

2016 Faculty Promotions



Aaron Cheng, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Cheng is a thoracic surgeon at the [Harborview Medical Center \(HMC\)](#). He earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his general surgery residency at the University of Colorado. He subsequently completed residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the

University of Washington, and then undertook an additional year of fellowship training in Surgical Critical Care. He practices general thoracic surgery at Harborview Medical Center and currently serves as site director there; he also is clinically involved with the lung transplant and ECLS programs at the [University Washington Medical Center \(UWMC\)](#). In addition, Dr. Cheng also attends regularly as a critical care physician on the UWMC cardiothoracic surgical intensive care unit and has been instrumental in initiating and expanding the CT ICU service. Besides his clinical activities, Dr. Cheng is involved nationally with promoting cardiothoracic critical care education and training for residents, surgeons, and associate providers, and he has been involved with CMS coding and reimbursement processes through The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, camping, and reading non-fiction.



D. Michael McMullan, MD
Promoted to Professor

Dr. McMullan is a pediatric heart surgeon and Director of Extracorporeal Life Support Services at [Seattle Children's Hospital](#). He received his medical degree from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed general surgery residency at the University of Texas

Medical Center in Houston and thoracic surgery residency at the University of Washington. He undertook additional fellowship training in heart transplantation and mechanical cardiac support at the Texas Heart Institute and pediatric cardiac surgery at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. The focus of Dr. McMullan's research is the impact of mechanical circulatory support on clinical outcomes. He is Program Director for the

Extracorporeal Life Support Fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. McMullan has a keen interest in simulation training to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety. He and his team have developed specialized simulation tools that are currently being used throughout the world. Dr. McMullan is a member of the [Extracorporeal Life Support Organization](#) Executive Committee and will become president of the organization in September.

Nahush Mokadam, MD
Promoted to Professor

Dr. Mokadam completed his general surgery residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis and his cardiothoracic residency at the University of Washington. Since then, he has remained primarily at UWMC, where he leads the advanced heart failure team. This team

is now recognized as a national and international leader in the field of heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support (LVAD). UWMC has been a national leader in clinical trial enrollment in this field, and continues to innovate in minimally invasive implantation techniques. Dr. Mokadam is also focused on surgical education. Recently, Dr. Mokadam was appointed the Program Director of the Cardiothoracic Residency Program at UW. As part of a national consortium with a grant from the AHRQ, Dr. Mokadam and other innovative educators in cardiothoracic surgery constructed, conducted, analyzed, and published a comprehensive simulation curriculum this past year. He has organized and executed a national "Top Gun" competition and an international "Jeopardy" competition for cardiothoracic residents. Dr. Mokadam published an [iBook on the fundamentals of cardiopulmonary bypass](#). He serves as a director of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association Annual Boot Camp. The [Western Thoracic Surgical Association \(WTSA\)](#) has awarded Dr. Mokadam two teaching awards, and he is chair of the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting. As an active member of the Society for Thoracic Surgeons, he serves as a member of the Workforce for the Annual Meeting and the Workforce on E-Learning and Education Innovation. Dr. Mokadam was also elected to the UW Faculty Senate where his term begins in 2016. Outside of work, Dr. Mokadam enjoys spending time with his family, travel, skiing, and photography.



(continued on page 9)

2016 Faculty Promotions

Continued from page 8



Niten Singh, MD Promoted to Professor

Dr. Singh is a vascular surgeon at Harborview Medical Center (HMC). He received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and completed his general surgery residency at Tripler Army Medical Center. Dr. Singh then completed a fellowship in vascular

surgery at Georgetown University. He completed his career in the army while practicing at Madigan Army Medical Center as well two combat deployments to Iraq. Dr. Singh is the Director of the Limb Preservation Service at Harborview which aligns with his clinical research on limb salvage. Dr. Singh has been instrumental in bringing advanced endovascular as well as open techniques to salvage threatened limbs in patients at Harborview since his arrival in 2013. He is the University of Washington principle investigator for the Best Endovascular versus Best Surgical Therapy for critical limb ischemia trial (BEST-CLI) and participates in other limb salvage trials as well. His other areas of research involve vascular trauma and aortic disease. He is currently the program director for the Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency and Vascular Surgery Fellowship. Dr. Singh is the Program Chair and Founder of the Pacific Northwest Endovascular Conference and serves on several committees for the Society for Vascular Surgery and Western Vascular Society including program chair for the 2016 WVS annual meeting. Dr. Singh was also just recently promoted to Associate Chief of the Vascular Surgery Division.

Roger Tatum, MD Promoted to Professor

Dr. Tatum received his MD from Northwestern University in 1995, and then completed a residency in General Surgery as well as a clinical research fellowship in Gastroenterology (focus on Esophageal Motility) there in 2001. After 4 years of private practice in General Surgery in the Seattle area, he joined VA Puget Sound and the University of Washington Department of Surgery, becoming the Director of Medical Student Surgical Education for the Department in 2005. In 2011, Dr. Tatum was appointed as the Chief of Surgery



at **VA Puget Sound**, overseeing 13 surgical subspecialties. He maintains an active clinical practice, currently performing a broad array of procedures in general and minimally invasive surgery. His research interests include esophageal motility disorders and the surgical management of reflux as well as surgical education. At the University of Washington he serves as the Chair of the Elective Clerkship Committee, and is a member of a number of committees both locally and nationally. He is also the current president of OESO, an international society dedicated to the study of the esophagus.

New WISH Executive Director **Robert Sweet, MD**

On behalf of UW Medicine and the **WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH)**, the Department of Surgery welcomes **Robert Sweet, MD**, to the University of Washington as the newly appointed Executive Director for WISH.

Dr. Sweet, a native of Minnesota, rejoins the University of Washington community, having previously completed his Urology

residency with the UW in 2003. For the past decade, Dr. Sweet has lead the simulation efforts of the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN), including the development of the Center for Research Education and Simulation Technologies (CREST). The CREST program, industry leaders in the development of tissue characterization, manikin development, and artificial tissue, joined the WISH team in Seattle. This exciting new partnership will continue to enhance the simulation capabilities across the WWAMI region and move forward our research in simulation science and our teaching and training programs. Dr. Sweet joins the Institute (formally known as UW ISIS) as it enters its 10th year of service to the UW Medicine community. We look forward to exciting things from WISH. Dr. Sweet, a Professor in the Department of Urology, will also lead the new Stone Center being developed at Northwest Hospital.

