

## UW Medicine Receives \$30M Grant to Help Transform Care Throughout WWAMI Region

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- **mPOWER**, an innovative mobile health platform designed to improve post-surgical discharge care by enabling patient-initiated monitoring of surgical wounds and facilitating patient-provider communication during transition back to primary care. mPOWER, which was developed by Principal Investigator **Heather Evans**, is expected to reduce emergency room visits and re-hospitalizations by 25% through performance benchmarking and reporting on elective surgeries and readmissions; and deploying innovative mobile store-and-forward application for patients leaving the hospital and returning to primary care practice.

### UW Medicine

“Helping doctors and other healthcare professionals change the way they work is critical to improving quality and spending our healthcare dollars more wisely,” Burwell said. “These awards will give patients more of the information they need to make informed decisions about their care, and give clinicians access to information and support to improve care coordination and quality outcomes.”

**Dr. Flum** called the award an “unprecedented opportunity” for UW Medicine to deliver on its promise of providing the most

accountable care to our patients. “This award will reinforce our already solid infrastructure for delivering high value, patient-centered care. It also provides layers of clinician training and novel programs to assure that our patients get the right care at the right time, and in the right place within our system,” he said.

The award is an opportunity to work with underserved populations in the five-state area and “to help improve the quality of medical care for our population while controlling the cost,” said Dr.

**Carlos A. Pellegrini**, *Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair of UW Medicine’s Department of Surgery.*

The PTN’s training, infrastructure, and programs will accomplish cross-system practice transformation, support initiatives such as **Choosing Wisely**® and the **Million Hearts**® program, and help accomplish a growing list of evidence-based performance targets. Projected costs savings resulting from this work are estimated at over \$400 million.

Read more about the [Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative >>](#)

## 2015 New Faculty



### Mark Brakstad, MD

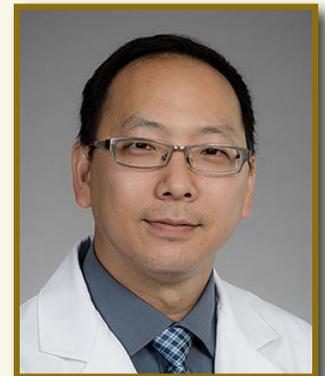
Dr. Brakstad is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery and a provider at the **Surgical Services & Hernia Center at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center**. He offers a full range of general surgery, and specializes in minimally invasive surgeries using advanced laparoscopic and robotic techniques, with a surgical

focus in general surgery, breast surgery and laparoscopic surgery. Dr. Brakstad received his medical degree from the University of Washington and completed his general surgery residency at University of Iowa College of Medicine. He is board certified by both the American Board of Surgery General Surgery and the American Board of Pediatrics, and was named a 2015 Top Doctor by both Seattle Magazine and Seattle Met magazine. Dr. Brakstad is unconditionally committed to excellent patient care

and supporting the patient and their family through the healing process. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, sports, and spending time with his family.

### Daniel Kim, MD

Dr. Kim, Acting Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, has expertise in both complex laparoscopic and open surgical techniques. He specializes in diseases of the gallbladder, complex and recurrent hernia repair, as well as a wide array of emergency general surgery procedures to treat intestinal or gastric perforation or bleeding, small bowel obstruction, abdominal sepsis, and severe soft tissue infections. He also performs colon resections for tumors, fistulas, diverticulitis and diverticulosis, and treats soft tissue tumors and infections, and benign anorectal disease such as anal fistulas,



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hemorrhoids, condylomas and premalignant lesions. Dr. Kim earned both his bachelor's and medical degrees from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his general surgical residency at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He strives to maintain open and candid relationships with his patients and others involved in their care, with the goal of delivering the safest and most efficient patient care experience possible. "I believe that great patient care requires a team of people who care deeply about patient well-being, as well as an honest relationship between patient and physician. Our institution is full of staff who are enthusiastic and caring and I feel very fortunate to work with everyone here." In his spare time, Dr. Kim enjoys spending time with family and friends, and outdoor activities such as bicycling, hiking, and kayaking.



