

# SURGERY Synopsis

## Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD — The First 20 Years as Department Chair by Ron V. Maier, MD



Ron V. Maier, MD  
Professor and  
Jane and Donald D. Trunkey  
Chair in Trauma Surgery  
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Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD,  
FACS, FRCSI, (Hon.)  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor & Chair  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington

I was asked by the Editorial Board of Surgery Synopsis to be the guest editor for this issue. I readily agreed when they explained to me that in this issue, many of the items would be recognizing Dr. Pellegrini's 20 years of service as Chair of the Department of Surgery. A central portion of the Harkins Symposium was devoted to a celebration and tribute to his leadership. Faculty at the University, former mentors, colleagues and friends came from literally around the world to let us know what Dr. Pellegrini has meant to their lives and careers. We were regaled with stories, accolades and some "interesting" photographs for two hours. A more complete description of the day's events is later in this issue. Perhaps the best part of this celebration was that we were able to keep the tribute a complete secret from Dr. Pellegrini. As those of you know, it is, indeed, a rare event that Carlos is not aware.

This issue will not attempt to provide a complete biography nor catalogue all of his many awards, contributions and achievements. But, in addition to the tributes from invited guests, we also want to present Dr. Pellegrini as those of us in the Department see him: in the OR, in teaching rounds, working with his Fellows, in leadership conversations, and at his home. And, we want to talk a little about what his leadership has meant to the Department.

Recruited in 1992, Dr. Pellegrini became Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington. He came to us by way of the University of California, San Francisco, via the University of Chicago, via Argentina. He brought with him a personal and world perspective that has led him to be a fearless and innovative leader. When he came to the Department, we had 46 clinical faculty members. Today, we have 96 clinical faculty – a gain of 50 that more than doubled our assistant, associate and professor-level faculty.

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Friends & Colleagues of the Department of Surgery:

I am pleased to present the Fall 2012 edition of *Surgery Synopsis*.

In this issue we are highlighting the 63rd Strauss Lectureship & Harkins Surgical Symposium events that have just concluded. The Harkins Symposium presentations this year were outstanding and included a number of special, and surprise, guests. The Strauss Lecture, by **Dr. Michael Zinner**, Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School was outstanding. Dr. Zinner discussed, cogently and succinctly, the "Evolution of Health Care in America: Where did we come from? Where are we going?"

This year's Harkins Symposium featured a number of speakers from outside our Department. These were surprise guests to me and came upon invitation from the Chiefs of the Divisions to help celebrate my 20th year as Chair of the Department. This was an incredibly meaningful event for me and I thank everyone who had a hand in making it happen. In addition, we had outstanding presentations from Department members.

As is our custom at the Harkins' Symposium and Dinner, we announced the distinguished alumnus for the year. This year, it was our pleasure to present this award to two distinguished alumni - a wife and husband team - **Dr. Karen Guice and Dr. Keith Oldham**. Both are individually deserving of the award, but their relationship has created a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. They have made more than a double impact upon the practice of surgery.

Our faculty profile of this issue is **Dr. Loren Engrav**, Professor Emeritus within the Division of Plastic Surgery. He has been a prime mover in creating modern burn surgical care and was the co-Director of the Burn Center for many years. He retired from practice in September 2012. He has left the UW and society better for the time he has spent in research, education and clinical care. We recognize his many achievements.

We welcome six **new faculty** to our Department and invite you to read about them. We are proud to have successfully recruited these fine individuals.

As I complete my 20th year as Chair of this great Department, I am proud to have worked and continue to work with so many fine faculty and staff. And, I salute the many that have come before. All have contributed to creating this illustrious Department.

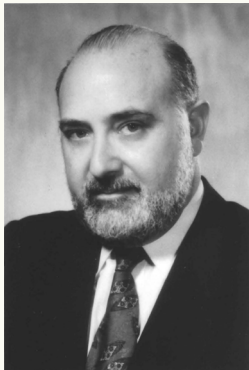
I hope that you enjoy this issue of *Surgery Synopsis*.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI (Hon.)  
*The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington



Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS,  
FRCSI, (Hon.)  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor & Chair  
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Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini  
circa 1992

During this 20-year span, Dr. Pellegrini built the Department into a clinical powerhouse – not just by the number of faculty, but also programmatically. As a result of his own research and clinical interests, the Center for Esophageal & Gastric Surgery was established. He championed a Vascular Surgery Institute that is now a reality. He advocated for an expanded Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery service

at UWMC. He brought robotic surgery into the ORs for GI surgery and in other specialties. He actively backed the Cardiac Surgery program as it expanded into new locations, as well as services. Within the last year, our cardiac surgeons have implanted, as a bridge, the first totally artificial heart in the region – and then successfully transplanted a heart into the patient.

His passion and attention to surgical education for the germination and training of the next generation of surgical leaders has made our residency and fellowship programs top-tier, with our general surgery residency program routinely one of the top 10 programs throughout the country. Our resident recruitments represent the pedigree and true diversity necessary to produce an excellent surgical work force for the future of America.

ISIS, the Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies, was his brain-child. While most other programs were merely thinking about simulation as a key to better training and patient care, Dr. Pellegrini championed it. He was, and is, a national leader in ensuring that simulation training is given stature within the American College of Surgeons. Early on, he advocated that standards for accreditation be developed and implemented for simulation centers. ISIS became one of the first - when there were fewer than 10 programs nationally - to receive this accreditation.

Most recently, he has led the Department in revitalization of our Research Program. The current goal of the Department of Surgery’s research effort is to become “the premier home for surgical research.” A first step to revitalize research was investment in outcomes and health systems research. Through the recruitment and support of Dr. David Flum, the department has become a leader in health services and

outcomes research. The development of the Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP) is a shining example of physician-led quality improvement on a state-wide and voluntary basis, with the University as the hub. This research program is now being mimicked nationwide. Dr. Pellegrini’s reinvestment in departmental research is bearing fruit. Just 10 years ago, our total grants and contracts were at \$10 million; in 2011, they were more than \$25 million and growing.

And, critically, Dr. Pellegrini has been our representative voice and a leader within the School of Medicine. Dean Ramsey has asked him to take on some of the most difficult issues and challenges because he recognizes that if Carlos believes in it, he will give it his all. For instance, he has been a tireless advocate for diversity within the School (and Department), always advancing the appropriate and just support for the growth of our global mission and educational ecumenicalism. In addition, he has led the charge for Professionalism, helping to make the University of Washington School of Medicine a place of civility and collegiality.

Dr. Pellegrini has long believed that in addition to established methods for measuring scholarship, other scholarly activities should receive greater notice. Under his watch, the Appointments and Promotions Committee successfully reviewed and rewrote the guidelines for promotion within the Department. This successful endeavor was carefully reviewed by all of the University A & P bodies and approved with acclaim. The result is a single track for promotion in the department and a broad-based faculty with diverse skills and greatly increased sense of equality.

His greatest gifts to the Department, though, have been those of a caring individual: a leader, mentor and friend. A phrase commonly used to define him is that he is a man of rare emotional intelligence. He has produced a lifetime of personal interactions that have generated a following of loyal and dedicated friends and colleagues.

