

In Memoriam—Robert Condon, MD



Dr. Robert E. Condon

Dr. Robert E. Condon, a distinguished alumnus and long-time friend of our department passed away last week. He was a major figure in American surgery with roots firmly embedded in the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Condon was born in Albany, New York, in 1929 and was a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. He received his MD in 1957 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, NY before coming to the University of Washington. He graduated from our residency program in 1965, under

the chairmanship of Dr. Henry Harkins. A close colleague of Dr. Lloyd Nyhus and along with Dr. Harkins, the three became known as “The Seattle Group” researching and developing surgical treatments for ulcers and then, what would become Dr. Condon’s scholarly passion throughout his career, the science and art of hernia surgery. He was a major contributor to Harkins and Nyhus’ *Hernia*, which in a later edition was renamed, *Nyhus and Condon’s Hernia*. This text has been the definitive reference for hernia

repairs for over 30 years. After a period of service at the University of Washington, Baylor, the University of Illinois in Chicago, and the University of Iowa College of Medicine, Dr. Condon was recruited to the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1972. He became Chair of the Department of Surgery at MCW in 1979, and he served for 18 years in this position. Subsequently, the Robert E. Condon Hernia Institute was established at the MCW and continues as a Center of Excellence for hernia surgery in the Midwest.

Dr. Condon never forgot his roots in the Pacific Northwest. He promised his wife Marcia that when he retired, they would return to Seattle, and that is exactly what they did. Dr. Condon continued his service to the UW Department of Surgery as a Clinical Professor, teaching our residents and attending various functions over the years. As an active member of our community, he was awarded the Harkins Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1998. In addition to his academic surgical career, Dr. Condon was an accomplished gardener, cook, wine connoisseur, world traveler, and patron of our local art museums.

Dr. Condon is survived by his wife Marcia, who he met in kindergarten, and to whom he was married for 64 years, and two sons, Sean Edward Condon and Brian Robert Condon.

Honors and Awards

Faculty



Dr. Sara Javid, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, has been selected to participate in the [Cancer Research Networks Scholars program](#).

The NCI-funded CRN Scholars Program is a 26-month training activity that aims to help junior investigators develop research independence using CRN

resources to conduct population-based multi-site and multi-disciplinary studies that leverage the network’s strengths.

Specific goals that CRN Scholars work toward during their training include becoming a Principal Investigator (PI) on a successful investigator-initiated grant, and being first author on a peer-reviewed, published article reporting original research.

The Scholars Program is open to junior investigators from academic institutions, cancer centers, federal institutes, and other research centers. They seek candidates with a demonstrated commitment to conducting future population-based cancer research within integrated health care settings.

Dr. Javid was also recently nominated by the [American College of Surgeons’](#) Committee on Interprofessional Education and Practice for Regental consideration.



Dr. Ron Maier, Chief, Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery and Professor and Vice Chair of Surgery, was inducted into the [Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh](#) as an Honorary Member Ad Hominem in October 2014.

The Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh is one of the oldest, and most

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Honors and Awards

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prestigious and respected surgical bodies in the world. With some 20,000 Fellows and Members across 100 countries, it is a truly international and dynamic organization. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been educating and assessing surgeons, and advancing the field of surgery for over 500 years. The Honorary Membership ad hominem was an unsolicited honor bestowed upon Dr. Maier in recognition of his decades of service in improving patient outcomes and advancing the quality of surgery worldwide through education, research, practice, and participation in national and international meetings and discussions.



Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair*, was appointed Foreign Academic Correspondent by the **Royal National Academy of Medicine**.

Currently located in Madrid, Spain, The Royal Academy of Medicine began its history in the first third of the eighteenth century in the midst of a gathering in the pharmacy of José Hortega, under Enlightenment movement. In July 1733 it became a grouping of professionals, initially titled “Tertulia Médico-Chymica-Phisica” and later “Tertulia Médica Matritense.”

It received the Royal sanction from Felipe V in September 18, 1734, following approval of its Statutes, which became the Tertulia in Academia.

It was reorganized by Royal Decree of April 28, 1861, “to promote the progress of Spanish medicine, publish its story literature, forming the medical geography and a technological dictionary of medicine.”



Dr. Venu Pillarisetty, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, received an \$80,000 gift from the Sarcoma Program at the **Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA)** in support of his project “Immune targeting of desmoid tumors.” Desmoid tumors (DT) arise from cells called fibroblast, which are found throughout the body and provide

structural support and protection to the vital organs such as lung, liver, blood vessels, heart, skin, etc. DT can arise in virtually any part of the body and may lead to regional tissue destruction. Therefore, although they lack the ability to metastasize, DT often

significantly impact patients’ quality of life and can occasionally prove deadly due to local invasion or complications arising from their treatment.



Dr. Kimberly Riehle, assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric General Surgery, was awarded \$92,700 from **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC)** for her project “Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis in Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma.” Fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma (FL-HCC) is a form of primary liver cancer afflicting

healthy children and young adults without underlying liver disease, and accounts for approximately 90% of HCCs in this age group. Since FL-HCC patients are healthy at baseline, they tend to present with advanced disease, leaving no options for cure. Fortunately, within the past year a potentially causative mutation in FL-HCC has been identified, which results in an abnormal form of the catalytic subunit of protein kinase A (PKA). Dr. Riehle’s one-year study will focus on the mechanisms by which the mutant form of PRKACA drives carcinogenesis in FL-HCC, in collaboration with faculty in Pharmacology, Pathology, and Dr. Raymond Yeung, Professor in the Division of General Surgery. She will also work in conjunction with the FHCRC Antibody Core to develop an antibody that specifically recognizes this mutant protein and thus can be used for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in these patients.

Residents



Dr. Brodie Parent, a **T32 Research Fellow in Trauma and Burns**, was awarded a scholarship from the **UW Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)**, which will cover the second year of tuition as he pursues a Master of Science in Epidemiology. Dr. Parent received this award on the basis of his research project to identify novel metabolic and nutritional

markers in critically-ill patients. The overall goal of his research is to obtain more precise markers and diagnostic tools for assessing nutritional status. Dr. Parent is mentored on this project by his T32 program director, **Dr. Grant O’Keefe**, Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, and Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology.