Message from the Chair

“If I try and fail, I can handle it... it's not trying that I can't accept.”
--Michael Jordan

The goal of the UTMB Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation (DOSR) is clearly defined by its mission statement: to be considered by others (in the institution, region, and nation) among the best at what we do. The DOSR fully appreciates the difficulty inherent in this aspiration, but if we have to work hard (which we do every day), what better purpose to strive for?

The plan that will allow us to accomplish our objective is quite simple; the DOSR only requests that each member (faculty, staff, residents, administrators) is dedicated to becoming the best he or she can be at their particular jobs. If we all truly commit to meeting our individual challenges, our success (individual and departmental) is virtually guaranteed.

The price that must be paid for this success will call for a basic change in our approach to our professional responsibilities…and change is always difficult. This is especially true of any meaningful change (stop smoking, lose weight, develop new skills/hobbies, preserve quality time for family and friends, etc.). Many of our colleagues will fully embrace our new paradigm; some will not. The DOSR respects the fact that this is a decision that all must make for themselves, but the focus of the DOSR will always remain firmly on its stated mission.

We have the critical resources and personnel with which to begin accomplishing our goals. In fact, in a relatively brief period of time the DOSR has already significantly enhanced every aspect of its daily operations: increased clinical productivity, improved educational forums/activities, and more prolific scientific research/publications.

Moreover, we have now begun to receive something we’ve been striving to deserve…recognition. And these accolades will provide the impetus the DOSR needs as it augments its current resource/personnel foundation with additional talented persons who share our vision.

So when I am approached by people throughout our system who confide that they’ve heard “that there are a lot of changes/transitions occurring in Orthopaedics,” I merely look at where we were, appreciate where we are now, and eagerly anticipate the future toward which we are heading.

--Ronald W. Lindsey, MD

Honors & Awards

Congratulations to DOSR faculty member Dr. Zbigniew Gugala. Dr. Gugala was recently inducted as a member into the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). We also congratulate the following DOSR alumni on their induction as fellows into the AAOS:

- Gurpreet Bajaj, MD
- Clinton S. Bell, MD
- Steven Dale Eggleston, MD
- Christopher English, MD
- Stefan Kreuzer, MD
- James B. Westmoreland, MD

The Perioperative Governance Committee recently commended the faculty and leadership of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation for the significant role they have played in increasing the utilization of the Rebecca Sealy Operating Room by 44% from March 2007 to March 2008. We extend our thanks to our faculty and leadership and look forward to the opportunities for further improvement that lie ahead in the coming year.

UTMB’s DOSR proudly announces the commencement of an exciting new clinical trial on GENE THERAPY and DIABETIC FOOT ULCERS, with Dr. Maria T. Guidry serving as principal investigator. We are one of 25 sites nationwide, with only two study sites in Texas. This trial, sponsored by MATRIX, will study the effects of Excellarate™ (GAM 501) (Ad5PDGF-B/bovine type 1 collagen gel) for the potential treatment of neuropathic non-healing diabetic foot ulcers. Study results to date indicate that this research may lead to the world’s first FDA-approved use of gene therapy to stimulate wound healing. The DOSR is honored to participate in this cutting-edge research. The trial has been gaining media coverage nationwide, so watch for the news in coming weeks.
Publications


--"Two Stage Flexor Tendon Reconstruction."
--"Telemedicine – Its Use in the Field of Hand Surgery."
--"Anatomy and Biomechanics of the Hand and Wrist."
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Presentations

Grecula MJ. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Imaging in Orthopedics. 24th Annual Diagnostic Imaging Seminar, Galveston, TX, Apr 26, 2008.


Viegas SF. Lecturer & Moderator: Pre-Congress Symposium of the 7th Meeting of the Asian Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand, Macau, China, Feb 13, 2008.

--Invited Lecture: “The Biomechanics of Carpal Instabilities.”
--Moderator, “free paper” session.


--"Biomechanics of the Hand & Wrist.”
--"Anatomic Variability of the Wrist.”
--"Carpal Instabilities.”
--"Telemedicine – Its Use in the Field of Hand Surgery.”
--"Two Stage Flexor Tendon Reconstruction.”
--"Demands on and Injuries to the Hand and Upper Extremity seen in the Astronauts in the Space Program During Training and Space Flight” (Plenary Lecture).
--"Ligamentous Anatomy and Motion Analysis of Carpo Metacarpal Joints.”


--"Carpal Instabilities.”
--"Telemedicine – Its Use in the Field of Hand Surgery.”

