It’s September and the ASPS Annual meeting is approaching, which means it’s time for the 2011 edition of the Dingman News. In this issue, you will learn that the Section of Plastic Surgery continues to thrive.

Of course, the capstone of our year is our annual graduation ceremony where our Chief Residents are honored for their long years of dedication to their training in Plastic Surgery. In the column on Drs. Egeland, Monson, and Waljee you will learn that in addition to joining the ranks of our Dingman Alumni, all three are pursuing additional fellowship training. Graduation time also means, of course, that we have three new PGY1 trainees so it’s a pleasure to introduce you all to Drs. Ettinger, Kelly, and Ranganathan. Under Dr. Kasten’s direction, our residency program is one of the finest in the country and an update is included in the News. In this issue of the News, you will also learn that our two new fellows had outstanding inaugural years as Drs. Taylor and Mesa joined us as fellows in hand and in craniofacial surgery. For the first time since 2004, Plastic Surgery has two new faculty members. Drs. Kozlow and Momoh joined us in July, bringing much needed enthusiasm for microvascular reconstruction to our residency and our practice. We look forward to great things from them. Sadly, you will also read that Dr. Alderman left Michigan in November and is now in private practice in Georgia and that Dr. Rees has retired from daily surgical practice and is now an Emeritus Professor. We miss Amy and Riley every day. And, you will learn that Dr. Marcelo has transitioned to Professor Emeritus. However, we won’t miss her much since she still comes in to work every day.

There are several articles celebrating the remarkable achievements of our residents and faculty. Most importantly, you will read that congratulations are in order as Dr. Haase’s clinical excellence, his dedication to teaching, and his academic activities contributed to his promotion to Associate Professor. Our residents and faculty continue to lead our specialty in basic and in clinical research with our annual research expenditures slated to top $2 million next year. Our residents and faculty have published zillions of peer-reviewed articles, landed multiple prestigious grants and fellowships, and received numerous awards for their work; the resident and faculty achievements and research updates section of the News will give you details. I hope you will agree that Michigan Plastic Surgery remains among the elite programs in our specialty.

In addition to our strong research program, the column on faculty achievements will let you know that we remain pre-eminent on the national scene. Dr. Cederna is the Chair of the Plastic Surgery Research Council and President of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons, Dr. Buchman is the President of the American Society for Maxillofacial Surgeons, and I am the current president of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. All of our faculty and many of our residents serve as board members or hold important committee assignments in multiple organizations spanning our specialty.

As I hope you all know, we are now raising money for our third endowed professorship in Plastic Surgery at Michigan. The O'Neal Professorship will honor the enormous contribution that Bob has made to the education of many generations of Michigan Plastic Surgery Residents, to his exemplary clinical practice, and to his tangible contributions to the vitality and collegiality that is the signature of our Section. We hope to conclude this effort soon and inaugurate the Professorship in concert with next year’s graduation. PLEASE read the column on the O'Neal Professorship for more details – we need your help.

In the other items in this issue you will get updates on our colleagues on the faculty, on our residents, and on our alumni. You will learn about our international scholars from the past year, about our multiple visiting professors, including Peter Neligan, this year’s Dingman Visiting Professor, about marriages and births, about life “in the trenches,” and about many other elements of our rich academic environment that I hope will give you a sense of the day-to-day life in the Section of Plastic Surgery. Enjoy.

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

PS – Oh yeah, I plan to step down as Section Head next July – see details on page 2.
As most of you know, I became Section Head of the Section of Plastic Surgery in 2002 and, as at least some of you know, I am a firm believer in term limits for leadership positions in academic surgery. There are multiple reasons for this, but suffice it to say that it’s my strong conviction that the vitality and energy, and therefore the success, of any academic enterprise is dependent on renewal of the leadership on a continual basis. For that reason, when I accepted this position 9 years ago, I indicated that I intended to adhere to a 10-year term limit. I meant it. A search committee has been formed to aid our Chair, Dr. Mulholland, in appointing a new Section Head in Plastic Surgery. The search committee will have their first meeting soon with a goal to have a new Section Head chosen in time to begin next July. The search is chaired by Dr. Ron Hirschl from Pediatric Surgery and our Section’s representative on the committee is Steve Kasten. Please let them know if you have thoughts or input. It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve as Section Head for Michigan Plastic Surgery over the past 10 years and I have every confidence that Michigan Plastic Surgery will reach new heights with a renewal of leadership.

O NEAL PROFESSORSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dr. Robert Oneal is one of the giants of Michigan Plastic Surgery. For over 45 years Bob has made day-by-day contributions to the care of patients, to the advancement of knowledge in our specialty, and especially to the education of students and residents. Many generations of Michigan trained Plastic Surgeons count Bob as their most important and influential teacher in the operating room, in the clinic, and in their relationships and bonds with colleagues. The tradition that is Michigan Plastic Surgery has endured and grown because of Bob’s devotion to his students, his residents, and his colleagues among our alumni and on the faculty.

The Oneal Collegiate Professorship in Plastic Surgery will honor Bob’s legacy on our faculty and will be a visible signature of the quality and tradition that is Michigan Plastic Surgery. The revenue from the Oneal endowment will allow us to continue the important scholarly work that is vital to our mission. After a generous lead gift from Bob and Libby, the campaign to raise the needed $500,000 has gone well. This effort now stands at $79,114.37 remaining to make the goal on the Oneal Professorship. It is critical that we conclude this effort in the next few months so that we can inaugurate the Oneal Professorship at graduation time next year. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed so far, be prepared for our “final push” in the next few months. Together, we can meet our goal to honor Bob with an inauguration ceremony for the Oneal Professorship next June.
Dr. Brent Egeland served as the administrative chief resident in the University of Michigan integrated plastic surgery residency program during the 2010-11 academic year, and is currently pursuing a one-year fellowship in hand surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. An alumnus of Wayzata High School in Plymouth, Minnesota, where he first met his lovely wife, Angela, and approximately 100 miles from his current location, Dr. Egeland has returned to his childhood home. He is impressed by the breadth of clinical cases related to the hand, and relishes the innovative techniques offered to fix them. His microsurgical experience thus far has included a free fibula for malunion of the distal radius, a free medial femoral condyle for scaphoid nonunion, and custom perforator flaps for resurfacing of soft tissue defects of the upper extremity and hand. Despite the cool climate, he is still getting accustomed to wearing a suit every day to work! The little ones, Blake and Maia, are also enjoying the new environment, and spend a lot of time playing outdoors. If he is not in the hospital, Dr. Egeland joins them, finding relaxation in fishing, boating, and gardening. He eagerly awaits this winter's snowfall, so he can hit the slopes with his family. We wish him the best of luck, and are confident that he will continue to be successful in whatever path he chooses.

