

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Fall 2023 BREAKING NEWS

for the alumni & friends of the University of Nebraska Medical Center Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation

UNMC Orthopaedics raises the educational bar...again

Starting in July 2024, the UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation will welcome six new residents to the program.

Historically, the program has accepted four new residents each year, but in 2015, as the department's faculty and research capacity grew, the ACGME granted the department's request to increase to five residents per year. Since 2015, the department size has again more than doubled, prompting professor and chair Dr. Kevin Garvin and residency program director Dr. Matthew Mormino to decide it was time to make a change.

"Our department has doubled in size over the past ten years, which has increased the opportunities for resident education," Dr. Mormino said. "That, combined with a national need for more orthopaedic surgeons, made this an ideal time to increase our number of resident physicians." The department's growth coincided with Nebraska Medicine's desire to fund more residency positions to meet the growing state and national physician shortage.

"Our mission is to provide orthopaedic surgeons for our state and local community. To that end, our department has produced 195 graduates, and 30% have established practices in Nebraska, and 25% practice in Omaha," said Dr Garvin. "This increase in resident numbers will allow us to continue to fulfill that part of our mission."



The department currently boasts 28 fulltime orthopaedic surgeons and clinician scientists. Among these physicians are recently hired faculty members specializing in total joint arthroplasty, sports medicine, pediatric, and spine surgery. The department's expanding roster of dedicated educators offers greater learning opportunities for residents. Our resident's surgical procedure numbers are in the upper quartile in the last comparative data from the ACGME, and there are many more educational opportunities in the operating room and outpatient clinics available to the residents.

"With more and varied surgical cases, our residents will have access to a wellrounded educational experience," Dr. Mormino said.

UNMC orthopaedic residents have the added advantage of a successful research

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Breaking News Fall 2023

Breaking News is published two times a year for alumni and friends of the UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Chair: Kevin L. Garvin, M.D.

Administrator: Julie Zetterman, MBA

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Find us online! www.unmc.edu/orthosurgery

Message from the Chair

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation has exciting news to report as we begin the 2023-2024 academic year. Let me begin by recapping the events of 2023. The first is the graduation of our five residents all of whom are currently in their fellowship. I am also happy to report they all passed their written boards as did our previous graduates who also passed their oral board examination, congratulations to all!

Please also read about the American Board of Surgery's visit to our department. The group included executive leaders including Drs. David Martin and Michael Bednar and John Harrast, consultant for the ABOS.

Dr. Sara Putnam was promoted to Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for orthopaedics and Dr. Ed Fehringer was promoted to Vice Chair for Research and Vice Chair for Wellbeing for orthopaedics.

Finally, we celebrated the life of Dr. Walter Huurman. Dr. Huurman was chief of pediatric orthopaedic surgery and worked here for nearly three decades. He was the first orthopaedic surgeon hired by Dr. John Connolly. He was also the only pediatric surgeon in the state of Nebraska for several years. Dr. Huurman was a wonderful colleague, an outstanding orthopaedic surgeon and a great friend we will miss but remember fondly.

Dr. Paul Esposito announced his retirement in January 2023 after 35 years of service. Dr. Susan Scherl also announced her retirement in July 2023 after 21 years of service.

The exciting news for this academic year begins with the approval by the American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to expand our residency program to six residents per year beginning in July 2024. We also welcomed five new residents to the department, Drs. Nathan Cherian, Michael Garneau, Kirby Hora, Jake Rodgers, and Tyler Sharp. Please read about them in this newsletter and upcoming newsletters. Additional new members of the department are three new faculty, Dr. Kwangwon Park, and Dr. Smitha Elizabeth Mathews both will be joining Children's orthopaedic surgery team. Dr. Richard Amendola joins the UNMC orthopaedic surgery team as the newest sports orthopaedist.

The continued growth in the department of orthopaedic surgery has led to the expansion of our service with a greater presence in West Omaha. The Village Pointe clinic in West Omaha is the site for our expansion. Of course, all the wonderful happenings of the department would not be possible without the generous support from our alums and friends who have given generously to the department. The support helps us as leaders in research, education, and of course, compassionate and exceptional care of our patients. The commitment and performance of our team of nearly 30 orthopaedic surgeons, researchers, and 175 employees is outstanding. On behalf of the department, THANK YOU for your contributions to our growth and continued success.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Darmi

Kevin L. Garvin, MD L. Thomas Hood Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery Chair, UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation



CLASS of 2023



The Class of 2023 celebrated their graduation with a June 9, 2023 symposium.

Each graduating resident presented and listened to Michael Daubs, professor and chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. The Harold and Marian Anderson Lectureship speaker was Dr. James Linder, CEO of Nebraska Medicine.

