

The Alexander W. Clowes, MD Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery

Among Dr. Alexander Clowes' lasting legacies is the creation of the Alexander W. Clowes, MD Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery. This Endowed Chair was created by The Clowes Fund through the vision of Dr. Clowes, to "enhance the University's ability to recruit and retain distinguished faculty in vascular surgery. Through strategic allocations, funds will support vascular surgery research, training, education and clinical care."

The Clowes Fund foundation was established in 1952 by Dr. Clowes' grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. George Henry Alexander Clowes, and their two sons George, Jr. and Allen. The mission of the organization is "to enhance the common good by encouraging organizations and projects that help to build a just and equitable society, create opportunities for initiative, foster creativity and the growth of knowledge, and promote appreciation of the natural environment." The foundation supports a variety of charitable interests ranging from the arts to social services, and has been a generous supporter of UW Medicine since 1981, providing funds in support of vascular surgery research, the [Medical Scientist Training Program](#), and the [Henry N. Harkins Endowed Professorship and Chair](#), currently held by our Department Chair, Dr. [Carlos Pellegrini](#).

Dr. Clowes served as a Director of The Clowes Fund for nearly 50 years, and he was President of The Clowes Fund Board for 15 years. As The Clowes Fund worked to determine the best way to

honor his life and service, Dr. Clowes made the following request of the Board:

"It has been my desire for decades to endow a chair in vascular surgery at the University of Washington for career development within my department. I personally benefited greatly from a research and career development award during my early years on the UW faculty. As I have grown older, I have devoted a large portion of my time as a professor to mentoring young surgical faculty to help them launch and develop their own careers. The funds from the proposed endowed chair would be used...in part, for a research career development award, and, in part, for education and clinical innovation."

On May 1, 2015, members of the Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, and UW Medicine joined the Board of The Clowes Fund and 25 members of the Clowes family at a reception to celebrate the realization of this desire.

Dr. Paul Ramsey, CEO of UW Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine, spoke at the event and noted its significance: "Tonight we celebrate the Alexander Whitehill Clowes, M.D. Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery, made possible by The Clowes Fund. This endowed chair is truly special because it honors someone we all know and respect, someone we all admire...Alec has been an important figure to us all - he has had impact not only as a clinician, medical investigator, a mentor, a teacher,



Dr. Alexander Clowes with his family and the Clowes Fund Board

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Clowes Celebration

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husband, and friend, but as an expert and leader in the field of vascular surgery.”

Dr. **Benjamin Starnes**, Professor and Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery (pictured right), was recently confirmed as the inaugural holder of the Clowes Endowed Chair. A close personal friend of Dr. Clowes', he spoke movingly about his astounding legacy as well as his unflinching bravery in the face of his diagnosis. Dr. Starnes noted that Dr. Clowes strove to make the most of his time, and worked tirelessly to complete two very personal projects: a biography of his grandfather, Dr. George Henry Alexander Clowes, the first research director at Eli Lilly and Company, and the endowment of a Chair in Vascular Surgery in the Department of Surgery.



Dr. Starnes, at the conclusion of his remarks and acceptance as the first recipient of the endowed chair, presented Dr. Clowes with a

six-volume, leather bound collection of his own published works for his personal library and noted that a duplicate copy was now on display in the Clowes Library in the Vascular Surgery Division.

After the crowd gave a sustained standing ovation at the conclusion of endowment investiture, Dr. Clowes took the microphone and remarked at how humbled and overwhelmed he was by the number of people who were in attendance. He spoke of knowing that he was leaving the vascular division in “magnificent hands that will guide it through the 21st century,” and his tremendous gratitude for all the opportunities he has had through his tenure at UW.

The Department of Surgery is grateful for this tremendous gift from The Clowes Fund. The proceeds from the endowment will be used to further the aims and dreams of Dr. Clowes for this Vascular Surgery Division to be a world-leader in research, clinical care and education.

2015 Faculty Promotions



Dr. Edgar Figueredo

Promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Figueredo practices at the **VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA)**, providing care in the areas of general surgery, minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, and surgical critical care. He completed his general surgery residency at University of Washington

in 2005 after first having trained in general surgery in his native Colombia, then stayed on to complete a fellowship with the **Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery**, followed by a fellowship in surgical critical care at Harborview Medical Center. Dr. Figueredo has a particular interest in the education of students, residents, and fellows. Shortly after joining the faculty, he implemented a series of lectures on trauma care for medical students rotating at the VA, which he repeats every six weeks for each new group. He also gives regular lectures on critical care topics to the VA Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) resident team, and conducts daily teaching rounds in the SICU when on duty for that service. Additionally, he regularly works with residents one-on-one or in small groups in **UW ISIS** teaching open and laparoscopic surgery skills. In addition to this

work, Dr. Figueredo is an active member on multiple committees at the VA, including the Discharge Planning Committee, the Robotic Surgery Steering Committee, and the Simulation Committee. At the Department level, he is a member of the Surgical Education Workgroup, and represents the Department of Surgery on the University of Washington Diversity in Medicine Committee. He also represents UW on the Global Affairs Committee for the **Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons**.

Dr. Kenneth W. Gow

Promoted to Professor

Dr. Gow completed his general surgery residency and pediatric general surgery fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He then completed a second fellowship in pediatric surgical oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Dr. Gow has a strong interest in the optimization of delivery of surgical care for children with cancer, and is an active participant in both regional and national efforts. At Seattle Children's Hospital he is the Surgical Principal Investigator for the **Children's Oncology Group (COG)**. Areas of clinical



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