LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Section of Plastic Surgery at Michigan has had another spectacular year. This 2007 issue of the Reed O. Dingman Society News reports on both the personal and professional progress of the members of our Section and of the Dingman Society. We have a lot to be proud of and to be thankful for and the News is our way of collectively celebrating. After reading this issue of the News, I hope that your enthusiasm for Michigan Plastic Surgery continues to run high.

The central event this year was the Dingman Society Meeting in June, which included an emotional retirement dinner in honor of Drs. Markley, Newman and Oneal. Dr. Marks served as this year’s Grabb Lecturer and his remarks reminded us of the rich heritage to which we belong. Malcolm was kind enough to send the text of his talk so we can share it with you. During the dinner, remarks by Drs. Hing, Buchman and Izenberg on the careers and lives of Drs. Markley, Newman and Oneal were poignant and moving. Laura Lee Lutz also spoke of the three retirees, effectively stealing the evening’s show.

The News has numerous articles of interest to everyone. There are updates on this year’s graduating residents (all destined for greatness), Dr. Joseph Serletti’s service as the Dingman Visiting Professor, the work occurring in our research labs, news from alumni and so much more.

The University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery is strong because of the incredible group of people that support it. Enjoy the News and I hope to see you all at the Annual Dingman Dinner in Baltimore in October.

Warmest personal regards,

Bill

Tim Janiga, M.D.

Graduated from the University of Nevada School of Medicine with numerous academic accomplishments including serving as President of the Nevada Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha. In 2001, we were fortunate to recruit him to our plastic surgery training program. During his time at the University of Michigan Health System, he has become a consummate surgeon with an incredible breadth of knowledge and unparalleled technical skills. He has consistently scored well over the 90th percentile on the in-training examination and has presented his scientific work at local, regional and national meetings. In addition, he has maintained an incredibly high level of fitness making him the most accomplished water skier and wakeboarder in the Section of Plastic Surgery. Based upon his accomplishments, Tim was offered positions at numerous medical centers in the region. He has taken an academic plastic surgery appointment at the Medical College of Ohio. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two beautiful daughters, Ayla and Alyssa. Tim has never achieved anything short of excellence at anything he has done, and we are sure that he will experience a similar level of success in his new position.

Sal Pacella, M.D.

The “Italian Stallion” will leave a void in the plastic surgery residency at the University of Michigan. Sal Pacella came to the U of M in July of 1999 as a first year resident. He attended medical school at the University of Rochester where he graduated in the top 20% of the class. He received his undergraduate degree from Saint Bonaventure University where he graduated summa cum laude. His clear claim to fame and fortune here was to snag one of two plastic surgery tuition-free scholarships to the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. During his tenure at Ross, he specialized in finance and health care economics. The future is bright for young Sal who has moved to Marina del rey, California where he is doing a fellowship in aesthetic breast & body surgery directed by W. Grant Stevens, MD. In January, Sal is off to Atlanta where he will do a fellowship in facial aesthetic & oculoplastic surgery with Mark Codner MD. His long range plans are to return to southern California to practice clinical plastic surgery.

Doug Sammer, M.D.

Dr. Sammer enjoyed a productive career at the University of Michigan. His paper on corrective osteotomy for distal radius malunion was an often quoted article that was published in the Journal of Hand Surgery. He completed two CME articles on tendon transfer that were slated to be published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He is finishing an outcomes study comparing two different distal radius fracture fixation techniques, which will be submitted to Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. His academic achievement has matched him to a hand fellowship position at the Mayo Clinic, which is the most prestigious hand fellowship training program in the country. His tenure as the administrative chief resident was marked by leadership, efficiency and a highly coordinated clinical performance by the residents. Dr. Sammer will be a very visible hand surgeon in the future.

– Paul Cederna, M.D.; Kevin Chung, M.D.; Riley Rees, M.D.
Welcome Incoming Residents!

Once again, our residency program was successful in recruiting three rising young stars in the field of plastic surgery to begin their training in our 2007 integrated program. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to our plastic surgery family.

