



Neufeld Society NEWSLETTER

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The Birth of the Neufeld Society

By M. Kenneth Mudge '79-R

The Neufeld Society had its beginnings on the night of the Loma Linda Orthopedic Alumni Dinner during the 1986 Annual Postgraduate Convention, but serious thought had been expressed prior to this dinner about the need for such a society. Several of the first graduates from the LLUMC orthopedic residency program in the early 1970s expressed the desire to keep in touch with their colleagues. The Society initiated its first honorary member at its first meeting when keynote speaker Charles A. Rockwood, Jr., M.D., professor and chairman of the department of orthopedics, University of Texas, kicked off the membership drive with a generous donation. Since then enthusiasm has grown as graduates have come to realize what the Society has to offer both to them and to the University.

At that first APC dinner meeting in 1986, Louis Smith '49, professor of surgery, LLUSM, pointed out the advantages of establishing a research foundation that would greatly enhance the academic program of the orthopedic department. The concept was pursued and we are now well on our way to establishing an Alonzo Neufeld Research Professorship in orthopedic surgery. The interest from the monies, held in trust by the LLU Foundation, will be used for research. More details will be available on this project in the near future.

Sigvard Hansen, M.D., a 1987 APC speaker, was enthused with the research funding donated exclusively by the faculty of the LLUMC orthopedic department. He indicated that the orthopedic department at his hospital in Seattle is



Alonzo Neufeld '35

where it is today only because of the research foundation which was established some years ago. Dr. Hansen, our second honorary member, also contributed generously to the Neufeld Society.

As all are aware, Alonzo Neufeld's '35 continuing interest in providing ever better treatment for orthopedic patients has been a great asset to the orthopedic community. His enthusiasm rubbed off on all who studied under him. He converted his garage into a lab where, during hours of experimentation, he developed a variety of internal fixation and traction devices. It was for the orthopedic legacy left by Dr. Neufeld, that his name was chosen by the Loma Linda Orthopedic Alumni Group to identify our Society. It is the objective of the Society founders that the academic inquisitiveness exemplified by Dr. Neufeld be the inspiration of the LLUMC residency graduates.

The Neufeld Society membership will consist of orthopedists who have completed their residency training and/or are graduates of either LLUMC, WMMC, or LLUSM. On our membership list also are the names of all fellows who have done postgraduate training at either medical center. Honorary membership has been extended to Drs. Charles Rockwood, Sigvard Hansen, Donald Wiss, and Vert Mooney. Current Neufeld Society officers are: President: **Larry Davis '61**, Secretary: **Ken Mudge '79-R**, Treasurer: **Richard Rouhe '65**, Neufeld Society Newsletter Editor; **Chris Jobe '75-aff**, 1988 APC Program Chairman; **James Shook '77-A**, Members at Large: **Edward Miller '73**, and **Kenneth Lay '66**.

The Neufeld Society officers met on October 16, 1987, to plan the APC orthopedic program. Under Dr. Shook's organization the program provides for both educational insights and social functions. The committee is also working on a working policy and guidelines that will be presented at our next meeting.

The stated purposes of the Society are:

1. To interchange information among its members in order to aid in the practice and further development of orthopedic surgery;
2. To pursue and accomplish orthopedic research;
3. To establish a Neufeld Research Foundation;
4. To support the Alonzo Neufeld Research Professorial Chair in orthopedic surgery;
5. To encourage continuing contact among the graduates of the programs and to foster fellowship.

The Neufeld Society is taking an active role in the orthopedic section of the

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APC on the LLUMC campus. This is an excellent opportunity to attend a two-day meeting and also to catch up on the news and happenings among its members as well as the latest developments within the University.

The annual membership fee is \$100, which is totally deductible through the Alumni Association. Checks should be made out to the Alumni Association, School of Medicine of LLU, and marked the Neufeld Society. The funds will be kept separately for the exclusive use of the Neufeld Society. Members will receive the *Newsletter* and other pertinent information throughout the year concerning functions and endeavors of the Society.

Members will benefit by establishing on-going relationships with fellow graduates. The LLUMC residency teaching staff are already feeling the support and interest generated through the voices of active orthopedic residency alumni.

Response and enthusiasm is growing rapidly. Visiting alumni will witness an injection of academic stimulus and interest which will lead us to new horizons and a bright future for the department of orthopedics at LLUMC. Every alumnus will want to be a part of the new future by becoming a supporting member of the Neufeld Society.



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The *Neufeld Society Newsletter* is published by the Alumni Association, School of Medicine of LLU, and is free to all orthopedists. Your written request will place you on the mailing list.

President: Larry Davis '61
Secretary: Kenneth Mudge '79-R
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All Neufeld Society correspondence and manuscripts should be directed to the Editor, Neufeld Society Newsletter, 11245 Anderson Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354.

Orthopedic Research Fund

by Larry Davis '61, Alonzo J. Neufeld Research Chair

No more fitting name than the name of Alonzo J. Neufeld '35 could be chosen to symbolize orthopedic research at Loma Linda University. Those of us who had the privilege of training under this man knew him as a very wise, compassionate, and gentle man.

