

SURGERY *Synopsis*

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Chairman's Message



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

The Department of Surgery's "Center for Surgical Ethics" has been in the making for some time, but now is on the cusp of launching. Two important events helped to set the stage this summer and fall: the first was a Day of Surgical Ethics added to the 30th Annual Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics in August; the other was a special Grand Rounds on October 26th focused on Surgical Ethics with renowned surgeon and ethicist, Alberto Ferreres, MD, Chair of Surgery, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In this issue of *Synopsis*, I wanted to share why the Department is creating a Center for Surgical Ethics, what is driving its creation, what it is about and what we hope to accomplish.

I have long pondered, as I'm sure many have, what it takes to be a great surgeon. Beyond technical skills, I

have thought a lot about questions such as: "What do my patients need? How can I best understand and meet those needs? What do my patients *not* know that I can help them understand so they and their families can make the best decisions for themselves? And, how do I provide information and still let them make the decision, i.e., how do I keep from putting my thumb too much on the scale?"

All of these questions have ethical dimensions. The definition of ethics put simply is the basic concepts and fundamental principles of decent human conduct, moral values, right and wrong, and standards of behavior. But, why is the study of ethics, in an organized fashion, important? Can't we just rely on our own moral compass? I began to realize that some systematic study of ethics assists us in deciding a course of action, and how we communicate complex medical decisions. Ethical principles help us articulate the challenging options we consider for our patients, and how to help them navigate their own healthcare decisions in ways that best reflect their own values and goals.

With these questions and realizations, I began to recognize that while I had good instincts, I had no formal method, foundation or vocabulary to understand how to raise and reflect on

Ethical principles help us articulate the challenging options we consider for our patients, and how to help them navigate their own healthcare decisions in ways that best reflect their own values and goals.

Chairman's Message

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ethical issues or how to embed ethical decision making in a logical way into my daily professional interactions with patients and colleagues. I learned right from wrong from my parents, and I have always felt that I had a strong moral compass—these were strong foundations for an ethical life—but felt limited in the understanding of ethical principles and semantics. I determined I would benefit from improving my formal knowledge of ethics, both to give me a solid foundation for the complex decisions we make every day, but also so that I could talk about ethical issues more accurately and consciously.

When I became Chair of the Department these issues were heightened for me. It was no longer just a personal issue; now I was responsible for leading a great Department and ensuring that our faculty and our trainees not only received the best technical surgical training, but also were trained to understand how to make ethical decisions. As surgeons we are frequently faced with emergencies or immediate decisions in the operating room, and also (perhaps more importantly) to take perspective and make ethical decisions in day to day choices. I felt keenly that the ability to think and act ethically would not only set our Department apart, but would produce better trainees—trainees who could help to shape a more just healthcare system and world. I also understood it would help advance our research in ethical ways, but most of all, would enable us to better care for our patients. We would ask more frequently, “What do *they* need?” Not merely say “This is what I can do.”

In my own pursuit of a foundation for surgical ethics, I have been fortunate to have spent most of my career in this surgical department. My predecessor, Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, paved the way with his similar interest in surgical ethics. Before he stepped down, he had begun thinking about developing a more deliberate focus on ethics within the Department of Surgery. He had a long association with Dr.

Ferreres and together they wrote an **important article** on surgical ethics and discussed establishing such a center in this Department. It was a confluence of interests when I became Chair and I determined to carry the vision forward, with a plan to form a formal Center for Surgical Ethics.

What is the Center and how are we creating it? Our first step in creating the Center was to discuss the goals and coordinate efforts with the UW Department of Bioethics and Humanities led by Professor Denise Dudzinski. Dr. Dudzinski has been immensely helpful and generous with her time, support and advice as we have sought to clarify the needs for a new center. There are many opportunities for our department to partner with the Department of Bioethics and Humanities in this venture. We also have developed a formal association with Dr. Alberto Ferreres who has joined our faculty as a volunteer clinical professor. Dr. Ferreres is an internationally renowned surgical ethicist and has traveled to Seattle multiple times to meet with our faculty and residents, coordinate plans for the development of a Center for Surgical Ethics, create ethics curriculum for our residents, and to present at Grand Rounds and the Annual Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics. There is simply no one in the world better able to give us guidance than Dr. Ferreres.

The near term goal is formal recognition by the School of Medicine and developing the Center for Surgical Ethics in partnership with the Bioethics and Humanities Department. The Center will promote scholarship and train leaders in this field of study. Our long term goals include establishing a Surgical Ethics Fellowship as well as a Certificate program in Surgical Ethics for surgeons here, around the country and world-wide. We will be one of the only places in the US that has a full Surgical Ethics Center.

But, we are not waiting for formal recognition as a Center. We are already systematically elevating dialogue centered on Surgical Ethics with our own faculty and trainees – focusing on ethical issues in the day to day management of patients.

We took our initial steps in becoming a Center this past summer and fall as mentioned above. Next summer, we will have another full day of Surgical Ethics training in the 31st Annual Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics – we are planning that it will be a major part of the Summer Seminar. Building upon those successes, we hope to launch the Fellowship the following year and a Certificate program thereafter.

You will read more in this issue in the article by Dr. Ferreres; how he came to be interested in Surgical Ethics as well as plans for the Department's Center for Surgical Ethics. This is exciting and challenging work. And, I believe it is more necessary now than ever. Our patients need and deserve not only great technical care, but care that puts the patient first: body, mind and spirit.

As always, our colleagues in this Department are simply outstanding. There are a number of honors and awards I urge you to read. In particular, it is an extraordinary honor that Dr. Ron Maier is now the President-elect of the American College of Surgeons and Dr. Eileen Bulger is the Chair of the prestigious American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. These are big offices and they will fill them well. But, many of our faculty have done great things since Surgery Synopsis was last issued in the summer. I urge you to read it all.

Sincerely,

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



Surgical Ethics

by Dr. Alberto Ferreres,
Chair of Surgery,
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Why does Surgical Ethics matter?

The short answer is that surgery is not just a purely technical discipline. Technical mastery is absolutely necessary, but it is not sufficient in and of itself to bring complete benefit or comfort to our patients.

Surgical Ethics (SE) is part of the core of surgical professionalism and as such significantly impacts the everyday life of surgeons and the care they provide to their patients. As Charles Bosk noted in *Forgive and Remember* (The University of Chicago Press, 1979), “when the patient of an internist dies, the natural question his colleagues ask is *What happened?* When the patient of a surgeon dies his colleagues ask *What did you do?* By the nature of his craft and his beliefs about it, the surgeon is more accountable than other physicians and he also has much more to account for.” The central question to surgeons has changed. It is not just *What can we do for this patient?* But today’s question is *What should we do for this patient?* And this question is the challenge of SE.

The motto for the most recent **American College of Surgeons Clinical (ACS) Congress** was *Do what’s right for the patient*, and this can only be achieved by also focusing on the ethical dimension of surgical care. Surgeons must be experts in the ethical dimensions of patient care, as well as experts in matters of the surgical science and art.

How did I become interested in Surgical Ethics?

