



SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Newsletter

Term: Winter | Issue 2 | February 17, 2021

INTERIM CHAIR

UPDATES

NEW FACULTY

AWARDS/
CONGRATULATIONS

A GIFT FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW





MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIR

Hello and welcome to the Department of Surgery Winter 2021 Newsletter.

It has been over a year since the 1st reported case of COVID-19 in the United States and 11 months since the 1st case in NM. Since that time we have endured several waves of this terrible pandemic in the US, NM and here at UNM. There have been over 26 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the US and approaching 500,000 deaths. In New Mexico while we initially fared better with strict public health orders have now had 178,000 confirmed cases and over 3400 deaths.

At UNM we have had to manage multiple critically ill and dying patients many of whom could not be visited by family members at times pushing our professional and emotional capacity to the limit. Restrictions and impacts to our professional and daily life, socializing and travel has been hard on all of us and wellbeing and peer support remain keys to help each other through this difficult period. The surgery department APP's, residents and faculty have volunteered in multiple areas of need during this pandemic all the while continuing to maintain high volumes of urgent and emergent surgical care.

While this pandemic is far from over, there are things to celebrate as we have entered 2021. UNM has emerged as a leader in our state in providing care, coordinating care throughout our state, involvement with COVID research, and now leading the vaccination efforts. We have rapidly adapted and evolved as a health system able to manage an already at capacity health care system to deliver care to so many more patients in need. The vaccination efforts at UNM have been well coordinated and praised as we have led the state in distributing vaccinations. Over 28,000 vaccines have been administered at UNM initially to UNM healthcare workers and staff at UNM Hospital and now to the community at the Pit. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered in the vaccination efforts. Almost 12% of New Mexicans have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine with one of the highest vaccine rates in the country.

Also on the bright side UNM Health System has remained fiscally sound with no salary cuts and no furloughs of staff and faculty. The New Hospital Tower project has remained on schedule with phase 2 beginning with construction of a new 1400 car garage. Phase 3 will begin next year with construction of the new hospital tower with 18 new operating rooms, 96 new ICU beds, new imaging systems and new adult emergency room. First patients to be admitted to the new tower remains on target for October, 2024. Currently after several months the pediatric BBRP operating rooms have reopened February 1st for pediatric surgery cases. The main operating room has begun again performing all elective cases in addition to the urgent/emergent operative cases. OSIS has continued to be busy with outpatient surgeries and now the SRMC operating room are again fully open to provide much needed backlogged procedures.

Additional recent great news is that UNM received full institutional accreditation by ACGME as outlined in this newsletter by Dr. Russell. We had a very successful interview process for all our

surgical training programs this year all conducted over zoom for the 1st time. I must admit after 16 zoom interviews in a day of outstanding applicants for our general surgical training program and 12 straight hours of zoom I was excited but exhausted. Match day is right around the corner and I look forward to welcoming a new group of interns into all of our surgical training programs in July.

Our annual surgery department research symposium will occur again in a virtual fashion as discussed by Dr. Das. Concerns of the continued pandemic and the public health orders make an in person symposium impossible. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Gloviczki and the event will be on Friday June 18th, 2021.

Here in the department of surgery we are continuing to grow with at least 8 new faculty hires pending. We also plan to create a Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the department that in conjunction with the learning environment office with focus on zero tolerance for mistreatment of student and resident learners. Our goal is a supportive environment for all faculty, residents, APP's and staff with a diverse background to represent the diverse landscape of the people of New Mexico. Other updates include the formation of an Office of Surgical Research to provide our residents and faculty needed support in administration, research coordination and biostatistics.

Finally, UNM and the department of surgery should be known nationally and internationally for rural outreach and global outreach. Rural health is so important to our state. We have a strong foundation at UNM with project ECHO and other outreach programs. Our work with Native American and Hispanic cultures is at the core of our missions. We are further exploring growing of our residents training programs with stronger collaboration with the Veteran Affairs and Lovelace Health Care Systems.

I hope that you all enjoy this newsletter and we will continue to focus in future editions on our department, our training programs but also our past graduates and faculty of UNM and their activities. While there appears to be some end to the pandemic in sight we need to remain vigilant and prepared as new variants of the COVID-19 virus are rapidly emerging in the United States and concerns still exist for another surge of cases in March or April. Continuing safe COVID practices and vaccinating as many New Mexicans as we have vaccine available are priorities. We have learned that we can deal with this crisis and will be able to continue and respond again as needed in the future. I am truly proud of the response of UNM to this pandemic and the response of our surgical department to the needs of New Mexicans. Thank you for all you continue to do in this time.

