Chairman’s Message

Fifty years after the beginning, the Department of Surgery continues to prosper, grow, and develop along with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Since our last newsletter, the OU Cancer Institute groundbreaking has taken place, we have committed to a proton therapy device for our radiation therapy patients, and the pediatricians and pediatric surgeons have relocated to the completely renovated Everett Tower, now renamed the OU MEDICAL CENTER Women’s and Newborn Pavilion. We are beginning to plan for the next expansion of our adult in-patient facilities at Presbyterian Tower and have begun work on our Ambulatory Surgery Center to be housed adjacent to the Center for Healthy Living. The Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Dewayne Andrews, is working on our 15 year facilities development plan that includes $1.4 billion in total construction. Those of you who haven’t visited our campus in a few years would be amazed at what has been done!

One of our chief residents, Che Miller, M.D., (’07) won the Lloyd and Ruth Rader Trust Award. This award is presented to a resident of outstanding promise in clinical medicine or research at The University of Oklahoma. Dr. Miller also became the twentieth surgery resident to win the Aesculapian Award nominated by third year medical students for dedication and excellence in teaching. We congratulate Dr. Miller for these dual honors, as well as the surgery residents who have previously won these awards.

Dr. Roxie Albrecht, Director of Trauma and Critical Care, has been elected the secretary of the Midwest Surgical Association which will lead to her becoming president of the organization in five years. Dr. Albrecht was also selected by the Society of Critical Care Medicine as the 2007 Shubin-Weil Master Clinician/Teacher: Excellence in Bedside Teaching Award. The award

ODE TO THE 80 HOUR WORK WEEK

The 80 hr work week it’s clear,  
Has altered the chief resident year,  
When there’s work to be found,  
Who is around ?  
Gold, Barton, Gauthier---- Not here!  

Original limerick by Ciaran M. O’Hare, M.D.  
recited at the Chief’s Dinner June 19, 2004

Under new rules approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), residents cannot work more than an average of 80 hours a week. The rules, which schools must follow to be certified, took effect July 1, 2003. Gone are the 120-hour work weeks that critics said led to medical mistakes. There is a much greater emphasis on the resident as a learner rather than as a service provider. Each rotation has specific learning objectives and the entire residency has a curriculum design.

The rules:

• Resident work hours are mandated to be no more than 80 hours a week which includes all patient care activities as well as program-run educational activities.
• Over a month’s time residents average one 24-hour period completely off duty every week.
• Residents cannot be on call in house more than once every third day.
• Residents must not work more than 30 hours continuously, with a minimum of 10 hours off between duty tours.
• Residents must also get one day off out of seven.

Several steps have been taken to accommodate patient care in our hospitals and still adhere to these restrictions. We have
Dr. Barish Edil, a graduate of our program in July of 2006, has just completed a year as Assistant Chief of Service in General, Hepatobiliary and Trauma Surgery (or a pancreatic fellowship) at Johns Hopkins. At the completion of this program, he has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Surgery at Johns Hopkins where he will focus his clinical practice on gastrointestinal malignancies, specializing in the pancreas. His research studies will be in the area of immunotherapy and/or vaccine therapy for cancer. We are very proud of Barish’s accomplishments.

The Section of Plastic Surgery, under the direction of Dr. Kamal Sawan, has recently received word of full accreditation by the Plastic Surgery Residency Review Committee.

Doctors Kamal Sawan, Mehdi Adham (Plast Surg ‘86) and Christian El Amm are to be commended for their continued efforts to provide our region with well-trained plastic surgeons.

Our recent residency match has provided us with four outstanding students who will begin their training in July. They are:

- J. John Makipour, Jr. M.D. University of Oklahoma
- Michael W. Roberts, II, M.D. University of Oklahoma
- J. Daniel Shepherd, M.D. University of Oklahoma
- Andrew B. Standerwick, M.D. University of Texas, Southwestern

80 Hour Work Week continued from page 1

a “night float” team which works from 6 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Sunday night through Thursday night thus relieving the team residents from in house call during the week. The residents on the regular teams then split up the weekend call schedule. Several rotations have moved to home call vs. in hospital call. These include thoracic surgery and the teams at the VA Hospital to name two. Many “physician extenders” (PAs and nurse practitioners) have been added to the work force. They help in the clinics, in pre-op and post-op clinics, on the floors with patient care and peri-op disposition and, in some instances, in the operating room.

