Well, it’s that time of year again – the start of a new academic year, a new football season (at least we’re 4-0 so far this year!), and time for the 2010 issue of the Dingman News. As you will see the Section of Plastic Surgery thrives due to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, residents, and staff. This issue of the News will give you all the details.

I might as well start with the bad news. Dr. Amy Alderman has elected to leave the University of Michigan to join a private practice group in Atlanta. She’ll live near her extended family and her new job will leave her more time to be with her husband, Mike, and to be a mom to Caroline and Christopher. This is fantastic for Amy and for her family and we wish her every success. We are going to miss her.

Fortunately, we have lots of good news, too. The unbelievable talent and productivity of our faculty, residents, and research trainees has resulted in another spectacular year of academic activity. Our faculty and residents have won numerous awards, have produced an enormous body of scholarly work, and continue to lead research in our specialty. See the research, resident, and faculty updates for details. Our faculty also hold leadership positions in ASPS, PSEF, ASMS, AAPS, ABPS, ASPN, MAPS, and many other organizations. Be sure to see the articles on the Faulkner and Newman professorships. The support of our alumni has been, and continues to be, critical in our efforts to establish these endowments and we are most grateful. We’ve had a great year.

Of course, the Dingman Society continues as the finest alumni society anywhere. Our annual dinner at the ASPS in Seattle last November was a great event and we had another fantastic Dingman Society Meeting in Ann Arbor in June. The turnout for both events was fantastic and we are all thankful for the ongoing support we receive.

So please enjoy the articles about our graduating chiefs, our faculty promotions, this year’s Dingman visiting professor, our new endowed professorships, updates from our faculty, residents, and alumni on their lives outside medicine, and all the other goings-on here in Ann Arbor. I very much look forward to seeing all of you at the annual Reed O. Dingman Society Dinner in Toronto on October 2.

Warmest regards,
Bill
William M. Kuzon, M.D., Ph.D.
Reed O. Dingman Professor, Plastic Surgery
Section Head, Plastic Surgery

On June 9, Dr. Steven Buchman became the first M. Haskell Newman Professor of Surgery. The inauguration ceremony was an emotional and uplifting tribute to Dr. Newman, who has been part of the Section of Plastic Surgery for over 30 years. It was a fitting recognition of Dr. Buchman’s enormous contribution to our section and our specialty. The audience included Drs. Buchman’s and Newman’s families, the U-M Section of Plastic Surgery, Dean Wolliscroft, Dr. Mulholland, and a great many Dingman Society alumni. Steve’s talk, “Guiding Telemachus on the Road to Knowledge,” paid homage to the individuals who were his guides as his career unfolded. It reminded us all that we rely on each other in many ways and that the special relationship between teacher and student is critical at every stage of learning. Of course, that is what the University of Michigan, the Section of Plastic Surgery, and the Dingman Society are all about. It was a fantastic event and the Professorship will benefit the Section in multiple ways in perpetuity. We are especially grateful to everyone who helped with the effort to establish the Newman Professorship.

-William Kuzon, M.D.
G r a d u a t i n g R e s i d e n t s

Dr. Jeff Kozlow former chief resident and 2010 graduate of the U-M plastic surgery residency program, is currently pursuing a one-year fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Jeff reports that he is staying busy with plenty of challenging and complex reconstructive challenges and is very impressed with the systems of care at Anderson. He remains active in national plastic surgery organizations, including serving as the resident representative to both the ASPS/PSEF Board of Directors and to the Residency Review Committee for Plastic Surgery of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. He is enjoying life in Houston despite the sweltering heat (it's nothing that the A/C can't handle!). He does admit to missing the Michigan summers, and he looks forward to visiting Ann Arbor every now and then! Jeff's plans after the completion of his fellowship are as yet undetermined.

Dr. Keith Wolter finally graduated this year after 11 years as a resident in the University of Michigan plastic surgery program. During this time, Keith completed his clinical training AND a Ph.D. degree, becoming an accomplished physician and scientist. Keith's Ph.D. thesis focused on the mechanisms of cell death as it relates to melanoma. This important work has profoundly impacted subsequent laboratory studies by molecular biologists across the country. Keith feels fortunate that he “had the unique privilege to interact with and help train so many talented individuals in our residency program.” The feeling is mutual, as many junior residents in the program will attest to Keith’s admirable teaching ability and approachable demeanor. Keith’s clinical interests include head and neck reconstruction and he will soon commence a fellowship with the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Michigan. Like many new residency graduates, Keith continues to balance work with family life. He spends as much time as possible with his wife, Jill Mhyre, M.D., and two awesome kids, 5 year old Fiona and 1 year old Reis. And some day, Keith hopes to have the opportunity to travel around the South Pacific, where he plans to scuba dive in French Polynesia.

Andrew Zwyghuizen is now known as “Dr. Z” by Michigan State University surgical residents. “Z”, as he was fondly called here at Michigan, has moved on to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing to use his hard-earned mastery of plastic surgery. He is now using his skills in breast reconstruction, bariatric surgery reconstruction, hand and wound care. Dr. Z is affiliated with the Michigan State Department of Surgery where he shares a practice with another plastic surgeon that specializes in hand care. Andrew is now focusing on his wife, Carrie, and their walking, talking 14 month-old son, Evan. Although they miss their friends in Ann Arbor, Carrie and Andrew are spending time reacquainting themselves with family in the Clark County and Grand Rapids area. Dr. Z and his family now have time for some traveling and recently visited Chicago. Andrew has renewed his interest in music (especially the guitar) as well as golf and tennis. Andrew spent 6 years training here in our Michigan Plastic Surgery Program. As he reflects on his time at Michigan, Andrew said, “The diversity of skills of Michigan’s plastic surgery faculty has allowed me to do a wide variety of operations.” He states that he is “grateful to have been trained at the University of Michigan, Go Blue!”

C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s  g o  o u t  t o  D r .  P a u l  C e d e r n a  a n d  D r .  A m y  A l d e r m a n  o n  their recent promotions. As of September 1, 2010 Dr. Cederna has been promoted to full Professor and Dr. Amy Alderman has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Academic promotion is the University’s way of recognizing the excellence of faculty members. The promotion criteria and process are rigorous, and these distinctions result from many years of hard work and contribution here at Michigan and on the national and international scenes. We are proud of Drs. Alderman and Cederna and we wish both of them continued success.

T r a n s i t i o n s

Dr. Paul Cederna

Dr. Amy Alderman

R e e d  O .  D i n g m a n  S o c i e t y
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.

Shailesh Agarwal is a Michigan native who was born in Westland and raised in Troy. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, including double majors in math and biochemistry. He attended the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. There, he worked with plastic surgeon Dr. Larry Gottlieb on several projects. Most notable was an IRB-approved human composite tissue allotransplantation (CTA) protocol for combined solid organ-soft tissue transplantation. Thus far in their experience, one pediatric patient has undergone a combined liver-kidney-posterior rectus sheath transplant. Shailesh hopes to continue his investigations into the basic science and clinical aspects of CTA while here at U-M.