Oluseyi (Seyi) Aliu

Seyi was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He came to the U.S. for his academic training and received his undergraduate degree at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine. As you can imagine, Seyi has traveled extensively and is very goal-oriented. He plans to learn conversational Spanish by age 30 and French by age 35. One of his long-term goals is to return to Nigeria and develop medical clinics for the underserved population. In his spare time, he enjoys researching music, keeping up on world politics, cooking and playing soccer and tennis.

Rafael Diaz-Garcia

Raf was born in Hato Key, Puerto Rico. He attended Villanova University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Pennsylvania for his medical degree. He enjoys cooking, traveling and drinking wine (a common theme with this intern group!). Raf plans to pursue a career in academic surgery with a focus on outcomes research and resident education. Long-term, he plans to be involved in surgical outreach missions to underserved populations in Latin America.

Kristoffer Sugg

Kris was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He hung up his surf board to attend Wayne State University for both his undergraduate and medical degrees. Fortunately, since the weather in Detroit is far superior to that in Hawaii, he decided to stay in the area a few more years and join our program. Kris is a newlywed of 3 months, and his wife is Sarah Jane Sugg. They have one child: a Gecko named Spike. In his spare time, Kris is trying to amass the world’s largest DVD collection (he is up to 800+ and still growing). His long-term goal is to obtain his Sommelier’s license. We can’t wait for Kris to give the ‘moment of zen’ so we can learn more about wine!

– Amy Alderman, M.D.

A Time of Transition

For the past 6 years, the University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery has been fortunate to have Mary Bolg as our Section Administrator. Mary’s able leadership and strong belief in our mission have been a key element in our success academically, clinically and as a business unit within the University of Michigan Medical Center. Her ability did not go unnoticed and in June, Mary accepted a significant promotion within the Department of Surgery. Everyone in Plastic Surgery thanks Mary for her dedicated service and wishes her well in her new job with the Section of General Surgery.

In July, Nadine Lewis joined us as our new Section Administrator. Nadine comes to us with a strong background in program development and practice management. In her short time with us so far, Nadine has impressed everyone with her willingness to “grab the tiger’s tail”. We all look forward to working with Nadine as we march forward.

– William Kuzon, M.D., Ph.D.

Retiring Faculty

The Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery paid homage to three of their own beloved faculty members with a retirement celebration dinner this past June in honor of Dr. M. Haskell Newman, Dr. Robert M. Oneal, and Dr. John M. Markley Jr.

The event was one of the highlights of the Dingman Society Meeting here in Ann Arbor during the spring. A large crowd packed one of the ballrooms at Campus Inn in an outpouring of emotion, respect and appreciation for three men that have managed to inspire, educate, and serve those that have trained and worked in the Plastic Surgery Section at Michigan. The tribute included testimonials and touching anecdotes related by Drs. Buchman, Hing and Markley, recalling the special qualities and virtues of these outstanding surgeons and served to underscore how they have enriched the vibrant and abounding traditions in our training at the University of Michigan and the way in which their efforts will live on through those of us whose lives they have touched.

– Steven Buchman, M.D.
As in the past, the section of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan had a varied and exceptional group of visiting professors this academic year. These visits allow faculty members to exchange ideas and discuss innovations with colleagues from across the globe. For the residents, this is not only a learning opportunity; it also represents a chance to experience plastic surgery outside of the University of Michigan. The following is a summary of this year’s activities:

Dr. Andrea Pusic from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center visited the Section in November 2006. She shared with us her experience in assessing the outcomes of breast reconstruction. In December, the Stryker Lecture was given by Dr. Richard Berger from the Mayo Clinic. He not only gave an in-depth lecture on the diagnosis and treatment of ulnar-sided wrist pain, he also conducted a cadaver dissection that the residents found most invaluable. Dr. Gayle Gordillo from Ohio State University and Dr. Lisa Gould from the University of Texas in Galveston spent a few days with the Section in December 2006 and March 2007, respectively. They joined the faculty and residents in the monthly journal club and presented talks on the latest innovations in wound healing. In June, we were very fortunate to have Dr. Joseph Serletti, the chairman of Plastic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, as the Dingman Lecturer. During his three-day stay, residents were given the chance to present interesting cases and discuss their management, complications and results. He also gave a masterful talk on the perils and pitfalls of microsurgical breast reconstruction, drawing upon his vast experience in the area. We kicked off the 2007 academic year with a visit from Dr. Scott Kozin from the Shriner’s Hospital in Philadelphia who relayed his experience in brachial plexus birth palsy. The ensuing cadaver dissection session made the visit even more memorable.