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Mabel Caban, a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician, earned her BS in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and then went on to earn her Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. Dr. Caban joined UTMB in January 2002 as an Assistant Professor in the DOSR. She also holds a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences. In October 2002 she was named a Fellow for the Sealy Center on Aging and in 2003 she was named as a Fellow for the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women’s Health. She was recognized in 2005 with the Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award and in 2008 was named the inaugural recipient of the Freeman Endowment Fund for the Development of Minority Faculty. Dr. Caban’s research, funded through the National Cancer Institute, focuses on the effects of disability on the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and the rehabilitation of breast cancer survivors. Dr. Caban’s approach to patient care and research combines intellect with compassion, providing her patients, her students, and UTMB with unique experience and expertise.
Grand Rounds

On March 12 in Galveston, Stephen J. Incavo, MD, Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, NY, presented “TKA KINEMATICS In Vitro and In Vivo Studies.”

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD, FACS, Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston presented “The Mystery of the Death of Princess Diana,” on April 9 in Galveston.

The Austin Lecture Series continued on March 19 with Mark R. Brinker, MD, Director of Acute and Reconstructive Trauma at Texas Orthopedic Hospital in Houston. Dr. Brinker presented “Biology of Fracture Healing and Strategies for When Things Go Poorly.”

On April 16, Lonnie Paulos, MD, Medical Director of the Texas Sports Medicine Alliance in Houston presented “Shoulder Resurfacing Update.”

Voluntary Faculty

UTMB’s DOSR is actively expanding its voluntary faculty roster in the Galveston, Austin, and Houston areas. We envision that these core faculty will augment many educational, clinical, and/or research activities of the department. Recent DOSR appointees include:

Houston Area:
- Dan Eidman, MD
- Stanley Gertzbein, MD
- Omer Ilahi, MD
- Jean Sibonga, PhD

Austin Area:
- Marc DeHart, MD
- Andrew Ebert, MD
- Tyler Goldberg, MD
- Matthew Heinrich, MD
- Anand Joshi, MD
- Manish Patel, MD

Class of 2013

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation proudly welcomes our incoming PGY-1s for 2008:

(L-R) Jonathan Capelle from UT Medical School at Houston, Justin Chronister from UT Medical School at Houston, Keith Ellison from UT Medical School at Houston, David Kummerfeld from UTMB, and Leah Rankine from The University of Alabama School of Medicine.

We look forward to working with the class of 2013 in advancing the DOSR’s core mission, in improving the lives of our patients, and in enriching the quality of health care in the state and region.

Resident Notes

Kathy Flesher, Resident Training Program Coordinator of the DOSR, recently passed her national board certification and is now a board-certified residency program coordinator. We congratulate Ms. Flesher on this achievement and extend our appreciation for her years of service and for the critical work she performs for the DOSR and our residents every day.

Niki Leontaritis, DO, was selected to present at the Southern Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, Jun 11-14, 2008, Hot Springs, VA.

David Merriman, MD, was selected to attend the American College of Surgeons: Residents as Teachers and Leaders, May 2-4, 2008, Chicago, IL.

Chad Conner, MD, was selected to attend the Resident Leadership Forum in conjunction with the AOA, Quebec City, Canada, Jun 3-5, 2008.

Sonya Ahmed, MD, was selected to attend the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (AAOS), Washington, DC, Apr 30-May 3, 2008.
The 26th Annual G.W.N. Eggers Lectureship

We welcome our 2008 inductees into the G.W.N. Eggers Society:

- Sonya Ahmed, MD
- Amir Alemohammad, MD
- James Bynum, MD
- Robert Launikitis, MD
- Jay Rapley, MD

Honorary inductee:
- Roger Mann MD

Drs. Steven Viegas & Amir Alemohammad
Drs. Michael Greacula & David Randall

Drs. Gurpreet Bajaj & Steve Eggleston

Drs. Clark Race, Roger Mann & David Yngve

Drs. Eugene Schoch, E. Burke Evans & Mike Putney

Drs. David Merriman & Sean Burns

Dr. Ben Turnbow, Randal Morris & Dr. Brandon Low

Drs. E. Burke Evans & Kelly Carmichael

Drs. David Randall, Bob Blais, Brian Smith & Steven Viegas

Drs. Vinod Panchbhavi, John Kosty & Gurpreet Bajaj
Upcoming Events

UTMB Galveston Grand Rounds:
--May 14: Valerae O. Lewis, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Ad-Interim Chief, Department of Orthopaedic Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

Austin Visiting Lecture Series:
--May 21: Jay D. Mabrey, MD, Chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX.

2008 Texas Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting:
--May 22-24, Westin Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, TX; five DOSR residents will be presenting along with one of our faculty.

2008 UTMB School of Medicine Commencement Ceremonies:
--May 31, Moody Gardens Convention Center, Galveston; Keynote Speaker and UTMB Alumnus Bernard Morrey, MD, Professor of Orthopedics, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

2008 Resident Graduation:
--June 20, Moody Gardens, Galveston; Distinguished Lecturer E. Burke Evans, MD; Visiting Professor, Augustus A. White III, PhD, MD, The Ellen and Melvin Gordon Distinguished Professor of Medical Education, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

2008 26th Annual Conference on Innovations in Sports Medicine:
--July 11-12, Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort, Galveston, TX.