Letter from the Chair

The Section of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan has had yet another phenomenal year. As you read through this edition of the Dingman Society News, I hope that, like me, you feel immense pride in Michigan Plastic Surgery. The accomplishments, both professional and personal, of our alumni, residents and faculty over the past year are remarkable and speak to the ongoing commitment we have to excellence in all that we do. The articles enclosed give full details, but several things deserve special mention.

The Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School gives, on an annual basis, six awards to faculty for clinical excellence, research achievement and public service. This year, two of these six awards will go to members of our Section. Steve Buchman was chosen as U-M’s Clinician of the Year. Kevin Chung was honored with the Dean’s award for Clinical and Health Sciences Research. These awards, in addition to the many important leadership roles held by our faculty, speak to the stature of Plastic Surgery among our colleagues here at Michigan.

Faculty in the Section of Plastic Surgery were awarded SIX new grants from federal agencies this year (5 from the NIH and one from the DoD). These highly competitive awards total $2,444,092.00. In our current financial and research environment, this is a signature of the high standing of our faculty nationally. We clearly continue to lead our specialty in the research arena.

As usual, the News has numerous articles of interest to everyone. There are updates on this year’s graduating residents, on Dr. Rod Rorhich’s Dingman Visiting Professorship, on the activities of our alumni and on the general going-ons in the Section this year.

Michigan Plastic Surgery is strong and getting stronger. I thank everyone for their hard work and support over the past year. Enjoy the News and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Dingman Dinner in Chicago on November 2.

Warmest personal regards,
Bill

William M. Kuzon, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Plastic Surgery
Section Head, Plastic Surgery

Graduating Residents

Edwin Chang, M.D.
After graduating from our training program this past summer, Dr. Edwin Chang (“Ed”) headed west to Spokane, Washington. He joined Spokane Plastic Surgeons, a small practice consisting of two plastic surgeons, one of whom was retiring this summer. The practice has two nurses, two secretaries and an office manager. The group is affiliated with Holy Family Hospital, part of Providence Health. It is a 225-bed hospital with a Level 3 trauma center. Ed tells us that they will likely be looking to hire a new partner in a couple years.

His typical week consists of four half-days of clinic, two half-days in the office OR (capable of general anesthesia, mostly cosmetic cases) and two half-days in the hospital OR. Add that up? Yep, it’s a four-day-a-week practice, meaning he gets a four-day weekend every two weeks. Ed calls it a “lifestyle practice.” What kinds of cases is he getting? Small hand cases (carpal tunnel, trigger fingers) and plenty of lumps and bumps, he says. However, he’s done some cosmetic cases, too: a couple of blepharoplasties, a breast augmentation and more to come next month. He feels he is operating at about 25-35% capacity and the future is looking busier.

In his free time, Ed is doing a lot of biking (mountain and road) and playing a lot of tennis (joined a local 4.5-5.0 USTA league). Any golf? Sure, but what he’s really looking forward to is the skiing season—he’s already bought a season pass to the local slopes, planning to ski 50-100 days this year. Best of luck, Ed!

Joon Choi, M.D.
After leaving the University of Michigan, Dr. Joon Choi moved to sunny Irvine, CA. He and his wife, Sohyun, have family and friends living nearby, making the transition smooth. Their children Lenna and Ryan have adapted quickly to their new home.

Joon is in solo practice, but is sharing an office with another University of Michigan Plastic Surgery alumnus, Dr. James Coleman, M.D. (Class of 2000). He is currently on staff at four hospitals in the south LA area and is busy with both facial and hand trauma. His general practice has been steadily increasing but he still has time to scrub in with Dr. Coleman on cases such as facial fracture reconstruction, abdominoplasty, Moh’s reconstruction, and reconstruction of complicated wounds.

Joon has been very satisfied with his experience in solo practice in the short time since he has graduated. Despite the enormity of paper work and responsibility that is inherent in a solo practice, he finds the work very gratifying.

(continued on page 2)
Welcome Incoming Residents!

With each year comes a new class of residents to the University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery, representing the future leaders and innovators of the field. We would like to introduce you to this year’s incoming residents in plastic surgery. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to our plastic surgery family.

Theodore Kung

Ted Kung hails from North Canton, Ohio. He attended Case Western University for both undergraduate and medical school training. The son of two avid Ohio State fans, he admits to having been adopted into the Ann Arbor fold and now considers himself a full-fledged Wolverine. In his spare time he enjoys cooking, and although he has an extensive cookbook collection, he prefers to experiment with his own recipes. He also enjoys music and teaching himself to play the guitar is a current hobby and has replaced the violin of his early years. His other interests include traveling, especially to Catalina Island, CA, his favorite destination, spending time with friends and exploring the philosophy of Seinfeld. He plans to pursue a career in general plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Frank Fang

The Section was delighted to welcome Frank Fang, a native of Albany, Georgia, to the Section of Plastic Surgery this summer. Frank was known to many of us as a rotating student from Harvard University, where he spent time as both an undergraduate and medical student. His path through medical school included a year of oncology research, though his time in the clinical realm quickly pushed him toward the subspecialty of plastic surgery. Interestingly, Frank’s brother, Rob Fang, recently began his fourth year as a resident in the Northwestern University plastic surgery program. Frank was very pleased to match at the University of Michigan and loves the Midwest and Ann Arbor; his departure from Boston was accompanied by a feeling that he “got out of jail.” While he currently lives with his aunt and uncle in north Ann Arbor, he recently purchased a condo and will be moving in during late October. Frank has spent his meager free time during internship fishing with his uncle in Plymouth, running in Gallup Park, and napping. He swears that he held nothing back during his month-long interview as a medical student, insisting “I hold no secrets...I’m a pretty straightforward guy!” We anxiously await his Me Day to gain further insight into the real Frank Fang...