Dr. Laura Monson graduated this year after seven years in Ann Arbor as a resident in the University of Michigan plastic surgery program. Dr. Monson was an excellent technical surgeon who demonstrated a special interest in pediatric plastic surgery. In addition to her six years of clinical training, Dr. Monson spent a year working in the Buchman lab examining the effects of radiation on the rat mandible. This included investigating a possible pharmaceutical intervention that might decrease the radiation effects to the bone itself including radio-osteonecrosis. Her hard work in the lab has resulted in a number of publications and presentations at national meetings. This strong interest in pediatric and craniofacial surgery led to Dr. Monson being selected as the craniofacial fellow at the University of Pittsburgh, a very prestigious fellowship that is well deserved by her. Dr. Monson will be missed by all of her colleagues, but especially the more junior residents for whom she was a mentor and protector. Sadly, the constant stream of homemade brownies and lemon bars left in the resident’s room has stopped since Dr. Monson’s departure. However, she is enjoying her experience in Pittsburgh and we are sure that she is building a great reputation there. She reported that “I am already having a great fellowship experience; however, the black cloud on call continues.” She is in the process of looking for an academic pediatric plastic surgery position and we are all wishing her the best of luck.

Dr. Jennifer Waljee graduated from the plastic surgery program this summer, and remains at the University of Michigan in our Section’s Hand Surgery Fellowship Program for the 2011-2012 academic year. She has had a fantastic time thus far learning new techniques and evaluating complex hand problems, and is looking forward to many challenging cases. She and her husband Akbar had the opportunity to travel this past year to both her home in Atlanta, Georgia, and his home in Nairobi, Kenya, to visit their families, and had a wonderful experience. She is extremely proud of her daughter Elyse, who is off to kindergarten this fall, and thoroughly enjoys cheering her on during her soccer games. In her free time, Jenn loves spending time with her family and friends, running, biking, and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. She is looking forward to a great experience during her Hand Fellowship this year and cheering on a winning University of Michigan football team this fall!
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.

Russell Ettinger
The Section is delighted to welcome Russell Ettinger, MD, to the program this year. Originally from Santa Monica, California, Russell did his undergraduate and medical school training at the University of Washington. He was known to many of those in Section after he excelled on our service as a 4th year visiting student. Russell made the cross-country trek from Seattle with his wife, Lindsay, who works as a dental hygienist and always reminds him to floss. One unique fact about Russell is that he is an identical twin; his brother just started his oral surgery training at the Mayo Clinic. Outside the hospital, Russell enjoys spending time with his wife and being outdoors playing soccer and golf, and participating in various water sports. While Russell conducted research in pediatric craniofacial surgery as a medical student he is currently excited for the opportunity to learn about all areas of plastic surgery. Welcome to the U of M family, Russell.

Brian Kelley
The Section of Plastic Surgery enthusiastically welcomes Brian Kelley to the incoming 2011 class. Brian is from Roswell, New Mexico, and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Denver where he became of a fan of Denver hockey. He subsequently completed medical school at Baylor. Brian has previously been involved in a variety of research projects including studies of collagen development and wound dehiscence. Brian has two younger brothers – one is currently a student in college and the other is a petroleum geologist. Brian is interested in microsurgery and is excited to learn from the entire faculty at U of M. Brian, true to his Southwestern roots, enjoys outdoors events including skiing and mountain climbing. Brian is excited to work hard and enjoy the outdoors in beautiful Ann Arbor. We are all very pleased to welcome Brian to the University of Michigan family.

Kavitha Ranganathan
The Section of Plastic Surgery is very pleased to welcome Kavitha Ranganathan to the 2011 intern class. Kavitha is a native of Springfield, Ohio, and graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in Psychology. She remained at Northwestern for medical school, where she became interested in plastic surgery, especially pediatric plastic surgery and burn surgery. She is the newest member of the WIPS (Women in Plastic Surgery) and also the tallest addition. She is enjoying settling into Ann Arbor, and with the help of her mother, her condo is decorated and starting to feel like home. In her free time, she enjoys painting and spending time with her new friends in Ann Arbor, and fortunately her multiple food allergies have not stopped her from trying the assortment of restaurants in town. While her family is in the Midwest, we are excited to welcome Kavitha to the U of M family as well.

Residency Program Update

In 1995, the Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program at the University of Michigan, along with two other programs, ushered in a new era by becoming the first officially accredited integrated programs, and in 2011 entered its 16th year as such. You can be proud that your alma mater continues to rank amongst the most desirable programs for applicants. We receive well over 200 applications per year for our three positions, and those who are invited to interview rank in the top 2% of medical students in terms of board scores, grades, medical school rank, and research productivity. Over the years, the program has evolved to include more and more plastic surgery time, while we have eliminated rotations that are not as relevant. Of the six clinical years residents spend in the program, five are now devoted to plastic surgery or closely related subspecialties such as ENT, oral surgery, and orthopedic surgery. This academic year we were very pleased to begin sending two residents at a time to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital to take advantage of the wealth of educational opportunities created by our five busy faculty members there.
Anita Kulkarni was selected as the administrative chief resident. She presented her research on breast reconstruction in the obese patient population at ASPS in Toronto. She also presented on trends in autologous and microsurgical breast reconstruction at the Dingman meeting in June, where she won Best Clinical Paper. She is currently applying for a microsurgery fellowship.

Adam Oppenheimer was married to Karina Chapman in October 2010. Many of his co-residents were in attendance at the beautiful ceremony in Buffalo, New York. He presented his research at the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association meeting in Puerto Rico. He is currently applying for craniofacial fellowships.

Rafael Diaz-Garcia published an article on distal radius fractures in the elderly in the Journal of Hand Surgery. He also won a $1,500 scholarship from the American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand. He recently welcomed a new pooch to the family, an English bulldog named Lucy.

Benjamin Levi was married to Emily Hornstein in October 2010 in San Francisco. He also had a very productive second research year, where he published over 10 peer reviewed and 10 non-peer reviewed manuscripts in basic science journals and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He was invited to present at multiple national meetings including AAPS, PSRC, and ACS. He also was the recipient of multiple research awards, including the University of Michigan Moses Gunn Young Investigator Award, AAPS Resident Research Poster Competition First Place Award, Society of University Surgeons Traveling Fellowship Award, and the NIH Loan Repayment Scholarship.

