



Support for the Clinical Scientist

BY S. A. UNGER

EUGENE R. MINDELL, MD, CHAIR IN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY ESTABLISHED

Perhaps no one knows more about the accomplishments of the UB Department of Orthopaedics, past and present, than Eugene R. Mindell, MD, who was appointed the department's first full-time faculty member in 1964 and subsequently served as chair of the department for 24 years.

The advanced technologies pioneered by UB orthopaedic surgeons are a continued source of pride for the 87-year-old Mindell since many of these advances build upon a foundation of excellence he helped put in place decades ago.

Because he knows firsthand the long-term planning and commitment needed to establish a department that has faculty and training programs of international renown, Mindell has dedicated much time and energy in recent years to promoting awareness about aspects of academic medicine that need to be enhanced if this level of excellence is to be maintained. One such aspect that he focuses on with a sense of urgency is the need to recruit and retain clinical scientists.

"I think we need to do everything we can to convince people that we have to have more clinical scientists—investigators who combine basic science with medicine," says Mindell. "These individuals have knowledge and skills in the appropriate basic sciences to take a clinical problem into the laboratory, research possible solutions and then apply the new information to their patients. Their contributions are crucial to the development of discoveries that lead to improvements in the way we take care of patients."

A clinical scientist himself, with expertise in musculoskeletal oncology, pathology and trauma, Mindell cautions that the decline in the number of clinical scientists is "a serious problem for research in all medical specialties."

In an effort to counter this trend, Mindell worked closely with the Office of Advancement in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to help obtain gifts to fund the endowed Eugene R. Mindell, MD, Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery, which was completed in August 2008.

The endowed chair was initiated in 1996 with a lead gift from Byron A. Genner III, MD '45, an orthopaedic surgeon who practiced for many years in Potomac, Maryland. Genner, who died in 1997, was a UB medi-

cal student when Mindell was a member of the volunteer faculty. He felt indebted to the university for the superb medical education he received and chose to make a financial gift to UB in Mindell's name.

Funds for the newly endowed chair will greatly enhance the orthopaedic department's ability to maintain its clinical, research and teaching edge into the future because it will make it possible to attract a highly qualified clinical scientist to Buffalo.

"We now have a better chance of getting a person to come to Buffalo who wouldn't ordinarily come here just to practice," explains Mindell, "and this person will have an opportunity to develop an academic program, teach students and residents and develop their own research. This, in turn, will increase clinical activities at the university-affiliated hospital

where they are based and bring patients into our area from outside Buffalo."

Mindell says that the UB Department of Orthopaedics has a long and successful history of bringing such recruits to Buffalo, to the benefit of both the university and the community. As an example, he describes how Edward H. Simmons, MD, an internationally renowned spine surgeon was recruited in 1983 from Toronto, Canada, to fill a dual role as chief of orthopaedics at Buffalo General Hospital (BGH) and director of UB's orthopaedic spine service.

"Dr. Simmons developed strong clinical research and fellowship programs in spine surgery at the General that, in turn, helped attract other orthopaedic spine surgeons to Buffalo, including Dr. James White and Dr. William Capicotto, both of whom were graduates of his fellowship training program," notes Mindell. "He also recruited his son [Edward D. Simmons, MD] to practice in Buffalo."

Following the retirement of Edward H. Simmons in 1993, Kenneth Krackow, MD (developer of computer-assisted total knee

replacement), was recruited to UB and BGH from Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine, where he served as a full-time faculty member.

"As chair of the search committee, I sought out Dr. Krackow because of his reputation as an excellent teacher and researcher who has an international reputation for his expertise in knee reconstruction for arthritis," recalls Mindell. "I had heard about him from Dr. Clement Sledge, a famous orthopaedic surgeon in the Harvard University program, who was based at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston."

Since coming to Buffalo 16 years ago, "Dr. Krackow has done for total-knee-joint surgery what Dr. Simmons did for spine surgery," says Mindell.

Over the years, many other such recruits have made similar contributions to Buffalo and the university, according to Mindell. These include the department's current chair, Lawrence Bone, MD, who graduated from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 1973, after which he completed a general surgical residency at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), where he developed an interest in trauma.

After practicing general surgery in his hometown of Warsaw, New York, for three years, Bone decided to expand his interest in trauma and left Western New York to complete an orthopaedic residency at the University of Texas and Parkland Hospital. After serving additional trauma fellowships in Texas, Switzerland and Germany, he was recruited to return to Buffalo to direct the musculoskeletal trauma service at ECMC. He also received dual appointments in the departments of surgery and orthopaedics at UB.

Mindell served on the search committee that brought Bone back to Buffalo, and worked closely with Bone's mentor at ECMC, John Border, MD, to accomplish this. A highly respected trauma surgeon, Border had been recruited into the Department of Orthopaedics by Mindell

in 1986 in an effort to foster collaboration between the departments of surgery and orthopedics and to recognize Border's commitment to orthopaedic trauma.

