

Department of Surgery Retirements

Dr. Patch Dellinger

by Dr. Brant Oelschlager, Professor & Chief,
Division of General Surgery



Dr. Patch Dellinger

One of our Department's surgical giants hung up his gloves and scalpel this summer after a 41 year career on the University of Washington (UW) faculty. Dr. **Patch Dellinger** is the longest tenured surgeon in the Department of Surgery. In fact, I can't find documentation of another surgeon in our history with over 41 years of service. During that time he brought many surgical trends to UW, usually before they appeared

elsewhere, including: the discipline of surgical infection, bariatric surgery and surgical checklists to name but a few.

Patch and his wife Lissa, came to Seattle in 1977 at the recommendation of his fellow chief resident, for what the lifelong New Englanders thought would be a short adventure to the Pacific Northwest. A product of the Harvard system (Harvard MD '70, Beth Israel '77) he brought his high end gastrointestinal surgical



Left to Right: Drs. Carlos Pellegrini, Patch Dellinger, Brant Oelschlager and David Byrd at Dr. Dellinger's retirement party

experience to an awakening trauma center – Harborview – as an early recruit of John Schilling. He admittedly knew little about trauma at the time, but figured his unique, infectious disease fellowship was a good fit for this area of surgery. His instincts as always were good, and he began to change the way surgeons here and throughout the world thought about surgical infections.

Once he became comfortable with the chaotic rhythm of trauma, he sought to add an elective GI practice to his repertoire. It is at this time that he visited and forged a friendship with the Godfather of bariatric surgery, Dr. Ed Mason (University of Iowa), and began the Bariatric Surgery program two decades before the minimally invasive movement made it the ubiquitous staple it is today. One could see clearly his compassion for a segment of our society disadvantaged by their weight, and willingness to fight the bias of public opinion on their behalf, a hallmark of Patch's career.

In 1991, he moved to UWMC to become the Chief of General Surgery – a Division of three at the time. Through his leadership, mentorship, and a culture which resulted in almost no attrition, he grew the Division into the multi-subspecialty, 30 surgeon group it is today. It is a Division with top programs in Bariatric, Foregut, HPB, Emergency General Surgery, Breast, Endocrine, Sarcoma, Melanoma, and Colorectal Surgery, but above all, is comprised of excellent surgeons and people.

Through his work with the World Health Organization (WHO), he made sure we were part of a new experiment – surgical checklists – the idea that a surgical team, like pilots before takeoff, could benefit the patient by routinely reviewing a list of critical steps for surgical success. None of us would now think of making an incision without such a checklist, and Patch brought that to UW before its routine existence in any operating room in the world.

Yet, through all the success and innovation Patch brought to the department, it is the calm, humble, approachable human that each of us love and remember, and it is the spirit that left such an indelible mark on so many that he worked with, for, and on over the last 41 years. Thank you Patch for this legacy, and enjoy the next chapter in your journey.

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Dr. Joseph Gruss

by Drs. Bob Sawin, Surgeon-in-Chief, and Jeff Avansino, Associate Surgeon-in-Chief, Division of Pediatric General Surgery

Like those great, iconic athletes who only require one name (e.g., Lebron, Tiger, Kobe), we all know him simply as, “Joe.” Incredibly, he is retiring from clinical surgery.

For those who have had the pleasure to operate with Joe or watch him operate, we can all attest that he really is a world-class craniofacial and plastic surgeon. He is that perfect combination of great creative thinking and planning, outstanding technical skill, exquisite judgment, and fearless demeanor.

Joe arrived here more than 25 years ago, and built our Craniofacial Program into one of the world’s finest, through collaboration with our neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists, anesthesiologists, craniofacial pediatricians, and others.

Joe has been honored all over the world for his contributions to craniofacial surgery. He has inspired many plastic surgery residents and fellows to become craniofacial surgeons. He will be impossible to replace, but he does leave behind a group of colleagues whom he has trained and influenced. Thus, the program will still be great, just missing one of its superstars.

Although Joe loves golf, he will serve as an Emeritus Professor of Surgery, and thus may occasionally come off the golf course to help teach and mentor – we hope often!

Please join me in congratulating Joe for a truly sensational career. Thank you, Joe for all of the lives that you have improved here and around the world. You are the best.



Dr. Joseph Gruss

Dr. Michael Sobel

by Dr. Ted Kohler, Professor Emeritus

Dr. **Michael Sobel**, Professor Emeritus, Division of Vascular Surgery, is retiring from the UW after many years of providing us with his wisdom, wit, intellect, and good humor. A Harvard graduate, Michael got his MD from Albert Einstein, did his residency and research fellowship at Harvard’s Beth Israel Hospital, and completed his vascular fellowship with Dr. Anthony Imparato. He quickly rose through the academic ranks to Professor at the Medical College of Virginia and was recruited as Chief of Surgery at our VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS) in 2001. His unflinching good nature, wisdom, surgical skills, research prowess, and selfless work on behalf of the widely diverse members of the surgical service at the VAPSHCS made him an instant success.



Dr. Michael Sobel



Sobel in his youth

Michael was recruited by Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor and Chief Medical Officer, who was “impressed from the beginning by his respect towards everyone, his calm temperament exuding tolerance and patience, his laser focus on his research and on promoting the research of others, and his unflinching warm and welcoming smile. He is a gentleman and a scientist, and leaves a lasting legacy to the VAPSHCS and our

department.” Dr. **Benjamin Starnes**, Professor and Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, sums him up as “smart, kind, friendly, trustworthy, and honest. He was welcoming when I became Division Chief in 2007 and was indispensable in helping me navigate complex issues. At the morbidity and mortality (M&M) conference, Michael always asked probing questions to get to the heart of the matter and then gently explained what was done wrong, without making the trainee or faculty member feel dejected. He proudly cared for our veterans, and his research greatly advanced our specialty.”

