

Letter from the Chair

Robert C. Schenck Jr, MD



I am pleased to present the sixth volume of *The University of New Mexico Orthopaedics Research Journal (UNMORJ)*. As the premier academic orthopaedic training program in the state, The University of New Mexico (UNM) Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation provides services and information to benefit the people of New

Mexico and orthopaedic practitioners who care for them—something we have done with distinction for almost 50 years. The popularity of the program extends beyond UNM and into national recognition for resident education. Our entire group functions as a supportive community and team, thanks to the efforts of our residents, fellows, faculty members, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical assistants, orthopaedic technicians, staff members, and research collaborators. We all share the same purpose and mission: to enhance the quality of care for our patients.

UNMORJ is quite special, and we are excited to announce the first inclusion of an official peer-review process. This is the first step toward nationally and internationally expanding *UNMORJ* audiences, with eventual indexing in MEDLINE and PubMed—the primary database listings for scholarly biomedical articles. Research in general continues to prosper under the leadership of UNM faculty and financial support of the Sandia Orthopaedic Alumni Society (SOAS), allowing us to share state-of-the-art orthopaedic information with our many partners in New Mexico and the Southwest. I am proud to reveal several of our accomplishments during the past year.

As evidenced by this journal, research productivity at our department continues to develop. The total number of publications increased from 12 in 2009 to 94 in 2017! We are very grateful for the leadership provided by Drs. Deana M. Mercer, Christina Salas, and Thomas A. DeCoster, with Dr. Mercer as the director of research. Furthermore, we express sincere gratitude to Dr. Gehron P. Treme, Residency Program Director, for his initiative in helping residents complete requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (commonly known as the ACGME). This allows our

residents to become experienced in research activities as an equal part of becoming outstanding orthopaedic physicians.

Lastly, my thanks to the many attending physicians, residents, and medical students who create such excellent publications, presentations, and grants. The development of a research-incentive program, along with the invaluable dedication from Drs. Mercer and Salas, has fueled scholarly pursuits in the department. *UNMORJ* was the dream of many, and we are excited to have materialized that dream into a peer-reviewed publication thanks to the efforts of our journal team, the contribution of UNM staff and faculty, and—of course—the time and dedication of our esteemed peer reviewers.

Our faculty continuously grows and reflects the great culture of an orthopaedic family. We are excited to welcome back Dr. Dustin Richter after his sports medicine fellowship, who will be both clinically active and be one of our first faculty to have protected research time weekly. Dustin will lead our robust sports medicine research program, having shown great expertise in mentoring and producing cutting-edge research. We are also very excited to bring in Dr. Haywan Chiu to help work with Drs. Eric Lew and John Marek in the CHILE (Center for Healing in the Lower Extremity) patient services. Drs. Chiu, Lew, Marek and others are excited for the great research opportunities to help our patients with diabetes. We are also thrilled to welcome Dr. Rebecca Dutton to our new PM&R (physical medicine and rehabilitation) program, which is expanding at UNM under Dr. Evan Rivers in neurosurgery. Dr. Dutton will round us out in the nonoperative care of athletes, education of residents, and excellence of research and patient care. Furthermore, the addition of Dr. Brandee Black (who also performed her fellowship here) to our faculty team has helped solidify our efforts at Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC). I would like to thank UNM and SRMC faculties for helping our practice become even more robust.

We hope all the best for our five senior residents as they end this phase of their careers (as “Junior-Junior” faculty at UNM) and begin new ones. Dr. Katherine Gavin will begin her foot and ankle fellowship at Rush University in Chicago, IL. Meanwhile, at the University of Tennessee-Campbell Clinic in Memphis, TN, Dr. Ian Power will perform his sports medicine fellowship. Dr. Keith Gill will similarly leave for a sports medicine fellowship, although at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. A hand

fellowship will be undertaken by Dr. Drew Newhoff at the University of Colorado in Denver. Finally, Michael Decker will complete his fellowship in adult hip and knee reconstruction at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. We are so proud of this year's resident class, and I am grateful for the support of their families and friends. These five orthopaedic surgeons are extremely talented and will be missed here in Albuquerque. Katherine, Ian, Keith, Drew, and Michael, we are most proud of your accomplishments. I, along with the entire department, thank Dr. Treme for his outstanding leadership in the overarching education of UNM orthopaedic residents. I would also like to thank Joni Roberts for all of her work and dedication in the process of educating UNM orthopaedic residents.

I am pleased to add that our division of physical therapy, under the direction of Dr. Burke Gurney, celebrated the anniversary of the 40th graduating class, with more than 150 alumni. The division now has 11 full-time faculty members with expertise in orthopaedics, adult neurology, pediatrics, acute care, geriatrics, cardiopulmonary physical therapy, and comprehensive motion analysis (with the welcome of Dr. Yuri Yoshida). Furthermore, I wish to congratulate Drs. Ronald Andrews and Marybeth Barckoczy, who recently earned board certification in orthopaedics and pediatrics, respectively (with subsequent professional travels to Saudi Arabia and Russia). The educators, practitioners, and researchers oversee three cohorts of 30 students who, after successfully completing the 3-year program, obtain a Doctor of Physical Therapy. Speaking of students—the Service Learning Student Physical Therapy Clinic just completed an excellent first year, during which student-faculty collaboration provided countless pro bono services to our numerous patients.

I want to thank our loyal alumni of SOAS for their enormous dedication and support, which includes hosting three annual events. The Eric Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament is held every year in honor of Dr. Eric A. Thomas (Class of 2004), in which we see alumni from all over the country enjoying Albuquerque's great fall weather at the UNM Championship Golf Course. Additionally, the Joel Lubin Visiting Professorship lecture series occurs every spring to pay respects to Dr. Joel W. Lubin (Class of 2001). Dr. Lubin's mother, Linda Lubin, kindly spoke at this year's talk, inviting us all to reflect on the importance of early interventions as medical practitioners. Additionally, the event was moderated by our fantastic guest speakers, Drs. Brian Robinson (Class of 1998) and Patrick Hudson (Class of 1978; hand fellow). Dr. Robinson led an invaluable, honest discussion on his perspectives gained—professionally and personally—after a near-death experience; Dr. Hudson provided illuminating advice on

ways to maintain work-life balance as a practicing surgeon, which I know will become a valuable resource for faculty and residents. And, thirdly, we always look forward to visiting with alumni at the SOAS-sponsored reception during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Each year, the assistance of alumni becomes more important to the department. SOAS, created exclusively for graduates of our program, has a new lifetime membership available for a pledge of \$25,000 to the Sandia Circle (\$5000 every year for 5 years). I am a proud funder and lifetime member of SOAS and invite you to join me in becoming one, too. This is an exciting time to participate in the growth and success of our department. In addition to supporting the publication of this journal, you at SOAS support our outstanding resident surgeons. We are grateful to the following alumni and faculty for pledges of \$25,000 in helping the SOAS support resident-related activities: Drs. John M. Veitch, Gehron P. Treme, Deana M. Mercer, Kevin M. McGee, Sanagaram S. Shantharam, Joseph K. Newcomer, Brian J. Robinson, Dean W. Smith, John C. Franco, and Jennifer L. Fitzpatrick.

It has been another great year at The University of New Mexico Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. We express our sincerest gratitude to you—the alumni, faculty, staff, and general community—for your continued support.

Thank you.



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Professor and Chair