I have always had a keen interest in history and philosophy—after graduating as an MD, I completed my training in General Surgery and Surgical Oncology, received a PhD in Legal and Forensic Surgery, and a JD as well—but over time this interest began to develop into a major professional focus. In 2008, I attended the JJ Conley Ethics and Philosophy Lecture at the ACS Clinical Congress in San Francisco. This lectureship was established by a well-known

surgeon, John J. Conley, an otolaryngologist who dedicated most of his professional life to the treatment of head and neck cancer. Dr. Conley was primarily a surgeon, not a philosopher or an ethicist, yet he believed that to provide the best care to patients with cancer, the surgeon should be trained in other areas in addition to the traditional technical aspects of surgery. To that end, in the early 1990s he founded the John J. Conley Foundation for Ethics and Philosophy in Medicine, through which he established this lectureship to provide a forum within ACS where ethical questions facing surgeons could be discussed. He once said “I consider ethics and philosophy to be in one sense, the essence of the medical profession...I am particularly interested in maintaining the highest ethical principles as a frontline for the practicing surgeon.” (Pellegrini CA. *The Keystone of the Patient–Physician Relationship*. JACS 2017; 224: 95–102).

The speaker at the 2008 meeting was Dr. Ira Kodner, MD, FACS, a colorectal surgeon from Washington University, St Louis. His lecture was both inspirational and groundbreaking and I was profoundly impacted by the content. I realized I had been unintentionally, yet intensely, influenced by the concepts of ethics in my everyday surgical activity, and thus I decided I needed to improve my knowledge and expertise in the field.

The following year I applied to the Program in Clinical Ethics at the MacLean Center for Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago, directed by Mark Siegler, a renowned



Drs. Douglas Wood and Alberto Ferreres

Photo credit: Michael Hilleary

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ethicist. I started the summer session in July 2009 and continued my training for the next two years. I was fortunate to not only have the opportunity to nurture my interest and gain expertise in the topic, but also to develop long-standing friendships with faculty and cohort fellows.

Since my training, I have returned to the University of Chicago MacLean Center several times as a speaker at the Dorothy MacLean Fellows Conference on Clinical Medical Ethics. Some years later I was invited to sit on the ACS Committee on Ethics, and when the ACS decided to update and publish a new textbook on Surgical Ethics, I was honored to be appointed as one of the Editor-in-Chiefs. This book was released just this October during the last ACS Clinical Congress in San Diego.

Developing a Center for Surgical Ethics at UW

The initial foundation of this project was laid by the former Department Chair and current UW Medicine Chief Medical Officer, Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**. Since his tenure has begun, Dr. Wood has considered the establishment and development of a program in Surgical Ethics a foundational goal during his leadership. He is a keen advocate of this topic and a dedicated champion of this work.

The Center for Surgical Ethics (CSE) UW Medicine Department of Surgery

Work to establish the Center for Surgical Ethics has begun in earnest.

A highlight of this first year was the Department of Surgery's participation in the larger "Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics," adding a day on Surgical Ethics to this week-long seminar. Drs. Douglas Wood, Dr. **Denise Dudzinski** and I hosted the program

with many other esteemed faculty joining including Dr. Gretchen Schwarze, from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine who presented in the morning on "*Harnessing the Power of Scenario Planning for High-Stakes Decision-Making*" and presented again in the afternoon on the topic of "*Palliative Care in Surgery*." Dr. Pellegrini and Dr. Dudzinski presented a session on "*Moral Reasoning in Clinical Settings*" that framed the agenda for the conference. I presented on a topic of profound interest to me: "*Surgical Innovation: Balancing Discovery & Patient Safety*." Finally, we had two outstanding panel presentations and a time set aside for small group case discussions. Panel one, comprised of Drs. **Eileen Bulger**, **James Kirkpatrick**, **Nahush Mokadam**, and Matthew Plourde, BSN, discussed the ethical aspects *Extra Corporal Life Support (ECLS)*; and Panel two, comprised of Drs. **Martin Monteno**, **Jorge Reyes**, and myself ended the day with a discussion of *Transplant Ethics*.

Vision and Mission for CSE

The Center for Surgical Ethics Workgroup has also focused on creation of a Vision and Mission Statement for the Center. Our efforts are as follows:

Vision for CSE

The Vision for CSE imagines a surgical healthcare delivery system in which the patient is at the core, with dedicated surgeons and other physicians actively engaged in providing more just, equitable and effective care to all patients within the UW Medicine healthcare system. The CSE will help surgeons and all those providing surgical care recognize their responsibility and accountability to solve ethical conflicts through respectful behavior, leadership and as advocates for patients, their colleagues and UW Medicine as a whole.

The Mission of CSE

In order to achieve this Vision, the Mission of the CSE puts the patient at the center of all activity. We embrace, enhance and instill ethical actions in all we do within the UW Surgical Departments and become the model for ethical surgical healthcare. This Mission will be accomplished within the scope of the most competent care of patients, training of new professionals and honest research.

We look forward to the formal establishment of the CSE within the coming year. We have a number of important milestones we plan to achieve in the next year, including:

- Establishing and sponsoring an annual Visiting Professor Grand Rounds that focuses on Surgical Ethics;
- As mentioned, hosting an annual Surgical Ethics Conference in partnership with the Department of Bioethics and Humanities during the Summer Seminar in Healthcare Ethics;
- Developing and delivering educational material for all levels of trainees in medical education;
- Growing Center affiliations in order to build and support cross-specialty resources, mentorship and best practices;
- Fostering peer-reviewed publications and presentations at local, regional and national meetings;
- Increasing overall awareness in Surgical Ethics and its implementation in everyday practice.

We believe that the Center will help us provide better patient care, better train the next generation of surgeons and work to make healthcare at UW the best in the world. We invite you to follow our progress.

68th Annual Strauss Lecture & Harkins Symposium



Dr. Andrea Pusic

The **68th Annual Strauss Lecture** was held Friday, October 13th, 2017 with invited lecturer Dr. **Andrea Pusic**, Professor at Cornell University and Weill-Cornell, Medical College, Director of Patient-Reported Outcomes and Surgical Experience, (PROSE), and Attending Surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her lecture topic was “Patient-Reported Outcomes in Surgery: Improving Clinical Care and Quality.”

Dr. Pusic is an internationally-renowned innovator and leader in the area of Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) and Surgical Experience, an area of increasing importance in the current healthcare environment in terms of measuring quality, assessing value, and influencing how healthcare is funded. Her research focuses on the measurement of quality of life and patient satisfaction in surgery. The PRO instrument she developed for breast surgery, the BREAST-Q, has been widely adopted for research and clinical care, and has served as the basis for the development of other outcome measures in surgery, including the FACE-Q (for facial reconstructive and aesthetic surgery), BODY-Q (for bariatric and body-contouring patients) and most recently, the CLEFT-Q (for children and adults with cleft lips and palates).

The Strauss Lecture is supported by the **Alfred A. Strauss MD, Endowed Lectureship in Surgery**, established by the estate of Mrs. Margery Friedlander, daughter of Dr. Strauss. Dr. Strauss was an honor graduate of the University of Washington in 1904 and a member of the committee which successfully advocated for the founding of the School of Medicine at UW in 1946. Dr. Strauss possessed a rare combination of skill, vision, and drive and the lectureship carries on the visions and traditions of this inspiring man.

Preceding the Strauss Lecture was the Harkins Surgical Symposium for Resident Education, a one-day educational conference for regional surgical residents which focuses on technical aspects of surgery with talks by local and national

experts in their fields. Residents from the University of Washington, University of British Columbia, Swedish Medical Center, Virginia Mason Medical Center, and Madigan Army Medical Center are all invited to attend this annual event, and Department of Surgery remains committed to providing this symposium free of charge to residents, fellows, and medical students.