– Edwin Chang, M.D.

The University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery was again privileged to host several international scholars this past year. The exchange program provides opportunities for mutual understanding of the practice and cultural differences amongst academic institutions across the globe.

Dr. Alderman hosted Dr. Vinay Singhal from the University of Aberdeen, Woodend Hospital in Scotland. After hosting the first American Society for Surgery of the Hand International Scholar in 2006, we had the pleasure to host the second Scholar, Dr. Thi Linh Thu from the Hospital for Traumatology and Orthopaedics of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietman. In addition, Dr. Kuzon hosted Dr. Sunita More from Cumballa Hill Hospital and Research Institute in Mumbai, India. She spent four months with us observing the full spectrum of plastic surgery from aesthetic to complex reconstructive cases. Her stay was highlighted by her presentation on interesting patients and contrasting the practice of plastic surgery in India and in the United States.

The interest from the international scholars to train and visit our Section is a testament of our international reputation. We look forward to continue to develop further relationships with our colleagues around the world.

– Kevin Chung, M.D.

## Visiting Clinical & Research Fellows

**University of Michigan Department of Surgery, Section of Plastic Surgery 2007 – 2008**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Institution</th>
<th>UM Host Faculty</th>
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<td>Yasushi Fujimori, M.D.</td>
<td>Osaka Medical College, Osaka, Japan</td>
<td>Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D.</td>
<td>7/2004 - 7/2006</td>
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István Borocz, M.D. – 1969: lives just outside San Francisco, CA, as a self-described ‘part of the Hungarian community’. His current retirement hobby is teaching Hungarian physicians “medical English” (see www.medlist.com). He would like to hear from Dingman alumni, especially those who finished before 1970 (istvan.borocz@gmail.com).


Sigurdur E. Thorvaldsson, M.D. – 1973: is a resident of Iceland. The Icelandic Surgical Society celebrated its 50th year in March and honored four of their members for their contribution to their respective surgical fields, including Dr. Thorvaldsson.

R. Laurence Berkowitz, M.D. - 1979: last July he completed the California “Death Ride” a grueling road cycling event entailing 129 miles and 16,000 vertical feet of climb (5 passes) near Lake Tahoe. “Not like Dave Dingman climbing Everest, but I was 57 at the time!” Larry was an invited speaker at an international symposium on facial rejuvenation in Buenos Aires recently, speaking on endoscopic brow and mid-face lifts. He credited mentors Bob Oneal, Paul Izenberg and the late Paul Dempsey for helping him to develop the technique and the Endotine instrument that he helped to develop. “There is not a day that goes by that I cannot be thankful for what I learned those 6 years in Ann Arbor,” Larry says.

Roger Friedman, M.D. – 1984: is currently residing in North Bethesda, MD. In August of 2006, he added a new associate to his practice, Kathy Huang, M.D. Dr. Huang has completed Bernie Chang’s Fellowship in microvascular breast reconstruction. Dr. Friedman’s practice name has changed to the Plastic Surgery Institute of Washington. He is currently the Medical Director of a new start up company called MedSculpt, specializing in lipodissolve. Dr. Friedman is currently working on studies to present at ASPS.

Richard A. Pollock, M.D. – 1984: is currently residing in Lexington, KY. Dr. Pollock completed his term on the Kentucky Medical Services Foundation (KMSF) Board of Directors. He was asked to continue as Chair of the Finance Audit Committee at the University of Kentucky. His wife, Jan, is a RN, BSN. For seven years she was a pharmaceutical representative, but now promotes and instructs on the use of a new skin astringent for surgical procedures and venipuncture. Dr. Pollock’s older children (Todd and Kerry and their spouses) and five grandchildren live in Atlanta. His younger daughter, Leslie, is enrolled at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Dr. Pollock is offering an Instructional Course at the ASPS meeting this fall entitled “Understanding Frontal Sinus Fractures and Their Endoscopic Rescue.”

Joseph Fodero, M.D. – 1999: is currently practicing in Livingston, New Jersey, where he is building a new 5,000 sq. ft. office with an operating room capable of general anesthesia and an overnight stay. His wife, Barbara, is opening a new orthodontic practice. Joe and Barbara have a son, Peter, who will be one year old on September 1, 2007.