Christopher Pannucci married Amanda Cyr on January 15, 2011. The two honeymooned in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and squeezed in a trip to Greece to attend the EURAPS meeting. Chris also found time for a mountaineering trip to Washington’s Tattooosh Range, fly-fishing on Colorado's South Platte River, and scattered rock climbing trips to Utah and Kentucky. Chris had a very productive second year in the lab. His research was presented at multiple national meetings and was awarded the 2010 Leonard R. Rubin Award at AAPS, the 2011 Best National Burn Repository Paper at the ABA, and the 2011 Best Clinical Research Paper at PSRC.

Erika Sears welcomed baby boy Noah Emmanuel Sears to her family on November 19, 2010. She earned a Master of Science in Health Services Research as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. She published a paper in the Journal of Hand Surgery on outcomes of replantation of finger avulsion injuries.

Ohuseyi Aliu started his first year of research as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. He will be earning his master’s degree during this academic year, and continues to work on international healthcare research.

Kristoffer Sugg welcomed his second baby, Kristoffer Michael Sugg, on August 10, 2011. He presented at MAPS and ASPS on tethered cord research. He also published a paper in Annals of Plastic Surgery on the same topic. He was awarded a $50,000 PSF research grant for his research in Dr. Cederna’s nerve lab.

Aviram Giladi joined the Hospital Joint Operations Committee as the surgical house officer representative. He also added a canine member to his family named Murphy.

Matthew Chetta got married to Katie Allen in Michigan in July 2011. Many of Matt’s co-residents were in attendance to celebrate this wonderful occasion!

-Anita Kulkarni M.D. & Erika Sears M.D.
Grady Arbor Pacella (2007) welcomed a new addition to his family on May 4, 2011! Grady Arbor Pacella was just 4 pounds at birth, arriving 7 weeks early. After a brief NICU stay, baby is healthy, gaining weight, and enjoying beautiful San Diego with Mom & Dad.

Timothy Janiga (2007) and his wife (a dermatologist) opened up a practice together in Reno, Nevada, this past year. You can find Janiga MD’s Plastic Surgery and Dermatology online at www.JanigaMDs.com!

Lynn Jeffers (2002) was recently appointed Medical Director of the Comprehensive Breast Center of Ventura County. One of her goals is to create a comprehensive Breast Care Center in this community.

Vigen Darian recently got approval for an independent Plastic Surgery Residency Program at Henry Ford Hospital in Dr. Dingman’s program. He established his practice in Lansing and continues his old hobby of building model ships and collecting stamps.

Christine Sullivan (1989) together with her 17-year-old daughter, climbed a pass at 18,000 feet called the Kang-La in the Himalaya Mountains this summer. She sends us warm football greetings from Columbus, Ohio.

Ramin Behmand (2001) met Patricia a couple years ago while on a mountain-climbing trip in Russia. They went on to do several climbs together, hitting all 7 continents. Ramin was able to convince her to leave Texas for California, and they were married last year. Even more good news: they have a baby boy on the way!

Loree Kalliainen (1999) checked in to report that she and her husband Kevin just returned from the Bonneville Salt Flats, where he set a national speed record on his homemade electric motorbike (61.5 mph). Check them out on Facebook: Team Minne-volt-a!

John Castle (1996) reports he was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery at University of Massachusetts, and he served as President of the New England Society of Plastic Surgeons this past year.

Christine Sullivan (1989), together with her 17-year-old daughter, climbed a pass at 18,000 feet called the Kang-La in the Himalaya Mountains this summer. She sends us warm football greetings from Columbus, Ohio.

Vigen Darian (1988) gave us an update on his home life: with both daughters in college this year, they added a new member to the family—a black lab named Enzo. Things are going well at work, too. Dr. Darian recently got approval for an independent Plastic Surgery Residency Program at Henry Ford Health System; they take their first resident in 2012.

Richard Anderson (1985) retired on June 30, 2011. So far, Dr. Anderson reports retirement is relaxing, and things are going fine. In reflecting back on his practice, he expressed thanks for the encouragement provided by his U-M mentors, among them Dr. Dingman, Steve Mathis, Lou Argenta, Tom Stevenson, Hack Newman, Bob Oneal, Paul Izenberg, Rod Rohrich, and Jack Gunter. He offered these words of advice: “What made my practice enjoyable, successful and rewarding was definitely influenced by getting involved, participation in meeting programs and not just ‘attending’ the meetings. I definitely encourage young plastic surgeons to participate and contribute. It is so worthwhile and so rewarding.”

Louis Mes (1977) is off to Bhutan in September for a month-long “Snowman” trek through the high Himalayas. Most of the time will be spent above 14,000 feet, with several passes to negotiate that are over 17,000 feet. We wish him safe travels!

Gary Nobel (1973) reports that he is enjoying his retirement, but misses his days of practice, where “the long days were not work, but a pleasure.” He goes on to write, “I play a lot of golf, will be hiking in Tuscany in October, hunting in Mexico [in September], which always brings back old memories of hunting with Reed and being his bird dog for pheasant, and his camera man when we chased Elk in Montana.”

Istvan Böröcz (1969) checked in to say he is still retired, still married to Éva, and still living just outside San Francisco. He stays busy by teaching medical English to Hungarian physicians.

Otto Au (1963) reports that he just passed his 50th anniversary of working as a plastic surgeon! He writes, “I am blessed with steady hands, somewhat sharp eyes but I am really tired after operating more than 3 hours, however I enjoy my work very much, no doubt I have chosen a right career.”

Jorge Gomez reports he had the privilege to be one of the last residents from Henry Ford Hospital in Dr. Dingman’s program. He established his practice in Lansing and later Bill Blackburn joined him. After 30 years, he had to retire because he fractured his hand in an automobile accident. Dr. Gomez and his wife have three daughters: Diana is a Neuroradiologist at U-M, their second daughter, Ginette, is a Cardiologist at W. Beaumont Hospital, and Ana Maria is a Finance Manager at the University of Wisconsin in Madison; they have 9 grandchildren. Last December they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They still live in Lansing, to be near the University Hospital of Ann Arbor were Dr. Gomez’s wife, Ginette, is treated at the Cancer Center. He still does some equestrian activities and continues his old hobby of building model ships and collecting stamps. Unfortunately Dr. Gomez and his wife’s health has not been good lately.

