

# SURGERY Synopsis

UW Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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## Chairman's Message



**Douglas E. Wood, MD,  
FACS, FRCSEd** (*ad hom*)  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor and Chair

**I**n nature, spring and summer are about renewal and the bounty the earth provides. The same is true for academic medicine. Part of our mission statement reads: The Department of Surgery “trains future generations of surgical leaders.” Our Spring/Summer edition of Surgery Synopsis is devoted to our teaching mission: to honor those that are leaving, to welcome those coming, and highlight some of the work of those that are still here for the coming year. As in the seasons of Spring and Summer, this time in the academic medical season is one of renewal and growth.

In Spring, our interviews with potential residents bore fruit in “The Match.” Each of our residency programs matched with amazing candidates (including each program matching with their #1 choice). Among this cohort of new residents are nine women and six underrepresented minorities, meaning we are matching with the best people regardless of background. To say we’re pleased with this group of extremely qualified and diverse residents would be an understatement.

Then, in summer, our new residents began their training. It is an absolute joy to welcome and meet with the new class and watch them begin their residency training. All of the residents are pictured on pages six through eight. And, we have drawn comments from many describing why they chose UW Surgery over other programs.

I would be remiss not to thank our Education Program faculty and staff. The Department’s educational efforts, led by Dr. Karen Horvath, Associate Chair of Education, and the program directors of each of the residency/fellowship programs are unparalleled. The staff that support these programs are equally responsible for the success and ongoing prominence of our training programs.

## OUR 2018 GRADUATING RESIDENTS WILL BE GOING ON TO GREAT THINGS!

Morgan Richards—Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, Emory (Atlanta, GA)

Katherine Flynn—O’Brien, Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI)

Ravi Sood—Plastic Surgery Fellowship, Harvard (Boston, MA)

Brodie Parent—Plastic Surgery Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)

Anne Ehlers—CVES Fellowship, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

# Chairman's Message

Continued from page 1

The Department is also engaged in innovative initiatives. A passion of mine for some time has been to develop a Center for Surgical Ethics. With the help of renowned surgeon and ethicist Alberto Ferreres, MD, JD, Chair of Department of Surgery at University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, we held our first ever Surgical Ethics Conference. We were fortunate for the Surgical Ethics Conference to be added to the annual Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics Week at UW, and it was a wonderful way to inaugurate this program. A very special thank you to the surgery faculty who participated as well as our staff, Megan Sherman and Mark Cumpston, for their efforts in putting this together (read more on page 20).

Along with the bounty of this time of year, we have also had some significant departures. Dr. Ted Kohler, Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery, retired. His enthusiasm for the practice of vascular surgery at the VA and his commitment to teaching our residents is without equivalent. He will be profoundly missed. Please read more about his career and the lives he touched on page three.

Dr. David Heimbach, Professor Emeritus in the Division of Trauma, Critical Care & Burn Surgery, recently passed away. His pioneering work in the care of burn patients – through both clinical practice and ground-breaking research – led to significant advances in the field of burn care and made the Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center a premiere burn center in the country. Please read his obituary on page two.

Finally, a word about finances: Healthcare across the nation is in some turmoil due to differing perspectives on how healthcare should be paid for. Changes in reimbursement for services are having an impact on all healthcare institutions. This impact is particularly felt in academic medicine because of a concurrent decrease in federal research funding and the increasing resources required to carry out our teaching mission. While the costs of teaching are, to some extent, covered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, medical schools and academic programs must also contribute. The faculty and administrative leadership have been working hard to address

these funding issues while unyieldingly remaining true to our mission.

We reaffirm our commitment to all parts of our mission – excellent clinical care, the very best in training, and conducting ground-breaking, innovative research. Doing this in a less costly way requires all of our commitment and ingenuity. But, we will prevail and take this great department and school to new heights of excellence. I am proud of our dedicated faculty and staff. It is truly a pleasure to serve as the Chair of this great department.

Sincerely,

**Douglas E. Wood, MD,  
FACS, FRCSEd (*ad hom*)  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor and Chair**



## Dr. David Heimbach Memoriam



**I**t is with sadness that we share the passing of Dr. David Heimbach from cancer in August 2017. In a letter to Department of Surgery faculty, Dr. Doug Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair wrote:

“David passed peacefully from cancer surrounded by his loving family. He bravely faced his disease. As most of you know, David was an important figure in the UW Department of Surgery for over three decades, and a national leader in burn surgery and burn care.

In 1977 David became the Director of the University of Washington Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center (HMC). He became an early advocate of early burn wound excision, a technique that was later widely adopted. As a noted burn surgeon, he was a leading surgeon-scientist, with extensive publications, including clinical studies on the use of the skin substitute, Integra. David trained a generation of burn surgeons and advocated their development, helped to establish

the importance of burn centers and their development around the U.S. His work gained him widespread admiration and prestige. He was elected president of the **American Burn Association (ABA)** and of the **International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI)**. In 2002 he stepped down as the Director of the Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center, and in 2011 he retired as an active professor at the University of Washington and was awarded Professor Emeritus status. David was known for his wry sense of humor, his holistic approach to patient care, his dedication to training, and for making UW and HMC a leading center for burn care in the world. Perhaps his biggest legacy has been his burn fellowship through which he trained over 25 burn fellows, many of whom are now national and international leaders in burn care. He made an indelible mark on our department, and left a lasting legacy that benefits all patients with burn injuries today. Our thoughts and sincere condolences go out to David's family. We will miss him.”

The family has requested that donations in his name be given to the **Washington State Council of Firefighters Burn Foundation (WSCFF)**.

# Dr. Ted Kohler Retirement



**“What can you say when one of our most respected and beloved faculty members is retiring? Ted Kohler first touched base at the UW in 1978 as a Trauma/Burn Research Fellow under Dr. C. James Carrico. It must have made an impression on him, because when he finished his General Surgery and Vascular training at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, he chose a job as Assistant Professor at UW in 1983.**

Born and raised in the Midwest, educated in New England, he brought with him the complimentary qualities of brilliance and humility, intellectual rigor and informality, all with a healthy dose of Midwestern irony and self-deprecation. Ted migrated from Harborview to the Veteran's Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VA), where he has led the Vascular Division there for 25 years. He's never been a self-promoter, so if you haven't rotated through the VA, worked alongside him as a colleague, or served with him on a committee, you've missed the opportunity for direct inspiration. But we have all been beneficiaries of his contributions.

As Vascular Surgery has evolved as a science and a specialty, he has made landmark contributions at each turning point: ultrasound diagnosis of arterial stenoses<sup>1</sup>, the pathophysiology of stenosis in arteries and dialysis access<sup>2,3</sup>, the holy grail of an endothelialized prosthetic graft<sup>4</sup>, and randomized trials of endovascular versus open abdominal aortic aneurysm repair<sup>5</sup>. And as large as his contributions have been to the science of Vascular Surgery, we all have been touched more intimately by his contributions to our own community as past president of the Seattle Surgical Society and the Henry Harkins Society, and founding member of the Pacific Northwest Vascular Society. Scores of students, residents, and colleagues have experienced his warm, empathetic mentoring and coaching. In our hectic, competitive world of academic medicine, he stands out for his generosity of time, attention, and caring for others. I can tell you that when I've found myself in difficulty in the OR, he's the one I've called. With his calm demeanor and incisive thinking, we'll sort out the situation. Then, in his classical, ironic fashion, he'll leave the OR with his final comment, "What's the worst that can happen?" He has always been there for us.

So, it is with sadness and joy that we all wish Ted Kohler the very best in this next chapter in his life. What's the worst that can happen?"

**Michael Sobel, MD**  
*Professor, Department of Vascular Surgery*  
*University of Washington*

1. Kohler TR, Nance DR, Cramer MM, Vandenburgh N, Strandness DE, Jr. Duplex scanning for diagnosis of aortoiliac and femoropopliteal disease: a prospective study. *Circulation*. 1987;76:1074-80.
2. Kohler TR, Kirkman TR. Dialysis access failure: A sheep model of rapid stenosis. *J Vasc Surg*. 1999;30(4):744-51.
3. Kohler TR, Jawien A, Clowes AW. Effect of shear on intimal hyperplasia following arterial injury in rats. *Circulation*. 1990;82(Suppl 3):400.
4. Kohler TR, Stratton JR, Kirkman TR, Johansen KH, Zierler BK, Clowes AW. Conventional versus high-porosity polytetrafluoroethylene grafts: Clinical evaluation. *Surgery*. 1992;112:901-7.
5. Lederle FA, Freischlag JA, Kyriakides TC, Padberg FT, Jr., Matsumura JS, Kohler TR, et al. Outcomes following endovascular vs open repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm: a randomized trial. *JAMA*. 2009;302(14):1535-42.

Dr. Kohler has been my favorite person to work with during my fellowship. I call him "Uncle Ted" and he calls me "Nephew." He is as wonderful a person as he is a surgeon and despite my best efforts, I couldn't convince him to stay through my graduation. This will be a hard loss for all trainees and colleagues but he has certainly paid his dues. Operating with Dr. Kohler is the most calming, yet invigorating experience one can hope for in the operating room. He gives you a chance to show what you can do and then he lets you fly. He inspires you with confidence to the point that you out-perform what you believe your limits to be. He says "What's the worst that can happen?" (his favorite phrase), when in fact, really bad things could actually happen... This always encourages me to think and be alert about the bad things that could happen but never to be afraid of doing what we have to do. Overall, I wish he could stay and graduate with me and go into practice as my senior partner and retire when he is about 100 years old. However, I am really excited for him regarding the next chapter of his life and I am blessed to have been a small part of the conclusion of this chapter. Moreover, he will always be "Uncle Ted" to me.

