

# Report from the Residency Director

Saying goodbye to another resident class brings the opportunity for reflection inherent to all transitions. I look forward to a life-long relationship with our graduating chiefs and hope that they remain involved with our program, as many have done over the years. We also welcome our incoming class of interns and believe that they will continue the tradition of excellence that has been established at UNM and exemplified by our 5 graduates this year. This is also a time to reflect on the quality of the program and to pursue opportunities for improvement so that we may provide the high quality clinical training that we have become known for while reacting to the changes in the health care environment.

Every year we react to change on a program, institution, and national level. These changes are usually slow and gradual, mirroring the needs of trainees and patients. The pace of change currently, however, is a bit more rapid and reflects the current position of health care in our nation's consciousness. It's no secret that medical care and physician training face challenges from many sides. Social, professional, regulatory, and financial pressures are shaping how we deliver care and how we train the orthopaedic surgeons of the future. Our reaction to this pressure must be measured and thoughtful to insure that our results remain excellent while we show sensitivity to these forces. Recently, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has instituted a new process for evaluating all training programs, regardless of specialty, in the hope that some of these issues may be addressed formally. The New Accreditation System (NAS) goes into effect this year and Orthopaedic Surgery is among the specialties that will begin Phase One of the program this July. While NAS will give us some hurdles to overcome, it will also provide us with the welcome opportunity to innovate with respect to resident training.

In the modern health care environment, we must continue to produce talented physicians with world-class clinical and surgical skills as we have done in the past. In addition, however, we are tasked with teaching our graduates to appreciate health care quality in a broader sense and to make patient safety a priority. These points, along with a better understanding of health care delivery system dynamics, the importance of ethics and professionalism, and the delivery of cost efficient care, are more important than ever in our educational curriculum. These topics have always been taught here, but now the focus is stronger and all of our physicians must be aware of their importance. The irony, of course, is that the system that we work in has never been more fluid and the education of residents and faculty regarding these changes will have to occur in parallel. Fortunately, this dynamic is more common than not in medical education and I believe that we will integrate these concepts well.

The trick will be to incorporate these new focal points into the UNM Orthopaedic Surgery Residency (and all programs for that matter) without compromising the quality of the clinician that we graduate. That duty falls squarely on the shoulders of our leaders at all levels and is shared by the members of the residency group. We are more than up to the task and I look forward to these challenges. I am proud of our graduates and I look forward to working with all of them for the rest of our careers. Examples of their scholarship follow this report. Please join me in congratulating Owen, Lex, Dustin, Aaron, and Dan as they complete the biggest step thus far in their training. Nice work gentlemen.



Gehron Treme MD