The 14th Annual David Tapper Endowed Lecture, presented by Seattle Children’s Hospital Division of General & Thoracic Surgery, was held on Thursday, May 7, 2015. This year’s guest lecturer was Dr. Kevin P. Lally, A.G. McNeese Chair in Pediatric Surgery, Richard Andrassy Distinguished Professor, and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Surgery at University of Texas. Dr. Lally is also Surgeon–in–Chief of the Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and Director of the ECMO Program. Dr. Lally’s lecture was titled “Delivery of Surgical Care for Congenital Heart Disease: A Two Decade Experience with an Integrated Multi–Centered Regional Program.”

Dr. Lally completed his Pediatric Surgery Training at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles and is board certified in surgery, critical care and pediatric surgery. He is one of the world’s leading experts in congenital diaphragmatic hernias (CDH). He developed and runs the CDH Registry, which is an international consortium that has prospectively collected data on over 6,000 infants with this rare anomaly.

Dr. Lally is actively involved in student and resident education and the Center for Clinical Trials and Evidence Based Surgery. He has been principal investigator or co–investigator on several clinical trials.

Dr. Kevin P. Lally

The Department of Surgery Cardiothoracic Division presented the 24th Annual Visiting Scholar in Cardiothoracic Surgery on Friday, April 24, 2015. The guest lecturer was Dr. Frank Hanley, Crowely Endowed Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University. His lecture was titled “Delivery of Surgical Care for Congenital Heart Disease: A Two Decade Experience with an Integrated Multi–Centered Regional Program.”

Dr. Hanley’s practice area is congenital heart disease and his honors and awards include the Lawrence Crowley, MD, Endowed Professorship in Child Health, Stanford (2004); Excellence in Teaching Award in the Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco (1992–94); and Outstanding Surgical Chief Resident Award, University of California, San Francisco (1986).

The University of Washington School of Medicine gratefully acknowledges an educational grant from St. Jude Medical for their contribution to the 2015 Cardiothoracic Visiting Scholar Event.

Dr. Frank Hanley

There are many factors, both job–related and personal, that can make the practice of medicine, and specifically a surgery practice, a stressful endeavor. Clinical and medico–legal issues can obviously be distressing, but personal relationship and home life expectations may also make it difficult to put patients’ welfare first. In a large, diverse Department like our own, it is important to provide surgeons with all types of support, including emotional support, so that patients can obtain the best care possible, and surgeons can lead balanced lives.

There is both a growing desire for and a growing body of evidence demonstrating the usefulness of physician peer support programs. One of the pioneers in physician peer support is a surgeon herself: Jo Shapiro, MD is an otolaryngologist who has promoted and studied the use of peers support programs in academic medical centers. She helped develop a physician peer support program at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, which has grown into the Center for Professionalism and Peer Support. This group has published numerous studies demonstrating the benefits to physicians who utilize resources from volunteer peer supporters.

Under the direction of Dr. Claudia Finkelstein, the Department of Medicine at University of Washington began to commit resources to peer support efforts here in Seattle, and, based on her work, the Department of Surgery (DOS) has now followed suit. Under the leadership of Drs. Eileen Bulger, Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, and Jeff Friedrich, Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery, the DOS program is the first in the School of Medicine to use an in–house network of volunteers who are available to meet with surgeons of any specialty and discuss concerns about practice or personal issues in a confidential setting. All volunteers have undergone a two–hour training with Dr. Finkelstein, and because they are in–house, they understand the pressures associated with a surgical practice and can provide critical perspective and support.

To access the DOS Peer Support Program, please call 206–685–0675. This line is answered during the day with voicemail available after hours. All interactions with the Peer Support Program are confidential and no written records are maintained. It is simply there to help.

Dr. Kevin P. Lally

Dr. Bulger

Dr. Friedrich

Bulger Friedrich