Sincerely,

John Marek, MD
Professor and Interim Chair,
Department of Surgery

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion **Frances Alba, MD**

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine (UNM SOM) is committed to enhancing diversity and inclusion capacity. We are a mission driven institution where we measure excellence by our ability to advance the health of all New Mexicans by educating and increasing the diversity of health professionals, leaders and scientists.

As part of our vision and strategic plan to address health disparities, the school aims to train students who represent the state's population. As such, our school-defined diversity categories include women and underrepresented groups in medicine (URM) of New Mexico (Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, African American, Vietnamese) relative to the diverse cultures and needs of New Mexico's population. In addition, having a rural background (e.g., education or domicile outside of Bernalillo County, Rio Rancho and Corrales) and economic disadvantage are additional school defined diversity categories. Furthermore, the LCME and ACGME guidelines call for policies and practices that focus on mission-driven and systematic recruitment and retention of diverse students, faculty, and staff.

The Department of Surgery is committed to the UNM School of Medicine's mission and has endeavored through the creation of the Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) position, to prioritize DEI within our workforce. Within the Health Sciences Center and indeed, across the country, efforts have been made in recent years to increase recruitment of women and minorities into residency programs. Having a diverse workforce is desirable from both a patient care and physician education standpoint. Ideally, it should mirror the patients that we serve and students we teach, in terms of gender, racial and ethnic diversity. The benefits of a diverse workforce are clear and supported in the literature. In the setting of academic medicine, diverse faculty allows for gender- and race-concordant mentorship opportunities for female and minority medical students, residents and junior faculty, leading to greater diversity among applicants for postgraduate programs. Trainees in more diverse training environments are more likely to be comfortable managing patients of different cultures. This may play a role in reducing healthcare disparities among our underserved population.

A current objective of the Department of Surgery is to characterize our make-up and demographic in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, academic rank, time in practice, and leadership roles. We will compare this to our state and the US population. The department will prioritize recruitment efforts and hiring of diverse faculty and residents. We will begin by evaluating our hiring practices and ensuring use of a holistic review process for residency and faculty applicants. The divisions within the Department of Surgery will design our websites to reflect the diversity of our department, learners and the patient population that we serve. Active recruitment of women and underrepresented minorities for faculty positions will be encouraged through networking at regional and national conferences. Reviewers of applications and interviewees will include members that reflect gender and ethnic diversity. Job postings will be reviewed and will use inclusive language and explicitly express our commitment to increasing diversity.

One promising practice to identify and recruit diverse medical students into our residency programs is to attend and/or conduct a presentation at diversity-related national organizations. Use of recruitment opportunities through regional and national diversity related organizations such as Latino Medical Student Association and Association of American Indian Physicians is strongly encouraged. **Resources are also available** through UNM SOM for program directors, tips for interviews, and **faculty recruitment toolkit**.

In order to support and ensure our overarching goal and long-term success with enhancing DEI within our department, discussions to address questions and concerns on diversity/equity/antiracism will be held in town hall and grand rounds formats. Divisions will incorporate antiracism and cultural sensitivity specific to New Mexico, into their residency training curriculum. Teambuilding activities will be encouraged within and between divisions to improve networking, potential for mentorship, and job satisfaction. We will encourage, recognize and reward academic scholarship in DEI and surgery. Lastly, each one of us is called to think of the health disparities that our patients may be facing and how we can best serve them. We must reflect and work as individuals to confront our own implicit biases, to unlearn and educate ourselves against bias, microaggression, and discrimination in our workplace and society. We must be an example to others for equal treatment of our patients and learners, and advocate and act as allies for those who face inequality and discrimination.

- **Department of Emergency Medicine, Diversity Page**
- **Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, HSC**

One promising practice to identify and recruit diverse medical students into our residency programs is to attend and/or conduct a presentation at diversity-related national organizations.

The attached document lists some of the largest national diversity related medical student organizations. The document also includes their conference dates, information to submit an abstract for presentation and other opportunities to recruit diverse talent.