Amy Alderman, M.D. – 2004: and her husband, Mike Steiger, celebrated the birth of their son Christopher Michael, on May 25th. He is a “bruiser” weighing in at almost 20 lbs at 3 months of age. Older sister Caroline will be 2 in December. Mike and Amy are in survival mode!

Marlene Welch, M.D. - 2004: Celebrated the birth of a baby boy in early October. Baby Nolan is adored by all, even older brother, Maxon.

Karen Selden, M.D. - 1999: is currently living in Portland, Oregon. She has 3 wonderful children. Her husband Nate is a peds neurosurgeon at OHSU.

Tom Fiala, M.D.- 1996: has enjoyed performing music most of his life. He started playing piano at the age of five, studied classical music in his teens, and earned a degree in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. In 2003, one of his breast reconstruction patients mentioned that she played with a local band. Tom “ja med” the band a few times and eventually became a member. The band, based in Orlando, is called “Anita Drink” and plays at local bars one or two times each month. Tom plays the keyboards and also does backup vocals. Visit www.anitadrink.com for more information.

Loree K. Kalliainen, M.D.- 1999: is currently residing and practicing in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her husband, Kevin Clemens, has been awarded the Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellowship at the University of Michigan. She is currently Assistant Professor of Surgery Regions Hospital in the Department of Plastic and Hand Surgery with the University of Minnesota. She recently expanded her intellectual interests into the field of philosophy and is pursuing a Masters in Philosophy at the University of Minnesota. She is exploring the philosophical aspects of evidence based medicine, rhetoric in science and the ethics of informed consent. She is also looking at the rhetoric we use in speaking with patients and with each other, how the metaphors we rely on are interpreted - correctly and incorrectly- by our colleagues and our patients. Lastly, the question of how informed our patients actually are for their procedures and operations, can they ever give truly informed consent?

– David Brown, M.D.
Our fearless leader, Dr. Kuzon, led the way in achievements this year, completing an Olympic-distance triathlon in July. Two weeks later, he underwent arthroscopic knee surgery. No word yet on whether these two events are related…

Chris (on the right) and his brother

One of our more well-traveled residents, Chris Pannucci, continued his worldwide adventures during the past year. In October he traveled to Italy with his twin brother to spend some time with long lost cousins in Castel Nuovo di Conza, the town where his grandmother was born. Later in the year, he traveled to Peru and spent eight days exploring the Incan ruins near the city of Cusco. Finally, just this summer, Chris set off again on a mountain-climbing trip to Washington State.

Back at home, our families continue to grow by leaps and bounds. We had a number of babies born in our Section this year:
Blaine Otto Bafus was born March 1, 2007, to Drs. Christi Cavaliere and Todd Bafus.
Dr. Amy Alderman and husband Mike Steiger welcomed their second child, Christopher Michael Steiger on May 25, 2007.

Several residents expanded their families as well:
Connor Andrew Kelly was born to Drs. Emily Hu and Brendan Kelly on March 23, 2007.
Dr. Brent Egeland and his wife welcomed their son Blake in February 2007.
Finally, Drs. Timothy and Jennifer Janiga, welcomed another baby girl into their family on May 18, 2007.

As you can see, we have a wealth of things that keep us all busy when we’re not hard at work at the hospital. Please stay tuned for future updates, as next year will likely be just as spectacular.