Always,  
Nephew Prince



**Ted Kohler with Prince Esiobu,  
2017-2018 Vascular Surgery Fellow**

*(continued on page 4)*



# Dr. Kohler Retirement

Continued from page 3



**Ted Kohler in training**

**“Dr. Kohler was and is, one of the kindest surgeons I have worked with in my training. Not only have I learned a tremendous amount from him, but I also aspire to his surgical humor and I have passed it on to my own residents at Duke.”**

**— Dr. Daiva Nevidomskyte, Assistant Professor at Duke University,  
UW Vascular Surgery Resident, 2011–2016**



**Left to right: Drs. Nam Tran, Ted Kohler, Daiva Nevidomskyte,  
Mark Meissner, Eugene Zierler, Susanna Shin, and Elina Quiroga**

*Photo credit: Michael Hilleary*

## What I Love About Ted Kohler

- He showed me how one can be an awesome mentor who is genuinely warm and caring
- The deep respect by which he treats his patients and the respect he shows his trainees and colleagues even when he disagrees
- His sense of humor which at times can appear when you least expect it.
- His standing response for the the question of “can I... ?” “I don’t know, can you?” (Forever burned in my brain and is the voice I hear when a trainee asks me “can I ...”)

So, I hope you don’t think you are allowed to disappear that easily from our lives .. I can speak for my self when I say my life is richer because of you...cheers!!

— Dr. Sherene Shalub, Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery Division

**A special thanks to Jane Blomberg,  
RN Vascular Nurse Coordinator  
Vascular Surgery Seattle VA PSHCS  
for gathering photos and  
write-ups from colleagues.**

# 2017 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT GRADUATION DINNER

**T**he 2017 Department of Surgery Chief Residents' Dinner was held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle, WA in June 2017. Welcome and introductions were presented by Dr. **Doug Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair and the event was emceed by Dr. **Roger Tatum**, Professor and Chief of VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHS), Surgeon-in-Chief, VAPSHS.

Dr. Wood gave a special thanks to Dr. **Dana Lynge**, Associate Professor, VAPSHS, who served as emcee for the past 15 years for this annual event. "Thank you Dana for your extraordinary service to the department as our emcee and for providing us years of laughter and wonderful memories."

A special thanks was also given to the Department of Surgery's Education staff:

**Robin Boland, Khrystine Buccat, Gina Coluccio, Nadia Gavrilenko, Tami Hanson, Genia Hill, Kathryn Jansen, Anne Long and Suzanne Mills**

One of the traditions of this annual dinner is presenting awards in the following categories:

## **Henry Harkins Award**

Awardee—Dr. **Alison Haruta**, Surgery Resident

## **Department of Surgery Medical Student Research Award**

Awardee—Dr. **Lauren Jacobson**, Surgery Resident

## **Department of Surgery Resident Award for Medical Student Teaching**

Awardee—Dr. **Andy Mesher**, Surgery Resident

## **Department of Surgery Resident Academic Excellence Award**

Awardees who scored in the 85th percentile on the ABSITE:  
Drs. **Elissa Butler, Sara Daniel, David Drouillard, Meghan Flanagan, Dara Horn, Kevin Labadie, Andrew Mesher, Morgan Richards, Kevin Riggle, Jonathan Sham, Ravi Sood, Barclay Stewart, Kevin Sullivan and Gabriel Wallace**

## **Stevenson's Faculty Teaching Award**

Awardee—Dr. **Raymond Yeung**, Professor, General Surgery Division

## **Harborview Housestaff of the Year Award**

Awardee—Dr. **Val Simianu**, Surgery Resident, General Surgery Division

## **The David Tapper Resident Teaching & Leadership Award**

Awardee—Dr. **Jonathan Sham**, Surgery Resident

## **Vascular Surgery Program**

**April Rodriguez**, MD

## **Plastic Surgery Program**

**Mitchell Pett**, MD  
**Brinkley Sandvall**, MD  
**Laura Tom**, MD

## **General Surgery Program**

**Victoria Lao**, MD, PhD  
**Val Simianu**, MD, MPH  
**Meghan Flanagan**, MD, MPH  
**Bijibaa' Garrison**, MD  
**Jason Hurd**, MD  
**Andrew Mesher**, MD  
**Jonathan Sham**, MD  
**Gabe Wallace**, MD

## **Fellows Finishing June 2017**

**Hope Jackson**, MD  
Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery

**Monica Young**, MD  
Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery

**Mahim Malik**, MD  
Congenital Cardiac Surgery

**Robert J. W. Knight**, MB BCH, MRCS, MD, FRACS  
Craniofacial Surgery

**Srinivas M. Susarla**, MD, DMD  
Craniofacial Surgery

**Caitlin Smith**, MD  
Pediatric Surgery

**William Schmitt**, MD  
Reconstructive Microsurgery

**Mackenzie Cook**, MD  
Surgical Critical Care

**Rebecca Maine**, MD, MPH  
Surgical Critical Care

**Andrew Riggle**, MD  
Surgical Critical Care

**Thomas Shoultz**, MD  
Surgical Critical Care

**Theresa Chin**, MD, MPH  
Surgical Critical Care

**Joshua Wong**, MD, BSc, MS, MSc, ES, FRCSC /  
Surgical Critical Care

**Castigliano Bhamidipati**, MD, PhD  
Thoracic Surgery—Traditional

**Daniel McCarthy**, MD  
Thoracic Surgery—Traditional

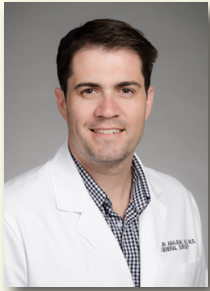
**Amir Ali Rahnama Azar**, MD  
Transplant Surgery

**Shahram Aarabi**, MD, MPH  
Vascular Surgery



# Welcome 2017/18 New Surgery Residents

## GENERAL & PRELIMINARY SURGERY RESIDENTS



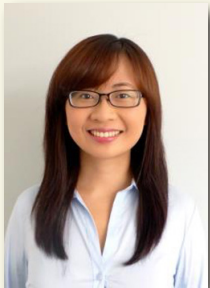
Aaron Abajian, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Ana Bao, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Catherine Beni, MD, PhD  
General Surgery R1



Joy Chen, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Nathan Colon, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



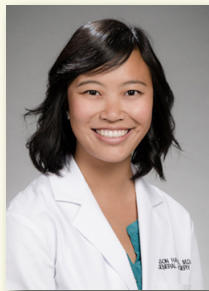
Mohini Dasari, MD  
General Surgery R1



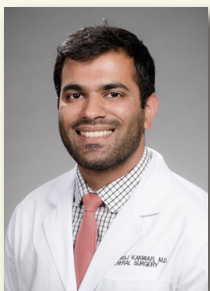
Travis Everett, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Ligea George, MBBS  
Preliminary Surgery R1



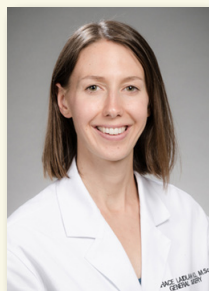
Alison Haruta, MD  
General Surgery R1



Anand Kanwar, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Edward Labovitz, DO  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Grace Laidlaw, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1

## WHY I CHOSE RESIDENCY AT UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

*"For so many reasons! Not only does UW exemplify excellence in academic surgery, it also provides a unique environment that combines all of my interests: trauma and critical care, pediatric surgery, surgical robots, and surgical simulation. Further, UW's commitment to resident education was clear from the first moment of interview day. The fact that Seattle is an absolutely gorgeous and vibrant city to live in is the icing on the (already-delicious) cake!"*

*"So many things, but mostly the exciting and friendly faculty and residents I met on interview day and the breadth of clinical experiences available...and the mountains may have had an influence too!"*

*"I was drawn to the high-level and well-rounded nature of the training, knowing that I would be supported in whichever path I ultimately end up taking. It was also apparent that the curriculum is thoroughly thought out, even in the global health activities and opportunities, where my interests lie. I am excited to train at such outstanding, community-focused hospitals, all in a truly beautiful city."*

*"Wonderful people, great program with outstanding clinical and research opportunities, and unbelievable social and recreational activities in the area."*

*"I truly enjoyed my sub-internship here at UW last August – though I may have been tricked into falling in love with Seattle, as it was sunny every day and I was able to enjoy various outdoor activities during my rotation. It is an incredible privilege to work in a trauma center such as Harborview Medical Center as well as a center-of-excellence like UWMC with the authors of our surgical textbooks."*

*"UW has great training opportunities with high level of trauma exposure and I really enjoyed the experience and the people I met when I did an away rotation here."*

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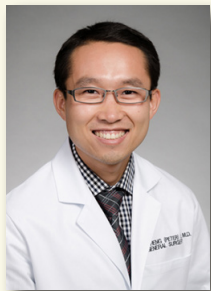
# Welcome 2017/18 New Surgery Residents

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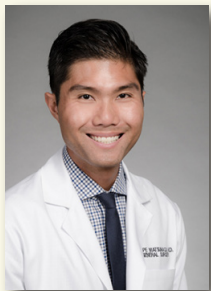
## GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS



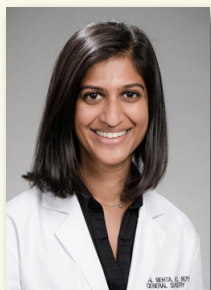
Jane Leavy, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Peter Li, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



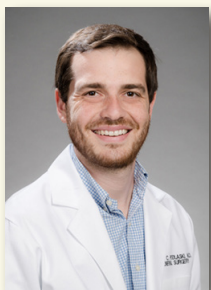
Felipe Matsunaga, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Kajal Mehta, MD  
General Surgery R1



Khanh Nguyen, DO  
Preliminary Surgery R1



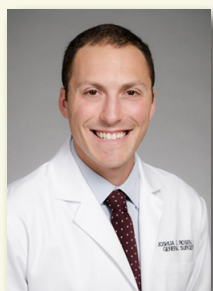
Alexander Podlaski, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



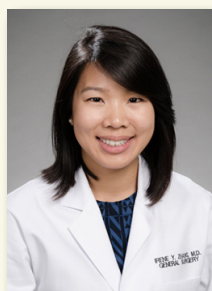
Anthony Radosevich, MD  
Preliminary Surgery R1



