

# Orthopaedic Surgery NEWS

## UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM

Summer 2009



### A View from the Chair's Corner

This time of year we celebrate the success of our trainees, both graduating residents and fellows as they close the UC Davis chapter of their education and prepare to embark on the next step of their professional development. Our graduating residents are Cale Bonds, Doug Dennis, William Page, and Ravi Patel. Fellow graduates are Gene Choi, Mohammed Khadder, George Myo, Michael Quackenbush and George Karl Van Osten.

For the second year, Thursday evening grand rounds were held the day prior to the graduate research program. It's often difficult for our alumni, voluntary clinical faculty, and colleagues to take time away from their busy schedules to attend our normally scheduled Tuesday AM grand rounds; so we have gone to this time to give everyone a chance to join us. This upcoming year, we also plan to have quarterly evening grand rounds preceded by a welcoming reception, sponsored by the Lipscomb Society.

We welcomed guest speaker, Dr. Peter Stern, Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine. His evening grand rounds topic was "Complications Following

Hinged Total Elbow Arthroplasty."

Our graduate symposium, held on Friday, June 19, began with Dr. Stern's presentation, "Current Perspectives on the Management of Small Joint Injuries and Arthrosis". Following his lecture, we listened to five resident and five fellow research presentations - all followed by lively discussion from the audience. All of our graduates are expected to present at the symposium and are also required to provide a grand rounds in their senior year. These opportunities to present their research work prepare our trainees for exposure in public speaking, which is valuable to their careers.

The evening concluded with our annual graduation dinner, held at the Granite Bay Country Club. Faculty, trainees, volunteer clinical faculty, and special guests of the honorees were invited to attend. After dinner, there was a program that announced award recipients, followed by a presentation of the graduate certificates. This year, we had two special acknowledgements: Dr. George Rab presented a plaque to Dr. David Moehring, in recognition of his twenty years of service with our department. Dr. Moehring is retiring from the Primary Care Network



Department of Orthopaedics Faculty and Trainees  
Graduation Symposium - June 19, 2009

in June 2009, but we are fortunate to have him continue on as a Volunteer Clinical Faculty member. Dr. Robert Szabo then presented a toast in honor of our Volunteer Clinical Faculty, whose myriad contributions enhance the training mission of our department.

The resident-nominated Teaching Award recipients were Dr. Mark Lee, Associate Professor and traumatologist and Dr. James Sehr, Volunteer Clinical Faculty from Kaiser South. The Research Symposium Award recipients, chosen by a panel of both research and clinical faculty, were awarded to resident Dr. Doug Dennis for his presentation, "Proximal Third Tibia Fractures: A Biomechanical (*continued on page 2*)

#### These faculty members were recently recommended for merit advancement



Paul DiCesare, MD  
Professor Step 3 - Regular  
Series

Eric Klineberg, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Step 3 - Clin X



Richard Marder, MD  
Professor Step 5 - HSCP

Debra Popejoy, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Step 3 - Clin X



Roberto Rolando, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Step 5 - HSCP

## Match Day Results: Largest Match Ever; Orthopaedics Remains Competitive

According to the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), more than 24,000 medical students were placed in residency training programs during this year's "Match Day". Among U.S. seniors, more than 56% matched with their first choice. In orthopaedics, 157 programs opened 641 positions to a total of 957 applicants. The number of available orthopaedic positions has continued to increase over the past 5 years, from 610 in 2005 to the current 641.

### Our Match Day Results

#### Welcome new Residents

#### Sukanta Maitra, MD

(6 year research position) graduated from Albany Medical College in 2005; Dr. Maitra is interested in remaining in academic medicine.

*Acting Intern Rotation - 10.27.08 - 11.21.08 - Spine Service*



#### Scott Porter, MD

from Santa Barbara; earned his MD degree from UC Davis. Dr. Porter is interested in upper extremity and sports related orthopaedics and medical device design. *Acting Intern Rotation - 8.11.08 - 9.05.08 - Trauma Service*

#### Volunteer Opportunities in Orthopaedic Surgery

As a follow up to my grand rounds presentation regarding *Mercy Ships* and Volunteering in Orthopaedic Surgery, the following web sites might be useful if you are considering this. Please contact me if you have any questions.