After five years in Omaha, the graduates will spread nationwide to participate in their chosen fellowships.

- Mark Amirtharaj, MD Hospital for Special Surgery Sports Medicine Fellowship
- Brandon Bennett, MD University of Colorado Spine Surgery Fellowship
- Matthew Freeman, MD University of Kansas Sports Medicine Fellowship
- Charles Hansen, MD University of Wisconsin Spine Surgery Fellowship
- Erin Stockwell, MD Tampa General Hospital Orthopaedic Traumatology Fellowship



ASS of 2028

Since beginning its residency program over five decades ago, our department has educated some of the best and brightest surgeons in the field. This summer, five more residents joined our department, following in the footsteps of more than 200 who have studied before them.



Nathan Cherian, MD Michael Garneau, MD University of Missouri-Columbia

School of Medicine



University of Iowa Rov J. & Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine



Kirby Hora, MD University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine



Jake Rodgers, DO Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine



Tyler Sharp, MD University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine



Adult Reconstruction Surgery Fellowship

The department welcomed Shah Fahad, MBBS, FCPS, as a house office VI for our adult reconstruction surgery fellowship.

Dr. Fahad is originally from Pakistan, where he completed his medical education and residency. Dr. Fahad also completed a fellowship in musculoskeletal oncology at the University of Iowa before coming to UNMC.



RESIDENTS continued from pg 1

team. A robust research program only enhances residents' knowledge of the basic science of orthopaedics, which teaches them to become lifelong learners and exceptional surgeons. The increase in resident complement will enable a third-year rotation to be formed to allow for research and elective time. The resident on this rotation will have dedicated time to formulate a research hypothesis and explore methodological strategies under the direction of our resident research director and committee.

We have a 200,00 sq ft Simulation Center housed on five floors at the Davis Global Center, next door to our offices. It is one of the world's most advanced and comprehensive simulation centers. The third floor of this center is exclusively dedicated to training surgical house officers. This floor has 25 operating pods that mimic the operating room with access to fluoroscopy, arthroscopy, and all surgical instrumentation. Our program uses this center extensively, including in our intern year surgical skills month and for researching novel ways to use simulation to educate orthopaedic surgeons.

The increase will have a significant effect on the basic structure of the program. The residents will be provided with earlier and greater exposure to various subspecialties. This will include rotations in the second, fourth, and fifth year, including surgical experiences in Foot and Ankle, Arthroplasty, Shoulder and elbow, Sports, and Spine surgery. We believe that this earlier exposure to these groups of patients will enhance our ability to meet our goal of educating well-rounded general orthopaedic surgeons.

Orthopaedic faculty have always focused on residents as learners rather than service providers. That belief has propelled the program forward over the past three decades and will continue to do so in the future.

Undoubtedly, The educational bar for orthopaedic residents has again been raised, and the department's members relish their roles as leading educators.



Celebration of Life *Walter W. Huurman, Jr., MD*

Dr. Huurman passed away on August 19, 2023, in Miramar Beach, Florida, surrounded by loved ones.

Dr. Huurman was one of the quiet giants in pediatric orthopedics. He was one of the founding members of the Pediatric Orthopedic Study Group, the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, where he served as the chair of the section on orthopedics. He was a pioneer in segmental instrumentation for scoliosis, treatment of clubfeet, and juvenile hip disorders. Dr. Huurman greatly influenced national policy and was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Section on Orthopedics.

Dr. Huurman received his bachelor's degree at the University of Notre Dame in 1958, followed by his medical degree at Northwestern University in 1962. He was commissioned as an Ensign during his senior year at Northwestern. After serving his internship at Cook County Hospital, he began his long Naval career by serving as a Naval Flight Surgeon in Vietnam on the U.S.S. Hornet. His service to his country spanned over three decades, as he was called up from the Naval Reserve in 1990 to serve as the Chief of Orthopedic Surgery of Fleet Hospital Six During Operation Desert Storm on the Island nation of Bahrain. He retired as a Captain in 1996.

After serving in the Vietnam War, he completed his orthopedic residency at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, California in 1971. He then pursued his pediatric training at the AI Du Pont Institute under the tutelage of Dr. Dean MacEwen. Upon completion, he returned to the Naval Hospital Oakland, California where he was the staff pediatric orthopedist from 1973 - 1977.

Following his service at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, he began to practice as the only full-time pediatric orthopedic surgeon in Nebraska for approximately ten years. He was one of the founding members of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He grew the division of pediatric orthopedic surgery at UNMC, as well as at Children's Hospital & Medical Center. He was a true leader, greatly assisting these institutions



to develop from a small community hospital into a major regional medical center. He retired as Professor Emeritus of Orthopedic Surgery and Pediatrics at UNMC in 2006.