As an example of his commitment to his trainees and his comfort level in life, I provide a personal experience. Carlos and I were asked to join in the celebration of marriage by one of his early fellowship trainees in the then-named “Swallowing Center.” As his professional “father figure,” Carlos could not refuse. So, Carlos and I traveled together to Mexico for the traditional ceremony. The pride of the Fellow at having his “El Jefe” attend was obvious. It was an

elaborate matrimonial mass and I knew Carlos, who is not Catholic, might not know all of the traditions and sacraments. At one point I said, “Are you OK with participating in all parts of the ceremony?” His simple, easy answer was, “Don’t worry, I know how to do this.” Always ready to help a colleague, friend or trainee, always involved, and always comfortable in his support and his decisions. He is a true leader at every turn.

Many of us have had the pleasure of working side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with him over these past 20 years. Many of those he has mentored have returned to be a part of the Department of Surgery. Sprinkled through this issue, you will hear from many of our Department faculty, residents and fellows as they describe how he has influenced them, led them, mentored them, made them laugh, played tricks on them or given them friendship when that was needed. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Ron V. Maier, MD  
Professor and

Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Chair in Trauma Surgery  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington

*Editors’ Note: We received many anecdotes - too many to publish in this issue. However, they soon will be available online for you to read.*

**Alec Clowes, MD, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery**

I first met Carlos when I invited him for breakfast in the Georgian Room at the Four Seasons Hotel in 1992. At the time, I was a member of the search committee for the new chair of Surgery, but I was also the acting chair! After ordering breakfast, he slammed his knife on the table and said: “Why aren’t you taking this job?” My answer was that he was the perfect person, because of his huge international reputation and commitment to clinical surgery and surgical education. Although Dean Phil Fialkow had asked me to consider the post, I told him that I was committed to a career in research

and surgery and would not be as good a chief as Pellegrini. I was right, and the rest is history.

**Ben Starnes, MD, Professor, Division Chief, Vascular Surgery**

Carlos Pellegrini is the best boss I have ever had. He recruited me to the University of Washington in 2007 to lead the Division of Vascular Surgery. It is difficult for me to single out a single story to exemplify his unparalleled leadership abilities but one in particular stands out in my mind.

I was having an issue within my Division that was particularly sensitive. Carlos and I saw different perspectives on how to handle the problem. It was a sunny Sunday afternoon and I called him on his cell phone and asked to meet with him in person immediately to discuss the issue. He gave me three options: 1) he could come to me; 2) I could go to him; or, 3) we could meet at the hospital. There was only one minor issue; he was bringing his wife Kelly home from the hospital that afternoon. Kelly had just had knee surgery. I, of course, told him I would come to him. He then asked, “What is Jessica (my 9 year old daughter) doing?” I was a little perplexed by the question and then he said, “Bring her with you.”

When I arrived, he took Jessica to meet his two new Labrador puppies, Melba and Pancho. As we stood in his driveway for an hour discussing this very difficult situation, we watched Jessica playing in the yard with the puppies.

We eventually came to mutual resolution and after returning home, I received an email from him. “Ben, this is what I call making lemonade with lemons. We took a very difficult situation and made it memorable in a good way by watching Jessica play with the puppies.”

Carlos Pellegrini is a leader’s leader. He not only sacrifices his personal time on a daily basis for our organization, he has the wisdom and experience to mentor future leaders.

**Brant Oelschlager, MD, Professor, Section Chief, GI Surgery**

There are many reasons why I believe Carlos Pellegrini to be such an extraordinary surgeon, mentor, friend, and leader, and there are countless examples. In fact, there are so many examples that each one seems like an ordinary and daily occurrence – which of course they are.

I could tell you about my first day of residency when he recognized my name as someone he had “taken a chance on,” and while passing me in the hall with the chief and fellow in tow, said hello and finished by saying “Don’t screw up, Oelschlager. Or I am sending you back to North Carolina.” In 20 seconds he had recognized me as a person, taken ownership of my future, and held me accountable. How many of us have felt this countless times under his leadership? He has an incredible ability to create and communicate a vision, but just as easily wants to further our visions. Not by making them his own, but like good fertilizer allowing them to grow bigger and better than they would have by just our own efforts.

I could tell you about the times when he would offer a suggestion about a case, spend countless hours making a paper shine, or sending a well-timed note to further your cause. But, I think what I remember most about the last 20 years are countless times when he shared a story about himself or someone else and a difficult situation. Sometimes I was not sure why he was telling me the story, but I came to realize he was teaching me. Sometimes it was to prepare me to handle certain situations, sometimes current; others in the future. Other times it was to make me look inside myself and examine something that need adjusting or change.

If I listened, I became a better person. I suspect most of us who have come in contact with him would say the same: we are unquestionably better people for having known him.

**David Flum, MD, Professor, Associate Chair for Research**

When I started at the UW I had a first meeting with Dr Pellegrini to talk about the things that interested me and what I saw as my path as a junior faculty member. I told him about the vision I had to build a system so that surgeons at all hospitals would learn from each

other - so that we didn’t keep on repeating each other’s mistakes in surgery. I talked about my idea of blending the science of public health and surgery. Though my ideas were half-baked, I think he saw how earnest I was about it.

He listened carefully, focused and thoughtful, and just as I was expecting to get some sage advice about taking on more reasonable projects, his face turned to a broad smile, he walked to his computer, and turned his screen saver to face me. He said, “See this picture of a beautiful dog?” Then came what I remember as a very long and uncomfortable pause while I tried to figure out what he was telling me.

He said “This is my Dublin. I love this dog so much and I would spend all my time with him if I could. But Dave, Dublin has nothing to do with my career. Because of that, I love him even more.”

I didn’t get his point at first: Was he telling me that I was chasing a pipe dream? Was he telling me I should learn to separate work pursuits from a life outside of work? Then he said to me, “If you take this path, make sure it’s your “Dublin.” You’ll have to love it and be devoted to it and be passionate about it...and you need to do it without the expectation that it will ever advance your career.”

He taught me then and teaches me every day that pursuing things in life with passion, independent of “pay-back,” is the most worthy thing we can do. He is the truest mentor, showing in everything he does that chasing the right things for the right reasons, being genuine about our interests and the way we treat people in the world is the surest way to be.

Each time I walk into his office I think about that Dublin moment. Many years have passed and I now have several “Dublins” - at home and at work. My research fellows and kids now have their “Dublins,” too. What I thought was a casual remark about his dog helped me see the real legacy of the man. He taught me we are not separate pieces: work life and home life, but a woven cloth of values and passions that guide all we do. It’s a lesson I share with all my students and one that I will be forever grateful having learned at the start of my career. That was the point of the Dublin story. Though it was part of the reason my career advanced, the journey has been so much richer than the destination. That was his point.



# 2012 Harkins Surgical Symposium: A Special Tribute to Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini

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The second session of the Harkins Symposium, held on October 12, 2012 was a tribute to Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as Chair of the Department of Surgery. A planning committee composed of the Chiefs of the Divisions, other faculty, and most importantly, Jennie Paxson, Dr. Pellegrini's Executive Assistant, arranged for this event which included surprise guests. Dr. Ron Maier, Professor and Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Chair in Trauma Surgery and Dr. Peter Wu, Associate Professor, General Surgery at the VA, were the hosts and primary coordinators of this event.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Maier noted that Dr. Pellegrini is completing his 20th year as Chair – a rare event for Chairs of Departments of Surgery – putting him in an elite group of not more than two or three individuals. These 20 years have been a period of growth – growth in numbers, growth of programs and growth of the Department's reputation. Dr. Pellegrini has overseen the “growth of a top tier surgery program.”

