Astronomy, archeology, history, medicine, nuclear physics. Ideas in these disciplines spark connections for Professor Fereydoon Namavar.

“My work is my hobby,” says Dr. Namavar, who joined the department in July. “I enjoy scientific research; there’s always something new. You never know where an idea will lead.” His research has led him all over the world and evolved throughout his career in this fast-changing field.

One of his first interests as a child in Iran was astronomy, especially lunar exploration. He earned a B.Sc. degree in physics from Tehran University and also studied in England. He earned a Doctor of Science degree in nuclear physics and did research at the Institute for Nuclear and Radiation Physics at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. In 1979 he came to the U.S. for a fellowship at the University of Connecticut. He stayed as a faculty member, doing research on nuclear and solid state physics and materials science.

He left Connecticut to become manager of the Advanced Si-Based Technology for Spire Optoelectronics, and then director of Nanotechnology at Spire Biomedical in Massachusetts. In recent years he worked with thin films and nanostructures (engineered nanocrystalline metallic and ceramic coatings, for alternative bearing surfaces to decrease wear and increase longevity of orthopaedic prostheses) as well as silicon based electronics and optoelectronics. His research at Spire had many applications, such as laser energy conversion in space, components for fiber optics and sensors for communications, high temperature electronics for aircraft, and radiation hard electronics.

Dr. Namavar worked with scientists across the U.S. and around the world, receiving more than 50 grants and contracts from government agencies including the Air Force, Navy, Army, NIH, NASA, NSF, and the Strategic Defense Initiative. He holds several patents and has published more than 150 publications.

Dr. Namavar has unpacked his office, laboratory, and apartment and jumped into work. In late September, he was one of several international experts at the 5th Annual Symposium on Alternate Bearing Surfaces in Total Joint Replacement in New York City. His presentation was “Applications of Nanotechnology for Producing Novel Superhard Bearing Surfaces” within the topic of “Alternate Bearings…the Future.”

People coming down the escalator near the Orthopaedic Surgery Clinic have been surprised to see a bald eagle, a wolf, and several other wild animals. Not the real animals, but large, beautifully framed photos of wildlife in their natural habitat. Howard Buffett, son of Omaha investment entrepreneur and executive Warren Buffett, is an accomplished photographer, and gave several photos to the hospital as a gesture of appreciation for the care his son, Howie, received earlier this year. Howie was a patient in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation following an automobile accident. Dr. Matthew Mommio was directly involved in his care. The gift of photos will be on display throughout the hospital: five wildlife photos in the second floor corridor near the Orthopaedic Clinic entrance, and later, other photos in the corridor near the entrances to Clarkson Café and the physician dining room and near the second floor waiting area just south of the concourse. Patients and their families, physicians and staff, and visitors are clearly enjoying the beautiful photographs.
A Message From The Chair

This issue marks the start of the second year for “Breaking News,” our newsletter for orthopaedic graduates, faculty, staff, and other friends of the department. You hope you are enjoying the newsletter, but don’t let this be one-way communication. Take a few minutes to send in news of your family and career so we can share it in the alumni news section.

Our newest residents are settling in quickly, and you can learn more about them in this issue. We also have some new faces on our faculty. Drs. Namavar and Sekundiak. I hope you’ll have a chance to meet these new faculty and residents this year.

This summer and fall, we brought some outstanding speakers to campus to share their expertise with residents and faculty members. This is one of the many ways we use our Development Fund to strengthen the department’s educational programs and activities. Our new logo is unveiled in this issue, and you’ll read about a special gift in appreciation for the care provided by NHS physicians, including one of our faculty members. Patient care is a vital part of the department’s mission and several of our faculty members have been recognized among the best doctors in our region and the U.S. Our congratulations to Dr. Glen Ginsburg who was notified he is now a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP). All Nebraska orthopaedic graduates can take pride in these accomplishments.