-Peter Salamon, MD  
psalamon@aol.com  
916.258.0504

Mercy Ships  
www.mercyships.org

Doctors Without Borders  
www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Orthopaedics Overseas  
www.hvousa.org

CURE  
www.helpcurenorw.org

#### Thomas Powers, MD

grew up in Oakland and earned his MD degree from the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu. *Acting Intern Rotation - 9.02.08 - 9.26.08 - Trauma Service*



#### Scott Whitlow, MD

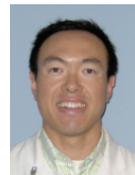
grew up in Seattle, and earned his MD degree from Boston University. His interests lean toward orthopaedic trauma.

*Acting Intern Rotation - 10.28.08 - 11.21.08 - Sports Service*

#### and our new PGY2

#### Philbert Huang, MD

earned his MD degree and PhD in Biomedical Engineering from UC Davis. He also did a General Surgery Internship at UC Davis from June 2007 to June 2008. *7.21.08- 4.30.09 - 5809 Pager MD Consult*



### Save these 2009 dates!

#### Lipscomb Lectureship - Sept 3

Speakers: Dr. Dan Benson  
(History of UCD Orthopaedics) and  
Dr. William Sterett of

Steadman Hawkins Clinic  
(Allograft vs. Autograft ACL  
Reconstruction)

refreshments at 5:30 pm  
lecture from 6 to 7:30 pm  
Medical Education Building

#### Research Symposium

October 16

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mats Paulsson,  
Director, Center for Biochemistry,  
University of Cologne

8 am to 5 pm  
Medical Education Building

#### A View from the Chair's Corner continued

Analysis of Four Fixation Techniques" and fellow Dr. George Myo for his presentation, "Biomechanical Comparison of Locked Versus Unlocked Metacarpal Plating Techniques in a Metacarpal Gap Model".

The Reno Orthopaedics Award, sponsored by Drs. Timothy Bray and Peter Althausen, is given to the graduate who has made significant contributions to the field of trauma. The trauma service selected Dr. William Page as the 2009 recipient.

Congratulations to our 2009 graduates. It has been a pleasure to witness your personal and professional growth. Your UC Davis education has provided a foundation for you to build upon as you continue your careers as Orthopaedic Surgeons! We certainly expect great things from you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Paul E. Di Cesare, MD, FACS  
Michael W. Chapman Endowed Chair

#### Spotlight on....

#### Orthopaedic Hand, Upper Extremity and Microvascular Service



Robert M. Szabo, MD, MPH  
Service Chief and  
Fellowship Director

Hand surgery at UC Davis was established in our Department in 1983 as a comprehensive Upper Extremity and Microvascular service which included residents and fellows from orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, and PM&R. The ACGME accredited Hand Fellowship began the following year in order to augment, improve and contribute to the clinical experience and teaching of the residents and medical students. While on this service, residents and fellows acquire the foundation of knowledge for the basic science and surgical practice related  
(continued on back)

## Signals and Stem Cells for Tissue Regeneration

**Hari Reddi**, Distinguished Professor and the Lawrence Ellison Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has just returned from a sabbatical in Spain. He spent the first segment of three months in the Department of Cell Biology, Genetics and Physiology at the University of Malaga. He worked on muscle-derived progenitor/stem cells for cartilage formation with Professors Jose Antonio Andrades and Jose Becerra.

Regenerative medicine and surgery are emerging areas of medicine that are based on design and development of spare parts for the human body; our focus being regeneration for the musculoskeletal system, to restore function to tissue diseased or damaged from cancer, trauma and arthritis. Regenerative medicine is based on principles of molecular developmental biology and is governed by basic biomechanics and bioengineering. The three key elements of regenerative medicine are morphogenetic signals, stem cells and scaffolds of extracellular matrix. Regeneration recapitulates



*Dr. Reddi is flanked by Professor Becerra (l) and Professor Andrades (r) at the University of Malaga Hospital Carlos Haya*

embryonic development and morphogenesis.

Regeneration of articular cartilage is one of the top priorities in the research conducted at the Lawrence J. Ellison Musculoskeletal Research Center. The articular cartilage has distinct functional domains in the surface, middle and deep layers of the cartilage. The surface serves to secrete a lubricant called superficial zone protein for friction-free locomotion of the limbs. The middle layer provides the extracellular matrix with collagen for tensile strength and proteoglycans to

resist compression during mechanical loading resulting from everyday activities like walking and running.

Recent research in the laboratory is focused on regeneration of surface, middle and deep layers of articular cartilage using stem/progenitor cells and morphogens, such as bone and cartilage morphogenetic proteins. There are stem cells from both embryonic and adult tissues.