Shailesh is thrilled to be back in Michigan after a four year absence. He is enthusiastic about his internship and manages to find time to re-discover Ann Arbor, visit his family in Troy, sleep, and study. Shailesh is particularly excited to have obtained season tickets for U-M football this year. His thoughts: “If Rich Rodriguez wants to keep his job, he’d better win nine games or beat Ohio State!”

Tiffany Ballard is a native of Decatur, Indiana and graduated from DePauw University with a degree in biochemistry before moving south for her medical training at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. The newest (and tallest) addition to WIPS (Women in Plastic Surgery), she now brings the female to male resident ratio to 1:2. She is currently enjoying settling in and decorating her condo in Ann Arbor, and after three busy months she finally has new floors, a couch and a TV! Unfortunately she was not able to bring her piano that she has played for over 15 years with her and is looking for a way to keep up with her playing. The rest of her family still resides in Indiana and all of the Ballards are looking forward to the arrival of Tiffany’s niece due in February. While her short-term goals include attending her first game at the Big House (just to see what all the hype is about), her long-term interests include breast and reconstructive surgery.

Ian Sando is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. He did his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University before returning for medical school at Indiana University. In medical school, Ian drew the unfortunate lot to spend his first two years at the Gary, Indiana campus. He reports that the training was superb but the city was somewhat scary. Ian was particularly pleased to move to the Indianapolis campus for his final two years of medical school. While in Indianapolis, he met his wife Christen; the two were married earlier this year. Ian is excited to return to Ann Arbor for his training after rotating on our service as a 4th year student. While internship demands the majority of Ian’s time, he and his wife have managed to spend a few summer weekends at her family’s lake cottage in northern Michigan. Welcome, Ian!
The staff of the Section of Plastic Surgery are a hard working, dedicated, and talented group of people who go beyond the call of duty to ensure that our patients receive excellent care, and choosing “employees of the year” is a daunting task. This year, the prestigious honor is shared by two amazing people, Sherlyna Comer and Lisa Spratke, PA-C.

Scherlyna Comer has been with the Section of Plastic Surgery for 20 years and winning this award was a marvelous way to celebrate her 20th anniversary. Her official title is the Administrative Manager Associate Healthcare, or, in plain English, she is the manager of the Domino Farm’s Clinic. She is the glue that holds the clinic together. Any problem that creates even the mildest headache goes through her. She is a gifted trouble shooter who works with a smile. She enjoys the difficult patients because “it keeps my job interesting.” When she found out she won Employee of the Year, she thought, “to have such a talented, accomplished, respected group of surgeons recognize my efforts was great. I was surprised, honored, and humbled. I couldn’t wait to get home and share the news with my family and friends.” Scherlyna and her husband, David, have been married for 15 years. They have two beautiful daughters named Lauryn and Eryn who are 12 ½ years old and 6 ½ years old, respectively. The ½ is very important to them! Scherlyna has an identical twin sister who also works for the University of Michigan Health System. In her free time, she enjoys reading, trips to the zoo, and spending time with her family.

Time really flies considering Lisa Spratke, PA-C has now been with the section for 27 months as our inpatient Physician Assistant. Although she previously worked in Obstetrics and Gynecology, she is a natural and has adapted very quickly to the broad clinical realm of plastic surgery. She is instrumental in expediting daily inpatient activities and has truly improved overall inpatient care with her sound clinical judgment and passionate disposition. When asked what she liked best about her job, she said, “I work with caring people who are consistently dedicated to providing patients with the best care possible despite how challenging the situation may be.” She was incredibly surprised and overwhelmed to learn of her award. She is married to Ken and they have been together for 17 years. They have two sons, Kyle and Alex, who are 16 years old and 15 years old, respectively. Both of them are in high school and are superb athletes. In her free time, Lisa enjoys gardening, cooking, traveling, and being involved in high school athletic booster activities. Her favorite food is pizza.

The Dingman Society meeting was once again moved up to an annual event in 2010 rather than its usual biennial timing, to coincide with the inauguration of the Newman Professorship. The event took place on Friday, June 11, in concert with the Annual Dingman Research Symposium. The Dingman Society Scientific Program featured a full morning of talks by alumni, including Robert Oneal ’66, Grant Fairbanks ’71, Eric Austad ’78, Robert Gilman ’82, Richard Pollock ’84, William Dzwierzynski ’91 and Timothy Janiga ’07. Topics of the talks were quite varied, from “The History of the Plastic Surgery Residency Program at the University of Michigan” by Dr. Oneal to “Hack, Headaches and Heritage” by Dr. Austad and “The Relationship of Fine Art to Plastic Surgery” by Dr. Pollock (via Pablo Picasso) and Dr. Fairbanks (thru Venus). Of note, there was no invited Grabb Lecturer this year — in 2009 this honor was bestowed upon Dr. Warren Garner, and is a biennial event. Suggestions for the next Grabb Lecturer would be welcomed.

The Dingman Research Symposium highlighted research being performed by University of Michigan current trainees and medical students and featured a record 24 abstract presentations. Winners of the research awards were Dr. Laura Monson (HO6) for her basic science talk entitled “Amifostine Treatment Mitigates the Damaging Effects of Radiation on Distraction Osteogenesis in the Murine Mandible,” and Dr. Christopher Pannucci (HO4) for his clinically-related research entitled, “Post-Operative Enoxaparin Does Not Increase Risk for Re-Operative Hematoma.” The award winners received handsome plaques presented at the resident graduation ceremony.

-Steven Kasten, M.D.
Dr. Pannucci

Dr. Kulkarni

Dr. Waljee

Dr. Monson

Erika Sears recently began her research fellowship in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program at Michigan. She presented her research validating a hand function test at the PSRC meeting in San Francisco and had papers accepted to PRS and the Journal of Hand Surgery. Her husband Victor graduated from Michigan’s Law School and they are expecting a baby boy in November.

Oluseyi Aliu was recently accepted into the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program to begin in July 2011. He is looking forward to pursuing research in the area of improving health literacy. He also wrote a book chapter titled Rheumatoid Hand Reconstruction in a textbook on evidence-based orthopedics.

Rafael Diaz-Garcia presented his research work on Merkel cell carcinoma at two regional meetings and submitted two papers for publication.

Kristopher Sugg celebrated the birth of his daughter Makena last year and she will be celebrating her first birthday in late September. He is looking forward to starting his research in July with Dr. Paul Cederna.

Frank Fang submitted a paper to PRS on his research dealing with ideal facial proportions. He also presented his research work at the annual Dingman Society meeting.

Theodore Kung recently married Ashley Dorr in a beautiful ceremony in northern Ohio in July. Many of Ted’s co-residents were able to celebrate this big day. He also had his review of migraine surgery published inPRS.

Matthew Chetta continues to enjoy keeping up with his family's violin ensemble whenever he goes home on vacation. This year, they recorded their first album, which will be released soon.

Katherine Gast recently married Eric Adelman in an outdoor ceremony in Vail, Colorado. Eric is a fellow in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan. They are also the proud new owners of a house on the old West side of Ann Arbor.