### Ronson Madathil, MD

Dr. Ronson Madathil, Acting Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, grew up in Rochester, New York and earned his bachelor of science degree at Georgetown University. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and then completed his General Surgery residency at

University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Madathil went on to complete his cardiothoracic (CT) surgery training at University of California, Los Angeles. He then moved to Seattle where he was the first fellow to graduate from the University of Washington's Cardiothoracic Critical Care Fellowship. At **Northwest Hospital & Medical Center**, Dr. Madathil serves as the consistent face of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He also attends on the CTICU service at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). Some of his current projects include growing the cardiac surgery program at NWH and developing new protocols for thoracic transplantation, as well as expanding the Extracorporeal Life Support program at UWMC. Outside of work, Dr. Madathil enjoys getting to know Seattle and is an avid volleyball player.

### Alison Perrin, MD

Dr. Perrin, Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery, was born and raised in Seattle and went to the University of Washington for undergraduate studies, medical school, and surgical residency. Since completing her general surgery training, Dr. Perrin has practiced at **Northwest Hospital & Medical Center**, enjoying the



smaller community feel in the big city. Dr. Perrin offers a wide range of general surgery including breast cancer, laparoscopic and robotic surgery, endocrine surgery (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands), varicose vein surgery and sclerotherapy, and dialysis access. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board certified in general surgery. She is a member of the American Medical Association, American Society of Breast Disease, Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons and Seattle Surgical Society. Dr. Perrin receives tremendous satisfaction from getting to know her patients and their families, and treats patients as she would want her own family members treated. She is unconditionally committed to excellent patient care and supporting the patient and their family through the healing process. "I want my patients to be knowledgeable about their diagnosis and treatment options, to help optimize and personalize their surgical care." In her free time, Dr. Perrin enjoys spending time with family and friends, her husband and two daughters, traveling, hiking, skiing, swimming, board games, reading, and playing piano and cello.



### Bryce Robinson, MD, MS

Dr. Robinson, Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, earned his bachelor's degree from Miami University and his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati. After completing his general surgery residency training at the Rush University Medical Center-Cook County Hospital program, he returned to the University of Cincinnati to complete his training in surgical critical care and trauma. While at the University of Cincinnati, he was the assistant medical director of trauma

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services and the medical director of clinical trauma research. Dr. Robinson received a Master's of Science degree in clinical and translational research from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He is board certified in surgery and surgical critical care and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Robinson's specializes in the care of the critically ill and injured with an emphasis on surgical critical care, trauma surgery, and emergency general surgery. He has been appointed as the associate medical director for critical care at Harborview Medical Center. His research interests include defining strategies to prevent lung injury after severe injury or illness, resuscitation, and critical care quality improvement.

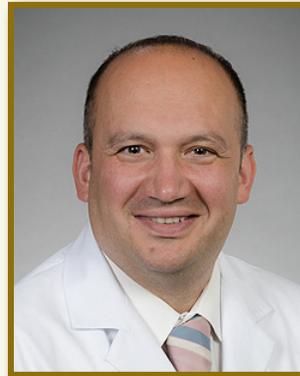


### Allegra Saving, MD

Dr. Saving is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery practicing at **Northwest Hospital & Medical Center**. Dr. Saving's clinical interests include advanced laparoscopy and robotic surgery, hernia repair, gastrointestinal and breast surgery. She received her medical degree from Wayne

State University in Michigan and completed her general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and an active member of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and the International Hernia Collaboration. At Northwest Hospital, Dr. Saving participates in a number of quality standard review sections committed to ensuring the best in patient care. She strongly believes that the relationship between a surgeon and patient is a true partnership and that understanding patient concerns and potential anxiety about surgery is paramount to strengthening this relationship. Dr. Saving strives to help patients understand their diagnosis while working together as partners to determine a personalized treatment course. Outside of her busy surgical practice, she is a triathlete and enjoys cooking and playing the

piano. As a passionate Green Bay Packers fan, she looks forward to spending time with her family at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin, where she and her husband remain season ticket holders.



### Felix Vladimir, MD

Dr. Felix Vladimir is a Clinical Associate Professor in Division of Vascular Surgery. He has practiced vascular/endovascular surgery for ten years and has extensive experience with limb salvage, aortic and carotid pathology as well as venous pathology. Dr. Vladimir earned his medical degree from Carol Davila University of Medicine

and Pharmacy in Bucharest, Romania. He then trained in general surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, and completed a vascular surgery fellowship at Boston University. Prior to coming to UW, spent two years at New York Medical College as an assistant professor. He subsequently moved to Seattle's South Sound area, providing vascular surgical care to a previously underserved population. Dr. Vladimir is board certified in both general surgery and vascular surgery. He is an active member of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) and serves as a member of the SVS Community Practice Committee.

### Nicole White, MD

Dr. White, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, is medical director of general surgery at **Northwest Hospital & Medical Center** and its current cancer liaison physician. She graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors from George Washington University School of Medicine, and completed general surgery residency at the Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Following residency, Dr. White completed a fellowship in minimally invasive foregut/non-cardiac thoracic surgery at the Ryan Hill Foundation at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. She is board certified in general surgery and is a fellow and member of the American College of Surgeons, the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons, American Hernia Society, and Seattle Surgical Society. Her current focus is



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minimally invasive and robotic surgery for treatment of gallbladder, hernia, gastroesophageal reflux disease and colon disease, and she has a special interest in esophageal disease. Dr. White is passionate and enthusiastic about providing accessible, state of the art quality care. "I strive to provide an unsurpassed level of care and make each patient's experience as comfortable and pleasant as possible. I spend a great deal of time with each patient prior to a procedure, at bedside during recovery and for any follow-up care they may need." In her spare time, Dr. White enjoys travel, art, skiing and spending time with friends and family.



### Robert Yates, MD

Dr. Yates is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery and a surgeon with the **Surgical Services & Hernia Center at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center.**

He joined faculty after completing advanced fellowship training in minimally invasive surgery here at the University of Washington in the Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery. Dr. Yates' clinical interests include the management of hernias, including inguinal/groin, ventral, incisional and hiatal hernias, and the surgical management of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract with a particular focus on disorders of the esophagus and stomach. Dr. Yates received his medical degree from the Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He finds the opportunity to provide surgical care to patients a true privilege. Dr. Yates believes that each patient has a unique set of clinical and social factors that define their personal goals and expectations for their surgical care. "I encourage patients to ask questions and be active participants in the clinical decision-making process. It is particularly important that each patient fully understands, and has confidence in, the treatment plan that we have developed." Ultimately, it is his goal to ensure that each patient receives with the safest, most effective, and least invasive treatment possible.

## Researcher Profile: Anne Hocking, PhD

**C**hronic non-healing wounds are a common and debilitating complication of diabetes mellitus. It is estimated that up to 25% of the diabetic population will develop a non-healing foot ulcer and approximately 12% of these individuals will require a lower extremity amputation. The World Health Organization estimates that 347 million people worldwide have diabetes mellitus, making the prevalence and incidence of non-healing foot ulcers a global healthcare crisis. Contributing significantly to this crisis is the lack of reliable therapies for treatment of wounds that are slow to heal. Consequently, there is an urgent need for basic research into fundamental mechanisms of wound repair.



Dr. Anne Hocking

**Anne Hocking, PhD**, Research Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, has spent the past 12 years investigating the molecular and cellular responses to injury during wound repair in skin. Her long-term goal is to develop new therapies to accelerate and improve wound healing in diabetic wounds. Dr. Hocking uses innovative approaches including in vitro and in vivo wound models combined with cutting edge molecular and cellular biology.

Recent work in Dr. Hocking's laboratory has focused on generating a comprehensive map of cellular metabolism in cutaneous wounds. While cellular metabolism is now recognized as playing a central role in regulating cell survival and proliferation in cancer, less is known about its role in wound healing. A major barrier for advancing research on wound metabolism is our limited understanding of the wound metabolic profile. With funding from the Department of Surgery Research Reinvestment Fund, Dr. Hocking and her team, in collaboration with Dr. **Daniel Raftery** and the UW **Northwest Metabolomics Research Center**, used a targeted metabolomics approach to generate metabolic profiles of uninjured skin and wounds at day 7 post injury in non-diabetic and diabetic mice. This pilot study demonstrated that diabetes mellitus alters the metabolic profile of both uninjured skin and wounds. It also highlighted the potential for metabolomics to identify novel biomarkers and therapeutic targets for improved wound healing outcomes. This work was recently **published** in the journal *Wound Repair and Regeneration* with first author Dr. **Ravi Sood**, a former research fellow in the NIGMS-funded T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Trauma and Burns.

Using this pilot study as preliminary data, Dr. Hocking was recently awarded funding from the UW Royalty Research Fund. In this new project, Dr. Hocking and colleagues will measure metabolites in diabetic and non-diabetic wounds at four different time points post injury. They will also determine when and where metabolic enzymes are expressed during wound repair. Collectively these studies will determine whether distinct metabolic programs

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