Check out the Grand Rounds and Continuing Education schedule. We hope you can attend if you’re in Omaha. One event you won’t want to miss is the Nebraska reception at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting in New Orleans, February 5-9, 2003. I’ll send you details later this year. Have a good autumn.

Kevin L. Garvin
Dr. Kevin Garvin

New Faculty Profile: Dr. Todd Sekundiak Migrates South to Join Our Team

Spring in Nebraska can bring cold rain or a late season hailstorm, but one of the department’s newest faculty members found Nebraska to be downright balmy when he moved here in April.

“In Winnipeg, winter arrives at the beginning of October, and spring doesn’t arrive until May,” says Dr. Todd Sekundiak, “so I found Omaha in April to be downright tropical.”

Although he’d been on the department’s faculty team only six months, Dr. Sekundiak is already involved in treating patients, training orthopaedic residents and medical students, and has started on a major project.

“We want to create a computer database to track patients following implant surgery,” he says. “A consistent database will provide important data to evaluate the medical, financial, and social impact of implant surgery on patients.”

In addition to creating the computer database, Dr. Sekundiak plans to continue his clinical work and research on revision arthroplasty. “I moved here because of the strength of the academic program,” he says. “You can’t work alone, and the team Dr. Garvin is assembling is exceptional. There is tremendous opportunity here.”

Nebraska is fertile ground for implant research and fertile ground for other kinds of plants. Dr. Sekundiak enjoys gardening. “My biggest gardening challenge was keeping my trees alive through water rationing and 100-degree days,” he says. He also enjoys jogging, skiing, and swimming. Growing up in Winnipeg, he played on hockey teams until he received too many bruises and broken teeth.

He completed his medical training and a surgical internship at the University of Manitoba, then did orthopaedic residencies at the University of British Columbia and the University of Manitoba. In 1995 Dr. Sekundiak moved southwest for an arthroplasty fellowship at the Arizona Centre for Joint Replacement. He returned north for another fellowship at Chicago’s Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke’s and Central DuPage Hospitals.

Dr. Sekundiak went home to Winnipeg in 1996 to serve as Assistant Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Manitoba St. Boniface General Hospital. Later, he became medical director of the Manitoba Rotary Bone and Tissue Bank. He holds a specialty certificate from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has published many scientific articles and abstracts. He’s active in numerous professional organizations and is an examiner for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Sekundiak knows he can go to hockey games in Omaha, but thinks skiing might be a little tough here in the “tropics.”

In the next issue of “Breaking News” you’ll meet Drs. Michael Clare and Susan Scherf. Dr. Clare, a 2001 graduate of Nebraska’s orthopaedic surgery residency program, returned to Omaha late this summer after completing a fellowship in Florida. Dr. Susan Scherf will join the department in November, moving to Omaha from Chicago where she maintained a private practice and was in the faculty of the University of Chicago College of Medicine. Welcome Drs. Clare and Scherf!

What’s News with You?

Break the news to your friends! Drop us a note about your professional activities, honors, or other news and views so we can publish them in Breaking News. Feel free to fax us at (402) 559-5511 or send an email to: dmeyer@unmc.edu (attention: Breaking News).

Name: ____________________________________________
Year residency completed: ____________________________
Address: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________...
Activities: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________...

Please return to the address shown:
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
981080 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-1080
Or send news via email to: danameyer@unmc.edu
Visit our web site (www.unmc.edu/orthosurgery).

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

Class of 2001
Dr. Armodios Hatzidakis sent photos and notes about his six-week orthopaedic rotation in Ioannina, Greece, a town on a lake in the Pindos mountain range in Northern Greece. He worked in a modern 400-bed hospital, participating in the operating room on a variety of traumatic and elective reconstructive operations. He learned microsurgical techniques and saw a variety of common and rare problems at a private clinic. Armodios and his wife, Melissa, also said, “We’ve had a great fellowship year here in San Francisco. The adventures continue with an eight-month traveling fellowship in Europe (England, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France). Afterwards, we move to Denver where I’m joining a private practice.”

