Message from the Chair

Things That We Do and Things That We Don’t

“The Spartans do not ask how many are the enemy, but where are they”
--King Agis of Sparta

In recent years I’ve come to more fully appreciate that our words are not as important as our actions…and that actions are not as significant as the motivations for them. Wishing for change certainly has some appeal, but the intentions upon which they are based, and our commitment to them, have more.

Although I’m occasionally blessed with being the recipient or bearer of good news, my job is usually the target for problems, conflict, and/or discontent. The manner by which I seek to resolve these issues is always the same…first determine the true motivation of the parties involved, and then select the option that most reflects the mission of the group. No, it’s not always the best method for cultivating friendships, catering to individual agendas, or maintaining the status quo. But it is the best way to ensure the likelihood of the group being successful in achieving its objectives.

In clinical care, education, or research, we (UTMB and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation) have come a long way toward realizing many of our institutional goals, and we still have a long way to go. However, as we continue to grow into our 21st century persona, the challenges that confront us will undoubtedly evolve in size and complexity as well. So when we come to the inevitable “forks in the road” that exemplify all change, the direction we select should always be motivated by one basic tenet; there are things that we do, and there are things that we don’t. There are things that we do when we truly prioritize and work for our patients, students/trainees, scientific advancement, institutional growth, and success as an academic enterprise…and there are things that we do when we don’t. All else (time, effort, inconvenience, personal aspiration, or petty internal competition) is not a consideration. It’s that simple.

History teaches us that the ancient Spartans, despite their bravado, were not always victorious. But, and perhaps more importantly, because of the audacity of their singular purpose they were never truly defeated.

New Faculty

Scott Hecox, MD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Hecox, a 2006 UTMB graduate, completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Tennessee-Campbell Clinic, Memphis, TN in 2011 and a hand surgery fellowship at the Hand Center of San Antonio, San Antonio, TX in 2012. Dr. Hecox joined the Orthopaedic Surgery faculty in August and specializes in reconstructive hand surgery, upper extremity trauma, and microvascular surgery. He will provide patient care at the UTMB Orthopedic Clinic at South Shore Harbour and the UTMB Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes, both in League City, as well as the Primary Care Pavilion in Galveston.
Publications


**Bold** - Full-time Faculty/Resident

**Italics** - Voluntary and Former Faculty/Resident
Presentations

UTMB High School Summer Research Program (HSSRP)

On July 27, Mr. Jonathan Viernes presented his summer research project as part of the High School Summer Research Program. This was Jonathan’s second year working in the Orthopaedics Biomechanics Laboratory and he is currently in the Biomedical Engineering Program at UT Austin.


Ortho on the Web

The Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation homepage has a new look. The site features new information on our clinical services, faculty members, residency program, and more.

In efforts to expand our web presence to current and prospective patients, we will also be providing more information on our clinical enterprise in conjunction with UTMB Health. Some of the features we are planning include detailed descriptions of orthopedic procedures, links to expanded health libraries, and a dynamic blog that will provide updates on current orthopedic issues, health trends, and events.

In remembrance of Dr. Evans’ birthday on October 28th, we invite you to visit the E. Burke Evans, MD webpage where you can visit the Evans Gallery and leave comments in the Guestbook.
Gordon L. Klein, MD has been invited to be a consultant on a Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (Boston, MA) advisory board on bone toxicity.

**Patient Feedback**

“My brother-in-law recently brought his daughter in to Victory Lakes to see Dr. Yngve and he was extremely pleased with everything about the visit. He said they were seen exactly on time, the staff was wonderful and the doctor was great. He was amazed by your modern and beautiful clinic. His wife said if the other UTMB clinics were as good as yours, it would be worth the drive from Houston because the driving time was shorter than the usual waiting time in the Medical Center.

“My brother-in-law is a well known attorney in Houston who usually sees the best doctors in Houston. He is used to getting good care, but your staff and Dr. Yngve really impressed him.”

“Keep up the good work.”

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**Save the Date**

UTMB Orthopaedic Surgery Reception at the 2013 AAOS Annual Meeting
Chicago, Illinois

Four Seasons Hotel
Thursday, March 21, 2013, 6:00pm
Fellow Eggers-Evansians,

I am writing to update the thousands of you who, along with my wife, missed the most recent Eggers-Evans Society meeting in Galveston.

First, the bad news. You missed an epochal event: my talk on the Achilles tendon. Highlights included a number of stunning revelations, e.g., the use of an apostrophe is optional after Achilles. But, water under the bridge. Que lastima for you is all I can say.

I had considered giving another talk during the coming 2013 meeting entitled “The MRI in Orthopaedic Practice - Passing Fad or Here to Stay?” but audience evaluations of my effort this year were, how should I put it? Tepid seems apt. When I concluded my presentation this year, the sound of crickets chirping and the soft snoring of Dr. Lindsey were the only sounds; the other attendees had departed.