Jamie Robinson, MD  
General Surgery R1



Joshua Rosen, MD  
General Surgery R1



Irene Zhang, MD  
General Surgery R1

## WHY I CHOSE RESIDENCY AT UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

*"The mission of UW Medicine to provide care to a diverse spectrum of underserved patients in the WWAMI region resonates with my calling as a physician because I think the cardiothoracic surgeon can play an important role in combating access disparities and providing high quality longitudinal care."*

*"Clear commitment to resident education, supportive culture of the faculty and residents, passionate and conscientious teachers and mentors."*

*"The opportunity to receive phenomenal training in epidemiological methods and techniques to offer motivated, meaningful contribution in outcomes research."*

*"Excitement to return to Seattle – a city with culture and activities that closely fit my family's interests in outdoor activities, including rowing, hiking, camping, and mountaineering."*

*"The people, the incredible breadth of excellent research and clinical experiences, the commitment to serving diverse populations, and the beautiful city of Seattle!"*

*"Strength of program; willingness of the program director to help me facilitate a life situation while matching; warmth and welcoming faculty and staff during interview date; and location of Seattle."*

*"I fell in love with the city and fellow residents during my away rotation here last summer. People seem to work extremely hard, but know how to have a good time doing it."*

*"During my UW away rotation, I was impressed by the camaraderie, mentorship, and quality of training."*

*"Great balance of clinical experience/opportunities as well as academic/research opportunities. Great community of residents. Great city."*

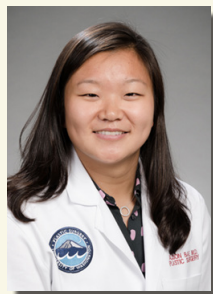
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## Welcome 2017/18 New Surgery Residents

Continued from page 7

### CARDIOTHORACIC / PLASTIC / UROLOGY / VASCULAR SURGERY RESIDENTS



Alison Bae, MD  
Plastic Surgery R1



Edward Chang, MD  
Urology R1



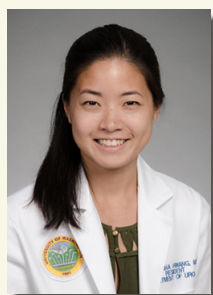
Sean Fisher, MD  
Plastic Surgery R1



Jake Hemingway, MD  
Vascular Surgery R1



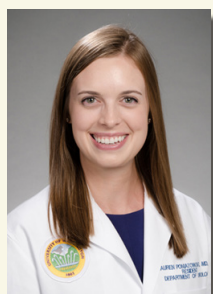
Melissa Herrin, MD  
CT Surgery R1



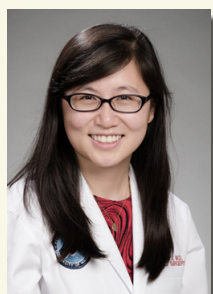
Catalina Hwang, MD  
Urology R1



Benjamin Massenberg, MD  
Plastic Surgery R1



Lauren Poniatowski, MD  
Urology R1



Jenny Yu, MD  
Plastic Surgery R1

## 2017/18 Research Residents

### John Monu, MD, 2017–2019



Dr. Monu is a trainee in the NIDDK-funded T32 fellowship in the Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research at the Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) under the tutelage of Dr. David Flum, Professor in the Division of General Surgery. His research will span a variety of clinical areas, however, he will primarily be focusing on diseases in the field of thoracic surgery. With guidance from Dr. Farhood Farjah, Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Monu

plans to move forward with research on lung cancer and the implementation of screening for this disease. He will concurrently be pursuing a Masters of Public Health at the University of Washington to supplement his knowledge on research methodology. He ultimately intends to complete a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery.

### Veeshal Patel, MD, MBA, 2017–2019

Dr. Patel will spend two years as a research fellow at the University of California, San Francisco, in the Department of Surgery and Surgical Innovations Program under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Harrison, Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Dr. Hanmin Lee, Professor and Chief of Pediatric Surgery, and Dr. Shuvo Roy, Professor of Bioengineering. His research is funded by a National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) R25 grant and an NIH SBIR grant.

As a Surgical Innovations Fellow, Dr. Patel will focus on medical device development and be involved in a number of bioengineering and translational medicine projects including the Magnetic Duodenal–Ileal Bypass (DIPASS) clinical trial. The goal is to demonstrate that a partial proximal small bowel diversion will have similar metabolic benefits as bariatric surgery on Type 2 Diabetes and metabolic syndrome, while creating a novel, less invasive surgical intervention. He is additionally working on a number of ongoing projects further developing technology for a magnetic bowel anastomosis device in addition to a magnetic implanted device for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea, novel approaches to seal the amniotic membrane, and less invasive therapies for the treatment of pectus excavatum. Dr. Patel plans pursue a career in academic trauma surgery and critical care at safety-net hospitals, while continuing ongoing work in medical device development and translational research.



(continued on page 9)



## 2017/18 Research Residents

Continued from page 8

### Kate Stadel, MD, 2017–2019



Dr. Stadel is a trainee in the NIDDK-funded T32 fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research at the Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) under the direction of Dr. David Flum, Professor in the Division of General Surgery. Her research will focus on health disparities and patient reported outcomes in variety of surgical populations and settings, including patients with diverticulitis, appendicitis, and traumatic injuries. She will also examine current opioid use and abuse patterns in trauma patients with the aim

to identify patients at highest risk for abuse and areas for intervention. During her two year fellowship, Dr. Stadel will also be enrolled at the University of Washington to complete a Master's in Public Health with a focus in Health Services. She plans to eventually pursue a fellowship in trauma, critical care, and acute care surgery.

### Kevin Sullivan, MD, 2017–2019

Dr. Sullivan is a Cancer Research Institute/Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation Fellow working with Drs. Venu Pillarisetty, Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery, Raymond Yeung, Professor in the Division of General Surgery and Kimberly Riehle, Associate Professor in the Division of Pediatric General Surgery. Fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma (FL-HCC) is a form of liver cancer that is rare but occurs in otherwise healthy adolescents and young adults without underlying liver disease or cirrhosis. Surgical resection is the mainstay of treatment, and no systemic therapy or chemotherapeutic agents have proven effective; therefore, patients with unresectable or metastatic disease have a poor prognosis. Recently, a deletion on chromosome 19 that results in a novel fusion protein called DNAB1-PRKACA was discovered and has been shown to be unique to FL-HCC. Dr. Sullivan and team will be working toward new treatments for FL-HCC by two mechanisms. First, to determine the potential for immunotherapy in FL-HCC, they will investigate the immune micro-environment of tumors using multiplex immunohistochemistry, which allows for analysis of multiple types of immune cells and their relationship with each other and tumor cells. Given that the fusion protein DNAB1-PRKACA is located in the cytoplasm of tumor cells, it may be a target for T cells, and they plan to characterize the intra-tumoral T cells using T cell receptor deep sequencing along with isolation and culture of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL). In addition, the group plans to continue to elucidate the mechanism by which DNAB1-PRKACA promotes tumorigenesis in the search for additional therapeutic targets.



## 2017 New Faculty



### Judy Chen, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dr. **Chen** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery with additional fellowship-trained expertise in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery. She is dedicated to the surgical treatment of metabolic diseases like obesity, diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, cardiovascular disease, and many other co-morbid diseases. Dr. Chen utilizes a comprehensive and compassionate approach to help her patients achieve optimal results. She is board certified through the **American Board of Surgery (ABS)** and is an **Obesity Medicine Diplomat through the American Board of Obesity Medicine (ABOM)**. She is also a fellow of the **American College of Surgeons (ACS)** and the **American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)**. She earned her medical degree from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. She then completed her surgical residency at Boston University Medical Center and fellowship at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Chen sees patients at the University of Washington Weight Loss Clinic on Roosevelt Avenue.

As a Seattle native, she is happy to be practicing and giving back to the community. Dr. Chen enjoys spending her free time with her family, crafting, and other creative projects.

### Kevin Koomalsingh, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. **Koomalsingh** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and specializes in cardiac surgery. He is based primarily at the University of Washington Medical Center but also practices at Northwest Hospital and the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. Dr. Koomalsingh completed his medical degree at St. Georges University School of Medicine. He then completed a residency in General Surgery at Columbia University, a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and an advanced fellowship in Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support, also at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. His clinical interests include advanced heart failure therapies, trans-catheter therapies, aortic surgery and arrhythmia surgery. His research interest is in heart failure. Dr. Koomalsingh is married with two young kids. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and playing sports.



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## 2017 New Faculty

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### **Johnathon Rollo, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery**

Dr. **Rollo** is vascular surgeon and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and is primarily based at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center. He has specialized training in minimally invasive endovascular techniques for limb salvage, carotid artery disease, aneurysm repair and venous disease. Dr. Rollo practices the full breadth of cutting edge vascular surgery and provides complete care of the vascular patient, including patient centered peri-operative decision making, open and endovascular operative care, and post-op follow up. Dr. Rollo earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University and M.D. from the University of Miami. He received advanced vascular and endovascular surgery training from University of California, Los Angeles. He is a member of the **Western Vascular Surgery Society** and **Society of Vascular Surgeons**. In his free time, he plays competitive ice hockey, skis, and hikes.

### **Srinivas Susarla, MD, DMD, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery**

Dr. **Susarla** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the School of Dentistry. He completed his undergraduate studies at Princeton University, then obtained his doctor of medicine, doctor of dental medicine and a Master of Public Health degrees from Harvard. He completed a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Johns



Hopkins Hospital, as well as a fellowship in Craniofacial Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Susarla's expertise is in adult and pediatric craniomaxillofacial surgery, including cranial vault reconstruction, cleft lip and palate, orthognathic surgery, and facial reconstruction.

### **Wayne Zhang, MD, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery**

Dr. **Zhang** is board certified in Vascular Surgery. He offers a full range of vascular surgery, specializing in open and endovascular treatments of aortic, carotid, visceral, lower extremity arterial diseases; dialysis access; and venous disorders. Dr. Zhang is also interested in teaching medical students, residents and fellows in clinic and the operating room.