Ten invited guests – all close professional and personal colleagues of Dr. Pellegrini's from every era of his career – spoke about him, providing personal and professional recollections. They were each introduced by a member of the Department of Surgery faculty, who offered information about the relationship between Dr. Pellegrini and the guest.

## Guest Speakers:

- Donald Trunkey, MD, Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Surgery, Oregon Health Sciences University (*introduced by Dr. Ron Maier*);
- Lawrence Way, MD, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco (*introduced by Dr. Patch Dellinger*);
- Richard Karl, MD, Chairman Emeritus, Department of Surgery, University of South Florida, College of Medicine and Current Senior Member, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL (*introduced by Dr. Jorge Reyes*);
- William Bremner, MD, Professor and The Robert G. Petersdorf Endowed Chair in Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Washington (*introduced by Dr. Robert Sawin*);

- Thomas Russell, MD, Professor and Chair Emeritus, California Pacific Medical Center and Former Executive Director, American College of Surgeons (*introduced by Dr. David Byrd*);
- Richard Bell, Jr. MD, Professor Emeritus and Former Chair, Department of Surgery, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine and Former Assistant Executive Director, The American Board of Surgery (*introduced by Dr. Roger Tatum*);
- Marco Patti, MD, Professor, University of Chicago, Director, Center for Esophageal Diseases (*introduced by Dr. Alessandro Fichera*);
- Alberto Ferreres, MD, JD, MPH, FACS Professor of Surgery, University of Buenos Aires and Chair, Department of Surgery UBA Dr. Carlos Bocalandro Hospital, Argentina (*introduced by Dr. Brant Oelschlager*);
- Tom R. DeMeester, M.D., Professor and Chairman Emeritus, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Department of Surgery (*introduced by Dr. Ron Maier*);
- Edward Verrier, MD, Professor, and former Division Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Washington (*introduced by Dr. Ron Maier*).



Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini receiving honor at surprise tribute.

Many of these individuals traveled hundreds and even thousands of miles to be at this event. Their respect and friendship were evident throughout as one after the other related what it has meant to be his colleagues and friends. Common themes emerged: steadfast friendship and loyalty; his love of family, food and dogs; his sense of humor; his inclination to ask forgiveness rather than permission; his commitment to the profession of surgery; his skill and commitment to his mentees; and his rare leadership abilities.

Putting the event together was complicated. Keeping it a surprise from Dr. Pellegrini was nearly miraculous. However, it was kept a surprise and became that much more meaningful. As Dr. Pellegrini said in an email following the event *"and the surprise....well – unbelievable....you all caught me ENTIRELY by surprise....I am now starting to think 'if I am so easy to fool....what else is going on?!'"*

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**Karen Horvath, MD, Professor,  
Associate Chair for Education**

It has been a singular lifetime honor for me to work with this man. He lives out his concept of mentorship which is, "When you succeed, I succeed." The astounding thing is that my story is not unique. Carlos Pellegrini lives out his concept of servant-leadership on a daily basis. I've seen him provide the same mentorship and personal attention to many others. He is tireless. He's constantly mentoring others and gently pushing people up to the next level of success by looking for ways to promote them. Finally, Carlos Pellegrini has a unique gift for seeing the good in each person and shows that he appreciates them as an individual with unique contributions. Throughout the year he thanks people both publicly and privately for their achievements and contributions. Carlos Pellegrini personally cares about people. You can simply feel it.

In the area of integrity I've seen firsthand the way he lives out what he professes for over 16 years. Carlos Pellegrini is a wise counselor, a staunch advocate, a respected colleague, an amazing leader, a consensus builder, a visionary, and an exemplary mentor. Most importantly he has taught me about having the courage

to speak the truth and lead with integrity even when it's difficult and even when it may come at a great personal cost to yourself. He is fearless in his integrity and demonstrates the great courage it takes to stand for truth, honor and professionalism unlike anyone I've ever known. In education terminology, Carlos Pellegrini's life embodies the powerful principles of one of the most effective teaching tools available in a masterful way: The Hidden Curriculum. Wherever he goes and whatever he does he advances the people and the world around him to a new and higher plane in both personal and professional ways."

**Leah Backhus, MD, Assistant Professor,  
Cardiothoracic Surgery (VA)**

Dr. Pellegrini embodies the ideal characteristics of a mentor: he makes the effort to create a bond with his mentees and maintains an honest vested interest in their success. He has supported me personally as well as countless others. I have also seen his commitment to increasing diversity within the UW School of Medicine: from medical students to faculty. As an example, last year he approved establishing a scholarship fund for members of the department to travel to the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. This is part of the email I received from him approving the proposal: "I have carefully reviewed your proposal for scholarships for minority faculty/residents/students and I am happy to let you know that we believe it is (a) a great proposal and (b) a proposal we can fund." His mentoring influence extends well beyond the walls of the UW School of Medicine and will live on well beyond his tenure here.

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**HE LIVES OUT HIS CONCEPT  
OF MENTORSHIP WHICH IS,  
"WHEN YOU SUCCEED, I SUCCEED."**

– DR. KAREN HORVATH

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# 63rd Annual Strauss Lecture



**Dr. Michael J. Zinner**

Zinner's lecture was entitled "*The Evolution of Health Care in America: Where did we come from? Where are we going?*"

The lecture spanned the history of health care in America over the past 100 years, including the beginning of hospital care, which was essentially "charitable care;" to schools of education combined with hospital care; to the beginnings of health insurance; the roots of pre-paid health plans (HMOs); the advent of Medicare and the more recent developments, including the "Massachusetts Experiment." Additionally, he examined the role of government in health care and the efforts to control cost, while keeping quality.

Dr. Zinner received his MD from University of Florida School of Medicine in Gainesville, FL and completed his surgical residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He began his career in academic surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He then moved to Johns Hopkins and UCLA as Professor of Surgery. In 1994, he moved to Harvard Medical School as the Moseley Professor of Surgery. Dr. Zinner serves in the top leadership of national surgical societies and is a member of several prestigious editorial boards. In 2004, he established the Center for Surgery and Public Health, a collaboration between the Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health, focused on healthcare, quality, safety and effectiveness and global surgical care. His current interests include these areas and the national debate on health care reform.

**Dr. Alfred Strauss** completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Washington before moving to Chicago for his medical training, where he remained for his entire medi-

The Department's 63rd Annual Alfred E. Strauss Endowed Lecture was held on Friday, October 12, 2012. This year's invited speaker was **Michael J. Zinner, MD**, Moseley Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, the Surgeon-in-Chief at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and the Clinical Director of the Dana Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center. Dr.

cal career. He was known as an innovator and was central to the founding of the University of Washington School of Medicine. His legacy to the Department of Surgery is the Strauss Lectureship which he and his family established for these reasons: 1) to invite speakers to the medical school representing the world's leading surgical educators; 2) to foster a bond of cooperation and friendship between University and community-based surgeons.