Shoshana Woo had three papers published in the past year, including two in PRS and one paper in Microsurgery relating to work she completed as a medical student at Duke in the area of free tissue transfer and tissue engineering. She is also a new homeowner.

Brent Egeland has been serving as our administrative chief this year. He also matched into a Hand Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic to start in July 2011. He has been busy continuing his nerve research, and presented his most recent work at the AAPS and PSRC meetings.

Laura Monson is finishing her chief year and is currently applying to craniofacial fellowships to start in July 2011. She presented her research on distraction osteogenesis at the AAPS and PSRC meetings.

Jennifer Waljee presented her research on the Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire at the PSRC meeting in San Francisco. She also accepted a position as Michigan’s Hand Fellow to start in July 2011. Her daughter Elyse started preschool this year and her husband Akbar continues to be productive as an academic gastroenterologist at the Ann Arbor VA.

Anita Kulkarni is presenting her research on breast reconstruction in the obese population at the ASPS meeting in Toronto. Her work was chosen to be included in the ASPS media kit to be distributed to national media outlets. Her husband Amol is a second year gastroenterology fellow and is currently in the RWJ master's program.

Adam Oppenheimer is eagerly awaiting his nuptials to his fiancée Karina Chapman in October. The wedding will be in Buffalo, NY, and many of his co-residents will be in attendance.

Ben Levi is continuing his research work at Stanford University in Dr. Michael Longaker’s lab. He has been extremely productive with multiple presentations at national meetings including PSRC and AAPS. He was awarded the PSRC Clifford C. Snyder, M.D. Past Chairman Award for the best paper, and the Stanford University Plastic Surgery Research Day — Best Presentation Award. He published over 10 papers in the last year including papers in PRS, Stem Cell and Development and Plos One. He is also writing a book chapter on stem cells in the next edition of the Mathes Plastic Surgery Textbook. He is looking forward to his upcoming wedding to fiancée Emily Hornstein in San Francisco in October.

Chris Pannucci has had a busy year. He proposed to his fiancée Mandy Cyr and will be married in Plymouth, Michigan, in January 2011. He completed a master’s degree in Health and Healthcare Research at the University of Michigan. In the last year he gave three invited lectures, five talks at national meetings, and had nine papers accepted or published on his research in VTE risk stratification and prophylaxis in plastic surgery. In 2010 he won the Frederick A. Coller Research Fellowship Award (U-M Coller Society), Leonard R. Rubin Award (American Association of Plastic Surgeons), Greenfield Award in Vascular Surgery (U-M Vascular Surgery Department), Dingman Symposium Best Clinical Research Paper, Best National Burn Repository Paper by a Physician (American Burn Association), and the Servier Traveling Fellowship (American Venous Forum).
The Hand Surgery Research Program had a productive year. Jae Song, M.D., who is in her second year of research training, received the National Institutes of Health F32 Ruth L. Kirstein National Research Service Award for “An Outcomes Study of Ulnar Neuropathy at the Elbow.” This is a highly competitive award that serves to train the next generation of researchers. Dr. Erika Sears received a PSEF research grant on “Economic Analysis of Finger Replantation” and Jennifer Waljee, M.D., received the American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand Clinical Research Grant on “The Conceptual Development of the Brief Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire.” Additionally, Dr. Chung’s R01 NIH competitive renewal grant, “An Outcomes Study of Rheumatoid Hand Arthroplasty,” received an 11th percentile score and should be funded for another five-year cycle from 2010 to 2015.

Erika Sears, M.D., has just enrolled into the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program during which time she will conduct economic analysis projects for plastic and hand surgery procedures. Oluseyi Aliu, M.D., will follow Dr. Sears as the 7th RWJ scholar from the Section of Plastic Surgery in this prestigious program. Dr. Aliu will investigate communication effort to improve health literacy in the underserved population. Dr. Haase’s study on “An economic analysis for the treatment of Grade III B and C tibia fracture” was published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 2009. This study was funded by the National Endowment for Plastic Surgery that confirmed the economic benefit of lower limb salvage for complex lower extremity injuries when compared to amputation. Dr. Haase has contributed important chapters in several high profile plastic and hand surgery textbooks on topics as diverse as fractures of the radius and ulnar and skin tumors.

Kevin Chung, M.D., M.S., was the Professor RWH Pho lecturer at the National University of Singapore in July when he presented 10 lectures, culminating in the keynote speech “Quality Movement in American Medicine.” This lectureship was established to honor the senior hand surgeon in Singapore who is instrumental in the development of an outstanding hand surgery training program in this country. The plastic surgery program had the privilege of hosting three international scholars who were sent by their respective academic units to learn about hand surgery and research methodology. They are Drs. Sandeep Sebastin from the National University of Singapore, Shimpei Ono from Nippon Medical University in Tokyo, and Pao-Yuan Lin from Chang Gung Hospital in Taiwan.

The hand surgery program will host a number of visitors in October after the ASSH meeting. Japanese and Korean hand societies will each send two scholars to our institution for academic interchange, and we will host visitors from Finland and Singapore.

The University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery continues to draw international scholars with its long tradition of academic and clinical excellence. This year’s group of international scholars has certainly enriched the academic environment of our section with their diverse range of expertise and interest.

Dr. Pao-Yuan Lin hails from the world renowned Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan where he devotes a significant amount of his clinical practice to microsurgical reconstruction as an assistant professor of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Lin visits our institution with a special interest in participating in the outcomes research efforts of Dr. Kevin Chung. In his free time, Dr. Lin spends time with his wife and two children.

Dr. Shimpei Ono visits us from Tokyo, Japan, where he is the chief resident at the Hospital of Nippon Medical School. Dr. Ono has a deep clinical interest in microsurgical reconstruction. He has been actively involved in investigating the use of multi-detector computed tomography for the preoperative assessment and planning for perforator flaps. He plans to use his academic time at our institution to develop his interest in upper extremity reconstruction with a special focus on outcomes investigation under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Chung.

Dr. Yang Liu visits our section from the well-known Shanghai 9th People’s Hospital where she is an associate professor of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Liu has joined us to investigate in-vivo tissue engineering and peripheral nerve regeneration with Dr. David Brown. During her time here, she has actively participated in our anatomy dissection workshops and also the microsurgical educational lab.

The section welcomes these scholars and continues to encourage the international exchange of scholars to further expand the diversity of ideas in our academic environment. We are pleased with the tremendous international interest in our section.

-Adam Oppenheimer, M.D. & Frank Fang, M.D.
On August 30, Dr. Ormand MacDougald was installed as the John A. Faulkner Collegiate Professor of Physiology. At the time of his retirement in July, Dr. Faulkner was the longest-serving faculty member at the University, having served in the Department of Physiology for over 50 years. Dr. Faulkner and his wife, Margaret, established the Professorship in honor of John's incredible career. Dr. Faulkner's collaboration with the Section of Plastic Surgery began with Drs. Grabb and Markley in the 1970's, and over time many, many Plastic Surgery trainees and faculty members have passed through the laboratory and count Dr. Faulkner as a major influence in their careers. The ceremony was a tribute to John and to Peg, and was particularly entertaining as Dr. MacDougald related numerous anecdotes of his life, including running the Nude Mile while serving as a faculty member. John is retired from the faculty, but plans to write a book based on his experiences as a fighter pilot during WWII and we look forward to seeing him at Plastic Surgery functions as usual.