Dr. Zhang received his medical degree at Henan Medical University in China and completed General Surgery Residency and a Vascular/Endovascular Surgery Fellowship at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before joining the University of Washington, Dr. Zhang was Professor and Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, and Vice-Chairman of Department of Surgery at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. He has held leadership positions at various organizations, including Vice-President of **International Society for Vascular Surgery (ISVS)**. Dr. Zhang is Associate Editor of Annals of Vascular Surgery and Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Zhang is primarily based at the Puget Sound VA Health System and also practices at the University of Washington Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center.

Outside of the hospital, Dr. Zhang enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

## 2017 Faculty Promotions



### **Ramasamy Bakthavatsalam, MBBS Promoted to Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery**

Dr. Bakthavatsalam also holds an appointment as a professor in the Department of Urology, Living Donor Kidney Program Director as well as Program Director and

UNOS Primary Surgeon for Kidney & Pancreas Transplantation. He is one of the leads in the multidisciplinary team that manages complex urological/retroperitoneal tumors involving the inferior vena cava (IVC). His clinical interests include living donation, complex vascular reconstruction in patients with portal hypertension, and renal re-vascularization procedures for cases which are not suitable or failed by interventional radiology. Under his leadership as Kidney Program Director, the Transplant Division has successfully

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# 2017 Faculty Promotions

Continued from page 10

achieved superior outcomes in kidney transplantation, resulting in the division being recognized as one of the Top 10 transplant centers of similar volume in the nation. Dr. Bakthavatsalam has been voted one of The Best Doctors in America since 2009 and has received the Seattle Top Doc designation for the past 4 years.



**Shannon Colohan, MD, MSc,  
FRCSC, FACS**  
**Promoted to Associate Professor,  
Division of Plastic Surgery**

Dr. Colohan works primarily at the Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at UW Medical Center. Her area of expertise is reconstructive plastic surgery with a specific focus on cancer reconstruction.

She pursued her undergraduate and medical education at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there, she completed her plastic surgery residency training at Dalhousie and received additional fellowship training in breast and microsurgery at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, TX. During her residency training she spent a year in London pursuing a Master's degree in epidemiology.

Her clinical interests include reconstruction of cancer defects including microsurgical techniques to reconstruct the breast; and general reconstruction using free flaps, pedicled flaps and perforator flaps. Her research interests include clinical outcomes in reconstructive plastic surgery, with emphasis on breast reconstruction; fat grafting for reconstruction of oncologic defects; and optimizing surgical techniques to improve the functional and aesthetic appearance of reconstructive procedures.

Outside of medicine she enjoys boating with her husband and two 90lb rescue dogs. She also enjoys learning new instruments (currently, oboe), the arts (live music concerts, plays, and musicals), and home design. She loves the PNW, and is happy to call it her home.

**Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH**  
**Promoted to Associate Professor,  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery**

Dr. Farjah is thoracic surgeon, clinical researcher, and educator. He completed training in general and cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Washington (UW) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, respectively. During his general surgery residency, he also completed a three-year post-doctoral research fellowship in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics under the mentorship of Drs. David R. Flum and Douglas E. Wood.



Since joining the faculty in 2012, Dr. Farjah has been clinically active in all aspects of thoracic surgery, although his primary clinical interests are in thoracic oncology, minimally-invasive thoracic surgery, and endoscopy. His primary sites of practice are the UW Medical Center and Northwest Hospital. His research focuses on improving outcomes and the value of care for patients with or individuals at-risk for lung cancer. Other general investigative interests include risk-prediction and biomarkers, comparative-effectiveness, and quality improvement research. Dr. Farjah has received funding support from the [National Cancer Institute](#), [CHEST Foundation](#), and [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#). As the Associate Medical Director of the [UW Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#), he mentors general surgery residents pursuing a T32 Gastrointestinal Outcomes Research Fellowship (PI: Flum) and collaborates with other clinical research faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Public Health. He plays an active role in training the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons as the Associate Program Director for the UW Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency Programs.



**Jeffrey Friedrich, MD**  
**Promoted to Professor,  
Division of Plastic Surgery**

Dr. Friedrich is a plastic surgeon at Harborview Medical Center (HMC) and Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) and holds a joint appointment in Orthopedics as a Professor and Adjunct Professor of Urology.

At HMC, he focuses on hand and wrist surgery and lower extremity reconstruction. He works actively with orthopedists to help provide comprehensive care in these areas. He also collaborates with urologists to perform complex genital reconstruction.

He is a member of the hand surgery group at SCH, which includes all aspects of congenital hand differences and pediatric hand trauma. He also provides care for adults and children with brachial plexus injuries both at HMC and SCH.

Dr. Friedrich is the director of the UW Plastic Surgery Residency and the associate program director of the UW Hand Surgery Fellowship. As a result of these positions, he has academic interests in medical education and communication skills. He serves in leadership positions in national organizations including the [American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons \(ACAPS\)](#), the [American Society for Surgery of the Hand \(ASSH\)](#), the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons \(ASPS\)](#) and the [American Association of Hand Surgeons \(AAHS\)](#).

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# 2017 Faculty Promotions

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Dr. Friedrich's clinical interests include adult and pediatric hand and wrist surgery; hand burns; lower extremity reconstruction; brachial plexus surgery; microsurgery and urologic reconstruction. His research interests include resident education; communication skills; clinical outcomes and resource allocation in hand and wrist surgery; lower extremity reconstruction outcomes; urologic reconstruction outcomes and quality improvement initiatives.



**Saurabh Khandelwal, MD**  
**Promoted to Associate Professor**  
**Division of General Surgery**

Dr. Khandelwal's clinical interests include minimally invasive surgery with a focus on bariatrics and esophageal surgery. His research interests include clinical outcomes research, surgical education and training.

His scope of care includes general surgery, minimally invasive surgery and bariatrics and he is a strong believer in the team approach to patient care and meeting the needs of the individual patient.

**Danielle Lavallee, PharmD, PhD**  
**Promoted to Research Associate**  
**Professor, Division of General Surgery**  
**Surgical Outcomes Research Center**  
**(SORCE)**



Dr. Lavallee is a patient-centered outcomes researcher whose work focuses on developing novel processes for collecting and reporting patient-reported data in a manner to support both clinical and patient decision-making. In addition, she leads the **CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network**, an initiative to incorporate the patient perspective into both quality improvement and research activities through active patient engagement. Through this work she is leading research initiatives to assess novel processes for engaging patients and caregivers as collaborators in research. She is formally trained in Health Services Research with a specific focus in qualitative methods and patient-centered outcomes research. Dr. Lavallee holds a PharmD from the University of Kansas and a PhD in pharmaceutical health services research from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In addition to her appointment in the Department of Surgery, she serves as Medical Director for Patient Reported Outcomes and Patient Generated Health Data for UW Medicine.



**Kimberly Riehle, MD**  
**Promoted to Associate Professor,**  
**Division of Pediatric General and**  
**Thoracic Surgery**

Dr. Riehle is a general and thoracic pediatric surgeon at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH). She performs a wide range of neonatal and pediatric surgical procedures, in addition to prenatal consultations. Her clinical inter-

ests include neonatal surgery, pediatric minimally invasive surgery, pediatric thoracic surgery, and prenatal consultation; her research interests include the liver's response to injury and pediatric liver cancers. Her laboratory is supported by the **National Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute)** and the **Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation**.

Dr. Riehle attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she received a BA in chemistry and French prior to obtaining her medical degree at Emory University School of Medicine. She completed her general surgical training at the University of Washington, followed by pediatric surgical training in Boston Children's Hospital. She returned to Seattle to join the faculty at SCH in 2010.

**Matthew Sweet, MD**  
**Promoted to Associate Professor**  
**Division of Vascular Surgery**



Dr. Sweet completed his general surgery residency at the University of California San Francisco and his vascular surgery fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. During his residency, he completed a master's degree in clinical research with the UCSF Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

His practice includes the open and endovascular treatment of aortic, visceral, carotid and lower extremity arterial disease, with a particular focus on the endovascular and open treatment of complex aortic aneurysms.

Dr. Sweet's research interests relate to the development of new endovascular therapies for aortic aneurysms involving the peri-visceral aorta and aortic arch, as well as, the study of the morphology, natural history and epidemiology of thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms. His clinical interests include general vascular surgery; open and endovascular therapy for complex aortic aneurysms; non-invasive vascular laboratory. Dr. Sweet also recently became the UWMC Section Chief for Vascular Surgery.

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## 2017 Faculty Promotions

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**Nicole White, MD, FACS**  
**Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor**  
**Division of General Surgery**  
**UW Medicine Northwest Hospital**

Dr. White is board certified in general surgery. She is the Clinic Chief of UW Medicine Surgical Services and Hernia Center and the Division head of General Surgery at Northwest

Hospital. Her current focus is surgery for the treatment of gallbladder, hernia, gastroesophageal reflux disease and colon disease. Dr. White has a special interest in robotic surgery and recently reached the 600 case milestone.

She graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and completed a residency in general surgery at the Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. Dr. White completed a fellowship in 2005 in minimally invasive foregut surgery at the Ryan Hill Foundation at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. She is a fellow and member of the [American College of Surgeons \(ACS\)](#), the [Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons \(SAGES\)](#), [American Hernia Society \(AHS\)](#) and [Seattle Surgical Society](#).

## Researcher Profile: Sherene Shalhub, MD, MPH



**Dr. Sherene Shalhub**

**The aorta is the largest artery that carries oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the body; an aortic dissection, a tear in the innermost layer of the aorta, is a painful and life-threatening condition that demands immediate medical attention. A dissection impairs blood flow to vital organs and can lead to full aortic rupture and death. High blood pressure is a common culprit in aortic dissection, but genetically triggered diseases that affect aortic wall integrity—such as Marfan syndrome**

**and vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome—are also common factors. Although aortic dissection is somewhat rare, about 23,000 new cases of descending thoracic aortic dissection between the ages of 40 and 70 years old occur annually in the United States, making this the most common aortic catastrophe.**

Dr. [Sherene Shalhub](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and affiliate faculty at the [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#). She joined Department of Surgery in 2013 and has been working to investigate the effect of gene mutations on aortic and arterial disease, specifically the clinical effect of syndromic and non-syndromic gene mutations on the vasculature and treatment outcomes, with the goal of offering a personalized approach to the treatment of patients with aortic and arterial dissections and aneurysms. Dr. Shalhub's work utilizes a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach with multicenter collaborators from genetics, cardiology and cardiac surgery. This approach led to the creation of the Multidisciplinary Vascular Genetics Clinic, which is dedicated

to the evaluation and management of patients with suspected inherited or familial cardiovascular disorders.