Dr. Strauss gave the first Strauss Lecture in October 1950; the first of the long list of distinguished speakers and timely topics. The Department is grateful for the on-going support of the Strauss Lectureship by Mr. John Friedlander, grandson of Alfred Strauss and Dr. John H. Strauss, nephew of Dr. Alfred Strauss.

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## **Robert Sawin, MD, Professor, Chief, Pediatric Surgery & Surgeon in Chief at Seattle Children's Hospital**

During an interview for my job as Surgeon-in-Chief at Children's, Carlos gave me some very important advice about leadership, responsibility, "power" and authority. He suggested that leaders could have power by way of their position, i.e. authoritative or hierarchical power. Alternatively, he proposed, a leader can have power through influence and relationships. He offered that the power of influence was more lasting and more effective. I have observed that he epitomizes that style of leadership, and have learned a great deal about effective leadership by watching him. He is a keen observer, a superb communicator, and an excellent motivator. I cannot imagine a better department chair.

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**HE IS A KEEN OBSERVER, A SUPERB COMMUNICATOR, AND AN EXCELLENT MOTIVATOR. I CANNOT IMAGINE A BETTER DEPARTMENT CHAIR.**

— DR. ROBERT SAWIN

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# 2012 Harkins Surgical Symposium for Resident Education: Surgical Innovations

Presentations at this year's Harkins Surgical Symposium were focused on surgical innovations and included presentations from this year's two distinguished alumni. Topics and presenters were:

*"Pre-Hospital Intubation: Does It Lead To VAP?"*

Heather Evans, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma & Critical Care

*"Laparoscopic Surgery for Crohn's Disease: Tricks Of The Trade"*

Alessandro Fichera, MD, Professor, General Surgery

*"Etiology and Prevention Of Esophageal Leaks"*

Peter Wu, MD, Associate Professor, General Surgery (VA)

*"Complex Abdominal Wall Reconstruction"*

Hugh Foy, MD, Professor, Trauma & Critical Care

*"Strengthening Care for Trauma and Other Surgical Conditions Globally"*

Charles Mock, MD, Professor, Trauma & Critical Care

*"The Military Health System"*

Karen Guice, MD, 2012 Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumni presenter

*"Optimizing Resources for Children's Surgical Care in the U.S."*

Keith Oldham, MD, 2012 Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumni presenter

*"From Swords to Plowshares: Front Line Golden Hour Care"*

Matthew Martin, MD, Madigan Army Medical Center

*"Robotic Hepatectomy: A New Standard"*

James Park, MD, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery

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## **Jeff Avansino, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric General Surgery**

I always appreciated the impromptu invitations to dinner after clinic when Dr. Pellegrini's wife was out of town. My favorite part of dinner was the many stories that he shared with us. What impressed me the most were the stories he told about talking his way out of speeding tickets. I never realized there were so many good excuses for going fast.

## **Kristine Calhoun, MD, Associate Professor, General Surgery**

When I interviewed (for my position here), Dr. Pellegrini made me drive his boat of a BMW from UWMC to the Roosevelt clinic. All I could think was "don't crash the chairman's car" the whole time I was driving it. I tried to turn him down and he said "you aren't saying no to your chairman already, are you?"

## **Elina Quiroga, MD, Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery**

My first strong impression of Dr. Pellegrini was his love for dogs and his deep relationship with Dublin (his dog at the time). I remember when a residency applicant asked him if he had kids. His answer: "three kids, the youngest is six (Dublin), and he is a handful."

I admire how centered Dr. Pellegrini is; he is the best example of "having a strong anchor from which to launch your adventures," as he describes in his Asa Yancey lecture. Kelly (his wife), a good meal, a cold beer, a nap, and good friends seem to be as essential building blocks of his leadership as are his values, skills and network.

When I started writing this I scribbled a line saying that Dr. Pellegrini has a unique ability to build bridges between the mundane and the meaningful; between the individuals and the organization. But it is more than bridges - I think he sees them all as one and the same: the transcendental in daily excellence, and the success of the group in the growth of each individual. I feel like living proof.

I always thought I wanted to do laparoscopic surgery and do research in esophageal motility. I was almost ready to apply for my fellowship in this area when I got exposed to and fell in love with vascular surgery. I was afraid of talking to him; I was worried he was going to be disappointed about my change of heart and I knew that he only needed to ask me to reconsider and I would have, instantly. Few can elicit such trust and loyalty. But, the conversation was very different than imagined. It was a relaxed dialogue. His closing line, for which I am eternally thankful, was: "you will be good at anything you do, but you will only be excellent at doing what you love."

# 2012 Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumni and Special Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Department of Surgery recognizes the professional achievements and humanitarian services of our resident alumni. Each autumn an alumnus is honored with the Department of Surgery Distinguished Alumnus Award. The Award is presented during the Henry N. Harkins Society Annual Meeting and Banquet, which is the culminating event of the Strauss and Harkins annual events. This year those events took place on Friday, October 12, 2012.

Any physician who has completed his or her residency or fellowship training at the UW Department of Surgery is eligible for nomination. Harkins Society members are solicited on an annual basis to submit nominations of those who deserve recognition.

Nominations are based upon professional or humanitarian contributions that have enhanced the surgical profession, improved the welfare of the general public, or brought distinction to the department. These contributions may have been made either over a long period of time or may be a single outstanding achievement - both academic and non-academic achievements are eligible.

Our 15th Distinguished Alumni are **Dr. Karen Guice** and **Dr. Keith Oldham**.

This marks the first time the award has ever been given to two awardees at the same time. It seemed fitting to give the award to both of them since they met while completing their residency programs at UW and began their personal and professional lives here. Together and individually, they are well-recognized leaders in the profession of surgery. Dr. John Waldhausen, one of the nominators, stated in his letter of nomination: "It is a pleasure to recommend both Dr. Oldham and Dr. Guice for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Their professional achievements as well as humanitarian service to society are outstanding, and I believe both very ably embody the attributes that this award commemorates." We are indeed proud of their accomplishments and take pride in the distinction they bring to the Department as former residents.



**Dr. Keith Oldham**

Dr. Oldham completed his general surgical training at University of Washington Department of Surgery in 1981 and then his pediatric surgical fellowship at the Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati. He became a Professor of Surgery at

Duke University, where he was also Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery from 1991 to 1998. Currently, he is Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin, one of the most prominent divisions of pediatric surgery in the country. He holds the Marie Z. Uihlein Chair of Pediatric Surgery, is the Surgeon-in-Chief and Clinical Vice President of Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Dr. Oldham has served in leadership positions on the Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery and other national pediatric surgery associations and authored and edited seven textbooks and more than 100 articles related to pediatric surgery. His interests and expertise reflect a broad range of thoracic and general pediatric surgery. Throughout his career, he has had significant research grant support, and currently has one of the most sought-after fellowships in the country.

His professional and personal accomplishments are legendary. He has been integral to the development of the American College of Surgery's National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) for pediatric surgery. With a group of international pediatric surgeons, he coordinated trips to the remote Amazonian jungle in Yantalo, Peru, to provide surgical care for infants and children. He still takes call, he has run more marathons than imaginable and he recently climbed Denali with one of his sons.



