



Carlos A. Pellegrini, M.D.  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor and Chairman

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I love this time of year. The air is filled with the anticipation and excitement of our incoming residents as our graduating chiefs confidently set out on the next phase of their professional careers.

As I watch this yearly rite of passage, I can see in our graduates the influences of all the faculty who helped train

them. Perhaps Henry Brooks Adams said it best when he noted that, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Our future colleagues have been influenced by former generations of surgeons and will, in turn, influence those who come after them.

The Editorial Board of *Surgery Synopsis* dedicates this issue to the memory of two individuals who helped guide countless residents throughout their training years: **Drs. Hilding Olson & Clifford Herman.**

Dr. Olson was the first graduate of our department and also the first resident trained by **Dr. Henry Harkins.** He served as Surgical Clerkship Program Director from 1954 -1973 and as Director of the UW Residency Program at Providence Medical Center from 1976 to 1987 when he retired at the rank of Clinical Professor Emeritus. In 1997, he was awarded our first annual *Department Distinguished Alumnus Award* in recognition of his contributions to teaching. Cliff Herman served on our faculty for 20 years and was Director of Surgery Resident Education from 1987 until his retirement in 1995 at the rank of Professor Emeritus. Dr. Herman and his wife Nancy provided the funds for *The Cliff & Nancy Herman Surgery Residents Library* on the 7th Floor of Harborview Medical Center. Tributes to both these fine teachers appear on pgs. 3 and 6 of this newsletter.

Equally important are today's noteworthy teachers whose influence is only beginning to be appreciated. Over the years, two of our faculty members have been singled out by graduat-

ing classes of the UW School of Medicine. **Dr. David Byrd** was chosen for the *Distinguished Teacher Award* in 1998 and again in 2000, at which time he was also invited to give the graduation address. **Dr. Hugh Foy** received the *Distinguished Teacher Award* in 1991, 1994, and was one of two recipients for the award selected by the Class of 2008. Hugh was also invited to give the commencement address in 2003 and again this year. We thought our friends and alumni would enjoy reading his inspirational talk and have included it in this issue beginning on the front cover. Because surgeons have less opportunity for contact with medical students, honors such as these are particularly rewarding and a reflection of the esteem in which the faculty of our department are held.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedica-

tion displayed by this year's chief residents who, by the time you read this, will be my professional colleagues.

I am delighted that many of them will remain here at the UW to pursue fellowships:

**Dr. Matthew Agnew** in cardiothoracic surgery, **Dr. Rachel Lundgren** in endovascular surgery, and **Dr.**

**Erik Van Eaton** in trauma/

surgical critical care at Harborview Medical Center. Also, **Dr. Patrick Combs** will be training in our plastic surgery residency program. Away from the Northwest, **Dr. Ilan Avin** moves to the University of Toronto for a surgical oncology fellowship, and **Dr. Kimberly Riehle** begins her pediatric surgery fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. From our Coordinated Plastic Surgery Residency Program, **Dr. Emilia Ploplys** begins private practice in Great Falls, Montana and **Dr. Jon Ver Halen** will pursue a microsurgery fellowship at MD Anderson in Houston.

I believe in the principle of "paying it forward". With that in mind, and as we acknowledge throughout this issue the impact past teachers have had on the lives of so many residents, I encourage every one of us to express our appreciation and gratitude by providing mentorship and teaching to those who join our department today. I am sure this is the best way to celebrate Dr. Olson's and Dr. Herman's lives.

---

BECAUSE SURGEONS HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY FOR  
CONTACT WITH MEDICAL STUDENTS, HONORS SUCH  
AS THESE ARE PARTICULARLY REWARDING AND  
A REFLECTION OF THE ESTEEM IN WHICH  
THE FACULTY OF OUR DEPARTMENT ARE HELD.

---