Written evidence places the origins of our program to 1921 when Dr. J.P. Schwartz started training under Dr. Simeon L. Taylor in the now closed Des Moines General Hospital\(^1\). Similar to some other American departments of surgery, our roots trace to Dr. William S. Halsted of Johns Hopkins University Department of Surgery in Baltimore, Maryland, as Dr. S.L. Taylor trained there. Des Moines General Hospital transferred its residency to Mercy Medical Center\(^2\), Des Moines, IA in July 2001, where surgical training continues to this day. The program was eventually transitioned from the oldest osteopathic surgical training program to Single accreditation under the ACGME rules in 2013 and then again in 2019.

Dr. Taylor’s own graduate education included 2½ years at the Still College of Osteopathy and 3 years of medicine at the University of Nebraska, thus earning both DO and MD titles. He then moved to Maryland as an intern in St. Agnes’ Hospital in Baltimore, and continued surgical residency at the John Hopkins University under direction of Dr. William Halsted (Johns Hopkins Department of Surgery 1886-1992\(^3\)) until 1909, when he returned to Des Moines, IA and

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\(^1\) Other names of Des Moines General Hospital were Metropolitan Medical Center and Mercy Capitol Medical Center. The hospital was closed and sold to the State of Iowa to make room for expansion of the State administrative buildings and demolished in 2013.

\(^2\) Oldest continually operating hospital in Iowa, established in 1893 and moved to present ground in 1895.

started his practice\textsuperscript{4,5}.

Simeon Lafayette Taylor, AB, DO, MD\textsuperscript{6} provided postgraduate surgical training in Des Moines area independently of the local Still College of Osteopathy\textsuperscript{7}. Based on historical documents Dr. Taylor’s “very appearance commanded respect,” while his diligent work culminated in his Taylor Clinic drawing patients from surrounding states, even in competition with the growing Mayo Clinic of the Mayo brothers in Rochester, MN. Dr. Taylor was a preacher prior to becoming a surgeon, and later became the president of Still College. Taylor Clinic survived his departure from practice, and Dr. J.P. Schwartz continued the clinic together with Dr. H. Graney. The exact date of the clinic transformation remains unclear. Dr. Norman Rose recalled “Taylor Clinic”, but it wasn’t in existence by the time of his surgical practice in the

\begin{table}[h]
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\begin{tabular}{cc}
Simeon L. Taylor, DO, MD & John P. Schwartz, DO \\
\end{tabular}
\caption{Profiles of Simeon L. Taylor and John P. Schwartz}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{4} Des Moines: The pioneer of municipal progress and reform of the Middle West. Volume II. The SJ Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago. 1911. P 209-210

\textsuperscript{5} Johns Hopkins connection also confirmed via personal communication with Dr. Norman Rose on April 18, 2019 (JF). Dr. Rose recalled program’s connection to Johns Hopkins Department of Surgery being discussed by late Dr. J. P. Schwartz. Dr. James F. Mitchell, one of recognized trainees of Dr. William S. Halsted, apparently played a significant role as well, although those details remain unclear.

\textsuperscript{6} The Stillonian 1926. Still College of Osteopathy, Des Moines

\textsuperscript{7} Still College of Osteopathy, subsequently College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Des Moines University; established 1898
The first documented trainee of this program is John Peter Schwartz, DO (aka “JP”, “Pinkie”), who entered as intern in Des Moines General Hospital in 1921 and became “assistant” surgeon the next year to Dr. S. L. Taylor. Dr. JP Schwartz himself would become a pre-eminent general surgeon, the President of the Still College, and also program director\(^8\) ("trainer" as it was described at that time) of the Des Moines General program until Norman Rose, DO took over in 1962. Dr. Rose directed the program until 1992 when he moved to Florida, where he continues teaching in medical education and is associated with Larkin Memorial Hospital, Larkin, FL.

The second identifiable surgical trainee is Howard Graney, DO, who graduated Still College of Osteopathy in 1933. He trained under J.P. Schwartz from 1935 through 1940, and joined the staff of Des Moines General Hospital afterwards. Dr. Graney was never a program director, yet he was a nationally recognized surgeon remembered as “gentleman”\(^9\), who shaped this program with quality and the historical breadth of skills our trainees attained. To this day, Des Moines University maintains the Howard Graney Scholarship to promote surgical education.

\(^8\) Program leader in 1935-1962

Norman Rose, DO, FACOS, FICS trained under Drs. JP Schwartz and Graney, remained at the Des Moines General Hospital after completion of the training, and took over program leadership in the 1960s. The residency continued to take one new (occasionally 2) residents per year. Under the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) rules of that time, training required a one-year rotating internship followed by three years of surgical training. Subsequent entry into practice with board certification required the aspiring fellow to perform cases in the presence of an independent board-certified surgeon, thus further ensuring quality with “direct observation”, an approach adopted by the ACGME\textsuperscript{10} much later.

Des Moines General Hospital was a highly successful osteopathic hospital, ultimately reaching a zenith of 250 beds, 12 operating rooms, a 12 bed ICU by the 1990s, and was highly sought-after by the Des Moines metropolitan population. Several trainees (William Stanley, DO & Daniel Waters, DO) went on to complete cardiothoracic surgery fellowships at the famed Cleveland Clinic\textsuperscript{11}. By the 2000’s, there was a burgeoning effort to unify the US medical environment, aimed at unifying osteopathic and allopathic credentials already in place, and the process aiming for the merging of residencies and fellowships was begun. Many osteopathic surgeons obtained staff credentials in other Des Moines hospitals regarded as allopathic institutions. The most recognizable of these was Kendall Reed, DO\textsuperscript{12}. This cross-over, combined with the State of Iowa’s need for the Des Moines General Hospital’s grounds as the site for its new administrative building led to dialogue about the hospital’s eventual closure. Mercy Des Moines purchased the Des Moines General Hospital for temporary

\begin{figure}[h]
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\includegraphics[width=0.4\textwidth]{kendall_reed}
\caption{Kendall Reed, DO}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{10} ACGME, The Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education; \url{www.acgme.org}

\textsuperscript{11} Widely recognized as the best cardiothoracic program in the USA and world for decades. Dr. Water was a fellow 1987-1989 while Dr. Stanley about a decade earlier.

