



SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Newsletter

Issue 8 - FALL | November 2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

JOHN MAREK, MD
INTERIM CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Hello and welcome to the Department of Surgery Fall 2022 Newsletter:

Fall has arrived to New Mexico bringing cooler temperatures, shorter days and beautiful autumn colors. The Albuquerque International balloon fiesta was again in full swing with 9 days of mass ascensions, concerts and activities and after almost 3 years of a pandemic things felt back to normal.

While COVID continues to be a part of health care, we at UNM have refocused on decreasing our record high census levels especially as the federal public health emergency will likely expire this December. This pandemic has been a great challenge to all of us personally and professionally as the multiple waves of the COVID-19 global pandemic have impacted our patients, friends, family and ourselves as healthcare providers. Provider and hospital staff well-being and peer support remain more important than ever to helping each other through this period.

Particular to the Department of Surgery, surgical case volumes have rebounded as the main OR, OSIS, BBRP and SRMC completely reopened the operating rooms in March. Case volumes for the surgery department increased from a low of less than 600 combined cases at UNMH and SRMC in December 2020 to now an average of approximately 900-1000 cases per month currently.

The department continues to grow with new faculty members being recruited across many of our department divisions. New faculty now growing their practice include **Dr. Trent Burgess** in general surgery at SRMC, **Dr. Morgan Sellers** and **Dr. Erin Howell** in Acute Care Surgery, **Dr. Jacob Kahane** in neurotology, **Dr. Nathan Reeves** in general ENT and rhinology, **Dr. Alycia Spinner** in pediatric otolaryngology, **Dr. Ryan Orosco** in otolaryngology and **Dr. Matthew Katz** in urology. Recruitment is ongoing with excellent candidates in transplant, urology, plastic surgery and acute care surgery.

Our training programs in General Surgery, Otolaryngology, Urology, Plastics as well as our fellowships in Complex General Surgical Oncology, Surgical Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery are all fully accredited with approval of expansion of our General Surgery Program to 7 residents/year and the Urology program to 3 residents/year. The plastic surgery program is planning on expansion to 2 residents/year next year and the Otolaryngology residency planning on expansion to 3 residents/year in 2024.

The New Hospital Tower now officially named the “Critical Care Tower” continues to be on budget and on time with first patients admitted to the new tower in October, 2024. The 9th and top floors of the tower is currently being placed. The Critical Care Tower will add 18 new operating rooms, 96 ICU beds, new imaging systems and a new adult emergency room. The current 16 main hospital operating rooms will then be completely remodeled to 12 modern full-size operating rooms. Discussions are ongoing on adding additional inpatient beds, recognizing the shortage of hospital

beds in NM. The new parking structure, now named “Tower Garage,” opened on June 27th ahead of schedule and under budget, bringing 1,400 modern parking spaces with a new Park Assist guiding system.

We hosted our first alumni reception in 3 years at the American College of Surgeons meeting in San Diego in October. It was great to see **Dr. Donald Fry** and many prior graduates from our program now practicing throughout the country. One goal of ours is to fully fund 3 of our endowed professorships in general surgery this next year including the Dr. Donald E. and Rosemary V. endowed professorship, the Raymond C. Doberneck professorship, and the W. Sterling Edwards professorship. Just this past month, the Fred S. Herzon Endowed Professorship was approved by the board of Regents, and **Dr. Garth Olson** was named as the inaugural recipient of the endowed professorship. Congratulations Dr. Olson!

This month at the Promotions and Tenure ceremony, we recognized 9 department faculty who were promoted including **Drs. Satyan Shah, Sonlee West, Jasmeet Paul, Itzhak Nir and Tania Kraai** to full professor, and **Drs. Sarah Popek, Rachel Danczyk, Patricia Souchon-Sanchez and Steven Bock** to associate professor. Congratulations to all!