Each year the **Harkins Society** recognizes the professional achievements and humanitarian services of one of its members, and this year's **Distinguished Alumnus** was Dr. **Kim Lynch**. Dr. Lynch was nominated by Dr. **Lorrie Langdale**, Professor & Chief, Section of General Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, and selected unanimously by Harkins Society leadership. Dr. Lynch also spoke at the Symposium on the topic of mentorship. Dr. Lynch received her medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine and also completed her surgical residency here. She is a renowned clinician for our veterans at the **Boise VA Hospital** and surgeon educator for our **WWAMI** Idaho trainees. She humbly describes herself as a “worker bee” but to her patients and students she far exceeds this description.



Dr. Lorrie Langdale



Dr. Kim Lynch



Dr. Alfred A. Strauss

This year's Harkins Symposium speakers:

Dr. **Kari Keys**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Clinical Pathways: What Works and What Doesn't*”

Dr. **Jeffrey Friedrich**, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Advances in Hand Reconstruction*”

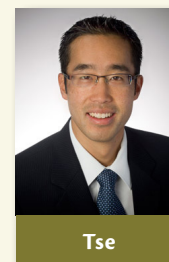
Dr. **Raymond Tse**, Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Contemporary Approaches to Measure Outcomes: Treatment of Cleft Lip and Palate*”



Keys



Friedrich



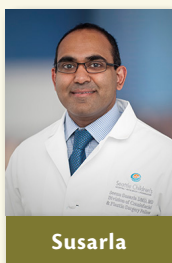
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68th Annual Strauss Lecture & Harkins Symposium

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Dr. **Srinivas Susarla**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Mandibular Morphology in Robin Sequence*”



Susarla



Neligan

Dr. **Peter Neligan**, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*A Smile is a Curve That Sets Everything Straight*”

Dr. **Hakim Said**, Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Staying Ahead of the Curve in Breast Reconstruction*”



Said



Gougoutas

Dr. **Alexander Gougoutas**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery “*Early Cosmetic Surgery and the Evolution of American Vanity Culture*”

Dr. **Nahush Mokadam**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery “*Flipping the Classroom?*”



Mokadam



Cheng

Dr. **Aaron Cheng**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery “*Chest Wall Deformities: Resection and Reconstruction Considerations*”

Dr. **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery “*Management of Cervical and Thoracic Esophageal Anastomotic Leaks*”



Farjah



Tatum

Dr. **Roger Tatum**, Professor and Chief of VA Division, Surgeon-in-Chief, VA Puget Sound Health Care System “*How Antireflux Surgery Suppresses GERD*”

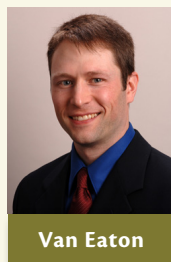
Dr. **Kim Lynch** (pictured page 5), Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Boise Idaho “*Harkins Distinguished Alumna Lecture on Mentorship*”

Dr. **Andrea Pusic** (pictured page 5), Attending Surgeon, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Director, Patient-Reported Outcomes and Surgical Experience (PROSE) Professor, Cornell University and Weill-Cornell Medical College “*Surgical Outcomes from the Patient Perspective*”

Dr. **Sam Mandell**, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery “*ECLS in Trauma*”



Mandell



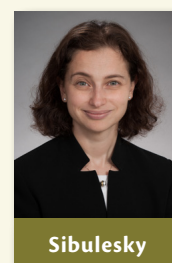
Van Eaton

Dr. **Erik Van Eaton**, Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery “*Are There Patient-Centered Outcomes in the Surgical ICU?*”

Dr. **Saurabh Khandelwal**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery “*Sleeves, Balloons, and Tubes – Is Gastric Bypass on Its Way Out?*”



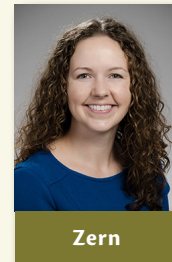
Khandelwal



Sibulesky

Dr. **Lena Sibulesky**, Assistant Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery “*Expanding the Number of Donors*”

Dr. **Nicole Zern**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery “*What’s New in the Management of Thyroid Nodules?*”



Zern



Kim

Dr. **Teresa Kim**, Acting Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery “*Integrating Surgery into Multimodal Management of Sarcoma*”

American College of Surgeons' 2017 Clinical Congress

In October 2017, the **American College of Surgeons (ACS)** held their 2017 Clinical Congress in San Diego, California. The Clinical Congress provided surgeons, medical students, surgical residents, and other members of the operating room team with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of educational experiences and to interact with their peers. ACS offered cutting-edge educational opportunities to address the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes necessary for delivery of surgical care of the highest quality for physicians at all stages of their careers.

The 2017 program addressed essential clinical and nonclinical content. An exciting series of **Named Lectures** was delivered by world-renowned experts in their respective fields. **Didactic/Experiential** and **Surgical Skills Courses** focused on acquisition of knowledge and skills through best practices in education and training methods and more than 110 **Panel Sessions** on relevant topics were offered. The **Scientific Forum** included surgical research presentations and posters. New this year, all posters were e-posters and were available for viewing throughout the entire Clinical Congress

and **Video-Based Education Sessions** showcased surgical procedures. **Meet-the-Expert Sessions** and **Town Hall Meetings** offered a more informal learning experience.

The purpose of the Clinical Congress is to keep ACS Members and interested non-Fellow physicians abreast of the current status of the art and science of surgery. To accomplish its purpose, the Clinical Congress offers a highly diversified program of continuing education in all specialties of surgery and in important fields of science, socioeconomics, and medical education. It holds the preeminent place among all College activities designed to raise the standards of surgical practice and improve the care of the surgical patient.

The entire program presented at this meeting includes physicians drawn from various specialties. The sessions are designed to present a variety of viewpoints on matters of particular interest to those for whom the session is primarily intended and to stress the need for understanding and cooperation among the specialties.

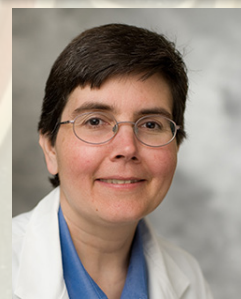
Dr. Ron Maier Elected President-Elect of American College of Surgeons



Dr. **Ron Maier**, Professor & Chief in the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, was elected to serve as the next president of the ACS at the 2017 ACS Clinical Congress in October in San Diego. The ACS is the largest surgical organization in North America and represents the full spectrum of surgical specialties, and election to President is one of the highest honors that one can achieve in a surgical career. Dr. Maier will step into this role after having also served as President of the **American Surgical Association (ASA)**, another prestigious and highly impactful surgical society. This is an incredible tribute to Dr. Maier and his career-long dedication to excellence in clinical surgery, exceptional mentorship in surgical education, and in his academic contributions. He is not just an extraordinary leader of the surgery services at **Harborview Medical Center**, but plays an important role in trauma and critical care organizations nationally and internationally. The Department of Surgery congratulates Dr. Maier on this incredible recognition.

Dr. Ron Maier's acceptance speech >>

Dr. Eileen Bulger Named New Chair of American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma



Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor and Chief of Trauma in the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, was named the new chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma (COT) at the ACS Clinical Congress. This committee strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization through activities aimed at education, advocacy, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes. Dr. Bulger is a national leader in trauma and her appointment as committee chair is an acknowledgement of the regard and respect that she has in the trauma community and amongst her surgeon peers.