**Dr. Karen Guice**

Dr. Guice graduated from the UW Department of Surgery Residency Program in 1982 and also went to the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati for a research fellowship in the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Her post-training academic career began in Galveston, Texas. From Galveston she went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan and then to Duke University, where she became a Professor of Surgery. In addition to her surgical duties, she received a Master's degree in Public Policy at Duke. Following this, she moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin as a clinical Professor of Surgery.

Karen was keenly interested in health care policy and this led her to Washington, DC. She became Health Policy Advisor for the US Senate Labor and Human Resources

Committee. She then moved to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, where she is today.

Karen has served as the Executive Director of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program for the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Co-Chair for the Recovering Warrior Task Force for the Department of Defense. She is now the Principal Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Principal Deputy for TRICARE Management Activity and the Acting CIO for the Military Health System. In short, she is one of the most senior administrators responsible for the health and well-being of our country's soldiers and their families.

Dr. Guice is a member of several professional societies and was elected President of the Association of Academic Surgery in 1993. She received the Association of Women Surgeons Distinguished Member Award in 1999 and the W.W. Coon Surgical Residents Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Michigan in 1988. In 1993, she received the Outstanding Alumna Award from the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University. She received an award for Outstanding Achievement from the office of the Secretary of Defense in 2007 for her work on the President's Commission, and received a Commendation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2009.

Five former recipients were in attendance at the Harkins Banquet: Drs. **Ron Maier** (2005), **John Waldhausen** (2007), **Mika Sinanan** (2008), **David Byrd**, (2009), **Hugh Foy** (2010) and **Michael Florence** (2011).

### Lifetime Achievement Award

The Harkins dinner events included a "Lifetime Achievement Award," presented to Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, by **Ted Kohler, MD** Vascular Surgeon (VA) and president of the Harkins' Society, on behalf of the Harkins Society. The Award was given "in grateful recognition of dedicated leadership, outstanding professional achievements and humanitarian services to society."

#### Dr. Paul Ramsey's Remarks

Paul Ramsey, MD, CEO, UW Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine, spoke about the tremendous role Dr. Pellegrini has played in the School of Medicine, praising him for his leadership over the past 20 years. He noted that "Carlos' commitment to the success and well-being of each person with whom he interacts helps to build a thoughtful, cohesive and collaborative community that maximizes

each person's contributions. His willingness and ability to listen to and to assimilate different perspectives makes UW Medicine and our world a better place."

Following presentation of this award, **Karen Horvath, MD**, Professor, General Surgery and Associate Chair of Education, read a moving tribute from Dr. Haile T. Debas, MD, University of California, San Francisco Former Dean of UCSF School of Medicine & Executive Director of UCSF Global Health Sciences, former colleague and mentor of Dr. Pellegrini. (Dr. Debas was unable to attend the event):

"Knowing Carlos Pellegrini and having him as a close friend is one of the great privileges of my life. He is a great force of optimism and companionship with rare sense of humor and communication skills.

"In 1992, the University of Washington began the recruitment of its new Chair of Surgery, I knew that Carlos was the man and suggested him to the search committee who quickly saw what a winner they had found. Over the years, I have felt somewhat smug in the knowledge that I made a great contribution to UW in helping recruit Carlos.

"He never fails to inspire me or leave me happier each time I meet him and this phenomenon leads me to quote the words of Claude Bissell, the Former President of the University of Toronto, which aptly describe Carlos: 'Risk more than others think is safe, care more than others think is wise, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible.'"

In addition to the distinguished alumni presentations and other festivities, the Society welcomed new members, the current Chief Residents, to the Harkins' Society:

Drs. Shahram Aarabi, Dante Conley, Giana Davidson, Andre Ilbawi, Arjun Jayaraj, Jonathan Kohler, Katherine Moreno and Samantha Quade.

The Harkins Society engages in fund-raising in order to buy Loupes for residents. It has been customary for the Department to pay half of the cost of Loupes, with the residents paying the other half. Because of the generosity of Harkins Society members in this past year, the resident portion has been defrayed for 10 pairs of Loupes.

Sincere thanks to members of the Society who have donated to this effort. For more information on the Harkins Society, please contact Dr. Ted Kohler at kohler@uw.edu.

## Researcher Profile: Dr. Loren Engrav



**Loren Engrav, MD**  
Professor Emeritus  
University Medical Center  
UW School of Medicine

**Dr. Loren Engrav** has been a vital asset to the Department of Surgery for 35 years. Among his many roles, Dr. Engrav founded and then served as Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery for more than two decades, as well as serving as the Associate Director of the Washington Burn Center. By bestowing on Dr. Engrav the title Professor Emeritus, the Department of Surgery recognizes his vast contributions that have helped shape the department.

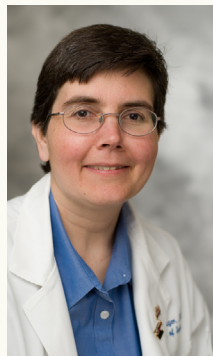
Following his essential role in the development of the Plastic Surgery clinical care program, Dr. Engrav transitioned his career to begin focusing on another core mission: research. An extremely productive academician with 144 published journal articles, Dr. Engrav has been a leader in the study of burn care and rehabilitation. He has regularly collaborated with key current and past departmental research leaders such as Dr. Nicole Gibran (current Director of the UW Medicine Burn Center at HMC), Dr. Matthew Klein, and Dr. David Heimbach.

With major grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Dr. Engrav made significant contributions to understanding hypertrophic scarring and improving long-term outcomes after burn injury. His collaborative work since the mid-1990s in developing and validating the Duroc/Yorkshire model of hypertrophic scarring has been highly important in the field.

Dr. Engrav was the first author of an expansive look at Harborview Burns from 1974-2006 published in PLoS ONE this past summer. With co-authors from the other members of the Burn Division at HMC, Dr. Engrav describes the important changes in burn injury demographics, prevention and care. They conclude with the challenge that models of burn care must continue to be adapted in accordance with the changes.

Considering his roles as both an innovative clinician and researcher, it would be difficult to overstate the value that Dr. Engrav brings to the Department of Surgery and to the field of burn care in the United States.

## Dr. Eileen Bulger: New Chief of Trauma



**Eileen Bulger, MD**  
Professor & Chief of Trauma  
Harborview Medical Center  
UW School of Medicine

In August, 2012, **Eileen Bulger, MD**, Professor, Trauma & Critical Care, became the Chief of Trauma for Harborview Medical Center. She fills the vacancy left by Dr. Jerry Jurkovich, when he left the University in March 2012.

In the public announcement made of this appointment, Susan Stern, MD, Professor and Division Head, Emergency Medicine at Harborview Medical Center said: “The

appointment of Dr. Bulger to this important leadership position is extremely well-deserved. We all know she will be terrific in her new role. Eileen is the consummate team player and collaborator.”

Previously, in addition to her robust clinical, research and teaching activities, Dr. Bulger was the Emergency Department Medical Director at HMC for 3.5 years. In that role, she was a great advocate for patients, an advocate for the ED, and instrumental in moving forward with the residency program development.