The problem here is continuity of care. We all worry about the “pass off.” What happens to patient care when you change physician responsibility? The “pass off” represents the danger in these rules. We have spent much effort developing a plan to insure that the responsibility stays within a team structure. The results:

• Less fatigue
• Improved delivery of care.
• Improved test scores.

Most important is that patient care and education do not suffer. These are the two standards which one should use to judge these changes. The ACGME enacted these rules unilaterally and we now must play ball by their rules.

M. Alex Jacocks, M.D. (‘82)
Residency Program Director

Sincerely

Russell G. Postier, M.D.
Professor John A. Schilling
Chair in Surgery
Highlights Cardiothoracic Surgery

The activity in the Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery for the past year has been involved with a recruiting process for the position of a pediatric cardiac surgeon. The recent move of children’s services to the Everett Tower building enhances this project. We are pleased to announce Dr. Marco A. Paliotta will be joining our section in July. Peter Pastuszko, M.D. has been named Clinical Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgical Services for the Medical Center. The adult thoracic and cardiac services have continued with the plethora of clinical case volume for residency training and patient care. Surgical intervention for the ablation of atrial fibrillation is ongoing with the development of new strategies for the enhancement of this process. The development of an endovascular stenting program is also evolving at the Presbyterian Tower.

The academic year 2007 will begin with a full complement of two residents as prescribed by the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery. The Section of Thoracic Surgery is completing the midterm internal review process, anticipating a residency review site visit in 2008.

The retirement of Mary Lane, Ph.D. as the program coordinator for residency training as well as the in-residence biostatistician for the Department of Surgery and the Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery has been a formidable challenge for our section. Dr. Lane is recognized for her long tenure of service, professionalism and expertise in all regards. Dr. Lane leaves our section with our highest compliment and appreciation for more than 30 years of service.

Mrs. Crystal Taylor has been employed as Program Coordinator for Residency Training and has been in the process of orientation by participating in the recent Thoracic Surgery Directors’ Association meeting in San Diego, CA as well as the recent program coordinators’ meeting with the ACGME in Orlando, FL.

For biostatistical concerns and database support, our section is incorporating activities and personnel with the research section of the Department of Surgery directed by Dan Brackett, as well as the Biostatistical Department in the College of Health. In addition, the establishment of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons database for the Medical Center, the Departments’ of Surgery and Cardiology in both the adult and pediatric services is nearing completion.

In this era of mandated limitation of duty hours for residents, our service is dutifully supported by our complement of physician assistants, including Dorman Morsman, P.A., who has extended experience in the Oklahoma City community and for the past six years at the OU MEDICAL CENTER. Stephanie Garrison, P.A. adds to the complement of support with particular devotion to the pediatric cardiac surgical services.

It should be mentioned to the highest degree of recognition and appreciation that we are with a devoted office staff directed by Mrs. Cherie McGregor with greater than 19 years of devoted service. In addition, Mrs. Karen Dale has served for greater than 15 years, Mrs. Dianne England for greater than 10 years and Mrs. Shelly Jones for approximately two years. The Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery is well-served.

Marvin D. Peyton, M.D. (*76/’78)
Professor
Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Highlights Pediatric Surgery

Jennifer Garza, M.D. (*07) finished her pediatric surgery residency in June 2007 and started her new career working with the Driscoll Valley Physician’s Group in her hometown of McAllen, TX. From this year forward we have the luxury of having two fellows training at the same time. Sean Skinner, M.D. joined us last July after having completed a critical care fellowship in Ann Arbor, MI. He will be joined this July by Devin Puapong, M.D., who is finishing his chief year at Kaiser-Permanente in Los Angeles, CA. As the first year with two fellows simultaneously has shown, there are definite luxuries to a two fellow system but there is still some unforeseen minor fine-tuning that needs to take place.

Our faculty grew last July as well. Bob Letton, M.D. (Ped Surg ‘99) returned to Oklahoma after five years practicing at Wake Forest University and two years in West Virginia to bring the total faculty to four. He is taking over the ECMO (extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation) program, as well as assuming the local pediatric trauma liaison duties. David Tuggle, M.D. remains active nationally as a leader in pediatric trauma. Cameron Mantor, M.D. is busy as the Chief Medical Officer of the New Children’s Hospital, and is also pursuing his Master’s in Health Administration. Dr. Mantor was promoted to Professor of Surgery and Nikola Puffinbarger, M.D. was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery as well.