– Steven Haase, M.D.
The Plastic Surgery Section, with support from colleagues from across the University of Michigan, was awarded a second 5-year funding period beginning in July 2004. The NIH Training grant in Burn, Trauma and Wound Healing Research has as PI and Program Director Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D., and William Kuzon, Jr, M.D., Ph.D. as co-PI and co-Director. This grant supports the training of academic medical surgeons/scientists in basic research related to trauma in muscle and bone, burn injuries, wound healing and tissue engineering. Residents can train in health related areas of investigation and can choose more fundamental research fields (tissue engineering, stem cell biology, cancer biology and molecular and cell biology). The grant supports two postdoctoral fellows per year, plus supplies, course work and travel allowances. The recent graduate of the program is Ian Lyle, M.D., from Cincinnati Ohio (University of Cincinnati, Department of Surgery) who was studying tissue engineering under the mentorship of David Brown, M.D. Dr. Ian Lyle is now a resident in our department, having transferred from Cincinnati in February 2007. Keith Wolter, M.D. was appointed to the training grant in July 2006 and is currently in his third year of training with Maria Soengas, Ph.D. in the Department of Dermatology. The long-term goal of this research is the development of new therapeutic strategies to improve the prognosis of patients with metastatic melanoma. Specifically, he works on mechanisms of melanoma cell death in response to chemotherapy, and the factors that contribute to drug resistance. Dr. Wolter presented his studies to the Perspectives in Melanoma X Congress, held in Holland last year and will travel to New York City this autumn for the Society of Melanoma Research meeting. Dr. Wolter is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology.

There are two new trainees for this year. Alero Fregene, M.D., is a surgical resident in the Henry Ford Hospital program. Dr. Fregene is training with Steve Buchman, M.D., and Dr. Cynthia Marcelo. She is studying mandibular distraction osteogenesis, a technique utilized in the pediatric population for treatment of mandibular hypoplasias. The physiologic effects of unilateral mandibular distraction on the contralateral mandible have not been studied; preliminary results from the Buchman laboratory indicate that the contralateral mandible has more bone volume, less volumetric bone mineral density and less breaking load compared to control bone. Currently, Dr. Fregene is working to determine if these changes in the contralateral mandible are due to systemic or local dynamic effects. The second new appointment to the training grant is Brent Egeland, M.D. from our Plastic Surgery program. Dr. Egeland is studying with Paul Cederna, M.D., and Melanie Urbancheck, Ph.D., and is working on bioengineering nerve and muscle for the construction and operation of artificial limbs. The training grant renewal for another 5 year period will be submitted January 2008. Applications for the July 1, 2008 positions are being accepted.

David Brown, M.D., directs his laboratory to study the development of tissue-engineered whole organs growing within the body (currently laboratory animals). There are several promising lines of research that the lab is simultaneously working on, including cardiac and skeletal muscles, kidney, tendon and blood vessels. An NIH grant was recently awarded for the Brown lab’s work on engineering vascularized cardiac tissue constructs. A beating cylindrical cardiac organ which can create internal pressure with spontaneous contractions has been successfully built. The next goal is to refine the model to be able to effect blood flow. Work is finishing up on a large grant from the Department of Defense, investigating the role of angiogenesis in the development of an implanted, tissue-engineered renal filtration device. A recent publication in the ASAIO Journal highlights some of the results. A new NIH grant, in collaboration with researchers at the Cleveland Clinic, recently received a high score and further work is pending awaiting that exciting possibility. At the time of this writing, a paper is in press in the journal Tissue Engineering regarding work done to control newly-generated skeletal muscle constructs with innervating nerves.

Mr. Jacob Izenberg trained in the lab last summer, culminating in an excellent thesis and significantly contributing to continuing studies on innervation of engineered skeletal muscle.

Ian Lyle, M.D., recently left the Brown lab to return to clinical duties. He was successfully recruited to the Plastic Surgery Training Program as an R-4, and everyone is pleased that he is staying with us. He received numerous awards for his talks around the country, and was awarded a grant from the PSEF for Tendon Engineering. Melissa Melvin, M.D., has recently joined the lab as a Research Fellow. She comes to us from UTSW, and is initially going to focus her efforts on our skeletal and cardiac muscle projects, seeking to develop bioartificial-neurotized Type I and Type II skeletal muscle flaps.

The Craniofacial Research Laboratory headed by Steven Buchman, M.D., is focused on extending the regenerative properties of distraction osteogenesis (DO) as a potential option for tissue replacement after extirpative oncologic surgery or as a reconstructive option for deformations secondary to irradiated bone. Among the Buchman laboratory’s long-term goals is the development of enhancement of mandibular DO healing following irradiation therapy. In order to accomplish the lab’s goals it is crucial to accurately quantify the damage therapeutic irradiation inflicts on bone regeneration and healing during the distraction process. Dr. Buchman recently bid farewell to Daniel Schwarz, M.D., who completed his two-year fellowship in plastic surgery at the University of Michigan.

Kevin Chung, M.D., is continuing his NIH-funded project on rheumatoid hand arthroplasty, which has finished its patient recruitment. This is the largest study of its kind and will generate data to advance this field. His research on outcomes of distal radius fracture treatment has generated publications in The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and the Journal of Hand Surgery. He has submitted several NIH grants on clinical trial and health services research projects relating to this injury. Most recently; this work has received funding from the University of Michigan CTSA Pilot grant.

Amy Alderman, M.D., is continuing her studies of long-term (10-15 year) quality of life, psychosocial health and satisfaction in reconstructed and unreconstructed women after mastectomy. Dr. Alderman has received the Robert Wood Johnson Physician Faculty Award, which is a three-year career development award to study women’s decision-making process for breast reconstruction. She has also received internal funding from the Cancer Center and a RAC grant to support this research.
The Plastic Surgery basic research faculty, composed of Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D., Melanie Urbanchek, Ph.D., in collaboration with LiYu Xing, Ph.D. (General Surgery) and Michael Franz, M.D. (PI, General Surgery) are studying muscle pathology accompanying ventral hernia. Drs. Marcelo, Xing and Franz (PI) are also collaborating on studies funded by Stemnion, LLC., in the use of amniotic epithelial cells for use in epidermal wound healing.

Dr. Marcelo performs studies of keratinocyte biology along with Steve Feinberg, D.D.S., Ph.D. (PI). The Marcelo/Feinberg laboratories are engaged in a number of cell-based bioengineering projects. Dr. Marcelo, and Dr. Izumi and Dr. Feinberg from Oral Maxillofacial Surgery have developed a number of techniques to isolate small, adult “stem-like” cells from epidermis and mucosal tissue. These techniques which involved mechanical separation and culturing techniques have been patented and are being expanded to develop methods for growing a number of epithelial tissues. These investigators, in collaboration with colleagues from Chemistry and Engineering, are developing methods for non-invasive monitoring of cell device for wound healing. An R01 application is being submitted to the NIH. Also, Drs. Marcelo, and Feinberg are part of an AFIRM proposal (Dept. of the Army) application for a large multi-center study to study tissues for reconstruction of massive injuries.

Drs. Michael Franz (General Surgery), Marcelo, Urbanchek, Kuz on and Xing are studying the role of mechanical force on the development of abdominal hernias using animal models and tissue culture systems.

Drs. Kuzon, Marcelo, Urbanchek, Franz, Xing and Mr. Tom Huls and Ms. Katie Ewing (both University of Michigan undergraduates) are also developing new biological tissue prosthesis for abdominal wall reconstruction.

Dr. Kuzon continues to collaborate with Drs. Urbanchek, Franz, Marcelo and Cederna on studies concerning incisional hernia. The current management of this prevalent problem is suboptimal, and surgical repair of ventral hernias is marred by a 20% (or higher) recurrence rate. Ongoing studies target three main objectives. Because the linea alba is the tendon of insertion for the abdominal musculature, myopathic changes that occur after midline laparotomy likely contribute to the pathogenesis of ventral hernia. Ongoing studies are designed to determine the biomechanical factors that result in ventral hernia. Studies to date have confirmed that substantial myopathic changes are associated with significantly reduced abdominal wall compliance in animals with ventral hernias. Additional studies are designed to evaluate the influence of the mechanical environment on cellular behavior after laparotomy and hernia formation. Lastly, an improved tissue prosthesis for abdominal wall repair has been designed. This tissue engineered material is made from acellularized skeletal muscle. Preliminary studies show that this material matches the mechanical impedance of the native abdominal wall more closely than currently used prostheses, which may account for the much reduced recurrence rate after ventral hernia repair with acellularized muscle in an animal model.

Dennis Claflin, Ph.D., recently began a research collaboration with the biopharmaceutical company Cytokinetics, Inc. The long-term goal of the project is successful development of a calcium-sensitizing compound that improves the function of skeletal muscle under circumstances where muscle weakness impacts quality of life.

