new residency program in 2018 in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, through the UNM School of Medicine. The first of its kind in New Mexico, the physical rehabilitation residency program will be based at the Lovelace UNM Rehabilitation Hospital and will help meet the expanding need for rehabilitation providers in New Mexico.

Training the state’s physicians to become rehabilitation specialists is an important component of the partnership. “This opportunity allows us to expand our academic mission of providing innovative programs and research opportunities that will lead to improved care for New Mexicans,” said Michael Richards, MD, MPA, vice chancellor Clinical Affairs.

The Lovelace UNM Rehabilitation Hospital is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. In addition to Jones’ leadership, John Henry Sloan, MD, will continue as chief medical officer. UNM will designate a chief academic officer to oversee the residency program. A newly created 6-member board will govern the hospital; three members will be appointed by Lovelace and three by UNM.

The joint venture goes beyond supporting treatments and care to Lovelace and UNM patients. “The partnership is a vital investment in health care in the community,” said Gilbert Montaño, chief of staff for Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “This collaboration is a great investment in the economy and a considerable portion of the population will benefit from it.”

Credit: Sara Mota - May 31, 2017
Device Aimed at Replacing Metal Implants that often Require Removal due to Pain, Irritation

An adaptive surgical device invented several years ago by a team of researchers with The University of New Mexico's Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation for improved support and healing of knee, elbow and sternum fractures has been issued a United States patent. The design team now seeks to license and manufacture the mesh plate as a viable alternative device for treating fractured bone that underlies a thin layer of soft tissue.

"Many existing surgical implants are rigid plates with few screw placement options which experience rejection rates more than 50 percent of the time," said Christina Salas, assistant professor and director of UNM's Orthopaedics Biomechanics & Biomaterials Laboratory. "But our high-tension mesh device precisely molds to bony contours for enhanced compression. It also features numerous crimped links which can accommodate multiple bone screws for improved stability. These benefits can prevent costly secondary surgeries and speed up rehabilitative healing."

Salas came up with the patented design after studying mesh devices used to treat facial fractures. Co-inventors of the new mesh plate include: Mahmoud Reda Taha, professor and chair of UNM Civil Engineering; Dr. Leroy Rise, a former UNM Orthopaedics fellow and current orthopaedic surgeon with CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe, NM; and Dr. Aaron Dickens, a former UNM Orthopaedics resident who now performs orthopaedic trauma surgery with Great Basin Orthopaedics in Reno, Nev.

“Our mesh plate can be produced from a variety of materials to avoid metallic implant corrosion and breakdown,” said Salas.

She points out that the device’s improved technology is designed “to outperform” larger compression plates and steel-wire fracture repair techniques currently in use. The patented device is specifically configured to resist high-tension stresses to knee, elbow and sternum fracture but can potentially be used to treat other types of fractures that require surgical implants just below the skin.
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.

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