

## 2016 Schilling Lecture

On Friday February 26, 2016 the Department of Surgery hosted its annual Schilling Research Symposium with 22nd Annual Helen & John Schilling Lecturer Dr. Melina Kibbe, Professor of Surgery, the Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research, and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University. In her talk, “Sex Bias in Surgical Biomedical and Clinical Research,” Dr. Kibbe discussed the sex differences that exist with diseases processes and the sex disparity that exists in the development and evaluation of drugs, devices, and medical therapies. Dr. Kibbe is a strong advocate for sex inclusion in biomedical research and has been interviewed by Leslie Stahl for 60 Minutes in February 2014 and later appeared on the Colbert Report. Her publication [“Sex bias exists in basic science and translational surgical research”](#) in the journal *Surgery* on the presence of sex bias in surgical research gained a great deal of media attention nationally and internationally, and has resulted in discussions with the National Institutes of Health, the Government Accountability Organization, and the Food and Drug Administration about policy change.

Dr. Kibbe graduated from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1994. She completed her internship, residency, and research fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2002, and her vascular surgery fellowship at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in 2003. She has significant experience with both open and endovascular surgery, including the treatment of carotid stenosis, peripheral vascular disease, and abdominal aortic



Drs. David Flum, Melina Kibbe and Doug Wood

aneurysms. Dr. Kibbe’s research interests focus on developing novel therapies for patients with vascular disease while simultaneously studying the mechanism of how these therapies impact the vascular wall. She is currently PI on three NIH R01 awards, one NIH T32 award, and one VA Merit award, in addition to serving as Co-Investigator on several other awards. Her currently funded projects include developing a novel biodegradable drug-eluting liquid cast stent, developing a new methodology to treat atherosclerosis by reducing plaque burden, investigating the role of resident adventitial progenitor cells in the vasculature, developing and evaluating an endothelial progenitor cell-derived bioengineered ePTFE graft, and developing innovative, targeted therapeutics to prevent restenosis following cardiovascular interventions. She holds seven patents or provisional patents and her research was recognized by President Obama with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in

2009. She is the Editor-in-Chief for *JAMA Surgery* and serves as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Surgical Research*.

The Research Symposium included 16 oral presentations and 15 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. [Eileen Bulger](#), [Giana Davidson](#), and [Jason Smith](#) on three highly innovative clinical trials looking at immune modulation for patients with necrotizing soft tissue infections; antibiotics versus appendectomy for the treatment of uncomplicated appendicitis; and the “heart-in-a-box” system for donor heart preservation.

[View the full abstract booklet >>](#)

Both the plenary and poster sessions were adjudicated by Dr. Kibbe 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 to the top presenters in each session:

### Plenary Session

#### 1st place

**Anne P. Ehlers, MD**

“Improved Risk Prediction after Colorectal Surgery Using Machine Learning Algorithms”  
Faculty mentor: David R. Flum, MD, MPH

#### 2nd place (tie)

**Brodie Parent, MD**

“Trending Physiologic State Using Metabolomics in Critically-Injured Trauma Patients”  
Faculty mentor: Grant E. O’Keefe, MD, MPH

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### 2nd place (tie)

**Kevin M. Riggle, MD**

“Neurotensin Enhances Cell Proliferation in Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma”

Faculty mentors: Kimberly Riehle, MD and Raymond Yeung, MD

### 3rd place

**Cordelia E. Witt, MD**

“Effect of Body Mass Index on Risk of Complications after Pediatric Appendectomy”

Faculty mentor: Frederick P. Rivara, MD, MPH,  
Department of Pediatrics

## Poster Presentations

### 1st place

**Ravi F. Sood, MD, MS**

“Respiratory Complications Following Abdominal Wall Reconstruction: Analysis of the Nationwide Inpatient Sample Database”

Faculty mentor: Nicole S. Gibran, MD

### 2nd place (tie)

**Elisha G. Brownson, MD**

“Combining Store-and-Forward Pictures and Videoconferencing for Outpatient Burn Follow-up Care”

Faculty mentor: Tam N. Pham, MD

### 2nd place (tie)

**Vlad V. Simianu, MD, MPH**

“The Reliability of a Standardized Reporting System for the Diagnosis of Appendicitis”

Faculty mentor: David R. Flum, MD, MPH

### 3rd place

**Katherine Flynn-O'Brien, MD, MPH**

“Leveraging Existing Data System Investments to Improve Quality Care for Critically Injured Children”

Faculty mentor: Frederick P. Rivara, MD, MPH,  
Department of Pediatrics

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.

## Special Grand Rounds Presented by Dr. Paul E. Farmer

The Department of Surgery was honored to host Dr. **Paul E. Farmer** for a **special grand rounds lecture** in May 2016. Dr. Farmer's presentation entitled “Beyond The OR: Surgical Disease And Global Health” discussed the barriers to treating surgical disease in low-resource settings as well as what is most needed in the delivery of global surgical care.



Medical anthropologist and physician Dr. Farmer has dedicated his life to improving health care for the world's poorest people. He chairs the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and is a founding director of **Partners In Health (PIH)**, an international non-profit organization that since 1987 has provided direct health care services and undertaken research and advocacy activities on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. He also is professor of medicine and chief of the **Division of Global Health Equity** at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Farmer began his lifelong commitment to Haiti in 1983 while still a student, working with dispossessed farmers in Haiti's Central Plateau. He served there for ten years as medical director of a charity hospital, L'Hôpital Bon Sauveur. With PIH over the past twenty-six years, Dr. Farmer has led colleagues working in twelve sites throughout Haiti and twelve additional countries around the globe. For more than a decade, the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine has integrated research and teaching programs with PIH service activities, establishing direct



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