On September 1, **Dr. Patricia Finn** became the fifth dean, and first female dean of the UNM School of Medicine in its 61-year history. Dean Finn, who came and spoke to us at a recent surgery department faculty meeting, is a nationally known clinician, educator, leader and physician scientist. Dr. Finn comes from a strong Irish background and attended Albert Einstein for Medical School and internal medicine residency. Following a pulmonary fellowship at Mass General Hospital and research fellowship in immunology at Harvard she held faculty positions at Harvard Brigham and Women’s and UC San Diego. Dean Finn then served as chair of internal medicine at University of Illinois in Chicago prior to accepting the position of Dean of the UNM SOM. Dean Finn has an extensive research background with numerous NIH grants and has a strong passion for healthcare for the underrepresented and underserved populations and interest in health care disparities and social justice.

Building on last year’s very successful Research symposium, we are beginning to plan for our 9th annual Surgery and Ophthalmology Research Symposium to be held on June 23, 2023. **Dr. James Chodosh**, recently named the inaugural chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Dr. Chodosh has a phenomenal background as a clinician, educator and researcher and will continue to build on many of the outstanding leadership initiatives of **Dr. Bob Avery**.

In 2023, the department will celebrate our 60th anniversary. There have only been 5 permanent chairs and 4 interim chairs in the history of our department. In the next several months a national search will begin for the next permanent chair of surgery. Whoever is fortunate to be named the next permanent chair of the department will take on a rich history at UNM and incredible faculty, residents, fellows and staff. It has been an honor and joy to serve as the interim chair of the department since January 1st, 2021.

I hope that you all enjoy this quarterly newsletter and the articles highlighting department activities, our training programs and research and education missions. Please continue to take care of yourself and your loved ones and have a wonderful thanksgiving and winter holiday.



EDUCATION UPDATES

JOHN C. RUSSELL, MD VICE CHAIR OF EDUCATION

On Friday, September 9, we held our 2022 Faculty Education Retreat. This 2-hour session, “Improving the Education and Learning Environment in the Department of Surgery,” was convened to address concerns from the UNM Learning Environment Office (LEO) and the School of Medicine regarding the learning environment within our department, with the goal of developing faculty-derived and faculty-driven recommendations for improvement.

The retreat was attended by 41 faculty, nearly 54% of the invited faculty, and featured presentations by **Drs. John Marek, Alissa Greenbaum** and me, and 4 working groups (faculty facilitators):

1. What additional faculty training is needed? - **Dr. Baila Maqbool**
2. How should we best support our medical students? - **Dr. Bradley Pickett**
3. How should we best support our faculty? - **Dr. Alissa Greenbaum**
4. How should we best support our residents? - **Dr. Ming-Li Wang**

Through vigorous discussion within each of the working groups, 42 specific recommendations emerged. The top three recommendations of each group were then identified by a voting process of all attendees. An Action Plan has been developed and reviewed by the Retreat Planning Committee, and will be presented to the department at our faculty meeting on Wednesday, October 26th, for further comment and ratification.

The proposed Action Plan is centered on three major areas:

1. Changes to the Phase II (Core) Clerkship
2. Changes to the Residency Programs
3. General faculty Support/Effort

The proposed Action Plan builds upon current faculty development efforts, such as the Zoom Faculty Development Seminars. Two seminars have been held thus far – “Mentorship Among Surgeons” on 3/7/22, and “Communication Challenges and Conflict Management in the OR on 8/18/22. The next seminar, focusing on “Bystander Training” – helping faculty to transition from bystanders to “upstanders” in support of our students and residents – is slated for early 2023. Future seminars will focus on faculty preparation for promotion, teaching in inpatient and outpatient settings (including the OR), as well as learner feedback and evaluation.

Among the proposals will be clarifying and strengthening the roles of Lead Faculty/Point Persons for medical students and residents on each clinical service. Better communication between students, residents and faculty should lead to the development and implementation of mutually-beneficial goals and objectives for the clinical education experiences of students and residents.

Some of the proposed changes can be easily implemented, while others will require additional resources.



PAG UPDATE

RICHARD MISKIMINS, MD PAG REP

PAG Meeting 6/23/22: UNMMG Updates, Dr Robb McLean, CEO; Jared Udall, CFO

UNMMG BACKGROUND

- UNMMG was formed as a non-profit University Research Park Act corporation with an exclusive contract for revenue cycle functions for the SOM; also created as a mechanism for health care staffing and the provision of clinical care through clinics.