\textsuperscript{12} Dr. Reed came from Texas and did his surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Minnesota, thus obtaining both osteopathic and allopathic certification. He joined Dr. Norman Rose and others in 1986.
management and gradually transferred assets from the General Hospital to its main hospital at 6th Avenue. Mercy subsequently closed the hospital and sold its acreage to the State of Iowa as planned. The State of Iowa consequently later gave the Certificate of Need that allowed the construction of Mercy West Lakes hospital in Clive, IA in 2009, as a response to the westward expansion of the Des Moines metro area into heavily populated suburbs such as West Des Moines and Waukee.

The General Surgery residency program transfer occurred in July 2001 under leadership of Kendall Reed, DO and the program grew in early 2000s to four residents per year. Dr. Reed led the growth of the program after transfer, and the Mercy Medical Center at that time had only the surgery and family practice residencies. The surgery residency was so integrated with the clinical practice led by the dominant surgical group that residents actually had their mailboxes in the Surgical Affiliates private office when I joined the group in 2008. Administrative duties of Dr. Reed increased after he became a Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Des Moines University, and the program was for a short time led by Bradley Smith, DO (2005-2006). Charles D. Goldman, MD took over the program in 2007 and led it until 2016. During that time the program maintained accreditation status by the AOA and achieved its initial ACGME accreditation in 2013. Thus, this program was the first institutions nationally that held both available accreditation statuses, even before the first Single Accreditation System rules of 2015 were published.

Surgeon staffing challenges and increasing clinical volume in both the downtown 600+ bed Mercy Medical Center and nearly 100-bed Mercy West Lakes Hospital led to amplified pressure on both staff surgeons and residents leading to dissatisfaction, all culminating in the temporary

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13 Downtown Des Moines had historically too large concentration of hospitals at that time had. Beyond Des Moines General Hospital there was Mercy, Lutheran Hospital, Methodist Hospital (later UnityPoint), Broadlawns Hospital (county hospital) within 3-mile radius, with VA Hospital being close by.
loss of the ACGME accreditation in 2016-17\textsuperscript{14} (the AOA approval was maintained). The program had 21 residents at that time, of which 5 graduated, 12 transferred to other programs with the impressive help of Mercy administration\textsuperscript{15}, one chose not pursue training further at that time, and three residents stayed on under the AOA approval despite having the opportunity to go on to other ACGME-accredited programs\textsuperscript{16}.

Jan Franko, MD, PhD, FACS assumed program leadership in November 2016 under arduous conditions. The program assessed its options and by consensus went on to the rebuilding phase. We have recruited via the NMS match 4 interns starting in July 2017. Together with three seniors from the prior program (two PGY5 and one PGY4) the program’s cohort was seven residents. In light of that limitation, we redesigned the education and clinical work structure of the residents. Strict adherence to the ACGME work hour rules resulting in many nights and weekend days during which the hospital was without residents’ coverage and thus relying on attending physicians only. The redesigned program achieved its ACGME accreditation in January 2019 by virtue of an ACGME approval action retroactive to July 2018.

Acknowledgement

This program’s history review was initiated after obtaining the ACGME accreditation in January 2019. I am in debt to many individuals who helped with data collection and by personal account. Many thanks to Normal Rose, DO; Kendall Reed, DO; Daniel Waters, DO; Charles Goldman, MD; Dennis Whitmer, DO; Mark Smolik, MD; Mrs. Key Grigsby (DMU Archivist & Special Collection librarian); Mrs. Andrea Wilcox, MHA (program coordinator since 2016).

\textsuperscript{14} Indicated by the ACGME Letter of Notification from October 2016 withdrawing accreditation as of June 30, 2017

\textsuperscript{15} All received support including financial provisions well beyond contractual and ACGME-mandated rules. Personal witness account of Jan Franko. Major assistance from then-CEO Mr. Robert Ritz and then-CMO Tommy Ibrahim, MD.

\textsuperscript{16} William Nechtow, DO & Brodi Smith, DO (Graduated 2018); Paul Pierson, DO (Graduated 2019)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>Fort Des Moines U.S. Army post established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Cottage Hospital opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Sisters of Mercy from Davenport, Iowa open first hospital in Des Moines. Begin in temporary quarters at Hoyt Sherman Place. First permanent hospital opened at 4th and Ascension Streets, north of downtown, in 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Dr. S.S. Still College of Osteopathy is founded</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15, 1910</td>
<td>Still COM opens Des Moines General Hospital (in 1909 purchased Iowa Sanitarium building)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Dr. S. Taylor purchases Des Moines General Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>First verifiable documents of formal surgical postgraduate training in Des Moines (JP Schwartz starts as intern under Dr. Taylor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Des Moines General Hospital is purchased by Mercy and program transfers to Mercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Initial ACGME accreditation obtained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>ACGME accreditation re-obtained</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Bibliography**

The Stillonian 1926. Still College of Osteopathy, Des Moines


Personal communication with Dr. Normal Rose on April 18, 2019 (JF)