

Alumni Corner

A recent alumna, Heather Wheeler, MD, shared her career and family news and reflected upon her time as a general surgery resident (2007-2012) at the University of Washington. Many of you will know Dr. Wheeler.

“Hello from exotic Renton, WA! I started my job as a general surgeon at Valley Medical Center in September, and things are going very well so far. I get to do quite a broad range of cases, including some thoracic. I am even starting to go through training to do robotic cases. Thanks again to Gary Mann and Jim Park for giving me a chance to experience the robot when I was a resident. I am really enjoying myself, and I’m so glad I decided to go into general surgery community practice.



Heather Wheeler, MD and husband Eric.

My husband Eric and I got married in December on the beach in Puerto Rico. He also recently started a new job with eBay. We are official East Siders now, as we bought a new house in Renton and moved in about two weeks before our wedding. Our lives are quite different from a year ago!

For those residents who are thinking about going into community or private practice, I want you to know that we are well trained

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Jonathan Kohler, MD & Tam Pham, MD Create “Burns 101”



Jonathan Kohler, MD

In 2005 Dr. Jonathan Kohler (now Chief Resident in the Department of Surgery) and Dr. Tam Pham (now Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery) were an intern and fellow respectively; both on the Burn Service at Harborview Medical Center. They discovered they both had an interest in learning through media ~ specifically video.

This inspired them to take an existing (and great) resource, “Burn Pearls” – an orientation guide for new residents on the burn service - and, with the help of Dr. Nicole Gibran, UW Professor and Department of Surgery Burn Center Director, turn it into “Burn Pearls: The Movie.”

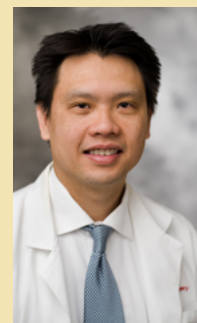
Fast forward to 2013 and their dream has become a reality, but with a twist.

During the intervening 7 years, Dr. Kohler did a research fellowship in Boston where he also got a master’s degree in Health Communications and then returned to UW to complete his residency. Dr. Pham, meanwhile, had become a faculty member in the Department of Surgery in the Division and was involved in the Burn Center on a day-to-day basis.

As Dr. Kohler began to understand better ways of framing the information they wanted to put into a movie, they realized that a 45 minute “Burn Pearls: The Movie,” would be better as a series of short videos. They also realized that most of the information in the videos was generalizable beyond the Burn Center a HMC. So, they edited it to take out site-specific information and have now distributed the finished product on [YouTube](#) and [iTunes U](#). Their hope is that this will be a valuable resource for community hospitals and emergency departments everywhere.

We want to thank Dr. Kohler and Dr. Pham (as well as Dr. Gibran) for their initiative and superb work on this video series. This kind of initiative and creativity are what put UW Department of Surgery ahead of the pack.

We also want to wish Dr. Kohler best wishes as he starts a two-year pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Chicago, where he will also be a fellow at the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence, studying the role that expectations play on outcomes and how video can be used to change these expectations. But even though he will be gone from Seattle, we can keep up with Dr. Kohler by reading his blog at www.hdcarecompass.com or following him on Twitter [@jekohler](#).



Tam Pham, MD