

SURGERY

Synopsis

UW Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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Chairman’s Message



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

Friends & Colleagues of the Department of Surgery:

I am pleased to present the Summer 2013 edition of *Surgery Synopsis*.

Summer is always a great time in Seattle. This summer was no exception: excellent weather, long days and cloudless skies have made some of us – I am afraid to say it – miss some “good rain.” As we transition our academic year into the 2013-2014 period we reflect with pride on the achievements of our last academic year and look forward with anticipation to the renewal of our academic life that is about to start. As we look into the past, we are proud of the achievements in the clinical, educational and research areas we experienced in the 2012-2013. Thus, our summer edition this year has two parts, one looking at the immediate past and one looking at the immediate future.

Looking at the end of 2012-2013:

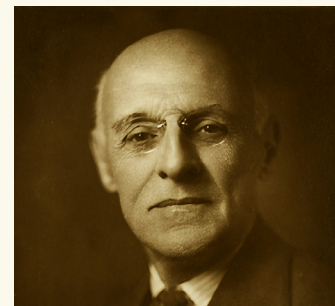
We say goodbye to the residents who completed their training: It is always a bittersweet time of year in the life of the Department. It is joyful to participate in graduation events and we feel gratified by the product of our teaching. This group of graduating chiefs is a fantastic group that flies now to other places to continue training in superb fellowships or to start their work as surgeons. The article recaps the graduation events and provides a look at what is next in their lives. We will miss them and we wish our graduating residents and fellows the very best as they move forward into the next phase of their careers.

(continued on page 2)

Rising to the Challenge: Medical Education in the 21st Century

In the summer issue of *Surgery Synopsis* we focus on our teaching mission.¹

American medical education has been most strongly influenced by the 1910 Flexner Report: “*Medical education in the United States and Canada: a report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*” by Abraham Flexner (pictured right). The Flexner Report effectively advocated a departure from the then model of medical training which was variable in quality, often had inadequate curricula and facilities, and was sometimes profit-driven. He believed that medical education should be based on rigorous, analytic thinking that emphasized the scientific underpinnings of medicine. Many of his recommendations were widely adopted and provided the context for the conduct of medical education for the next 100 years.



Abraham Flexner

¹ We have chosen as the focus of this article, the ACGME accredited residency programs that are adult-focused and primarily based at UWMC and HMC. We maintain a strong pediatric residency presence at Seattle Children’s Hospital, led by **Dr. John Waldhausen, Professor and Chief of General Surgery, SCH**. We also have an accredited fellowship in Trauma/Critical Care and a number of other non-ACGME fellowship programs.

(continued on page 2)

Chairman's Message — Continued from page 1

Faculty Promotions: Our faculty continue to be academically productive, earning them well-deserved promotions. Four faculty were promoted to Associate Professor in 2013. They are from four different divisions: Pediatric General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Trauma, Critical Care and Burns, and Vascular Surgery. Each has contributed immensely to the Department. They are featured in this issue and we congratulate them upon this very important professional achievement.

Looking forward at the 2013-2014 period:

Our Residency Programs – Rising to the Challenges of the 21st Century: In this issue you will read about how our residency programs – over the years - have adapted to regulations and devised new training paradigms to continue to lead in the education and training of surgeons. You will be introduced to our program directors and the staff that work with them to make these programs successful. I am proud to be associated with such a committed and capable team.

Hello to our new Residents: We introduce you to our new group of residents in this issue. Along with their pictures, you will read some comments from them describing why they chose the University of Washington Department of Surgery training program.

New Faculty: The Department of Surgery continues to grow. As we have added new sites of practice and as our programs continue to grow, we have judiciously added new faculty. Eight new faculty joined in July; please read about them in this issue. We welcome them to our family and wish them the best.

Dr. Ron Maier receives The 2013 Sheen Award: Later this year, Dr. Ron Maier will be receiving the 2013 Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award. This is an award given to a physician that has made major scientific contributions to the science and the practice of medicine. Dr. Maier was chosen from among 3 top scientists in this country nominated by the Honors Committee of the American College of Surgeons. We congratulate him on receipt of this prestigious award. Dr. Maier's leadership and his mentorship of so many surgeons is appropriately recognized!

Harkins Distinguished Alumni Nominations: Please note that you can still place into nomination someone you believe deserving of the Harkins Distinguished Alumni Award. Criteria and the way to enter nominations can be found in this issue.

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

Rising to the Challenge — Continued from page 1

In light of this shift in medical education paradigms, changes in the direction and focus of faculty efforts also occurred. Research development and publication, particularly in the latter half of the 20th century, became the standard by which faculty academic endeavors were measured. Patient care, teaching and public health issues were regarded as elements of faculty life; however, research productivity and publication served as the distinguishing factors. Consequently, the best and brightest faculty had a strong research focus with less formally recognized focus on teaching.

Many academic institutions realized that the pendulum had swung too far and teaching needed and deserved strong academic focus as well – it could not simply be an add-on. There needed to be increased research into the best methods for teaching adult learners and understanding and implementing adequate assessment and evaluation methodology. In other words, the art and science of teaching needed to be an equally important part of the three-legged stool of clinical care, research and teaching.

In 1998, the [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education \(ACGME\)](#) began an initiative to improve resident physicians' abilities to provide quality patient care and to work effectively in current and evolving healthcare delivery systems.



This same group soon thereafter mandated the duty hours limitations to 80 hours per week. These changes, along with ever-increasing technological advances, legislative mandates to the healthcare delivery system and more emphasis on maximizing clinical dollars added to the reality that the way in which American medical education was conducted was changing. The 20th century model was no longer able to accommodate the current environment of medicine or the myriad of innovations and changes.

All these changes in policy and thinking left academic medical centers with the challenge of envisioning, re-crafting and implementing new mechanics for medical education in the 21st century. The Department of Surgery has acted to find inventive, practical and effective ways to

(continued on page 3)

adapt our medical education program so that it trains the very best surgeons and continues as one of the very best in this country.

Leadership and Recognition of Teaching

Since he became Chair twenty years ago, Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini has been a staunch advocate of the Department's teaching mission. His leadership in this area has permanently changed the culture within the UW Department of Surgery. One example is the change to the Department's Faculty Appointments & Promotions (A & P) criteria. In the years 2005-2007 the Department A & P Committee undertook a review and revision of the Department's A & P criteria. The new A & P criteria were approved by the School of Medicine and have since been a reference point for other Departments as they review their own standards. The new promotion criteria now provide a flexible structure of activities in equal support of all three legs of our academic mission. The A & P Criteria state that to be promoted, faculty must: "contribute to all three missions (clinical care, teaching, and scholarship) but will achieve different balances among these three activities... the faculty member should excel in at least two of these three areas and demonstrate achievement in the remaining area." Among other things, these changes acknowledge the importance of scholarship related to our education mission.

Training to Competency through Simulation



Another way in which the Department's programs have responded to the challenges of modern healthcare education is to use a simulated environment for teaching particular technical and team skills. To that end, The [Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies \(ISIS\)](#) was created in 2005. ISIS is a UW Medicine multi-disciplinary initiative administered by the Department of Surgery. Its mission is to provide leadership in the use of simulation technologies, to augment and improve the quality of healthcare education and to improve patient safety and outcomes. Within a safe and realistic learning environment, ISIS trains healthcare providers to be effective, efficient clinicians and adept communicators

within teams. ISIS addresses the need to train professionals with medical and technical knowledge, with interpersonal skills and an interprofessional mindset. This combination of knowledge, skills and outlook is required for healthcare providers in the 21st century. For more information on ISIS, please see [Surgery Synopsis issue 18:1](#).

Restructuring Residency Training Programs

The vision of several of our faculty, particularly those involved in education in the Department's specialties of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Vascular Surgery, is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our specialty training programs. These faculty have worked with the UW Medicine GME offices and the ACGME to become accredited in programs that lessen the time spent in residency. As an example, Cardiothoracic Surgery has implemented a restructured training program.