Avi Giladi

Dr. Giladi was born in Livingston, NJ, but grew up down the street in a neighboring town called West Orange. It was in high school that his interest in medicine and science first flourished. He chose to pursue those interests as a molecular biology major at Cornell University graduating in 2004, and later pursued his medical degree from Vanderbilt University. While there, he became interested in wound healing and complex abdominal wall reconstruction and worked on several research projects, some of which will be presented this year at the American College of Surgeons. He recently graduated from Vandy this spring before coming to Ann Arbor, and we are happy to have him join the Michigan family.

- Rafael Diaz-Garcia, M.D.; Laura Monson, M.D.; Chris Pannucci, M.D.
For the past two years, the Section of Plastic Surgery has started every conference with what has become known a “Moment of Zen.” MOZ is a short, 3-5 minute presentation by a resident, student, faculty member or trainee that starts the conference. The only “rule” is that the MOZ topic cannot have a direct relation to Plastic Surgery. Met initially with skepticism, MOZ is now a highlight of each conference. Topics have included poetry readings, YouTube videos, musical performances as well as short talks on diamonds, automobile suspension alignment, art of various persuasions and other eclectic topics. Steve Haase has emerged as the best “Zenmaster.” His reading of a quote from Bob Dylan’s 1966 Playboy magazine interview and his “trilogy” on rap and gang hand signs have become MOZ classics. Be sure to be on time for this week’s conference or you’ll miss your “moment of Zen.”

Because our lives are so work-intensive, we sometimes fail to appreciate what an absolutely incredible group of diverse and talented individuals we are privileged to interact with on a daily basis. That’s where “me day” comes in. Once a month, one of our residents or faculty members gives a 30 minute talk about their lives. No rules for this one, except that you have to talk about yourself for the entire time. Also met with initial skepticism, “me day” has rapidly become a major event each month. We have learned astounding things about our colleagues and have seen the inner-workings of some of the finest intellects on the planet. We have been privy to amazing life stories and have appreciated the depth of the emotional connections we have to our families and colleagues. We’ve also seen countless remarkable, and sometimes hilarious, family and personal photographs. Everyone who has taken a turn has commented how difficult and labor intensive, but also how cathartic, and fulfilling it is to prepare and then to deliver “me” to your peers. Hopefully, “me day” will spread and can become a tradition for alumni at Dingman Society events!

-Christi Cavaliere, M.D.

Ater two years on faculty, Dr. Christi Cavaliere has moved to California with her husband Todd, while he serves as an orthopedic surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. Christi reports that they are comfortably settled in their new home in Fairfield. Todd is now stationed at Travis Air Force Base. Their big news since the move is the birth of their new daughter, Claire Elisabeth Bafus, on September 9th of this year. For the statistically inclined, Claire weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches at birth. Christi reports that Claire is doing well and is very quiet and laid back “just like her Mom.” In addition to caring for her growing family, Dr. Cavaliere is continuing to investigate practice opportunities in the area. We wish her and her family all the best. We miss you!

-Edwin Wilkins, M.D.
The 2007-2008 academic year brought many distinguished visiting professors in Plastic Surgery to the University of Michigan. Each of these visiting professors brought a wealth of knowledge to share with residents and faculty alike. Dr. Lisa Gould from the Moffitt Cancer Center gave talks on wound healing and general reconstruction. Dr. Aymeric Lim from the National University of Singapore shared his experiences with the sural artery flap for lower extremity reconstruction and the principles of muscle innervation. Dr. Dale Collins from the Dartmouth Medical Center shared her experience running the comprehensive breast care clinic at Dartmouth. She is in a unique position as the only plastic surgeon in the country who directs a breast care clinic. The Dartmouth breast care clinic has a revolutionary informatics systems that has not only improved patient care, but provided large volumes of data being used to further research in breast reconstruction.

Dr. Jack Yu from the Medical College of Georgia was the Synthes Visiting Professor focusing on craniofacial surgery. In addition to discussing the effects of aging on the musculoskeletal system, Dr. Yu gave a complex lecture entitled “Why is our skull the way it is?” that related the development of the skull to mathematical models and fractals. Dr. Loree Kallianian, a member of the Reed O. Dingman Society, presented lectures on philosophy and ethics in medicine. Dr. Kallianian is currently obtaining a master’s degree in the same subject and was able to provide an insightful reflection on a topic not frequently addressed in the plastic surgery curriculum. Dr. Joe Gryskiewicz, a private practitioner from the Minneapolis area, presented lectures on his clinical experience with breast augmentation. In addition, Dr. Gryskiewicz attended our journal club that evening and was involved in an interesting discussion regarding the Insorb dermal stapler, a device that he developed.

Dr. Nicholas Vedder from the University of Washington was the Stryker Visiting Professor for hand surgery this year. Dr. Vedder gave lectures on the management of upper extremity trauma and thumb reconstruction. He also was the professor for a series of case presentations by the residents and quickly became familiar with the question, “What Would Dr. Vedder Do?” Lastly, Dr. Peter Waters from Children’s Hospital in Boston was the Integra Visiting Professor focusing on brachial plexus injuries. Dr. Waters lectured on shoulder reconstruction and the role of microsurgery in brachial plexus palsy. He also led a case conference with residents in plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery providing expertise on some difficult cases. Overall, it was an excellent year for our visiting professor’s program. We are all fortunate to have the leaders in our specialty continue visit Ann Arbor and share their experiences.

- Jeffrey Kozlow, M.D.