We will miss this honorable gentleman and friend and are grateful for his many contributions to our community, country, and profession.

International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty

33rd Annual Congress, Maui, Hawaii | August 31 – September 3, 2022

Nebraska pulled off another fete cementing our international stamp on the international orthopaedic map. In 2019, Dr. Hani Haider was elected president of the International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty (ISTA), and to chair its 33rd Annual Congress which was supposed to be held in 2020, but Covid-19 happened.

After herculean efforts of a presidency that lasted three years instead of the usual one-year term, Dr. Hani Haider and Dr. Kevin Garvin co-chaired the 33rd Annual Congress in 2022 on the island of Maui, Hawaii. This international event proved to be a scientific, social and financial success despite the unprecedented challenges and postponements caused by the COVID pandemic. The congress hosted more than 500 delegates from over 20 countries with 25 industrial exhibits relating to joint replacement technologies. Many leaders from various ISTA committees and review panels volunteered countless hours to make this congress one of the most successful. Under a main congress theme of Emerging Technologies in Arthroplasty - the Implant and Beyond!, the program included over 400 research presentations and discussion panels.

Among the highlights was ISTA's Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to Dr. William Harris, one of the biggest legends in Orthopaedics. In a superbly attended plenary session Dr. Harris was introduced by Dr. Kevin Garvin, and gave an inspiring lecture called "My first 70 Years in Orthopaedic Surgery" recalling his lifetime in orthopaedics at the Massachusetts General Hospital affiliated with the Harvard Medical School, featuring the major problems of infection, wear and bone lysis. He injected in his stories personal depictions of stress and fear undergone while tackling significant research unknowns at the time. The gratification he felt with the eventual successes were both encouraging and inspiring to any researcher. Many esteemed Harris Lab Fellows, now senior leading surgeons, were present to



provide further insights into Dr. Harris's many scientific contributions in a special session.

ISTA's 33rd Annual Congress was stylized with other flavors from Nebraska's strengths. Dr. Hani Haider is professor and director of the UNMC Orthopaedic **Biomechanics and Advanced Surgical** Technologies Laboratory. His research interests include the development of methods for in-vitro testing of orthopaedic implants, and the development of innovative computer-aided surgical technologies including a novel award winning freehand surgical navigation system for use in knee replacement surgery. Dr. Haider has been awarded nearly 100 research grants or contracts from different federal and industrial funding sources including 33 different orthopaedic companies from the U.S., Europe and Japan, and has received 16 academic and international prizes and awards and holds six invention patents in orthopaedic surgery navigation and robotics. He also serves as chair of the USA Technical Advisory Group and head of the U.S. delegation to the ISO TC 150 Committee (implants for surgery), and chair of ASTM International F04 Division II Committee (orthopaedic devices). It was natural for the 33rd Annual

Congress to include a mini-symposium on orthopaedic implant testing and standards, with presentations from 8 of the world's top leading labs. Various sessions on high technology and robotics even included an implant that talks, and a Shark Tank competition with some of the latest innovations ranked by a live audience. Last but not least, our Department of Orthopaedics Surgery contributed to the scientific program through 8 different presentations/papers ranging from innovations in dual mobility hip wear and friction testing, navigation system accuracy, standards and accuracy of synthetic bone models, knee contact area measurements, mismatched size TKR systems, and innovative identification of hip implants from x-rays using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

ISTA 2024 will be held in New York City organized by New York University and the Hospital for Special Surgery. Our Nebraska team has three papers to be presented there, with Dr. Haider chairing sessions and various duties on the Board of Directors completing his duties as first past-president.

N E W S &

Orthopaedic surgery hosts execs from national board

The UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation welcomed the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery's executive director, its associate executive director and a consultant to the organization during a special seminar this summer.

The seminar was held in the Lauritzen Outpatient Center's auditorium and drew a capacity crowd of faculty, residents and medical students.

The visiting professors were David Martin, MD, executive director of the ABOS, and Michael Bednar, MD, associate director of the ABOS and professor of orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation and chief of hand surgery at Loyola University Medical Center Stritch School of Medicine. Also attending was John Harrast, chief executive officer Data Harbor Solutions, a consultant for the ABOS.

The tour of iEXCEL showcased UNMC's place at the forefront of surgery and virtual reality simulation.

The visit educated the faculty and residents regarding the history and activities of the ABOS and allowed the ABOS leadership to visit and explore UNMC's Davis Global Center as a possible site for surgical simulation and assessment of orthopaedic residents' competence.