In 2000, the [American Board of Thoracic Surgery \(ABTS\)](#) and the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery approved the development of six-year integrated cardiothoracic surgery residency programs in which an individual matches



directly out of medical school for a cardiothoracic program. The first two years are spent in the general surgery residency program, learning surgical techniques; the final four years are spent in the cardiothoracic program. The "2 + 4" program shortens the ABTS certification process by one year. In addition, this change also provides the opportunity to address the continued evolution of care in the treatment of cardiothoracic disease. At this time the traditional model of residency training (5 + 2 years) remains part of our Cardiothoracic Surgical residency/fellowship; we also offer the six-year integrated residency.

Patient complexity, technology and possibilities for treatment within cardiothoracic surgery have evolved tremendously over the decades, offering patients many more options for treatment. Similarly, care of patients

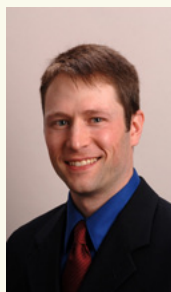
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with cardiothoracic disease has become more dependent upon a multi-disciplinary team approach, involving primary care physicians, cardiologists, pulmonologists, and others. The next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons must be proficient in traditional procedures as well as facile using new approaches. The integrated program seeks to provide education that meets all of these needs in a quality-driven, efficient and cost-effective way.

Handling “Hand-offs” and Workflow Efficiency

Another frontier in surgical education where the UW Department of Surgery leads its peers is the field of resident work-hours, communication, and handoffs. In 2003, with an 80-hour limit to the resident work-week looming, the department took innovative action. The department reviewed processes among its residents that created rework, redundancy and wasted time. The department also looked into the possibility of a new risk with limited work-hours: increased handoffs of patient care from one resident to another. Studies have shown that increased handoffs introduce risk into patient care.

Erik Van Eaton, MD (pictured right), then a junior resident, proposed that time savings and increased handoff reliability could come from a single new project: Computerized Resident Sign-out (CORES). The system would automate the management of patient lists for rounds, including automatically printing vital signs, laboratory values, and other data on both rounding summaries and paper progress note templates. An old and time-consuming tradition of hand-copying these data was thus safely eliminated. In addition, the system standardized the way in which handoff notes were passed from resident to resident, including unfinished tasks and concerns. Automatically updated, ubiquitously available from any hospital computer and from home, the system became abbreviated as “CORES.” It was quickly adopted by virtually all resident-run inpatient services at Harborview Medical Center and the University of Washington Medical Center. It spawned additional research across the country with respect to how patient information is best managed and how to optimize handoff safety and workflow efficiency.



Van Eaton

The effective use of clinical computing tools to enhance clinical care and patient safety became a field of particular expertise at the University of Washington. Dr. Van Eaton completed an NIH fellowship in Biomedical Informatics, and continued to explore new opportunities in this area. The CORES system was licensed by UW to a technology start-up company and is currently installed in two dozen hospitals around the United States.

New research at the intersection of resident work and computerized health technology include an online system for residents to manage and learn from peer-review of morbidity and mortality cases called “QMaster”; and a mobile-optimized central repository for local protocols and algorithms, to which residents submit local guidelines for internal peer review, called Online Clinical Care Algorithms & Messages (OCCAM). Both projects are in development, under the direction of Dr. Van Eaton, and have been funded by the “University of Washington Changing Care Models in the Inpatient and Outpatient Setting” with additional support provided by UW Medicine Information Technology Services and the Department of Surgery.

Ensuring OR Experience

One of the consequences of the mandated work hours and growing complexity of patient care systems is that residents can have difficulty getting enough time and experience in the OR. To mitigate this, the Department and surgical education directors worked with our hospital partners to help reduce the amount of non-essential resident work. Eliminating work flow inefficiencies gave more time for residents to focus on the experiences they need to become skilled surgeons and caregivers. To do this has not only required more efficient systems, but sometimes adding support in the form of Advanced Care Practitioners to assist with patient care activities and administrative individuals to handle more of the non-caregiver paperwork.

Directing the Programs and Training the Teachers

We have a dedicated group of faculty who direct our education programs. They not only stay current on all the changes mandated for residency programs to remain accredited, but have also educated themselves in adult learning theory and pedagogy. As an example, our last faculty retreat in October 2012 focused on how to

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give effective feedback to trainees. They have the best interests of the learners at heart and work with our entire faculty in ways big and small to ensure a strong successful learning environment.

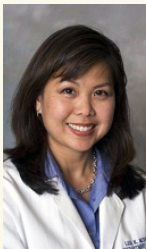
General Surgery Residency and Medical Clerkship Programs



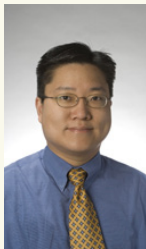
Horvath

Karen Horvath, MD, Professor and Associate Chair of Education for the Department of Surgery is the Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. She puts her brain, heart and soul into making this an outstanding surgical residency program. The results speak to her passion. Year after year, the Department of Surgery General Surgery Residency is considered one of the top 10 programs in the country.

It routinely matches with top choices. Many of the residents continue at the UW, pursuing Fellowships and/or becoming faculty. She is ably assisted by HMC Site Program Director, Associate Professor **Lisa McIntyre, MD**; Seattle Children’s Site Program Director, Associate Professor **Kenneth Gow, MD**; the VA Puget Sound Site Program Director, Associate Professor **Dana Lynge, MD**, and Northwest Hospital Site Program Director, Assistant Professor **Rebecca Petersen, MD**. **Dr. Roger Tatum**, Associate Professor and Chief of VA Surgery leads the Department’s Medical Clerkship program. **Dr. Hugh Foy**, Professor at HMC, is head of the Wind River College – one of the six colleges of the School of Medicine.



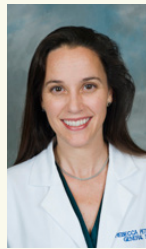
McIntyre



Gow



Lynge



Petersen



Tatum



Foy



(Left to right) Back row: Jen Stuart, Josh Powell and Gina Coluccio. Front row: Denise Lin, Suzanne Mills and Karynne Tsuruda. (Anna Nonis not pictured.)

The superb administrative team that assists the General Surgery Residency and Medical Clerkship programs is led by **Gina Coluccio**, Manager of General Surgery Residency. Other members of our administrative support team includes: **Denise Lin**, Program Coordinator; **Jen Stuart**, Program Specialist; **Karynne Tsuruda**, Program Specialist and Dr. Horvath’s assistant; **Anna Nonis**, Medical Clerkship Coordinator (UWMC); **Josh Powell**, Program Operations Specialist (filling Anna Nonis’ position while she is on maternity leave); and **Suzanne Mills**, Medical Clerkship coordinator (HMC). These individuals alleviate the tremendous administrative burden of running a large program and help to ensure program compliance and success.

Cardiothoracic Residency and Fellowship Program

Dr. Douglas Wood, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery is the Program Director for the Integrated CT Residency and Fellowship Program. He is capably assisted by **Nahush Mokadam, MD**, Associate Professor (UWMC); **Thomas Varghese, MD**, Associate Professor (HMC); and **Lester Permut, MD** Associate Professor, Seattle



Wood



Mokadam



Varghese

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Children’s Hospital. Dr. Permut works with the pediatric congenital heart fellowship. Their administrative partner is **Delloney Wallyce**, CT Residency Program Manager.



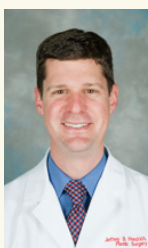
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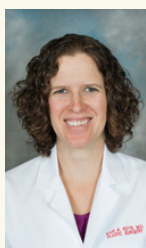
D. Wallyce

Plastic Surgery Residency Program

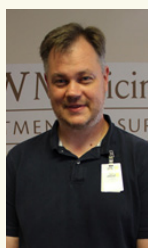
The Plastic Surgery Residency program director is **Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich**, Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery. **Kari Keys, MD**, Assistant Professor is the newly appointed Associate Program Director. **Mark Cumpston** is the Plastic Surgery Residency Program Manager. The Plastic Surgery program has seen significant change over the past few years. The number of faculty in this Division has grown substantially over the last 5-7 years. In addition to our traditionally strong plastic surgery presence at Harborview (trauma and the burn center), a world-renowned plastic and reconstructive surgery center was established on the UWMC campus and a craniofacial center at Seattle Children’s Hospital. With the coincident large increase in operative volume and educational opportunities, the Plastic Surgery Residency program was one of the few in the country to be approved for program expansion, moving from three to four residents per year. The Plastic Surgery program has also recently become fully integrated.



