1983

Surgery

Edwin C. James  
*University of North Dakota*

Duane F. Pansegrau  
*University of North Dakota*

Joan Workman  
*University of North Dakota*

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SURGERY

By Edwin C. James, Duane F. Pansegrau
and Joan Workman
Surgery
by Edwin C. James, M.D., Duane F. Pansegrau, M.D.
Joan Workman, B.S.

When the University of North Dakota School of Medicine began its first class on September 26, 1905, a course in surgery was included in the curriculum. The course entitled "Principles of Surgery" was approved for one credit, and involved one hour of lecture each week to sophomore medical students. Later, a one-hour lecture was also given to freshman medical students. The University of North Dakota Bulletin lists Dr. Henry M. Wheeler as the sole Lecturer in Surgery for this course from 1905-1919.

Dr. Wheeler was an exceptional man with a legendary past. He was born in New Hampshire in 1853, and was two years of age when his family moved to Northfield, Minnesota. He received his academic training at Carleton College in Northfield, and in 1875 entered the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. An interesting legend surrounding Dr. Wheeler involves an incident that occurred on September 7, 1876. A group of "suspicious cattlemen" rode into Northfield that day, drawing the attention of the young medical student who was home from Ann Arbor for the summer. Dr. Wheeler ran to the Dampier Hotel, and took the house rifle to a second story vantage point. The "cattlemen" turned out to be members of the infamous Jesse James gang. After robbing the First National Bank, the outlaws rode down First Avenue while Wheeler stood at his post. The first outlaw to ride past was Clel Miller, who was shot to death by the vigilant Wheeler. Wheeler also fired at Bob Younger, fracturing his elbow. The other gang members escaped with $290.

Since he needed a cadaver to complete his medical school training, Wheeler asked the sheriff for Clel Miller's body. The sheriff refused to grant outright permission, but purportedly indicated that the body would be buried in a shallow grave. Several days later, a pickle barrel smelling of formaldehyde was loaded onto the Northfield train bound for Ann Arbor. It has been rumored that the articulated skeleton which later hung in Dr. Wheeler's Grand Forks office was all that remained of Clel Miller.

Dr. Wheeler completed his education at the University of Michigan in 1877, and after practicing medicine for one year, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City in 1879. Dr. Wheeler moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1881, and was one of the first physicians in the area. He traveled the rough terrain by horse and buggy, bringing medical care to the settlers in the region surrounding Grand Forks. He and Dr. Robert Campbell eventually established a medical practice together above the old Trepanier's Drug Store. With the assistance of others, Dr. Wheeler organized the original Valley Medical practice.

When North Dakota attained statehood, Dr. Wheeler helped organize the North Dakota State Medical Association and in 1895 was its 7th president. He also served as Secretary of the North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners from 1894-1911. In addition to lecturing in surgery at UND and maintaining a private surgical practice, Dr. Wheeler was a surgeon for the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroads.
Dr. Wheeler was active in the political sphere of the Grand Forks community. He served as Mayor of Grand Forks from 1918-1920. He was also instrumental in the construction of St. Michael's Hospital, and initiated the move to bring the Sisters of St. Joseph to staff the hospital.

Due to the contributions by Dr. Wheeler to the medical school curriculum, it can be said that the Department of Surgery was established 77 years ago along with the School of Medicine. Also, it can be argued that as the Department’s first Chairman of the Department.

From 1920-1928, Dr. Robert Campbell assumed the position of “Lecturer in Surgery.” Dr. Campbell was born in Ontario, Canada in 1887. He received his medical degree from the University of Manitoba. He followed his education by working as a surgeon for the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads. In addition, he was also a charter member of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Campbell participated in medical school activities until 1950. In addition to the surgery course, Dr. Campbell also lectured in Obstetrics in 1944. In 1948, Dr. W. A. Bell was added as a lecturer in 1949. Dr. W. A. Bell continued to participate in medical school activities until 1950. In addition to the surgery course, Dr. Bell also lectured in Obstetrics in 1944. In 1948, Dr. W. A. Bell was added as a lecturer in 1949. Dr. W. A. Bell continued to participate in medical school activities until 1950. In addition to the surgery course, Dr. Bell also lectured in Obstetrics in 1944. In 1948, Dr. W. A. Bell was added as a lecturer in 1949. Dr. Robert Vance was promoted to the position of Assistant Professor in 1951.