The group participated in a one-day seminar on June 19 with UNMC professors Joshua Mammen, MD, PhD, and Justin Siebler, MD. Dr. Mammen is the chair of the education and training committee of the American Board of Surgery.

"This is a unique opportunity for our department to have a front-row seat with the leadership who shape the exams for the ABOS and also to demonstrate our expertise in surgical simulation," said Kevin Garvin, MD, the L. Thomas Hood, MD, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation and chair of the department. He is a director for the ABOS, chair of the ABOS Oral Examination Committee and coordinated the seminar and served as host.

Dr. Martin, who has served as executive director since 2016, lectured on the history of the ABOS oral and written exams. Dr. Bednar lectured on "Surgical Simulation: Where is it Going and What's Its Role?"

Following the seminar, attendees toured the Davis Global Center and iEXCEL program to participate in surgical simulations and virtual reality demonstrations directed by Dr. Siebler, who leads the orthopaedic surgery surgical simulation program.

Dr. Garvin said the tours showcased how UNMC's facilities are at the forefront of surgical simulation and offered numerous possibilities for collaboration in the future across the field of orthopaedic surgery.

Awards



Rusty McKune – iEXCEL Innovation Award

In February, the iEXCEL Innovation Awards returned for the third year. Athletic Trainer and Sports Medicine team member Rusty McKune, ATC, was honored with an honorable mention of the prestigious iEXCEL Nebraska Medicine Award! Rusty McKune, ATC, was nominated based on his innovative approach to interprofessional simulations focused on sports medicine involving residents, fellows, physicians, EMS, and athletic trainers.



Lisa Stillahn – Silver U Award

Lisa Stillahn's nominator noted, "Lisa is the perfect daily demonstration of the ITEACH values. She takes on new challenges with a positive attitude to make our department the best it can be. She has worked hard to make our team stronger and work better together. She welcomes new members, tasks, and opportunities consistently." This is Lisa's second silver U.

Promotions

Congratulations to Dr. Edward Fehringer & Dr. Sara Putnam promoted to Vice-Chairs in the department





Dr. Fehringer was named Vice Chair of Research and Dr. Putnam is the department's Vice-Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



New Faculty

The department welcomes three new faculty members to our team.

Richard Amendola, MD



Dr. Amendola joins the department as an Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Surgeon. Dr. Amendola received a bachelor's and a master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Iowa. He attended medical school at the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa. Dr. Amendola's orthopaedic residency was

at SUNY Upstate Medical University before completing his sports medicine fellowship at the Steadman Philippon Research Institution in Vail, Colorado.

Timothy Mickel, MD



Dr. Mickel joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in January 2023 as a Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon. Dr. Mickel is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon who has spent several years serving our country in military, educational, and hospital settings. Dr. Mickel was fellowshipped trained in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, Colorado. Before completing his fellowship, Dr. Mickel received his residency training at the National Capital Consortium at Walter Reed Military Medical Center and his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

Smitha Elizabeth Mathews, MBBS, D.Ortho, MS Ortho



Dr. Mathews is a Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon. She received her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in Belgaum, Karnataka, India. She received her diploma in orthopaedics (residency) from Father Muller Medical College in Mangalore, Karnataka, India, and her masters in orthopaedic surgery

(residency) at Christian Medical College in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. Dr. Mathews completed two pediatric orthopaedic fellowships: one at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and one at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. She also completed a fellowship in Foot and Ankle from MedStar Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, before joining the department.

Kwangwon Park, MD, PhD



Dr. Park joins the department as a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon. Dr. Park received his medical degree from Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea. He completed an orthopedic surgery residency and fellowship at Severance Hospital, Yonsei University, and worked as an assistant professor at Korea University

Hospital. He completed orthopedic surgery fellowships at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., and at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Susan Scherl retires after 21 years in the department

During Fall 2002, the department welcomed an outstanding new member, Dr. Susan Scherl. Dr. Scherl retired on January 2, 2023, from UNMC and Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

She is looking forward to traveling, reading, and playing her flute in her retirement. Dr. Scherl spent much of her time in trauma at Children's. One of Dr. Scherl's fondest memories from her time at UNMC and Children's was "going to a concert at University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and seeing a patient I had treated for 15 years, playing in the orchestra. It was great to see him out in the world, thriving and doing something he loves."