Friedrich



Keys

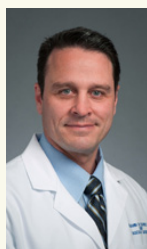


Cumpston

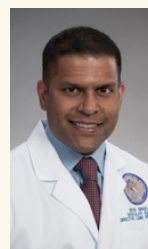
Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship Program

Benjamin Starnes, MD, Professor and Chief of Vascular Surgery, is the Program Director of the Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship Program.

Moving forward, **Niten Singh, MD**, our newly arrived Associate Professor (arrived 7/1/2013), will be the Associate Program Director. Their administrative partner is **Anne Wallace-Gold**, without whose help Dr. Starnes would not have been able to run such an effective program as well as wear all the other “hats” his position requires.



Starnes



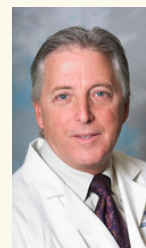
Singh



Wallace-Gold

Senior Education Champion

Dr. Ed Verrier, Professor and past Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has long been an advocate of transformation in residency education. He was the program director of the CT Residency and Fellowship program for many years; when he left the role as Program Director, it was to take the role of Surgical Director of Education of the [Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education \(JCTSE\)](#). This national organization leads efforts to redefine the cardiothoracic surgery education model and indirectly the larger surgical education model. The passion of Dr. Verrier personally is to improve this University’s educational program and education programs nationwide.



Verrier

These individuals –and many others – deserve praise and thanks from the Department, the School, the University and, above all, the trainees.

Medical Education continues to evolve and the University of Washington’s surgical education program continues to innovate to meet the challenges that will keep it as a national leader in educating the next generation of surgeons.

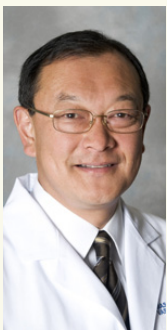
Department of Surgery Research Reinvestment Fund Awardees

The Research Reinvestment Fund (RRF) was established to help achieve the Department of Surgery's goal of becoming the premier home for surgical research. The third round of proposals for 2013 was recently completed with numerous faculty submissions. While all of the proposals addressed significant research questions, five were judged to be especially impressive in terms of their deliverables and potential returns on investment. Congratulations are in order to the following investigators:



Dr. Joseph Cuschieri, Professor of Surgery, Trauma Critical Care. This funding will be used to investigate the effects and duration of oxidant stress following severe traumatic injury. The project will provide the framework to evaluate unrecognized oxidant stress following injury that appears to be a precursor to the development of multiple organ failure. This research has the

potential to yield diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for sustained oxidant stress following severe traumatic injury.



Dr. Thomas Hatsukami, Professor, Vascular Surgery. Atherosclerotic plaques with a thin or ruptured fibrous cap overlying the lipid core are associated with a greater risk for stroke. With support from the Research Reinvestment Fund, Dr. Hatsukami will examine the association between a single nucleotide polymorphism of the CDKN1B gene (also called p27kip1) and the development of fibrous cap

thinning and rupture in carotid atherosclerosis. Findings from this study will provide a foundation to prospectively examine p27kip1 genotype and the risk for stroke in a large, multicenter cohort.



Dr. Anne Hocking, Research Associate Professor, Trauma and Burn Surgery.

This funding will be used to determine the metabolic signatures of acute and chronic wounds. Detailed analysis of wound metabolites will provide essential information required for an ongoing investigation of the effect of metabolites on mesenchymal stem cell therapy for chronic wounds. In addition, the metabolic

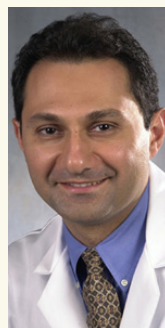
profiles are also critical for the development of a new project determining the role of metabolism in regulating molecular and cellular responses to cutaneous injury.



Dr. Peter Wu, Associate Professor, VA Surgical Oncology.

Molecular imaging using current FDG-PET tracer is based upon cellular metabolism and lacks tumor specificity. This pilot funding in collaboration with UW Nuclear Medicine will be used to develop and test novel senescence-based tumor-specific PET markers in animal xenograft models. This project aims to improve

detection of primary and metastatic gastrointestinal tumors, measure chemoradiotherapy treatment response, and guide combined-modality treatment protocols.



Dr. Saman Arbabi, Professor, Trauma and Burn Surgery.

As Baby Boomers reach retirement, geriatric trauma will become a significant and growing public health concern. There is a dearth of information addressing trauma or surgical patients discharged to skilled nursing facilities (SNF). This funding will help generate preliminary data to better understand the natural progression of

recovery in older trauma patients, determine individual patient-level interventions for improving outcomes, and investigate the characteristics leading to outcome variation across SNF's.

The total award for this quarter was \$125,000, and it is anticipated that the results of these exciting projects will result in further funding from external sponsors.

UW Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

2013 New Faculty



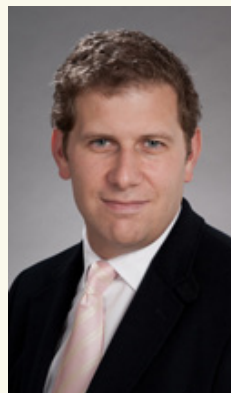
Dr. Jonathan Chen, Professor, joins the Department of Surgery as Chief of Congenital Cardiac Surgery and the Samuel & Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Chen completed medical school at Columbia University, where he later went on to pursue training in General Surgery,

Cardiothoracic Surgery, with advanced fellowship training in Mechanical Ventricular Assistance and Transplantation, and Congenital Cardiac Surgery. He stayed on faculty at New York-Presbyterian, where he was Director of Pediatric Cardiovascular Services (Cornell) and Surgical Director of Pediatric Heart Transplantation (Columbia). The author of more than 120 papers and 25 chapters, Dr. Chen has focused on research topics pertaining to congenital cardiac surgery, transplantation, mechanical circulatory assistance for children, and alternative anticoagulants to heparin for cardiopulmonary bypass. He has co-edited a textbook of cardiac transplantation, and is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in thoracic organ transplantation. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Membership and Professional Standards Committee within the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

Dr. Chen's interests include extending contemporary congenital cardiac care to the developing world. He continues to lead humanitarian trips to perform heart surgery on infants and children while training local physicians and surgeons at these sites. His group visited the Phnom Penh Heart Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2005 and 2006, and the Fann Cardiovascular Institute in Dakar, Senegal in 2007. In 2008 and 2009, under the guidance of the Children's Heartlink Foundation and in conjunction with the Clinton Global Initiative, Dr. Chen's team operated at the Jilin Heart Center in Changchun, China, and this past year at the Post Graduate Institute for Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh, India.

At Seattle Children's, Dr. Chen hopes to build one of the largest regional practices of congenital cardiac surgery on the West Coast, coordinating growth in both pediatric

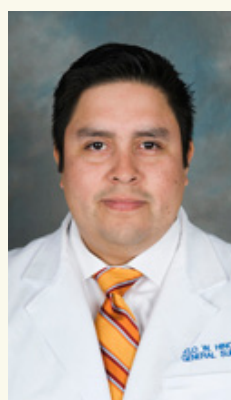
congenital cardiac surgery at Children's, as well as adult congenital cardiac surgery at UWMC.