The search committee, over the course of several months, interviewed several highly qualified individuals and chose Dr. Bulger from among these individuals. The Department and the entire UW Medicine community congratulate her upon this appointment. The Harborview trauma service is one of the most prestigious in the country and we know that Dr. Bulger will most capably fulfill the duties of this role.

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### **Nahush Mokadam, MD, Associate Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery**

I know of few leaders who have the poise, presence, and intellect of Dr. Pellegrini. He not only leads by example, but also gives us an opportunity to express our individualism. I aspire to his equanimity. He truly represents quiet grace.



**Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini:  
President-Elect of ACS**

**Dr. Roger Tatum:  
Appointed Service Line Leader for  
Surgery VA Puget Sound Health Care System**

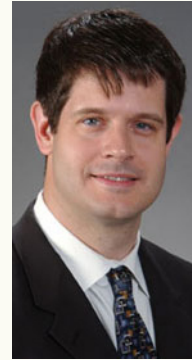


**Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI (Hon.), The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle,** was named President-Elect of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) during the Annual Business Meeting of Members, which took place October 3, 2012 at McCormick Place. Dr. Pellegrini has been a Fellow of the College since 1982 and has played a leadership role in the organization, particularly as Chair of the Board of Regents (2010-2011).

Dr. Pellegrini began serving on the ACS Board of Regents in 2002 and served on the Regents' Finance, Honors, and Communications Committees. He is the outgoing Chair of the ACS Committee for the Accreditation Review of Education Institutes, the Committee on Medical Motion Pictures (1991-1992), the Central Judiciary Committee, and International Guest Scholarship Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee. He serves on the Steering Committee on Simulation-Based Surgical Education and the Task Force on the Resident 80-Hour Work Week and was Co-Chair of the 2012 Surgeons as Leaders Course. In addition, he was President of the Northern California Chapter of the ACS (1990-1992).

A former member of the board of directors of the American Board of Surgery (2003-2009), he has served as president of a number of surgical societies, including the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (1999-2000), the American Surgical Association (2005-2006), the Society of Surgical Chairs (2007-2008), the World Organization of Specialized Studies of Diseases of the Esophagus (2010-2012), and the International Society of Digestive Surgery (ISDS) (1992-1994). He also served two consecutive terms as chair of the Digestive Disease Week Council and is active in many other national and international surgical associations.

View Dr. Pellegrini's acceptance speech from the Department of Surgery's YouTube site: <http://youtu.be/CCgEQ29xfOw>



**Roger Tatum, MD**  
Associate Professor &  
Service Line Leader  
VA Puget Sound Health Care System  
UW School of Medicine

William H. Campbell, MD, FACHE, Chief of Staff at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA) & Carlos Pellegrini, MD, Chair, Department of Surgery announced that Dr. Roger Tatum, Associate Professor, General Surgery has been selected as the permanent Service Line Leader for Surgery at the VA. They commented that "Dr. Tatum has distinguished himself as a transformational leader, implementing numerous

improvements through the Surgery Service during his tenure as the Acting Service Line Leader for Surgery. Following a comprehensive search, Dr. Tatum was selected from a highly competitive pool of national candidates for this key leadership position."

Dr. Tatum is an Associate Professor within the Department of Surgery and practices general surgery with particular interest and training in minimally invasive surgery, especially of the foregut. In addition, Dr. Tatum is the director of medical student surgical education for the Department of Surgery, with oversight of all required and elective medical student experiences within the Department. He is also Chair of the Elective Clerkship Committee within the UW School of Medicine.

The Department congratulates Dr. Tatum on this new appointment.

**Martin Montenovo, Fellow, Division of Transplant**

When I moved to this country, something I found very frustrating was how to make a good asado (BBQ) with the type of grill used here. Dr. Pellegrini spent a lot of time explaining to me how the grill works and has to be used. I immediately became his best cook. From then on, I have had to cook every year for the annual resident BBQ. I think he taught me how to BBQ on purpose, so now he has someone else to rely on for the cooking!!! We all know how picky Dr. Pellegrini is with the asado!!!



## 2012 New Faculty



**Farhood Farjah, MD,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Cardiothoracic Surgery/SORCE

Dr. Farjah is a thoracic surgeon and health services researcher. He holds an appointment at the University of Washington as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the School of Medicine and an Associate Medical Director of the Surgical Outcomes Research Center.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Farjah completed his undergraduate training at the University of Oregon and his medical school training at Oregon Health and Sciences University. He then began his general surgery residency at the University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals. Dr. Farjah interrupted his clinical training to pursue a 3-year NIH funded post-doctoral fellowship in health services and outcomes research. His project evaluated the quality of lung cancer care in the US using the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results (SEER) Medicare database. During this time, he also obtained a Masters of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the University of Washington School of Public Health. Upon finishing his research fellowship and general surgery residency, Dr. Farjah completed a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Clinically, Dr. Farjah participates in all aspects of thoracic surgery including the diagnosis and management of benign and malignant pulmonary, pleural, esophageal, mediastinal, and chest wall diseases, and pulmonary transplantation. He has a strong interest in disease-based, multi-disciplinary management of lung and esophageal cancer and pleural mesothelioma, and the use of minimally invasive surgery and procedures—including video-assisted thoracoscopy (VATS), laparoscopy, robotic surgery, and endobronchial ultrasound.

Dr. Farjah's research interests include evaluating the effectiveness of lung cancer screening in the community at large, identifying optimal strategies for lung cancer staging, and developing patient-centered quality metrics for thoracic surgery.

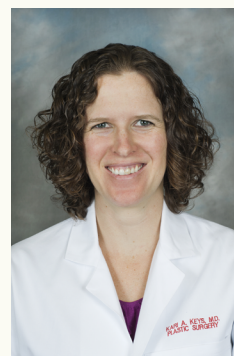
Dr. Farjah is a member of the American College of Surgeons, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American College of Chest Physicians, and the Surgical Outcomes Club.



**Marcelo Hinojosa, MD,**  
Acting Assistant Professor,  
General Surgery

Dr. Marcelo Hinojosa joined the Division of General Surgery in August 2012 as an Acting Assistant Professor. Dr. Hinojosa's clinical interests include advanced laparoscopy, bariatric surgery, minimally invasive foregut and solid organ surgery, and abdominal wall and inguinal hernia repair. His research interests include surgical outcomes, bariatric and metabolic surgery, and esophageal diseases.

Dr. Hinojosa completed a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery at the University of Washington Medical Center. Prior to that, he completed his Residency in General Surgery and a Research Fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgery at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. He received his medical degree from the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine in 2004.



**Kari Keys, MD,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Plastic Surgery

Dr. Kari Keys joined the Division of Plastic Surgery in August 2012 as an Assistant Professor. She practices at both Harborview Medical Center and VA. At Harborview, she provides reconstructive surgery options for conditions ranging from trauma to chronic wounds.

She collaborates with surgeons from Urology, Orthopaedics, Burn Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Trauma Surgery to provide comprehensive care and reconstructive solutions to complex problems.

Dr. Keys' clinical interests include reconstructive surgery of the face, extremities, and body after trauma, burns, or infection; surgical care of complex wounds; microsurgery. Her research interests include clinical and post-surgical outcomes, surgical training and education.