UNMMG HIGHLIGHTS & PRIORITIES

- Primary care: Grande clinic in Rio Rancho opened; focus on clinic and primary care access; hiring in primary care; future pharmacy care
- Truman clinic relocation: Land purchases underway with plan for eventual move into new UNMMG-owned space
- FY22 Finances: Received \$26.8M in CARES Act funds
- 2022 CMS again decreased payment per RVU; outpatient E/M RVU values increased in 2021
- National advocacy around payment especially in light of inflation

STAFF CLINICIAN HIRES

- UNMMG has always hired staff clinicians; current initiative to standardize all hires through UNMMG (no longer through SOM)
- Growth over last year to 15 physicians + 15 posted positions; 40 APCs + 11 posted positions; other provider types

PROFESSIONAL BILLING & CODING

- Outpatient coding activity: UNMH, SRMC, Cancer Center do coding via charge tickets and/or SinglePath
- Radiology oversees coding performed by UNMMG-employed coders
- UNMMG does ED, psych, path, anesthesia, EKG and UNMMG clinics
- Inpatient coding activity: mostly UNMMG via shell encounters from registration, Surginet and chart review based on "notes reports" for relevant note types; 100% coder review
- Only Cancer Center and Radiology do their own IP coding
- Coders should reach out to clinicians for CPT (procedure) queries as well as ICD (diagnosis) queries - please respond to these queries!

COMPLIANCE

- Clinician education: Onboarding new clinicians across the Health System; auditing new clinician documentation and coding at ~90 days with feedback
- Auditing: Focus on reviewing clinicians who are outliers on the high/low end of our curve and providing education and feedback

PAG NEWS

- Next meetings 7/28 Information Technology; 8/11 UNMH Critical Care Tower, Mike Chicarelli

CODING CONTACTS

UNM PROFESSIONAL BILLING

	UNM CCC	Radiology	UNMMG	SRMC	UNMH
OP Coding	X	X	ED, Psyche, Path, Anesthesia, EKG and UNMMG Clinics	All SRMC Hospital Based Clinics	All Hospital Based Clinics
IP Coding	X	X	All inpatient excluding UNMCCC & Radiology	N/A	N/A
Contact	Teri Olson	Trudy Padilla	Sandra Sena	Cherise Degraaf	Rachel Martin
Contact Email	taolson@unmmg.org	gpadilla@salud.unm.edu	sdsena@unmmg.org	cdegraaf@srmc.unm.edu	raamartin@salud.unm.edu

PAG UPDATE

PAG Meeting 7/28/22 : Clinical Informatics Update

Tiger Schedule: Dr Dusadee Sarangarm, CMIO

- All schedules are transitioning to Tiger Schedule which more rigorously interacts with Tiger Text. Amion contract expires August

Outpatient Documentation and Verbal Orders: Dr Mario Cruz, Assoc Chief Med Informatics Officer Outpatient

- Timely documentation: Medical staff bylaws requires outpatient notes signed and charge tickets completed within 72 hours; unsigned notes lead to clinical confusion and non-payment. Working on a process similar to inpatient process to ensure timely note completion
- Verbal orders: Must be signed within 72 hours by CMS, TJC, UNMH policy. Working on a notification process: Tiger text at 24, 72 hours ->if still unsigned will escalate to Dept Admin ->Supervisor/Chief/Chair
- Coming soon: Piloting notification process; eventual Cerner suspension for >21 day unsigned clinic notes and verbal orders

Inpatient Pediatric Oncology and Consultation Orders: Dr Taylor Goot, Assoc CMIO Inpatient

- Peds onc orders: Big lift transitioning 200+ order sets paper -> electronic
- New inpatient/ED consult process with orders in Cerner. Consult order directly Tigers the consultant. Roll-out ongoing; complete Q1 2024

PAG news

- Next meetings 8/11 Mike Chicarelli, CCT, BBRP Spaces; 8/25 Jamie Silva-Steele, SRMC Updates

Dragon Medical One and e-Consents: Dr Nivine Doran, Assoc Chief Med Informatics Officer Perioperative