Dr. Alexander Gougoutas, Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery, was born in Minneapolis, although he considers himself a New Jersey native. Alex received his undergraduate degree in Music from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000 with honors. He completed his medical degree, general surgical, and plastic surgery training at the University of

Pennsylvania. The Plastic Surgery Program at Penn is very strong, with an internationally recognized microsurgery program. We were fortunate to match Alex to our microsurgery fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic years. On his arrival at University of Washington it became clear that Dr. Gougoutas was a team player, a skilled surgeon, and a gifted teacher. The division felt that he would be a great addition to our faculty. Alex's primary clinical interest is in reconstructive microsurgery and his research focus will be in clinical outcomes.

He is happy to remain in the Pacific Northwest near his family, who relocated to Portland, OR from Princeton, NJ.



Dr. Marcelo Hinojosa, Acting Assistant Professor, is a member of the Bariatric Surgery team and the Urgent Care Surgery Services in the Division of General Surgery at the UW Medical Center.

Dr. Hinojosa's clinical interests include advanced minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery, bariatric surgery, foregut surgery, and abdominal wall hernia surgery.

His main research interests center on surgical outcomes, bariatric and metabolic surgery, and gastroesophageal reflux disease.

Dr. Hinojosa received his medical degree from the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine in

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2004. He completed residency in General Surgery as well as a Research Fellowship in the Divisions of Gastrointestinal Surgery and Colon & Rectal Surgery at UC Irvine. Dr. Hinojosa finished his Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gastroesophageal Surgery at the UW Medical Center in 2012.



Dr. Susanna M. Nazarian, Assistant Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery, was a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in Biochemistry and a B.A. in Comparative Literature. While there she was three times All-American and four times Atlantic Coast Conference champion in cross country and track.

She pursued her medical studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. During the summers she worked as a guide on Mt. Rainier. She completed the Halsted Surgical Residency at Johns Hopkins and received a Ph.D. from the Graduate Training Program in Clinical Investigation at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her two-year Abdominal Transplant Surgery fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Clinically she specializes in transplantation of the kidney, liver and pancreas as well as laparoscopic donor nephrectomy. Her research interests target the identification and management of factors affecting the outcomes of liver and kidney transplantation.

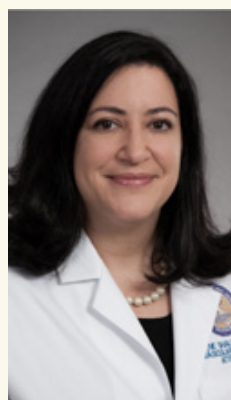
Her husband, Saman, is a cardiac electrophysiologist with special expertise in complex ventricular arrhythmias. They have a four year old daughter, Madeline. Dr. Nazarian's current recreational interests include hiking with her family and cycling. She and Madeline can often be seen on their tandem bicycle.



Dr. Guy Saltmarsh, Acting Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery and is a member of the Urgent Care Surgery Services at UW Medical Center. His clinical interests are in acute surgical disease, minimally invasive/laparoscopic surgery, and surgical oncology.

Dr. Saltmarsh earned his bachelors degree from UC Berkeley where he studied International Development, and his medical degree from UCLA. He then continued on with his general surgery residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center; one of the two major trauma centers serving the Los Angeles area.

"I find being a surgeon the most rewarding position I could imagine for myself. Working with a diverse patient population to provide them with meaningful health care is an absolute privilege. When a person is afflicted with an ailment, large or small, the impact can be significant. I believe it is the physician's job to guide the patient through the health care system from diagnosis to cure. Being a surgeon has the added satisfaction of providing definitive treatment options in the operating room."



Dr. Sherene Shalhub, Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery, joined the Department of Surgery in July 2013. She plans to work at the interface of vascular surgery and vascular genetics. Her first goal is to conduct a combined research and clinical program to investigate why some patients with aortic dissection develop aneurysms while others do not.

Her clinical practice will focus on building the UW vascular program at Valley General Hospital, though she will also be clinically active at UWMC and Harborview.

Dr. Shalhub most recently served as an attending staff surgeon at the Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular

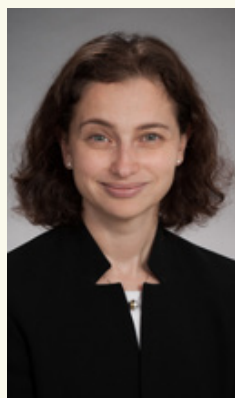
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Institute in Texas Medical Center with a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She earned her medical degree from the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa and then completed her general surgery residency and vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition, she completed a Master of Public Health degree at the University of South Florida and a postdoctoral trauma research fellowship at the University of Washington.

Dr. Shalhub has a strong research focus and in concentrating her research in the genetic basis of aortic and arterial aneurysms and dissections as well as elucidating the mechanism of rapid aneurysmal degeneration of the descending thoracic aorta post aortic dissection. The research will be conducted in collaboration with Dr. Peter Byers at the University of Washington and Dr. Dianna Milewicz at the University at Houston.

Clinically, she is interested in providing a comprehensive and collaborative multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment of aortic and peripheral arterial aneurysms and dissections in patients with genetically triggered vascular diseases such as Familial Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections, Marfan syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome, and vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome.

Personally, she enjoys hiking, alpine climbing and skiing. We are thrilled to have Dr. Shalhub back with the Department of Surgery.



Dr. Lena Sibulesky, Assistant Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery, is a transplant surgeon who specializes in liver, kidney, and kidney-pancreas transplants. She came from The Mayo Clinic in Florida. She graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital. She then

completed transplant fellowships at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School and at The

Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education at The Mayo Clinic in Florida. Dr. Sibulesky is interested in both clinical and translational research in liver transplantation. She is interested in studying mechanism of biliary strictures in donors after cardiac death.



Dr. Niten Singh, Associate Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery, is a nationally-renowned board certified vascular surgeon specializing in the latest techniques in vascular and endovascular surgery. Dr. Singh spent the last 7 years at Madigan Army Medical Center where he was Chief of Endovascular Surgery. During that time he had two combat deployments.

Dr. Singh will lead the UW Limb Preservation Program and look to expand the peripheral open and endovascular program.

Dr. Singh received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University and completed his general surgery residency at Tripler Army Medical Center followed by fellowship training at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Singh has expertise in treating all vascular disorders but has a special interest in peripheral interventions and limb salvage surgery. His research interests focus on critical limb ischemia and revascularization strategies to avoid major amputation. In addition Dr. Singh has a strong interest in medical education and resident training. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications and numerous book chapters.

Dr. Singh's long-term goals include broadening the Limb Preservation Service at UW with significant vascular surgery involvement and creating a nationally recognized multidisciplinary program dedicated to limb salvage to augment the already strong Regional Vascular Center.

SCOAP Retreat

On Friday, June 14, faculty and staff from the Department of Surgery's [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) participated in the 6th Annual SCOAP Retreat in Chelan, Washington. [The Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program \(SCOAP\)](#) is a performance surveillance and benchmarking quality improvement collaborative in Washington State. SORCE has long-partnered with SCOAP in research and development through its [CERTAIN](#) program. CERTAIN is building a learning healthcare system in Washington State through projects and initiatives that track quality, benchmark best practices, drive improvement, and allow all healthcare stakeholders to have their input heard as to what is needed to improve the system. The Annual SCOAP Retreat brings together the community to share the successes achieved by SCOAP in the last year and to hear of new activities and developments that are underway within SCOAP, and through partnership with CERTAIN.



Dr. David Flum presenting at the 6th Annual SCOAP Retreat.

Dr. David Flum, CERTAIN Medical Director and Department of Surgery Professor Associate Chair for Research, and SORCE Medical Director, said of the SCOAP/CERTAIN partnership, “There is still a very thin evidence base around what every surgeon should do in caring for his or her patients. What we don’t need is a report card. What we *do* need is to figure out what is working and how we can share that among our community. We need programs like SCOAP that generate healthcare evidence through quality improvement surveillance, and programs like CERTAIN partnering with SCOAP to provide the learning element to healthcare by leveraging data gathered and sharing evidence-based practices back to the community to improve healthcare delivery.”