Dr. Shalhub's primary project, ADAPTIVE (Arterial Dissections and Aneurysms Personalized Treatment Investigation), looks at the impact of the clinical features and genetic causes on the outcomes of aneurysms and dissections. A major area of focus is the natural history and the impact of the different heritable thoracic aortic disease mutations on type B aortic dissection. Her research goal is to define the clinical, anatomic, and genetic factors underlying progressive aneurysmal degeneration of the descending thoracic and abdominal aorta post aortic dissection. This research will lead towards better care algorithms to guide patient care in a way tailored to the individual patient. Additionally, she is studying the role of genetic mutations in detail as they affect vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that frequently causes arterial dissections and ruptures.

Finally, by creating a comprehensive aortic dissection registry and databank that will include patients' full family histories, systemic inflammatory response markers, treatments and subsequent outcomes, Dr. Shalhub will be able to link this data and build a predictive model for future patients, one that will inform personalized treatment plans. The genetic alterations that may lead to aortic dissection are often found in young people. With the help of genetic testing and imaging technology, decisions can be made early in the aortic dissection disease process and managed not only medically but with potentially minimally invasive surgical procedures, such as thoracic endovascular aortic repair (TEVAR). While these procedures allow patients to live longer and healthier lives, knowing a patient's genetic history — including the likelihood of developing long-term complications such as dissection-related aneurysmal degeneration— is a critical part of a patient's comprehensive care.

# #GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Matthew Sweet



Dr. Matthew Sweet

Photo credit: Michael Hilleary

**I**n this issue of *Surgery Synopsis*, staff interviewed Dr. Matthew Sweet, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery.

**Synopsis: What was the last book you read?**

**MS:** *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner. It's a great book about two couples who become friends in their early professional lives. The story is about their time together

many decades later, so it's about friendship, love, aging, loss, what it is to have dreams and goals in life. The other book I recently read was called *GT* which is about how to fish for giant trevally (fly fishing is one of my favorite hobbies). I generally enjoy reading fiction, but I read a little bit of everything—biographies, different kinds of fiction, and then technical books on fly fishing.

**Synopsis: What is the next book on your list?**

**MS:** I have a bunch of books I've been meaning to read including *Moby Dick* which has been on my list forever. I've started it several times before and have gotten about 300 pages into it but haven't quite finished it yet. Another book on my list is *Fives and Twenty-Fives* by Michael Pitre, which is a novel written by an Iraq veteran about a road repair/bomb disposal platoon.

**Synopsis: Any favorite movies or TV shows?**

**MS:** I recently watched *Anthropoid*, which is an incredible movie based on the true story of two Czechoslovakian resistance fighters who parachuted into Czechoslovakia to kill Hitler's third in command, who he had installed after taking over the country. I also recently subscribed to Amazon Prime, which was a horrible mistake because now I don't read as much. I recently finished *The Man in High Castle*, which was very well done. It's the story of what might have happened if the Nazis won WWII—they drop a nuclear bomb on New York City and take over the US east of the Rockies, and Japan invades and takes over west of the Rockies. So the story is basically about the US resistance fighters with an interesting sci-fi twist.

**Synopsis: What is something you accomplished this past year that you are proud of?**

**MS:** I caught a steelhead on a fly I tied myself, and I caught a wild steelhead by myself on the Olympic peninsula. You can go fishing with a guide and they tell you to cast away and

you're likely to catch something, but when you go by yourself and you catch something on your own it's a combination of luck and doing things right, and then doing it with a fly you tied yourself is very satisfying.

**Synopsis: What is a favorite travel destination?**

**MS:** I used to be really focused on cycling and went to Europe to ride in Italy, France and Spain. More recently I've been travelling to fish. British Columbia has some of the best steelhead fishing in the world, and it's just a few hours away. In May I went to Christmas Island which is a small island in the Pacific, halfway between Hawaii and Fiji. It's this beautiful island with a big lagoon and great saltwater fishing. One of the unifying features of all these places is the absence of cell service and internet.

**Synopsis: What is your dream travel destination?**

**MS:** There are too many to pick just one. I'd like to fish in Patagonia, New Zealand, and Kamchatka (in Russia).

**Synopsis: So are you fishing most weekends?**

**MS:** Fishing is very seasonal so when it's good it's good, but it's not always so. When I'm not fishing I do a lot of cycling and bit of trail running.



Dr. Matthew Sweet fishing off Oahu  
This fish is a file fish—a species of trigger.

**Synopsis: Do you have a goal for the coming year?**

**MS:** I really want to catch a trigger fish. I'm interested in the GT fish but it's the trigger fish I really want to catch. I've hooked six of them, but four times they broke the hook on my fly and twice they swam into the corral and cut my line. Their mouth

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## #GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Matthew Sweet

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is made of bone because they chew coral to eat the crabs and fish that live in it, so they can bite through the metal hooks. They are just incredibly strong fish, these little bulldozers, so even when you hook one the chance of landing it is low.

**Synopsis:** What do you do when you catch them? **MS:** I just catch and release. **Synopsis:** Do you have any other upcoming goals that aren't fish-related? **MS:** [laughs] Not really.

**Synopsis: Do you collect anything?**

**MS:** I used to collect jazz music but that's tapered off. I was a big jazz-head when I was in residency. **Synopsis:** Do you play jazz? **MS:** I played piano as a kid and I played bass when I was in college. But I was horrible—not just bad—I was horrible, like Elaine's "little kicks" dancing in *Seinfeld*. Horrible.



Dr. Matthew Sweet fishing for steelhead with his dog, Atticus.

**Synopsis: What would you be if not a surgeon?**

**MS:** If I wasn't in medicine, I would love to be doing something outdoors. Maybe something like a park ranger. I wouldn't want to work all alone or somewhere like the deep in the recesses of Alaska but I would love to be in the mountains, doing something with my hands and working outdoors.

**Synopsis: Are you team iPhone or Android and what is your favorite phone app?**

**MS:** iPhone and I like Instagram. **Synopsis:** For fish photos?

**MS:** Yup, for fish photos. **Synopsis:** Do you post any of the photos? **MS:** No comment [laughs]—OK, yes I do.

## SAVE THE DATES

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY HARKINS SYMPOSIUM & 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

#### DR. ALFRED A. STRAUSS LECTURE

Friday, October 13, 2017

#### Harkins Symposium

7:00am—2:30pm, Alder Auditorium

#### 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Alfred A. Strauss Lecture

4:00pm, Health Sciences Building,  
Hogness Auditorium

### 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FULL SPECTRUM OF HEART FAILURE THERAPY: MANAGING THE TRAJECTORY

Friday & Saturday, October 20–21, 2017

Four Seasons Hotel, Seattle, WA

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HELEN AND JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE

Friday, February 16, 2018

#### Department of Surgery Research Symposium

7:00am—2:30pm, UW Tower Auditorium

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### Helen and John Schilling Lecture

3:00pm, UW Tower Auditorium

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GRAND ROUNDS

See monthly Grand Rounds schedule  
under [Upcoming Special Events](#)  
on our website.

# Honors, Awards & Publications

## Dr. Michael S. Mulligan Named New Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery



**"I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Mike Mulligan will take over as the new Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, effective April 1, 2017. Dr. Mulligan has spent his whole career on the faculty here at UW, first being recruited to lead the lung transplant program, and for the past 6 years serving as Chief of the Section of General Thoracic Surgery. He is a master clinical surgeon with expertise in the surgical management of end-stage lung disease including pulmonary thromboendarterectomy, lung volume reduction surgery, and lung transplantation. He has established the second VA lung transplant program, serving our veterans with lung disease, and established and leads the adult ECMO program at UWMC.**

Dr. Mulligan is also an established surgeon scientist, with an NIH funded basic science lab that has conducted important research on lung ischemia reperfusion and lung allograft dysfunction. He has served in a number of important leadership roles inside UW, as well as nationally and internationally. Dr. Mulligan was elected to serve as an At-Large Member of the UWP Board. He leads the Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Program and the Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Program and serves on numerous committees for UWMC and UW Medicine. He has served as the Region 6 Councilor for UNOS, Chair of repeating Critical Care

Symposiums at STS and AATS, and recently was elected and served as President of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. He is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in cardiothoracic surgery and has committed his whole career to elevating the care of patients with cardiothoracic disease at UW Medicine.

We are very fortunate to have him accept this important role to lead our cardiothoracic division. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Mulligan and welcoming him to this new leadership role."

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd  
The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington

## Dr. Jeffrey Avansino Appointed Vice President and Medical Director of Surgical Services, Associate Surgeon-in-Chief, Seattle Children's Hospital

**Dr. Jeff Avansino, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Pediatric General Surgery, UW School of Medicine was recently named vice president and medical director of Surgical Services and Associate Surgeon-in-Chief at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH).**

In this new role, Jeff will provide medical leadership and oversight for Surgical Services. He will also be responsible for quality, safety, service and flow in the operating rooms, as well as operating room access, physician engagement in the Improvement and Innovation system, and new facility planning. Jeff will chair the Perioperative Leadership Committee and serve as medical director for the designation of Seattle Children's as a recognized children's surgery center.

Jeff is a graduate of the University of Nevada Medical School. He completed his surgical residency at the University of Washington, and his fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at SCH. Jeff was then recruited to our faculty, and in 2008 became associate professor of surgery. Other leadership positions he has held include medical director of the Surgical Unit and medical staff president. In 2016, he earned his MBA from Seattle University.

Jeff has been a leader in exemplifying collaboration through his teamwork on the surgical unit. He has helped in building a climate where people are motivated to do their best to help our organization achieve our mission. He is skilled in paying positive attention to his patient's, their families and our team.