- DMO: Can use PowerMic Mobile app to dictate from anywhere; do not need to train Dragon; AI voice recognition is much better. Go-live August 8
- e-Consents: Roll-out in 3 phases: Surgical (Aug-Nov build/test, go-live December) -> clinic procedures -> administrative forms
- Surgical/transfusion/anesthesia: Standard template with service-specific autotexts for procedure, risks, benefits; surgeon can customize

Data Requests: Dr Tatsuya Norii, Assoc Chief Data Officer

- Many data sources: EMR (Cerner, Mosaic, Axiom), billing/claims (IDX, HealthIntent), bedside monitor (Bedmaster), many others
- Many data tribes: Clinical Practice Excellence, HIM Clinical Documentation, CTSC Informatics, etc; not all under UNMH / UNM Health
- Data request process: All research + non-research requests: UNMH Intranet -> Web-based systems -> Quality Outcomes Data Request

Merger Update: Dawn Harrington, CIO UNM Health and Health Sciences

- Whom to call: 505-272-DATA for hardware and account issues; 505- 272-1694 HSC IT Service Desk; 505-321-6709 or PowerChartSynergy@salud.unm.edu for PowerChart
- No changes will be made to the HSC CIO Office for 6 months

PAG UPDATE

PAG Meeting 8/11/22 : UNMH Space Updates, Mike Chicareli, COO UNMH

New Hospital Tower = Critical Care Tower

- Construction underway; anticipate first 6 floors opening 10/2024
- 96 ICU beds, 70 bed ED, 18 ORs, 4 cath labs, 6 IR suites, additional radiology to serve CCT
- 2 additional shell floors with potential for 96 more beds approved by NM Board of Finance with a planned timeline for 2027
- Parking garage opened 6/2022; 3 times larger than prior. Old parking deck demolished for connector bridge
- CCT updates emailed and also available on UNMH Intranet

OR Spaces after Critical Care Tower opens

- 18 CCT ORs planned for emergent / high-acuity cases
- Renovating main OR for scheduled, non-emergent cases; ultimate design 10 modern (bigger) ORs

PAG Announcements

- Next meeting 8/25 Jamie Silva-Steele, SRMC CEO; 9/8 PAG Outpatient part 2: clinic Improvement/ Access

BBRP spaces after CCT opens [draft, WIP]

- Data-driven plan for 1st/ 2nd floor BBRP after CCT opens
- 1st floor: expand ED, radiology; new obs/ flex beds
- 2nd floor: med/surg onc. CAR-T, transplant, critical care/ stepdown, cardiology, CT surg, vascular, plastics, etc

UNMH spaces after BBRP changes [draft, WIP]

- Improved geographic cohorting (EGS, trauma, IM, etc)
- Multiple iterations of planning to come

Other UNMH space project [draft, WIP]

- Movement Disorder/ Senior Health clinic (10/2022) west of M-lot
- Crisis Triage Center (11/2024) east of current PES
- Medical Office Building (2026) west of CCT in current location of Nusenda credit union; plan for parking structure with MOB
- Child Psych Center (TBD) same location as current
- Primary care clinic (land acquisition in process)
- Gallup clinic expansion (2/2023); Eye clinic remodel (6/2023)
- 2 more parking garages over the next 20 years

PAG UPDATE

PAG Meeting 8/25/22 : Jaime Silbva-Steele, CEO SRMC

SRMC celebrates 10 years in 2022!

- Celebrations: ICU COVID-19 award, RN Nightingale award
- Stacker #1 hospital in New Mexico 2022; #6 nationally
- ABQ Journal Readers Choice awards for many specialties
- Level 3 Trauma designation March 2022
- Internal/external referral provider relations: Abigayl Camacho
- 2 ED renovations during COVID-19; now 20 bays
- Mill Levy programs: Trauma, Behavioral Health

Current Facilities

- Inpatient: 48 med/surg beds, 12 ICU beds, 20 emergency dept bays, 6 ORs/special procedure rooms
- Outpatient: Primary care, med/surg ambulatory clinics, radiology/diagnostics, Center of Excellence for Orthopedic Surgery and Rehab includes research lab with Dept of Orthopedics and School of Engineering
- Open medical staff model: community providers can work at SRMC; do not admit patients but may round

