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July 2017

State of the Department

To our alumni, donors, and friends:

As you are probably aware, there has been tremendous change in the UNM Department of Dermatology since our last newsletter in Fall 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to provide context and details.

For the last many years, the Department of Dermatology has been small – approximately 4 faculty, 6 residents and numerous volunteer members. However, within a span of 18 months (August 2015-February 2016), we lost two critical faculty, Drs. Barrett Zlotoff and Phillip Strange, for personal reasons and retirement, respectively. When our site was visited by the American Council for Graduate Medical Education in Spring 2016, with only 2 permanent faculty, our accreditation as a training program was rescinded. All of our residents at the time were successfully connected with other programs and our two seniors graduated and passed their boards without issue. Dr. R. Steven Padilla, Chair for the prior 19 years, retired but remains emeritus faculty. I took on the role of Interim Chair and subsequently was named Chair in January 2017.



The past year has been challenging but incredibly rewarding as we work to rebuild and grow. With UNM Hospital and School of Medicine support, we have employed locums physicians to provide continuity for patient care and access. Dr. Therese Holguin (GME '89) joined the department as a Visiting Professor in May 2016 and converted to full-time Assistant Professor in April 2017; she is an incredible clinician and educator and her role will be essential as we move forward. We began to hire advanced practice providers/PAs and collaborated with additional faculty: Drs. Shelly Stepenaskie and Hillary Elwood (Pathology), Dr. Osman Dokmeci (Internal Medicine - Allergy & Immunology), Dr. Daniel Stulberg (Family & Community Medicine). Veterans Affairs has similarly employed long-term locums physicians and a midlevel provider to continue care to the veterans. We have continued strong pre-clinical education and clinical training of medical students, Pediatrics and Family Medicine residents and community primary care providers. We have also continued our dedication to continuing medical education in Dermatology through Grand Rounds and alumni conferences (see below).

We are currently interviewing for dermatology faculty, a Mohs surgeon/surgical director and also for two joint positions with the VA. We have had significant interest, especially over the last few months, and have strong reason to believe we will fill at least two of these positions shortly. It is our goal to achieve re-accreditation of the training program in 2018-2019, which will depend most heavily on securing an excellent faculty with dedication to our mission; this will take a minimum of nine months until a decision is made. We hope for your support in this endeavor and during this time.

I will close by saying how truly proud I am to be a part of the UNM School of Medicine Department of Dermatology, to embrace our strong history and to now have the opportunity to lead us into the next chapter. I have full confidence we will succeed as we embark on this next phase of the journey, holding our values close and our vision ahead. Please contact me personally if you have any questions, suggestions, concerns; I greatly value your input and support.

Aimee Smidt, MD, FAAD, FAAP; Chair, Department of Dermatology,

Associate Professor, Departments of Dermatology and Pediatrics; UNM School of Medicine

Meet the Providers

Therese Holguin, MD

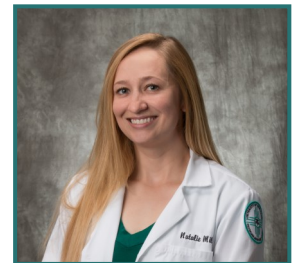


Therese Holguin, M.D., is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, and the American Society for MOHs Surgery. She joined UNM faculty in 2016 and is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology.

She graduated from UNM School of Medicine in 1984, completed two years of Internal Medicine internship and residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, and a UNM Dermatology residency in 1989. Prior to joining UNM, she was a partner in private practice at Northern Arizona Dermatology Center in Flagstaff, Arizona for over 26 years.

Natalie Mills, PA-C

Natalie is an Albuquerque native who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry at the University of New Mexico and continued on with her training at the NCCPA accredited University of New Mexico School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program with a focus in primary care. She received her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies in 2016 and started working in the field of Dermatology shortly after. Natalie is an active member of the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants. Her interests include the gym, outdoor activities, traveling, and spending time with her family



Aimee Smidt, MD

Dr. Smidt is an Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pediatrics, and the Chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. She received her MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2002, and completed residencies in Pediatrics and Dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine-Texas Children's Hospital and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, respectively. She completed a fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology in 2009 at Northwestern University-Children's Memorial Hospital and joined UNM in Fall 2009.

During her training, she was introduced to the Southwest during three Indian Health Service rotations in New Mexico and Arizona, and met her husband, who was raised in Albuquerque. She sees patients aged 0-22 with a broad range of skin disorders and uses laser modalities for patients of all ages. Her personal interests include physical fitness, the outdoors, Southwestern art and design, and keeping up with her boys.

Her research interests include mastocytosis and studying Quality-of-life impact in children and teens with skin disorders. She founded and organizes a vibrant team-based multidisciplinary Vascular Lesions Clinic which sees patients every other month with complex vascular anomalies. She also does procedures for young children in the

For information on our valued volunteer faculty, please visit our [web page](#).

Donors & Friends

During this time of challenge, it has been incredibly important to have the continuing support of you, our donors and friends, to assist us in our mission of excellence in dermatologic patient care, teaching and research. We are pleased to report that the department of Dermatology has received, in the past 5 years, nearly **\$925,000** in financial support from approximately 75 donors. Your confidence during our rebuilding phase has been tremendous, and we would like to specifically acknowledge the donors from 2015 to the present. Please accept our personal and heartfelt gratitude for this unwavering support.