Class of 1974
Dr. John Kaufman presented, “The role and responsibility of the orthopaedic surgeon in managing osteoporosis” in August. Dr. Kaufman is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the World Orthopaedic Osteoporosis Organization and President of the Osteoporosis Interest Groups of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He has served on the Committee on Aging, the Committee on Women’s Health Issues, and the Task force on Osteoporosis of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He has maintained a private practice in Santa Clarita, California, since 1975. He has presented lectures and courses related to osteoporosis across the country.

Here are the June 2002 graduates of the department of Orthopaedic surgery looking for those green jackets after their graduation weekend golf outing. Shown left to right are Michael Thompson, James Ballard, Douglas McInnis, David India.

Class of 2002
Welcome Drs. Michael Clare and Susan Scherf.

Class of 1996 to serve as Assistant Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Manitoba St. Boniface General Hospital. We hope you can attend if you’re in Omaha. One event you won’t want to miss is the Nebraska reception at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting in New Orleans, February 5-9, 2003. I’ll send you details later this year. Have a good autumn.

Kevin L. Garvin
Dr. Kevin Garvin
Continuing Education and Grand Rounds

UNMC orthopaedic graduates are welcome to participate in any of the following continuing education seminars and Grand Rounds presented by department faculty, current residents, and guest speakers. Here is the tentative schedule. Please call the department (402-559-4533) in advance to confirm the schedule.

October
14 Complications in Total Knee Arthroplasty (Dr. Eric Otteger)
21 Revision Total Hip Arthroplasty (Dr. Todd Sekulich)
28 Rotate Cuff Tears (Dr. Edward Fechner)

November
4 Pre Curva & Sports Injuries (symposium) (Dr. Timothy Fitzgibbon)
11 Failed Shoulder (Dr. Jack McCarthy)
18 Acetabular Fractures (Dr. Matthew Mormino)
25 Hip Fractures (Dr. Brian Hasley)

December
2 Lumbar Spine Trauma (Dr. Steve Hansen)
9 The Patellofemoral Joint in TKA (Dr. Joshua Uehu)
16 Total Ankle Arthroplasty (Dr. Michael Clare)

John Kaufman, M.D., a 1974 graduate of the UNMC orthopaedic residency program, presented, “The role and responsibility of the orthopaedic surgeon in managing osteoporosis” in August. Dr. Kaufman graduated from the UNMC College of Medicine in 1970 and also completed his internship in Omaha. He practices in Santa Clara, California. Dr. Kaufman is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the World Orthopaedic Osteoporosis Organization and President of the Osteoporosis Interest Groups of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. He has served on the Committee on Aging, the Committee on Women’s Health Issues, and the Task Force on Osteoporosis of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. This spring Chitraraj Ranawat, M.D., Chairperson of the Department of Orthopaedics and Director of the Center for Total Joint Replacement at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, spoke on “The optimal range of surface roughness for the cemented femoral stem in total hip arthroplasty.” Dr. Ranawat holds several patents, has published nearly 100 scientific publications, serves on five editorial review boards, and is an active member in national and international medical societies.

“The special presentations are vital to the quality of our resident training program and to the continuing education we provide for practicing physicians,” said Dr. Garvin. “We count on private contributions to our annual Orthopaedic Development Fund to help pay transportation costs for visiting lecturers like Dr. Ehrlich, Kaufman, and Ranawat.”

December
30 Gastrointestinal and Medical Complications (Dr. Marc Pinsky)
31 Morbidly Obese Patients (Dr. Stephen Laufer)

January
6 Morbidity and Mortality (Dr. Brian Hasley)
13 Deep Venous Thrombosis in THA + TKA (Dr. Richard Davis)
20 Myofacial Syndromes (Dr. James Devney)
27 Bone Graft Substitutes (Dr. Kristoffor Breier)

February
3 Common Flaps in Hand Surgery (Dr. N. Ake Nyström)
9 Total Hip Arthroplasty (Dr. Daniel Shea)
16 Orthopaedic Oncologic Topics (Dr. James Neff)
23 Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting (Hilton Head, SC)

April
7 Hip DTD and Reconstruction (Dr. Kevin Garvin)
21 Patellar Realignment (Dr. David Brown)
27-28 Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting (Hilton Head, SC)

May
5 Suprascapular + Interscapular Femur Fractures (Dr. Matthew Mormino)
12 Sarcial Fractures (Dr. Brian Hasley)
19 Scaphoid Pain (Dr. James Devney)

To confirm these seminars and learn about other presentations, contact the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at (402) 559-8000.