PAG Announcements

- Next meetings 9/8 PAG Outpatient Priorities part 2: Clinic Improvement/Access; 9/22 PAG IT Priorities

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts

- Wellness, diversity, equity focus: Dr Gurdeep Singh
- High volumes; CARES funding relief; Crisis standards of care 11/21; Restarted surgical cases 2/22; Reducing travelers and increasing hires; Working with UNMH for overall level loading

Strategic Planning

- Pillars: Clinical Growth & Reach; Increased Awareness and Favorability; Impact & Partnership
- Recruitment: GI, cardiology, ortho; Value proposition to insurers; Community impact: Outpatient Behavioral Health, trauma, DOH
- Fall 2022: Some surg specialties moving to fill all Ortho COE pods; increasing PCPs/specialties at SRMC clinics; 2023 Infusion expansion, Med Office Bldg and Ambulatory Surgery Ctr planning
- SRMC campus: water drainage and curvilinear park in planning

UNM HS Rio Rancho-SRMC Strategic Partnerships

- UNM RR campus BSN program; CNM MA certification program
- Pre-Health Scholars program (post-bac, high school outreach)
- Community primary care outreach; education and programs at senior centers
- UNMMG: Behavioral Health clinic, primary care partnership

PAG UPDATE

PAG Meeting 9/8/2022 : Outpatient priorities, Part 2

Dr John Bettler, PAG Outpatient Champion

- PAG priority: Clinic Improvement alignments, communication

Dr Val Carrejo, UNMH ACMO Primary Care

- **Background:** CI project centered on the patient
- Efficiency of practice: Clinician Focus on patients; work at top of license improve outcomes; decrease after-hours documentation.
- **Standardization:** Clinics have come through in waves
 - Staff intake process, triage forms, medication review/compliance
 - Standard ad hoc referral form, standard clinic discharge paperwork
 - Template and scheduling optimization; session "smoothing"
 - Example success: algorithm to improve PCO message management
- **5 ACC Specialty clinics:** Spotlight on the process/metrics
- Dyad partnerships: UNMH area leadership structure Geographic Medical Director - Unit Director dyads; standardizing inpatient and outpatient diad expectations

PAG News

- Next meeting 9/22 Wellness, Dr Liz Lawrence; 10/13 Finance, UNM Health Chief Financial Officers

Dr Irene Agostini, UNMH CMO

- **Right Care, Right Place, Right Time:** NM public health emergency order is expiring
 - UNMH must revert to 100% of licensed capacity by 10/16/22

Dolly Curran, RN, Dir Ambulatory Clinical Improvement

- Patient access: Standard dashboards show no-show, schedule lags; multiple metrics paint a picture of access
 - Clinic utilization metrics are coming this month as well
 - Overall trend of increased access over 2022

Anesthesia department: Dr Chris Arndt, Chair

- **Vision:** Be the leading Anesthesiology dept. in the SW
- **Values:** Innovation, Collaboration, Professionalism , Diversity
- Anesthesiology faculty in multiple leadership roles across the institution
- Residency program 4 years; Fellowships in regional anesthesiology and pain medicine. Fellowships planned for pediatric anesthesiology, critical care, and research
- Anesthesiology Pain Laboratory: physiologic mechanisms of pain and non-opioid treatments.

PAG UPDATE

PAG Meeting 10/13/22 : UNM Health System Finances, FY22

Bonnie White, CFO UNMH

- Optimal census generally around 85%; as patient volume increases linearly above 100%, expenses increase exponentially. Public Health Emergency is expiring soon and will no longer be able to operate above 100%
 - Maintain capacity for missions that only UNMH can provide: Bern Co Safety net; IHS/Native health; acad med center/ specialty care
 - Statewide coordination to support all NM patients
- Inpatient revenues are paid by diagnosis (DRG) regardless of length of stay; average LOS increased in FY22 and revenues decreased with lower-complexity DRGs
 - Revenues~55/45 inpt/ outp; no CARES Act funds FY22
- Operating expenses much higher than FY21 mostly due to travelers and contract labor, traveler costs beginning to decrease and core staff salaries starting to stabilize
 - UNMH significant focus on recruitment and retention; proportion of core staff is increasing.