Melanie Urbanchek, Ph.D., is working on two new grants with Paul Cederna, M.D. “Bio-Integrating Structural and Neural-Prosthetic Materials” is a multidisciplinary research initiative shared by principal investigators in Biomedical Engineering, Orthopedics, and Plastic Surgery. It is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Drs. Cederna and Urbanchek, have formed a new affiliation with Dr. Susan E MacKinnon at Washington University. They are Co-PI’s on Dr. MacKinnon’s NIH grant, “The Effects of GDNF on Peripheral Nerve Regeneration”. These collaborations are generating and testing novel ideas for peripheral nerve rehabilitation. Four students completed summer research fellowships under the direction of Dr. Urbanchek. The students were Ms. Christina Prabhu, an M2 student from Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine, who was awarded a Summer American Fellowship Aging Research Training Grant fellowship, Mr. Lynn Fuller (co-mentor Dr. Cederna) and Ms. Sam Lien, University of Michigan, M2 students and Mr. Albert K. Ma an undergraduate, each of whom were awarded research fellowships from the Summer Biomedical Research Program, University of Michigan.

Dr. Cederna has an active research laboratory which focuses on neurobiology, immunology and nerve regeneration following peripheral nerve injury and repair. He currently has active projects aimed at enhancing functional recovery following peripheral nerve injury and repair. He has several active and prior research grants and has received many awards and recognition for his research both in regional and national societies. He has received over 8,000,000 in research funding over the past 8 years. He previously was named the Academic Scholar of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. Most recently, he received a 5,500,000 grant from the Department of Defense for the design and development of a fully bio-integrated neuroprosthesis to enhance functional recovery of amputees who require upper extremity prosthesis. He has mentored many pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research fellows over the past 8 years. As mentioned above, Brent Egeland, M.D., has chosen to spend the next two years in the Cederna lab working on the development of a biosynthetic neuromuscular junction. Ms. Alison Tisack is an undergraduate student in the lab who is working on her Honors Thesis in Neurosciences. She ultimately plans on going to medical school after completing her thesis.

In collaboration with the faculty on this application, Drs. Urbanchek and Cederna have worked with Antonio Peramo, Ph.D. (a postdoctoral scholar) to develop conductive materials for use in nerve regeneration into muscle. In another project from the umbrella MURI grant, Drs. Peramo and Marcelo with Professor David Martin, Ph.D. (Bioengineering) are developing and testing model systems to study the maintenance of skin viability in various healing scenarios.

A variety of health services research efforts are currently underway in the Section: Edwin Wilkins, M.D., Julie Lowery, Ph.D., and Riley Rees, M.D. have received funding from the VA Network to implement and evaluate a web-based telemedicine program for chronic wound patients. This new initiative will enable the Ann Arbor Wound Care Team to provide consultations for patients in outlying VA facilities, without the expense and complications of transporting veterans to a tertiary care center. The project will assess the outcomes and costs of this approach compared with traditional “hands-on” assessments.

Building on the previous Michigan Breast Reconstruction Outcome Study (MBROS), Drs. Wilkins and Alderman and a multidisciplinary team of health services researchers from the University of Michigan and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center have assembled an international consortium of 11 leading centers to conduct a new prospective outcome study of breast reconstruction techniques. With pilot funding from the National Endowment for Plastic Surgery, the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Healthcare Research and the UM Department of Surgery, the International Breast Reconstruction Consortium (IBROC) will compare psychosocial, functional, quality of life, patient satisfaction and cost outcomes for common breast reconstruction procedures, including perforator flaps. Patients will be followed for at least three years from the time of reconstruction.

(continued on back page)
Results of the study will be used to promote evidence-based decision-making, both for patients considering reconstruction and for surgeons performing these procedures. Most recently, this work has received funding from the University of Michigan CTSA Pilot grant.

Christi Cavaliere, M.D., a new faculty member in our department, is in her second year of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. She has completed a systematic review of arthroplasty and arthrodesis for rheumatoid arthritis (with Dr. Kevin Chung) and presented it at the American Association of Plastic Surgeons 86th annual meeting. She is currently working on a study of patient preferences for management of rheumatoid wrist disease. Dr. Cavaliere has also started a project at the VA to evaluate if patients with chronic wounds have different outcomes depending on how far they have to travel for specialty wound care. This is important because there is a push to create more regional centers for care and Dr. Cavaliere thinks that might be detrimental to patients who have to travel greater distances for care.

– Amy Alderman, M.D.