SORCE faculty and staff presented highlights of CERTAIN’s accomplishments with SCOAP over the previous year and highlighted key areas for development in the upcoming year. Led by **Danielle Lavallee, PhD**, Senior Researcher at SORCE, CERTAIN will continue development in the Patient Voices Project, which partners with patients through the research process to incorporate patient-reported outcomes like quality of life into clinical practice as a complement to traditional clinical data informing quality improvement and research activities. Led by **Dr. Tom Varghese**, Department of Surgery Associate Professor, CERTAIN will also continue to focus on moving evidence into practice through the [Strong for Surgery](#) initiative, which is working to identify and implement evidence-based practices to optimize the health of patients prior to surgery.

To learn more:

- CERTAIN and associated projects:
 - www.becertain.org
 - [facebook.com/certainWA](https://www.facebook.com/certainWA)
 - [@certainWA](https://twitter.com/certainWA)
 - [in](#) search for group “CERTAIN Learning Healthcare System”
- Strong for Surgery
 - www.strongforsurgery.org
 - [facebook.com/StrongforSurgery](https://www.facebook.com/StrongforSurgery)
 - [@strong4surgery](https://twitter.com/strong4surgery)
- SCOAP
 - www.scoap.org
 - [youtube.com/scoapchecklist](https://www.youtube.com/scoapchecklist)
- SORCE
 - uwsurgery.org/sorce
 - [in](#) search for group “Surgical Outcomes Research Center”

2013 Faculty Promotions



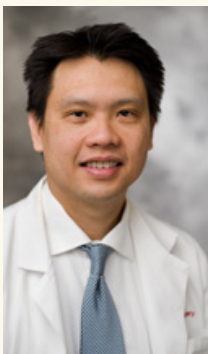
Jeffrey Avansino, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Division of Pediatric
General Surgery



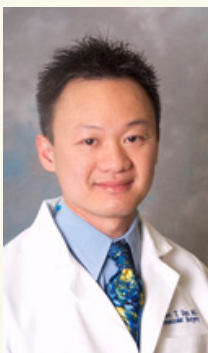
Craig Birgfeld, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Division of
Plastic Surgery



Tam Pham, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Division of Trauma,
Critical Care and Burns



Nam Tran, MD
Promoted to
Associate Professor

Division of
Vascular Surgery

ISIS Fellow—Dr. Abebe Bekele

The Department of Surgery welcomed a special visitor earlier last month, **Dr. Abebe Bekele, MD**. Dr. Abebe, serves as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Addis Ababa University School of Medicine (AAU) (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). This past June, he became the first Visiting Fellow for the Department of Surgery's [Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies \(ISIS\)](#).

As ISIS' inaugural Visiting Fellow, Dr. Abebe spent three weeks in Seattle meeting with various members of the Department of Surgery, UW School of Medicine Leadership, and UW Medicine faculty. The bulk of Dr. Abebe's time was spent in ISIS' simulation facility at UWMC where he observed trainings, administrative operations, and the development of new educational programs.

Expressing a strong desire to develop educational materials during his visit, Dr. Abebe worked closely with ISIS educational experts, Dr. Sara Kim and Ms. Megan Sherman, to review and innovate methods of training for Ethiopian surgical residents. Dr. Abebe developed a prolific amount of training material during his visit, eventually leaving Seattle with five new curricula to be implemented in residency training at AAU.



(Left to right) Dr. Brian Ross, Dr. Sara Kim, Megan Sherman, Dr. Abebe Bekele, Farrah Leland, Dr. Brant Oelschlager, Erin Haslam and Elizabeth Buttrick.

Dr. Abebe additionally presented on the topic of “*Surgical Training in Ethiopia – Past and Future*” during the Department of Surgery's Grand Rounds, where he described the ongoing partnership between the University of Washington and Addis Ababa University in the areas of laparoscopic surgical training, and now simulation education.

A huge thank you to those who spent time with Dr. Abebe during his visit! Led by the efforts of **Dr. Brant Oelschlager, Dr. Andrew Wright, Ms. Colleen Iwano, and Ms. Erin Haslam** – the visit was an enormous success!



2013 Graduating Chief Residents' & Fellows' Dinner



Lynge

The Department of Surgery held its 2013 Graduating Chiefs Residents & Fellows Dinner on Friday, June 21, 2013 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center.

Dr. Dana Lynge, Associate Professor, practicing general surgery at the Veteran's Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VA), was this year's Master of Ceremonies.



Kohler

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.



Bowe

Among the awards this year was the 2013 Faculty Teaching Award, given to **Dr. Ted R. Kohler, Professor, Vascular Surgery** (pictured above) and presented by incoming Chief Resident, **Dr. Darren Bowe**. 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.

Other awards presented that evening:

Resident Recognition Award -
Recipient **Dr. Darren Bowe**

Henry Harkins Award -
Recipient **Dr. Estell Williams**

David Tapper Teaching & Leadership Award -
Recipient **Dr. André Ilbawi**

Nurse of the Year Award -
Recipient **Cameron Wright, RN**

2013 Graduating Chief Residents

Coordinated Plastic Surgery Program

Dr. Austin Hayes – Hand Surgery Fellowship at The Curtis National Hand Center in Baltimore, MD

Dr. Kate Kuhlman-Wood – Hand Surgery Fellowship at Baylor University in Houston, TX



Back row: (left to right) Jennifer Flannery (PA), Drs. Otway Louie, David Mathes, Peter Neligan, Austin Hayes, Alex Gougoutas, and Hakim Said
Front row: (left to right) Julie Rosaia, Shannon Colohan, and Nadia Gavrilenko



Left to right: Drs. Dante Conley, Giana Davidson, Carlos Pellegrini, Shahram Aarabi, Katherine Moreno, Karen Horvath, Andre Ilbawi (behind Dr. Horvath), Samantha Quade, and Jonathan Kohler. (Dr. Jayaraj not pictured.)

General Surgery Program

Dr. Shahram Aarabi – pursuing a fellowship in trauma

Dr. Dante Conley – multidisciplinary clinic as a general surgeon at the Tanana Valley Clinic in Fairbanks, AK

Dr. Giana Davidson – General Surgery faculty as Acting Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Medical Center

(continued on page 20)

Researcher Profile: Resident Researchers

The [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education \(ACGME\)](#) strongly encourages residents to engage in laboratory and/or clinical research, and the Department of Surgery is proud to be able to provide a number of one and two-year research fellowships to its residents. Research experiences during residency offer added value to surgical education through increased skills in critical reading, patient advocacy, and understanding of advances and keep abreast with advances in technology and clinical care. Further, research during residency provides a critical education in grantsmanship and collaboration for the many residents who will ultimately pursue academic careers. Starting July 1, 2013, six residents began their two-year research fellowships:



Meghan Flanagan, MD, PGY4

Dr. Flanagan is a T32 trainee in Cancer Epidemiology under mentors **Dr. Thomas Vaughan**, Professor of Epidemiology, and **Dr. David Flum**, Professor of Surgery in Division of General Surgery. Her primary research goal is to further understand clinical research methodology and policy

formulation so as to design effective research studies that may answer surgical outcomes questions in areas where controlled clinical trials are largely absent. She is particularly interested in how diagnostic methods and genomic testing affect cancer related outcomes, and how quality and safety align with patient centered care. Dr. Flanagan ultimately wants to pursue a career in surgical oncology with a focus on breast and endocrine cancers. She is committed to an academic career involving research that will provide patients with evidenced based recommendations to provide optimal care.

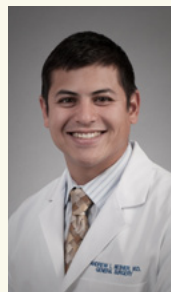


Katherine Flynn-O'Brien, MD, PGY3

Dr. Flynn-O'Brien will work as a T32 trainee in Pediatric Injury Research under faculty mentor Dr. Fred Rivara, Professor of Pediatrics at Seattle Children's Hospital. Pediatric trauma causes significant morbidity and mortality worldwide, and the goals of her research

are evaluation of the frequency and distribution of pediatric disease and injury, identification of their particular

determinants of health and risk, and determination of health services and quality care indicators related to outcomes in the pediatric trauma population. Dr. Flynn-O'Brien also seeks to obtain a solid foundation in research methodology and bio-statistical analysis, and to understand accurate and effective data collection methods. She plans to use this experience to pursue a research career focused on design and implementation of effective trauma programs.