-William Kuzon, M.D.

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The University of Michigan Hand Fellowship is a 1-year training program overseen by Dr. Kevin Chung (program director) and Dr. Steven Haase (associate program director). We became accredited by the American College of Graduate Medical Education in April 2010, and welcomed our first fellow in July 2010. Dr. Nathan Taylor comes to us from Texas, where he just finished his plastic surgery training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas, TX). We welcome Nathan and his wife, Jennifer, to the Plastic Surgery Family. Additional details on our Hand Fellowship (including application instructions) can be found online (http://surgery.med.umich.edu/plastic/education/hand.shtml). This fellowship will fill through the National Residency Matching Program (Combined Musculoskeletal Matching Program). Interviews for the 2012-2013 fellowship position will be in January 2011.

The University of Michigan Craniofacial Fellowship is also a 1-year training program. The program director is Dr. Steven Buchman, with Dr. Steven Kasten serving as associate program director. Besides a wealth of clinical training opportunities, this program will offer mentoring in research and access to an NIH-funded Craniofacial Research Laboratory. This new fellowship also matriculated its first fellow this year, Dr. John Mesa. Dr. Mesa joins us from Pennsylvania State University (Hershey, PA), where he just completed his plastic surgery training. Welcome to Michigan, John! Additional details on our Craniofacial Fellowship (including application instructions) can be found online (http://surgery.med.umich.edu/plastic/education/craniofacial.shtml).

-S.C. Haase, M.D.

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At Michigan, both hand surgery and craniofacial surgery continue to be busy clinical services with excellent national and international reputations. As each of these subspecialties became more renowned, with larger clinical volumes and comprehensive training opportunities, the development of fellowship programs seemed inevitable. We are very proud to announce these two new additions to Michigan Plastic Surgery.

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Report on Hand & Craniofacial Fellowships
Dr. William Kuzon: This year, Dr. Kuzon is currently serving as President of the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation (PSEF), and is incredibly grateful for the support from his wife, Linda, his family, and his colleagues during this exciting and extremely busy time. Under his leadership, the PSEF has significantly increased research funding compared with previous years, has allocated nearly $800,000 for clinically-relevant research, and supported 34 investigator-initiated research projects. Additionally, Dr. Kuzon is President-Elect of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons, and continues to serve in multiple leadership positions nationally including the American Board of Plastic Surgery and the Plastic Surgery Research Council. His wife, Linda, serves as a curriculum consultant for Dexter Community Schools, and together in April they traveled to visit their daughter, Aniela, in China, who is a manager for a green-energy company in Beijing. Robert and Celia continue to excel in their studies at the University of Dayton and the University of Michigan, respectively. Despite his demanding clinical practice and hectic travel schedule, Dr. Kuzon completed a triathlon this year, and is looking ahead to competing in more this upcoming year.

Dr. Paul Cederna: During this academic year, Dr. Cederna is currently serving in a number of national leadership roles in plastic surgery, including President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve, Chairman-Elect of the Plastic Surgery Research Council, and on the Board of Directors for the ASPS and PSEF. At home, he serves as President of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons. Within the University, he has continued in his role as Associate Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Associate Chief of Staff for the University of Michigan Health System, and was recently promoted to Professor of Surgery. He has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades this year for his outstanding clinical care including listings in the “Guide to America’s Top Surgeons,” “Guide to America’s Top Plastic Surgeons,” Marquis “Who’s Who in America,” Cambridge “Who’s Who,” and has been listed in the “Best Doctors in America.” Although briefly sidelined with his 2nd knee injury in 10 years, he is on the mend and looking forward to getting back on the ice rink and ski slopes soon.

Dr. David Brown: In addition to his leadership roles for the American Society for the Peripheral Nerve, the Plastic Surgery Research Council, and the Michigan Association of Plastic Surgeons, Dr. Brown continues to serve as the Medical Director of the Plastic Surgery Clinic and the Ambulatory Care Unit. Dr. Brown completed a Half-Ironman race in July including a 1.2 mile swim in Lake Michigan, 56 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run. He was excited to complete it, but even more thrilled to beat his goal time by one hour! He is extremely proud to report that in August, he competed alongside his wife Andrea and 12 year-old son Matthew in their first sprint distance triathlon.

Dr. Amy Alderman: This year, Dr. Alderman has seen great success professionally, being promoted to Associate Professor, and personally, watching the University of Alabama football team win the national championship. After 14 fantastic years at the University of Michigan, Dr. Alderman will be packing away her winter coats and snow scrapers to move closer to her family and begin practice in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a gifted surgeon and researcher, and caring teacher and friend who will be greatly missed by all of us. We wish her, Mike, Caroline, and Christopher all the best in their new endeavors!

Dr. Steven Haase: Despite an incredibly busy clinical practice this summer in hand surgery, Dr. Haase has had the opportunity to travel with his family to enjoy the sights in the Upper Peninsula. The Haase family explored Pictured Rocks, Tahquamenon Falls, the Shipwreck Museum, and the Soo Locks. This fall, his daughters Madeleine and Ava enter 6th and 4th grades, respectively, and are busier than ever with dance this year (7 classes weekly for each of them). His son Luke enjoyed his first season of T-ball this summer, and he starts kindergarten this fall, where he will major in comic book heroes and minor in video games.
Dr. Steven Buchman: In June, the Section of Plastic Surgery celebrated the inauguration of Dr. Buchman as the first M. Haskell Newman Collegiate Professor in Plastic Surgery. Additionally, Dr. Buchman will serve as the upcoming president of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons (ASMS), and continues to serve in leadership roles on a national and international level in numerous organizations, including the Plastic Surgery Research Council and the American Board of Plastic Surgery. He is the program director for the University of Michigan Craniofacial Fellowship, which has welcomed its first fellow, John Mesa, this year. Finally, the Buchman Family has adopted a 2 year-old little boy from Russia this past year. With two girls and two boys, he is excited to have his very own mixed doubles team!

Dr. Steven Buchman

Dr. Kevin Chung: Dr. Chung was elected as Vice-President of Research for ASPS/PSEF. He will assume this role for the next two years. Dr. Chung is also busy editing several textbooks. Four textbooks will be published in 2011, including a comprehensive textbook on brachial plexus conditions entitled “Practical Management of Pediatric and Adult Brachial Plexus Palsy.” He is the editor of a hand clinic volume entitled “Rheumatoid Hand and Elbow Surgery.” In addition, he is the editor of the Hand Surgery Update V textbook for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. The second edition for his widely popular “Operative Technique: Hand and Wrist Surgery” will also be published in 2011.