*Published by Seattle Children's Hospital*

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# Honors, Awards & Publications

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## Dr. Ronald V. Maier Elected President of American Surgical Association (ASA)

Dr. Ron Maier was elected president of the [American Surgical Association \(ASA\)](#) at its 137th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA in April 2017. Dr. Maier is the Surgeon-in-Chief of Harborview Medical Center and Professor and Vice-Chair of Surgery at the University of Washington. He is the Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor of Trauma Surgery.

He is an expert in trauma care, emergency general surgery and surgical critical care. Dr. Maier conducts research on clinical approaches to improve survival after severe injuries and following severe life-threatening surgical illness. He is also an expert in care and research of patients in the ICU with multiple organ failure and critical illness. Dr. Maier is routinely listed in “The Best Doctors

in America,” he is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board certified in surgery and surgical critical care. He is past-president of the Society of University Surgeon, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the Surgical Infection Society, the Shock Society and the Halsted Society. In addition, he has served as chair of the American Board of Surgery and the NIH Study Section for Surgery, Anesthesiology and Trauma, and was past Vice President of the American College of Surgeons.

The ASA was founded in 1880 and is the nation’s oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. Its members include the nation’s most prominent surgeons from the country’s leading academic medical institutions, many of whom are Chairs of the Departments of Surgery at these institutions. Membership also includes leading surgeons from around the world, making it much more than an American association. Its primary mission is to be the premier organization for surgical science and scholarship and to provide a national forum for presenting the developing state of the art and science of general and sub-specialty surgery and the elevation of the standards of the medical/surgical profession.



**Drs. Doug Wood and Ron Maier at ASA's 2017 Annual Meeting**

## Living Donor Awards

The University of Washington Medical Center Living Donor Program received two awards from the National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) at the American Transplant Congress in May 2017. The UWMC Living Donor Program was recognized as a top utilizer of the NLDAC program and the living donor social worker, Paige Kayihan was recognized as a top participant with the NLDAC service between 2013–2016. The NLDAC program provides travel and subsistence expenses for living donors which makes living donation possible for many more people. [Stephen Rayhill](#), MD, [Lena Sibulesky](#), MD and [Andre Dick](#), MD, accepted the awards on behalf of UWMC.



**Drs. Melissa Greenwald, Health Resources and Services Administration, Andre Dick, UW Department of Surgery, Lena Sibulesky, UW Department of Surgery, Stephen Rayhill, UW Department of Surgery and Robert Merion, Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan**

## 2017 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Award



Dr. Hope Jackson, 2017 UW Department of Surgery Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery Fellow, was among 40 leaders in minority health to receive the **2017 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Award** presented by the **National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF)** at the **2017 NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and Spring Health Braintrust** in April 2017.

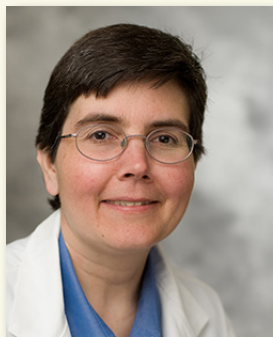
This award recognizes young leaders in the United States who are making a difference in healthcare, health services research, and health policy; differences that enhance the ability of the American health services delivery system to meet the health services needs of the increasingly biodiverse American general population. NMQF encourages applications from the full range of professionals in health services-related occupations which includes physicians and nurses; elected and appointed officials; attorneys, researchers and academics; pharmacists, dentists and ophthalmologists; among others.

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# Honors, Awards & Publications

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## Faculty



Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor and Chief of Trauma at Harborview Medical Center was elected to the **National Trauma Institute (NTI)** Board of Directors in August 2017. NTI is a nonprofit organization that advocates for increased federal funding for trauma research and research infrastructure to reduce death and disability.

Dr. **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was awarded an R01 from the **National Cancer Institute** for his research project titled “The Effectiveness, Safety, and Costs of Guideline-Concordant Lung Nodule Care.” Dr. Farjah’s study will compare the effectiveness, safety, and costs of varying intensities of lung nodule evaluation. The results will help direct limited resources towards development of system-level interventions designed to increase guideline adherence or investigate alternative approaches to lung nodule evaluation, with the goal of better care and outcomes for patients with incidentally detected lung nodules. Reviewers deemed the proposal outstanding, with the potential to have a major impact on the field, as it will help inform care for the 1.5 million people diagnosed each year with an incidentally detected lung nodule. This is Dr. Farjah’s first NIH-funded research grant.



Dr. **Danielle Lavalley**, **SORCE** investigator and Research Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, recently received a PCORI Engagement Award to support her project entitled “Using Patient-Generated Health Data to Transform Healthcare.” This PCORI award will provide funding for two years, beginning in April 2017, with a total award amount of \$249,843. Additional information about the award mechanism can be found at

**Engagement Award: Knowledge, Training and Development, and Dissemination Awards.** Dr. Lavalley will collaborate on the research with University of Washington co-investigators Sean Munson (Human Centered Design and Engineering) and Dagmar Amtmann (Rehabilitation Medicine), Patient Partner co-investigators Rich Bloch (Systems/Software Engineering Principal, Business Learning Incorporated) and Debbe McCall (PCORNet Health eHeart Alliance), the UW Medicine Digital Health Advisory

Committee and **CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network**. This work will create a community of patients, clinicians, healthcare administrators, informaticists, software developers and researchers to identify the evidence gaps faced when determining the value of patient-generated health data (PGHD) created through mobile health and wearable devices, with a focus on developing and translating PGHD research into practice. This will aim to bridge the existing divide between those who develop technology and those who use technology for the advancement of health, and create a framework for patient-centered outcomes research that is inclusive of PGHD to help ensure that future research addresses important study design considerations and is responsive to the needs of stakeholders.

Dr. **Ronald V. Maier**, Surgeon-in-Chief of Harborview Medical Center and Professor and Vice-Chair of Surgery, received the prestigious International Society of Surgery’s (ISS) prize of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie at the 47th Annual World Congress of Surgery in Basel, Switzerland. The prize is awarded to “the surgeon who has published work which has made the most notable and useful contributions to surgical science.”



Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor and Chief Medical Officer, was presented with the Japan Surgical Society’s Honorary Fellowship at their award ceremony in Yokohama, Japan in April 2017.

Dr. **Doug Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, was elected President of the **Thoracic Surgery Foundation (TSF)**. TSF is a pivotal force for growth and vitality in cardiothoracic surgery, especially for research and academic career development, awarding nearly \$15 million in cardiothoracic surgery research and education grants. The Foundation was first established in 1988 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization and is the charitable arm of **The Society of Thoracic Surgeons**. The mission of TSF is to foster the development of surgeon scientists in cardiothoracic surgery; increasing knowledge and innovation to benefit patient care.



(continued on page 19)



# Honors, Awards & Publications

Continued from page 18

Dr. Wood was also elected to the office of **CTSN**et President. Dr. Wood previously served on the CTSNet Board of Directors as Secretary and Treasurer; he is a former President of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.



**Dr. Anne Ehlers**



**Dr. Giana Davidson**



**Dr. Danielle Lavallee**



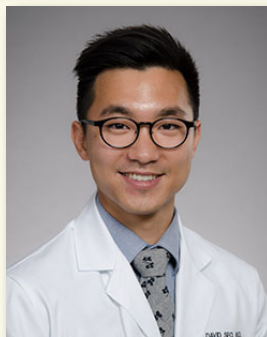
**Dr. David Flum**

Drs. **Anne P. Ehlers**, General Surgery Chief Resident, **Giana H. Davidson**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, David A. Talan, Professor of Medicine at UCLA, **David R. Flum**, Professor, Division of General Surgery and Associate Chair for Research, **Danielle Lavallee**, Research Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery and Kimberly Deeney, CODA patient advisor; published “**Methods for Incorporating Stakeholder Engagement into Clinical Trial Design**” in *Generating Evidence & Methods to Improve Patient Outcomes (eGEMs)*.

## Residents and Fellows



Dr. Edo Bedzra, Cardiothoracic Chief Resident, was elected to a two year term as the Resident Director on the **Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)** Board.



**Dr. Y. David Seo**

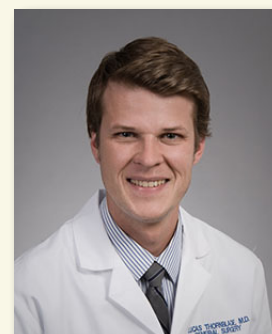


**Dr. Venu Pillarisetty**

Dr. **Y. David Seo**, Research Resident and Dr. **Venu Pillarisetty**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, received the Pancreas Cancer Pilot Project Award funded by Swim Across America for their project evaluating the T cell response in human pancreatic cancer using immuno-sequencing and multiplex fluorescence imaging.

Dr. **Lucas Thornblade**, General Surgery resident, co-authored the research publication “**Preoperative Immunonutrition and Elective Colorectal Resection Outcomes.**”

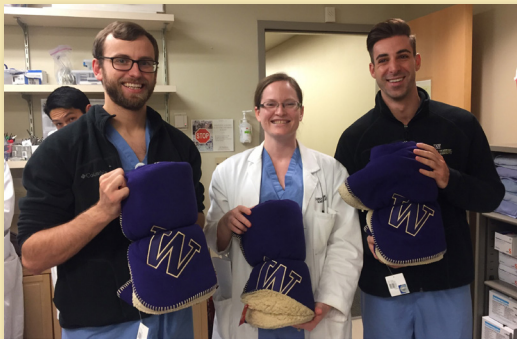
Dr. Thornblade and co-authors’ research has found that immunonutrition has been shown in many randomized trials to reduce infections and post-operative complications. In order to understand whether there was evidence to support routine preoperative use of immunonutrition in the community at large, they studied patients in Washington State who had elective colorectal surgery between 2012 and 2015. They found that use of immunonutrition was associated with a 23% lower rate of prolonged length of stay. This research supports continued efforts for nutritional optimization for all patients before elective surgery.