For example the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) is hosting the:

SW REGIONAL CONFERENCE Feb 26-28

Website | **Exhibitor Sponsor Form** | **Abstract Submissions** due Dec 15

LMSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE March 12-14

Registration | **Abstract Submissions** due Jan 9, 2021



Chief of Staff Nathan Boyd, MD

Dear Colleagues,

I am so excited to touch base with you for what will be a quarterly communication coming from the Chief of Staff (COS). As many of you know, I am new to this role and looking forward to working together with each of you and representing your interests as our health system evolves.

The COS position is mandated by the Joint Commission and is primarily responsible for overseeing credentialing and privileging. The idea is that a medical staff self-governing in order to preclude a hospital's administration from using credentialing and privileging as a point of leverage over staff. The COS is also tasked with establishing

mechanisms for controlling the quality of care rendered by medical staff and providing a structure where physicians have input in regards to institutional decision making. A good example of this was the recent crafting and passing of the medical bylaws. As you all know, the most recent round of bylaws led to a productive and engaging discussion. These types of discussions and feedback are critical for helping ensure your voice is heard.

Our next big project on the horizon is updating our peer review process. Currently we have a highly decentralized peer review process that is largely separate for each department. There has been a move nationally towards more centralized peer review processes that use metrics and data to proactively identify opportunities for improving quality of care. This sort of transparency can be intimidating for individual staff members and requires a good deal of trust that leadership will use this information constructively and not punitively. However, when done well, peer review can be an incredible asset in improving quality of care. We have assembled a superb team of faculty to help with this process, and I will keep you apprised of our progress.

I also wanted to let you know that we will be bringing on a Vice-Chief of Staff. The Vice-Chief of Staff will transition to become COS at the end of their term. This will ensure that the COS has both the knowledge and the personal connections to ensure continuity from one term to the next and to remain a consistent and powerful voice for the medical staff.

I will be your COS for the next two years and I want to stay connected. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime at UNMH-ChiefofStaff@salud.unm.edu.

Thank you for all of the work that you do every day to create positive health outcomes for all New Mexicans.

Sincerely,

Nathan Boyd, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief of Staff, UNM Hospitals and Clinics



PAG President Karen Hawley, MD

I am thrilled and honored to be the PAG Chair for 2021! Dr. Selina Silva from the Department of Orthopedic Surgery did a fantastic job and brought in the Department Chair presentations in 2020. It was a great opportunity to learn what each Department has been working on and to gain perspectives on some of the challenges throughout the institution. This year we will be focusing on improving bidirectional communication between the UNM HSC Leadership, the PAG and more frontline providers as well interdepartmental presentations and discussions. I

would also like to align the PAG and the SSOC to create a unified voice when appropriate.

We have had 2 PAG meetings thus far in 2021 and the group has been quite engaged. The PAG was started by the UNMMG just over 10 years ago, so for our first meeting I invited all the past Chairs to discuss how the PAG was started and some of the key accomplishments of the group. Highlights include the PAG White Papers and the assistance of bringing the Studer Group to better engage physicians with the leadership. The discussion made it clear that we are in a new era when it comes to leadership within the UNM Health Sciences Center. Many kudos were given to Dr. Irene Agostini as the physician who broke the barriers between frontline providers and administration. One of the clear differences in our current leadership team is simply how engaged they are in our PAG meetings. Leaders like Dr. McGrew, Dr. McLean and Kate Becker are regularly present at the meetings. Our second meeting was an opportunity to get an update from Kate Becker. She has created three new physician leadership positions since becoming the CEO of UNMH including the Chief Ambulatory Medical Officer, Chief Medical Information Officer and the Chief Quality Officer. She has also created dyads to improve communication between the various leaders; for example the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer. Her focus for 2021 includes building and planning for the new tower, continuing to navigate COVID and providing excellence in quality care.

Dr. Lisa Hofler from the Department of OB/GYN is the new PAG Chair-Elect and it has been a pleasure to work with her thus far. Along with Dr. McLean, her and I have been working to expand the PAG Charter to make membership more inclusive. We are hoping to improve the representation of UNMH Geographic Medical Directors, SRMC Faculty and Advanced Practice Providers. As the year progresses, I hope to further engage the members of the PAG to work on identifying our priorities with respect to ease of practice, efficiency and our physician voice. By working with the new physician leaders, we can then work together to come up with solutions that are measurable and palpable.