We asked Dr. Bulger to give us her thoughts on being named Chair of the ACS COT:

"Traumatic injury is the leading cause of death under the age of 44 and therefore the most important public health problem for our children and armed services personnel. The ACS COT

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is a multidisciplinary group of surgeons working to improve injury care around the globe, with 86 members on the committee overseeing a field force of more than 3,500 Fellows working to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. The committee strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization. These activities—aimed at education, advocacy, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes and quality improvement—are disseminated through a variety of programs and subcommittees. Examples include **Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®)**, **Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP®)**, trauma systems consultation, trauma center verification, injury prevention, and the Stop the Bleed campaign.

I am sincerely honored to be asked to serve as the Chair of this committee for the next four years. This is an incredible opportunity to continue to advance the care of the injured patient with our goal of eliminating preventable death and disability after injury. In addition to all of the programs described above, we have several active initiatives. We are working with several professional organizations and government partners on implementing the recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report on developing a National trauma Care System with enhanced military and civilian integration. We are also working on a goal to train every US citizen in the basics skills of bleeding control and to make bleeding control equipment available in public places to enhance our response to mass casualties and mass shootings. We are focused on building consensus on a public health approach to reducing firearm injury and violence in our society. Finally, we are working on developing a better understanding of the long term functional outcome of patients after severe injury.”

Challenges in the Management of Breast and Thoracic Malignancies Symposium

A two-and-a-half-day symposium held in Seattle, Washington, in October 2017 provided up-to-date scientific information to clinicians involved in the care of patients with breast or thoracic cancers. Speakers were nationally and internationally renowned clinicians and researchers who shared their expertise and fostered discussion of the most recent multidisciplinary advances in screening, pathology, surgery, radiology, medical oncology, chemotherapy, novel targeted therapies, immunotherapies, genetics, and palliative care. Far-ranging areas of consensus and controversy were presented and discussed with the goal that audience members leave with the state-of-the-art knowledge needed to maximize success in treating their patients' breast and thoracic malignancies.



Wood

Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair and Dr. **Kristine Calhoun**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, were co-chairs for the symposium's thoracic and breast oncological courses. The thoracic portion covered a variety of topics including the role for standard radiation and protons for thoracic malignancies disease; new options for small cell lung cancer; advances in multimodality therapy for pleural mesothelioma; and value-based health care and the impact of payment reform.

The breast portion of the symposium included topics such as therapeutic modalities available for advanced breast cancer, and neoadjuvant therapies in particular; evidence-based recommendations for supportive care and survivorship; cancer outcomes variations in different populations and potential causes; and navigating and interpreting the plethora of available genetic tests and possible results.



Calhoun

Department of Surgery faculty presenters included: Drs. **Ben Anderson**, Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Kathleen Berfield**, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; **David Byrd**, Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; **Sara Javid**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery; **Mike Mulligan**, Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery; **Hakim Said**, Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery; and **Janelle Sousa**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery.

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4th Annual Full Spectrum of Heart Failure Therapy: Managing the Trajectory



Mokadam

The University of Washington Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, in collaboration with the Department of Medicine Division of Cardiology, held their 4th Annual Full Spectrum of Heart Failure Therapy: Managing the Trajectory in Seattle in October 2017. With nearly 200 attendees, this conference was chaired by Drs. **Nahush Mokadam** and **Claudius Mahr**, DO (Cardiology), as well as **Jennifer Beckman**, ARNP (Cardiology), and **Jason Bjelkengren**, RN (Regional Heart Center). This year, the conference was honored to have two internationally known Keynote Speakers: Drs. **Eugene Braunwald** (Brigham and Women's Hospital) and **Shashank Desai** (Inova Heart and Vascular Institute). Other distinguished faculty from the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery included Drs. **Jason Smith** and **Kevin Koomalsingh** as well as other members of the medical center and a host of guest faculty from the region. Over the course of one and a half days, the speakers and audience interacted in lectures, case discussions, small groups, and debates. The organizing committee looks forward to another successful event next year.



Smith



Koomalsingh

Dr. Carlos Pellegrini Grand Rounds Presentation and Portrait Unveiling

The Department of Surgery commissioned an official portrait of Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Chief Medical Officer, UW Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Washington, which was unveiled at the end of his **Grand Rounds presentation** in October 2017. The portrait commemorates Dr. Pellegrini's quarter century of service to UW Medicine, and 23 years as Chair of the Department of Surgery. The portrait, painted by local artist **Aron Hart**,



Drs. Douglas Wood and Carlos Pellegrini

is now on display in the hallway outside of the Department of Surgery main administrative office. Hart is an award-winning artist and instructor and specializes in oil painting and drawing.

SAVE THE DATES

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & 24TH ANNUAL HELEN AND JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE

Friday, February 16, 2018

Department of Surgery Research Symposium

7:00am—2:30pm, UW Tower Auditorium

24th 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.

2017 New Faculty



Broadus Atkins, MD,
Associate Professor,
Division of Cardiothoracic
Surgery

Dr. Atkins is an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, specializing in adult cardiothoracic surgery. He is a member of the Association of VA Surgeons and is Chief of Cardiac Surgery at VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA). Dr. Atkins

received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine, where he also completed surgical residency programs in general and thoracic surgery. He served 14 years active duty in the US Air Force, achieving the rank of Colonel. Dr. Atkins is certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and his primary clinical interests include surgery for heart failure including transplantation, implantation of cardiac assist devices, and other complex cardiac procedures. He also has a special interest in minimally invasive approaches to cardiac valve repair and replacement, especially those addressing mitral valve pathologies. Dr. Atkins is an avid sports fan and is excited to be a new resident of the Great Northwest!



Warren Chow, MD,
Assistant Professor,
Division of Vascular
Surgery

Dr. Chow is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and is primarily based at the VA. He practices both open vascular surgery and endovascular techniques for the treatment of aortic, cerebrovascular, visceral, lower

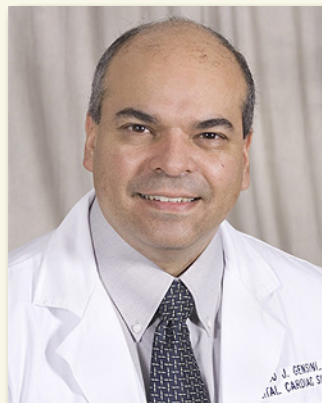
extremity arterial diseases as well as venous disorders and dialysis access. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley in mechanical engineering. He received his medical degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he also completed his general surgery residency and vascular surgery fellowship. During his training, he also earned a second master's degree in health services from Northwestern University. His research interests include bioengineering and surgical outcomes in elderly patients. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, cooking, and running.

Teresa Kim, MD,
Acting Assistant Professor,
Division of General
Surgery

Dr. Kim is an Acting Assistant Professor and Surgical Oncologist in the Division of General Surgery with expertise in the surgical management of sarcomas, melanomas, and other cancers of the soft tissue, skin, and gastrointestinal tract. Her primary sites of practice are the University of Washington Medical Center, where she operates, and the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA), where she sees patients in clinic. She is also an Affiliate Investigator at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC), where she is conducting translational sarcoma immunology research.