Change is in the air as we have moved into the Women’s and Newborn Pavilion. For the many alumni, this is Everett Tower of the Old University Hospital. The operating rooms have expanded to 11, two of which are Stryker equipped laparoscopic suites. Parents and families are now able to stay in private rooms on the floor with their children. The PICU has expanded to 25 beds and the NICU to 88 beds with a new two bed ECMO suite complete with OR lights. All in all it is a much nicer environment in which to care for the children of Oklahoma.

Department News continued on page 5
1956  
John A Schilling, M.D. arrived at the Department of Surgery to become the first full time chairman.

1959  
Thoracic surgery fellowship established. I. Ross Grimes, M.D., the first thoracic surgery fellow.

First children’s open heart surgery performed at Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma, January 21, 1959.

The first case of open-heart correction for total anomalous pulmonary venous drainage reported at Children’s Memorial Hospital. Doctors G. Rainey Williams, William R. Richardson, and Gilbert S. Campbell, along with resident David S. Snyder successfully operated on the 11 month old infant, November 1, 1959.

1961  
First open heart surgery at University Hospital.

1964  
Replantation of a young Oklahoma State basketball player’s severed arm on November 1, 1964.

1969  
The first coronary revascularization performed at University Hospital.

1971  
In October first correction of the transposition of the great vessels.

1973  
Development of the Kimray-Greenfield filter for pulmonary embolism.

1974  
G. Rainey Williams, M.D., becomes the second full time chairman of the Department of Surgery.

1974  
Surgery offices move into Everett Tower.

1976  
Surgery Library opens in July.

1978  
Ronald C. Elkins, M.D. and resident Marvin D. Peyton M.D. performed the first cardiopulmonary bypass on a child less than one week old.

1979  
Pediatric surgery fellowship established. James A. “Kit” Carson, M.D., the first pediatric surgery fellow.

1981  
Fontan procedure first performed in February.

1982  
Infrapopliteal and pedal in situ vein grafts used for limb salvage.

1983  
Surgery offices move into the South Pavilion, later renamed the G. Rainey Williams Pavilion.

1984  
First G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium held at Skirvin Hotel and the OUHSC campus.

1985  
First Norwood procedure performed for correction of a hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

The first allograft valve operation at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center was performed on a child in November 1985.

1986  
First successful separation of conjoined twins at Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma. The girls, Hope and Faith were omphalopagus, joined at liver, sternum and intestine.

August, the first Ross operation performed.

1988  
Oklahoma Medical Center performed their first heart transplant August 25. Dr. Elkins was assisted by John Randolph, M.D. and the patient was managed by Larry Pennington, M.D.

1989  
July 25, 1989, a four week old infant received the first heart transplant at Children’s Hospital. Dr. Elkins and resident Chuck Dow, M.D. performed the operation.

1991  
September 19, 1991, the first liver transplant in the state of Oklahoma, performed by Dr. Larry Pennington and residents.

First newborn placed on ECMO for respiratory failure.

1993  
Institute for Breast Health opens in September.

1996  
January 24, 1996, Ron Squires, M.D., performed the first pancreas transplantation.

1997  
Russell G. Postier, M.D. becomes the third full time chairman of the Department of Surgery.

1999  
Endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms begins.

2000  
The Department of Surgery website was launched October 2.

2001  
American College of Surgeons verification and state designation as Level I Trauma Center. Re-verified in 2004.

2003  
The 80 hour work week is mandated by the ACGME becoming effective July 1, 2003.

2006  
Transfer of adult services to Presbyterian Hospital.

Pediatric surgery service received approval for a second resident, one each year.

2007  
The new Children’s Hospital opens. Actually what was University, Oklahoma Memorial or Everett Tower is now the Women’s and Newborn Pavilion.
The appropriate application of minimally invasive surgery continues to be a focus for our section. The new laparoscopic suites hopefully will allow us to stay on the cutting edge of this emerging technology. We are looking forward to our new resident in July.

David W. Tuggle, M.D. (Ped Surg ’87)
Professor
Chief of Pediatric Surgery

Highlights Plastic Surgery

In the previous newsletter, we mentioned the Section of Plastic Surgery was partially moving and remodeling. The plastic surgery patients are now seen in the OU Physicians Clinic Building. In the newly remodeled Plastic Surgery offices, the residents now have an office which includes access to the internet and Meditech (the hospital patient database).