At the culmination of the 2007-2008 academic year, we had the honor of welcoming Dr. Rod Rohrich, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, as our Dingman Visiting Professor. Not only is Dr. Rohrich a distinguished plastic surgeon, but he is also an alumnus of the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Residency Program and a Dingman Society member. Dr. Rohrich showed off his teaching ability with the residents during case presentations in the morning, then helped judge the residents’ research presentations in the afternoon, before taking the podium himself for the 20th Annual Reed O. Dingman Lecture in Plastic Surgery, entitled “Advances in Cosmetic Surgery and Beyond: The Future Plastic Surgeon.” The whole day was enjoyed by all, from junior resident to senior faculty member, to the many other Dingman Society members who were able to attend. Dr. Rohrich was also on hand to celebrate with us that evening as we honored our 2008 graduates. Throughout the entire visiting professorship, what was apparent to all was Dr. Rohrich’s sincere interest in the future of plastic surgery, even down to the individual. It was truly a pleasure to have him back in Ann Arbor.

- Steven Kasten, M.D.
Mike Bernstein’s (6) wife, Gina, will be finishing her MBA this semester. Otherwise, his kids are growing and doing well in school.

Emily Hu (6) presented at both the ASPS meeting in Baltimore, MD and the ACS Surgical Forum in New Orleans, LA last year. This year, her publication has been accepted by the PRS journal. Her husband, Brendan, will be finishing his Pediatric Cardiology fellowship this year. Otherwise, she’s enjoying watching her 18 month-old son, Connor, grow by leaps and bounds.

Ian Lytle (6) presented at PSRC this year in Springfield, IL and will be presenting at the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery meeting in Maui, Hawaii for continued work in tissue engineering techniques with Dr. Brown. His wife, Marija, continues a second successful year in Ob-Gyn practice with her father.

Jeff Kozlow (5) continues to be an excellent representative for the University of Michigan and for plastic surgery residents nationwide as the only Resident Member of the Plastic Surgery Residency Review Committee. He otherwise continues to enjoy playing both indoor and outdoor soccer in Ann Arbor.

Keith Wolter (5) returns after a five-year hiatus from clinical plastic surgery, obtaining his Ph.D. degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. His daughter, Fiona, is currently 3 years old, and is anxiously awaiting becoming a big sister next spring. His wife Jill is on the faculty in Obstetric Anesthesiology here at the University of Michigan.

Andrew Zwyghuizen (5) married Carrie Hummel, one of our favorite U-M PACU nurses, on April 26th in Rochester MI, surrounded by family and friends. Fourteen of Andrew’s co-plastic surgery residents were able to attend and enjoy the festivities!

Brent Egeland (4) continues his second productive research year with Dr. Cederna. They are making progress towards creating a biologically-derived neural interface for coupling nerve depolarization and electrical signals to control robotic prosthetics. In addition, Brent, his wife Angela and their 20 month-old son, Blake (who now mirrors everything his father does), are looking forward to welcoming a baby girl, Maia, in early November. Brent plans on returning to clinical residency in July 2009.

Laura Monson (4) is enjoying spending time with family (especially her nephew and niece) and friends during her research year. Otherwise, she is getting to know her lab rats quite well, in Dr. Buchman’s laboratory.

Chris Pannucci (4) was awarded a $70,000 grant from the PSEF (along with his mentor, Dr. Edwin Wilkins) to develop a multi-center consortium to evaluate efficacy of low molecular weight heparin prophylaxis against venous thromboembolism in major reconstructive surgery. In addition, he presented at the PSRC and MAPS meetings this year. His presentations were awarded Best Clinical Paper at both the MAPS and Dingman Society meetings. His publications have been accepted to APS and JPRAS this year. On a personal note, Chris ran the MedWar adventure race last fall, which covers 15 miles of wilderness terrain over 8 hours.

Ben Levi (4) had 3 manuscripts accepted for publication this year, including two in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and one in the Annals of Plastic Surgery. He also presented abstracts at PSRC, AAPS and MAPS.

Anita Kulkarni (3) had a manuscript accepted to Hand, and gave a research presentation at ASPS 2008. Her husband, Amol Rangnekar, completed his residency in Internal Medicine and matched into a GI fellowship at U-M starting in July 2009.

Adam Oppenheimer (3) designed and launched InterviewTrail.com, a website dedicated to simplifying the interview process for fourth-year medical students. This year, the project includes input from hundreds of program directors and is being used by over a thousand medical students. His goal is to help generate information for applicants regarding residency rank lists and defray the cost of interviews through mass collaboration.

Erika Sears (3) had a manuscript published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She has also published a chapter on “Arthroplasty in the hand” and is working on a chapter on Flaps with Dr. Kevin Chung. Her husband, Victor, started his second year in law school at the U-M.

Kris Sugg (2) purchased his first home this year. His wife, Sarah, started a new job as a special education teacher at Lakeland Elementary School in Pinckney.

Seyi Aliu (2) had 4 publications this year, including two in Hand, one in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and one in the Journal of Nutrition. He also gave a presentation at the ASSH meeting.

Rafael Diaz-Garcia (2) organized the first-ever M3 suture workshop, which debuted the evening of September 10th with excellent attendance. The plan is to hold this every eight weeks for the rotating M3 students on the surgery clerkship.

Welcome to Jennifer Waljee, who will be joining our plastic surgery residency program in July 2009, after finishing her general surgery residency this year at Michigan. She has been extremely productive during her Robert Wood Johnson clinical research years, and looks forward to putting her energy towards learning plastic surgery. We welcome “Jenn,” her husband, Akbar Waljee, a Gastroenterology fellow at Michigan, and their 2 year-old daughter, Elyse, to the plastic surgery family!