"Dr. Border and Dr. Bone are widely recognized today for markedly improving the care and outcome of the polytrauma patient," explains Mindell.

As current chair of the UB Department of Orthopaedics, Bone has continued the long tradition of supporting clinical scientists, as did his predecessor, Robert Gillespie, MD, whom Mindell credits with increasing the number of full-time faculty in the department, putting the practice plan on solid footing, founding the UB Sports Medicine Institute under the leadership of Robert Smolinski, MD '83, and establishing the Orthopaedic Research Laboratory, which is now directed by biomedical engineer Mark T. Ehrensberger, PhD.

Other examples of successful clinical scientists in the UB orthopaedic surgery program abound, says Mindell, such as the late Theodore Papademetriou, MD, whose focus was on arthritis surgery and medical education, and Clayton Peimer, MD, whose expertise was in hand surgery and reimplantation.

"The point is that without funds available to attract and retain such physicians, they will most likely go elsewhere to practice," says Mindell, who further notes that all but a few universities across the country face the same dilemma as UB in this regard, and many are proactively formulating strategies to confront the decline in the number of clinical scientists.

Foremost among these strategies are efforts to make funds available to support the clinical-research efforts of these individuals.

"The clinical scientist is where the important new discoveries come from—that's the way it's been in the past, and I'm convinced that's the way it will be in the future," says Mindell. "And I'm interested in the future." **BP**



At a dinner announcing the completion of the chair are, from left: LAWRENCE BONE, MD '73, chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, EUGENE MINDELL, MD, and BRIAN MCGRATH, MD '87, clinical associate professor of orthopaedics.

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HONORS CONVOCATION

RECOGNIZING MEDICAL STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The Annual Honors Convocation recognizing academic excellence among students in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was held in Butler Auditorium September 13, 2008.

The following is a list of award recipients and a description of the awards received.



Pictured from left: Janel Smietana '11, Jennifer Gall, '10, Kelvin Gold, '10, Craig Keller, '11, Melissa Rayhill, '10.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The departments of the school have established awards to recognize meritorious performance, as well as outstanding achievement in other curriculum-related activities.

Biochemistry

Daniella Asch, '11, and **Janel Smietana '11,** received the Edward L. Curvish Award, established by the Department of Biochemistry to recognize the students with the highest average in biochemistry.

Family Medicine

Benjamin Greene, '09, is the recipient of the North American Primary Care Research Group's Student Research Award, recognizing medical students who have participated in primary care research.

Microbiology/Immunology

Jennifer Gall, '10, and **Amy Lynn Zielinski, '10,** received the Ernest Witebsky Award, which is given to the students achieving the highest grade in microbiology and immunology. Dr. Witebsky was the founding chair of the Department of Microbiology.

Kelvin Gold, '10, received the Marek B. Zaleski Award, presented by the Department of Microbiology to the student who best combines Dr. Zaleski's high standards of academic achievement with outstanding service to the community. The third-year class chooses the recipient.

Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

Craig Keller, '11, received the James A. Gibson, Wayne J. Atwell and Oliver P. Jones Award, which is given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences to the student with the highest combined average in the anatomical sciences. The award is named in honor of past chairs of the department.

Amy Lynn Zielinski, '10, received the Kornel Terplan Award, given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences to the student with the highest average in pathology. The award honors Dr. Terplan, past chair of the department.

Melissa Rayhill, '10, received the John B. Sheffer Award, which is given to the student who, according to faculty, has achieved academically and demonstrated particular aptitude in the pathology laboratory setting. The award was initiated by the Board of Deaconess Hospital to honor Dr. Sheffer for his many years of service to that institution. It is now sponsored by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences.

Physiology and Biophysics

Amy Lynn Zielinski, '10, received the Donald W. Rennie Physiology Award, which is given to the students with the highest average in physiology. Dr. Rennie was a former vice president for research at UB and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

McGraw-Hill Book Awards

Craig Keller, '11, and **Janel Smietana, '11,** received the McGraw-Hill Book Awards, which is given to the two highest-ranking students in the first-year curriculum.

