

Letter from the Residency Director

Gehron P. Treme, MD



Congratulations are in order as we approach the end of another academic year and witness the graduation of our current group of chief residents. We thank the faculty and staff members of the department who have fostered the growth of this group over the last 5 years. We acknowledge the families and friends who have supported

them throughout long hours, successes, and setbacks that residency training inevitably entails. Finally, of course, congratulations to Drs. Keith Gill, Michael Decker, Katherine Gavin, Ian Power, and Drew Newhoff for not only completing this mental and physical obstacle course—but for doing it with the class and good humor that reflects their quality as both physicians and individuals.

During this time of year, we also welcomed our intern class that joined us in June 2017: Christopher Kurnik (Nevada), Kathryn Helmig (Oklahoma), Benjamin Albertson (Vermont), Nathan Huff (New Mexico), and Benjamin Packard (Arizona). We look forward to participating in their growth over the next 5 years.

As a father, husband, physician, and program director, I often wonder who it is that I work for. Do I work for my family to provide the stability that allows for the growth of my children as they move into adulthood? Or is it my patients, who look to me for advice and treatment so that they may pursue the important activities in their lives? Or do I work for our residents—of the past, present, and future—to help offer the kind of training expected from our program and thereby provide fruitful, memorable, and enjoyable experiences? The obvious answer is yes to all, but the execution is far more complex. How do we balance the demands of our various “employers” to make a meaningful contribution to each one? That is the real trick. Although I do not have the answer, I know that the whole process requires attention and a real, concerted effort to achieve any level of success.

For our graduating residents who moved into the next phase of surgical practice—I hope that you identify the specific and unique “employers” to whom you answer every day. I hope that you will be able to align your values with your professional and personal aspirations, so that

you can maximize the enjoyment that you get from every facet of your life. I hope that you are able to discard those things that do not align lest they prevent the clarity needed to achieve those goals dear to you. We are a privileged lot, and a healthy respect and appreciation for that privilege is always in order. I know that the five of you will make us very proud, and we are better for the 5 years you spent with us here. We welcome and encourage you to come back to support our endeavors and to continue to improve on the program that you have helped to build and maintain. Thank you for all that you have done, and all the best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Treme', written over a horizontal line.

Gehron P. Treme, MD
Associate Professor and Residency Program Director