

Schilling Lecture and Research Day

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to discoveries on the role of nitric oxide in shock and liver disease. Additionally, his laboratory is credited with initially cloning the human inducible nitric oxide synthase gene. Dr. Billiar holds seven US patents associated with his research. He is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) trauma training grant, Director of a P50 Trauma Center Grant also from the NIH, and PI on an NIH RO1 grant.

Dr. Billiar is widely published, having edited 8 medical texts and authored over 600 peer-reviewed articles. He also sits on eight Editorial Boards, including the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Molecular Medicine, and the Journal of Perioperative Medicine. Dr. Billiar is active in numerous professional societies and is past president of the Society of University Surgeons, the Nitric Oxide Society, and the Surgical Infection Society. He has previously served on the Surgery, Anesthesia, and Trauma Study Section at NIH and is currently a member of the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). In 2006 Dr. Billiar was inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy Sciences, and in 2008 he received the Flance Karl Award for Scientific Achievement from the American Surgical Association. In 2011 he was named University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Billiar's Schilling Lecture was preceded by the annual **Department of Surgery Research Symposium** which included 33 oral presentations and posters by Department of Surgery residents and fellows on a wide variety of basic and clinical research topics. The day also included presentations by three faculty members highlighting their own research as well as related research by colleagues in their divisions:

- [Leah Backhus, MD](#), Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery: "Cardiothoracic Surgery Health Services Research"
- [Thomas Hatsukami, MD](#), Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery: "p27kip1 and Carotid Plaque Progression"
- [Jason Ko, MD](#), Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery: "Targeted Muscle Reinnervation (TMR) As a Treatment for Neuromas: From bedside to bench and... back to bedside"

Both the plenary and poster sessions were adjudicated by Dr. Billiar and Department of Surgery research leadership. Participants were ranked on scientific merit and validity, presentation skills, and preparedness for questions and comments. Congratulations are in order to the top three individuals in each session:

Oral presentations:

1st place – [Jonathan Sham, MD](#) "Novel Antibody-Targeted Zirconium-89 PET Imaging of Hepatocellular Carcinoma"

2nd place – [Ravi Sood, MD](#) "Dermal Fibroblasts from Duroc and Yorkshire Pigs Demonstrate Differences in Response to Injury"

3rd place – [Meera Kotagal, MD](#) "Use and Accuracy of Diagnostic Imaging in the Evaluation of Pediatric Appendicitis: A Report from the SCOAP-CERTAIN Collaborative"

The [Helen and John Schilling Endowed Lectureship](#) was established by the late Helen Schilling to bring distinguished scholars to the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington, and to enhance the Department's commitment to the highest standards of patient care, teaching, research and scholarship. It was Mrs. Schilling's wish that the lectureship be in honor of her husband, John.

Please follow this link to read more about all of the research presentations:


[20th Annual Helen & John Schilling Lecture and 2014 Research Day >>](#)

Honors, Awards and Publications

Faculty



[Dr. Jonathan M. Chen](#), Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Chief of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery is the third individual to hold the Samuel and Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at [Seattle Children's Hospital](#).

[Dr. Heather L. Evans](#), Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn Surgery, was awarded a [Commercialization Gap Fund \(CGF\)](#) grant from the [University of Washington Center for Commercialization \(C4C\)](#) in support of her project entitled "Mobile Post-Operative Wound Evaluator (mPOWER)." 

The UW C4C CGF grants are made possible by funding support from the [University of Washington Royalty Research Fund](#) and the [Washington Research Foundation](#).

Dr. Evans also received an [Institute of Translational Health Sciences \(ITHS\)](#) pilot grant. The pilot grants are intended to provide the funding to develop preliminary findings and test

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“proof of concept” to support future full-scale, competitive grant applications. Dr. Evans will evaluate the role patients can play in the early identification and treatment of surgical site infections after hospital discharge, including their willingness to use mobile health technology to help self-manage their wounds.



Dr. Brant Oelschlager, Professor and Chief, Division of General Surgery, has been chosen by the [Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons \(SAGES\)](#) Awards Committee and confirmed by the Board of Governors to be the recipient of the Clinical Excellence and Humanism in Medicine Award

for 2014. This award is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and given to a clinician who is recognized by the surgical/GI community for excellence in patient care and surgical practice. It is awarded to surgeons with significant surgical/endoscopic skills, patient care, contributions to community and volunteerism.

Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, was elected as an Honorary Fellow of [The Royal College of Surgeons of England](#). This is one of the College’s highest awards and recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of surgery.



Dr. Jorge D. Reyes, Professor and Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery, was named the Roger K. Giesecke Distinguished Chair in Transplant Surgery. An event to honor Dr. Reyes’ accomplishment, as well as to recognize the contributions of the Piggott family, was held on February 1st. The transplant surgery faculty, fellows and

liver care team were on hand to celebrate and speak to the program benefits the endowed Chair will provide.

Dr. Douglas E. Wood, Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was the President of the [Society of Thoracic Surgeons \(STS\)](#) in 2013. The Society is 50 years old and their annual meeting held from January 25-29, 2014 in Orlando, Florida, concluded his presidential year. His Presidential Address was interesting and thought-provoking. We



are thankful to STS, who has given us the rights to share the link to that speech so that members and friends of the Department of Surgery can watch it. [Follow this link to hear Dr. Wood’s Presidential Address.](#)

Residents



Dr. Timo Hakkarainen, General Surgery Resident, published an article entitled “Comparative Effectiveness of Skin Antiseptic Agents in Reducing Surgical Site Infections: A Report from the Washington State Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program” in the [Journal of the American College of Surgeons \(abstract\)](#).

Collaborating with [E Patchen Dellinger, MD, FACS](#), [Heather L. Evans, MD, MS, FACS](#), [Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH](#), Ellen Farrokhi, MD, FACS, Scott R. Steele, MD, FACS, Richard Thirlby, MD, FACS, David R. Flum, MD, MPH, FACS, Dr. Hakkarainen performed a prospective cohort analysis to evaluate the relationship of commonly used skin antiseptic agents and SSI for patients undergoing mostly clean-contaminated surgery from January 2011 through June 2012. Multivariate regression modeling predicted expected rates of SSI. Risk adjusted event rates (RAERs) of SSI were compared across groups using proportionality testing.

Dr. Steve Kwon, Chief Resident of General Surgery, has been accepted to the Society of Surgical Oncology Fellowship at [Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York](#). During his residency, Steve completed a two-year research fellowship at [SORCE](#), working with [Dr. David Flum](#) on evaluating the impacts of health policy on surgical outcomes, analyzing models for optimal delivery of surgical care using Washington State’s quality improvement program called [SCOAP](#), and published 13 manuscripts. Steve also obtained a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology during his research years.