The Hand Surgery Program continues to receive visitors from overseas. In October, we will have the privilege of hosting two Japanese Society for Surgery of the Hand scholars, two Korean Society for Surgery of the Hand scholars and visitors from Finland, Singapore and Taiwan. Our international scholars Dr. Sandeep Sebastin, Dr. Shimpei Ono and Dr. PaoYuan Lin have enriched our hand program by interacting closely with our residents and fellows. Our first hand surgery fellow, Dr. Nathan Taylor, has been active in coordinating the hand surgery curriculum and working with our residents. We look forward to having Jennifer Waljee joining us as our second hand fellow in 2011.

Dr. Chung is active in the Dean’s Office as the Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs in charge of the promotional process in the tenure/instructional track. He was appointed as the Associate Director for Global REACH, which helps coordinate the Medical School’s international education and research programs.

Dr. Kevin Chung

MAPS 2010

The Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgery meeting in Mackinaw Island, MAPS 2010, was a rousing success this year. The varied format of the scientific program included lectures, panels, and scientific papers with ample time devoted to lively discussions, as well as questions and answers from the audience. In addition to the enthusiastic participation from our members, honored guests at this year's meeting included: Our very own William Kuzon, M.D., President of the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation; Nicholas Vedder, M.D., Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery; James Grotting, M.D., Clinical Professor at University of Alabama; Kris Shewmake, M.D., Clinical Professor at the University of Arkansas; Frank Papay, M.D., Chairman, Institute of Dermatology and Plastic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic; Stephen Baker, M.D., Associate Professor Plastic Surgery at Georgetown; Richard Hopper, M.D., Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery University of Washington; Michael Neumeister, M.D., Chief of Plastic Surgery, Southern Illinois University; Arun Gosain, M.D., Program Director, Case Western; and Ian Jackson, M.D., Chief of Plastic Surgery at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan.

Finally, Robert Oneal was honored as our Keynote Speaker at our closing banquet in which he went over the history of Plastic Surgery in Michigan. It was a very special event that was both edifying and engaging. Twenty six paper presentations ranging from Hand to Craniofacial, from Aesthetic to Burns complemented the guest panels and lectures, and the attendance was excellent! The leadership of the MAPS organization scored a University of Michigan Trifecta with Paul Cederna as the President, David Brown as the Secretary/Treasurer, and Steven Buchman as the Scientific Program Chair running the meeting. Brent Egeland, one of our Chief Residents, won the best basic science presentation award and Matthew Martin of Grand Rapids won the best Clinic science presentation award. All in all it was another wonderful meeting in an idyllic northern Michigan setting. Hope to see as many of you as can make it in two years at MAPS 2012!!
The Section of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan has sent a chief house officer to Colombia, South America each year to provide corrective surgery for children. This life-changing work would not happen without the generous support of alumni, through the Reed O. Dingman Society.

Section head, Dr. Bill Kuzon wants to provide an opportunity for two or three plastic surgeons trained at the University of Michigan to participate in an international team. For him, volunteer surgical service is not only mission work, but also supports the mission of the University.

“What these doctors see in one week will remind them of the essence of being a physician. It’s not about the machinery. This is a ‘back to basics’ experience that the majority of the third world practices,” Dr. Kuzon states. “They are better human beings for it and thus better surgeons.”

Perhaps even more important, says Dr. Kuzon, “once the surgeons experience this firsthand, the hope is that it becomes a career-long commitment.”

Chief house officer, Dr. Jeffrey Kozlow, recently worked alongside Dingman Society member, Dr. Robert Gilman, in Colombia. Dr. Kozlow stated that, “the educational experience from Colombia will be something I will reflect on for the rest of my career as a physician. Learning to care for patients from different social, economic, and health backgrounds with only limited surgical resources was very challenging. However, I now return to complete my plastic surgery training as a more well-rounded and culturally-sensitive physician. It was an educational opportunity that every surgical trainee could gain enormous benefit from during their professional development.”

Unfortunately, we were unable to offer the opportunity to other house officers. Next year, and every year after that, we want two chief house officers trained at U-M to participate in this life-changing mission. We hope you’ll help.

An initial gift of $20,000 from plastic surgery’s most grateful patient, Harvey Lemmen, and a subsequent gift by Dingman Society member Robert Gilman, were matched by President Mary Sue Coleman’s current Global Experience Challenge, bringing the total endowment up to $60,000. Each dollar pledged was matched with fifty cents; this challenge will last until December 31, 2010.

“Volunteer service is extremely valuable for residents in their development as physicians and people,” Gilman said, “It’s important for residents to learn to use their skills to help those less fortunate and to give back to society as a whole.”

In honor of all his work, the fund was named the Robert H. Gilman International Service Fund in Plastic Surgery and will ensure that this critical service in Colombia and elsewhere will continue.
Many physicians practice medicine and do a great job at it. Some combine practice with luminescent teaching. Only a few add to that a prodigious range of interests, ranging from music to theology, from community service at home and abroad, to an enormous range of devoted friendships, both professional and personal. Bob Oneal’s life and career fuse all these into a complete, integrated package …coupled with an impish sense of humor and a profound dedication to the very best in the human spirit.

In 1964 Dr. Robert M. Oneal, who had received his general surgery training at the University of Michigan, returned to Ann Arbor to become one of the first residents to train in Dr. Reed O. Dingman’s newly established section of plastic surgery. Since then he has maintained a close association with the University Medical Center, becoming a clinical professor of surgery in the Section of Plastic Surgery in 1969.

Dr. Robert Oneal is respected nationally for his teaching leadership in the techniques of facial rejuvenation. A faculty member at national medical symposiums, he instructs other physicians in advanced techniques in facial and body cosmetic surgery and in corrective nasal surgery. Dr. Oneal has published numerous papers in scientific journals, authored chapters in medical texts, and has lectured nationally and internationally to professional and lay audiences. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, the American Association of Plastic Surgeons, the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons and the Reed O. Dingman Plastic Surgery Society.

Dr. Oneal is known as a fine and dedicated teacher, having devoted more than forty years to the mentoring and training of residents in plastic surgery at the University of Michigan. Just as he demands excellence of himself and of his own work, he expects excellence in the work of the well-over one hundred residents he has trained, requiring careful analytical thinking, high performance and deep empathy for the patients in their care. His extensive medical knowledge and profound humanity provide a model for all who have trained with him.

In 1966 Dr. Oneal established a private practice at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. There he was Chief of the Medical Staff in 1988 and 1989 while continuing to teach residents from the University. Today, at age 77, Dr. Oneal still attends Thursday morning meetings with the rotating plastic surgery residents. In 2010 he was honored with the Resident Teaching Award by the plastic residents in appreciation of his dedication.

A tireless advocate, Dr. Oneal has taken on the task of documenting the history of plastic surgery in Michigan. At the 2010 Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons his keynote lecture was “The Pioneers of Plastic Surgery in Michigan and the Origins of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons.”