-Emily Hu, M.D.;
Anita Kulkarni, M.D.;
William Kuzon, M.D., Ph.D.
Two of our faculty, Dr. Steven Buchman and Dr. Kevin Chung, have been chosen as recipients of awards given by the Dean of Medicine. Each year, Dean Woolliscroft gives six faculty awards, choosing the recipients from the 3000+ physicians that practice here at the U-M. This year, Plastic Surgery is very, very proud that Dr. Kevin Chung will receive the Dean’s Clinical and Health Services Research Award and that Dr. Steven Buchman has been chosen as the U-M Outstanding Clinician for 2008. The awards will be formally presented at the Dean’s Award Ceremony on November 11.

The Clinical and Health Services Research Award recognizes a faculty member who is identified as having made outstanding contributions to the Medical School in clinical or health services research. This award carries a $85,000 discretionary academic support prize. Dr. Chung’s groundbreaking clinical research in many areas of hand surgery has gained wide recognition. It is more than fitting that he is now recognized by our own Medical School for these important contributions.

The Outstanding Clinician award recognizes exemplary performance as a practicing clinician or program leader of innovation in clinical care. Dr. Buchman is known here at the U-M, nationally and internationally as a first-rate clinical surgeon and an effective leader of the multidisciplinary Craniofacial Anomalies Program. His choice as U-M’s Outstanding Clinician for 2008 is a testament to his dedication, hard work, compassion, and ability. This award also carries a $85,000 discretionary academic support prize.

The entire Michigan Plastic Surgery family and the Dingman Society are very proud of Steve and Kevin. Please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations on these notable achievements.

Alumni Updates

John “Jack” Alger, M.D. (1960): is “hale and hearty” — spending his days outdoors splitting wood, skiing and swimming. He has met a wonderful companion of six years who is also an excellent skier and cook. He happily replies, “I’ve decided 80 isn’t so old as I once thought.”

István Borocz, M.D. (1969): still has the “same wife, same address and same email.” In his retirement, he enjoys teaching medical English to Hungarian physicians on the internet.

Gary Nobel, M.D. (1973): was involved in a freak accident while cutting limbs from a tree in mid-January. A branch struck him in the face causing him to lose his balance, fall off his ladder and hit his head on the pavement. Two days later, he awoke in the intensive care unit with a portion of his right temporal lobe removed. Thankfully, he has made a full recovery. He now spends most of his time with his wife, Louise, but misses the thrills of surgery. The two of them recently enjoyed the beautiful landscape of Africa and went fishing in the turquoise waters of Cabo San Lucas.

Bob Gilman, M.D. (1982): made his tenth trip to Cartagena, Colombia this past March with recent graduate Jafar Hasan, M.D. Jafar is the seventh resident from the University of Michigan to accompany Bob to South America beginning with David Brown, M.D. During this year’s mission, Bob received a proclamation of thanks and the keys to the city from Judith Pineda Flórez, the mayor of Cartagena. Two patients who had their clefts repaired ten years ago were at the ceremony and spoke about how the surgery changed their lives and allowed them to integrate into society. It was a very memorable and tearful occasion.


Steven Gitt, M.D. (1993): has been very productive in Arizona’s legislative arena. Recently featured in Plastic Surgery News with his wife, Stacey Bailey-Gitt, the two have been working with Senator Barbara Leff on Senate Bill 1419, which regulates the Med Spa industry in Arizona. Next, their attention will be focused on a legislative bill that regulates who can market themselves as a “surgeon.”

Tom Fiala, M.D. (1996): was recently appointed Assistant Professor to a new medical school at the University of Central Florida in Orlando; the inaugural class of medical students will be accepted next year. He has also been working with the fractional carbon dioxide laser, and if anyone has any questions or wishes to “compare notes,” please feel free to contact him.

Joe Fodero, M.D. (1999): lives with his wife, Barbara, and their two sons, Peter and Nicholas, in New Jersey. Barbara opened up a new orthodontic office a few months ago while Joe’s new office is currently under construction. Rhinoplasty is his favorite operation having performed over 100 cases last year alone. In his free time, he remains active by playing hockey, tennis and golf.

Ramin Behmand, M.D. (2001): recently battled the harsh climates and rugged terrain of Mount McKinley in Alaska. Also known as Denali or “The Great One,” it is the highest mountain peak in North America standing tall at 20,320 feet. His band of merry men included five clients and two guides. After months of both mental and physical preparation, their trek commenced in early May with each member carrying an average load of 100 lbs. They climbed 50-degree slopes and crossed ledges of ice no more than a foot wide. At night, temperatures dropped to -25 degrees Fahrenheit with wind speeds up to 110 miles per hour. Unfortunately, due to worsening weather conditions, they were unable to make it to the summit, but it was an amazing trip, nonetheless.

Marlene Welch (Calderone), M.D. (2004): has a second full-time job taking care of her two sons, Maxon and Nolan. Nolan is celebrating his first birthday in early October.

Alumni Updates

Dr. Steven Buchman

Dr. Kevin Chung

Student Award Ceremony

Dean’s Award Ceremony on November 11.

Reed O. Dingman Society

2008 Dean’s Awards

2008 Reed O. Dingman Society Awards

Dr. Steven Buchman

Dr. Kevin Chung

2008 Dean’s Awards

Dr. Steven Buchman
The 2007-2008 academic year was marked by a series of impressive accomplishments and honors by the plastic surgery faculty. These marks of distinction included NIH funding in a very competitive financial climate, local and national leadership recognition, and of course, important milestones such as climbing mountains and surviving triathlons. Below are a few of the interesting details.