Dr. Kim earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her MD from Harvard Medical School in Boston. She then completed general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, as well as a research postdoctoral fellowship in tumor immunology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She subsequently completed specialty training in Complex General Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering, after which she was recruited to join the faculty at University of Washington.

She is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and is an active member of the American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, and American Society of Clinical Oncology.



Francisco Gensini, MD,
FACS, Clinical Associate
Professor, Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Gensini is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and specializes in congenital cardiac surgery. He is based primarily at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Dr. Gensini received his degree in Medicine and Surgery, followed by general surgery residency training from Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia and a degree in cardiovascular surgery from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin, Colombia. He then completed a two-year fellowship in pediatric cardiothoracic

(continued on page 11)

2017 New Faculty

Continued from page 10

surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, United Kingdom, followed by an ECMO fellowship in the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care. After coming to the United States, Dr. Gensini joined the General Surgery residency program at University of Washington and completed fellowships in cardiothoracic surgery and pediatric cardiac surgery, also at UW. Board certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery in 2010, Dr. Gensini practiced congenital cardiac surgery at the University of Rochester for the last eight years before joining the Department of Surgery as faculty. Dr. Gensini is a member of several professional organizations including the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons.

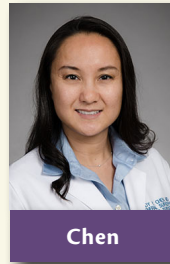


Caitlin Smith, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric General Surgery

Dr. Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH). She is dedicated to the surgical treatment of colorectal anomalies in the pediatric patient population

and is part of the Reconstructive Pelvic Medicine Program at SCH. She is board certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and is currently board eligible in Pediatric General Surgery. Dr. Smith earned her medical degree from Albany Medical College and completed her general surgery residency at University of California, Davis. She then completed a pediatric surgery fellowship at SCH where she now sees patients as well as at SCH clinics in Bellevue and Federal Way locations. Dr. Smith is happy to be permanently located in Seattle and in her free time she enjoys spending time with family, friends and creative projects such as photography.

Department of Surgery— In The Media



Chen

Dr. **Judy Chen**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery
"Long-term weight-loss seen with gastric bypass"



Dellinger

Dr. **Patch Dellinger**, Professor, Division of General Surgery
"The naked truth about OR garb"



Dick

Dr. **Andre Dick**, Associate Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery
"A healthy future after kidney failure"

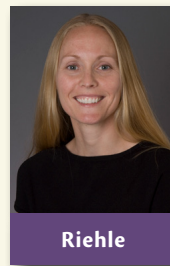


Reyes

"Super hero' home from Afghanistan donates liver to nephew"

Dr. **Jorge Reyes**, Professor & Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery
"Test transport device creates hope for liver transplants"

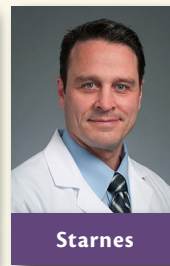
"Surgeons perform region's 1st 'liver in a box' transplant"



Riehle

Dr. **Kimberly Riehle**, Associate Professor, Pediatric General Surgery

"A doctor's artistic touch eases the pain of surgery – home team heroes"



Starnes

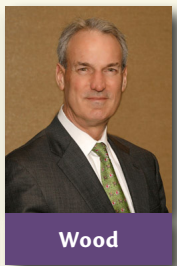
Drs. **Benjamin Starnes**, Professor & Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, and **Niten Singh**, Professor & Associate Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery

"From Iraq to Harborview:

Drs. Benjamin Starnes & Niten Singh"



Singh



Wood

Dr. **Douglas Wood**, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery*

"Behind the Knife: The Surgery Podcast"

Researcher Profile: Danielle Lavallee, PharmD, PhD



Dr. Danielle Lavallee

Since joining the Department of Surgery in 2012, Dr. Danielle Lavallee's work has focused on advancing methods to incorporate the patient perspective into both clinical care and research activities through the capture of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and active patient engagement.

Dr. Lavallee's interests stem from her experience practicing as a pharmacist while obtaining her PhD at the University of Maryland. "I constantly fielded questions from people that were framed in such a manner that existing evidence couldn't answer them. Either they wanted to know how disparate therapies compared – often a medication to a more holistic treatment approach – or how a certain treatment would affect outcomes not captured in traditional research, such as quality of life or time away from work." PRO measures provide insight on experienced symptoms, function, health status, quality of life, and mental well-being, and are an important first step in addressing these types of patient concerns. Since joining the faculty, Dr. Lavallee has supported the efforts of the **Comparative Effectiveness Research Translation Network (CERTAIN)** to capture data directly from patients to support quality improvement and research initiatives, including the development of **CERTAIN Hub** – a web-based portal supporting real-time capture and reporting of PRO data to both patients and providers.

Patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), as defined, helps patients and their caregivers better communicate and make informed and individualized healthcare decisions, allowing the patient voice to be heard in assessing the value of healthcare options. This is predicated on the availability of evidence that reflects data relevant to patients and their healthcare team when making decisions about healthcare. To achieve this ideal state, it is critical that we build community and infrastructure for collaborating with patients and healthcare stakeholders to advance PCOR, as well as methods for transforming healthcare through leveraging new streams of data that come directly from patients, such as patient-reported and patient-generated health data.

Funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ)

has played an integral role in helping her advance efforts to keep the patient voice central to research and healthcare. In 2014, Dr. Lavallee became the Department of Surgery's first faculty member to receive funding from PCORI for a project comparing different engagement techniques for involving patients in research prioritization. This methods study responded to the 2013 PCORI Methodology Committee recommendation to support empirical research to assess and improve research prioritization methods for use by PCORI, recognizing that limited evidence existed on important processes leveraged in the conduct of research. The study assesses how different methods perform in generating reproducible research prioritization lists, and perhaps more importantly, in participants' perception of the quality of the engagement experience. The study leverages traditional engagement techniques such as focus groups and survey methods as well as novel engagement techniques such as crowd-voting and crowd-sourcing. Such comparative studies are rare but important in providing valuable information about involving patients in research.

In addition to advancing evidence on how we involve patients, Dr. Lavallee is working to develop infrastructure to support patient-researcher partnerships. In 2014, she received a PCORI Eugene Washington Engagement Award providing funding support for the **INitiative to Support Patient Involvement in REsearch (INSPIRE) (watch video)**. This project gathered information on the experiences and needs of patients and researchers actively partnering on research projects across the Pacific Northwest and resulted in the creation of a web-based portal providing open-access training and resources to both patients and researchers interested in collaborating on research projects. Since launching in May 2017, the portal has attracted over 1,000 unique visitors and gained international recognition in the PCOR community.



Dr. Lavallee moderating discussion
at the 2016 INSPIRE Community Workshop

(continued on page 13)

Researcher Profile: Danielle Lavallee, PharmD, PhD

Continued from page 12



Dr. Lavallee working with INSPIRE TEAM, which is comprised of both patient partners and researchers, to review interview findings

Dr. Lavallee's work has highlighted for her the importance of ensuring that outcomes important to patients are captured not only in research, but in health-care as well. PROs, taken together with other data sources such as clinical measurements, provide support for shared decision-making to meet the needs of each patient to optimize outcomes. In 2017, Dr. Lavallee was named UW Medicine Medical Director for Patient-Reported Outcomes and Patient-Generated Health Data, and in this role she will bring her experience implementing this health IT-enabled practice model to the larger UW Medicine system in order to facilitate PRO data collection and reporting for surgical care and quality improvement efforts system-wide. Through this work, Dr. Lavallee and her team will help to design a sustainable model for capturing the patient's voice to facilitate more collaborative healthcare decision-making and achieve improved patient outcomes.