Thanks to all of the alumni that wrote in for this newsletter item—it was great to hear from all of you. Please stay in touch!
James W. Thornton, MD, FACS, passed away Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, in Baja, Mexico. He was in a plane crash on his way to perform volunteer surgery with the Flying Samaritans, a non-profit humanitarian organization he had been active in for 20 years. Jim was born in August 1951 in Oregon City, Oregon, to John Lyndon and Leona Thornton and moved with his family to Orange County in 1956. He graduated from Garden Grove High School in 1969 and earned his B.S. in biology from Cal State Fullerton in 1973. He attended medical school at University of California at Irvine, and was elected into the Medical Honor Society (AOA) as a junior. He graduated with honors in 1979. Prior to and during medical school, Jim was active in the research laboratory of Dr. Robert Bartlett, performing burn related research.

When Dr. Bartlett returned to Michigan, Jim came with him, and completed a research year in Dr. Bartlett's lab prior to starting his General Surgery residency at Michigan. Following completion of his General Surgery residency, Jim completed his Plastic Surgery residency at Michigan. He then completed a fellowship year in Plastic Surgery at Michigan. He continued to be active in research during his residency and was a major component of the first NIH grant awarded to Plastic Surgery, investigating cultured keratinocytes for coverage of burns.

After completing his residencies and fellowship, Jim moved to the Central Coast of California to start his medical practice. He liked the college town feel of San Luis Obispo and the beautiful beaches. He felt that this was a great place to raise his family. He had lived and worked on the Central Coast for 23 years.

Jim was a respected and talented surgeon. Through the passion of his work, he made an impact in the lives of so many people. Jim was a great humanitarian. Starting in 1988, he was an active surgeon with the Flying Samaritans, a group of professionals who provided healthcare to the residents of Baja, Mexico, at no charge. For over 20 years, Jim made two trips a year with the Gold Coast Chapter of the Flying Samaritans. Providing this free medical care made a difference in the world. He gave to those who would never have received medical attention and changed their lives in a positive way. He gave from his heart, often without compensation. It was his dream to do research and teach, as well as practice medicine.

An accomplished sailing captain, Jim enjoyed traveling and going on frequent sailing trips in the Caribbean, South Pacific, and Central America. He considered Jackson, Wyoming, his second home - it was one of his favorite places to visit. It was in Wyoming that he enjoyed hiking, skiing, and especially fly fishing. Jim lived a full life and enjoyed challenges and adventure. He was a protective and loving father, wonderful husband, and the best friend any one could hope to have. He will be remembered by a host of family and friends who were touched by his infectious smile and laugh. Jim loved animals and provided a loving home for many dogs and cats during his life. Jim will be missed by his wife, Christine Thornton; daughters Alexandra Thornton and Elizabeth Thornton; son-in-law, Geoffrey Graber; mother, Leona Thornton; brother and sister-in-law, John and Pat Thornton; sister and brother-in-law, Lynn and Bruce Gjertsen; and many other family members and close friends.

– Michael J. Morykwas, Ph.D.
As a chief resident, my view of the trenches is taken from the comfort of a lounge chair with a cool iced tea in hand. Accordingly, I have requested that Pvt. Agarwal and Pvt. Sando provide a more accurate depiction of the harsh realities of Service to the Section of Plastic Surgery. They have, of course, complied with the “request” of their Captain, so as to keep the Generals happy. Below is an excerpt from their correspondence:

As in years past, “the trenches” at the University of Michigan’s Integrated Plastic Surgery program continue to evolve. Thanks to input from residents and the support of our faculty, the curriculum continues to change. One of the most welcomed changes is the addition of a second resident at St. Joe’s. There will now be either a PGY-2 and -4, or a PGY-3 and -5 rotating there at all times. This has provided us with more plastic surgery rotations and a chance to work more with our dedicated mentors at St. Joe’s.

To update on changes from years past, our night float system is now full-steam and thus far has worked out very smoothly. The PGY-3 or -4 on night float takes all hand/face/general plastic surgery call and handles all floor issues from 6pm-6am during the weekdays. This system has allowed us to remain compliant with ACGME work restrictions, even with the new 16-consecutive-hour work limit imposed on the interns. It has also allowed residents to remain well-rested and well-read for cases during the week. For the chiefs, it sure is nice to take only three days of call a month…there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We have also devised a system of “virtual” pager numbers dedicated to the various services and consult resident. These numbers are covered by the respective on-service junior resident, on-call resident, and night-float resident as determined by the schedule. This has eliminated much confusion with respects to who to page for specific patient issues. As good as this system has been, however, our term “dummy pager” may need to change to avoid unintended ridicule of nursing staff if/when misinterpreted.

We would be remiss to forget mentioning the noteworthy additions to and departures from our plastic surgery training program this past year. We are all excited to welcome the new intern class – Kavitha, Brian, and Russell. At the same time, we will miss our esteemed graduates, Drs. Laura Monson and Brent Egeland, who are off doing a craniofacial fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and a hand fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, respectively. Our third graduate, Dr. Jenn Waljee, made the seamless transition to become our second inaugural hand fellow. Her outstanding clinical skill will continue to contribute positively to the residents’ educational experience, as will her friendship. Our previous hand fellow, Dr. Nathan Taylor, and craniofacial fellow, Dr. John Mesa, were huge assets to our training and were well-received into our plastic surgery family. We wish them the best with their careers. Lastly, we were sad to see our physician assistant Lisa Spratke leave. All of her hard work dealing with inpatient issues and preparing discharges was much appreciated. Nonetheless, we greatly look forward to working with the newest addition to our team, Patricia Cox, NP-C, who in some respects will take over many of these same responsibilities as well as others and has already proven to be a tremendous attribute.

Our view from the trenches is one of admiration for those who have come before us and support for those will come after us. We remain determined to continue the excellence of plastic surgery at the University of Michigan.

- Ian Sando and Shailesh Agarwal with foreward by Adam J. Oppenheimer

The Section of Plastic Surgery welcomed Dr. Peter Neligan from the University of Washington as the 2011 Dingman Visiting Professor. Dr. Neligan, who is the Director of the UW Center for Reconstructive Surgery as well as the UW Microvascular and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship, came to Ann Arbor for an incredibly educational two days.

As has become tradition, Dr. Neligan spent time on his first day working with the residents. He participated in resident case presentations, sharing his approach to the most complex and challenging reconstructive cases of our past year. He followed with two exceptional lectures, one covering his algorithm for breast reconstruction and the other reviewing some of his own most complex cases. Afterwards, the residents had an opportunity to talk with Dr. Neligan at dinner, providing a unique opportunity to hear his thoughts on careers, surgical experiences, and the future of plastic surgery.