On the other hand, my fellow presenters sparkled... except for Cuellar, who gave a wrenching, grim view of the financial future of private practice orthopaedics that reduced the audience to cloak-rendering and teeth-grinding. Personally, I felt like Sissy Spacek in the movie “Carrie” when the blood came down.

There was a moving memorial for Dr. Evans in front of Old Red. There was a pre-meeting dinner on Thursday which I missed (got in late and ate at Sonny’s so not a complete bust). Dr. Marc Philippon spoke about arthroscopic hip reconstruction: plenty of cutting edge information of absolutely no use to a foot and ankle guy, but the more evolved specialists seemed to love it.

What is the point of all this, you ask. Good question. After the giddy euphoria of my landslide election as your president, I had time to reflect on why more of us don’t attend the meeting. One reason I hadn’t thought of until it was too late is that attendance carries the very real risk that YOU might get elected president next year.

The reason I came this year was that Dr. Lindsey called me (I thought he was an out-of-town orthopaedist dumping a diabetic foot on me). Employing a masterful combination of flattery (“Your name came up as someone who should speak and Dr. Evans agreed”) and guilt (“Dr. Evans is going to be ninety years old and wouldn’t you hate to miss that?”) What could I say?

And then, Dr. Evans died.

What I don’t want to follow the above statement is the corollary “ - and with him died the society he so dearly loved.”

So, with Dr. Lindsey’s encouragement, I made a list of the main reasons I haven’t come in past years. I had the opportunity to discuss these with Dr. Lindsey and he is determined to address them all. Regular alumni news and updates about the Eggers-Evans Meeting in the department quarterly newsletter is one of many steps already taken.

Ron (I have permission to use his given name) and I are eager to restore the spirit of the old meetings.

By the way, the caliber of the presentations this year was indeed superb.

So, I urge you to do yourselves a favor and consider coming down to the island next year. I promise it will be different (more CME’s, wide variety of topics, fun gatherings with good food and drink, compulsory camaraderie with alum-resident socializing, and spousal optional activities).

I hope that afterwards we will ALL be able to say, “Dr. Evans has died BUT the society he so dearly loved is once again flourishing, just as he wished.”

Best regards, everyone. See you in Galveston?

Charles
**Grand Rounds**

**Distinguished Guest Lectureship Series at Victory Lakes**

On Tuesday, September 18, Susan Bukata, MD, Director and Associate Professor for the Center for Bone Health, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA, presented Grand Rounds on “Atypical Femur Fractures: Biology, Medical and Surgical Management”.

**Voluntary Faculty**

- Oladapo A. Alade, MD
- Charlotte B. Alexander, MD
- Jeffrey Baker, PhD
- James Bennett, MD
- James Bocell, MD
- Mark Brinker, MD
- Taylor Brown, MD
- George Cox, MD
- Marc DeHart, MD
- Allen Deutsch, MD
- Andrew Ebert, MD
- Bradley Edwards, MD
- David W. Edelstein, MD
- Daniel Eidman, MD
- Gary Gartsman, MD
- Stanley Gertzbein, MD
- Tyler Goldberg, MD
- William Granberry, MD
- Thomas Greider, MD
- Joseph Gugenheim, MD
- Alexander Hadjipavlou, MD
- Eric Heinrich, MD
- John A. Hipp, PhD
- Omer Ilahi, MD
- Don Johnson, MD
- Robert Josey III, MD
- Anand Joshi, MD
- Gordon L. Klein, MD
- John Knecht, DPM
- Marc Labbe, MD
- Glenn C. Landon, MD
- Adrian LeBlanc, PhD
- Vasilos Mathews, MD
- Anita Mercado, MD
- Anthony Muffoletto, MD
- Haring Nauta, MD
- Jose Nolla, MD
- Okay Onan, MD
- Daniel O’Neill, MD
- Manish Patel, MD
- Rita Patterson, PhD
- Michael Putney, MD
- J. Clark Race, MD
- David Randall, MD
- Eric R. Santos, MD
- Walter Sassard, MD
- L. Edward Seade, MD
- Jack Seaquist, MD
- Jean Sibonga, PhD
- Sherwin Siff, MD
- Todd Siff, MD
- Terry Siller, MD
- James Simmons III, DO
- James Simmons, Jr., MD
- Roy Smith, MD
- Gregory Stocks, MD
- Nicholas Tsourmas, MD
- Gregg Vager, MD
- William Watters III, MD
- Jeffrey M. Whelan, MD
- Suzanne Yandow, MD

**Reminder**

**31st Annual GWN Eggers Lectureship**

Spring 2013
Galveston, Texas

**More to come in the next issue of the Newsletter...**

To view previous issues of the newsletter, please visit: [http://www.utmb.edu/ortho/newsletter/](http://www.utmb.edu/ortho/newsletter/)
Comments, suggestions, and queries on the Newsletter or Website can be addressed to: rmorris@utmb.edu