#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Martin Montenovo



Dr. Martin Montenovo

In this issue, *Surgery Synopsis* staff interviewed Dr. **Martin Montenovo**, Assistant Professor, Surgical Director Living Donor Liver Transplant Program, Division of Transplant Surgery.

SS: What was the last book you read?

MM: The last book I read is called "Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World" by William H. McRaven. McRaven is a retired United States Navy admiral and he extrapolated

both big and small lessons he learned in the navy that he believes can make real, significant changes in your life as well as in the world. He has a great YouTube video clip where he says "If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed." He says if you make your bed every morning, then you've accomplished the first task of the day. That gives you a sense of pride and encourages you to do another task, another, and so on. **SS:** So what are you doing differently after having read the book? **MM:** [laughs] I make my bed! Even before reading the book I have always had a regimented routine which included making my bed every morning. But there are other little things I have picked up that I apply to my life. For instance, when things happen to you during the day and you believe they are a big deal but at the

end of the day you realize it wasn't really that big of a deal and it's something you can just let go. I really enjoy reading books and articles by people in the military because of their outlook on leadership, working within groups and resilience.

SS: What is your favorite movie? **MM:** I just love "Forrest Gump." His fighting against adversity is so inspiring. I think I've watched this movie about 20 times—I never get tired of it. Another movie I really like is "Brooklyn." It's about a young woman who emigrates from Ireland to the United States and it depicts her life in 1950s Brooklyn, New York.

SS: Do you have any favorite or least favorite genres? **MM:** I cannot stand anything science fiction. I will tell you a funny story. In 2001, I was in residency in Argentina and working many, many hours a week, and that was the year I started dating my wife. My wife was a student at the time so she was not as tired as I was from all of the long hours. One time she suggested we to go see the first "Lord of the Rings" film. I thought to myself, "This is perfect! This is a three hour movie and I will get a chance to catch up on my sleep because I had no intention of watching it!" It was ideal—my girlfriend was totally engrossed in the movie and I got three hours of uninterrupted sleep!

SS: Do you collect anything? **MM:** No, I do not. I'm very organized and collections can become clutter and clutter can easily lead to garbage. I drive my kids crazy because if I see toys they don't play with then they are donated to charity.

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#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Martin Montenovo

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Dr. Montenovo with his parents at medical school graduation ceremony in Rosario, Argentina

SS: What type of music do you enjoy?

MM: If you got ahold of my iTunes you would see everything there, except maybe country western [laughs]. I have music from Argentina, the U.S.—I enjoy music by U2, Coldplay...those are my favorites. I just went to a Coldplay concert and it was fantastic.

SS: What would you be if you weren't a surgeon? **MM:** Something related to economics, maybe an accountant or something along those lines. When I finished high school my degree was in accounting. I love numbers and the precision of it all. It's somewhat similar to surgery actually in that you need skilled precision. My father was a banker so I'm sure that played a large part in my interests of economics. But then my brother became a surgeon and he was the first physician in my family. That really changed my interest from accounting to medicine.

SS: What is an interesting fact about you that many people don't know? **MM:** I used to be a relatively good piano player. I started learning to play when I was about seven years old and played until I was about 18. I even played keyboard in a band in the town where I grew up in my early teens. We were good to enough to play at parties and make money. I'd like to start playing again but it always comes down to time.

SS: Do you have any upcoming travel plans you're excited about? **MM:** I love to travel but travelling with two kids can be challenging. I would really like to go to Europe next, but one of my children is four years old and going through museums and taking long walks is tough with children at that age, so right now I focus on destinations with swimming pools and a beach. Maui is a nice destination for that kind of thing. **SS:** What's been your favorite travel destination? **MM:** So far, my favorite travel experience has been Asia. I've been to Seoul and Hong Kong, both for work. I was in Seoul for two months and really came to love that city. I was in Hong Kong for one week and it was incredible—it is the definition of a big city. The mix of culture and the food! The flavors of the foods are unlike you can find anywhere in the world.

SS: Do you have a personal motto? **MM:** Be yourself all the time. Whether I'm with friends, my boss, or strangers, I am crystal clear—I have nothing to hide. Another guiding belief is pursue your dreams. Don't use excuses, go forward and follow your dreams.

SS: Would you share with us one of your guilty pleasures? **MM:** I like to eat—a lot! And because I'm from Argentina, I love to eat meat! [laughs] I go to a butcher who knows me very well and ask them to cut meat the way I'm used to having it in Argentina. They always know exactly what

I want. I also really love ice cream. Every Friday I take my family for ice cream at Ben and Jerry's. I'll eat just about any flavor except mint.

SS: What is your favorite childhood memory? **MM:** Being at my grandparents' farm when I was a child. I grew up in a very small town and my grandparents lived on a farm close by. I remember riding my bike to the farm, sometimes by myself, sometimes with friends. We'd milk cows and ride horses—such beautiful memories. I was lucky to have had a wonderful childhood. I always joke with my wife because she's from Buenos Aires and grew up in the big city and lived in busy downtown areas and doesn't know what it's like living in a rural area. Every time we visit Argentina we go to the small town where I grew up and she just loves to go there because it's so different for her.

SS: Any special memories from your time at UW? **MM:** Oh yes. The first time I came to the United States, it was to the University of Washington Medical Center. In 2004, I was a surgical resident



Two year old Montenovo with his father

(continued on page 15)

training in Argentina and I came here as a clinical observer in the Cardiothoracic Division. Georgia Barroso, who worked in CT administration at the time, did something so special for me that I will never, ever forget. I arrived on a Saturday morning, I could barely speak English, and without knowing or expecting it, there was Georgia at SeaTac airport with a little sign with my name! She came to pick me up, she took me to lunch, drove me around the university showing me the hospital and other nearby sights, then she dropped me off at the university dorm where I was staying. I remember we went around to the trunk, and when she opened it, it was filled with enough groceries for me to last me a month! I couldn't believe it, I was just so touched. She is just such an outstanding person and she will always have a special place in my heart.

SS: What is the best gift you've ever received? **MM:** It's nothing material—it's the laughter from my kids and my wife.

SS: What do you do in your spare time?

MM: Well, I don't have a lot of spare time but when I do my wife and I really enjoy hosting friends at our house. I love to cook and try out new recipes I like. Even when I come home tired from surgery, I find it relaxing to make spaghetti, ravioli or something like that—but usually it's meat! Then to share that with friends makes it very special. **SS:** Do you have a dish you do particularly well or that you're known for? **MM:** I make a very good mascarpone cheesecake. Many people in the department have tried it and they really like it!



Dr. Montenovo at high school graduation with his mother

Honors, Awards & Publications

Faculty



Dr. **Benjamin Anderson**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, and chair of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center **Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI)**, will receive \$550,000 from **Susan G. Komen** to evaluate the strengths and gaps in processes used by health care facilities in low-resource settings. The goal of this research is to assist health care facilities in evaluating and implementing breast health interventions to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Strategies to build health care capacity in low and middle income countries can be applied in underserved communities in the U.S., Dr. Anderson said. "Today is a critical time where real and meaningful progress can be made by wisely using resources to save lives at home and abroad," he said.