Brad Robin Baack, MD

James C. Baumgaertner, MD

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Sheri Dinehart

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Marshall J. Shuler, MD

Aimee Smidt, MD

Megan B. Strand, MD

Kenneth L. Thompson

Sam C. Tumminello, MD

Lisa Walker, MD

William Willis, MD and Alice Willis

We have made it even easier to contribute and can ensure your gift goes to the intention you indicate, whether it be for general departmental needs, education, research, future residents, or to specifically assist with achieving the Chair's vision of success. We value any donation at any level. Please contact [Ken Thompson](#) via email or at 505-362-3310 or visit our [website](#).



Our Residents 2015—2016

Tien Nguyen, Sara Marian Lucking, Argentina Leon, Tamara Berry, Jessin Blossom, Kathrene Tajnert

Donors & Friends, Continued

A VERY SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

It is also with the greatest pleasure that we relay news of a most generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Ellen King, who have endowed a named professorship in the field of melanoma and pigmented skin lesions. **The Jim and Ellen King Professor of Dermatology** position will allow us better latitude to recruit and retain a true expert in this area to grow our department faculty, provide community outreach on prevention and treatment of melanoma, and build further research and collaboration within the UNM Health Sciences Center. We held a small event to recognize and thank the Kings for their support in early June 2017.



Jim & Ellen King with Dr. Martha McGrew,
Executive Vice Dean, UNM SOM

Community & Alumni Events

Thank you to all of our tremendous alumni who made the trek to New Mexico last October to gather for our first Wally Burgdorf Memorial Alumni Lecture, in combination with the NM Dermatological Society's semiannual meeting; it was a tremendous success! Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our valued alum and community members, and specifically the initiation of the idea by Dr. Brenda Dintiman, we hosted Drs. Mark Dahl and Steve Tyring for a weekend of great learning and camaraderie, in the best spirit of what Dr. Burgdorf would have wanted to promote. Wonderful photos of the event are courtesy of Dr. Bruce Fuller, thank you!



Community & Alumni Events, Continued

We will be continuing the conference, intended to be given annually, again next fall so please **save the weekend of October 13-15th 2017** at which time we will be hosting Dr. Steven Katz of the National Institutes of Health as our key note speaker. We will again be holding this conference in conjunction with the semi-annual NM Dermatological Society meeting.

Our last **NM Dermatological Society meeting** was also a great conference. We hosted Dr. John Zone, Chairman at the University of Utah Department of Dermatology in April 2017. Dr. Zone spoke on Celiac Disease and Bullous Dermatoses and provided clinical pearls and guidance as it pertained to challenging cases presented by Mary Beth Logue (Medical Student), Dr. Smidt, Dr. Michael Chang and Dr. Amanda Harper.

Upcoming Events

- ◇ Grand Rounds (lectures/patient presentations) occur every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month (CME)

Location: 1021 Medical Arts Avenue NE

Time: 8:00 - 9:00am

- ◇ Combined Walter Burgdorf Alumni Lecture & NMDS Meeting

October 13 - 15, 2017 (CME)

Location: Albuquerque, NM

- ◇ AAD Reunion
February 17, 2018

We also continued our recent tradition of an annual **reunion at AAD in Orlando** in March 2017, and intend to hold a similar event at the AAD in San Diego on Saturday February 17th, 2018 – please plan to join us!



The Department continues to hold open **Grand Rounds conferences** for anyone interested in attending, currently on the first and third Friday mornings of each month, in the Ben Smith Library Conference Room. We have hosted numerous speakers including: Dr. Sylvia Hsu (formerly of Baylor College of Medicine, now Chair at Temple University), Dr. Olivier Rixe and Dr. Bridget Fahy (UNM Cancer Center faculty), Dr. Daniel Davis (Dermatology and Skin Cancer Center of New Mexico), and others. We also continue case sessions for the purpose of teaching one another about our most interesting diagnoses and assisting with treatment. If you have suggestions for a speaker to invite or a topic to include, please let us know.

Dr. Tracey George (UNM Pathology)

Department of Dermatology

Vision

The Department of Dermatology will ensure that all people in New Mexico have access to the highest quality dermatologic care that is often unattainable elsewhere in the state, and will provide excellent education and collaborative research in cutaneous health and disease.

Values

- ◇ The Department of Dermatology will continue to serve our patients and the public with integrity and accountability.
- ◇ We strive to recognize, cultivate and promote all forms of diversity; to fully understand the needs of our communities and to make a difference for them; and to advance clinical, academic, and research excellence in dermatology.
- ◇ We are committed to perform our duties with compassion and respect for our patients, learners, and colleagues; always to conduct ourselves with professionalism, and to enjoy working together on this mission.

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Send Us Your Feedback!



Hopefully you have found this newsletter interesting and informative. We've tried to ensure accuracy, but undoubtedly have made errors of commission or omission, and would appreciate any corrections you could offer regarding personal information or any other items. We received only one correction after our last newsletter. We omitted to note that Alan Blaugrund served as attending at the Student Health Center and at the Sandia AFB derm clinic in the 1970s.

Please let us know of any suggestions for future topics, articles, etc. The intent is to make this a useful and interesting periodic newsletter for past residents, faculty, donors, and others connected to [UNM](#) and the [Dermatology program](#). Your ideas and feedback would be extremely helpful.

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