The Robert M. Oneal Collegiate Professorship will recognize a faculty member for outstanding patient care and for teaching excellence. There seems no more appropriate way to honor Dr. Oneal’s legacy.
Richard Klein (2003) was on faculty at the University of Southern Florida for three years and then moved with his family to Orlando two years ago. He began the plastic surgery section and is currently the chief of the section of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando. His area of focus is on reconstructive microsurgery of the head and neck, breast and extremities. He is planning to start a fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery within the next two years. His research interest lies in DIEP flap physiology and clinical outcomes in breast reconstruction. Over the past three years, he and his wife, Hana, have adopted two beautiful boys from Vietnam. They have been the focus of their lives and they are enjoying watching them grow, albeit too quickly. He has missed seeing his colleagues from Ann Arbor and hopes to return for a visit soon.

Gregory Borschel (2005) has completed one year as an assistant professor at The Hospital for Sick Children/University of Toronto Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, focusing on facial paralysis, upper extremity conditions and nerve injuries as well as nerve injury research. Their family is doing great! Tina was just promoted to associate professor and appointed chief of General Internal Medicine at Women’s College Hospital, and Anjali (7) and Nikhil (5) have returned to school. They just returned from a family vacation in Paris, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Vienna, and Hungary. Greg combined a little work during this trip presenting at several meetings along the way. Greg is training for a marathon in Toronto this fall and is looking forward to catching up with everyone at ASPS in Toronto this October.

Timothy Janiga (2007), his wife, and two kids moved from Michigan back to Reno, Nevada where he set up a practice together with his wife, called the Center for Plastic Surgery and Dermatology which is going quite well. When he is out of the operating room and not taking call, he spends a good amount of time fully integrating himself into the outdoor activities around the greater Lake Tahoe region such as skiing, mountain biking, and hunting.

Doug Sammer (2007) left the University of Michigan and completed the Hand fellowship program at the Mayo Clinic. He then went on staff at Washington University in St. Louis and has been enjoying his time on faculty there specializing in all aspects of hand and wrist surgery. He will be moving to Dallas this November to be on faculty at UT Southwestern as a hand surgeon in the plastic surgery department.

The 2010 Dingman graduation events were a familiar time of welcoming back friends and alumni to honor Dr. Dingman’s memory with another great scientific meeting and to celebrate the completion of residency for another fine class of residents. Dr. Carolyn Kerrigan from Dartmouth University was our visiting professor for 2010. After a busy morning of the alumni’s scientific presentations over a wide range of interesting and pertinent topics, the residents, students and research fellows spent the afternoon recapitulating the culmination of their efforts in our labs this year. This year’s clinical and basic science research awards were later presented by Dr. Kerrigan to Christopher Pannucci and Laura Monson, respectively, for their talks on “Post-operative Enoxaparin Does Not Increase Risk for Re-operative Hematoma” and “Amifostine Treatment Mitigates the Damaging Effects of Radiation on Distraction Osteogenesis in the Murine Mandible.” After Dr. Keerigan delivered the 2010 Dingman Lecture, an interesting perspective on “doing more with less,” we took a short break to freshen up, then reconvened at the Michigan League for a black-tie celebration of the achievements of our three chief residents, Jeff Kozlow, Andrew Zwyghuisen and Keith Wolter. This was another grand event attended by residents, graduates’ families, faculty and staff. One of the highlights of this portion of the Dingman graduation events was Dr. Robert Oneal stepping “out of retirement” to receive the 2010 didactic teaching award from the residents. This was not recognition of past teaching; Dr. Oneal is still a regular attendee and contributor to our weekly didactic session. He's there, on time, every week at 6:30 a.m., ready to do his part in the education of our residents. He's a great example of a life-long learner/teacher, and still an asset to the residency program. He received a standing ovation while accepting his award that evening, but we'll take this opportunity to say thanks and congratulations again, Bob!
We must begin on a congratulatory note with very well merited kudos to Dr. Steve Kasten and the Surgery Education Office for their excellent efforts to facilitate the workings of our excellent section (it is not boasting if it is true). The University of Michigan plastic surgery program earned a 5-year-cycle of accreditation from the ACGME following its last site evaluation. What's more? Dr. Chung's hand fellowship program earned a 3-year-cycle of accreditation (the maximum allowed for a new program). Hats off!

While on the subject of the ACGME, our section has striven to abide by guidelines established by regulatory bodies to ensure uncompromised resident education and equally keep patient safety front and center. We had… I should say, we once had an albatross in our ability not to run afoul of guidelines that mandate 10 hours off-duty for residents after daily shifts or after a night of call. Occasionally, residents had busy nights of call, stayed up all or most of the night and then had a full OR schedule the next day (post-call). We had a confab at our yearly retreat to devise a solution. We came up with a night float rotation for mid-level residents (PGY-3s and 4s) in which they cover inpatient floor call and consults, and ER consults 5 nights a week. Day call and weekend call (Friday and Saturday) are covered by the other residents. The rotation was newly instituted in the 2010-2011 academic year after a short trial run last year. By all accounts it is working very smoothly.

In addition to welcoming a brand new intern class (Shilesh, Tiffany and Ian) to our complement, we have also added two true gentlemen in Dr. John Mesa from Pennsylvania State University and Dr. Nathan Taylor from the University of Texas Southwestern as our inaugural craniofacial and hand fellows respectively. They have already shown promise in contributing positively to our resident educational experience and we look forward to benefitting from their experience. In an effort to maintain the great working relationship we have developed amongst ourselves, we began a resident mentorship program this year. We all know residency is demanding and we are well equipped intellectually and mentally to get through it, good friends and trusted colleagues help immensely and we want to provide this service to each other.

Finally, we decided (both residents and faculty) to have true retreats, as what we have called a “retreat” for some six years now is truly orientation for some and re-orientation for others. Some of the ideas bounced around include ropes courses, paint-ball ing and kayaking. Next year, we'll tell you all about it.

**Visiting Professors**

The 2009-2010 academic year was another very productive year for the University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery. As in previous years, we were fortunate to have many very high profile surgeon/scientists visit us from around the world and share their expertise with us. It was a highly educational experience for our house officers and our faculty. In addition, the dinners, drinks, and extracurricular activities were outstanding. Our esteemed visitors were:

**Lars Uwe-Lahoda, M.D.** Dr. Lars Uwe-Lahoda visited us in October 2009 from the University Medical College of Groningen in the Netherlands. He is the plastic surgeon, scientist, and chief of Plastic Surgery who has written more the 50 papers and become internationally known for his clinical excellence.

**Warren Garner, M.D.** Dr. Warren Garner visited us in November 2009 from the Reck University School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. As a former faculty member of the Section of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan, he is responsible for training over half of the current faculty. During his most recent visit, he once again educated both the residents and the faculty in his typically thoughtful, intelligent, and direct way. It's always a pleasure to have him return to town as our visiting professor.

**Lars Steinstrasser, M.D.** Dr. Lars Steinstrasser visited us in March 2010 from Bochum University in Bochum, Germany. Lars has the honorable distinction of becoming the Heisenberg Professor of Molecular Oncology and Wound Healing, an honor which has never been bestowed upon any plastic surgeon. Lars shared with us his extensive research experience in host defense peptides. As always, his talks were incredibly insightful, interesting, and “leading edge.” It was a pleasure to have him with us in Ann Arbor.

