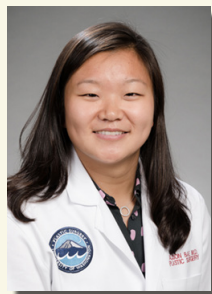


Welcome 2017/18 New Surgery Residents

Continued from page 7

CARDIOTHORACIC / PLASTIC / UROLOGY / VASCULAR SURGERY RESIDENTS



Alison Bae, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



Edward Chang, MD
Urology R1



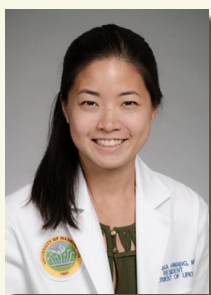
Sean Fisher, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



Jake Hemingway, MD
Vascular Surgery R1



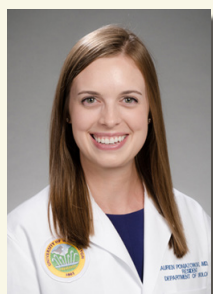
Melissa Herrin, MD
CT Surgery R1



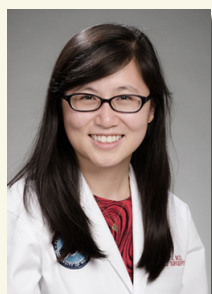
Catalina Hwang, MD
Urology R1



Benjamin Massenber, 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 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.



(continued on page 10)