Presenting...

Department faculty members present many lectures, seminars, and courses on the UNMC campus, in the Omaha area, nationally and internationally. Here are some of the many seminars, presentations, and publications that orthopaedic faculty members were involved June through November 2002.

Conference Presentations, Seminars and Publications


Huurman, W. V.: Leg length discrepancy: How much is too much and what can be done about it. Visiting Professor: American Academy of Pediatrics Practical Pediatrics Course, Quebec, Canada, August 29-September 1, 2002.


Mormino, M. A.: Internal Fixation of Pilon Fractures. Course Chairman, Orthopaedic Trauma Update, Omaha, NE, August 2002.


Esposito, P. W.: School-age’s: The Risk Takers. Nebraska Chapter, Society of Pediatric Nurses, Children’s Hospital, Omaha, NE, June 7, 2002.


New Plaque to Highlight Orthopaedic History

The specialty of orthopaedic surgery has a fascinating history, and by the end of this year, a brief summary of this history will appear on a plaque introducing an honor wall for major supporters of Nebraska’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. In addition, future issues of “Breaking News” will feature snapshots of the department’s history. If you would like to share some memories of the department’s history, please write out the information and send it to Dr. Garvin. Dr. Walter Huurman of Omaha is gathering details and will write the upcoming series.

The text on the plaque introducing the honor wall follows:

“French physician and professor Nicolas de Bois Andry introduced the term orthopaedics (“ortho,” straight and “pains,” child) in a 1741 text. One of his illustrations, a crooked tree tied to a straight stake, has been adopted as the symbol of orthopaedics.”

Rooted in the art and science of the specialty’s origin, the University of Nebraska Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation has its own storied history. Pioneers of orthopaedics in Nebraska, Dr. W. Wm. Ingraham (1865-1940), Dr. Robert Schoo (1884-1960), and Dr. Peter T. Henle (1857-1940) were innovators in the treatment of orthopaedic problems in children and adults and early presidents of the American Orthopaedic Association (1937) and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (1940) respectively.

In 1968, contemporary Omaha orthopaedic surgeons, Dr. L. Thomas Hood, Stanley Bach and Dwight Burney established the University of Nebraska’s orthopaedic resident education program. Today, the department is driving as it grows toward excellence in education, scientific exploration and humanitarian practice of orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation.”

Meet Our Newest Residents

Join us in extending a warm welcome to four outstanding new residents who began their training July 1, 2002.

A native Californian, David C. Buck takes exercise seriously. His B.A. degree from Western Washington University is in exercise science, and before medical school he worked as an athletic trainer in an out-patient physical therapy clinic and was head trainer at Seattle’s O’Dea High School. In medical school, David served as a medical student leader at the state and national level. As the national chair of the American Medical Association (AMA) Medical Student Section, David met with Congressional leaders and helped draft legislation to ease the debt burden for residents. At the University of Washington Medical School, David coordinated two clinical research projects in the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine. He submitted research results as a poster presentation at the Arthroscopy Association of North America’s 2002 meeting. Over the years, he has played baseball, football, and rugby. During medical school, he played intramural flag football, soccer, and softball. He enjoys hiking, skiing, camping, and photography and holds a black belt in Shito-Ryu karate. He says he hopes for “a career that blends a strong clinical practice with research and academics.”