The following day, after the research symposium, came the true focus of the visiting professorship -- the annual Dingman Memorial Lecture. Dr. Neligan’s talk was titled, “Where Plastic Surgery Fits in the Surgical Spectrum.” Echoing a strong sentiment held in our own Section, Dr. Neligan highlighted a variety of ways in which a strong reconstructive plastic surgery section supports the challenges and remedies the complications of many other medical and surgical specialties. Through a remarkable series of cases, photos, and videos, we all had first-hand exposure to a variety of work by one of the world's foremost reconstructive surgeons. The breadth and depth of his presentation ensured that all attendees were able to take something valuable away from his lecture. On behalf of the entire Section of Plastic Surgery, we thank Dr. Neligan for what truly was an invaluable visit.
**TRANSITIONS**

Dr. Amy Alderman has spent 14 years at the University (8 years in residency and 6 years on staff), Amy has moved to Atlanta, where she is now in private practice. Although she says that she misses the camaraderie and academies, she is very happy in her new practice and surroundings. Along with her husband, Mike, and her children Caroline and Christopher, she is enjoying her return to the South. Her current focus is on improving her tennis game :D (emoticon provided by Amy).

Dr. Steven Haase has been promoted to Associate Professor! Promotion at the University of Michigan is based on a number of criteria including clinical productivity, teaching, administrative work, research, and regional and national reputation. The promotion process is extremely rigorous, and this distinction results from many years of hard work and excelling in each of these categories. We are proud of Dr. Haase's accomplishments and wish him many more years of continued success!

Dr. Riley Rees retired this June. He originally started at the U of M 23 years ago, being recruited by Drs. Smith and Greenfield to be a head/neck surgeon from Vanderbilt where there was no ENT department. He worked clinically and in the lab at the VA, where he had a funded VA merit review grant for 15 years, studying diabetic wound healing. He started 5 biotech companies, one of which, Keracure, is still alive. He obtained 5 patents and authored over 100 papers. Riley remarried 9 years ago to Elly Wagner. The two of them have five children between them – 3 girls and 2 boys. His passions are hunting, fishing, cooking, and cycling. He now lives in Dollar Bay, Michigan (In da UP, eh -528 miles from AA). Plans for the future are to continue consulting for early stage start-ups, travel to the other two continents he has not seen, improve his baking, and practice grandfathering their 7 grandchildren.

**THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

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 continued to enrich the academic environment of our section.

Dr. Shimpei Ono is spending his second year with us while visiting 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 is using his academic time at our institution to learn more about upper extremity reconstruction with a special focus on outcomes investigation under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Chung.

Dr. Haiping Wang visits our section from the Tongji Medical College in Wuhan City of Hubei, China, where he is an Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Tongji Hospital. Dr. Wang is currently with us while on sabbatical from his clinical duties as an attending surgeon at the Tongji Hospital. He wishes to broaden his experience by learning firsthand about the American perspective in the particular areas of wound healing and oncologic surgery. Dr. Wang has an interest in basic research in the areas of epithelial and bone marrow derived stem cells and carcinogenesis.

The section welcomes these scholars and continues to encourage the international exchange of scholars to further expand the diversity of perspectives in our academic environment. We are pleased with the tremendous international interest in our section.
It has been another incredible year for the faculty in Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan. It is humbling to see the many accomplishments of the surgeon-scientists in our group and makes me proud of my institution, proud of my partners, and honored to be part of this group. Not only have the faculty of the University of Michigan continued to provide the same level of outstanding patient care to the inhabitants of the State of Michigan, but have also continued to be focused on the highest level of resident education available.

In addition, the levels of research funding are now at an all-time high, unparalleled in plastic surgery across America. Not surprisingly, the highly accomplished surgeons of the University of Michigan have also assumed many regional and national leadership positions in our most prestigious societies. It would be very difficult to capture all of the accomplishments of the faculty in this newsletter so I will take a few minutes to highlight a few of the more prominent accolades.

William Kuzon, Jr, M.D., Ph.D.
Linda and Bill Kuzon celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary.
President of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons.
Immediate Past-President of the Plastic Surgery Foundation.
Chair-Elect of the American Board of Plastic Surgery Oral Exam Committee.
Bill managed to finish one triathlon despite being out of shape and 10-15 lbs overweight and also despite a bike crash during the event (don’t worry – his bike is still OK). Bill is also trying to learn to rap but it isn’t doing that well.

David Brown, M.D.
President of the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons
Parliamentarian of the Plastic Surgery Research Council
Scientific Meeting Program Director for the American Society of Peripheral Nerve
Research Oversight Committee and Academic Advisory Council for the Plastic Surgery Foundation

Steve Buchman, M.D.
President of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgery
ASMS Best Basic Science Paper of the Year
Senior Author and Mentor of the Crickelair Award at the Plastic Surgery Research Council Meeting
ACGME Accredited Program Director
Senior Author Mentor Best Poster Award x2 Moses Gunn
Best Doctors in America
Best Doctors in Michigan

Paul Cederna, M.D.
Chairman of Plastic Surgery Research Council
Immediate Past-President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve
Program Chairman for AAPS Annual Meeting
Mentor of Leonard R. Rubin Award Recipient for Best Paper Presented at Annual Meeting of the AAPS
Mentor of Outstanding Poster Award at the 23rd Annual Moses Gunn Research Conference x 2
Paul has not torn another ACL during the past 12 months

Kevin Chung, M.D.
Researcher of the Year, American Association of Plastic Surgeons.
Director of the American Board of Plastic Surgery
Director of the American Board of Surgery
Member for the Plastic Surgery Residency Review Committee
Vice-President of Research for ASPS/PSF

Steve Haase, M.D.
Best Didactic Teaching Award from the plastic surgery residents for the second year in a row
Dr. Adeyiza Momoh was born in Nigeria and later moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba. He attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then received his MD from Northwestern University/Feinberg School of Medicine. He completed his plastic surgery residency at Baylor, and topped off his training with a reconstructive and aesthetic breast surgery fellowship at Harvard. He brings with him to Ann Arbor his wife, Anna, and two children, John and Grace. He is busy at work building a microsurgical/breast reconstruction practice.

Dr. Jeff Kozlow, a Livonia, Michigan native, graduated from Cornell University, Johns-Hopkins Medical School, and completed plastic surgery training here at Michigan in 2010. From there he spent a year at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, completing a microsurgery fellowship. He returns to Michigan now as a faculty member. He is helping to fill the void created at the VA Hospital by Dr. Rees’ retirement, and is already busy with complex microsurgical reconstructions at the University Hospital as well.