The PAG meetings take place at 7am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. These meetings are open to all UNM clinical faculty. If you are interested in attending the meetings, please let me know so you can have access to the ZOOM links. If there is something you wish to present to myself or the PAG, please reach out so we can further discuss.

Karen Hawley, MD
Pediatric Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Assistant Professor - University of New Mexico



Executive Surgical Director of Surgical Services **Julie Riley, MD**

Starting in October 2020, I have stepped into a newly created role of Executive Surgical Director of surgical services. This has put me in a triad with the Medical Director, Dr. Doran and the Executive Director, Kevin Sinclair. This role was created to have a surgeon voice in the executive management of the operating rooms at UNMH.

Our goal is to improve communication to surgeons as well as improve communication from the surgeons to the day-to-day operations of the operating room. With this new responsibility, I would like to continue to work on OR throughput particularly with efficiency and ease of practice. Currently most of our focus has been surviving the COVID postponements and shifts in OR locations. One top priority is opening the ORs and working through the backlog of the OR. Other points of focus are improved utilization of all of the surgical sites, decreasing rollovers, level of urgency and improved access on the weekends, decreasing turnover times, improving first case on time starts and movement of the patient through preop and PACU.

There is obviously a lot of work to be done within surgical services, but we continue to see slow improvements. I look forward to working with the surgeons to improve not just our experience in the operating room but also to improve the patient experience while maintaining the high quality of care we always deliver. I am always happy to discuss your experiences both positive and negative and hope I serve the surgeons well in my new job title.



SRMC Update: Level 3 Trauma Designation **Patricia Souchon-Sanchez, MD**

SRMC has been working on developing as a Level III Trauma Center. The goal of the program is to treat and admit Trauma patients at Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC), this will allow patients to receive excellent trauma care while staying in their community.

The designation of the program will also help increase the level of acuity for SRMC and decompress UNMH from Level III trauma patients, who are currently being transferred there from Sandoval County. We went live with Trauma Activations October 27, 2020. Since going live, we have been activating traumas, receiving a prompt response from our designated Trauma Teams, and we are keeping trauma patients in their community who would have otherwise been transferred UNMH. To ensure patients are receiving optimal outcomes we have also formed a performance improvement and quality assurance committee. In that committee we are reviewing our trauma charts for any opportunities to improve trauma care in our system. We are ensuring the implementation of our policies and procedures that were developed for our program and evaluating for their effectiveness. We are also tracking and trending all trauma activations and outcomes.

In addition to our trauma committee meetings and performance improvement/ quality assurance committee meetings, SRMC Trauma Program has also been an active participant in the Regional Trauma Committee which meets quarterly with stakeholders. SRMC has also been an active participant in community outreach and injury prevention events for Sandoval County. We look forward to continue to work and further develop this program for our community.

EDUCATION UPDATES



Vice Chair of Education
John C. Russell, MD

ACGME Update

UNM recently received institutional “Continued Accreditation” from the ACGME to sponsor residency and fellowship programs. After two cycles of institutional accreditation status of “Continued Accreditation with Warning” this was most welcome news for everyone involved in resident and fellow education, and for the leadership of the UNM School of Medicine. Congratulations to Dr. Joanna Fair, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical

Education, and to her entire team, for leading UNM to this outstanding institutional accreditation outcome.

In Surgery we have fully-accredited ACGME residency programs in Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Surgery and Urology, and fellowship programs in Complex Surgical Oncology and Surgical Critical Care. There is an optional second year for our Surgical Critical Care fellowship, our Acute Care Surgery fellowship program that is accredited by the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST). The excellent accreditation status of each of our programs is in no small part due to the daily efforts of our Program and Associate Program Directors, and to the Core Faculty in these programs. My thanks to you all for your contributions to our residency and fellowship programs!

