

Bright Future for Cardiothoracic Surgery in the UW System

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REFLECTIONS (cont.)

Bull-Rider' who was thrown from the bull and stomped on, whose chest rib fractures needed surgical stabilization. From professional athletes to a professional sword-swallower, we've treated them all. Can a bullet cross the mediastinum and somehow miss all the vital organs? Sure. Can another bullet cross the mediastinum and hit everything in between? Of course it can.

Patient encounters have influenced my own behavior. For instance, treating several patients who progressed from dental abscesses to descending cervical mediastinitis, has resulted in my own extra diligence with oral hygiene and dental check-ups.

Beyond the sometimes unbelievable stories, there's incredible teamwork that goes into the care of all these patients. I am eternally grateful to the team of anesthesiologists, nurses, scrub techs, surgeons and residents who tirelessly work and advocate for the health of these patients. The teams are stewards in the face of adversity. They persevere through late hours, multiple rounds, and reassurances to family members, even in situations where the outcomes were not the best. For surgical residents, many deeds they do occur outside of the limelight, and yet are the most critical for patient outcomes. 'Thoracic Caffeination Rounds' were a time I got to know and appreciate these remarkable young surgeons.

So what defines us - the residents, faculty and staff at the University of Washington? I believe it's an unshakable optimism and belief that together we can achieve much more than we can do alone. We have a connection to our patients throughout the WWAMI region, and a desire to always advance science. And finally, there is never-ending support given to me by my mentors, incredible models of leadership and vision abundant throughout the Department of Surgery.

As I advance to the next phase in my career, it is these traits that I've learned from all of you, and hope to carry forward in the years ahead."

References

1. Young, Audrey. The House of Hope and Fear: Life in a Big City Hospital. Seattle, WA: Sasquatch Books, 2009.

Save the Dates

WASHINGTON AND OREGON STATE CHAPTERS OF THE ACS COMBINED ANNUAL MEETING

June 12-15, 2015

Suncadia Resore

Cle Elum, Washington

www.wachapteracs.org

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS

October 4-8, 2015

Chicago, IL

www.facs.org/education/clinical-congress

HARKINS SOCIETY RECEPTION AT THE ACS

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Chicago, IL

More information TBA

66TH ANNUAL

ALFRED A. STRAUSS LECTURE

Friday, October 16, 2015

4:00pm, Hogness Auditorium

Health Sciences Building

Room A-420

Speaker: Dr. Thomas M. Krummel

Emile Holman Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery

Director, Surgical Innovation Program

Stanford University School of Medicine

HARKINS SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Friday, October 16, 2015

7:30am-2:00pm

UW Tower Auditorium

[22ND ANNUAL HELEN & JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE](#)

Friday, February 26, 2016

3:00pm, UW Tower

[Melina R. Kibbe, MD](#)

Professor of Surgery

Northwestern University

Please see the
Department of Surgery's
monthly Grand Rounds
schedule under
[Special Events](#) on our website:
www.uwsurgery.org