PAG News

- 2023 Chair-Elect nominations open through 10/24
- Upcoming: 10/27 IT Priorities; 11/10 Recruitment + Retention

Darlene Fernandezm CFO SRMC

- SRMC and UNMH in similar financial situations: increased operating expenses related to capacity, LOS, contract labor
 - SRMC clinic and surgical volumes below budget in FY22
 - SRMC received one-time adjustments from FEMA, CARES Act
- Reduced days cash on hand from 120 days to 60 days, mostly related to costs of contract labor and inflation
- Overall loss through August 2022 just as with UNMH
- FY22 contract labor is decreasing; surgical volume, rehav worse than budget; inpt bed and PCP/ surgical clinic metrics doing well

Jared Udall, CFO UNMMG

- FY22 Faculty professional work was a record breaking year for revenue, patient collections and wRVUs; FY22 operating expenses higher than revenues but offset by CARES Act funds
 - Collections per wRVUs increased over FY21
- UNMMG clinic revenues, particularly Truman Pharmacy, and UNM-Lovelace Rehav earnings better than budget and prior year
- Through August 2022 wRVUs, collection, clinics better than budget

FRED S. HERZON ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP



Dr. Fred S. Herzon received his MD from University of Illinois and completed his residency and fellowship at Northwestern University in 1971. Dr. Herzon joined the UNM faculty in 1971. For more than 30 years Dr. Herzon provided leadership to the division of otolaryngology and provided outstanding care to all New Mexicans. He established the Otolaryngology residency program in 1990 which has grown to a total of 10 residents with planned expansion to 12 residents. Since 1971 the division of Otolaryngology has grown from 2 faculty members to now 16 faculty and is planning on transitioning to a department in the next 2 years. Although no longer clinically active, Dr. Herzon continues to provide mentorship and education to Otolaryngology residents and faculty. The Fred S. Herzon Endowed Professorship will leave a lasting tribute to the contributions, efforts and legacy of Dr. Herzon.

DR. GARTH OLSON



Dr. Olson is a respected professor and otolaryngologist, and has a passion for medical education, mentoring, service, and leadership - which aligns so well with the goals and mission of Dr. Fred Herzon.

Dr. Olson was recruited in 2001 to join the Division of Otolaryngology within the UNM School of Medicine Department of Surgery by then Division Chief, Dr. Fred S. Herzon.

During his 20 + years of service at UNM, he has pioneered new techniques and brought resources and expertise in many areas of thyroid/parathyroid and head and neck oncology. He has served as otolaryngology program director for 15 years, member of multiple surgical committees and most recently as Executive Surgical Director of Surgical Services for UNM Health.

Dr. Garth Olson completed his Otolaryngology residency at St. Louis University in 2000 and his Microvascular Reconstruction fellowship at Vanderbilt.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ICARE AWARDS!

STEPHANIE FINE, MD

- Dr Fine, I met with Allison and Emma today and they both shared with me how wonderful you are as a mentor and teacher. They have both learned so much in your clinics. Thank you for taking the time to train our APPs. I truly appreciate you. Sandi Peacock

TANIA KRAAI, MD

- Thank you SO much for seeing my patient for an ear cleaning at the end of the day! Your flexibility is much appreciated and made it easier on the family - Briana Hester-Keels

MORGAN SELLERS, MD

-Welcome to EGS! Even after a rough week, you went above and beyond discussing plans of care and answering all questions to some of our more nervous patients! -Jennifer A Richmond

MICHAEL SPAFFORD, MD

-Dr. Spafford, thank you so much for stepping in to help with a pediatric patient during your already very busy clinic. You made it possible for him to safely get home and avoid re admission. - Christina Quack

SARAH POPEK, MD

- I would like to recognize Dr. Popek for the amazing job she did during and after my procedure. I always felt I was in great hands and was treated like an important patient. She was very thorough and explained everything to help me feel comfortable. I truly appreciate her kind approach, especially when she offered to share her personal stash of peanut butter with me when I was feeling light headed. She also was a great role model for our medical students and a fantastic example of the great care given at UNMH. :) - Gianna B Joerg

DUNCAN MEIKLEJOHN, MD

-Thank you for removing some debris for a patient's ear today as an add-on! Really appreciate it! - James A Meiklejohn