Susan G. Komen is a co-founder of BHGI and has provided support continuously since 2002. Several ongoing Komen grants, awarded in previous years to local researchers including Mary-Claire King, Ph.D. and Nora Disis, M.D. bring Komen's total research investment in Washington state institutions to \$11,630,427 since 1982.

Under Dr. **David Byrd**'s leadership as Chair, the **American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC)** will publish the 8th Edition of the AJCC Staging Manual in January 2018, which includes a fundamental change in breast cancer staging. The development of prognostic staging tables, for the first time, will expand on the anatomic staging system into a biological framework. Dr. Byrd, Professor in the Division of General Surgery, has long advocated for this development for solid tumors, just as has already occurred for hematologic malignancies.



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Honors, Awards & Publications

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Dr. **Heather Evans**, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, and **mPOWER** co-Principal Investigator Dr. **Bill Lober**, Professor in the Departments of Global Health and Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Informatics, have been awarded a \$600K two-year contract to perform a Health Technology Assessment under the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Safe Healthcare, Epidemiology, and Prevention Research Development (SHEPheRD) Program. The SHEPheRD program is a broad initiative of the **Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)** to provide healthcare epidemiology prevention research, implementation, evaluation, surveillance and medication safety studies. The work is driven by the need to provide more effective guidance for the selective and appropriate use of antibiotic therapy in an era of infections that are increasingly resistant to drug treatment.

Drs. Lober and Evans will oversee the conduct of a health technology assessment to evaluate the use of patient generated health data (PGHD) and mobile devices for surgical site infection (SSI) clinical decision making and surveillance, and then develop and disseminate recommendations for PGHD in SSI. The project is engaging researchers from multiple institutions including the University of Washington, University of Virginia, Western Michigan University, University of California San Francisco, and Emory University. **mPOWER article >>**

Drs. Lober and Evans will oversee the conduct of a health technology assessment to evaluate the use of patient generated health data (PGHD) and mobile devices for surgical site infection (SSI) clinical decision making and surveillance, and then develop and disseminate recommendations for PGHD in SSI. The project is engaging researchers from multiple institutions including the University of Washington, University of Virginia, Western Michigan University, University of California San Francisco, and Emory University. **mPOWER article >>**

Dr. **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was named holder of the Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research by the UW Board of Regents effective October 2017. The Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research was established by anonymous donors in 1999 to attract and retain distinguished faculty. The Chair includes special emphasis on clinical research directed toward identifying new approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with lung cancer.



Dr. **Ron Maier**, The Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor of Trauma Surgery, Vice Chair of Department of Surgery, University of Washington, and Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center, presented the 43rd William T. Fitts, Jr, MD, Lecture at the 76th Annual Meeting of **American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)** and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery in September 2017.

Dr. Maier's lecture, "Patients Are First," was a call to arms for incorporating Palliative Care into Trauma Surgery, Emergency General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. He described the magnitude of the problem of caring for the seriously ill and injured, showing disappointing statistics for mortality and the poor quality of life of survivors.

Dr. **Sherene Shalhub**, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, received a PCORI Tier A Pipeline to Proposal award for her project entitled "**Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (VEDS) Research Agenda Collaboration.**" This one-year project started in October 2017 and provides \$50,000 to form a team that will include patients with Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (VEDS), clinicians, and researchers with a commitment to developing a patient-centered research proposal. They will develop the infrastructure and create channels for communication among patients, researchers, and stakeholders who are focused on VEDS. To this end Dr. Shalhub plans to create a formal community, which will include assessing the current information resources available, reaching out to members of the community, developing a communication strategy for stakeholder engagement and communicating with stakeholders via webinars, Twitter chats, and Google Hangouts, creating a REDCap survey network, and finally, setting up a website with infrastructure to support all of these activities. She will also set up a Research Consortium meeting for all stakeholders to discuss the current state of knowledge, assessment, and treatment for VEDS.



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Honors, Awards & Publications

Continued from page 16



Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, was elected as new **American College of Surgeons (ACS)** Board of Regents member.

Dr. Wood has been a Fellow of the College since 1995 and has played an active role on the Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery (2007–2013) and the Commission

on Cancer (CoC), including serving on the CoC Accreditation Committee (2010–2016). Dr. Wood has been involved in the leadership of several cardiothoracic surgery professional organizations, previously serving as president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and president of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. He has served as director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Wood is currently president of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation, president of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Network (CTSNet), and vice-chair of the American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable.

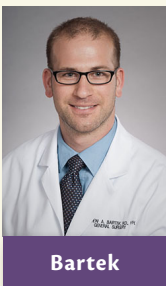
Recent Publications by Our Residents



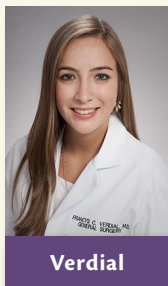
Thornblade



Ehlers



Bartek



Verdial

Thornblade LW, Wood DE, Mulligan MS, Oelschlager BK, Saunders MD, Flum DR, Farjah F. **A nationwide rise in the use of stents for benign esophageal perforation.** *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2017 Jul;104(1):227–233.

Ehlers AP, Oelschlager BK, Pellegrini CA, Wright AS, Saunders MD, Flum DR, He H, Farjah F. **Achalasia treatment, outcomes, utilization, & costs: a population-based study from the United States.** *JACS.* 2017 Sep;225(3):380–386.

Bartek M, Verdial FC, Truitt A, Farjah F. Evaluating the quality and applicability of a study. **The SCORE Portal.** Published April 2017. Accessed September 23, 2017.

Verdial FC, Bartek M, Truitt A, Farjah F. Research design in outcome and health service research. **The SCORE Portal.** Published April 2017. Accessed September 23, 2017.

ACGME BACKTOBEDSIDE INITIATIVE



Drs. **Kate Stadeli** (pictured above right) and **Jay Zhu** (pictured above left), research residents in the Division of General Surgery, have been selected for **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) BacktoBedside Initiative Funding**. The ACGME Council of Review Committee Residents (CRCR) designed the “Backto-Bedside” initiative to empower residents and fellows to develop transformative projects that combat burnout by fostering meaning in their learning environments and engaging on a deeper level with what is at the heart of medicine: their patients.

The application process was highly competitive with the ACGME receiving over 200 proposals and awarding 30 grants at various funding levels. Proposals focused on ideas such as creating opportunities for more time engaged in direct, meaningful patient care; developing shared sense of teamwork and respect among colleagues; decreasing effort spent on non-clinical, administrative responsibilities; and increasing patient satisfaction through more meaningful time with their care delivery team.