**Catherine Curtin, M.D.** Dr. Catherine Curtin visited us in April 2010 from Stanford University School of Medicine. As a graduate of the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program, it was fantastic to have her return in her new capacity as a faculty member of one of the premier plastic surgery training programs in the country. She provided our residents with an excellent presentation on Dupuytren's Contracture. She has proven to be a great role-model for our current house staff.

**Keiichi Murata, M.D., Ph.D.** Dr. Keiichi visited us in September 2009 from Nara Medical University in Nara, Japan. Dr. Keiichi was visiting us in his capacity as one of the JSSH/ASSH travelling fellows. He had the opportunity to observe all aspects of clinical patient care in the inpatient and outpatient settings as well as in the operating room. He generously provided us with a presentation during his visit.

**Kousuke Iba, M.D., Ph.D.** Dr. Iba visited us in September 2009 from Sapporo Medical University in Sapporo, Japan. Dr. Iba was also a travelling fellow of the JSSH/ASSH during his visit to Ann Arbor and spent a substantial amount of time with Kevin Chung observing surgery, discussing clinical outcome research, and providing a presentation during our teaching conference.
The Plastic Surgery Section, with support from colleagues across the University of Michigan, holds an NIH Training grant in Burn, Trauma and Wound Healing Research. The grant, which was renewed for another 5 year period in July, 2009, has Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D., as the PI and program director and William Kuzon, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. as the co-PI and co-director. This grant supports the training of academic medical surgeons/scientists in basic and applied 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 outcome studies 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, Alero Fregène, M.D. is a surgical resident from the Henry Ford Hospital program who elected to continue at the University of Michigan in Pathology residency after her 2-year fellowship with Steve Buchman, M.D. and Steve Goldstein, M.D.

Another recent graduating trainee is Brent Egeland, M.D., from our Plastic Surgery program. Dr. Egeland studied with Paul Cederna, M.D., and Melanie Urbancheck, Ph.D., and worked on bioengineering nerve and muscle for the construction and operation of artificial limbs. He is currently administrative chief resident for 2010-2011 and is publishing the data generated with his work with Dr. Cederna as mentor, on the development of bioartifical peripheral nerve implants.

Currently appointed to the training grant for the second of two-year terms are Benjamin Wei, M.D. and Chris Pannucci, M.D. Eric Culbertson, M.D. was initially appointed to this training grant in 2010. However, he was almost immediately successful in obtaining an F32 fellowship from the NIH which overlapped with our T32 training grant so his training will be funded by the F32 for 1 year. Dr. Culbertson is working with Michael Franz, M.D. in a study of fibroblast functional and phenotypic response to tensile force. Dr. Wei, who came to us from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit as a research fellow, is working with Drs. Paul Cederna and Melanie Urbancheck in the area of bioartifical nerve implant. Dr. Pannucci is mentored by Edwin Wilkins, M.D. His project, on which he is co-Investigator and Site Coordinator with Dr. Wilkins is entitled “Prevention of Venous Thrombo-embolism in Major Reconstructive Procedures” funded by Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation. Dr. Pannucci is also involved as site Coordinator in an outcomes study entitled “International Breast Reconstruction Outcomes Consortium II Pilot Study,” funded by Michigan Institute for Clinical Health Research. He is the primary investigator and the mentor is Wendy Wahl, M.D., Professor of Surgery, and Director of Trauma Burn Intensive Care Unit.

Amy Alderman M.D., MPH continued her health services research into the psychosocial, financial, and clinical outcomes aspects of breast reconstruction. She was recently promoted to Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Section of Plastic Surgery. At present, her team is conducting field interviews of breast cancer patients and their significant others in Detroit and Los Angeles. As you learned earlier in this newsletter, Amy is leaving the University to enter into private practice in Atlanta.

This was an exciting year for the Buchman Craniofacial Research Laboratory. A total of 10 abstracts were accepted and published for presentation at 3 national meetings: PSRC, AAPS, and ASPS. Two manuscripts were published in PRS, and 3 grants were awarded to our fellows from ASMS. The upcoming year will deliver new challenges as we prepare for clinical trials with the radio-protectant Amifostine in the irradiated mandible. This research group is also continuing examination of the angiogenic effect of Deferoxamine for optimization of Distraction Osteogenesis and fracture repair in the setting of irradiated bone, as well as examining the utility of bone marrow stem cells and parathyroid hormone in this setting.

The current fellows heading up this team are Alexis Donneys, M.D., Catherine Tehanque-Fossuho, M.D., Kelly Gallagher, M.D., Aaron Farberg, and Sagar Deshpande. Elizabeth Razdolsky is continuing her research, and joining this team are Deniz Sarhaddi and Noah Nelson.

Dr. Donneys, a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine, has completed one year of general surgery at Loma Linda University Hospital, California. Dr. Tehanque-Fossuho, a graduate of Michigan State Medical School, has completed three years of general surgery residency at Providence Hospital, Southfield, Michigan. Dr. Gallagher, a graduate of Baylor Medical School, is a fourth-year ENT resident at the University of Michigan.

Aaron Farberg, Sagar Deshpande, and Elizabeth Razdolsky are currently students at the University of Michigan. Aaron Farberg is in his third-year of medical school. Sagar Deshpande is a BA/BS candidate, and Elizabeth Razdolsky is a BS candidate.

Joining us this year are Deniz and Noah. Deniz has completed her third year of medical school at the George Washington University, and Noah is a BA candidate at the University of Michigan.

The Hand Surgery Research Program had a productive year. Jae Song, M.D., working with Kevin Chung, M.D. and who is in her second year of research training, received the National Institutes of Health F32 Ruth L Kirstein National Research Service Award for “An Outcomes Study of Ulnar Neuropathy at the Elbow.” This is a highly competitive award that serves to train the next generation of researchers.

Erika Sears, M.D. received a PSEF research grant on “Economic Analysis of Finger Replantation” and Jennifer Waljee, M.D., received the American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand Clinical Research Grant on “The Conceptual Development the Brief Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire.” Additionally, Dr. Chung’s R01 NIH competitive renewal grant, “An Outcomes Study of Rheumatoid Hand Arthroplasty” should be funded for another five-year cycle from 2010 to 2015.

Dr. Sears has just enrolled into the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program during which time she will conduct economic analysis projects for plastic and hand surgery procedures. Oluwesey Alu, M.D. will follow Dr. Sears as the 7th RWJ scholar from the Section of Plastic Surgery in this prestigious program. Dr. Alu will investigate communication effort to improve health literacy in the underserved population.