KAREN A HAWLEY, MD

- Karen always looks out for what is best for patients. She is always willing to make sure everyone is taken care of and has what they need. I know that everything will get done when Karen is on. Thank you -Whitney Brennan

-Thanks for all the support and understanding with my mother's recent illness -Christina Quack

-Thank you Dr. Hawley for your incredible care of a mutual patient! -Sara Doorley

ERICA C BENNETT, MD

-During a post-op phone call, a patient's mom wanted to express her thanks to Dr. Bennett for helping her son during his surgery and for spending so much time with the family after surgery answering all of their questions. She wanted to me to relay how much that meant to her. Thank you! - Whitney Brennan

BRANDON BEHRENS, MD

-Thank you for taking the time to teach me how to do a surgical procedure today. I cant thank you enough!!- Sarah E Davis

- Dr. Behrens was a great teacher today in a trauma patient in the EDRU. He very calmly and competently guided me through a thoracotomy tube placement. While it was a busy time, in a stressful situation, Dr. Behrens made me feel perfectly supported and capable. Not only that, but other people in the room noted how calm Dr. Behrens was during the whole procedure. Thanks for being an excellent consultant and teacher! - Bruno A Perthus

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ICARE AWARDS!

BRANDON BEHRENS, MD

-Thanks for making the OR a pleasant positive place. I really like doing cases with you. Just one example, I loved it when you said to the junior resident something like "your surgical instinct is great, nice work". Keep it up. We are lucky to have you.- Joseph Freeman

MARK LANGSFELD, MD

- Written on behalf of Catherine James. I want to thank Dr. Langsfeld for his assistance with our PSI's. He speaks with our Providers involved with getting additional documentation for the PSIs he review?ed when appropriate. -Patricia Alvarado

RICHARD MISKIMINS, MD

- For taking a patient to the OR that wasn't technically emergent, but improved the patients quality of life immensely. -Bryan D Hall

-Dr. Miskimins always makes sure to make APP education a priority, even on busy trauma admitting days. The value he places in the educational advancement of all members of the care team is really appreciated. He's a wonderful advocate for us as a group and he makes it clear that our work is meaningful. - Nicole N Webb

NOAH P SYME, MD

- During NSQIP patient follow-up calls, you and your team were described as "very good people who do awesome work, huge shout out to the team" - Susan Cognetto

NATHAN BOYD, MD

- During NSQIP patient follow-up calls, you and your team were described as "very good people who do awesome work, huge shout out to the team" - Susan Cognetto

-Thank you Dr. Boyd for everything you do for Our Patients!! I greatly appreciate you helping out one of My Friends with a appt. I know she is in good hands with you!! - Sha-Marie D Vega

JOHN RUSSELL, MD

-Dr. Russell, thank you so much for stepping in and supporting Emily's didactics this year. She specifically expressed how much she enjoyed your didactics and how you teach (prompting her to answer questions, etc.). The consent workshop was a highlight, and she suggested offering it earlier in the year for the next fellow. I appreciate your support of the program over the years and how you mentored Leah to grow and lead. Thank you for everything, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year, Radha Denmark

GARTH OLSON, MD

-Thank you Dr. Olson for helping to get a patient in sooner appt for a thyroid mass when she is already dealing with a lot with her other chronic progressive medical condition. This cooperative collaboration for optimal patient care is appreciated and the epitome of the quality care and compassion UNMH strives for - thank you!- Hai Trinh

ANIL SHETTY, MD

-Thank you Doctor for helping heal me.-Patient Michelle Sam

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

iCARE AWARDS

ANDREW COWAN, MD

- I'm sending this iCare on behalf of one of your patient's who was so appreciative of your visit yesterday and how honest you were with him about his prognosis. He said you were "a straight shooter, looked me in the eye the entire time". "No ums, ahs or anything like that". He greatly appreciated your empathy and honesty with him. Thank you for taking such good care of him and all your patients!
- Jen, PT