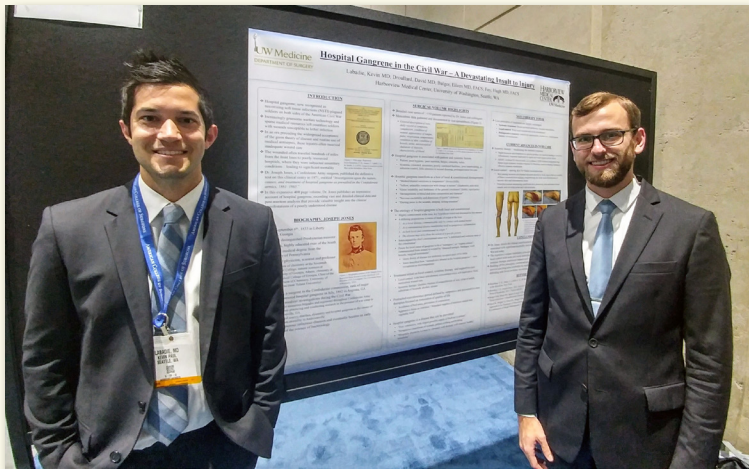
Drs. Stadeli’s and Zhu’s project, titled “Standardizing Evening Bedside Huddles To Promote Patient-Centered Care and Inter-Disciplinary Teamwork,” focused on night float rotations, which can be very difficult and isolating experiences for residents. A recent study of internal medicine residents at Duke University indicated that residents on night float rotations reported the

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Honors, Awards & Publications

Continued from page 17

Residents Win 2nd Prize in the ACS Surgical History Group's Annual Poster Competition



Necrotizing soft tissue infections (NSTI), known at the time as “Hospital Gangrene,” were common and devastating infections suffered by wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War.

Although the predominant risk factors for this disease in the modern era have changed since the time of the devastating musket, rifle, and bayonet wounds of the Civil War, these infections are still frequently treated by the surgical services at Harborview Medical Center (HMC), Seattle, Washington.

Inspired by their HMC experience, Drs. **David Drouillard** (pictured above right) and **Kevin Labadie** (pictured above left), 2nd year general surgery residents, traveled to the **2017 American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress** to present a poster on one of the pioneers of NSTI treatment, Dr. Joseph Jones. Dr. Jones was a Confederate surgeon–scientist whose authoritative research during the Civil War, published in an expansive 400 page surgical memoir, established the core principles for treatment of NSTI which include aggressive surgical debridement, diligent wound care, and systemic medical therapy.

For their poster, which links this historical perspective with modern innovations in NSTI care at Harborview such as “skin–sparing” incisions and immunomodulator therapy, Drs. Labadie and Drouillard won the second prize in the ACS Surgical History Group's annual poster competition.

highest levels of burnout among any group. This is a multifactorial problem and is likely influenced by less interaction with other staff, breakdowns in paging communication between night nurses and night residents, and fewer patient interactions. To help combat this, Drs. Stadeli and Zhu plan to institute a standardized evening huddle between surgical night float residents and charge nurses on the acute care surgical floors. The purpose of these huddles will be to go to the bedside of selected patients previously identified as acutely ill and use the standardized IPASS handoff tool to ensure that all members of the care team, as well as the patient, are updated on the patient's status and that a reasonable, appropriate plan is in place. Following this, nurses will also have an opportunity to discuss non–urgent issues or concerns with the night float resident in person at the nursing station.

Through standardization of these nightly huddles, they aim to develop a paradigm of night float residents as integrated members of the physician care team whereby they are engaged in an interdisciplinary care model that promotes meaningful patient interactions. Drs. Stadeli and Zhu believe that this will enrich the night float work environment by fostering relationships between residents and nurses, creating a setting for night float residents to spend face–to–face time with patients, and improving the efficiency and quality of communication between nurses and trainees.

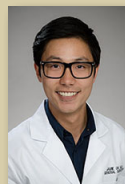
PROJECT TEAM

Resident Leads

Jay Zhu, MD – PGY5 in General Surgery

Kathryn Stadeli, MD – PGY4 in General Surgery

Additional Team Members



Jamie Oh, MD – PGY2, General Surgery

Kathryn Harris, ARNP –

Advanced Practice Provider, General Surgery Division

Tracy Kwan, ARNP –

Advanced Practice Provider, General Surgery Division

Jennifer Zech, MS – Research Coordinator,
Department of Medicine

Patricia Kritek, MD, EdM – Professor,
Division of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine,
and UWMC GME Director of Quality & Patient Safety

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Honors, Awards & Publications

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2017 American Society of Plastic Surgeons “Resident Bowl”

Chief residents in the Division of Plastic Surgery prevailed against all nationwide plastic surgery residency programs in the 2017 American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) “Resident Bowl” competition. The competition is similar to a debate team or group “Jeopardy” in which residents answer questions from the review materials for in-service exams and other curriculum in their training. Winning team members included Drs. **Erin Miller**, **Elise Min**, **Eugene Oh**, and **Tamara Kemp** (pictured right).



The Harkins’ Corner

Dear UW surgical community,

The Harkins Society and our community have had an incredible start to the academic year! The year was kicked off by another very successful Harkins Symposium for resident education. We were honored to be joined by Dr. Andrea Pusic as our 68th Annual Alfred A. Strauss lecturer (page 5). Dr. Pusic is professor of plastic surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering with a focus on breast cancer reconstruction. Her work on patient-reported outcomes and surgical experience (PROSE) has translated to our care of all surgical patients and our understanding of their experience. This is truly exceptional work and we were fortunate to welcome her as our guest lecturer.



Langdale

The symposium was followed by our Annual Harkins Society Dinner at Ivar’s Salmon House. At this event we were honored to name Dr. **Maureen Kim Lynch** as our distinguished alumnus. She was nominated by our colleague Dr. **Lorrie Langdale**, and was unanimously selected by our society leadership (page 5). Dr. Lynch is a master surgeon educator and has won countless awards for her education of our medical students in Idaho. This includes an award created for her—the Idaho WWAMI Teacher Superior

in Perpetuity Award. She is a graduate of both the University Of Washington School Of Medicine as well as our General Surgery residency and now serves our veterans at the Idaho VA. Dr. Lynch humbly describes herself as a “worker bee” but to her patients and students she far exceeds this description. She is well respected by her peers and trainees and is described as “one of the best teachers and physicians I have ever worked with.” Many congratulations to Dr. Lynch for this well-deserved award.



Lynch

Importantly, at our annual Harkins Society dinner we inducted our newest members of the society:

Edo Bedzra
Christopher Burke
Joshua Corsa
Dustin Cummings
Eleanor Curtis
Sarasi Desikan
Anne Ehlers
Katherine Flynn O’Brien
Chinenye Iwuchukwu
Tamara Kemp
Lacey LaGrone
Grace Lopez

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Harkins Corner

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Ashley Meagher
Erin Miller
Elise Min
Eugene Oh
Brodie Parent
Morgan Richards
Lara Senekjian
Ravi Sood
Barclay Stewart
Estell Williams
Haig Yenikomshian

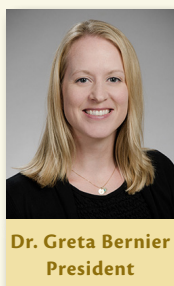
2017 Henry Harkins Surgical Society Inductees



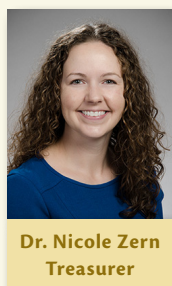
Most recently we were able to connect with our national and international UW surgical community at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in San Diego. We celebrated together at our annual reception at the San Diego Wine and Culinary Event Center, during which we sang happy birthday to our beloved Dr. **Ron Maier**, who was named the 2017–2018 President–Elect of the American College of Surgeons (*page 7*). We were also fortunate to celebrate Dr. **Eileen Bulger's** appointment as the chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma (*page 7*). Congratulations to both!

We look forward to the rest of the year and the continued impact of our Harkins members on our surgical community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Greta Bernier
President



Dr. Nicole Zern
Treasurer

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