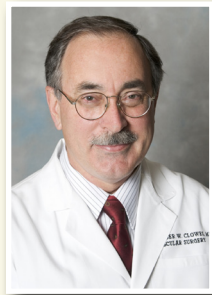


Department of Surgery Accepts the Obliteride Challenge

Obliteride 2014 gained momentum in its second year as cancer survivors, researchers and others determined to end cancer cycled on August 8th-10th to raise money for [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#). In its inaugural year, Obliteride 2013 raised nearly \$2 million for lifesaving cancer research at Fred Hutch, and with the community's help, organizers hope to collect even more in 2014.

Participating cyclists choose their ride distance ([25 mile](#), [50 mile](#), [100 mile](#) or [150 mile](#)), register for a small fee, and then raise the money or fund themselves (each distance corresponds to a different minimum fundraising amount). The 25 mile route is a beautiful ride along Lake Washington and is perfect for beginners, while the other three routes offer options for more experienced riders.

This year, several Department of Surgery faculty and staff participated in Obliteride and were excited to share their experiences.



Dr. Alexander W. Clowes

Drs. [Benjamin Starnes](#), Professor and Chief, Vascular Surgery Division and [Matthew Sweet](#), Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery Division, along with [Danielle Slota](#), Administrative Specialist, Vascular Surgery Division and her husband Kevin, cycled the 50 mile route in a team Dr. Starnes titled "UW Vascular for Alec Clowes." The Vascular Surgery Division and Department of Surgery recently learned that one of our faculty surgeons, long-time mentor and close friend, [Dr. Alexander W. Clowes](#) has

been diagnosed with glioblastoma. Dr. Clowes has devoted his professional life to vascular surgery and research in the field of vascular biology, contributing greatly to our understanding of vascular graft stenosis/restenosis, for which he is world renowned. He has helped train hundreds of residents and fellows, and treated countless patients.

Drs. Starnes and Sweet came in first place for the 50 mile race, completing the route in three hours and three minutes (a route



Drs. Benjamin Starnes and Matthew Sweet for team "UW Vascular for Alec Clowes"



Drs. Benjamin Starnes and Matthew Sweet riding the 50 mile Obliteride route

that is over 3,000 feet elevation and estimated five hours to complete). The *UW Vascular for Alec Clowes* team has raised over \$10,500 to date. Read the *UW Vascular for Alec Clowes* teams' respective Obliterate web pages: [Dr. Benjamin Starnes](#) – [Dr. Matthew Sweet](#) – [Danielle Slota](#) – [Kevin Slota](#)



Danielle and Kevin Slota for team "UW Vascular for Alec Clowes"

On another team titled "Mothers and Daughters", [Dr. Heather Evans](#), Associate Professor, Trauma, Critical Care and Burn Division, participated in the 50 mile race with her mother, Nancy Evans. Dr. Evans shared a personal story as to why the Obliteride event is special to her:

"My mom, Nancy Evans, is a cancer survivor. Shortly after she moved to Seattle a few years ago, she was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Fortunately, her particular type of lymphoma is rather indolent, and she did not need to undergo chemotherapy, but she benefited tremendously from the knowledge and expertise at [Seattle Cancer Care Alliance](#)

(continued on page 20)

Obliteride Challenge

Continued from page 19



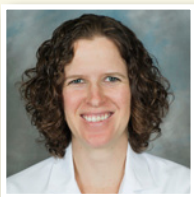
Dr. Heather Evans and Nancy Evans for team "Mothers and Daughters"

(SCCA). She actually rode 50 miles in the inaugural Obliteride last year just after she turned 73, celebrating not only her experience, but also the survival of my dad and her dad from other forms of cancer, and remembering the lives of other friends and family members who unfortunately passed away after their battles with cancer. When she finished, she challenged me to ride with her this year. I couldn't say no to my mom, but I had to train to be able to keep up with her! We had a wonderful ride together, and thanks to our dear friends and family who donated, as the "Mothers and Daughters" team we raised almost \$5,000. As you can read on our

respective Obliteride web pages ([Dr. Heather Evans](#) – [Nancy Evans](#)), we both feel like this is a fantastic event, as 100% of the funds raised go directly to cancer research. My dad worked as a tumor biologist at the [National Cancer Institute](#) for almost 25 years, and as a clinical researcher myself, I know how precious the funding streams can be. It felt really good to be part of the community yesterday, riding as a doctor, a daughter and a friend and doing something about it!



Dr. Heather Evans taking a "selfie" in front of the Obliteride Team Board



About 5 weeks ago, my mother had a bike accident on the Myrtle Edwards trail trying to avoid some pedestrians and sustained a tripod fracture (left zygoma, lateral wall of maxillary sinus, floor of orbit). [Dr. Kari Keys](#), (pictured left), Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery,

saw her in the emergency room and was just so wonderful. Dr. Keys answered all our questions and led us through the CT scan findings. A week later, while I was out of town in Virginia, mom called to say she was having surgery the next day. [Dr. Joe Gruss](#), (pictured right), Professor,



Plastic Surgery Division, did his magic and plated her fractures - thanks to him, Drs. [Janelle Sousa](#), Chief Resident, Plastic Surgery Division, and [Mitch Pet](#), Resident, Plastic Surgery Division, she was able to recover in time to ride yesterday! It was hard to be out of town while she had surgery, but everyone was just so wonderful to her. Mom just can't stop raving about Harborview."

Please join us and donate to the Obliteride teams, *UW Vascular for Alec Clowes* and *Mothers and Daughters*, before the event's donation window closes on September 30th, 2014. Visit Obliteride's [Donation page](#) (http://getinvolved.fhccr.org/site/TR?fr_id=1340&pg=pfind), click on the "Teams" tab, enter the team name *UW Vascular for Alec Clowes* and/or *Mothers and Daughters*, click "Donate", then complete the online Gift Information form.

Our faculty contributed more than \$10,000 towards this year's Obliteride event. We want to congratulate Drs. Evans, Starnes and Sweet as well as Nancy Evans, and Danielle and Kevin Slota and let them and those who contributed know how happy and how extraordinarily proud we are of their participation and efforts in this important event!

Harkins Society Distinguished Alumnus Award Nominations

The Harkins Society is accepting nominations for the 2014 Harkins Society Distinguished Alumnus Award. To submit a nomination, please send an email to UWHarkins@gmail.com. The only requirement is that the awardee completed their surgical training at the UW Department of Surgery, as a resident or fellow. **The deadline for submission is September 14, 2014.** To nominate a colleague, please include:

- Your name and contact information
- The Nominee's name and contact information and year(s) of training, if known.
- The criteria for selection include professional or humanitarian contributions that have enhanced the surgical profession, improved the welfare of the general public, or brought distinction to the Department. These contributions may have been made either over a long period of time or may be a single outstanding achievement. Both academic and non-academic achievements will be considered.

The winner will be announced and honored at the Harkins Society Annual Banquet on **Friday, November 21, 2014, 6:30 pm at the Seattle Yacht Club.**