Dr. Keys completed a Soroptimist Fellowship at Soroptimist International Sierra Pacific Region. She completed her Residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Washington Medical Center and received her medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco of Medicine in 2006.



**Sara Kim, PhD, General Surgery/  
ISIS Research Professor, Adjunct/  
Biomedical Informatics and  
Medical Education**

Dr. Kim is the Director of Educational Innovations and Strategic Programs at the Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies (ISIS). She also serves as the Associate Director of the Center for Medical

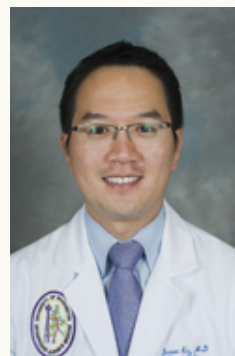
Education that is newly instituted in the Dean's Office, School of Medicine. She received her PhD in Education from the University of Washington in 1999.

Prior to joining the University of Washington, Dr. Kim served as Associate Professor and Director of Instructional Design and Technology Unit between 2010 and 2012 at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, CA. Her role included implementing major educational technology initiatives to sustain the medical school curriculum and developing interactive elearning modules to support medical student and resident training. She also served as a mentor in the medical school's Medical Education Fellowship.

Between 2000 and 2010, Dr. Kim served as a faculty member in the School of Medicine, University of Washington. She was an education faculty in the Department of Family Medicine (2000-2006) and in the Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics (2006-2010). In addition, she was the Education Director at ISIS with funded faculty responsibilities in the Department of Obstetrics/

Gynecology and Department of Surgery. Her main faculty activities included mentoring junior clinician educators in scholarship and promotion, overseeing curriculum development and evaluation programs, and conducting collaborative research in medical education.

Dr. Kim is the Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee, ACS-AEI (American College of Surgeons-Accredited Educational Institutes), Chair of the Re-Accreditation Committee of the Society of Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), committee member of the SSH Accreditation Council as well as AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) and RIME (Research in Medical Education). Dr. Kim has numerous peer-reviewed publications in leading medical education and surgery journals, covering topics of technology-facilitated educational interventions, faculty development and other teaching and learning practices.



**Jason Ko, MD,  
Assistant Professor,  
Plastic Surgery**

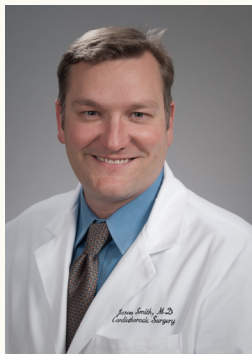
Dr. Jason Ko joined the Division of Plastic Surgery in August 2012 as an Assistant Professor and practices at Harborview Medical Center and at Northwest Hospital and Medical Center. At Harborview Medical Center, Dr. Ko focuses on hand and wrist surgery, brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery, Targeted Reinnervation surgery for upper and lower extremity amputees, lower extremity reconstruction and limb salvage, general plastic and reconstructive surgery, and microsurgery. He works closely with colleagues from Orthopaedic Surgery, General and Trauma Surgery, and Rehabilitation Medicine to provide comprehensive care for patients with complex reconstructive problems. At Northwest Hospital and Medical Center, Dr. Ko performs hand, wrist, and upper extremity surgery, in addition to general plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Ko's clinical interests includes hand, wrist, and upper extremity surgery; brachial plexus and peripheral nerve surgery; Targeted Reinnervation surgery for upper and lower extremity amputees; lower extremity reconstruction and limb salvage; microsurgery; minimally invasive surgery;

abdominal wall reconstruction; complex reconstructive surgery; vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA).

Dr. Ko is conducting research on Targeted Reinnervation and its effects on neuroma formation. He also collaborates with colleagues in the Departments of Bioengineering and Neurological Surgery to use biologic scaffolds and stem cells to improve peripheral nerve repair and regeneration. In addition, Dr. Ko is working with Drs. Mathes and Neligan to start a vascularized composite allotransplantation (VCA) program at the University of Washington that will make face, hand, and arm transplantation a clinical reality for patients in the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Ko received his undergraduate degree at Duke University in Durham, NC, after which he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in South Korea. Following his year in Korea, he obtained his medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine. He then completed his training in plastic and reconstructive surgery in the integrated residency program at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, during which he was awarded the 2008 Plastic Surgery Foundation (PSF) Research Fellowship for his research on Targeted Reinnervation—a surgery that involves nerve transfers in upper extremity amputees that allows them to control a bionic arm—and its effects on neuroma formation. After his residency, he came to the University of Washington for a fellowship in Hand and Microvascular Surgery. He then spent some time at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan and the University of Tokyo in Japan to focus on microsurgery/supermicrosurgery, brachial plexus reconstruction, and peripheral nerve surgery, before joining the faculty at the University of Washington.



**Jason W. Smith, MD,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Jason Smith is a cardiac surgeon holding an appointment as an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Department of Surgery.

Dr. Smith received his Medical Degree from Loyola University and Medical Center in Chicago,

Illinois in 2002, where he also completed his general surgery and cardiac surgery training in 2011. Dr. Smith then went on to complete a Cardiothoracic Transplant and Mechanical

Assist Device fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center in 2012.

In addition to his interest in cardiac transplantation and mechanical heart assist devices, Dr. Smith has specific clinical interests in complex coronary revascularization and valve pathology.

Dr. Smith has authored and co-authored papers and book chapters with topics ranging from burn care to lung transplantation after cardiac death. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Burn Association, American Medical Association, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, Pancreas Club, Society for Surgical Oncology, and the Society of Thoracic Surgery.

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**Doug Wood, MD, Professor, Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery**

Carlos has incredible humanity and character that draws people to him. Although this has an impact on all around him, where one sees his true authenticity is in how children are drawn to him like a magnet. Children are not easily fooled. When we had our first daughter, Sophia, she was enthralled with Carlos and loved to be near him. And it went both ways. At the Harkins reception in 1997, Sophia saw Carlos, ran full tilt over to him and wrapped her arms around his legs, her head only up to his knees. But it was the tears I saw welling up in Carlos' eyes that made me see the sincerity of the perfect moment. We are lucky to know you Carlos!

**Eelco Wassenaar, MD, Assistant Professor, General Surgery**

When we would be operating during my fellowship and he thought I could do better, Dr Pellegrini would ask, "am I the ONLY one who likes this patient?" He was urging me to be better and reminding me that we are treating a person and not just doing an operation.

At research meetings he could explain better than anyone and show on the spot how to improve a presentation and make it interesting, exciting and fun to listen to. Any message, he taught me, could be presented in a way that makes the listener 'cling onto your lips' as the Dutch expression goes.

# Honors, Awards and Publications



**Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, Professor,** was chosen by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) electorate to serve on the International Cancer Control Congress (UICC) Board for a two-year term (2012–2014).



**Andre A.S. Dick, MD, Assistant Professor,** was selected as the recipient of the UW School of Medicine Committee on Minority Faculty Affairs Scholarship Award to attend the 2012 AAMC Minority Development Seminar which was held in Chicago, IL, September 2012.