EDWARD AUYANG, MD

- Thank you so much for your help with a tough situation! - Elizabeth Fresquez

iCARE AWARDS / STAFF

ASHLEY ORTIZ ENRIQUEZ - CLINIC COORDINATOR VASCULAR

- Thank you for your help and prompt communication regarding scheduling Vascular surgeons for a meeting. You have been so helpful in helping get some dates/times coordinated. I appreciate your hard work and help with scheduling this important task, despite busy schedules around clinics and surgeries. - Jennifer A Hopper

CHENOA JENNINGS - MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- She has done an amazing job since being the new urology coordinator, very responsive and helps get the job done. Thank you very much! - Peter B Sam
- Thank you for being so helpful and responsive with us urology residents. You have been fantastic! - Lauren S Faber

ALEJANDRA BASSOCO - CLINIC COORDINATOR SURG ONCOLOGY

- You have been such an amazing addition to our team! Thank you for everything that you do for Burn and Plastic Surgery! - Avra Laarakker
- Thank you for always being so helpful and efficient! You have been doing a great job, and such an asset to the plastic surgery team! - Alyssa Anastasi

LEANN MISQUEZ - MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Leann, thank you for all you did for the General Surgery Fellowship. You jumped in and did a great job in taking over, despite the challenges. Thank you for the work you put into the GSF graduation. It went well, and I'm so proud of Emily and our team and look forward to seeing the next cohort through.- Mariaelena Hernandez
- Leann, thank you for joining our team this year... we're so grateful to have you on board. I look for Leann- Thank you so much for helping out the Vascular Surgery team with getting tiger scheduling set up. Your help is very much appreciated! Looking forward to working with you in the coming year!
- Radha

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ICARE AWARDS/STAFF

JESSICA BLEA - EXECUTIVE ADMIN FOR THE CHAIR

- Jessica always goes above and beyond to help with any situation. - Rachel Landavazo

GLORIA MARTINEZ, CLINIC COORDINATOR UROLOGY

- Thank you so much for rescheduling my patients when I was out sick. You immediately started rescheduling when you got my message, and were so cheerful and positive when doing so. You found everyone a new appointment within a week, and called, and sent reminder letters. You are such a wonderful colleague!! -Angela Salazar
- Today in Rounding, Angela mentioned how much she appreciates your help and hard work in getting her patient's scheduled for Peds Urology. You have really improved her work flow and her no show rate!! Thank you for everything you do! -Vicki Stetson



PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

DIVISION WINNERS!!!

This October for Halloween we decided to have a little contest - Division against Division for the best pumpkin carving! Participants were General Surgery, Pediatrics/ HPB, Urology, Plastics/Surgical Oncology, Vascular, ACS, Medical Education and IT Below are the top 3 division winners.

FIRST PLACE



SURGICAL ONCOLOGY



**SECOND PLACE
GENERAL SURGERY**



**THIRD PLACE
UROLOGY**

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



MAKE AN IMPACT



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO
FOUNDATION

PLEASE GIVE TO ADVANCE OUR MISSION

By making a gift to support our mission, you help deliver advanced surgical care to adult and pediatric patients, protect the pursuit of groundbreaking research and ensure the exceptional training of New Mexico's future leaders in surgical sciences.

Dr. Donald E. and Mrs. Rosemary V. Fry Endowed Fund for Surgery



CARRYING ON A LEGACY

THANK YOU for joining us at ACS!

Several generations of UNM-trained alumni, faculty, and supporters reunited to celebrate during the 2022 ACS Clinical Congress.

We heard from Dr. Marek about the future of UNM SOM Surgery while Dr. Fry honored our past.

Continuing a tradition of excellence and building a brighter, more sustainable future for UNM SOM Surgery, requires planting seeds by creating new and growing already established

endowed chair and professorship positions, Like the Dr. Donald E. and Rosemary V. Fry Endowed Fund for Surgery.

Help us raise \$100,000 this year to establish the Fry Endowed Chair.

Endowed positions recognize and honor the significant contributions faculty have made during their career in the UNM School of Medicine Department of Surgery through the recognition of the history and qualities of the surgeon for whom an endowment is named.

Please honor Dr. Fry and carry on a legacy of excellence perpetually by giving to the Dr. Donald E. and Rosemary V. Fry Endowed Fund for Surgery.

**For more information and to make your gift, contact:
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