Beau S. Konigsberg flew over Nebraska, but came back. He was born in New York City and earned a B.A. degree in history from the University of Colorado. He then served as an intern for Congressman Peter Hoagland of Nebraska and later did political consulting with a Chicago firm. He also worked as director of operations for a wholesale and retail coffee business. While taking pre-med courses at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Beau worked as a nursing assistant at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. He earned his M.D. degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. Beau has extensive volunteer experience in political activities, including coordinating Senator Kerry’s Presidential campaign on the University of Colorado-Booulder campus. He also worked at the student-run health clinic, caring for Omaha’s indigent population and conducting health care demonstrations at local kindergarten and elementary schools. He has been involved in research at the Nebraska Spine Center and at UNMC, and research results were presented at the 1999 North American Spine Surgeons Conference. He also presented an anatomy lectures at the UNMC Orthopaedic Grand Rounds. Beau likes to ski, golf, play basketball and tennis, and hunt.

Scott A. Swanson is a three-time NCAA All-American gymnast, Kimberly A. Turman has probably performed every twist, turn, jump and split the human body can do. She started competitive gymnastics at the age of six and went on to earn Academic All-American honors on the University of Nebraska’s team. She says, “the necessity to quickly overcome injuries introduced me to the world of medicine and orthopaedics at a young age.” The Stous Falls, South Dakota native, has volunteered extensively, including with programs such as House Calls for Kids, Project Hope Health Screening, and outreach such as DARE, School-in-Coal Jam, and Pacific Palo camp counselor for at risk youth. She also volunteered in the surgical and ICU/nursery at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. Kimberly earned a B.S. in biological sciences and psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and completed her M.D. degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. During her academic and athletic career, she has received a number of honors and awards. She is active in several professional organizations including a student membership in the American Medical Association. Kimberly has turned her attention to other sports and now enjoys doing aerobics, playing racquetball and golf, and reading.

When Scott A. Swanson says he’s “really cookin’”, he means it. Scott worked as a chef at a family restaurant in his hometown of Alliance, Nebraska, then came “east” to school-earning a B.S. in finance from Creighton University. He completed his M.D. degree at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. While in medical school, Scott participated in “Tar Wars,” a program to educate children about the dangers of smoking. He also volunteered at the North Omaha Boys Club, mentoring at-risk youth. He put his kitchen skills to use as a volunteer at the St. Francis House, an Omaha homeless shelter. Scott knows his way around the research lab, too. After his first year of medical school, Scott received a stipend from the National Kidney Foundation of Nebraska and worked in a research laboratory. Between his second and third years, he received a certificate for his “commitment and services to Hope Medical Outreach Coalition.”

Dr. Paul Esposito received a certificate of appreciation from the medical coordinator for his “commitment and services to Hope Medical Outreach Coalition.”

In the past few months, Orthopaedic Department faculty have been listed among the nation’s best doctors and recognized by local and national organizations as well.

Faculty members: Drs. Paul Esposito, Kevin Garvin, Walter Huurman, and James Neff were selected for inclusion in the Best Doctors in America®. They were also listed in the Orthopaedic Surgery section of “The Best Doctors in Omaha” in the April issue of Omaha Magazine. In addition, departmental faculty volunteers Drs. David Brown, Robert Cochran, Timothy Fitzgibbons, and Steven Hinrichs were also selected for inclusion among “The Best Doctors in America.”

Among Nation's Best Doctors

In UMC Today and the Cancer Center newsletter, Dr. Samuel Cohen, Pathology and Microbiology Department Chair, described Dr. Julia Bridge as “one of the leading cytogenetists in the world,” explaining that her research results have revolutionized how tumors are diagnosed. She was one of only six geneticists in the world and one of two U.S. geneticists to be invited to the new World Health Organization Classification of Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors. Dr. Bridge is a professor in three Departments at UNMC—Pathology and Microbiology, Pediatrics, and Orthopaedic Surgery.

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Drs. David Garvin, Walter Huurman, and James Neff were selected for inclusion in the second edition of Castle Connolly’s “America’s Top Surgeons,” published by the Consumers’ Research Council of America.

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