Dr. James R. Neff, who served as chair of the department for 10 years, returned to full-time patient care and research activities in May 2001. He will continue his education commitment to medical student as well as resident education.

“Under Dr. Neff’s direction, the department has been steadily building a strong reputation for innovative research, and top-quality patient care,” says Dr. Kevin Garvin, current department chair. “All of us associated with orthopaedics at Nebraska are grateful for his contributions over the past 10 years. He is an active member of numerous local, state, national and international professional organizations including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, American Orthopaedic Association, the Society of Surgical Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, International Skeletal Society, and the International Society for Technology and Arthroplasty. He has lectured around the world regarding orthopaedic pathology and oncology and is the developer of the Neff Femoral-tibial Nail (Zimmer, Warsaw, IN) and a system of modular implants used in tumor reconstruction. He has received numerous grants for his research and together with his wife, Professor Julia Neff, has received the prestigious Kappa Delta Award in 1999 recognizing his contributions to molecular and cytogenetic descriptions of sarcomas.

Dr. Neff has been recognized multiple times as one of a small number of UNMC faculty in “America’s Top Doctors” published by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. for his contributions in Orthopaedic Oncology. He has authored more than 150 scientific articles and book chapters and is currently President-Elect of the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation.
Dr. Richard Pettee, a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, gave $100,000 to create the Dr. Richard and Kathryn Pettee Orthopaedic Excellence Fund, which will support the department’s resident training program and research priorities.

“Our goal is to make UNMC an international player in testing knee replacement implants,” says Dr. Haider. In addition to the joint replacement surgeons led by Dr. Kevin Garvin, the UNMC’s orthopaedic implant testing team includes Hani Haider, James Neff, former chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Rich Croson, engineering technician. The team is initiating pilot research projects and recently received external funding for knee implant wear tests from U.S. implant manufacturers and one from a Swedish research and manufacturing company. The team also plans to help surgeons participate in modern implant design, computer-aided simulation, preoperative planning and image-guided, or robotic surgery.

University College London in Stanmore. There he joined Dr. Peter Walker’s team, creating the Instron-Stanmore Knee Simulator and the International Standards Organization test method of simulation and testing of knee replacement systems. In March, 2000, Dr. Haider “crossed the pond” and joined the UNMC faculty. Two months after their arrival, his wife, Sheima, gave birth to their first child, Amna, a daughter and native Nebraskan. Dr. Haider calls himself “an applied scientist who enjoys translating from concept to product.” He sees an exciting future for innovative implant procedures, devices, and techniques at UNMC. “I believe Dr. Kevin Garvin is determined to build an active

Alumni News

Here is our first bulletin from UNMC orthopaedic graduates in Nebraska, the U.S., and around the world.

1992 Graduates

After his residency, Jeff Moore and Becky spent four years at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada where their third son was born. The Air Force then transferred him from the desert of Las Vegas, to the snows of Anchorage. In Alaska, Becky and the boys (Matthew, Erik, and Christopher) were immersed in basketball, baseball, wrestling, scouts, school and community activities. In addition to treating healthy young military patients with mostly sports injuries, Jeff took to the air himself, earning a private pilot’s license. When his Air Force duty ended in July 1999, the Moores moved back Nebraska, to be closer to family. While in Hastings, Becky and the boys continued their community and sports activities while Jeff treated not-so-young and healthy patients with mostly with hip fractures. But Alaska beckoned. And this summer the family returned to Anchorage. Jeff says, “We missed chasing moose from eating the trees in the front yard, as well as going ‘combat fishing’ during the summer salmon runs.”