Dr. Reddi worked on coaxing these muscle-derived stem/progenitor cells to form cartilage by lineage-directing growth factors and morphogens such as BMPs. He has now optimized methods for cartilage formation. But there are still many challenges: such as how to create articular cartilage with surface, middle and deep layers and how to maintain them in a stable manner in order to obtain durable function. Dr. Reddi is optimistic that, with systematic investigations of the stem cells, signals and scaffolds, we will eventually be able to provide regenerative medicine to our patients, which is our department's primary mission.



**Jonathan Eastman, MD**, PGY4 was recognized by the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma as the *Best PGY3 Orthopaedic Teaching*

*Resident* of our program. **Dr. Eastman** also received a \$10,000 award from OTA for his presentation "Retropatellar Technique for Intramedullary Nailing of Tibia Fractures: A Prospective Evaluation".

**Tania Ferguson, MD**, was awarded \$12,000 by the Committee on Research to be used as seed funds for outside grant applications and support of new and ongoing research activities.



**David Fyhrie, PhD**, has successfully passed a five year review of his tenure as the David Linn Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery and has accepted a five year reappointment from Chancellor Vanderhoef.

**Safdar Khan, MD**, PGY5, received first prize in April at the OREF Northern California Symposium for his presentation titled, "The Role of Leptin in the Local Control of Fracture Healing."



**Mark Lee, MD**, has been selected as a recipient for this year's UC Davis Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award in the Graduate/Professional Teaching category.

An Omega Grant for \$30,500 has been presented to **John Meehan, MD**, to be used for the Adult Reconstructive Fellowship. In addition, **Dr. Meehan** was awarded a \$75,000 OREF Fellowship Grant. **Dr. Meehan** was also awarded a \$25,000 "Vision" Grant by the UC Davis Health System National Board of Advisors for his research project



"Assessing Patient Outcomes After Simultaneous Bilateral Total Knee Arthroplasty Versus Staged Bilateral Total Knee Arthroplasty".

**Rolando Roberto, MD** was honored by our Graduate Medical Education Office for attaining five year ACGME accreditation for our residency program.



Two of Dr. Fyhrie's PhD students, **Crystal Tjhia** and **Matthew Soicher** were accepted as Fellows of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Integrating Medicine into Basic Science Training Program. The fellowships come with a \$10,650 stipend and \$5,760 of support for student fees. These are prestigious fellowships and our students are heartily congratulated!



## **Spotlight on.....continued**

to normal function and pathology of the upper extremity musculoskeletal, nervous and vascular systems. With a formal didactic curriculum of weekly lectures and gross anatomy dissections, a microsurgery laboratory and busy patient experience, residents and fellows become competent to treat congenital and acquired disorders from the brachial plexus to the fingertips. Clinical service is available for both children and adults with a broad spectrum of upper extremity disorders including hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder. Free tissue bone and soft tissue transfers are performed for hand, tumor, pediatric and trauma surgery patients. Surgeries are performed at UC Davis Medical Center, Mercy General Hospital and the Northern California Shriners Hospital. All-inclusive hand therapy services are provided by our own University certified hand therapists (Kim Groninger, Marilyn Armbruster and Jean Kotal), as well as many other

qualified therapists in the community.

Robert M. Szabo, MD, MPH, Hand Service Chief and Fellowship Director, has a dual appointment in Orthopaedics and Plastic Surgery. He trained at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and at the University of California in San Diego. He also received an MPH in Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Szabo specializes in hand, wrist, peripheral nerve, brachial plexus and reconstructive shoulder and elbow surgery. He will assume the role as President of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand in September 2009.

Robert H. Allen, MD, formerly a renowned cardiac surgeon at Mercy General Hospital, trained at Stanford University and completed his hand fellowship with Dr. Szabo at UC Davis. Dr. Allen specializes in hand and wrist surgery, with an emphasis on acute trauma and post traumatic reconstruction.

The hand service is privileged to have a large and capable Volunteer Clinical Faculty (VCF) roster. The VCF offer excellent teaching to our housestaff while running a weekly clinic as well as providing other clinic coverage. The hand VCF include Richard Goldberg, MD, Dennis Sullivan, MD, Vincent Leung, MD, Norman Poppen, MD, Robert Slater, MD, Scott Lipson, MD, and Erin Forest, MD. Special thanks go to our Emeritus VCF, who have served our department for many of the past 26 years: Noel VanNess, William Elliot and Richard Tortosa.

Over the past 26 years, the UCD hand service has hosted a monthly Problem Hand Clinic, where community surgeons and therapists meet and present patients with complex problems in the quest to propose the best possible solutions for their patients' care. The hand team also meets regularly, along with community hand surgeons for a serious hand journal club organized by Drs. Slater and Goldberg.

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