

## The Harkins' Corner: Your Department of Surgery Faculty & Alumni Organization



Dr. Giana Davidson

**D**ear Surgical Colleagues,  
The Henry Harkins Surgical Society aims to foster mentorship for current UW residents and fellows by building a strong community among UW faculty and previous graduates.

This month I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Kimberly Costas, a 2003 graduate of UW. Multiple alumni and faculty I spoke with remembered

Kimberly as “an outstanding surgeon,” and someone who has had remarkable achievements in her practice in Everett, WA. I appreciated having the opportunity to talk with Kimberly about her accomplishments as a thoracic surgeon, and know you will find her work at Providence Regional Medical Center to be very impressive and inspiring. Based on Kimberly’s experiences, I would certainly recommend that residents and fellows reach out to her for mentoring as they are creating their career path. Thank you Kimberly for sharing your work with us!

Sincerely,

**Giana Davidson, MD, MPH**

President, Henry Harkin’s Surgical Society

[www.harkinssociety.org](http://www.harkinssociety.org)

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I am a thoracic surgeon in a hospital-owned cardiothoracic surgery practice at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett (PRMCE) in Snohomish County. I am the only thoracic surgeon in a partnership of four cardiac surgeons. I finished general surgery residency at University of Washington in 2003, and spent a year as a cardiothoracic surgery registrar at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, Australia, living just north of the St. Edwards train station. I returned to the U.S. in 2004 to complete a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at the University of Rochester in upstate New York in 2006. My first job after fellowship was at Providence and I have been there ever since.

I have a very rich and extraordinarily rewarding career. Although I have a broad general thoracic surgical practice, my interest is lung cancer, and I have worked to develop a comprehensive program from detection to treatment to surveillance. I created a dedicated thoracic surgery unit staffed with nurses skilled in invasive monitoring and chest tube management, introduced the VATS lobectomy program in 2008, developed the Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Clinic with coordinated medical, radiation and surgical oncology visits tailored to each patient’s needs, and introduced endobronchial ultrasound in 2010. I opened the Low Dose CT lung cancer screening program for lung cancer in December

2012, and am now the system-wide point person for lung cancer screening efforts at Providence. I have also been the principal investigator in several clinical lung cancer trials, particularly with regard to antigen specific cancer immunotherapeutics. I am actively involved in several quality initiatives including a national quality study called ProvenCare, and a Providence system-wide collaborative known as the Thoracic Surgery Initiative. Currently I am developing a robotic thoracic surgery program at PRMCE.



There is an amazing amount of pathology in the counties north of Seattle, and what makes my practice special are the people in the community. I have now been practicing long enough that I have operated on patients’ friends, neighbors and family members. My patients are kind, honest and down to earth, and so are the nurses, support staff, and physician colleagues I work with on a daily basis. The culture in my practice is one where quality holds high importance and is supported by the “Just Culture” mentality of the physician-led administration. I am also lucky to have wonderful partners who have helped me grow my practice.

One of the best aspects about practicing in the Seattle area is the fact that my mentors are just down the road. It’s not uncommon for me to call Drs. [Doug Wood](#) or Eric Vallieres to discuss a tough case. I have been fortunate to continue to work with Dr. Wood on the ProvenCare Lung quality improvement initiative for resected non-small cell lung, and with Dr. Vallieres on the Providence-Swedish Thoracic Surgery Initiative. I am thankful for the time I spent at UW and the fact I am still part of that community.

Kimberly E. Costas, MD

Graduate from UW General Surgery in 2003