Dr. Chung was the Professor RWJ Pho lecturer at the National University of Singapore in July when he presented 10 lectures, culminating in the keynote speech “Quality Movement in American Medicine.” This lectureship was established to honor the senior hand surgeon in Singapore who is instrumental in the development of an outstanding hand surgery training program in this country. The plastic surgery program had the privilege of hosting three international scholars who were sent by their respective academic units to learn about hand surgery and research methodology. They are Drs. Sandeep Sebastian from the National University of Singapore, Shimpei Ono from Nippon Medical University in Tokyo and Pao-Yuan Lin from Chang Gung Hospital in Taiwan.
**Research News**

Dr. Steve Haase’s study on “An Economic Analysis For the Treatment of Grade III B and C Tibia Fracture” was published in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 2009. This study was funded by the National Endowment for Plastic Surgery that confirmed the economic benefit of lower limb salvage for complex lower extremity injuries when compared to amputation. Dr. Haase has contributed important chapters in several high profile plastic and hand surgery textbooks on topics as diverse as fractures of the radius and ulnar and skin tumors.

The hand surgery program will host a number of visitors in October after the ASSH meeting. Japanese and Korean Hand Societies will each send two scholars to our institution for academic interchange, and we will host visitors from Finland and Singapore.

Dr. Marcelo performs studies of keratinocyte biology along with Steve Feinberg, D.D.S., Ph.D. The Marcelo/Feinberg laboratory is NIH-funded, and is engaged in a number of epithelial cell 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. The role of mTOR and other controllers of cell function are being studied in these cells. These patented methods are being expanded to develop methods for growing a number of epithelial tissues. Dr. Marcelo, in collaboration with colleagues from Chemistry and Engineering, is developing methods for non-invasive monitoring of cell device for wound healing funded by an R01 senior grant that has been recently been awarded a 4 year NIH award. Antonio Peramo, Ph.D. has joined this laboratory as an assistant research scientist and is continuing his studies with the vascular research laboratory and in the area of epithelial cell/device creation, in a proposed study with DOD (Department of Defense). The Marcelo laboratory is part of a strategic University of Michigan Medical School Program with the Pharmaceutical Company Sanofi-Aventis which focuses on development of adult “stem cell” therapies.

Dennis Claflin, Ph.D. is collaborating with Susan Brooks, Ph.D. (University of Michigan) on an NIH-funded research project designed to determine the effects of aging on the material properties of the extracellular matrix (ECM) of skeletal muscle. The project entails characterization of the force-extension properties of individual skeletal muscle cells (fibers) that have been separated from the ECM, and of small bundles of fibers in which the ECM remains intact. The aim of the study is to determine the contribution of the ECM to the increase in stiffness observed in the muscle-tendon unit with increasing age. The long-term goal of the study is to improve our understanding of the properties of skeletal muscle-tendon unit substructures in adult and old animals and the impact of those properties on muscle function and susceptibility to injury.

David Brown, M.D.; Paul Cederna, M.D.; William Kuzon Jr. M.D., Ph.D.; and Melanie Urbanchek, Ph.D. share space within the Muscles Mechanics Laboratory. They continue their collaborations with groups in other colleges within the University of Michigan, (Daryl Kipke, Ph.D., Steven Goldstein, Ph.D., and Michael Franz, M.D.) and with outside universities such as the University of Delaware (David Martin, Ph.D.).

Dr. Brown continues to enjoy teaching residents and students as one of his main motivations for an academic career. His laboratory efforts continue to focus around in-vivo tissue engineering. Work is ongoing on NIH-funded research into building a single cardiac ventricle. In collaboration with researchers from Cleveland Clinic and UCSF, also under another NIH grant, he is furthering work on an implanted renal hemofilter, which has already shown great promise in filtering toxic metabolites from the blood.

Drs. Cederna and Urbanchek, continue their work on two federal grants funded by the Department of Defense. Dr. Cederna is the principle investigator for both grants, which share the purpose, “Bio-Integrating Structural and Neural-Prosthetic Materials.” Two research fellows are contributing studies to these grants. They include Benjamin Wei, M.D., and Ziya Baghmanli, M.D. Each of these research fellows was awarded grants from the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation. Undergraduate students are also making significant contributions to our research goals. They are Christopher Frost, Kyle Williams, and Humza Khan. Study results are well received at all national plastic surgery conferences. Dr. Baghmanli along with Drs. Cederna and Kuzon attended the 2nd meeting of the European Plastic Surgery Research Council in Hannover, Germany where Dr. Baghmanli presented a brief summary of the Department of Defense work. Katie Ewing, M.S. now studies at the University of Melbourne. Dr. Egeland, and Chris Frost again won awards this year for new research projects applicable to peripheral nerve interfaces. Dr. Cederna holds positions as a journal editor for Annals of Plastic Surgery, Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery, and Microsurgery.

Dr. Kuzon continues his basic research studying the “Biomechanical Pathogenesis of Ventral Hernia.” Along with Dr. Franz and Dr. Urbanchek, research fellows Mazen S. Harake, M.D., and Joseph S. Kouri, M.A., induced incisional hernia formation in rat abdominal wall and subsequently implanted several biomaterials (especially acellularized myofascial seeded with fibroblasts) as alternative repair methods to the standard primary repair. Each of these fellows is presenting this translational work at numerous general and plastic surgery conferences. Dr. Kuzon has several clinical outcomes projects which are ongoing. His clinical research team, composed of Joe Khoury (4th year medical student at Wayne State), Dr. Egeland, and Mazen Harake, M.D., have examined outcomes of vertical panniculectomy (to be presented ASPS this year), outcomes of reconstruction with the flap (presented at PSRC), and on a modification of the McLaughlin technique for facial reanimation.

Edwin Wilkins, M.D., M.S. has active research interests in breast reconstruction, venous thromboembolism, and telemedicine. He currently serves as the chair of the PSEF’s Clinical Trials Network Committee. He is the primary investigator for the PSEF-funded Venous Thromboembolism Prevention (VTEP) study, a two-year, multi-center trial examining the efficacy of low-molecular weight heparin for VTE prevention in 4,000 plastic surgery patients. Additionally, he is the primary investigator for the University of Michigan’s International Breast Reconstruction Outcomes Consortium (IBROC) pilot study. Using the Breast-Q, the IBROC study will evaluate women’s decision making process and satisfaction with breast reconstruction after mastectomy. Based on preliminary data from IBROC and other studies, his group recently applied for grant funding from the National Cancer Institute to conduct a multi-center breast reconstruction outcomes study. Dr. Wilkins is also mentor to Dr. Pannucci as part of the section’s training program.

-Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D. & Melanie G. Urbanchek, Ph.D.
University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery 2010

1st row – William Kuzon Jr, Jeffrey Kozlow, Andrew Zwyghuizen, Keith Wolter, Steven Kasten.
2nd row – Oluseyi Aina, Kevin Chung, De-Hong Tang, Jennifer Waldie, Laura Monson, Anita Kulkarni, Shoshana Woo, Katherine Gast, Tonyia Seeland, Chris Panasctic, Erika Davis-Sears, Frank Fang.
3rd row – Edwin Wilkins, Paul Cederna, Riley Rees, Steven Haase, Ted Kung, Adam Oppenheimer, Brent Egeland, David Brown, Kristoffer Sugg, Matthew Chetta.