**Faculty/Resident Accomplishments**

The 2006-2007 academic year meant another series of impressive accomplishments for the Plastic Surgery residents, faculty and staff. On the research front, 59 manuscripts were published in peer-reviewed journals including Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, The Journal of Hand Surgery, The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, and JAMA. An additional 37 manuscripts were accepted for publication. Plastic surgery residents and faculty wrote 9 book chapters and delivered over 50 presentations at local, national and international meetings. Grant funding exceeding $18 million will continue to allow us to carry out pioneering research and develop innovative ways to improve patient care outcomes.

Dr. Kevin Chung was named a PSEF Visiting Lectures for 2007-2008 and will travel to multiple institutions to share his expertise in outcomes research, management of distal radius fractures and surgery in the rheumatoid hand. He was also promoted to the rank of full Professor at the University of Michigan, a testament to his already notable contributions to plastic surgery.

In addition to holding multiple executive board positions in national plastic surgery organizations, Dr. Paul Cederna is a new associate chief of staff for the University of Michigan Health System. Dr. Steven Buchman was nominated for Vice-president of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons. Dr. David Brown will head the scientific portion of the 2008 meeting of the Michigan Association of Plastic Surgeons.

Internal teaching awards were presented this year to Dr. Steven Kasten for excellence in didactic teaching and to Dr. Paul Cederna for excellence in clinical teaching. Both Dr. Chris Pannucci and Dr. Brent Egeland were awarded a Bronze Beeper by the medical students’ Galans Society for their hard work and dedication to teaching of future physicians. Dr. Jafar Hasan was selected as administrative chief for the upcoming year. He is expected to continue the tradition of strong leadership within the residency program.

Once again, our Section had a year full of notable and significant accomplishments. We continue to set high standards for ourselves and proudly represent Michigan Plastic Surgery on regional, national and international stages.

– Jeffrey Kozlow, M.D.

**A View from the Trenches**

Match day for medical school graduates is a day unlike any other. Around the country, hundreds of students gather in auditoriums to open envelopes telling them where they have matched for residency training. Otolaryngology in Iowa, Internal Medicine at Harvard, or Emergency Medicine at Vanderbilt - each of my med school classmates set off on a different path. My envelope read simply: Plastic Surgery, University of Michigan Health System. My classmates Jeff and Laura and I met at orientation in June of 2004. We had no idea what we were getting into. As intern year passed in a blur, I felt simultaneously powerful but powerless, confident yet frightened. Intern year was more a test of resolve, character, and endurance than intellect. As we rotated through the general surgery services like trauma and transplant, we looked forward to our plastic surgery months. We were shocked to find out that we worked even harder when we were on our “home service.” General surgery services frequently have 3 interns to do the floor work while a mid-level resident and chief do most of the operating. On plastics, each service is a two-person team: one chief and a junior resident. We have to do all the floor work in the morning during rounds and finish before going to the OR or clinics during the day. We round early; we stay late. Sometimes a hand call will keep us in the hospital all night long.

Through it all, we work hard to maintain a balance with our life outside the hospital. Whether at residency-sponsored outings to Detroit Tigers baseball games, department picnics, or more informal gatherings, we work to encourage each other and get to know our fellow residents in medicine and surgery.

Plastic Surgery residents play an integral part in the day-to-day operations of the University Hospital. We are fortunate to have so many incredibly hard-working and intelligent residents within our program. I remember one particularly difficult call night as a 2nd year resident. I was handling a Class 1 adult trauma as the emergency consult resident, stabilizing a patient with multiple injuries and calling the necessary consult services. As I looked around, I realized that I was surrounded by familiar faces. To my right, Emily Iliu was coordinating the patient’s care as a 4th year trauma chief. To my left, Chris Pannucci was admitting the patient as the trauma intern. Walking into the trauma bay were my classmate Laura Monson, the junior plastics resident on call, and her chief Sal Pacella who were covering facial trauma that night. Plastics residents were running the entire trauma service - there were no other residents in sight.

Moments like these emphasize the strength of our program. We are diverse in our knowledge and experience. We are diligent in our service to our patients and the hospital. From the trenches, we continue to labor – not as individuals, but as a team of the best residents and surgeons at the University of Michigan.

– Andrew M. Zwyghuizen, MD

University of Michigan House Officer