Alpha Omega Alpha Class of 2009

SURBHI BANSAL
COLLEEN E. BELL
KELLY BERCHOU*
MARGHERITA BRUNI*
SAMEER MADHAV DESHMUKH*
SWATHI GOPALAKRISHNAN
DANIELLE E. HARMON
ALAN J. HSU*
MICHAEL A. HUBA
BETTY J. HUO
CHRISTINE KASSIS
ARIELLE M. KURZWEIL
JOEL R. MOORE*
MILANA D. MOR
NIV MOR
JENNIFER PUGH
JASON M. ROTOLI
CORALYNN S. SACK*
CHRISTIAN SPANO
LISA ANN STEKETEE-WEAVER*
KATHLEEN L. WANIA
ALEXANDER E. WEBER
MARC A. WEISKOPF
JAN R. WONG

*Denotes students inducted as juniors

Class of 2009 Gold Humannism Honor Society Inductees

TORSTEN BEHRENS
ELIZABETH BUYERS
MOLLIE CHARON
JASON C. CHOI
DEIRDRE COLGAN
CLAIRICE COOPER
LAUREN DWORKIS
BENJAMIN GREENE
ZILLA HUSSAIN
AMEER IBRAHIM
SWAPNIL KACHARE
ARIELLE KURZWEIL
BETHANY LEMA
KIMBERLY MACKIN
NIV MOR
COLLEEN NUGENT
KIMBERLY PIRRONE
AMANDA HELENE ROBINSON
ELIZABETH TERRAGNOLI
WILLIAM TERRY

Dean's Letters of Commendation Years 1, 2 and 3

Dean's Letters of Commendation recognize exceptional coursework. In years one and two, they are awarded to students who earn honors grades in 75 percent of required courses or achieve 75 percent of available honors points each year. In year three, students who earn at least four honors and two high-satisfactory grades are honored.

Students earning letters of commendation for their work in academic year 2007-2008 are:

Year 1

GARY ALTWERGER
JOSEPH T. ANDREWS
DANIELLA ASCH
JESSICA BADLAM
JAMIE L. BENWAY
STEPHANIE G. BERGER
THOMAS ANDREW BEVILACQUA
PHILIP J. BRONDON
JOYCE M. CHANG
SAMANTHA M. CHASE
CHRISTINA W. CHENG
DAVID A. CHROSTOWSKI
ALICE L. CRANE
RACHEL M. FLINK
KATHERINE L. FREDLUND
ALEXIS ANNE GRATES
ERIC M. JABLONKA
CRAIG EDWARD KELLER
SOO CHON KIM
ANJUM FARUK KOREISHI
ADAM S. KORNICKI
BRIAN A. MACDONALD
ALLIE MARIE MASSARO
GINA MATTESON
JACLYN ERIN MORRISON
MEGAN ELIZABETH MURRAY
DAVID H. NGUYEN
LLANA POOTRAKUL
ANDREW LINDELL REYNOLDS
MIRABELLE B. SAJISEVI
ANDREY S. SINELNIKOV
JANEL ANN SMETANA
NICHOLAS MCKENZIE VENCI

Year 2

JOSHUA ARBESMAN
BRIAN PATRICK BATT
ROBERT D. BENNETT
GREGORY S. CANFIELD
ERIN ELIZABETH CONWAY
MARY KATHLEEN CORBETT
DANIEL C. DESIMONE
SARINA R. DOYLE
JOHN J. FARIA
JASON PAUL FELIBERTI
JANENE FUERCH
SIMON D. FUNG-KEE-FUNG
JENNIFER S. GALL
ANGELA R. GIRVIN
ELIZABETH ANNE GRUBER
COLIN M. HAINES
ALLEN W. HO

DARREN MICHAEL HUFFMAN
SARA A. HYLWA
ALEXANDER KOYFMAN
JENNIFER H. LEE
TERRENCE P. LESTER
JIA LIU
JUSTIN A. MAZZILLO
SEO Y. MOON
SCOTT ROBERT NODZO
MOROMOKE OLWABUKOLA ODINA
JEET PATEL
JONAH H. PATEL
MELISSA LYNN RAYHILL
ROBERT F. ROGERS
AMAN SHARMA
JENNY Y. SHEN
LISA MARIE STABEL
JONATHAN J. STONE
OMAR TANWEER
SARAH A. TINSLEY
ASHLEY L. WENTWORTH
AMY LYNN ZIELINSKI

Year 3

PAMELA D. BANNON
SURBHI BANSAL
COLLEEN ELIZABETH BELL
KELLY D. BERCHOU
MARGHERITA BRUNI
ANDREW J. BUKOWINSKI
SAMEER MADHAV DESHMUKH
DAVID EDWARD FEINER
ALEXIS J. FEUER
SWATHI GOPALAKRISHNAN
DANIELLE ELIZABETH HARMON
MEIR DAVID HERSHGOVITCH
ALAN J. HSU
BETTY J. HUO
CHRISTINE KASSIS
ARIELLE M. KURZWEIL
JOEL R. MOORE
MILANA D. MOR
JENNIFER L. PUGH
AMANDA HELENE ROBINSON
JASON M. ROTOLI
CORALYNN S. SACK
SARAH VERONICA SCARSELLETTA
CHRISTIAN SPANO
LISA ANN STEKETEE-WEAVER
KATHLEEN LOUISE WANIA
ALEXANDER EVAN WEBER
JAN R. WONG