

2017/18 Research Residents

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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 DNAJB1-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 DNAJB1-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 DNAJB1-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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