Welcome to the eighth volume of The University of New Mexico Orthopaedics Research Journal (UNMORJ), featuring efforts of faculty, alumni, fellows, residents, and students. This is the third volume to feature a double-blinded external peer-review process for UNMORJ. We are pleased to announce the addition of at least two reviewers per submission. We continually strive to facilitate quality control for reviewers and authors alike in our goal to nationally and internationally expand UNMORJ audiences, with eventual indexing in MEDLINE and PubMed—the primary database listings for scholarly biomedical articles.

We would like to express the utmost gratitude to our reviewers who lent their expertise, efforts, and time to make our eighth volume a successful, peer-reviewed publication. We sincerely thank all the contributors to this production—as well as Gail Case, Department Administrator; Sahar Freeman, Managing Editor and Copy Editor; and Joni Roberts, Managing Editor—whose work and dedication were instrumental in bringing the journal to fruition. We are grateful for the help of our copy editors Mikhaela Smith and Angelique Tapia, as well as our layout editor Jana Fothergill.

We invite you to explore this small selection of our recent department publications outside of UNMORJ, listed below. These were selected to provide an overview of the breadth of our research efforts. We hope that the articles inspire thought, discussion, and future research ideas and contributions. Bolded names indicate current or past faculty members, residents, fellows, and graduate students of the department.


Letter from the Co-Editors
Deana Mercer, MD; Christina Salas, PhD


*UNMORJ* is proud of its past and current accomplishments in highlighting original research relevant to orthopaedic surgery and engineering. We look forward to continued spread of knowledge to help improve care for patients on local, regional, national, and international levels.

Sincerely,

Deana Mercer, MD  
Associate Professor  
Department of  
Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation

Christina Salas, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of  
Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation