

2012 Chief Residents' Dinner

The Department of Surgery held its 2012 Graduating Chiefs Residents & Fellows Dinner on Friday, June 22, 2012 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. **Dr. Dana Lyngge, Associate Professor**, practicing general surgery at the Veteran's Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VA), was this year's Master of Ceremonies.

This annual dinner reception honors the Department's graduating residents and fellows (listed below) as well as provides an opportunity for presentation of special awards and recognitions. Among the awards this year was: the Faculty Teaching Award, given to **Dr. Ron Maier** and a special staff recognition award given to **Ms. Gina Coluccio**, manager of the General Surgery Residency program.



Dr. Ron Maier, Chief of Trauma, Critical Care & Burn Surgery (pictured left), was the recipient of the 2012 Faculty Teaching Award. This award, established in 1989, is in memory of former faculty member Dr. John K. Stevenson and salutes teaching excellence and dedication to resident education. **Dr. Shahram**

Aarabi, incoming Chief Resident, presented the award. In his comments he said, "not only is Dr. Maier an excellent mentor and teacher, but over the years many of the previous teaching award recipients have been his trainees. Incredibly, about one-third of the current clinical faculty in the entire Department of Surgery were trained by him as residents or fellows."

Dr. Aarabi continued, "what I've learned is that mentorship, like so many human endeavors, is an art that requires balance between conflicting impulses. It requires that the mentor be demanding yet respectful, that he be at the pinnacle of his field while at the same time being humble, that he remain constantly busy and yet always has time to teach, that he advocate for the professional success of his mentee while also realizing the importance of family and personal success. And, perhaps most importantly, it requires that the mentor be an icon and role-model while at the same time maintaining a true humanism and caring about his students. Obviously, Dr. Maier has mastered the art of mentorship, and we're all very lucky for that."



Ms. Gina Coluccio, Manager for the General Surgery Residency Program (pictured left) received special recognition presented by **Dr. Karen Horvath, Professor, Division of General Surgery and Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program**. Gina was recognized for her significant contributions over her 30 year tenure within

the Department of Surgery and was awarded an honorary title of 'Outstanding Chief Resident.' Although it was done with an element of humor, the Department wanted to give Gina the highest and most honored distinction for being "superior and exceptional" in each of the seven core competencies used to evaluate our residents: Fund of Knowledge; Patient Care (or in this case, 'Resident Care'); Technical Skills; Practice-Based Learning and Improvement; Systems-Based Practice; Interpersonal Communication Skills; and Professionalism.

Dr. Horvath concluded "when you get to work with someone like Gina every day - someone who makes you love your job and laugh through even the tough times - it all boils down to one thing: Gina Coluccio makes the world a better place by being who she is and we are the fortunate beneficiaries. Gina we thank you and we love you."



Group photo from Chief Residents' Dinner. From left to right: Karen Horvath, Samuel Mandell, Heather Wheeler, Carlos Pellegrini, Martin Montenov, Anton Mccourtie, Nader Massarweh and Elizabeth FitzSullivan.

Other awards presented that evening:

University of Washington
Department of Surgery Student Research Award -
Recipient Dr. Gabriel Wallace

Henry Harkins Award -
Recipient Dr. Cameron Gaskill

David Tapper Teaching & Leadership Award -
Recipient Dr. Samuel Mandell

Nurse of the Year Award -
Recipient Andrea Gahl, RN

2012 Graduating Chief Residents -

Coordinated Plastic Surgery Program:
Dr. Kari Keys – faculty position split between the Veterans Affairs and Harborview Medical Center in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Dr. Daniel Liu – group practice with University Plastic Surgery in Chicago, IL
Dr. Daniel Suver – joining Jana Cole, MD (former UW graduate and faculty) in practice in Anchorage, AK

General Surgery Program:
Dr. Elizabeth FitzSullivan – Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Samuel Mandell – Burn Fellowship followed by Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship at Harborview Medical Center
Dr. Nader Massarweh – Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Dr. Anton McCourtie – private practice at the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center in Wenatchee, WA
Dr. Martin Montenovio – Abdominal Transplantation Fellowship at the University of Washington
Dr. Heather Wheeler – community practice general surgery at Valley Medical Center in Renton, WA

Fellows Finishing June 2012:

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care:
Dr. Scott Brakenridge, Dr. Alexis Gage and
Dr. Thomas Weiser

Transplant Surgery:
Dr. George Rofaiel

Burn Surgery:
Dr. Jon Gayken and Dr. Lisa Rae

Craniofacial Surgery:
Dr. James Smart (Microsurgery) and Dr. Julie Holding

Vascular Surgery:
Dr. Sherene Shalhoub

Cardiothoracic Surgery:
Dr. Rob Meguid and Dr. Awori Hayanga

Pediatric Surgery:
Dr. Robert Ricca, Jr.

Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery:
Dr. Edward Auyang, Dr. Marcelo Hinojosa and
Dr. Maximillano Loviscek

The Department of Surgery congratulates all of the graduating residents and fellows on this important milestone and wishes them well in their new endeavors.

Other News in the Department of Surgery...

- **Dr. David R. Flum, Professor, Associate Chair of Research and the Director of the Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)**, provided insights to several areas regarding the growing obesity epidemic in the HBO documentary film *'The Weight of the Nation.'*
- **Drs. Karen Horvath, Professor & Erik Van Eaton, Assistant Professor & Adjunct Assistant Professor: Medical Education Biomedical Informatics** and past Surgery fellow and resident, **Drs. Dave Lal & Alysandra Schwarz** participated in a video production on how a career in surgery is being redefined. *Redefining Surgery* is a project sponsored by the Association for Academic Surgery, the Society for University Surgeons, and the American College of Surgeons to provide information for young bright students contemplating a career in surgery.
- The Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program recently received an accreditation status of four full years from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Since 2007 (the last accreditation site visit), **Dr. Benjamin W. Starnes, Program Director**, and Anne G. Wallace, Program Administrator, have made significant changes in the fellowship's curriculum including: significant increases in the amount of OR and on-call experience for fellows; a weekly schedule that includes daily morning report and weekly breakfast meetings with the program director; a more detailed evaluation system and a focused emphasis on faculty development. The UW GME Office was instrumental in their preparation for the site visit, and the Division deeply appreciates their continued support of the UW educational programs.