Since 2012 there has been a major change in the ACGME’s process for residency programs, the so-called “New Accreditation System” (NAD). Prior to 2012, residency accreditation was a sporadic process, occurring anywhere from 1 to 5 year intervals. A large document, the Program Information Form (PIF), was prepared and submitted by the Program Director to the ACGME, followed by a site visit from the ACGME in which the PIF was verified by the site visitor through interviews with residents and faculty. The program information forms and, most importantly, the site visitor’s reports were then reviewed by that specialty’s Residency Review Committee, and a 3-pronged decision was then rendered:

1. A category of accreditation (continued accreditation, continued accreditation with warning, proposed probation or proposed withdrawal of accreditation)
2. A list of citations or concerns
3. A length of accreditation (the interval to the next PIF submission), with “good programs” receiving a longer period of accreditation (5 years max)

The NAD more closely mimics the medical school accreditation process of the LCME (not surprising, as the leader of the ACGME, Dr. Thomas Nasca, is a former medical school dean). It is now a process of continuous, rather than sporadic, accreditation. The length of program accreditation has been extended to 7 years. After initial accreditation, programs now submit annual reports of program statistics and the status of prior RRC citations to their RRC. That data, as well as the results of the Annual Resident and Faculty Surveys, are then considered by the RRC and a decision is rendered and communicated back to the residency program as the program’s

accreditation status (hopefully, continued accreditation), the status of past citations/concerns, and any new citations/concerns. The RRC can mandate a short-cycle submission of a full PIF and thereafter a site visit after a problematic annual report or annual resident/faculty survey. In my experience these “short-cycle” site visits focus largely on the annual resident/faculty survey results.

We are now in the period when the Annual Resident and Faculty Surveys for our Surgery programs are open. Annual Resident Surveys actually predate the implementation of the NAD. However, with the NAD the importance of these surveys on the accreditation status of our programs cannot be over-emphasized. We need high participation rates (minimum of 70% participation rate for our programs to receive summary results of their surveys). Most importantly, we need the faculty and residents who respond to these surveys to understand the questions that are being asked, and to be fully knowledgeable about the current efforts of their programs to address the questions being asked.

If you are asked a question, and if you are unsure about what your program is doing in response to the question, please ASK your program leadership before responding. If you have concerns, share those concerns with program leadership, and give them a chance to respond before completing your survey. As with the customer satisfaction surveys you receive from your auto dealership, we strive for a “5” on all survey questions!

Once again, thanks for all you do in support of our residency and fellowship programs in Surgery.

John C. Russell, MD
Professor and Vice Chair for Education



Residency Update Renee Pepin, MD

At the end of 2020, all departments were approved to use departmental funds to purchase care packages for residents and fellows for the holiday season. We were very excited to be able to purchase these care packages for our hard-working housestaff and as a group, we did research and decided on Cravebox care packages, which are full of all sorts of goodies to fuel our busy housestaff.

These were purchased from Amazon. When they arrived, we started opening them and realized that there were twice as many as what was ordered. We looked back at the order and saw that the order was somehow duplicated. Amazon was contacted and the situation explained – we were shocked and very grateful when told that because it was food, they could not take it back so they would refund the money and the boxes could be used as we wished.

We were very happy to be able to turn this around and donate these items on behalf of the Department of Surgery to the Albuquerque community.

Donations were made to the following organizations: Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers, which sends care packages to the troops overseas; Safe House, which houses survivors of intimate partner violence; and Albuquerque Public School, Social and Emotional Learning Program to support Special Ed in the Red.

RESEARCH UPDATES



Vice Chair of Research Arup Das, MD, PhD, FARVO

7th Annual Surgery Research Symposium is Going Virtual!

The Department of Surgery in collaboration with the Department of Ophthalmology plans to organize the virtual meeting of the Annual Surgery Research Symposium (ASRS) on Friday June 18, 2021. This is the seventh year of the symposium, a popular educational/research forum for the Department.

Due to the pervasive spread of the virus, and limitations on the venue capacity and social distancing measures, the Department has decided to move the ASRS 2021 Annual Meeting to a fully virtual event. The health, safety and well-being of all of us continues to be our highest priority. Last year, despite Covid-19, we had a very successful virtual Scientific Meeting, highlighting key research work by our own students, residents and faculty.