Dr. Nathan Taylor was the first graduate of the U-M Section of Plastic Surgery’s hand fellowship this past June. He was recruited to join Orthopedic Surgery Associates of Marquette in Marquette, Michigan, as the practice’s only hand surgeon (and one of two hand surgeons in Marquette). Nathan is taking call regularly to build his practice and, although he started just a few weeks ago, his OR schedule is full of both trauma and elective cases. Nathan and his wife Jennifer took time after his fellowship to travel to Texas, Utah, and Mexico. At present, they are settling into their new home and concentrating on becoming “yoopers” (or “UPers”). They are enjoying the outdoor activities that abound in the U.P. and are looking forward to winter! Nathan can be reached at nathan.s.taylor@gmail.com.

Dr. John Mesa will undoubtedly be missed as U-M Plastic Surgery’s first craniofacial fellow, who has since graduated and moved to Birmingham, Alabama, for an Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship. Not only did he publish 2 papers in craniofacial surgery, but he was also the mastermind behind the acclaimed “Dr. Gaga” music video at this year’s Roast. In addition, he was named Resident and Fellow Representative to the ASMS board and was recently re-elected. He reports that he truly enjoyed being a part of the U-M Plastic Surgery academic family. After he finishes his Aesthetic fellowship, he plans to continue working in the academic setting as both a craniofacial and aesthetic surgeon, while also performing basic science research on tissue engineering of cartilage and bone as well as on the physiology of aging. We commend Dr. Mesa on a job well done here at the University of Michigan this past year, and we congratulate him on his upcoming marriage to Pediatric Neurology Fellow Andrea Lowden next year in December 2012. Keep in touch, John!
The WIPS, Women in Plastic Surgery, had an eventful year. We had two graduating members in 2011 as well as the departure of our faculty advisor and confidant, Dr. Amy Alderman. Graduating chief resident Dr. Laura Monson went on to begin a Craniofacial fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Jenn Waljee has stayed at University of Michigan to complete a Hand Surgery fellowship. The WIPS welcome a new member, Dr. Kavitha Ranganathan, from Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine who joined our program as an incoming intern in July 2011. As a group we meet regularly outside the hospital to discuss the unique trials and tribulations of being a female surgical resident. We support each other unconditionally and have great pride that the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Residency Program has one of the the highest proportions of female residents in the country.

As plastic surgery residencies go, we have a large program at the University of Michigan. Our residents and faculty hail from a wide variety of backgrounds and possess a multitude of interests and talents. To explore each other's unique personalities, it has become tradition to commence every weekly teaching conference with a short presentation about any topic - as long as it is unrelated to the field of plastic surgery. The highly-anticipated 15 minute period prior to our academic discussion is entitled “Moment of Zen.” In the past, we have learned about many curious topics: Did you know that aliens may have helped build the Egyptian pyramids? or that there is an entire “science” behind reading the meaning of moles on people's faces? These are just a few of a myriad of fascinating topics discussed at our Moments of Zen. On a more personal level, once every few months we are also privileged to have a resident or faculty member give an entire presentation on themselves, a session known as “Me Day.” This past year, Drs. Kulkarni, Monson, Egeland, Diaz-Garcia, and Sugg shared with us the story of their lives - their families, their hobbies, and a glimpse of how they became the exceptional individuals they are today.

This year, the Section of Plastic Surgery has been pleased to host many prominent surgeons from around the world, and it is our privilege to share our program with them and learn from their vast experiences and accomplishments. A few of the highlights this year included Dr. Gregory Dumanian, chief and program director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at Northwestern University School of Medicine, who visited our program in the spring to participate in our weekly conference as well as visit the research facilities at our institution. During his visit, he shared with us two outstanding lectures regarding strategies of truncal reconstruction as well as the use of bioprosthetics in ventral hernia reconstruction. In addition, Dr. William C. Pederson from the San Antonio Hand Center visited our program in July as the one of the 2011 ASSH Visiting Professors. Dr. Pederson not only gave two lectures on vascular reconstruction of the upper extremity, and upper extremity flap selection, but also participated in an upper extremity cadaver dissection with the residents covering flap anatomy, nerve compression syndromes, and tendon transfers. Following this, the residents and Dr. Pederson participated in a case-based conference discussing challenging upper extremity clinical problems.

This year, we also had the privilege to host Dr. Jennifer Wolf from the University of Connecticut as this year’s Sterling Bunnell 2011 ASSH Traveling Fellow. During her stay, she gave an overview of her research regarding the impact of reproductive hormone regulation on joint laxity and incidence of osteoarthritis, as well as current treatment strategies of lateral epicondylitis. In addition, Dr. Thomas Fiala from Orlando, Florida, visited our program this winter and gave two lectures regarding the implementation of social media and networking into plastic surgery practices, as well as de-mystifying aesthetic surgery for plastic surgery trainees. We also hosted Dr. Aron Wahlman from Temple University, who discussed the historical background of commonly performed reconstructive procedures as well as a discussion of challenging cases in breast reconstruction. Additionally, Dr. Gregory Pataki visited us in the fall where he provided a unique perspective while discussing with us his experiences as a plastic surgeon in Budapest, Hungary. Finally, Dr. Teemu Kajalainen from Oulu University in Finland visited us in October, and presented a provocative research study regarding the association between demographic and personality characteristics and microsurgical skills among surgical trainees. In conclusion, the 2010 to 2011 academic year was greatly enriched by the knowledge and expertise of each guest we had the pleasure of hosting, and we look forward to these opportunities in the upcoming year.
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 is in year 13 of a 15 year period, has Cynthia Marcelo, PhD, as the principal investigator and Program Director and William Kuzon, Jr., MD, PhD, is the co-principal investigator 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. Three of the most recent graduates of the program are Benjamin Wei, MD, and Chris Pannucci, MD, and Eric Culbertson, MD, who was initially appointed to this training grant for 5 months in 2010, at which time he was successful in obtaining a F32 fellowship from the NIH. Dr. Culbertson trained with Michael Franz, MD, in a study of fibroblast functional and phenotypic response to tensile load. Dr. Wei, who has returned to his residency program from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, worked with Paul Cederna, MD, and Melanie Urbanchek, PhD, in the area of Regenerative Peripheral Nerve Interface development. Dr. Pannucci was mentored by Edwin Wilkins, MD. 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 was 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.