Dr. Mehdi N. Adham rejoined the faculty as Clinical Associate Professor in July 2006. He has been a great asset in improving the educational curriculum. He has also broadened the residents’ skills level by sharing his expertise in hand surgery. This compliments the pediatric clinical interests of Christian El Amm, M.D., and Kamal T. Sawan, M.D., Chief, whose interests are in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

Our chief residents this year are Daniel Jaffurs, M.D. who plans an additional craniofacial fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, and Robert Mitchell, M.D. who is returning to his hometown of Tulsa to set up a private practice office. Moving into their footsteps are Kevin Kunkel, M.D. and Candis Thackara, M.D. In addition, we matched excellent candidates for the plastic surgery combined program for the next three years. Doctors Jordan Deschamps-Braly, Meredith Workman and Chris Knotts will join the plastic surgery residency upon completion of three years of general surgery.

Two microsurgery microscopes were purchased to establish a microsurgery lab for resident practice and for a microsurgery course, the first of which will be in July 2007, Yu-Chuan (David) Pan, M.D., Microsurgery Course Director, has worked in microsurgery labs at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Lahey Clinic and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and will teach the initial course. He has also taught microsurgery courses for more than fifteen years for all surgical specialties.

The plastic surgery program had a Residency Review Committee (RRC) site visit. We recently learned that we received full accreditation for the next three years.

Kamal T. Sawan, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Highlights Transplant Surgery

The transplant service is undergoing revitalization. Recently Dr. Puneet Sindwani, a transplant urologist, has joined us. Dr. Sindwani initially trained in General Surgery and completed his Urology residency at the Medical College of Ohio where he had considerable experience in renal transplantation. Dr. Sindwani covers the adult transplant service on a one in three rotation. He is welcomed as an energetic clinical expert and new faculty member. Dr. Ben Cowley is the new Chief of Nephrology. He gained considerable experience in renal and pancreas transplant management at the University of Kansas, Kansas City, and is a valued member of the team.

During the past year one of our residents, Dr. Kristi Prejeant, worked 20 hours a week in Dr. Hildebrand’s lab characterizing the baboon major histocompatibility complex. OU’s baboon colony is potentially a valuable research model for primate transplant studies and Dr. Prejeant’s research will bring this closer.

Larry R. Pennington, M.D.
Professor
Chief of Transplant Surgery

Highlights Trauma/Surgical Critical Care

The Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Service continues to grow and strive to improve resident education and patient outcomes. The Service now has four surgeons who hold special certificates in Surgical Critical Care and who rotate clinical and teaching responsibilities. These include Roxie M. Albrecht, M.D., Medical Director of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, Jeffrey S. Bender, M.D., Narong Kulvatunyou, M.D. and Jason S. Lees, M.D.

OU MEDICAL CENTER remains the only American College of Surgeons (ACS) -verified designated trauma center in the state, the past year responding to 2277 trauma activations and admitting 1567 patients. The average Injury Severity Score of all admitted patients was in the severely injured range at 15.5. The mortality of those patients with an ISS score of greater than 25 (most severely injured) was 18.9% (57/302) which remains less than that reported to the National Trauma Data Bank (30.6%). This is the direct result of the standardization of care based on evidence-based guidelines adopted on both the trauma and surgical critical care services which include VAP prevention, tight glucose control, nutritional support and monitoring, sepsis recognition and treatment, and DVT prevention.

New educational conferences have been
1956-1965 Class Notes

In response to the 2006 newsletter, Phil Stephenson, M.D. (‘63) sent an update on what he’s been doing since 1963. From 1963-1997 he practiced general surgery in Wichita Falls, TX. After two spinal surgeries, he retired as a surgeon in June, 1997. From September 1997, to January, 2000, he was the Medical Director of the hospital in Wichita Falls. Now retired, he and his wife, Chrys, have four children and 21 grandchildren. They live in Texas eight months a year but escape the heat the other four months while living in Red River, NM.

1966-1975 Class Notes

Between seeing patients, operating and spending time with his family, W.C. Dandridge, M.D. (‘74) managed to complete his MBA at Washington University in 2000. What does he do in his spare time?

1976-1985 Class Notes

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest civilian honor that can be granted in the state of North Carolina. The longleaf pine is the official state tree of North Carolina. As of December 31, 2006, the Order has been awarded to 6,672 individuals including Terry M. Schroeder, M.D. (‘78). The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and many years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.

Past recipients include Michael Jordan, Charles Kuralt, Maya Angelou and Rev. Billy Graham. Dr. Schroeder retired from his surgical practice in Sanford, NC and now enjoys spending time with his family including hiking and white water rafting in our national parks.

John R. Potts, III, M.D. (‘82) won the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award for 2002-2003. He is currently the Vice-Chairman for Education and Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Dr. Potts was also elected as one of the new directors of the American Board of Surgery. He begins his six year term, July 1, 2007.

