

# Letter from the Residency Director

Gehron P. Treme, MD



Congratulations to our graduating chief residents in the class of 2019. It has been a true honor to participate in the orthopaedic surgical training of Drs. Christopher Bankhead, J. Andy Dollahite, Patirck Gilligan, Paul Johnson, and Jay Wojcik. Even more, watching all of them grow personally and professionally illustrates the good fortune that we all

enjoy as members of the The University of New Mexico Orthopaedics family. This is a time for these gentlemen to be proud of their accomplishments and for us to reflect on our time with them during the past 5 years.

Recently, I was visiting with one of our junior residents about what an excellent group this chief class is. "Yes," the resident agreed "they are."

"They are all very talented," I said. "Thoughtful, conscientious, thorough. Lots to be proud of in that group."

It was quiet, and then the resident continued, "But you know what? They are all really good people. I'm really going to miss them."

This speaks so highly of this group of graduates, and I could not agree more. It also sheds some light on what is remembered of us after we spend 5 years in one place. It is true that our skill and knowledge carry weight. Our approach to patient care serves as a model for those around us. None of that should be taken lightly. But what is remembered frequently is how others see us go through our day and our interactions with those around us. People notice. I have heard friends and family members many times say about their surgeons, "They don't have a great bedside manner, but that's OK. As long as they do a good job, that's all I care about." Perhaps there is some truth to that, particularly if patients find themselves in a situation to choose between physician character and quality of care. But it turns out, as exemplified by these five graduates, that surgical skill and clinical knowledge can be packaged with humanity, humility, and honor in such a way that their patients will not have to choose.

We are excited to welcome Chris, Andy, Pat, Paul, and Jay into our always expanding group of program graduates. We are so proud to have had them here and are prouder still of what they will accomplish as they move to their next challenge. You have all gone about this the right way and have served as role models to those around you during the past 5 years. Thank you. You will be missed.

My very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Treme". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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