Amy Alderman, M.D., M.P.H., continues with her research aimed at improving breast cancer care. She has recently been awarded funding from the PSEF and the NIH to study access barriers women face to obtaining reconstructive services and is co-investigator on a National Institute of Health grant aimed at developing a surgical decision aid for the breast cancer population. Her research this past year has been highlighted in national news media, including the New York Times, CNN and NBC. She was an invited panelist at the Plastic Surgery Research Council this year for her expertise on outcomes research. Amy has been able to excel in both her outcomes investigations and in her clinical endeavors while also building her new family; she is now a proud mother of two!

David Brown, M.D., was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan. He is actively involved in research focused on muscle tissue engineering, for which he was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Health. He has been appointed as the Medical Director of our ambulatory care unit and he was also the Program Director for a magnificent meeting of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgery this past year. Dave continues to be really excited about his new hobby flying airplanes. He recently obtained his instrument rating for his private pilot’s license (which is really hard to obtain) and is enjoying taking trips with wife, Andrea, and sons Matthew (age 10) and Andrew (age 8).

Steve Buchman, M.D., has also brought great pride to our section through his significant accomplishments this year. On the research side he was awarded his own R01 grant from the National Institute of Health for the study of mandibular distraction osteogenesis in irradiated fields and on the clinical side he received the prestigious honor of being named the “Clinician of the Year” for the University of Michigan Health System. On the national level, Steve was elected first Vice President of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgery and the Scientific Program Chair for the 2010 meeting of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgery. He has worked with the neurosurgeons at the U-M on a surgical mission in Guatemala each of the last two years and has also kept a busy schedule on the visiting professor circuit. His wife, Cindy, has gained a reprieve of sorts as their twins, Brevin and Ally (age 5), just started kindergarten and their daughter, Lauren, started 3rd grade.

Between hockey games, Paul Cederna, M.D., is able to maintain a very successful research lab and tackle new leadership positions at the local and national level. He was named the President Elect of the American Society of Peripheral Nerve and President of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons. He was also named the Secretary-Treasurer for the Plastic Surgery Research Council and is a member of the Board of Directors for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Here at home, he was named the Associate Chief of Staff for the U-M Health System, and he continues his role as the Associate Chair for the Department of Surgery. He is also a co-investigator on a new grant funded from the Department of Defense to study tissue scaffold for peripheral nerve repair. Paul has also been a visiting professor at Duke University, University of Utah and the University of Calgary this past year. But, if you ask him what he is most proud of, it was being third in scoring for his hockey league.

Kevin Chung, M.D., M.S., received two very prestigious grants from the National Institute of Health: a mid-career investigator award in patient-oriented research and a grant to study variations in the management of distal radius fractures in the elderly. We are also very proud of his appointment to Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Michigan. Most importantly, he was the recipient of the University of Michigan School of Medicine Dean’s Award for Clinical and Health Services research. This award is given annually to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding clinical research. Of course, that’s not all. He was asked to join the Board of Directors at the American Board of Plastic Surgery and has kept a very active visiting professorship schedule with lectures given across the U.S.

Steve Haase, M.D., remains a crucial component of our hand program, which will be applying for Fellowship status in the near future. His organizational skills, calm demeanor and persistence have helped to ramp up and systematize morbidity and mortality assessment in the section. He has also been appointed Medical Director of the Wound Care Program at the University of Michigan, charged with leading the efforts to confront the significant challenges associated with providing care to that demanding patient population.

Steve Kasten, M.D., continues as our Residency Director and is doing an outstanding job with both designing our resident educational program and monitoring the effectiveness and quality of our teaching. He was recently on a panel at the American Association of Plastic Surgeons meeting in Boston discussing current and future challenges associated with resident education. He continues to pursue his Masters in Health Professions Education and nationally plays an important role in the Association for Surgical Education as the editor of their third edition of the Manual for Researchers in Surgical Education. Steve’s activities keep the educational component of our program on the cutting edge as the surgical specialties struggle to apply rigorous outcome assessment in order determine quality and competency in the training of surgical residents.

William S. Kuzon, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., was awarded the honor of being President Elect for the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation. Needless to say, this is a significant honor for both him and our program and represents the significant amount of dedication Bill has towards research. Bill has also survived another year as our Section Head, which is definitely not an easy job to have. He has been a phenomenal leader in a very stressful financial climate and manages to create an environment supporting personal and professional growth. There is no doubt that the accomplishments of our group are a reflection of his leadership. On a lighter note, (continued on page 8)
Bill finished another triathlon this summer. Not dead last this time, either. He went a whole year without needing orthopedic surgery or getting a brain injury and he is not divorced, at least not yet, and his kids all still speak to him (and not via their lawyers!).

Riley S. Rees, M.D., was awarded the Telemedicine Paper of the Year. The paper was entitled, “The Effects of Tele Wound Management on Use of Service and Financial Outcomes.” Dr. Rees also continues to provide care to patients with some of the most complex wounds and is our resident expert in the plastic surgical care of melanoma patients, but always manages to spend time with his wife, Elly, and enjoy trips to their cottage up north.

Edwin G. Wilkins, M.D., M.S., has been asked to assume a very important role in the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation (PSEF). He is the Chairman of the PSEF Clinical Trials Committee and will oversee all clinical trials that are supported by the PSEF. His current efforts are focused on a DVT Prevention Study in the breast cancer population. As usual, Dr. Wilkins is keeping a very active climbing schedule and recently summated Mt. Kilimanjaro with his wife, Julie, and alum and Dingman Society member, Ramin Behmand.

- Amy Alderman, M.D. and Steven Buchman, M.D.

The Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons, under the direction of Dr. David Brown, organized another remarkable meeting that highlighted outstanding clinical and scientific research while hosting world-renowned guests simultaneously with a superb social schedule. Honored guests at this year’s meeting included: Linda Phillips, President of the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation; Foad Nahai, President of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and Mike Bentz, Chairman of Plastic Surgery at the University of Wisconsin, among others. Dr. Linda Phillips gave a very insightful talk on the future of the PSEF as it relates to the ASPS and discussed that the future was bright under the new President Elect, Dr. William Kuzon Jr. Dr. Foad Nahai also gave an enlightened talk discussing the importance of cosmetic medicine in the field of cosmetic surgery for plastic surgeons. Residents were also honored to have a special teaching conference with Dr. Mike Bentz, whose dedication to teaching reconstructive surgery was remarkable. We all look forward to welcoming him as the 2009 Dingman Professor.

Mackinac Island was an idyllic destination for all of the guests and families and Dr. David Brown and Sharon Mosteller did a phenomenal job making sure that everything ran perfectly from bringing in such preeminent speakers, to organizing the timing of horse and carriage rides, to a sunset boat ride (albeit in the rain), to sounding off the cannons at Fort Mackinac, to a birthday party for Dr. Rees and a final evening gala. University of Michigan residents and staff also were a significant presence as several residents and staff had the opportunity to present their works and take part in panel discussions. We all left very much impressed by the work being done in Michigan and looking forward to the next meeting in two years. We are pleased to announce that next year, MAPS will have an all U-M board with Dr. Paul Cederna as President; Dr. Steven Buchman as Program Director and Dr. David Brown as the Treasurer/Secretary. They will no doubt continue in the proud tradition of making MAPS a success.

-Benjamin Levi, M.D.
The Plastic Surgery Section, with support from colleagues from across the University of Michigan, holds an NIH Training grant in Burn, Trauma and Wound Healing Research. The PI and Program Director is Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D. and William Kuzon, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. is the 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, and 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 most recent graduate of the program is Keith Wolter, M.D. from the University of Michigan who is currently in his fifth year of residency having completed training with Maria Soengas, Ph.D. in the Department of Dermatology. He has just completed his Ph.D. thesis defense and the long-term goal of his research is the development of new therapeutic strategies to improve the poor 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 at the Society of Melanoma Research meeting in New York City last fall. Dr. Wolter’s Ph.D. is in Cell and Molecular Biology.

There are two continuing 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. Marcelo. She is studying mandibular distraction osteogenesis, a technique utilized in the pediatric population for treatment of mandibular hypoplasias. Dr. Fregene was awarded a PSEF grant to support this work which focuses on the observation that in unilateral mandibular distraction 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. Dr. Fregene is part of Dr. Buchman’s laboratory, which is also funded by an NIH R01 award and which presented three papers at this year’s Plastic Surgery Research Council and two abstracts at this year’s ASPS meeting. Twelve articles were published or are in press for this academic year from this group. Besides Dr. Fregene, there are two other fellows in the lab this year: Lin Jing, M.D. (on a grant from Henry Ford Hospital), and Laura Monson, M.D. on leave from the Plastic Surgery Section, funded by a competitive grant from the Department of Surgery.

The second continuing 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. He has competed for and received funding to support his studies. With Dr. Cederna as mentor, he was awarded a Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation Grant, “Development of a Bioartifical Peripheral Nerve Implant For Chronic Recording and Stimulation” and the Frederick A. Coller Surgical Society, Surgical Research Fellowship, “Development of a Novel Integrated Bioelectrical Peripheral Nerve Interface Using Poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene).”

Dr. David Brown, M.D., and his laboratory team study the development of tissue-engineered whole organs. There are several promising lines of research 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 has been successfully built, which can create internal pressure with spontaneous contractions. 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.

Melissa Melvin, M.D., came to us from UTSW, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow working with Dr. Brown and has focused on several tissue engineering projects in the Brown laboratory. Their work has received an “Outstanding Poster” award at the 2008 Moses Gunn Conference, and Dr. Melvin presented their work in skeletal muscle engineering entitled, “The Influence of Differential Neural Input on In-Vivo, Tissue-Engineered Skeletal Muscle Fiber Type” at the 2008 Plastic Surgery Research Council meeting in Springfield, IL, as well as at the 2008 Michigan Association of Plastic Surgery meeting at Mackinac Island. In addition, she received a 2008 Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation Basic Research Grant for this project, and the work will be presented at the 2009 American Society for Peripheral Nerve meeting in Maui, Hawaii. Dr. Melvin has also continued work on a joint project with the NIH and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation on assessing the hemocompatibility of silicon for an implantable hemofilter, and presented this work in Philadelphia during the November 2008 American Society of Nephrology meeting. Dr. Melvin and Dr. Brown also continue progress on cardiac tissue engineering, with an ongoing study assessing size optimization for cardiac tissue constructs for an in vivo rat model.

Kevin Chung, M.D., is continuing his NIH-funded project on rheumatoid hand arthroplasty. 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 been awarded several NIH grants on clinical trial and health services research projects relating to this injury. He is PI on an NIH NIAMS R01 award entitled “An outcome study of rheumatoid hand arthroplasty,” a second NIH award entitled “Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award-Understanding treatment variation of distal radius fractures in the US elderly” and he has been awarded an NIH Mid-Career Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research award. He is also Co-Investigator, on an NIH award entitled “Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHIR) award.”

Steven Haase, M.D., has partnered with Dr. Chung to assist in his work on a comprehensive economic analysis of lower extremity trauma. Their ultimate goal is to provide a sound cost-utility analysis model to aid in the decision-making process (reconstruction vs. amputation) for patients with badly injured legs. This work is supported by a grant from the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation.
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.