Andrew Mesher, MD, PGY4

Dr. Mesher will spend his first research year as a clinical fellow in ExtraCorporeal Life Support (ECLS) at Seattle Children's Hospital under fellowship director **Dr. Michael McMullan**, Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The field of pediatric surgery is

heavily influenced by emerging medical technology, and this program will help him learn the clinical application of ECLS and develop understanding regarding the transformation of clinical needs into devices that improve patient outcomes. In his second year, Dr. Mesher will undertake a fellowship in the Biodesign Surgical Innovation program at Stanford University, working with Dr. Thomas Krummel, Chairman of the Department of Surgery. There he will utilize his background in biomechanical engineering to further gain experience in the process of medical device innovation to address unmet clinical needs.



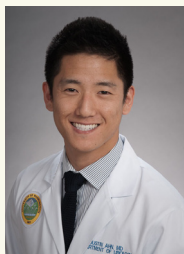
Morgan Richards, MD, PGY4

Dr. Richards will work with faculty mentor **Dr. Adam Goldin**, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatric Surgery, to determine standardized treatment algorithms that optimize quality of life for pediatric patients. She will focus on outcomes research using various data

sources, including the Pediatric Health Information System and retrospective data from Seattle Children's Hospital. These data will assist in assessment of current clinical indications for operations as well as postoperative outcomes related to various surgical interventions. Specifically, she will examine preoperative risk factors correlated with postoperative complications after colectomy for ulcerative

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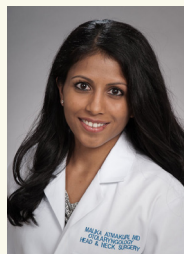
2013-14 New Surgery Residents



Justin Ahn, MD
Urology



Nathan Airhart, MD
General Surgery



Malika Atmakuri, MD
Otolaryngology



Matthew Bartek, MD
General Surgery



Kariline Bringe, MD
Orthopaedics



Wayne Brisbane, MD
Urology



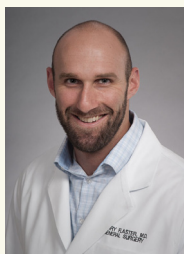
Shannon Cannon, MD
Urology



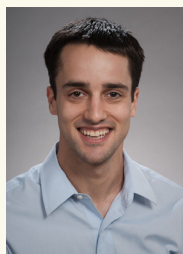
Ali Darehzereshki, MD
General Surgery



Sarasijhaa Desikan, MD
Vascular



Harry Flaster, MD
General Surgery



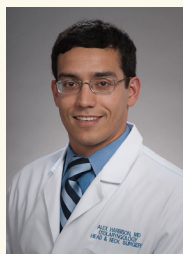
Romie Gibly, MD
Orthopaedics



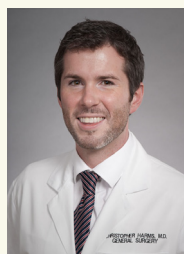
Sarah Goldsberry, MD
Plastic Surgery



Jeffrey Grosland, MD
General Surgery



Richard Harbison, MD
Otolaryngology



Christopher Harms, MD
General Surgery

Why I Chose Residency at University of Washington Department of Surgery...

“Simply the resonating quality and national reputation of the program.”

“UW is one of the top orthopaedic institutes in the country with faculty and training centers that allow residents to excel as clinicians, surgeons and academicians.”

“I had an amazing month during my sub-internship last year. This made me realize that UW would provide a great working environment with a diverse clinical experience that would help me achieve my goal of becoming a solid surgeon.”

“The PEOPLE, the PLACE...ya’ll are an interesting group...I am excited and proud to be here. UW has everything certain pretentious East Coast programs have (and more), without the pretentiousness.”

“I love Seattle and could see myself here after spending about 1 month at the UW during medical school to do research—that was my initial exposure. The culture within the surgery department and the excellent surgical training experience as well as the interesting and likable residents that I met on interview day, set it over the top. Finally, I remember distinctly, that there was a focus on graduating surgeons who were clinically competent but who also retained a strong sense of humanity and humility and that appealed to me.”

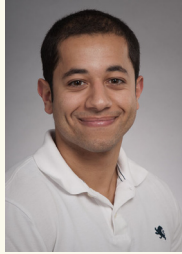
“The faculty are remarkable and have been so supportive of me during my tenure as a medical student it is a honor to continue under their tutelage as a resident.”

“I grew up in Bellingham, so residency in Seattle felt like coming home. I also did a Sub-I here and found the faculty and residents to be among the most impressive I had encountered.”

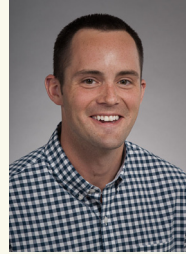
2013-14 New Surgery Residents — Continued from page 15



Eric Howell, MD
Cardiothoracic



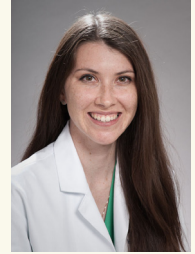
David Ibrahim, MD
Orthopaedics



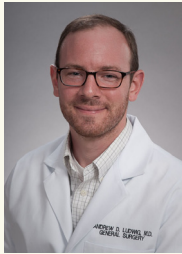
Colin Kennedy, MD
Orthopaedics



Anthony Law, MD
Otolaryngology



Kelly Ledbetter, MD
Plastic Surgery



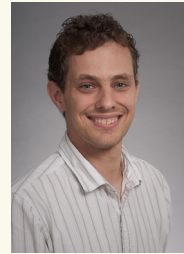
Andrew Ludwig, MD
General Surgery



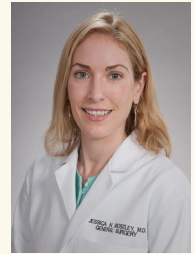
Surbhi Mathur, MD
General Surgery



Lauren Meyer, MD
Orthopaedics



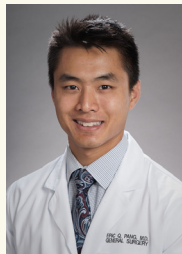
Stuart Michnick, MD
Orthopaedics



Jessica Moseley, MD
General Surgery



Uwadiale Ohioweke, MD
General Surgery



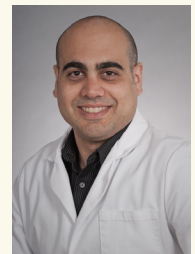
Eric Pang, MD
General Surgery



Jason Rogers, MD
General Surgery



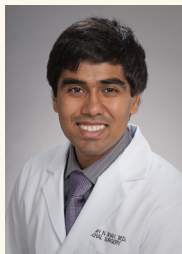
Elizabeth Rommer, MD
Plastic Surgery



Roberto Salas Fragomeni, MD
General Surgery



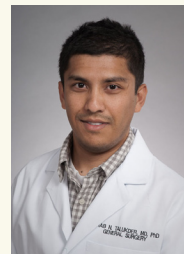
Adam Sangeorzan, MD
Orthopaedics



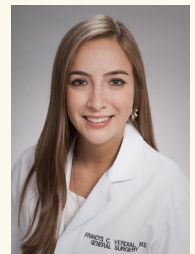
Rishabh Shah, MD
General Surgery



Alan Swenson, MD
Orthopaedics



Iehab Talukder, MD
General Surgery



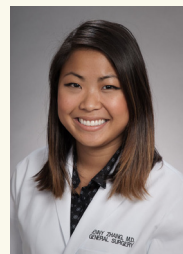
Francys Verdial Argueta, MD
General Surgery



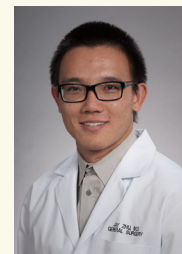
Estell Williams, MD
General Surgery



Deirdre Witte, MD
General Surgery



Jenny Zhang, MD
General Surgery



Jay Zhu, MD
General Surgery

Dr. Ron Maier Receives 2013 Sheen Award

The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce that **Ronald Maier, MD, FACS**; Professor, Jane and Donald Trunkey Endowed Chair in Trauma; Chief of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn Surgery; Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery and Surgeon in Chief at Harborview Medical Center has been selected as the 2013 Dr. Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award. His colleagues within the Department of Surgery congratulate him on this extraordinary and well-deserved honor.



