

2015 Schilling Lecture



Walter J. Pories, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery,
Biochemistry and
Kinesiology
Brody School of Medicine
East Carolina University
North Carolina

On Friday, February 27, 2015, the Department of Surgery was pleased to host [Walter J. Pories, MD](#) as the 21st Annual Helen & John Schilling Lecturer. Dr. Pories is Professor of Surgery, Biochemistry and Kinesiology at East Carolina University and Director of the Metabolic Surgery Research Group. His talk, titled “Surgical Research! Really?” provided an overview of the development of bariatric surgery and discussed the mechanisms underlying the remission of diabetes and the metabolic syndrome. The lecture chronicled the journey of

surgeon-researchers trying to treat weight loss and diabetes with surgery, and included practical anecdotes from his own experience building the East Carolina Department of Surgery.

Dr. Pories graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and received his MD with Honor at the University of Rochester, where he also completed his surgical training in general and cardiothoracic surgery. He served on the faculty of the University of Rochester, Case Western Reserve until 1977 when he became the founding Chairman of Surgery at East Carolina University (ECU), a position he held for 19 years. Dr. Pories’ major clinical interests have been in nutrition, pediatric and bariatric surgery. His notable accomplishments include the



From left to right: Dr. David R. Flum, Dr. Walter J. Pories, Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini and Dr. Ron V. Maier

discovery that zinc is an essential element and required for wound healing, the development of animal feeds, and the addition of trace elements to parenteral and alimentary formulations. Dr. Pories was the first to describe the use of suction to promote wound healing and the first to perform a cysterna-chili/vena cava anastomosis for congenital absence of the thoracic duct. He was also the first to delineate the full and durable remission of type 2 diabetes following the gastric bypass. He is the recipient of a number of research honors, including the Goldwater Award in Nutrition, the McGovern Award, the ECU Lifetime Research Achievement Award and the O. Max Gardner Award, among others. He retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Colonel after 24 years of service with a Legion of Merit and a Presidential Citation for the performance of the regiment under his command in the first Gulf War.

Dr. Pories’ Schilling Lecture was preceded by the annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium, which included 16 oral presentations and 14 posters by Department of Surgery residents and fellows on a wide variety of basic and clinical research topics. The day also included talks by Drs. [Adam Goldin](#), Associate Professor in the Division of Pediatric General Surgery (pictured bottom left), and [Giana Davidson](#), Assistant Professor in



Dr. David R. Flum presenting Dr. Walter J. Pories with an official Department of Surgery fleece jacket.

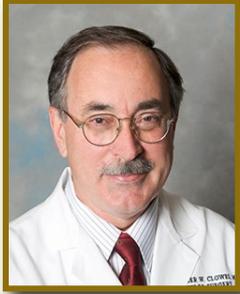


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the Division of General Surgery (pictured bottom right on page 15). Their presentations gave an in-depth look at their own research as well as an overview of other research happening in their divisions.



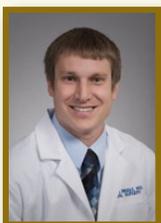
One of the highlights of the day was a special tribute to Dr. [Alexander Clowes](#), Professor and V. Paul Gavora and Helen S. and John A. Schilling Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery (pictured left). A [video](#) showcasing his life and work was shown and an award was presented to him in honor of his 35 years of leadership and service to the Department of Surgery and to its research mission. Dr. Clowes commented that he is proud of what Dr. Benjamin Starnes has accomplished since taking over as Vascular Division Chief in 2007, and that research in the department is thriving.

Both the plenary and poster sessions were adjudicated by Dr. Pories and Department of Surgery research leadership. Participants were ranked on scientific merit and validity, presentation skills, and preparedness for questions and comments from the audience. Congratulations are in order to the top three individuals in each session:

Plenary Session



1st place
Ravi Sood, MD
“Genome-Wide Association Study of Post-Burn Hypertrophic Scarring Identifies a Novel Protective Variant”
Faculty mentor: [Nicole Gibran, MD](#)



2nd place
Kevin Riggle, MD
“Enhanced Cyclic-AMP Induced Protein Kinase A Activity in Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma”
Faculty Mentor: [Kimberly Riehle, MD](#)



3rd place
Shakirat Oyetunji, MD
“Lysyl-Like Oxidase 2 (Loxl2) is an Oncogenic Driver of Malignancy Regulated by Mir-145 in Tobacco-Associated Esophageal Adenocarcinoma”
Faculty Mentor: **David S. Schrump, MD** (National Cancer Institute)

Poster Session



1st place
Jonathan Sham, MD
“Evaluating the Mechanisms of Improved Glucose Homeostasis after Bariatric Surgery in Ossabaw Miniature Swine”
Faculty Mentor: [David Cummings, MD](#) (Department of Medicine)



2nd place
Callie Thompson, MD
“Risk Factors for Burn Wound Infection: Data from the Inflammation and the Host Response to Injury Study”
Faculty Mentor: [Nicole Gibran, MD](#)



3rd place
Joshua Mourot, MD
“Improvement in Pulmonary Function Following Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass for Patients with Interstitial Lung Disease”
Faculty Mentor: [Saurabh Khandelwal, MD](#)

The Helen and John Schilling Endowed Lectureship was established by the late Helen Schilling to bring distinguished scholars to the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington, and to enhance the Department’s commitment to the highest standards of patient care, teaching, research and scholarship. It was Mrs. Schilling’s wish that the lectureship be in honor of her husband, Dr. John Schilling, who served as Chair of the Department of Surgery from 1975–1983.

Visit the Department of Surgery [website](#) to read more about the lectureship, view the abstract booklet or watch Dr. Pories’ lecture. Please mark your calendars **Friday, February 26, 2016** for the 2016 Schilling Lecture and Research Symposium with guest lecturer Dr. [Melina R. Kibbe](#), Professor and Vice Chair for Research, and the Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research in the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University (pictured right).