1986-1995 Class Notes

Responding to the 2006 newsletter, Bob Mandraccia, M.D. (‘86) wrote “I continue to sustain a purely cosmetic surgery practice in Bonito Springs, Fla. My eldest, Dana, has blessed us with Tate, three, and Lawson, 11 months, so I continue to visit Oklahoma City. I am trying to qualify for the Senior Amateur, an event sponsored by the USGA. It won’t be easy, but I love challenges.”

Deja vu or was Tom R. Reynolds, M.D. (‘90/’92) of Sioux Falls, SD back at the Oklahoma City VA Hospital where he claims to have the longest consecutive rotation as a resident of 17 straight months. Yes, Tom returned for a three month mini-fellowship in endovascular surgery with M. Alex Jacocks, M.D. (‘82). By expanding the endovascular skills he already uses in aneurysm repair, the newer techniques will help him become credentialed for the treatment of carotid, peripheral arterial and venous disease with endovascular, catheter-based technology.

1996-2006 Class Notes

Is the third time the charm? Donald E. Stowell, M.D. (‘03) who is board certified in both anesthesiology and general surgery has decided he wants to be a cardiothoracic surgeon. In July, he will step down as one of our faculty members and return to the rank of resident as he starts a two-year cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at the University of Oklahoma.

Faculty Notes

Gil P. Campbell, M.D. was one of the first faculty members hired by Dr. Schilling. Dr. Campbell was a member of our faculty from 1958-1965. He left Oklahoma to become the chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In 2004, the University of Arkansas celebrated its 125th anniversary and established a Hall of Fame for outstanding alumni or faculty. Dr. Campbell was one of the first faculty members to be inducted into the
University of Arkansas Hall of Fame. Our congratulations.

The previous newsletter also found its way to the desk of another member of the original Department of Surgery faculty members, Monte DuVal, M.D., who was grateful for the news and anxious for more. Sadly, since our correspondence, Dr. DuVal passed away (December 5, 2006). However, when we asked him if he had any memorable stories from his days in Oklahoma, he told us this one -

If you can use it, I can think of a couple of Schilling quotes that I won’t forget. The first was occasioned by an explosion in the basement of his little house on 14th St. He had been making beer in an old tub. At about two in the morning it exploded. He called me at home immediately and said, “Monte, don’t ever try to make beer in your own home.”

Dr. Schilling had another quote which could be cut in concrete over the door to the Department. It would say, as he did repeatedly, “The only defense a patient has against a poor surgeon is hemorrhage.”

**Editorial Notes...** The ever diligent, William P. Tunell, M.D., pointed out the first Department of Surgery newsletter omitted the guidelines for the dates noted after a resident’s name, i.e., Nikola Puffinbarger, M.D. (’98). The ‘98 is a reflection of the year the resident completed our general surgery residency program. Cameron Mantor, M.D. (’92/Ped Surg ’95), reflects Dr. Mantor completed his general surgery training in 1992 and his Pediatric Surgery training in 1995. Dr. Tuggle who completed his general surgery training at Southwestern but his pediatric surgery training at OU is noted as Dr. Tuggle (/Ped Surg ’87). The dates should not be confused with medical school graduation.

**New Faculty**

New, old, or both. Dr. **Medhi N. Adham** rejoined the Section of Plastic Surgery last August. Dr. Adham completed his plastic surgery fellowship at the University of Oklahoma in 1984. He stayed in the department as faculty until 1986 when he set up his private practice in south Oklahoma City. Now he is serving on the faculty again, part-time, and maintaining his successful private practice. Our plastic surgery residents now have the opportunity to work with him in the private sector as well as on campus. Dr. Adham received his medical degree from Howard University and his general surgery residency at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Jason S. Lees, M.D.**, a native Oklahoman, completed his medical degree in 1998 and residency training at the University of Oklahoma in 2005. As a resident he spent two years in our research lab. He also received the Lloyd and Ruth Rader Trust Award presented to residents of outstanding promise in clinical medicine or research at The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Following an additional year of fellowship training in trauma and surgical critical care at Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami, he returned to the OU faculty in August, 2006.