Dr. Neufeld was the epitome of the inquiring mind. He was never satisfied with the status quo; he constantly strove for a better method.

His perseverance led to a vast array of gadgets and devices that better served the needs of the orthopedic patient. He is known internationally for his work with the nail plate which revolutionized the care of the intertrochanteric fracture. Of equal importance, but perhaps lesser known, are his ingenious improvements in traction techniques, percutaneous pins for the subcapital fracture and slipped capital epiphysis, dynamictraction for the comminuted wrist fracture, self-cutting pin removal device, total hip dislocator/reducer, and dynamicexternal long bone fixator, to mention just a few. But we who knew him personally gained far more than just learning a better mechanism. We knew a man of principle — a man who lived, practiced, and

taught by principle. Those principles often took the form of pithy 'Neufeldisms' which, when enunciated with that knowing twinkle in his eye, had a way of sticking with you.

We knew a man who had a way of bringing out the best in those around him. He, personally and directly, taught and supervised the training of over 100 orthopedic surgeons. The fact that his practice group spawned six orthopedic professors and department chairmen says something important about the man and the men that surrounded him.

On the night he was honored in 1986, scores of letters were sent in by his former students, residents, and colleagues — all attesting to the respect and esteem in which he was held. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar above scholars. His legacy is not just better hardware, but better thinking, better ideas, and better people.

I believe I am a better person for having known the 'Chief'. I can think of no more appropriate gesture than to support on-going orthopedic investigation in the name of Dr. Alonzo Neufeld. He would like that.

Chairman Appointed

by Christopher M. Jobe '75-aff

The office of the dean, School of Medicine of LLU, announced the appointment of William P. Bunnell, M.D., as the new chairman of the department of orthopedic surgery, Loma Linda University. After a six-month search by a select search committee, Dr. Bunnell remained their first choice. They were delighted when he accepted their invitation to LLU.

During the 1987 Alumni Postgraduate Convention Dr. Bunnell addressed the orthopedic alumni and described his new

job as "the best opportunity in academic orthopedic surgery in North America." During the decision process to come to LLU Dr. Bunnell made several visits to the campus and included his family in the final decision. Moving from Wilmington, Delaware, to Redlands, California, the family considered not only the academic opportunities but also the friendly and warm way in which they were received by both residents and senior staff. The Bunnells were also impressed by the interaction of the resi-

dents and senior staff.

Bill and his wife, Marcia, began their road to LLU at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he studied medicine and served his internship. He took his orthopedic surgery residency at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York, from where he went to the duPont Institute for his first stay from 1973-74, where he did a fellowship in pediatric orthopedic surgery. Bunnell was next appointed assistant professor of orthopedic surgery and pediatrics at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, where he served from 1974-79. He then returned to duPont where he was appointed director of orthopedics until 1987.

In spite of his busy medical practice, the Bunnells have also found time to raise a family. Their older daughter, Jennifer (Jenny), is a freshman at Wheaton College in Illinois, and their younger daughter, Christine (Christie), is enrolled as a junior at Arrowhead Christian Academy in Redlands, California. Marcia plans to continue the civic activities she pursued in Wilmington.

Changes Bunnell has made in the department since taking over in July, 1987, include 1) a reduction in the number of hospitals in which the residents serve, 2) reorganization of the academic curriculum, 3) a stronger emphasis on research and publishing professional papers, and 4) exploring ways in which the Neufeld Society can aid in basic science research.

An application for accreditation by the Residency Review Committee was prepared based on the reorganization and submitted for action by the Committee at their December 19, 1987, meeting. The application was approved for two years beginning July 1, 1988, when the current accreditation expires. The faculty has enthusiastically accepted the changes and are optimistic about the future of the department of orthopedics at LLU.



Christopher M. Jobe '75-aff

Departmental Accreditation

by William Bunnell, M.D., Chairman,
Department of Orthopedics, LLUMC

Word was received from the Residency Review Committee in December, 1987, that provisional approval for the orthopedic surgery residency program would be granted for two years. This good news ended a long period of frustration and uncertainty following an adverse action by the same committee one year earlier.

A reorganization of the residency program was undertaken soon after my arrival on July 1, 1987. The rotation schedules were consolidated to include LLUMC, San Bernardino County Medical Center, and the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans Hospital. This level of coverage limits night call to no more often than every fourth night.

The conference schedule was revised and designed on a two-year repeating cycle. Grand rounds is held at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. The major clinical topics in orthopedics are organized into a series of approximately 100 topics which are presented by residents, followed by staff discussion. A great deal of time goes into the preparation of these conferences by the residents, who provide a detailed outline of their talk with current bibliography and a slide presentation of the material. The quality of these conferences has been excellent and attendance, which has been growing steadily, is now near 50.

Indications conference occurs on Wednesday morning, at which time all operative cases from the previous week are reviewed. The X-rays are sorted the night before and films are mounted on an alternator, thus facilitating clinical review. Pre- and postoperative films on approximately 20-25 cases are reviewed each week with a discussion on the pertinent points of the case. Orthopedic seminars are held on Thursday morning for residents in their first two years. A reading program has been designed in order to insure that residents will have read several basic text books in orthopedic surgery in their entirety by the end of the second year. A list of questions is passed out ahead of time and a faculty member attends the conference to discuss the reading material.

The basic science seminar is held on

Thursday evening with a two-year curriculum covering the basic science subjects taught by Medical Center personnel from appropriate departments, including radiology, pathology, internal medicine, rheumatology, and rehabilitation medicine.

Future plans for the department include the recruitment of additional faculty members with new areas of expertise (adult lumbar spine disease and orthopedic oncology), the acquisition of additional space, and the establishment of a credible research program.



William Bunnell, M.D.

History of Orthopedic Residency at WMMC

by Larry Davis '61

After training nearly one hundred orthopedic surgeons over more than a half century, the orthopedic residency program at the White Memorial Medical Center was officially terminated on June 30, 1987.

A multitude of reasons could be cited for the program's demise, but two factors stand out. First, there is an enormous national pressure to diminish the number of surgical specialists. Secondly, the increasingly stringent fiscal policies of third-party payers, especially govern-

mental insurers, created decreasing hospital patient populations and economic strains all too familiar to many specialists, especially to inner city hospitals such as the WMMC. The White's orthopedic residency program was the only free-standing private hospital program in California, and thereby seemed to be the primary target for disaccreditation.

In winding down the program a smooth transition was affected from the orthopedic clinic as we knew it, to private orthopedic patient care. The attending staff has stayed on and continues to provide orthopedic services to the community. Orthopedic teaching to family practice residents and medical students continues as well. Fortunately, each of the residents in training has found a position in an accredited program and will qualify for board certification on schedule.

The orthopedic residency training program began in 1935 with Alonzo Neufeld '35 as its first resident in the then two-year program. Upon completion of his residency in 1937, Neufeld joined his mentor G. Mosser Taylor '24. Together they developed the primary orthopedic training program of the College of Medical Evangelists, later to become Loma Linda University. Out of devotion and necessity, and with enormous energy and innovation, they made monumental advances in back surgery and fracture care, especially the development of the Neufeld nail for hip fractures. With a strong teaching program at the Los Angeles County Hospital, they made orthopedics one of the outstanding departments in the LLU School of Medicine. Of the nearly one hundred orthopedic surgeons they trained, no more than one or two failed to pass their board certification examination on the first try — an enviable record.

Reminiscing brings to mind a flood of names and faces — even to one who didn't come to CME until twenty years after Dr. Neufeld joined the teaching staff. Teaching staff members came and went. Some, like G. Mosser Taylor, Alonzo Neufeld, and T. Gordon Reynolds '23 stayed on until they died. Dedicated professors like Wilfred Emery '36, William E. Brown '52, and Dr. Tom Coleman, remained on the faculty for many years past retirement. Others, like Clyde Nash '55 and Dr. Marty Koffman, with tenures of over 25 and 20 years, respectively,

continue to attend.

Drs. Taylor, Neufeld, and Vernon Nickel '44-A assembled a group of orthopedists who are unmatched in their achievements. From their group came a total of six professors and department chairmen that include Drs. Vert Mooney, professor and chairman; division of orthopaedics, University of Texas; Shannon Stauffer, professor and chairman, division of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; and Mark Hoffer, chief, children's orthopedic service, Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Downey, California. Dr. Neufeld continued to teach until his death in October, 1984. Although a dynamic leader and innovator, he usually managed to enlist someone else to keep the organizational wheels turning. Residency secretaries, starting from the early '50s were T. Gordon Reynolds, William Scharffenberg, Jr., '45, William Brown, Louis Kang '60, Jim Mays, and Clyde Nash.

Certainly one of the most faithful of the teaching staff was William Brown who, over a 30 year period, was responsible for admitting more patients to the WMMC and for doing more orthopedic surgery than any other individual. He always found room in his busy practice to

invite another orthopedist or finishing resident to join his group and share the teaching responsibilities. Dr. Brown still serves the organization which supported the residency program, and his associates continue to be the primary orthopedic group at WMMC.

The closure of the orthopedic residency program at WMMC comes with a certain sense of loss and sadness — like losing an old friend. On the other hand, those of us who trained at WMMC share an enormous sense of pride in the heritage of orthopedic excellence which we see continuing at LLUMC.

The orthopedic staffs of WMMC and LLUMC have made a substantial monetary contribution to the Neufeld Chair for Orthopedic Research, recognizing the efforts of many residents that contributed to the accumulation of the teaching fund. Private universities cannot continue to exist without endowment and alumni support.

Dr. Neufeld was the one individual who knew and taught every resident who trained at WMMC. It was he who taught us the principles and the 'Neufeldisms.' We all share a great sense of pride for having been his students. It is most fitting that we join in supporting orthopedic education and research at LLU in his honor.

This is your invitation to become a member of The Neufeld Society

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