Dr. Marcelo performs studies of keratinocyte biology along with Steve Feinberg, D.D.S., Ph.D. (PI). The Marcelo/Feinberg laboratories are NIH-funded, and are engaged in a number of cell-based bioengineering projects. Dr. Marcelo 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 patented methods are being expanded to develop methods for growing a number of epithelial tissues. The investigators have recently been awarded a Michigan Universities Commercialization Initiative (MUCI) grant.

Dr. Marcelo, and Dr. Feinberg, in collaboration with colleagues from Chemistry and Engineering, are developing methods for non-invasive monitoring of cell device for wound healing. An R01 application has been submitted to the NIH.

Dr. Kuzon, along with Michael G Franz, M.D. (General Surgery) and their research colleagues, continue work on understanding the complex surgical dilemma of incisional hernia. Drs. Kuzon and Urbanchek completed developing an improved tissue prostheses for ventral hernia repair. Katie Ewing, a senior studying biomedical engineering at U-M, presented this work at Salisbury University last summer and at the U-M’s 2008 Engineering Graduate Symposium.

Mazen Harake, M.D., a third year general surgery resident at Henry Ford Hospital, completed a year’s fellowship with Drs. Kuzon, Urbanchek and Franz. His work led to presentations titled, “Comparing Component Separation Technique with Underlay Acellular Dermal Allograft (AlloDermTM) for the Reconstruction of Complex Abdominal Wall Defects” and “The Effect of Medical Co-Morbidities on Recurrence Using Prosthetic Materials with Component Separation for Complex Ventral Hernia Repair.” Dr. Harake also investigated abdominal wall laporoscopy strength following hernia repair with allderm and acelluarized muscle (an engineered biologically based scaffold) in a rat model.

Joseph Khouri, an M2 student from Wayne School of Medicine who was awarded a Wayne State Medical School Alumni Fellowship. His work with Drs. Kuzon and Urbanchek studied fibroblast grown into acelluarized muscle.

Dr. Harake, Sami Daily (an undergraduate student at UWM), Joseph Khouri, and Dr. Egeland utilized our clinical hernia database to evaluate the outcomes of ventral hernia repair in the clinical setting. They will present data at the ASPS meeting this fall indicating that separation of parts with an AlloDerm underlay has the lowest hernia recurrence rates reported in a large series of patients to date.

Dennis Clalin, Ph.D., recently renewed a research collaboration with Cytokinetics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that specializes in cell contractility. The project entails evaluation of the force generated by individual skeletal muscle cells that have been exposed to experimental compounds designed to increase muscle force production in reduced-calcium environments. 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 on quality of life.

Dr. Urbanchek, continues work on two federal grants with Dr. Cederna. “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. Both Katie Ewing and Kirsten Schroeder, a student from Hope College who joined the lab for the summer, helped study nerve regeneration through neural tubes containing nanoparticles of PEDOT, an inherently conductive polymer. Drs. Cederna and Urbanchek, completed their work with Dr. Susan E MacKinnon at Washington University studying “The Effects of GDNF on Peripheral Nerve Regeneration.” These collaborations generated and tested novel ideas for peripheral nerve rehabilitation. Additionally Dr. Urbanchek mentored two undergraduate students who have since begun medical school. They are Wendy Shie, who studied The Effect of Aging and Laparorraphy on Capillarity of Rectus Abdominus Muscle in a Rat Model, and Alison Tissack, who with Drs. Cederna, Urbanchek, and Yu, presented her work, “Autogenous Schwann Cells in Nerve Allografts Indicate that Anti-CD40 Ligand Costimulatory Blockade Induces a Permissive State” at the 2008 PSRC meeting.

Dr. Cederna has an active research laboratory which focuses on neurobiology, neuroimmunology 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 is Co-Principal Investigator on an award from the Department of the Navy, Science and Technology, Department of Defense Multidisciplinary Research Program entitled “Bio-Integrated Structural and Neural Prosthetic Materials.” This is a multi-year, 85,000,000 + award. He is also Co-Principal Investigator, Department of the Navy, Science and Technology, Department of Defense Multidisciplinary Research Program (MURI award) of the University Research Initiative, studying Conducting Tissue Scaffolds for Peripheral Nerve Regeneration and Repair. Dr. Cederna is Principal Investigator, National Institute of Health, Subcontract, “The Effects of GDNF on Peripheral Nerve Regeneration.” Thus he has received over 85,000,000 in research funding over the past years.

In collaboration with the faculty on this application, Drs. Urbanchek and Cederna have worked with Antonio Perumo, Ph.D. (a postdoctoral scholar) to develop conductive materials for use in nerve regeneration into muscle. They have developed a method to chemically deposit a conductive polymer, poly(3,4 ethylenedioxythiophene) (PEDOT), on acelluarized muscle tissue constructs. Our results indicate that in situ polymerization occurs
throughout the tissue allowing nerve repair and interactions with bioartificial prosthesis. This work was recently published in Tissue Engineering, Part A.

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. This consisted of developing a novel in vitro culture system of organotypic human skin explants interfacing with external fixator pins. The model system makes it possible to perform rapid, repeatable studies of living skin response to chronically implanted materials and devices.

A number of patents have resulted from the investigations from all these Plastic Surgery investigators and their collaborators.

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 transport 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, along with a multidisciplinary team of health services researchers from the University of Michigan and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, have been investigating the psychosocial, functional, quality of life, patient satisfaction and cost outcomes for common breast reconstruction procedures, including perforator flaps. Results of the study will be used to promote evidence-based decision-making, both for patients considering reconstruction and for surgeons performing these procedures. This work has received funding from the University of Michigan CTSA Pilot grant.