The two newly appointed NIH trainees are Alex Donneys, MD, who obtained his MD from Temple University School of Medicine. He is a general surgery resident (on leave) at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, and has been a research fellow at Adler Institute of Advance Imaging and in the Craniofacial Plastic Surgery Laboratory at the University of Michigan. His area of investigation is on the effect of Deferoxamine on the rate of consolidation in distraction osteogenesis under the tutelage of Steve Buchman, MD. Dr. Donneys successfully obtained an American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons Non-Profit Research Grant to support his studies with Dr. Buchman.

The second fellow is Tarik Elarini, MD, who received his MD from Cairo University in Egypt and undertook his internship and surgical residency at Cairo University Hospitals in Cairo, Egypt. As an American citizen, he is eligible for NIH fellowship thus allowing us to train an Egyptian fellow as part of our historic interaction with Egyptian universities. He will be training with Dr. Marcelo and Steve Feinberg, MD, DDS, on in vitro construction of tissue devices for facial reconstruction. Dr. Elarini and another fellow, Kristopher Sugg, MD, who is out of the University of Michigan Plastic Surgery Resident program and working with Drs. Cederna and Urbanchek, were both accepted into the excellent postdoctoral training course offered by Steven Weiss, MD, at our University in the summer of 2011.

This was an exciting year for the Buchman Craniofacial Research Laboratory. A total of 9 abstracts were accepted and published for presentation at 3 national meetings: PSRC, Plastic Surgery 2011, and AAFPRS. Four manuscripts were published inPRS, and 4 grants were awarded to our fellows from PSEF and AAO/IJNSF. The upcoming year will deliver new challenges as we prepare to combine our successful therapies towards the goal of optimizing bone regeneration and repair in the irradiated mandible. The addition of adipose-derived stem cell therapy to our existing protocols will be a novel expansion of our experimentation. A summary of our members and their work follows: Dr. Donneys, a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine, has completed one year of general surgery at Loma Linda University, California. He is entering his third year in the lab and has focused on development of an irradiated fracture model and experimentation with Deferoxamine (DFO) and adipose-derived stromal cells (ADSCs) to enhance bone repair. He has recently been awarded the Percy Memorial Award from the AAO/IJNSF and the PSEF Pilot for his efforts. He is currently completing a study funded by the ASMS entailing the effects of DFO on shortening consolidation periods in distraction osteogenesis. In 2011 he received from the University of Michigan Dingman Society Research Symposium the Best Basic Science Presentation Award for a project titled: “Deferoxamine Injection Decreases the Incidence of Non-Unions and Restores Bone Cellularity Following Fractionated Radiotherapy in a Mandibular Pathologic Fracture Model.” Another student trainee is Sagar Deshpande, a recent graduate from the University of Michigan entering his fourth year in the lab. Sagar has focused on the development of stem cell therapies in irradiated bone and will continue his work as we begin to explore the role of ADSCs in this setting. Peter Felice, a student, has completed three years of general surgery residency at South Carolina and will be joining the lab this year. Peter will continue the examination of Amifostine—a radioprotectant in various settings including non-fractured and fractured bone as well as in the setting of distraction osteogenesis after radiotherapy. A returning student is Noah Nelson, a BA candidate at the University of Michigan entering his second year in the lab. Noah has focused on developing analytical methods to quantifiy radiation induced changes to the mineralization patterns of bone using Micro-Computed Tomography. Deniz Surhaddi has completed her third year of medical school at the George Washington University and is entering her second year in the lab. Deniz has focused her interests on the custom fabrication of mandibular constructs using bio-engineered bone for implantation in segmental defects. She was recently awarded a PSEF Pilot for her efforts. Daniella Weiss, Todd Puschanchi, Sinin Manole, and Salman Ahsan will also be continuing their work in the laboratory this year as research assistants.
The Hand Surgery Program continues its productive pace in securing several new National Institutes of Health grants. In August 2011, Kevin Chung, MD, will lead a 21 center clinical trial that is jointly funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the National Institute on Aging to study the surgical treatment of distal radius fracture in the elderly. In addition, Dr. Chung’s multicenter clinical trial on rheumatoid hand arthroplasty has received another five years of NIH support in a competing renewal and he has a number of active submissions to the NIH, one most notably with the School of Public Policy at Harvard to study the use of biologics for the Medicare rheumatoid population.

Several of Dr. Chung’s trainees have had a very successful year in garnering funding. Jennifer Waljee, MD, who is a current Hand Surgery Fellow, received an American Society for Surgery of the Hand research grant on “Field Testing of the Brief Michigan Hand Outcomes Questionnaire.” Erika Sears, MD, obtained a Plastic Surgery Foundation grant on economic analysis of finger replantation. Lee Squitieri, MD, and Dr. Sears received both an ASSH clinical research grant and a Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research grant on measuring quality of life in neonatal brachial plexus palsy. The ASSH grant received by Dr. Squitieri and her co-investigator Dr. Sears was awarded the J. Leonard Goldner prize given to the best grant submitted in 2011 to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand.

In 2011, Dr. Chung received the Researcher of the Year Award at the 90th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons in Boca Raton. Dr. Sears and Dr. Aliu are current Robert Wood Johnson scholars who are engaging in health services and disparity research relating to hand surgery and plastic surgery. Shimpei Ono, MD, an international scholar from Nippon Medical School in Tokyo, Japan, published more than 18 peer-reviewed papers and chapters over the last year and will continue another year of research training before returning to Tokyo.

The Hand Surgery Program is growing and matched Katy Nellans, MD, from the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons as the next hand surgery fellow.

The Hand Surgery Service continues to have a productive year by publishing over 30 peer-reviewed papers, over 50 book chapters, and 3 major textbooks. The authoritative textbook on Practical Management of Pediatric and Adult Brachial Plexus Palsy (Editors Chung KC; Yang L; McGillicuddy J) will be the most significant contribution to this topic in recent memories. Additionally, Dr. Chung is the Editor for the Hand Surgery Update V, which is the premier publication for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand.

Steve Haase’s (MD) academic pursuits continue to focus on education and evidence-based medicine. He authored a Maintenance of Certification article regarding thumb arthritis, as well as a primer on systematic reviews and meta-analyses for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Haase has also co-authored two additional book chapters this year that will appear in forthcoming textbooks of plastic surgery and hand surgery.