Ron Maier, MD, FACS

The Sheen Advisory Committee established the following criteria for evaluating nominees:

- nominees should be on the frontiers of medical science doing work that has great promise;
- nominees should be currently involved in teaching and research in medicine;
- nominees' work should be of the highest quality and ongoing; and,
- nominees should not be retired or semi-retired, i.e., the Award should be used to encourage the significant scientific work ahead of them.

The rigorous criteria and selection process ensure that only the exceptional "Doctor of Medical Science" is nominated and receives the award. Dr. Maier abundantly meets these criteria and is a worthy nominee and winner.

Dr. Maier received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1973 followed by a one-year clerkship in surgical and gross pathology at the University of London's St. Bartholomew's Medical College in London along with a simultaneous one-year externship in Medicine and Oncology at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado and a Research Assistantship in Immunology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Maier surgical internship was completed at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and his general surgery residency training at the University of Washington in Seattle. From 1978 through 1981, he completed a two-year research fellowship in immunopathology and was a research associate in immunopathology for one-year at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, California.

In 1981, Dr. Maier returned to the University of Washington School of Medicine (UW), where he has spent the majority of his professional career. His academic career is simply outstanding. He has contributed to or has been co-author on 59 book chapters and has been a contributing or co-author on over 300 published peer-reviewed articles. In October 2013, he will deliver the ACS Scudder Oration on Trauma.

"The Dr. Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award has been presented annually since 1968. Mr. Sheen's legacy was inspired by a deep affection for his brother, Dr. Rodman E. Sheen who was a radiologist and pioneer in the medical use of Roentgen rays. Dr. Sheen was injured in the course of his research when a Roentgen tube exploded in his lab."

Throughout his career, Dr. Maier has received many awards. A few are: The John K. Stevenson Award for Teaching Excellence and Dedication to Resident Education in 2012; the Flance-Karl Award from the American Surgical Association in 2007; the Lifetime Achievement Award in Trauma Resuscitation from the American Heart Association in 2007; and the ACGME's Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award in 2010. He has held numerous leadership roles in both national and international medical organizations. He served as President of the Society of University Surgeons from 1991-1992; President of the Shock Society from 1993-1994; President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma from 2000-2002; President of the Surgical Infection Society from 2002-2003; President of the U.S. Chapter of the ISS/SIC from 2003-2005; President of ISS/SIC from 2009-2011; and President of the Halsted Society from 2011-2012. Over the years, he has been an involved member of the ACS Committee on Trauma, serving as Chair of their Injury Prevention and Control Committee.

(continued on page 18)

Maier Receives 2013 Sheen Award — *Continued from page 17*

He has presented his work around the globe, giving over 300 lectures on topics related to trauma, critical care medicine, and surgical immunology. He has received NIH and industry financial support for his research totaling over 20 million dollars. Most recently in 2012, he received a five-year grant to study the Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury This award totaled \$2,911,591 (\$387,054 annually).

Dr. Maier has a long history of mentorship, having mentored over 120 basic research and clinical trauma fellows, NIH researchers, medical and predoctoral students, and international visiting scientists. His influence is strong and indelible on the UW Trauma Surgery Department. He has built a strong cadre of well-trained clinicians, successful researchers and outstanding teachers. Young faculty in the Trauma, Critical Care and Burns are provided direction, the benefit of his years of experience and wisdom, while at the same time encouraged to be independent clinicians and academicians: a difficult achievement for any leader.

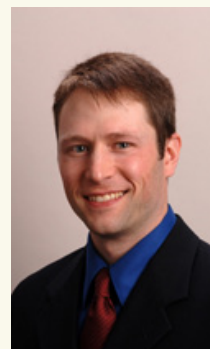
To expand upon the history and nature of this award: The Dr. Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award has been presented annually since 1968 "to further the study of medicine and the science of medicine and to compensate an outstanding Doctor of Medical Science in the United States for each year."

Thomas G. Sheen, was a well-known tailor, clothier and real estate professional in Atlantic City. In 1938 he created an extraordinarily important and philanthropic legacy to honor doctors who have made outstanding contributions to mankind through the fields of medicine and medical research. Mr. Sheen's legacy was inspired by a deep affection for his brother, Dr. Rodman E. Sheen who was a radiologist and pioneer in the medical use of Roentgen rays. Dr. Sheen was injured in the course of his research when a Roentgen tube exploded in his lab.

A local New Jersey committee known as the Sheen Advisory Committee makes the final selection for the Sheen Award each year and the recipient is a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of the College This advisory committee consists of 10-12 members and is made up of physicians from the southern New Jersey region where the Sheen family lived and worked. Half of the members are surgeons, and the other half represent a spectrum of other medical specialties. A stipulation in the trust agreement specifies that a national medical organization is to be consulted for selection of the recipient. Through 1981, the American Medical Association administered the Award, and since 1982 the American College of Surgeons' Honors Committee has been considering nominees and making recommendations.

One other Department of Surgery faculty member has won this award to date: Dr. Alec Clowes, Professor, Vascular Surgery Division was the prize recipient in 2003. Additionally, Dr. Mary-Claire King Professor, Medicine (Medical Genetics) & Genome Sciences, who identified mutations that cause breast cancer.

Department of Surgery— Major SCORE Contributor



[The Surgical Council on Resident Education \(SCORE\)](#) is a portal devoted to providing curriculum tools to surgical residents. Current SCORE content includes over 500 modules in four competencies, eleven authoritative textbooks,

nearly 200 videos and more than 2000 self-assessment questions. SCORE provides the most comprehensive collection of curriculum tools available to surgical residents. The Department of Surgery has been a major contributor to the content of this site. **Dr. Erik Van Eaton** (pictured above) has served on the editorial board for some time. Other Department faculty, fellows and resident contributors are numerous.

Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini, Chair, UW Department of Surgery, states: "I was particularly proud to get the note below from Dr. Frank Lewis, the Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery. I thank you again, those of you who participated in this project... and as you can see our department has made the major contributions to this worthwhile effort. Thank YOU."

"Thanks for copying me on the letters to your faculty members regarding their authorship for SCORE modules. From looking over these letters it appears that your department is singlehandedly providing the majority of the authorship! Many thanks to you and them for your extraordinary effort and dedication to getting this completed. We sincerely appreciate your support of this in every way." Frank Lewis, MD, Executive Director, American Board of Surgery.

Honors and Awards

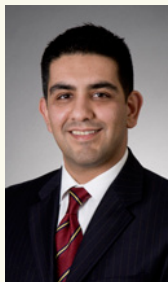
Faculty



Dr. Benjamin Anderson, Professor, General Surgery Division, has been appointed as Chair of the new [National Comprehensive Cancer Center \(NCCN\)](#) International Program Committee. "I am delighted to work with NCCN on this important international project," said Dr. Anderson. "The value of the NCCN algorithms will increase exponentially as

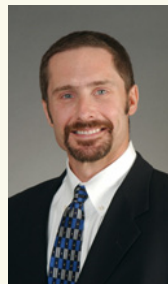
the International Committee works with collaborators from other regions of the world to help identify how NCCN Content can best be adapted to their regional needs and resources. This is an exciting time in global medicine."

