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Office of the Chairman  
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December 18, 1990

Chairman  
Department of Surgery  
Medical College of Ohio  
P.O. Box 10008  
Toledo, Ohio 43699

Dear Chairman of Surgery, Year 2014:

I am pleased to write this summary of the first 25 years of the Medical College of Ohio Department of Surgery. It has been a productive 25 years for our surgical faculty! The following will briefly review some of the highlights and notable events associated with the early development of this department.

On January 1, 1969 Marion Anderson, M.D. was appointed as the first Chairman of the department. Dr. Anderson was an imaginative leader and should be credited for laying the foundation for the department. He served as Chairman until October 17, 1972 when he was appointed President of the Medical College of Ohio, a position he held until September 30, 1977.

William Blakemore, M.D. was appointed to succeed Dr. Anderson. Among his accomplishments were the development of adult and pediatric cardiac surgery at the Medical College of Ohio and the establishment of a surgical research program including the recruitment of several Ph.D. investigators as full-time faculty of the department. He served as Chairman from 1973 to 1979.

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I have served in this position since July 1, 1980. My overall goal during this 10 year period has been to develop surgical subspecialty programs. A total of 20 full-time faculty have been recruited within this 10 year period providing for the initial establishment of the Divisions of Otolaryngology, Surgical Oncology, Peripheral Vascular Surgery, Trauma and Critical Care and the expansion of the Divisions of Urology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Pediatric Surgery and General Surgery. Special program development has included hyperbaric oxygen therapy, heart transplantation, laser surgery and intra-operative radiation therapy. During this period the department has spawned several new free-standing departments including Orthopaedic Surgery, Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

Our most valued accomplishment in the past 10 years has been the achievement of excellence in our undergraduate and graduate programs in Surgery. Surgery consistently leads all clinical disciplines as regards the scores of our medical students on National Board Examinations. Our residency training programs in General Surgery, Urology and Plastic Surgery attract graduates of medical schools from coast to coast.

Those of us who have served the department during these first 25 years have recognized that, given the early stage of development of this institution, our responsibility has been to develop the patient care programs in order to provide the environment for excellence in education and the achievement of broad in-depth programs in research. We in the department in 1990 wish you well and have every confidence your achievements will be recognized throughout the national and international community of Surgery.

Sincerely yours,



Neil R. Thomford, M.D.  
Chairman

NRT/cb