**Robert W. Letton Jr., M.D.**, Associate Professor, joined the Section of Pediatric Surgery in June, 2006. Dr. Letton was born in Alabama but grew up in Kentucky. He received his pre-medicine degree at Davidson in N.C. and his M.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. After completing his general surgery residency, including a year as the Bradshaw Research fellow, at Wake Forest University School of Medicine (formerly Bowman Gray School of Medicine) in Winston-Salem, N.C., he spent an additional two years of training in pediatric surgery at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Letton served on the faculty at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and West Virginia University - Charleston Division before joining our faculty. Dr. Letton is board certified in both surgery and pediatric surgery. Dr. Letton recently received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Reserve after sixteen years of reserve duty, serving two tours of duty overseas under Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He is currently serving as the Director, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Center, Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma. Dr. Letton’s clinical and research interests include pediatric trauma and critical care, especially the metabolic response of children to injury and illness and their response to nutritional support.
Department News continued from page 5

added to expand resident education in trauma and surgical critical care, the content of which is posted on the Department of Surgery intranet. A Tuesday morning resident conference highlights a topical format based on trauma case care during the residents’ rotation, with residents presenting recent literature regarding the diagnostic and treatment modalities. The trauma and surgical critical care attendings have developed a monthly journal club where the attendings present and discuss literature supportive of current practice recommendations. Residents and medical students attend and participate in the discussions. The current trauma manual is being updated to reflect the information and guidelines developed from these conferences.


This year will find us continuing to improve our educational and research efforts and to successfully pass our 3rd ACS site visit.

Roxie M. Albrecht, M.D.
Associate Professor
Director of Trauma and Critical Care

Highlights Surgical Oncology

Surgical Oncology has been developing a broad array of clinical and research services to complement the evolution of the OU Cancer Center. This year, formal programs were developed for intra-operative chemotherapy including isolated limb-perfusion for melanoma limb recurrence and soft tissue sarcomas, isolated limb infusion (similar but thru radiology placed catheters), and intra peritoneal hyperthermic chemotherapy for pseudomyxoma peritonei. The team of surgical oncology, medical oncology, anesthesiology, critical care medicine, perfusionists, pharmacologists, and nursing have now successfully treated several patients with these difficult problems with great success. With the addition of new expertise in radiation oncology, more complex oncologic procedures using hyperthermia, microwave, brachytherapy, and intra-operative radiation are being planned in the near future. The combination of inter-disciplinary oncology available at OU to tackle the traditionally unresectable or untreatable cancers should dramatically improve as we add these new capabilities.

Our section has been the recipient of a number of awards. Jeanne Parker, P.A. was awarded the prize from the Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology for outstanding mid-level provider. Dr. Dooley has been recognized for the 6th year as one of America’s Top Doctors and Top Doctors for Cancer by nationwide physician polls of Castle Connolly. Multiple other honors for the practice members have also come from CDC, NCI, American College of Surgeons Oncology group, Commission on Cancer, etc. A clinical research fellow, Dr. Chang, has finished a sabbatical from a Taiwanese medical school in our division in the last year. His research has added to the broad spectrum of papers produced annually.

Finally, clinical research in the division has continued to expand to include chemoprevention of breast cancer, surveillance of high risk women, partial breast brachytherapy, microwave with chemo neoadjuvant therapy for stage three tumors, neoadjuvant hormonal therapy, and breast cancer survivorship issues. This year, our division was the third highest in enrollment into clinical trials on the OU campus and the highest in number of patients per faculty member. The overall numbers of breast cancer patients enrolled annually in clinical trials in our division now dwarfs that of the majority of NCI designated comprehensive cancer centers.

William C. Dooley, M.D.
Professor
Division of Surgical Breast Oncology

Highlights Surgery Research Lab

During the 2006-2007 year the Department of Surgery Research Section has generated 12 reports of research data that are either published or in press and another four which are in review. The most successful of these publications focused on low level chronic inflammation and pancreatic cancer. The chronic inflammation studies utilize a model initiated, developed, and subjected to ongoing characterization by Megan Lerner and Dr. Brenda Smith. This model results in coronary artery pathological changes similar to those found in human coronary artery disease, bone loss, and hepatic steatosis. These severe pathologic processes occur relatively quickly and occur in animals that are outwardly indistinguishable from control animals. We are currently evaluating the response of other organs in this inflammation model. This model provides the opportunity to determine the molecular mechanisms involved in the observed cellular damage and to develop therapeutic interventions to alleviate chronic inflammation induced tissue injury.

