

# Faculty Honors, Awards and Publications

## UW Medicine “Patient Safety Innovations Program” Awardees:

The Patient Safety Innovations Program (PSIP) is a pioneering small grant initiative supported by the UW Office of Risk Management and UW Medicine. The goals of this grant initiative are to improve patient safety and the quality of healthcare. Additionally, the work sponsored by PSIP supports advancement of UW Medicine’s mission of improving the health of the public by integrating the core activities of providing outstanding patient care, training the next generation of healthcare professionals, and researching the best ways to improve patient care. **The Department of Surgery had three awardees: Sara Kim, PhD, Erik Van Eaton, MD; Thomas Varghese, MD.**



**Sara Kim, PhD**, Research Professor, General Surgery and the George G. B. Bilsten Professor in the Art of Communication with Peers and Patients, will lead a project entitled “*Entrenched Conflict at Workplaces: Promoting Patient Safety Using an Experiential Training Model.*” This project will address communication issues that impact patient safety using a novel relationship-based, conflict resolution simulation training program for healthcare team members.



**Erik Van Eaton, MD**, Assistant Professor, Surgery and Surgical Critical Care, is the principal investigator of a newly funded project entitled “*Improving Quality and Patient Safety with Online Clinical Care Algorithms & Messaging (OCCAM).*” The proposal is to create to a more robust, UW Medicine-endorsed version of OCCAM. This will be accomplished by adding significantly more content from both medical centers, creating metrics to measure OCCAM’s impact on improving patient care, establishing an OCCAM editorial board to provide content oversight, and partnering with the offices of Graduate Medical Education and Continuing Medical Education to recognize the teaching and learning aspects of creating these protocols and algorithms.



**Thomas Varghese, MD**, Associate Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery, is the principal investigator of a newly funded project entitled “*An Innovative Approach to Comprehensive Standardization of the Pre-Surgical Patient - The UW Strong for Surgery Program.*”

**Strong for Surgery** is issuing a set of checklists and tools available to all surgeons to use in their offices or by patients at home to ensure that the health of patients is optimized before surgery. The Strong for Surgery checklists assess whether patients have modifiable risks for surgery and then offers a set of interventions to reduce the risk before hospitalization. They address four target areas: nutritional support to prevent infections; reducing cigarette smoking; reviewing and coordinating potentially dangerous medications and, improving diabetes care before surgery. Nearly one-third of hospitalized patients experience adverse events related to their care, and far too often these events are preventable. While quality improvement initiatives have made surgery safer and have achieved improved outcomes, they usually focus on the care of patients once they enter the hospital. Strong for Surgery provides the opportunity for early intervention to reduce risks prior to hospitalization.

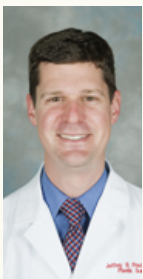
## Other faculty honors, awards and publications:



**Leah Backhus, MD**, Assistant Professor, Thoracic Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, is senior author of a study published in the January 2013 issue of *JAMA Surgery*. The study suggests lung cancer mortality appears to be higher in black persons and highest in blacks living in the most segregated counties in the United States, regardless of socioeconomic status. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States and blacks are disproportionately affected with the highest incidence and mortality rates.

The study's first author, Awori J. Hayanga, MD, MPH, of the University of Washington, Seattle, (who was the Department of Surgery's Cardiothoracic Fellow in 2012) and colleagues examined the relationship between race and lung cancer mortality and the association with residential segregation by using data obtained from the 2009 Area Resource File and Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results program to conduct a population-based study. To read the entire article, the JAMA citation is: *JAMA Surg.* Published online January 16, 2013;148(1):37-. In addition, the NY Times published an article about this study. Please follow this link to read the NY Times article:

<http://nyti.ms/WeMYeg>



**Jeffrey B. Friedrich, MD**, Associate Professor, Plastic Surgery, was selected as a 2013 visiting professor by the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH).

ASSH established the Plastic Surgery Visiting Professorship Program in 2004 to encourage plastic surgery residents to pursue a career in hand surgery and to increase involvement with the ASSH. Each year, six to eight plastic surgery programs are selected to host an ASSH visiting professor—an accomplished plastic hand surgeon who may serve as a “role model” for trainees and students.



**John Waldhausen, MD**, Professor, Department of Surgery and Section Chief of Pediatric General Surgery, Seattle Children's Hospital, was elected to the pediatric surgery board of the American Board of Surgery (ABS) as the American Pediatric Surgical Association's (APSA) representative. His term of office is June 2013 through 2019.

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

The Seattle Surgical Society annual meeting was held on January 11, 2013 at Seattle's Westin Hotel. The Society was founded 103 years ago to promote professional relationships among surgeons and to create a forum for sharing knowledge within the greater Seattle surgical community. The Society promotes connections, community and intellectual rigor.

**Lily Chang, MD**, Department of Surgery alumnus, was the program chair for this year's meeting. She reported that the meeting was very well attended. Several of the Department of Surgery's faculty gave well-received presentations, including: **Rebecca Peterson, MD**, Assistant Professor, General Surgery who discussed ventral hernia repair; **David Byrd, MD**, Professor, General Surgery, Section Chief of Surgical Oncology, who presented on melanoma surgery; and **Eileen Bulger, MD**, Professor, Trauma & Critical Care, Chief of Trauma, gave a presentation on “*Injury Patterns Following Motor Vehicle Collisions.*”

The meeting ended with the Annual Dinner. At the dinner, **Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD**, Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair, Department of Surgery was inducted as President of the Seattle Surgical Society for the upcoming term. In his remarks, he reviewed the culture and traditions of the Seattle Surgical Society. He emphasized that the Society helps build the bonds between the academic and community surgeons and pledged to continue this important tradition.

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SORCE has had a remarkable year and amazing trajectory. Follow this link to read about SORCE's accomplishments:

[http://uwsurgery.org/images/site/divisions/sorce/SORCE\\_Highlights\\_2011-2012.pdf](http://uwsurgery.org/images/site/divisions/sorce/SORCE_Highlights_2011-2012.pdf)