Dr. Harry Benwell became the Lecturer in Surgery in 1939. He served as Chief of Staff at St. Michael’s Hospital for 28 years. He was also the first Commander of the Grand Forks American Legion. Dr. Benwell became an active member of the Grand Forks Medical community. He was active in the construction of St. Michael’s Hospital, and initiated the move to bring the Sisters of St. Joseph to staff the hospital.

Dr. Campbell volunteered his services to the U.S. Army in 1917-1919, and held the rank of Major, Reserve Corps. Following his discharge, he became the first Commander of the Grand Forks American Legion. Dr. Campbell remained active in the construction of St. Michael’s Hospital, and initiated the move to bring the Sisters of St. Joseph to staff the hospital.

Dr. Campbell volunteered his services to the U.S. Army in 1917-1919, and held the rank of Major, Reserve Corps. Following his discharge, he became the first Commander of the Grand Forks American Legion. Dr. Campbell remained active in the construction of St. Michael’s Hospital, and initiated the move to bring the Sisters of St. Joseph to staff the hospital.

The position of Chairman of the Department of Surgery was subsequently held by the following surgeons, as listed in the School of Medicine Bulletin:

1957 - Jack W. Revere, M.D.
1958 - William E. Bakewell, M.D.
1960 - Duncan W. Campbell, M.D. (Dr. Campbell was promoted from the rank of Instructor to Associate Professor in 1966).

Dr. Harold J. Tarpley joined the faculty as an Instructor in February, 1959, and served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1966-1968. Dr. Tarpley resigned in 1974, while in Grand Forks, Dr. Tarpley was affiliated with the Valley Medical Associates. Of interest, Dr. Tarpley has made a career change, and is currently practicing Psychiatry in Fresno, California.

During this period, the number of clinical faculty members in the Department increased, due to the greater commitment of the community surgeons to the teaching of medical students.

Dr. Duane F. Pansegrau was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1968. Under Dr. Pansegrau’s direction, the clinical faculty continued to grow, and included representatives from the subspecialties of urology, otolaryngology, and pediatric surgery. Dr. Pansegrau’s direction was charged with teaching the “Introduction to the Patient” (Physical Diagnosis) course to sophomore medical students in addition to teaching the surgery course. After 1974, the “Introduction to the Patient” course has been the primary responsibility of the Department of Internal Medicine, but surgical faculty remain involved.

Up to this time, the Chairman of the Department and other faculty members participated in teaching and administrative duties on a part-time basis. When the School of Medicine became a “four-year” school in 1974 by adopting the 2+2 system in which students completed their junior year at the University of Minnesota or the Mayo Medical School and returned to North Dakota for their senior year, a search began for a full-time academic Chairman for the Department of Surgery. Significant clinical responsibilities had been assigned to the Department, which included providing surgery electives for senior medical students in each of the four Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) within the state of North Dakota.

In 1975, Dr. Neil Thomford was appointed as the first full-time Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery. At that time, there were 133 members of the combined academic and clinical faculty, and the Department of Surgery offered 55 electives to senior students in the four AHECs. Dr. Thomford served as a member of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and, Dr. Edmund B. Weis, Jr. as Associate Professor and Chairman of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Thomford, Dr. David Todd became Chairman of the Division of Pediatric Surgery. The Department became increasingly involved with continuing medical education, and with providing surgery rotations for Family Medicine Residents.

Each spring, the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) meets during the North Dakota State Medical Association Annual Meeting. In 1978, Dr. Thomford proposed that the Department of Surgery and the North Dakota Chapter of the American College of Surgeons co-sponsor a guest speaker to present the “North Dakota Oration” at this meeting. The establishment of the “North Dakota Oration” by Dr. Thomford charged the Department of Surgery with the responsibility of selecting and inviting a Visiting Professor to present a topic of significant surgical importance to the North Dakota ACS Chapter members. This event has become a tradition each year. The Visiting Professors who have served as orators are:

May 3, 1979 - Bismarck, North Dakota
Thomas E. Starzl, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Topic: “Recent Developments in Transplantation”
May 1, 1980 - Minot, North Dakota
James S. T. Yao, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Surgery
Northwestern University Medical School
Topic: "Non-Invasive Testing in Vascular Diseases"

April 30, 1981 - Jamestown, North Dakota
Walter H. Moran, Jr., M.D.
Professor of Surgery and Biophysics
Department of Surgery
West Virginia University Medical Center
Topic: "Neuroendocrine Influences in Fluid Electrolyte Balance During Surgical Stress"

April 29, 1982 - Grand Forks, North Dakota
Santha Nivatvongs, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Minnesota Medical School
Topic: "Current Concepts in the Management of Colorectal Cancer"

Dr. Thomford resigned his position in 1979, and was subsequently appointed to the position of Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. Dr. Lee Christoffersson, Chairman of the Department of Neurosciences, became the acting Chairman in the Department of Surgery while a search was undertaken to find a successor to Dr. Thomford. On January 1, 1980, Dean Tom M. Johnson appointed Dr. Edwin C. James to the position of Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery. Dr. James currently serves in this capacity.