The pancreatic cancer work has produced two sets of noteworthy data. One of these was just published and
has received a great deal of attention in
the press, both locally and nationally,
internet news and medical journal
editorials, including the Journal of the
American Medical Association. The
research was focused on the expression
pattern of microRNA that occurs in
human pancreatic tumors. We were
able to identify a signature expression
pattern that was unique for cancerous
pancreas tissue when compared to
pancreatitis tissue and normal pancreas tissue.
MicroRNAs regulate the capacity
of messenger RNAs to produce the
proteins that control cellular activity
(proliferation, vessel growth, cell death,
etc.). These results were achieved due
to the analysis strategy developed by
Dr. Yuriy Gusev allowing us to evaluate
hundreds of thousands of bits of data
simultaneously and correlate this
information with biological processes.
The tissue management for this study
was accomplished by surgery resident
Daniel Morgan, M.D. The second set
of data that has just been accepted for
publication, in collaboration with Dr.
Jay Hanas, has revealed a pattern of
small bio-molecules derived from the
serum of pancreatic cancer patients. This
pattern, measured by mass spectrometry,
is significantly different when compared
to serum from pancreatitis patients
and normal subjects. Additionally, a
particular group of proteins has been
identified that are specifically elevated
in the serum of pancreatic cancer
patients, again compared to the serum
from pancreatitis patients and normal
subjects. The tissue and data bank
management for this research involved
surgery residents Daniel Morgan, M.D.,
Kristi Prejeant, M.D. and Kent Denson,
M.D.

The microRNA data provide potential
targets for therapeutic interventions and
biomarkers for development of diagnosis
assays. The small bio-molecule and
proteomic data are particularly exciting
since the measurements were derived
from serum. The use of easily accessible
biologic fluid makes the development
detection and diagnostic assays closer
to application for population-based
screening for either high risk patients or
the general public.

Projects that are ongoing in the lab
involving surgery residents Kristi
Prejeant, M.D. and David Shepherd,
M.D. are determination of global
gene expression in endotoxin-
tolerized human macrophages, chronic
inflammation-induced hepatic steatosis,
influence of alcohol in trauma patients
on clinical outcome, evaluation of
single nucleotide polymorphisms in
pancreatic cancer patients, and global
gene expression (protein and non-
protein coding) during the development
of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
in a carcinogen-induced tumor animal
model. Both residents have presented
work at the Southwest Surgical
Congress and the Pancreas Club.
David Shepherd M.D. has received a
travel award from the Shock Society.
His abstract was selected for a podium
presentation at the meeting this year
in Baltimore. Additionally, Dr. Brenda
Smith was selected to serve on NASA’s
2007-2008 grant review committee and
Dr. Yuriy Gusev was an invited speaker
at two national meetings, one focused
on bioinformatics and the other on
molecular medicine.

Daniel J. Brackett
Professor
Director of Surgery Research

Highlights Surgery Library

Read, discover and learn @ the
Department of Surgery Library.
There is always something new to
read in the library as we update the
collection continually. When you read,
you discover, whether it is the latest
technique or tracking down the origin
of a specific procedure. Along the way
you realize you are learning. It is never
ending. The Department of Surgery
Library is a unique collection with
both the history of surgery and the
latest technologies. One of the latest
projects completed by the librarian is
preserving the Department of Surgery
annual photos of the faculty and
residents. Pieces of the Department
of Surgery history can be traced
through the fifty years of photos which
are now electronically available on
the Department of Surgery web site
www.ouhsc.edu/surgery/Group_
Photos/OU_Department_of_Surgery_
Group_Photos_001.asp. Thumbnail
photos of the general surgery chief
resident portraits are gathered into
composites for each of the three full
time chairmen of the Department of
Surgery on this same web page.
Enjoy the memories these photos bring.

Linda R. O’Rourke, M.L.S.
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery Library

Last August, the American Board of Surgery (ABS) named Russell
Postier, M.D., vice chairman of the board of directors. Dr. Postier’s
term as vice chairman will begin in early 2007. In 2008, he will become
chairman of the organization. The ABS is composed of a board of
directors representing the nation’s surgical organizations. The ABS
was formed to conduct examinations and certifications for surgeons
in order to protect the public and improve the quality of surgeons
nationwide. Currently, there are more than 52,000 surgeons who have
received the ABS certification.
As a result of the October, 2005 business meeting the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society launched a new fundraising campaign. The G. Rainey Williams Research Professor endowment was originally established and funded by former surgery residents in 1995 to honor Dr. Williams. The funds raised help support research opportunities for surgical residents. This past year, the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society initiated efforts to raise additional monies to elevate the professorship to the chair level ($500,000 to be matched by the state). Thanks to gifts from faculty, former residents, the Williams Foundation and the Harris Foundation, the monies were successfully raised. Larry R. Pennington, M.D. has been the holder of this endowed position since 1998 and is now the G. Rainey Williams Research Chair.