**Heather Evans, MD, Assistant Professor,** whose research with collaborators on Biomedical Informatics and Pulmonary Critical Care was mentioned in an ACS Surgery News article titled “*Chest X-Rays Incongruous with Lavage Results in VAP.*”



**Lorrie A. Langedale, MD, Professor,** was appointed to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Board of Directors in October, 2012. Lorrie has long been active in Graduate Medical Education and this significant appointment recognizes her expertise and commitment to educating surgical residents. She currently also serves as an ACS governor, representing Washington State and is an elected member of the Board of Governors Executive Committee.



**Ron V. Maier, MD, Professor and Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Chair in Trauma Surgery** served as the President of the Halsted Society at the recent annual meeting hosted by the University of California San Diego in La Jolla, California, September 2012.



**Douglas E. Wood, MD, Professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery** was appointed to the Lung Cancer Alliance Medical & Professional Advisory Board.

## Other News in the Department of Surgery...

- **Dr. Thomas Varghese**, thoracic surgeon and an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at UW Medicine, is medical director of a program in Washington state, Strong for Surgery, which has joined with partners including the American College of Surgeons to provide preoperative checklists focusing on risk factors that can be modified before surgery.

Often patients may only get a sheet of instructions a day or two before surgery on how to prepare for the procedure. Strong for Surgery checklists are meant to be reviewed much earlier—in an initial consultation between the doctor and patient, who also is provided a packet of educational materials to take home.

The checklist focuses on four issues: smoking, nutrition, blood sugar control and medication. Smoking, for example, can impair the ability to withstand anesthesia, increase the risk of respiratory complications after surgery such as pneumonia and interfere with wound healing.

The Strong for Surgery checklist also includes a recommendation that patients and doctors review all medications, including herbal remedies that patients may not think to disclose. Ginkgo biloba for instance, can cause bleeding problems and hormone therapy can increase the risk of blood clots after surgery.

*A version of this article appeared October 23, 2012, on page D1 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Need Surgery? You Might Have to Get Healthier First.*

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recognized UW Medicine’s heart, kidney and liver transplant programs as national leaders in their fields.

The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice program gave these awards based on key performance measurements, including how quickly patients received a transplant after being placed on the waiting list, post-transplant graft survival rates, and patient mortality rates while waiting for an organ to become available.



**Charles Mock, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor,  
Trauma & Critical Care**

When I came to UW, there was no interest in global health in US surgery departments. Many chairs would have given no encouragement to a junior faculty member who worked on a topic for which there was no funding and no recognized career path. However, Dr. Pellegrini saw benefit in what I was doing and was incredibly helpful, especially in allowing me time to work in Africa and at WHO. I feel that his investment in me has paid off. Global health is now a bona fide career path for academic surgeons in the US. The UW Surgery Department is at the forefront of developing this important field, as evidenced by our unique and much sought after Global Health in Academic Surgery Track.

**Andy Wright, MD, Associate Professor,  
General Surgery**

As a resident at the “other UW” (University of Wisconsin), I was often tasked to drive visiting professors to the hospital. The first time I met Dr. Pellegrini I was late to the airport and completely unprepared to also pick up Kelly (in my 2-door hatchback with twin car seats in the back). I had little idea at that time that he would become a mentor and friend. I later came to the “real UW” for my MIS fellowship specifically to study with Dr. Pellegrini. From him I have not only learned how to be a better clinician, educator, and surgeon, but also to be a better person. He is a true visionary and if I can accomplish 1/10 as much in my career as he has, I will be very lucky indeed.

**Rebecca Petersen, MD, Assistant Professor,  
General Surgery**

One of the great things about working with Dr. Pellegrini is his contemporary approach to surgical training. I will always be appreciative of his support as his Fellow during my pregnancy with my boys. He was enthusiastic and completely supportive. Much to my amazement, to add to the extensive list of his accomplishments, he told me he too was having twins. After clarifying this was not a miracle of modern medicine,

I was delighted to hear he was to become a first time grandfather of two. Congratulations Dr. Pellegrini for all of your many accomplishments! I am sure the best things are yet to come.

**Peter Wu, MD, Associate Professor,  
General Surgery (VA)**

One of his best attributes is how he treats everyone like family. When I first arrived in Seattle, he invited my entire family including our dog to his home. Even though we expressed our concern, he requested we unleash the dog to make him feel at home and not to worry. Of course, our dog promptly bolted out of the Pellegrini estate and right into the home of his neighbors who were having a celebration of their own. We both went to his neighbor’s home where we were greeted with open arms and our dog obediently followed Carlos’ commands as if he had known him forever.

**Nicholas Vedder, MD, Professor, Chief,  
Plastic Surgery**

Dr. Pellegrini has taught me many things:

- Always look for a win-win solution
- Whenever asking for something, always begin by giving something
- If you are always willing to give, in the end, you will receive far more than you ever dreamed of.

**E. Patchen Dellinger, MD, Chief,  
Division of General Surgery**

I have been in the Department for 35 years and worked with three permanent and two acting chairs. I respect all of them. But, Carlos has been far and away the most effective of the five in establishing links to all faculty and residents and in building and strengthening the Department both within the School of Medicine and nationally and internationally.



## Save the Dates

ANNUAL DAVID M. HEIMBACH  
UW BURN CENTER  
VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE  
Steven Boyce, PhD  
Director, Engineered Skin Laboratories  
Shriners Burns Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH  
Wednesday, November 28, 2012, 6:30am  
Magnuson Health Sciences Building, Room K-069

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH  
Saturday, December 8, 2012, 10:30am - 1:00pm  
UW Club

19TH ANNUAL  
HELEN & JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE  
Anthony Atala, MD  
Director of the Wake Forest Institute for  
Regenerative Medicine, the W.H. Boyce Professor  
& Chair of the Department of Urology at  
Wake Forest University

Friday, February 22, 2013, 3:00pm  
Hogness Auditorium, Room A-420  
Magnuson Health Sciences Building  
Reception immediately following lecture  
in Magnuson Health Sciences Building lobby.

22ND ANNUAL VISITING SCHOLAR  
IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY  
Shaf Keshavjee MD MSc FRCSC FACS  
Surgeon-in-Chief, UHN  
James Wallace McCutcheon Chair in Surgery  
Director, Toronto Lung Transplant Program  
Director, Latner Thoracic Research Laboratories  
Scientist, McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine  
Professor, Division of Thoracic Surgery &  
Institute of Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering  
University of Toronto  
Friday, May 10, 2013, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Magnuson Health Sciences Building, Room K-069

Please see the Department of Surgery's  
monthly Grand Rounds schedule under  
Special Events at our website: [www.uwsurgery.org](http://www.uwsurgery.org)

## A Special Request to our Alumni...

In upcoming issues of Surgery Synopsis, we want to feature our Alumni. We would like for you to send us information about yourselves (and pictures, when applicable and possible). We want to know what you are doing now and have done since leaving residency. Additionally, we would like to know if you and your life partner, spouse or significant other met as residents in our program.

If you have questions about this request, please do not hesitate to send them to [surgeditors@uw.edu](mailto:surgeditors@uw.edu). Thank you.

# UW Medicine

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

**Surgery Synopsis** is an in-house newsletter published on a quarterly basis to highlight the academic and research activities of the University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Surgery. This publication is distributed to the Department's faculty, residents, staff, and friends.

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