[Read the NCCN article >>](#)



Dr. Farhood Farjah, Assistant Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery Division, received a Cancer Research Network Pilot Project Grant award from the [Cancer Research Network \(CRN\)](#) for his project entitled "Automated Tool to Measure Lung Cancer Risk Factors in Pulmonary Nodule Patients."

This pilot project aims to develop an automated tool to measure lung cancer risk factors among individuals with pulmonary nodules. Once validated, this methodology will be used to conduct a multi-site study across integrated health systems investigating care delivery and outcomes among enrollees with lung nodules. The ultimate goal of this work is to design multi-level interventions to increase guideline adherent care and improve outcomes, quality, and value. This work will be conducted in collaboration with investigators at [SORCE](#), [UW Department of Health Services](#), [VA Health Services and Research and Development](#), [Group Health Research Institute](#), and [Kaiser Permanente Southern California Department of Research & Evaluation](#).



Dr. Michael Mulligan, Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery Division, has been elected by the [Western Thoracic Surgical Association \(WTSA\)](#) its new Vice President (this will elevate to President of the WTSA at next year's annual meeting). This is well deserved as Dr. Mulligan has had multiple roles in the association (Program Committee, Council, winner of 3 Samson Resident Paper Awards) and is highly regarded by our peers for his leadership and stature in cardiothoracic surgery.



Dr. Edward Verrier, Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery will be awarded the David J. Dugan Distinguished Service award for 2013 by the [Western Thoracic Surgical Association \(WTSA\)](#). This prestigious award has been granted to only ten individuals since 1994 and it distinguishes great surgeons for outstanding contributions in both science and leadership over a sustained period of time. Dr. Verrier has been influential as both a leader and scientist, conducting innovative research in clinical settings as well as education methodology. Dr. Verrier is the Director of the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education and was previously the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division Chief and Vice Chairman of Clinical Affairs at the University of Washington. He began the Cardiothoracic Division's Annual Visiting Professor Event in 1992 and is known by his colleagues as a humble and kind teacher and peer. He will be honored at the WTSA's 39th Annual Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, June 26-29, 2013.

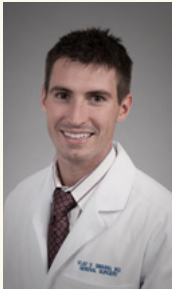
Residents



Dr. Callie M. Thompson, received the 2013 [American Association for the Surgery of Trauma \(AAST\)](#) resident scholarship to attend the 72nd Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery. This scholarship includes the following: complimentary meeting registration; complimentary lunch session tickets and banquet ticket; hotel costs; stipend for meals; and an invitation to attend a special breakfast for In-Training Fellows, Residents and Medical Students.

Resident Researchers — *Continued from page 14*

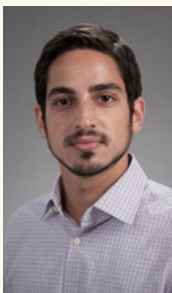
colitis. She will also work with providers across a variety of divisions at Seattle Children's to perform patient-centered process improvements for gastrostomy tube insertion.



Vlad Simianu, MD, PGY4

Dr. Simianu will work as a T32 trainee under mentor **Dr. David Flum**, Professor of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery. He plans to study surgical care for advanced-stage cancer patients across Washington State. Dr. Simianu will investigate best practices and stage-specific outcomes in the delivery of surgical care to these patients through evaluation of data provided by both the Surgical Care and Outcomes

Assessment Program and the program for Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results. His goal is to identify modifiable barriers to care and describe value and appropriateness of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation for these patients. Additionally, Dr. Simianu will use new methods in behavioral economics to better describe the processes of decision making by both surgeons and patients facing advanced cancer.



Ravi Sood, MD, PGY3

Hypertrophic scarring is a proliferative response to injury resulting in scar raised above the skin level. It occurs commonly following partial-thickness burns and other deep-dermal wounds, and is associated with pruritus, pain, functional impairment, cosmetic detriment, psychological morbidity, and decreased quality of life. Dr. Sood will work as a T32 trainee in Trauma and Burn Research under

mentor **Dr. Nicole Gibran**, Professor of Surgery and Director of the UW Burn Center. He plans to test the hypothesis that single-nucleotide polymorphisms in genes that regulate skin pigmentation, including MC1R, lead to hypertrophic scarring by influencing the inflammatory and fibroproliferative responses to cutaneous injury. As part of his T32 fellowship, he will also be pursuing his MS in Epidemiology through the University of Washington School of Public Health.

Chief Residents' & Fellows' Dinner — *Continued from page 13*

Dr. André Ilbawi — Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the

MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas

Dr. Arjun Jayaraj — Vascular Surgery Fellowship at The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN

Dr. Jonathan Kohler — Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at the University of Chicago

Dr. Katherine Moreno — Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at the University of Washington

Dr. Samantha Quade — Colorectal Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Fellows Finishing June 2013

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care:

Dr. Patricia Ayoung-Chee,

Dr. Vanessa Fawcett,

Dr. Catherine Lewis, Dr. Deborah Marquardt and Dr. Lisa Rae

Transplant Surgery:

Dr. Jared Brandenberger

Burn Surgery:

Dr. Sam Mandell

Craniofacial Surgery:

Dr. Faisal Al-Mufarrej, Dr. Alex Gougoutas (Microsurgery) and Dr. Adam Oppenheimer

Vascular Surgery:

Dr. Christian Hamlat

Cardiothoracic Surgery:

Dr. Josh Hermsen and Dr. Misho Hubka

Pediatric Surgery:

Dr. Matthew Harting

Center for

Video Endoscopic Surgery:

Dr. Elizabeth Warner

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

Alumni Corner



Elizabeth FitzSullivan, MD, General Surgery resident from 2005-2012, accepted a full time breast surgeon position at [MD Anderson Regional](#)

[Care Center in The Woodlands, University of Texas](#). She states "I interviewed at many places (I know very early) but feel this is a great opportunity for me professionally as well as my family (pictured below). I find myself constantly saying "where I trained..." I only now realize how well trained we are there. I miss everyone."



(Left to right) Gabrielle, Alexandra and Isabella FitzSullivan.

Let us know what you are up to now!

If you would like to share news about your career and family or reflect upon your residency experience in UW Department of Surgery, we want to hear about it to publish in *Surgery Synopsis*.

Please send your updates and pictures to surgeditors@uw.edu.

Harkins Society Distinguished Alumnus Award Nominations

The Harkins Society is accepting nominations for the 2013 **Harkins Society Distinguished Alumnus Award**. To submit a nomination, please send an email to UWHarkins@gmail.com. The only requirement is that the awardee completed their surgical training at the UW Department of Surgery, as a resident or fellow. **The deadline for submission is August 31, 2013.** To nominate a colleague, please include:

- Your name and contact information
- The Nominee's name and contact information and year(s) of training, if known.
- The criteria for selection include 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 will be considered.

The winner will be announced and honored at the Harkins Society Annual Banquet on Friday, Oct. 18th.

AND

The location for the Harkins Symposium has changed, the new location is Alder Hall, on the corner of Brooklyn Ave NE & NE Campus Parkway.

October 18th, 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

Save the Dates

**HARKINS SYMPOSIUM
AND
64TH ANNUAL
ALFRED A. STRAUSS
LECTURE
Friday, October 18, 2013**

**Annual Harkins Symposium
Alder Hall (corner of
Brooklyn Ave. NE & NE
Campus Parkway)
7:30am – 2:30pm**

**64TH Annual
Alfred A. Strauss Lecture
Thomas Russell, MD
Clinical Professor of Surgery
University of California
at San Francisco
And Past Executive Director
American College of Surgeons
Hogness Auditorium,
Room, A-420, 4:00pm
Magnuson Health Sciences Bldg.**

**HARKINS SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
AND BANQUET
Friday, October 18, 2013
Seattle Yacht Club
6:30pm**

**20TH ANNUAL
SCHILLING RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM & LECTURE
Friday, January 31, 2014
Timothy R. Billiar, MD
George Vance Foster Professor
& Chair
Department of Surgery
University of Pittsburgh
Location and details TBA**

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

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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