Each October, the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society and the Department of Surgery host a reception at the annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. The gathering reunites the Department of Surgery’s current faculty and residents with our alumni, both residents and faculty. You are invited to join us this year in New Orleans, Monday, October 8. We will mail details about the specific location and time in September. We hope you will save this date and join us in New Orleans.

Putting a new spin to an old favorite, we thought we would try something different to honor G. Rainey Williams, M.D. and promote the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society by offering the G. Rainey Williams Lecture in August, 2008. Plans are in motion to combine a scholarly lecture with reunion of former surgery residents who have helped create and perpetuate the surgical excellence in education, research and patient care that the University of Oklahoma is known for. We will keep you informed and hope you will join us.

Jack T. Dancer, M.D.  
OUSS, President

Who? The baby photo in the last newsletter was none other than Ronald C. Elkins, M.D. If you still don’t believe it, you can view the photo again. The first newsletter is posted on the Department of Surgery website. www.ouhsc.edu/surgery.
Legendary Tales

No OU Department of Surgery newsletter would be complete without a Legendary Tales contribution from Dr. Robbie Johnson’s (’83/’85) little book of miscellaneous information. The last newsletter included a story about Dr. Schilling, so this time we wanted to include one about Dr. Williams.

In about 1983, Dr. Gary Myers (’85) was privileged to assist Dr. Williams with a breast biopsy on a private patient. Gary was well aware of the Professor’s meticulous management of his patients and his anxiety was slightly heightened by the fact that this biopsy was to be performed under local anesthetic. He also realized the importance of actively assisting – not being too passive – in the presence of the Professor. It was in the midst of this mixture of anxieties and under the watchful eyes of Dr. Williams that Dr. Myers, in draping the patient, closed a towel clip, biting cleanly into the awake patient’s skin. It is reported that the pain felt by the patient was minimal compared to that of Dr. Myers as he released the clamp while meeting the incisive glare of a silent, but grimacing Dr. Williams peering over those half glasses.

In Memoriam

W. Richard Morgan, M.D. (’63) 1934-2004

Thanks to Phil Stephenson, M.D. (’63) for sending us this information.

Merlin K. “Monte” DuVal, M.D., Faculty, (57-’63) 1922-2006

Surgery Class of 2007...

Che Miller, Stephanie Taylor, Sandra Giller, and Steve Feher

A Purported Archeological Find?

Earlier this month, researchers uncovered what some are calling the single most important discovery in the Department of Surgery history. When replacing a computer monitor on Sharon Grammill’s desk, we found the top of her desk! Who knew it existed?

On the Move .........

We recently learned: Patrick F. McGowan, M.D. (’90) has moved his general surgery practice to Miami, Oklahoma. Mariano Dy-Liacco, M.D. (’99) moved to Chicago and Rush University Medical Center where he specializes in abdominal transplant and hepatobiliary surgery. Daron C. Hitt, M.D. (’01) recently returned to Midwest City to open a plastic surgery practice. Also moving his practice to Midwest City is Abbas Toughaupour, M.D. (Thoracic Surgery ’02). Alfredo F. Gurumendi, M.D. (Thoracic Surgery ’01) moved from Texas to Garden City, Kan. Victor M. Phillips, M.D. (’02), a vascular surgeon, moved “home” to Jefferson City, Missouri. After his fellowship in South Carolina, Stephen C. Gauthier, M.D. (’04) joined fellow plastic surgeons, Doctors Ed Dalton, J. Michael Kelly and Paul Silverstein in Oklahoma City. Joshua G. Barton, M.D. (’04) starts a Gastrointestinal Surgical Scholar Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. in July. Brady S. Hagood, M.D. (’05) moved his general surgery practice from Stillwater to Yukon, Oklahoma this past year. Michael G. Nagle, M.D. (’83) is now practicing general surgery in Branson, Mo. After Hurricane Katrina, David G. Kastl, M.D. (’79) moved his cardiothoracic practice to Hilton Head Island, S.C.
OU SURGERY ALUMNI

We value your friendship and your personal accomplishments. We hope you will keep in touch and let us know what you would like to hear about or what is important to you. With this newsletter, we plan to keep connected and create stronger ties with our alumni. We do not want this to be exclusively about Department of Surgery campus news, but a forum for news from everyone. So please share your news and let us know what is happening with you, your practice or your family. We welcome your input for the newsletter.

Send your stories or comments to Surgery@ouhsc.edu or call (405) 271-5506.