The Department of Surgery has become increasingly active under Dr. James' direction. In addition to sponsoring regular Surgery Grand Rounds in Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck, the Department of Surgery also sponsors visiting professors on a regular basis. Many of the Department of Surgery faculty members are active lecturers in other continuing medical education programs and organizations. It is planned for the Department to sponsor yearly surgery symposia, featuring topics of relevance to the North Dakota medical community. The first symposium, which was held on April 16-17, 1982, addressed topics pertinent to the management of trauma patients. The second annual symposium is scheduled for March 4-5, 1983, and will highlight the subject of surgical oncology. Educational programs sponsored by the Department of Surgery meet the criteria for continuing medical education accreditation which is awarded to those individuals attending each event.

Because of the need for trained surgeons in North Dakota, and in order to assist the Medical School in providing a well-rounded program, the Department of Surgery sought approval for a five-year residency training program in general surgery. Although the first application to the Residency Review Committee for Surgery (RRC) was denied in October, 1980, the proposal was not abandoned, and re-evaluation was performed to see how the program could be improved. In addition to consulting with North Dakota surgeons, Dr. James invited three consultants to visit the school, review the application, and offer suggestions for improvement. The consultants were Dr. Alvin Watne, Professor and Chairman of the West Virginia University School of Medicine Department of Surgery; Dr. Francis Jackson, Associate Dean for Clinical Education at Texas Tech University; and Dr. James Foster, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. After careful consultation and consideration of all recommendations, a modified proposal for a general surgery residency was resubmitted to the RRC on April 28, 1981. Dr. Thomas Shields, Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University Medical School was appointed site visitor for the RRC, and visited Grand Forks and Fargo on June 3-5, 1981 to meet with faculty members who would be involved in the proposed residency program. The site visit report by Dr. Shields was forwarded to the RRC, who recommended that the new residency program be approved. Dr. Shields was already familiar with the Department of Surgery at the University of North Dakota as he had been the Visiting Professor at this institution for "Thoracic Surgery Teaching Days" in 1978. Dr. Shields spoke at the newly erected UND Medical Education Building Auditorium in Fargo, and presented the topic "Bronchial Carcinoma" on September 22, 1978. This was the first lecture presented in this facility. He also presented the topic "Trauma to the Esophagus" at Surgery Grand Rounds in Grand Forks on the following day.

In October, 1981, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education approved the University of North Dakota Affiliated Hospitals Surgery Residency Program. The program admits two general surgery residents and two subspecialty surgery residents each year, and began on July 1, 1982. General surgery residents will complete this program in five years, while the subspecialty surgery residents will seek admission into a subspecialty program after one or two years of training in the UND Surgery Residency Program. The residents currently admitted into the Surgery Residency Program are:

GENERAL SURGERY PROGRAM

Post-graduate Year-1

Douglas A. Boise, M.D.
B.S. - University of North Dakota
B.S. - (Medicine) University of North Dakota
M.D. - University of North Dakota

C. Milton Smith, M.D.
B.A. - Minot College, Minot, North Dakota
B.S. - (Medicine) University of North Dakota
M.D. - University of Texas, San Antonio, Texas
Private Practice: (Family Medicine)
1972-1973 Kenmare, North Dakota
1973-1980 Sidney, Montana

Post-graduate Year-2

Wayne L. Anderson, M.D.
A.A. - University of North Dakota, Williston Center
B.S. - University of North Dakota
M.D. - University of North Dakota
Internship:
1980-1981 - United Hospital, Grand Forks, North Dakota
Residency:
1981-1982 - Veterans Administration Hospital, Reno, Nevada

Billy R. Morgan, M.D.
B.S. - Hardin-Simmons University
M.D. - University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School
Residency:
1981-1982 - West Virginia University Hospital, Morgantown, West Virginia

CATEGORICAL SUBSPECIALTY PROGRAM

Post-graduate Year-I

Steven L. Mitchell, M.D.
B.S. - North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota
M.D. - University of North Dakota
Dr. Mitchell plans to enter the UND Neurosurgery Residency Program in 1983.