"Clinically, trauma was always my favorite thing. My favorite case to take a resident through was a pinning of a Supracondylar humerus fracture. It's a pretty simple case technically and conceptually, but like a lot of things, the devil is in the details. I could learn a lot about a resident and his/ her skills by doing one with them," said Dr. Scherl. "The downside was they always occur at inconvenient times. Right before I retired, I had the worst one I had ever seen in 30 years of practice. I ultimately asked Dr. Wallace to come assist me (at 4 AM! Which she did without hesitating, because she is a phenomenal partner). It was a good reminder that surgery is never routine, and even a simple case, that I had done

more than 1500 of, can be challenging."

For those just starting their orthopaedic careers, Dr. Scherl advises to "find what you most love to do and focus on it as early as you can. The more I was able to focus on trauma, the happier and more productive I was." At the midpoint of careers, she recommends standing firm and learning to say no. Dr. Scherl said, "It is easy to get overextended by agreeing to every request you get."

"Dr. Scherl has been a fantastic member of our department. She has also been a national leader in pediatric orthopaedic surgery with several leadership roles on Regional and National Committees. She was the first woman to Chair the Pediatric Society of North American Annual Meeting in 2016 and more recently in 2022 she served on the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section of Orthopaedics Leadership. Dr. Scherl has been a dedicated mentor and teacher for many UNMC residents and medical students," said Dr. Garvin respectfully. Dr. Scherl earned emeritus status upon her retirement.





"Find what you most love to do and focus on it as early as you can."

Dr. Susan Scherl



Dr. Susan Scherl in Kyiv, Ukraine in 2018.



Dr. Susan Scherl in Heildelberg, Germany for an orthopaedic conference.



Michelle Craig, PA-C, Dr. Maegen Wallce, Dr. Susan Scherl, Kaitlyn Hemmer and Bridget Burke, PA-C enjoy sign making and team building.

N E W S &

Research Update



Wanfen Xiong, MS, PhD

In November 2022, Dr. Ed Fehringer assumed the role of vice chair of research. He and the research team took an inventory of existing research projects and hired Wanfen Xiong, MS, PhD, as a clinical study coordinator to bolster resources in managing the high quantity and breadth of existing and accumulating clinical studies.

Dr. Xiong, originally from China, graduated from UNMC and holds a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology. In 2017, Dr. Xiong received the UNMC New Investigator Award. With more than 20 years of experience in basic biomedical research and depth of basic science research knowledge and networking, we were excited when she joined the department in July 2023.

The research team is also editing a 5-year research plan and actively re-designing UNMC's orthopaedics research web presence. In addition, program grant pre-proposals have been considered and written to establish a multi-disciplinary musculoskeletal research center on UNMC's campus. Continuing with this momentum and teaming with Dr. Dong Wang of the College of Pharmacy, the department is excited to host the inaugural musculoskeletal research symposium on November 17, 2023, with our annual resident research day.



Thank you to our alums, residents, fellows, grateful patients, and friends who have committed to supporting the Department

of Orthopaedic Surgery. Over the years, without your support, we wouldn't have been able to become the Department that we are today that continues to educate, train, and implement a high standard of patient care. Because of you, we can develop new clinical programs and innovative education strategies, send residents to national conferences, and conduct the latest research.

If you would like to learn more about private gifts or opportunities to support the Department through outright gifts or planned gifts, we welcome the opportunity for a conversation. We are very grateful for every donation, as well as each person who is committed to supporting our community.

Please get in touch with Emily Tiensvold, senior director of development, at the University of Nebraska Foundation for more information.

emily.tiensvold@nufoudnation.org | 402-502-4107.



PUBLICATIONS &

PUBLICATIONS

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Teusink MJ, Harter GD, Badman B, Edwards TB, Pill S, Garrigues GE. (2022). Case Presentations with Panel Discussion: Proximal Humerus Fracture Treatment. *DJO Global 10th Annual Fellows Course in Shoulder Arthroplasty*.

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Nun L, Strudthoff E, **Wallace M**. (2022). BMI and Severity of Disease in Patients with Osteogensis Imperfecta. *George Washington University Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's Medical Student Orthopaedic Symposium Virtual Meeting.* Eaton V, Samson K, Strudthoff E, DellaPolla A, **Wallace M**. (2022). Intraoperative Blood Loss in Osteogenesis Imperfecta. *53rd Annual Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum*.

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Village Pointe 17405 Burke St. Omaha, NE 68118

In this issue

1 UNMC orthopaedics raises

the educational bar

Starting in July 2024, the UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation will welcome six new residents to the program.

- 7 International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty 33rd Annual Congress Nebraska pulled off another fete cementing our international stamp on the international orthopaedic map.
- 8 Orthopaedic surgery hosts execs from national board

The UNMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation welcomed the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery's executive director, its associate executive director and a consultant to the organization during a special seminar this summer.

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