The meeting starts at **8am with the Grand Round** talk by the keynote speaker, Dr. Peter Gloviczki, MD, FACS, a world renowned vascular surgeon. The title of his talk is "The Art of Venous Surgery in the Endovascular era". He is currently the Joe M. and Ruth Roberts Professor of Surgery (Emeritus) of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, and also editor-in-chief of the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

The Grand Round talk will be followed by the **Podium Presentations** (11 papers) at 9am -12pm, **lunch break** (12-12:30pm) and then the **Poster Sessions** (12:30-2pm). All the posters will be presented in parallel sessions in four video kiosks. The presentations (by residents and students) will be judged by the panel of judges from the faculty. The award selection category will be as follows:

- **Papers: First Prize (\$300); Honorable Mention (\$50)**
- **Posters: First Prize (\$200), Second Prize: \$150, Third Prize: (\$100); Honorable Mention (\$50).**

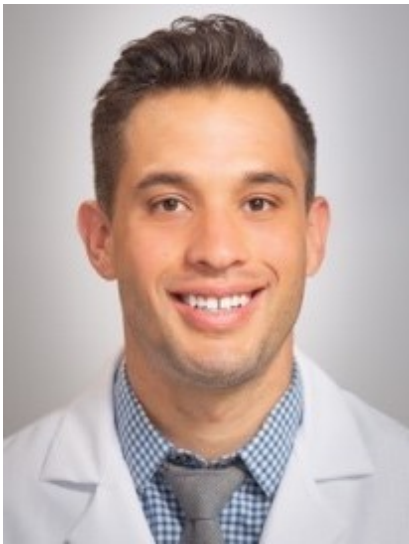
I would encourage all the faculty, residents and students to submit their abstracts to Celia Baca at cbaca40@salud.unm.edu by March 15, 2021. You will receive an abstract scheduling notification on April 12 to advise you of your abstract's presentation format (paper or poster) and its scheduled session, and presentation time.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is an accredited continuing medical education (CME) activity. Attendees will earn AMA PRA Category 3.5 Credit™ for participating in the Meeting.

I would also request our faculty members to submit their list of publications for the last two years and any grant info to us so that we can include it in the Program Book.

You can rest assured that the virtual 7th Annual Surgery Research Symposium will continue to be the scientific forum for all of us in the Department united with exchange of knowledge and advances in research. We look forward to seeing you, virtually, in June.

Arup Das, MD, PhD, FARVO
Vice Chair of Research, Department of Surgery
Regents' and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology



Resident Research Spotlight

Robin B. Osofsky, MD

General Surgery Resident, PGY-3
Surgical Research Fellow

During my two years of dedicated research, I have been fortunate enough to participate in a variety of projects in vascular surgery, critical care, trauma, 3D printing, surgical hydrodynamics, and wound healing. My vascular surgery research has focused on carotid body tumors (CBT) and percutaneous arteriovenous fistulas (AVF). Under the guidance of Dr. Ali Rana, I investigated the effects of preoperative embolization on surgical outcomes for CBT resections. Our results were presented at the Rocky Mountain Vascular Society and the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery annual meetings. In 2019, UNMH

began its percutaneous AVF program. With Dr. Leanne Chavez's mentorship, I studied the applicability of this novel dialysis access technique by comparing our percutaneously-created and surgically-created AVFs outcomes. These data were presented at the Western Vascular Society meeting and our manuscript was recently accepted to the Annals of Vascular Surgery.

I have taking advantage of UNMH's robust extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program. Under Dr. Sundeep Guliani's direction, I explored the clinical impact of performing early protocolized whole body CT scan for patients requiring extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Our manuscript is currently undergoing revisions with the Journal of American Society for Artificial Internal Organs.

Additionally, I began a collaborative effort with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NM-DOT) and our trauma department utilizing database integration to identify previously-overlooked pedestrian vs. automobile risk factors which can be used for targeted safety initiatives. Our findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the NM-DOT Vision Zero action plan. Additionally, these data were presented at the Region 6 Committee on Trauma Resident Research Competition, where it received first prize.

Utilizing the Surgery Department's new Ultimaker S5 3D printer, I began two SRIA-funded projects that apply 3D printing in trauma and otolaryngology surgery under the guidance of Dr. Richard Miskimins and Dr. Terra Brennan, respectively. We first utilized this technology in the management of patients with severe traumatic chest wall deformities requiring rib plating. Specifically, we generate a 3D-printed model of the patient's ribs that is used for preoperative planning and preoperative plate contouring. Additionally, we have applied 3D printing for the creation of custom nasal prosthetics for patients who are otherwise not candidates for tissue reconstructions.

I have used CT-derived 3D models to study surgical hydrodynamics under direction of Dr. Ross Clark. In effort to better prognosticate the durability of complex aortic reconstructions we began a collaboration with the UNM School of Engineering. Specifically, CT-derived virtual 3D models of various patient vascular reconstructions undergo computation fluid dynamic analysis to identify graft configurations which may be at-risk for failure. This work is currently supported by two intra-mural grants. We are preparing an NIH submission for next year.