Stanley Patrick Weber, M.D.
B.A. - University of Texas
M.D. - University of North Dakota
Dr. Weber plans to enter a residency program in family medicine following completion of the categorical subspecialty year.

The Department of Surgery has undergone new organization and expansion under the chairmanship of Dr. James. Dr. John Youngs was appointed as the Chairman of the Division of Otolaryngology and Drs. David Rasmussen and James Olson were appointed as Co-Chairmen of the Division of Ophthalmology. Drs. Donald Lamb, J. Donald Opgrande and Kenneth Helenbolt were appointed as Chairmen of the Divisions of Plastic, Orthopedic and Urologic Surgery, respectively. Dr. David Todd, Chairman of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, received the academic rank of Associate Professor, and Drs. Mark Siegel, Brian Briggs, Raymond Gruby and Steven Hamar were appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. James also appointed three faculty members to the position of Assistant to the Chairman in their respective AHECs: Dr. Duane Pansegrau--NE AHEC; Dr. Wayne Swenson--SW AHEC (Bismarck); and Dr. George Iwen--SE AHEC (Fargo). These faculty members are involved in assisting the Chairman in important administrative and teaching responsibilities. The current academic faculty members are:

FULL-TIME

Edwin C. James, M.D.
Chairman, Division of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery
Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery
Program Director, UND Surgery Residency Program

George W. Iwen, M.D.
Associate Professor
Regional Assistant to the Chairman, SE AHEC

Gordon J. Shannon, M.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman, Division of General Surgery

PART-TIME:

Kenneth S. Helenbolt, M.D.
Professor
Chairman, Division of Urology

Duane F. Pansegrau, M.D.
Professor
Regional Assistant to the Chairman, NE AHEC

Donald L. Lamb, M.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman, Division of Plastic Surgery

J. Donald Opgrande, M.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman, Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Wayne M. Swenson, M.D.
Associate Professor
Regional Assistant to the Chairman, SW AHEC

UND Surgery Program Director, Bismarck Hospital

David W. Todd, M.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman, Division of Pediatric Surgery

John N. Youngs, M.D.
Associate Professor
Chairman, Division of Otolaryngology

Brian T. Briggs, M.D.
Assistant Professor
NE AHEC Program Director
Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Raymond S. Gruby, M.D.
Assistant Professor
SW AHEC Program Director
Division of Orthopedic Surgery

Steven K. Hamar, M.D.
Assistant Professor
UND Surgery Program Director
St. Alexius Hospital

Mark B. Siegel, M.D.
Assistant Professor
In addition to the academic faculty, there are 125 clinical faculty members instrumental in providing clinical learning experiences in all subspecialty areas of surgery for medical students and residents at all levels of training.

### RANK

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rasmussen, David H.</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Reichert, Henry L., Jr.</td>
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<td>Richards, Robert N.</td>
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<td>Spur, John</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thorfinnson, Hugh</td>
<td>General Surgery</td>
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<td>Weidemann, Rex E.</td>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>NW - Minot</td>
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<td>Williams, Edward H.</td>
<td>CV &amp; Thoracic</td>
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<td>Zarrett, Robert W.</td>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>NE - Fargo</td>
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### CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

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<tr>
<td>Altenberg, Bernard M.</td>
<td>Anesthesia</td>
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<td>Bigornia, Generoso V.</td>
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<td>Bobkins, George J.</td>
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<td>Broadrick, Gary L.</td>
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<td>Chang, Kian K.</td>
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<td>Juhula, Curtis A.</td>
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<td>Karlstad, Gary</td>
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<td>Kirwan, Novelle, D. T.</td>
<td>Anesthesia</td>
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<td>Mardrosian, Ardashir</td>
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The Department of Surgery maintains an office in the UND Medical Education Building in Fargo for the SE AHEC, and plans to have an office in Bismarck for the SW AHEC in the near future. Under Dr. James' chairmanship, two new positions have been established due to the expansion of Department activities. In March, 1980, Ms. LaVonne Johnson assumed the position of Administrative Assistant for the Department. Ms. Johnson supervises all office activities in Fargo and Grand Forks. The position of Coordinator of Grants, Research and Continuing Medical Education in the Department of Surgery was developed in January, 1981. This position is currently held by Ms. Joan Workman. There are five administrative and secretarial staff members employed within the Department.

**DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY STAFF**

**Grand Forks Office**

Michele Beauchamp  
Secretary II

Dorothy Elston  
Secretary III

LaVonne Johnson  
Administrative Assistant

Joan Workman  
Administrative Officer I

**Fargo Office**

Jacqueline Aschbacher  
Secretary IV

Department of Surgery faculty members are active in pursuing research activities. In addition to publishing their work in medical and surgical journals, faculty members are also invited to present this work at scientific meetings. In October, 1981, five faculty members presented scientific exhibits at the American College of Surgeons 67th Annual Clinical Congress in San Francisco. Drs. Edwin C. James, George Iven, and Gordon Shannon presented an exhibit entitled "Clinical Staging for Carcinoma of the Lung." Drs. Wayne Swenson and Robert Hieb presented an exhibit entitled "Carotid Restenosis."

In October, 1982, Department of Surgery faculty members will present two exhibits at the American College of Surgeons 68th Annual Clinical Congress in Chicago. Drs. Wayne Swenson, Robert Hieb, and Edwin James will present a film entitled "Femoropopliteal Bypass Graft using an Intraluminal Stent" at the motion picture session. The exhibit entitled "Cholecystography and Common Duct Exploration using a New Catheter Technique" will be presented by Drs. Wayne Swenson and Edwin James at the scientific exhibition.

In June, 1982, a Biomedical Research Support Grant was awarded to Dr. James to investigate the effects of fasting and various pharmacologic agents on the portal venous oxygen concentration in dogs. The Department of Surgery is also collaborating with the Department of Physiology in exploring the receptor-site binding characteristics of normal and diseased human lung tissue. In
1981-1982, Department of Surgery faculty members investigated a total of 18 different research projects. Twenty research papers were published and 10 additional papers were in the process of being prepared as a result of research activities.

During the 1981-1982 academic year, 68 senior electives were provided in the four AHECs by Department of Surgery faculty members. Each year, senior students nominate one faculty member from each AHEC to receive the "Outstanding Teacher" award. Three of the four award recipients in 1982 were Department of Surgery faculty members. The surgeons who received this honor were Wayne M. Swenson, M.D., Associate Professor, SW AHEC (Bismarck); Chi Kong Yeung, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, NW AHEC (Minot); and John Ramlo, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, SE AHEC (Fargo). During this time period, 68 sophomore students were enrolled in the sophomore surgery course, and Department of Surgery faculty members provided 138 weeks of surgical rotations for Family Medicine residents.

Two Visiting Professors were co-sponsored by the Department of Surgery in 1981-1982. In July, 1982, the Departments of Surgery and Physiology co-sponsored Visiting Professor Bhola N. Dhawan, M.D., Head of the Division of Pharmacology and Deputy Director of the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, India. From July 27-September 30, 1981, Dr. Dhawan participated in research and teaching activities at the University of North Dakota. The Department of Surgery invited Santhat Nivatvongs, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of Minnesota to present the North Dakota Oration at the North Dakota Chapter, American College of Surgeons meeting on April 29, 1982. Dr. Nivatvongs presented a lecture entitled "Current Concepts in the Management of Colorectal Cancer". In addition to these visiting professorships, the Department of Surgery presented the "First Annual Symposium in Surgery" in Bismarck on April 16-17, 1982. This program featured the following five guest lecturers:

John J. Rick, M.D.  
Director of ICU  
Providence Hospital  
Southfield, Michigan

Joseph E. Kutz, M.D.  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, Kentucky

Harlan D. Root, M.D.  
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As the School of Medicine expands, the Department of Surgery is also increasing its involvement. The School of Medicine is currently in a transition period geared toward providing a full four years of medical school training in North Dakota. In 1982, eleven third year students will remain at UND in the SE AHEC (Fargo) while the remainder of their classmates attend the University of Minnesota or Mayo Medical School. Within the next few years, all UND medical students will receive the complete four years of training in North Dakota. Eventually, third year medical students will also receive surgery clerkships in the SW AHEC (Bismarck) as well as in Fargo. The Department of Surgery is responsible for providing 12 week clerkships in Surgery for these students in addition to providing electives for fourth year students, surgical rotations for Family Medicine residents and initiating the recently approved Surgery Residency Program.

Although the Department of Surgery has changed since Dr. Henry Wheeler's time, the dedication to maintaining a high standard of patient care in North Dakota, and to providing the students with a quality medical education remains unchanged. The Department of Surgery is proud to join with the entire School of Medicine in achieving these goals.
REFERENCES


University of North Dakota, School of Medicine Bulletin, 1951-1981.