# 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



Travis Everett, MD Preliminary Surgery R1



Anand Kanwar, MD Preliminary Surgery R1



Nathan Colon, MD Preliminary Surgery R1



Ligee George, MBBS Preliminary Surgery R1



Edward Labovitz, DO Preliminary Surgery R1



Mohini Dasari, MD General Surgery R1



Alison Haruta, MD General 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 centerof-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."

(continued on page 7)

# Welcome 2017/18 New Surgery Residents

Continued from page 6

### **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



Joshua Rosen, MD General Surgery R1



Jamie Robinson, 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."

(continued on page 8)

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



Alison Bae, MD Plastic Surgery R1



Sean Fisher, MD Plastic Surgery R1



Melissa Herrin, MD CT Surgery R1



Edward Chang, MD Urology R1



Jake Hemingway, MD Vascular 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.