Dr. Marcelo performs studies of keratinocyte biology along with Steve Feinberg, DDS, PhD. 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 and Dr. Feinberg, in collaboration with colleagues from Chemistry and Engineering and Shinhyang Kuo, DDS, a research investigator, are developing methods for non-invasive monitoring of cell device for wound healing funded by an R01 senior grant that is in year 3 of a 4 year NIH award. Antonio Peramo, PhD, is continuing his studies with the Vascular Research Laboratory and in the area of epithelial cell/device regenerative medicine, in a newly funded study with DOD (Department of Defense). Investigations of the effect of anoxia on stem cell maintenance and growth are being done by Dr. Paramo along with Dr. Elarini in our laboratory.

Dennis Claflin, PhD, in collaboration with Susan Brooks, PhD, (University of Michigan, Molecular and Integrative Physiology) and Erdan Kayupov (University of Michigan, Biomedical Engineering), recently completed a study of the effects of aging on the material properties of skeletal muscle from mice. The NIH-funded project required characterization of the force-extension properties of individual skeletal muscle cells (fibers) that had been separated from their extracellular matrix (ECM), and of small bundles of fibers in which the ECM remained intact. The results indicated that the stiffness of isolated fibers does not change with age, but the stiffness in the ECM is twice as high in muscles from old mice. 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, MD; Paul Cederna, MD; William Kuzon Jr, MD, PhD; and Melanie Urbancheck, PhD, share space within the Muscle Mechanics Laboratory. They continue their collaborations with groups in other colleges within the University of Michigan (Daryl...
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Kipke, PhD; Steven Goldstein, PhD; and Michael Franz, MD) and with outside Universities such as the University of Delaware (David Martin, PhD).

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 pursuit of developing a biosynthetic regenerative peripheral nerve interface to provide high fidelity motor control of prosthetic devices. In addition, the novel peripheral nerve interface will also be used to provide sensory feedback from a prosthetic device to the individual. They are making incredible strides towards achieving this goal. Their studies are currently funded by the Department of Defense, Army Research Office. They are completing work on a Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative Grant ($4,500,000/5 years) from the DOD entitled, Bio-Integrating Structural and Neural Prosthetic Materials. However, they have recently received funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA, $3,200,000/3 years) to perform work entitled, Reliability and Effectiveness of a Regenerative Peripheral Nerve Interface. At the end of these 3 years of funding, they hope to move into clinical trials.

There are many people who have completed their work in the lab this past year and others who will be joining this team. Benjamin Wei, MD, and Ziya Baghmanli, MD, completed their 2 year research fellowships having published a number of manuscripts and presented that work at many meetings including the Plastic Surgery Research Council, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, and the American Society for Peripheral Nerve. They both received funding from the Plastic Surgery Foundation to support their research work. Each is now completing their clinical residencies. Kristopher Sugg, MD, has recently joined the lab and has received a Plastic Surgery Foundation Research Fellowship for his proposal, “Sense of Touch: An Artificial Feeling?” Current medical students, Joe Baldwin, BS, and David Tomich, BS, completed important studies during their brief stays in the laboratories of Drs. Cederna, Urbanchek, and Kuzon. Undergraduate students continue to make significant contributions to these research goals throughout the year. They are Christopher Frost, Adi Wolstein, Emily Moses, Lauren Scott, Humza Khan, and Daniel Kasten. Study results have been well received at all national plastic surgery conferences. Dr. Baghmanli won a Best Poster award at the A. Alfred Taubman Annual Symposium in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Undergraduates Chris Frost and Humza Khan also won best poster awards at the 23rd Annual Moses Gunn Research Conference. This past year, Dr. Cederna completed his tenure as the President of the American Society for Peripheral Nerve and was elected Chairman of the Plastic Surgery Research Council. As Chairman of the PSRC, Dr. Cederna is honored to host the PSRC Annual Scientific Meeting June 13-16, 2012, at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Kuzon, along with Drs. Michael Franz and Urbanchek, continue their basic research studying the “Biomechanical Pathogenesis of Ventral Hernia.” Induced incisional hernias are created in the rat abdominal wall model and studies focus on abdominal wall mechanics and also on new biomaterials (especially acellularized myofascial seeded with fibroblasts) as alternative repair methods to the standard primary repair. Work by Mazen S. Harake, MD, and Joseph S. Kouri, MD, has been presented at regional and national meetings and is being prepared for publication with the assistance of Gem Manalo, a Michigan undergraduate student. This past year, David Tomich, a medical student from Case Western, developed an organ culture model of hernia using mouse abdominal walls. This model may allow the investigation of intrinsic vs. extrinsic healing of the linea alba tendon. Talin Darian, an undergraduate student at Purdue, worked this past summer on a clinical project to determine if Toradol is associated with an increased incidence of bleeding complications in plastic surgery patients.

Ed Wilkins, MD, MS, has active research interests in breast reconstruction and venous thromboembolism prevention. He is principal investigator of the recently completed, PSF-funded Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Study (VTEPS) which assessed the incidence of postoperative VTE in plastic surgery patients and evaluated the efficacy of low molecular weight heparin in the prevention of these complications. Under Dr. Wilkin’s mentorship, Dr. Chris Pannucci has taken a lead role in running the study and in the dissemination of the study’s results. Findings from VTEPS have served as the basis for VTE prevention guidelines soon to be released by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

Dr. Wilkins is also leading PI for the Mastectomy Reconstruction Outcomes Consortium (MROC) Study, recently funded by the National Cancer Institute. This five year prospective cohort study will compare the effectiveness and costs of common options for breast reconstruction using a variety of measures. Relying primarily on patient-report outcomes, the $5.1 million project involves ten leading centers in the United States and will run for five years. Both the University of Michigan Health System and St. Joseph’s Mercy Hospital are serving as study sites in this new research collaboration between U-M academic and St. Joseph clinical faculty.

-Cynthia Marcelo, Ph.D. & Melanie G. Urbanchek, Ph.D.
1st row – William Kuzon, Jennifer Waljee, Brent Egeland, Laura Monson, Steven Kasten.

2nd row – Frank Fang, Carolyn Walborn, Tonyia Seeland, Ian Sando, Keith Wolter, Shoshana Woo, Anita Kulkarni, Erika Davis Sears, Katherine Gast, Tiffany Ballard, Robert Oneal, David Brown.

3rd row – Rafael Diaz-Garcia, Shailesh Agarwal, Paul Cederna, Matthew Chetta, Avi Giladi, Ted Kung, Kristoffer Sugg, Nathan Taylor, Adam Oppenheimer, John Mesa, Kevin Chung, Steven Buchman, Oluseyi Aliu.