# Surgery News

## LAP TOP GUN ACTIVITY

Every year Department of Surgery residents participate in “Laparoscopic Top Gun,” a technical skills contest started by Dr. Ed Auyang (former CVES Fellow from 2011-12). All Department of Surgery residents across all PGY levels put their laparoscopic and suturing skills to the test in a friendly competition for the title of “Top Gun.” The contest is led by the CVES Fellows—this year Drs. Hope Jackson and Monica Young. There is one winner per PGY level – congratulations to David Drouillard (R1) (*below left*), Cambia Rome (R2) (*below center*), Amer Nassar (R3) (*below right*) and Ravi Sood (R4). But there is only one Top Gun and this year’s winner was recent graduate Bijibaa Garrison! Thanks to everyone, including the WISH Staff, who helped. It was a fun event for all!



## Surgical Ethics Conference

Members of the Department of Surgery were proud to participate in the 30th Annual Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics and the program’s first Surgical Ethics Conference (July 31–August 5). The two events were held in conjunction and sponsored by the Department of Bioethics and Humanities and the Department of Surgery. The inaugural one-day conference, following the week-long seminar, was targeted to surgeons, anesthesiologists, surgical nurses, physician assistants, social workers, and hospital administrators to analyze topics of ethical



Left to right: Dr. Alberto Ferreras, CSE Center Director  
Megan Sherman, CSE Center Co-Administrator and Mark  
Cumpston, CSE Center Administrator

## Madigan Army Medical Center Honor

In January 2017, Dr. Vance Sohn from Madigan Army Medical Center presented the Department of Surgery a token of thanks for training the Madigan Army Medical Center residents over the years: a U.S. flag in a shadow box which was flown in from Erbil, Iraq in the department’s honor in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on September 16, 2016. The accompanying letter read:

*“The University of Washington and your program have played a critical role in the development and maturation of the residents from the Madigan General Surgery program. Our graduates are called to serve our Nation by deploying overseas into combat zones and caring for the wounded. Our partnership helps ensure that our future graduates will be able to perform in their roles as combat surgeons with skill, expertise, and experience. During this tumultuous times in our Nation’s history, we are deeply thankful for your ongoing support.”*



Left to right: Drs. Karen Horvath,  
Vance Sohn and Doug Wood  
Photo credit: Clare McLean/UW Medicine

debate in the surgical community. The seminar included lectures from Dr. Denise Dudzinski, Chair for the Department of Bioethics and Humanities, University of Washington, Dr. Gretchen Schwarze, Department of Surgery, University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Alberto Ferreres, Department of Surgery, University of Buenos Aires. The seminar also included multi-disciplinary panel presentations and small group discussions.

The conference was the collaborative vision of Dr. Douglas Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair for the Department of Surgery and Dr. Denise Dudzinski. In the coming year, Dr. Wood, in partnership with Dr. Dudzinski and Dr. Ferreres, looks forward to further collaboration with the Department of Bioethics and Humanities and the development of the Department of Surgery’s Center for Surgical Ethics (CSE).

(continued on page 21)



## WA ACS Delegation Meeting with WA Senator Cantwell

Physicians from UW Medicine Department of Surgery pose with Washington State Senators at the sixth annual American College of Surgeons (ACS) Leadership & Advocacy Summit in May 2017.

More than 300 surgeons and residents participated in the ACS Advocacy Summit, May 7–9. Participants in the Advocacy portion of the ACS Leadership & Advocacy Summit came to Washington primarily to meet with lawmakers and congressional staff to educate them about key ACS legislative priorities that affect surgical patients, including ensuring an adequate surgical workforce in underserved areas; advancing childhood cancer research and surveillance and providing resources for pediatric cancer survivors; allocating funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides health care coverage to uninsured children from low-income families; improving liability protections for trauma care providers; and providing greater flexibility for providers during implementation of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).



Senator Maria Cantwell and team pose with Department of Surgery faculty and residents Ron Maier, Sam Arbabi, Eileen Bulger, Ted Kohler, Lorrie Langdale, Sam Mandell, Mika Sinanan, Anne Ehlers, Rishi Sekar

## Society of Black Academic Surgeons 27th Annual Conference

The **Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS)** held its 27th annual conference in April 2017 at the University of Chicago. Residents, faculty, and medical students from the University of Washington (UW) were in attendance along with numerous other academic institutions from across the country. On the first morning of the conference, attendees were treated to a tour of the historic campus following a series of lectures given by University of Chicago faculty. This commenced the first of two days of scientific sessions featuring podium presentations and poster sessions covering a broad body of scientific work being conducted around the country. UW residents Edo Bedzra, Chief Resident, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Estell Williams, Chief Resident, General Surgery, both presented their work in the podium session and poster session respectively.

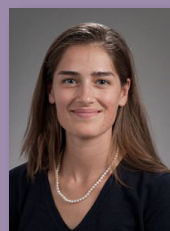


Both current and former UW residents, faculty, and medical students were in attendance at the 2017 SBAS meeting in Chicago, IL. Pictured here on the University of Chicago campus (from left to right): Dirir Abdullahi (medical student), Lara Oyetunji (fellow), Leah Backhus (former UW faculty), Tobi Afolayan (resident), Estell Williams (resident), John Monu (resident), Elina Quiroga (faculty), and Damien Carter (former UW resident).

SBAS was founded in 1989 and is the first and only national network of African-American academic surgeons. The organization's primary goal is to motivate, mentor and inspire African-American surgeons to pursue careers in academic surgery and make significant contributions and advancements to the field. Recognizing the significance of such work and the importance of this mission, the University of Washington's Department of Surgery created a **scholarship** for surgical residents wishing to attend the SBAS annual conference. The scholarship covers housing, transportation, membership fees, and meeting registration costs. This year's awardees were Cardiothoracic Surgery resident Edo Bedzra, and General Surgery residents, Tobi Afolayan, John Monu and Estell Williams.

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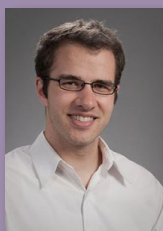
## I-PASS: Standardizing Hand-Offs A Resident-led Initiative to Decrease Medical Errors via Improved Communication



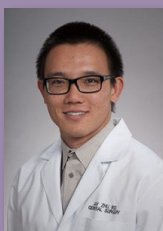
LaGrone



Ludwig



Parent



Zhu

The Department of Surgery was pleased to host four of its own residents, Drs. **Lacey LaGrone**, **Andrew Ludwig**, **Brodie Parent**, and **Jay Zhu** for their I-PASS grand rounds presentation in January 2017. Their presentation, **“Standardizing Hand-Offs: A Resident-Led Initiative to Decreases Medical Errors via Improved Communication”** discussed their I-PASS project which is the process of standardizing handoff communication between providers at UW Medicine. Dr. LaGrone was inspired by a project called “I-PASS,” first introduced at Boston Children’s Hospital, which was shown to decrease medical errors after its introduction. She and Dr. Parent developed ‘UW I-PASS’ by modifying the original I-PASS curriculum to fit an adult critical-care population. This curriculum is integrated into the electronic medical record, and is designed to teach residents, fellows, advanced practice providers, and attending surgeons how to conduct verbal handoffs of patient information using a standard format.

Drs. LaGrone and Parent brought I-PASS to the surgical ICUs at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) and Harborview Medical Center (HMC). They led a multidisciplinary team to implement and study the effect of UW I-PASS on resident communication and clinical outcomes across eight ICUs. After analyzing nearly 1,500 handoffs, they found that residents participating in UW I-PASS handoffs felt more prepared for their shift, critical care fellows judged residents to be more knowledgeable about their patients, and there was no detriment to ICU length of stay, days of ventilator support, or re-intubations within 24 hours, despite the new patient handoff format.

Drs. Jay Zhu and Andrew Ludwig are currently leading team efforts to bring UW I-PASS to all of the General Surgery services at UWMC and HMC. They have developed digital tools within the electronic medical record to help providers categorize clinical information into the format taught in the UW I-PASS curriculum. In October 2016 they introduced UW I-PASS to the four major General Surgery services at UWMC. They continued to expand

to the Trauma services at HMC and launched the program on the day of their presentation.

In addition, this Department of Surgery resident-led team has partnered with residents from the Departments of Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine to share their experience, knowledge, and tools in order to expand UW I-PASS in other, non-surgical services. The UW I-PASS team has been in consistent communication with the Graduate Medical Education office, working together to gather data regarding acceptability of UW I-PASS across services, with the joint plan to standardize all hand-off communication at UW Medicine.

## Center for Advanced Minimally Invasive Liver Oncologic Therapy (CAMILOT)

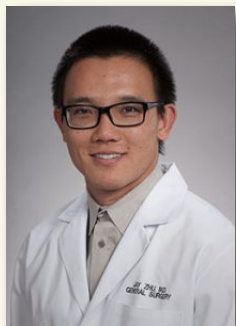


Department of Surgery is proud to announce the creation of the UW Medicine **Center for Advanced Minimally Invasive Liver Oncologic Therapy (CAMILOT)**. CAMILOT harnesses the strength of the UW Medical Center Liver Tumor Clinic, the region’s longest running multidisciplinary clinic, and leverages ongoing partnerships with Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Interventional Radiology and Medical Oncology to provide state-of-the-art, personalized treatments for hepatobiliary tumors (benign and malignant) using the most advanced and minimally invasive approaches to achieve optimal disease control. The philosophy behind CAMILOT is to exploit cutting-edge technologies to maximize the chance of cure and to improve the quality of patients’ survivorship through seamless coordination and execution of personalized care. Through teamwork and innovation, CAMILOT is poised to transform the care of patients with liver cancers in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

(continued on page 23)



## So Proudly We Hailed



*"I wrote this essay following the election, in response to a growing national discourse that seeks to label immigrants as scapegoats. I wrote this to address the undercurrents of discrimination that immigrants face whenever we are forced to consider what it takes to belong—whether it's at work, in our communities, or even in our own country. But mostly, I wrote it to tell my family's story, to remind myself of who I am, where I come from, and that yes, we all belong."*

— Dr. **Jay Zhu**, Surgery Resident

It was 1987. My dad arrived at the airport early, and stood waiting at the gate. A year had passed since he had last seen my mom. A year since he had borrowed just enough from a friend to pay for his one-way flight out of China. And a year since he had said goodbye to his new family—just a month after my birth—to start school in the United States. Now, after his first year in the U.S., he had managed to save up enough to not only pay back his original flight, but to also fly my mom and me to join him.