Also, in Dr. Clark's lab, we investigate the role of hydrogen sulfide in wound healing and angiogenesis. Our focus is to develop an implantable biocompatible sulfide-eluting matrix to augment wound healing. Currently, we are conducting sulfide elution assays of these matrices using high performance liquid chromatography with hopes to soon transition our efforts to murine models.

NEW FACULTY



Division of Otolaryngology Miriam Redleaf, MD

Dr. Miriam Redleaf comes to us from University of Illinois, Chicago where she was the Louis J. Mayer Professor of Otolaryngology and Director of Otolaryngology and Neurotology since 2011. She received her M.D. at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed both her Otolaryngology residency and her Neurotology fellowship at the University of Iowa. She is board certified in both Otolaryngology and Neurotology.

Dr. Redleaf has authored 88 peer-reviewed publications and 12 book chapters. She is the editor for the Annals of Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology but the achievement she is most proud of is the Otologic Surgery Training and Certification program that she established in Ethiopia.

Dr. Redleaf has been training medical students and residents since 1994, and she was inspired to come to the University of New Mexico to continue her passion for teaching and serving both urban and rural communities. She was especially moved by the possibility of working with her associate Dr. Bradley Pickett and she has promised to never abandon him on a powdery ski slope with one ski.

AWARDS & CONGRATULATIONS

iCARE AWARDS

Congratulations to **Jason Wilson**, who received an iCare Award from Carlos Baca!

Dr. Wilson is a wonderful provider, we feel fortunate our son is in his care.

Congratulations to **Jason Wilson**, who received an iCare Award from Susan B Schlesinger!

Thank you for your awesome care of my daughter! You were a big part of the reason we fought to have her procedure done in Peds.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to **Dr. Tara Brennan** and her husband on the birth of their baby girl.

Fiona Therese Cronin was born on 1/8/21.



Congratulations to **Dr. Rebecca Williams-Karensky** and her husband Ben Hanken on the birth of their baby girl.

Sophia was born on 12/31/20 at 10:01am. 6lb 9oz, 17 inches long.

GIVING BACK



Dr. Chuck Tesar, Ms. Brita Lindstrom and Bonzai

A Gift for a Better Tomorrow Tesar & Lindstrom Support Temporal Bone Surgical Simulation Laboratory

The University of New Mexico Temporal Bone Surgical Simulation Laboratory is an essential part of the Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery training program. Ear surgery is intricate and successful operations require that surgeons have comprehensive three-dimensional understanding of middle ear, mastoid and inner ear anatomy.

In the laboratory, Otolaryngology residents are able to dissect cadaveric temporal bones to perfect their surgical skills before operating on patients. Microscopes, surgical drills with cooling irrigation, specialize surgical instruments and surgical workstations are required for all residents and students during faculty precepted dissection sessions.

While the laboratory has existed for almost 30 years, the equipment has gradually fallen into poor repair. For the last 7 years the Division of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery has been working to remodel and update the laboratory to have at least 5 fully functional workstations.

We are sincerely grateful to Dr. Chuck Tesar and his wife Brita for their generous \$25,000 contribution for these workstations. Without their generosity this remodeling project would not be possible.

Bradley Pickett, MD, Division of Otolaryngology

**Please
Make a Gift
to Support
Surgery
Research.**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO
FOUNDATION

The mission of our Surgery Department is to promote compassionate surgical care, innovative research and the training of our future leaders in surgical sciences.

Our research programs touch many of the complex and critical health issues faced by New Mexicans.

By making a gift to fund surgical research, you help to close the gap between early discoveries done in the research labs and delivering cutting edge patient care. By choosing to make a gift, you help the UNM Department of Surgery address healthcare challenges and develop solutions that will lead to improved health of individuals and families in our community.

Please contact: Megan Dugan, UNM Foundation

Megan.Dugan@unmfund.org 505.328.6529 www.unmfund.org

UNM Foundation, Two Woodward Circle, 700 Lomas Blvd, Suite 108
Albuquerque, 87102

NEW HOSPITAL TOWER IN FRONT WITH NEW PARKING GARAGE BEHIND *(parallel to Lomas and West of BBRP)*



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