

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



Dr. Giana Davidson

Dear Surgical Colleagues,
October 16th was the Henry Harkins Surgical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Seattle Yacht Club. This was a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments from the past year, and inducted the graduating Chiefs from general, thoracic, vascular and plastic surgery as the newest members of the Society.

Each year, nominations are solicited from all alumni, faculty, staff, residents and fellows for **The Harkins Distinguished Alumnus Award**. This award recognizes the professional achievements and humanitarian services of a surgical alumnus from the University of Washington. Professional or humanitarian contributions that have enhanced the surgical profession, improved the welfare of the general public, or brought distinction to the department are considered. Dr. Pellegrini presented this year's award to Dr. **Thomas Hatsukami** (pictured right). Dr. Hatsukami's nomination letters revealed his dedication and self-discipline in all aspects of his life as a gifted teacher, a skilled surgeon, an inspiring leader and a world-renowned research scientist.

Dr. Hatsukami began his academic life as an undergrad at Stanford, earning his bachelor's degree before enrolling at UCLA where he earned his medical degree. In 1982, Dr. Hatsukami began his surgical internship at the University of Washington, and finished his surgical residency in 1987. He completed his vascular and endovascular fellowships under the mentorship of Dr. D. Eugene Strandness, Jr, and in 1992 was appointed to the faculty at UW.

Dr. Hatsukami has cultivated a climate and set the standard of research & clinical excellence. He has continued this legacy of mentorship from Dr. Strandness; an inspiring teacher to medical students, residents, vascular fellows, and research fellows. In Dr. Hatsukami's acceptance speech, he noted this has been a particularly rewarding and gratifying part of his academic career. Since 1991, he has overseen the training of nearly 60 vascular surgery fellows, research fellows, and graduate students. He has genuine interest in all aspects of resident and student teaching and creates a fertile learning environment that makes them feel genuinely appreciated and valued. In return, they honored him with the John K. Stevenson Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002.

In the laboratory, Dr. Hatsukami has dedicated his life to the study of atherosclerosis, and he has had a major impact on diagnosis & treatment. He is the Co-Director and founder of the Vascular Imaging Laboratory at UW Medicine South Lake Union Research Campus, an internationally recognized research program focusing on imaging techniques that can better identify atherosclerotic carotid plaques that are associated with a high risk for future stroke.



When this Department created the Distinguished Alumnus Award we intended to celebrate a graduate from our residency program that has honored our department with her or his presence in this world as a teacher, surgeon, and scientist. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Thomas Hatsukami on this well-deserved honor!

Sincerely,

Giana Davidson, MD, MPH

President, Henry Harkin's Surgical Society

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