He stood waiting as strangers filed past, one by one. And as the plane began to empty, he could feel the knot in his stomach tightening. He had planned out all the details over the phone with my mom weeks in advance. Long distance phone calls were expensive in 1987. Personal cell phones were still a decade away. And my mom didn't speak a word of English.

My dad had sent hand-written signs to my mom in China with instructions on how to use them during her trip. "Can you help me find my connecting flight," one sign read in English. Then in Chinese: *use this if you get lost trying to make your connection*. There was a sign for finding a bathroom. A sign to ask for water when thirsty. And a sign to apologize when I needed a diaper change. Altogether, about a dozen signs were packaged neatly and sent to my mom prior to her intercontinental journey. It was her first time flying.

As the last passengers filtered out of the jet bridge, my dad had to subdue his panic. Did she board the right flight? Where could they be? Are they okay? And just as fear began to flood his chest, my mom's tiny frame slid into view with my one-year-old self tucked in her arm. She would later explain that she had intentionally waited for everyone else to exit before attempting to juggle an infant and all her belongings. We had arrived safely.

It was my first day in America.

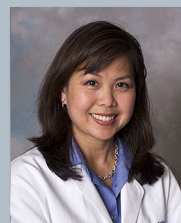
I was raised in a home of immigrants. In many ways, it was a typical Chinese American home, if there can even be such a thing. As a kid, home meant family outings to the lake and game nights in the living room. It also involved absorbing my dad's lessons on atomic particles, and visiting Harvard during a family road trip—all before I had finished the third grade. But primarily, it was where I could be myself. Where I could scream and jump and explore, always

knowing that the primary forces to reel me in, even if not so gently, were ones that had fully embraced the challenges of my existence.

My parents raised me on a father's graduate student stipend and a mother's minimum wage from waiting tables and cleaning homes. Like most parents, they wanted more for their children than they ever had for themselves. And as immigrants, they pushed me—steadied me—as I inched my way along a tightrope suspended between the cultural norms of my family's past and an American dream that stretched beyond them. I think they always knew that with every step of my journey, I would be covering a certain distance that could not be walked back. It's a distance spanning a chasm not of love, but of cultural and generational transformation—paid for in recurring increments of assimilation. Yet even before I could understand it, my parents were pushing me down this path, intentionally nudging me further away from the life and culture they had come to embody. Perhaps they thought that by doing so, I could become *more* American.

[Continue reading Dr. Jay Zhu's online essay >>](#)

## "What Our Patients Are Saying"



Drs. **Hugh Foy**, Professor, and **Lisa McIntyre**, Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery, were highlighted in Harborview Medical Center's internal "What Our Patients Are Saying" blog:

Dr. Foy: *"I am writing to express my gratitude to Dr. Hugh Foy who helped me in an emergency situation as I tried to obtain advice regarding my daughter who was injured in Jamaica. I was not sure where to turn regarding her care then I remembered having worked with Dr. Foy. After a minute on the phone with him, it became clear we needed to evacuate her by air. Dr. Foy then quite willingly and cheerfully took the initiative to contact a former fellow of his at the University of Florida in Gainesville who within minutes called me and offered to take on her care. We expected no long-term ramifications. I will always treasure the opportunity I had at UW to work with superb individuals like Dr. Foy who without expecting to take credit or be rewarded, will help others in need. I can't speak more highly of anyone."* — Associate Professor, Emeritus

Dr. McIntyre: *"A big thank you to Dr. Lisa McIntyre. She is the best surgical doctor and I'm blessed to have had her. She is caring, respectful and does the best surgical job. A big thank you to my nurses on the 9th floor ICU Main Building. They were the best nurses I had and took such good care of me. I will not forget them."* — 9MB Patient

# Surgery—In The Media

Dr. **Ramasamy Bakthavatsalam**, Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery and Department of Urology  
**3 months after kidney swap, 4 patients meet for first time**

Dr. **E.Patchen Dellinger**, Professor, Division of General Surgery  
**“How surgeons can stop the spread of germs by operating NAKED instead of wearing surgical gowns”**

Dr. **Heather Evans**, Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care  
**UW Medicine surgeons prominent in science exhibit**

Dr. **Alessandro Fichera**, Professor, Division of General Surgery  
**Stage 4 colon cancer survivor mission to save others**

Dr. **David R. Flum**, Professor, Division of General Surgery and Associate Chair for Research  
**“Strong for surgery” shows promise in reducing smoking rates for patients facing surgery**

Dr. **Danielle Lavallee**, Research Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

- **CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network Launches New Web Portal**
- **Changing the Conversation on Healthcare Research**

Dr. **Ronald V. Maier**, Surgeon-in-Chief of Harborview Medical Center and Professor and Vice-Chair of Surgery  
**“The Importance of Mentorship and Collaboration in Medicine”**

Dr. **Nahush A. Mokadam**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Co-Director of Heart Transplantation and Program Director for Mechanical Circulatory Support

- **UW Medicine heart-transplant outcomes are among best in U.S.**
- **Seattle man saves life of Alaska woman through heart transplant**
- **2 years later, KOMO reporter thanks medics who saved his life**

Dr. **Tam Pham**, Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care

- **Burns 103: Epic charting in the burn clinic**

- **Burns 204: Draining blebs in your skin graft**
- **Burns 300-S: Actividades y ejercicios de estiramiento para personas con quemaduras**
- **Burns 301-S: Estiramiento de Palma Pediatrica**
- **Burns 304-S: Estiramientos para quemaduras de hombro**
- **Burns 306-S: Estiramientos de la mano**
- **Burns 307-S Estiramientos de la muñeca y el antebrazo**
- **Burns 308-S: Estiramientos del cuello**
- **Burns 309-S: Estiramientos de la Cara**

Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor and Chief Medical Officer  
**100 hospital and health system CMOs to know | 2017**

Dr. **Y. David Seo**, Research fellow  
**Deploying an ancient defense to kill cancer**

Dr. **Estelle Williams**, Chief Resident  
**“Dream to become: Dr. Canady inspires an aspiring surgeon”**

Dr. **Doug Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair  
**Health coalition forms National Lung Cancer Roundtable to increase screening and reduce lung cancer deaths**

Dr. **Andrew Wright**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery and Director of the UW Medicine Hernia Center

- **Woodland Park Zoo gorilla undergoes life saving surgery with UW doctor**
- **What it’s like to perform surgery on a 450-pound gorilla**
- **SAGE Great Day Houston segment on social media and medicine**

## CREST / WISH

- **UW creating next-gen mannequins with warm skin, wet mouths to train battlefield medics**
- **Next Generation Mannequin Could Prep Combat Medics at UW Medicine**
- **Future combat medics to train on next-gen manikin that bleeds**
- **Josh Kerns—UW WISH on Kiro Radio/ The Ron and Don Show >>**

**UW Medicine’s Top doctors in Seattle Met Magazine**

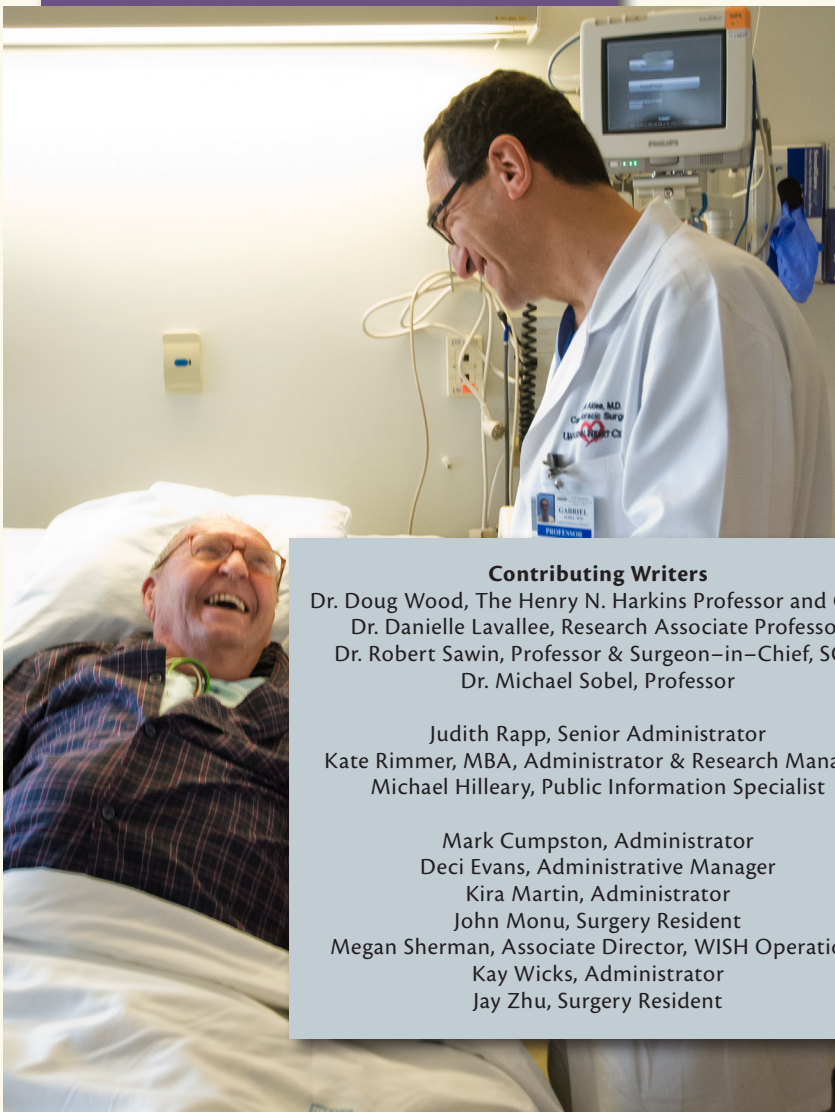


# UW Medicine

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## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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This publication is distributed to the Department's faculty, residents, staff, and friends.

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