Christi Cavaliere, M.D., completed her second year of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. She completed a systematic review of arthroplasty and arthrodesis for rheumatoid arthritis (with Dr. Kevin Chung), and a study of patient preferences for management of rheumatoid wrist disease. Unfortunately for us, Dr. Cavaliere left the Section in July to continue her studies in California.

Dr. Steven Kasten conducts research in surgical education. He currently collaborates with faculty in the Departments of Surgery and Medical Education and the School of Engineering to understand how surgical skills are learned and how to better assess them. They have developed surgical instruments embedded with microelectromechanical sensors to assess surgical motions as they occur in real time. Their pilot data were well-received at Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 16 in the spring of this year and the Association for Medical Education in Prague last month. They are currently funded through the Graduate Medical Education Innovations Funding Program to begin collecting data from novice, intermediate and expert surgeons. In another collaboration with the Engineering School, he is looking at a way, through video analysis, to assess technique in microsurgery and link variation in technique to patient outcomes, so that in the future we might be able to link education to patient outcomes. Dr. Kasten is also the vice chair of the Association of Academic Chairmen in Plastic Surgery training model outcomes project, a project to begin longitudinally collecting data that will help determine the success of our current training programs and how best to improve them.

-Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D. and Melanie Urbanchek, Ph.D.

I N T E R N A T I O N A L  S C H O L A R S  P R O G R A M

The University of Michigan is structuring a Global Health Initiative program in an effort to reach out to other countries to develop collaborative research and education relationships. The Plastic Surgery program has been a sought-after site for surgeons to received additional training. For example, in the breast program, we have Dr. Nita Nair, M.D., from PD Hinduja National Hospital in Mumbai who spent time with Dr. Alderman and we also have Sunita More, M.D., from Gurunanak Hospital in Mumbai who worked with Dr. Kuzon. In hand surgery, we have initiated an international scholars program that is supported by the DePuy Corporation. This program will target the training of a Japanese hand surgeon each year who will spend one year in the hand fellowship training at the University of Michigan. Our first Japanese international scholar will be Dr. Takashi Oda from Sapporo Medical University. Dr. Oda is a fully-trained orthopaedic hand surgeon who will arrive in late October 2008. For twelve months, he will learn about hand and microsurgery, in addition to conducting a number of clinical research projects. In the summer of 2009, we will have the privilege of training Dr. Sandeep Sebastin, who is a hand surgery fellow from the National University of Singapore. Dr. Sebastin is a plastic surgeon who will be funded by the Singapore government to train with us for two years in the hand surgery program. We have also received approval from the Graduate Medical Education office at the University of Michigan for an ACGME-approved hand fellowship position. We hope we will have a formal hand surgery training program in the Section of Plastic Surgery starting in 2009.

Overall, our mission of education is vibrant. We continue to attract the best trainees from the United States and around the world. We are extremely proud of our academic offering and the recognition of the premier plastic surgery training program at the University of Michigan.

-Kevin Chung, M.D.
A View From the Trenches

Change you can believe in.
That’s the motto we’ve uniquely coined for our residency program this year. And with so many changes, we can hardly believe it. Here’s what’s new from the trenches....

The highlight of this year has been the addition of a brand new resident’s room. Our old room was cramped, and in dire need of renovation. There was actually a black-and-white computer monitor and a dot-matrix printer in there. Well, maybe not the printer, but you get the point... So we ditched the old room completely for some spacious new digs. Here are some of the upgrades:

- 5 computers with 5 flat-screen COLOR computer monitors, great for pulling up x-rays from the hand email system
- 24 lockers, one for each of us (last year 6 first and second years shared a cubby…) a fridge, to keep the pops cool and an EZ-chair, for all those quiet nights on plastics/hand/face/distal radius call (aka the “Quadruple Threat”).

We’re proud of our new space, and hope we can keep it clean.

Another positive change has been the welcome of a new plastic surgery inpatient physician assistant, Lisa Spratke PA-C. Lisa had ample experience as an inpatient PA previously in obstetrics and gynecology and is very excited to have joined our team in July 2008.

More cowbell? More Plastics! We’ve added 6 additional months of pure plastic surgery to our junior residency years. Now, our interns get 4 months of plastics during their first year, and our 2’s and 3’s get 6 months each! With all this experience, we never miss answers in morning conference.

And morning conference has changed too! Now, a resident runs the conference each week, presenting pertinent cases and pimpping questions galore. Our first conference was run by our own Anita Kulkarni. She kept us on our toes with her intimidation tactics (can we bring the attendings back? Please?).

Last, but not least, we’re ‘sweatin’ to the oldies’ with our new journal club format. Each of our inpatient services is responsible for choosing a pertinent article, PLUS, the journal club host picks out a classic article from ye old literature.

It’s hard to say that we’re writing “from the trenches”… with all these upgrades, what more could we ask for? Maybe we should take more “Quadruple Threat” call...

-Adam Oppenheimer, M.D. and Erika Sears, M.D.

Please keep the dates of June 3-6, 2009 open for the 2009 Dingman Society Scientific Meeting, the Grabb Lectureship, the Dingman Visiting Professorship and the Annual Resident Graduation Ceremonies. The Grabb Lecturer for 2009 will be Bob Goldwyn from Harvard University and the Dingman Lecturer will be Mike Bentz from the University of Wisconsin.

Visit the Dingman Society website! Find information on membership, events and much more at www.dingmansociety.org

Comments, changes and suggestions are welcome—please contact Dr. David Brown at davbrown@umich.edu.

Reed O. Dingman Society