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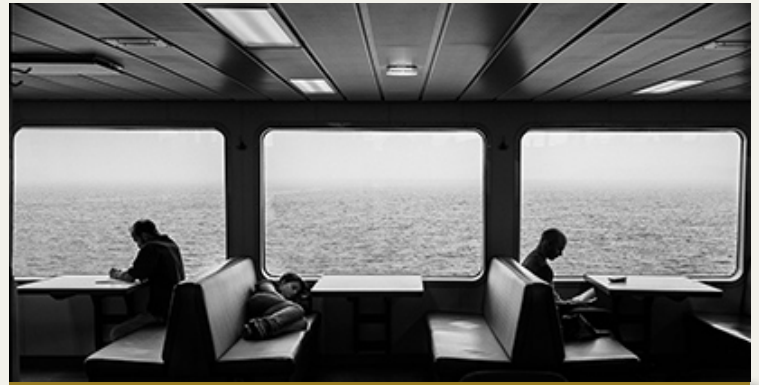
Sobel in France

Michael's laboratory produced hundreds of publications and several patents with the aid of continuous funding throughout his career from multiple sources, including the VAPSHCS and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His work contributed substantially to our understanding of the role of thrombosis and inflammation in vascular disease. He mentored many students, residents, fellows, and faculty. "Without his help, I would not be where I am today," says Dr. **Nam Tran**, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery. Dr.

Tom Hatsukami, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, writes: "When I reflect on my 18 years on staff at the VAPSHCS, I consider how fortunate I was to work with Michael, an amazing role model, clinical partner and research colleague. When Alec Clowes grew too frail to travel, Michael met monthly with our research teams at Alec's home. Michael and Dr. **Richard Kenagy**, Research Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, ensured that Alec's vision was carried forward."

Michael is at once erudite, artistic, charming, intellectual, and humble. His calm presence reflects his Zen approach to life. His patient interactions modeled the very best bedside manner. Jane Blomberg, RN, Vascular Nurse Coordinator, notes that "his patients thought he was the greatest and always asked how he was doing after retirement." His life from college to retirement is bookended with activism, from membership in Students for A Democratic Society (SDS) at Harvard to his current participation in **Common Purpose**, a political justice organization.

Michael is pursuing his love of photography and now refers to himself as a "Seattle photographer focusing on portraits of people and their environments." He creates images that are visually pleasing and also make us think differently about people and spaces that we take for granted or seldom encounter. Check out his portfolio at www.michaelsobel.photo. His artistry includes binding photographs into gorgeous book collections using craftsmanship honed during an apprenticeship in Arles (conducted entirely in French).



From Sobel's Washington Ferries portfolio

Artist, activist, scholar, intellectual, wise counselor, administrator, physician, master surgeon, linguist, photographer, book binder, meditator, friend: Michael Sobel is all of these and more, and he's humble to boot. He has touched so many of our lives, comforted us, and left us the wiser. There's no telling where he will go or what he will do next, but it's bound to be exciting, innovative, and enriching. We wish him the best.

Dr. Nicole Gibran Named Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

by, Dr. John Slattery, Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Education, Professor, Pharmacology, Associate Dean, School of Medicine



Dr. Nicole Gibran

"I am very pleased to announce that Dr. **Nicole Gibran**, Professor, Burn Center, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care, has agreed to serve as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, Harborview Medical Center. In this capacity, Dr. Gibran will succeed Dr. Sheila Lukehart in that part of Dr. Lukehart's former portfolio that has to do with the research needs of the School of Medicine researchers and research programs at Harborview Medical Center."

Dr. Gibran expresses, "Transitioning from Director of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center to Associate Dean for Research was never something that I imagined. I welcome the opportunity to engage with faculty and administration to enrich and highlight our exemplary Harborview Medical Center based research programs."

Dr. Gibran completed her MD degree at Boston University School of Medicine and continued through her surgery residency at Boston University. She completed Burn and Intensive Care, NIH Trauma, and Northwest Burn Foundation Research Fellowships at the University

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of Washington. Dr. Gibran's independent professional career has been in the UW Medicine Department of Surgery and the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center, which she has directed since 2002. Dr. Gibran has announced her decision to step down as the Director of the Regional Burn Center and from patient care activities to focus on research.

Dr. Gibran has run a very successful NIH-funded research program at Harborview throughout her career and is deeply committed to the culture and work of the Harborview community. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Gibran as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. James Park Selected as the 2018–19 WISH Clinical Director for Surgical Specialties

Dr. **James Park**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, has been selected as the **WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH)** Clinical Director for Surgical Specialties for the 2018–19 academic year.

In this position, Dr. Park will continue to serve as specialty specific champion for Surgical Specialties, to identify and provide leadership in prioritizing the education and training needs within UW Medicine's healthcare simulation programs. This year, WISH is focusing on the development and implementation of champion groups within Dr. Park's respective domains and asked that Dr. Park serve as Chair for the WISH Clinical Education sub-committee. Additionally, Dr. Park will continue to participate as a content expert, participating in quarterly review teams for the WISH Resourcing Application Program.



Dr. Kristine Calhoun Accepts Position as Director of Medical Student Surgical Education

by, Karen Horvath, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Director, Residency Programs in General and Preliminary Surgery, Associate Chair for Education, Division of Education



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. **Kristine Calhoun** has accepted the position of the Director of Medical Student Surgical Education for the Department of Surgery, assuming oversight for all rotation sites and specialty rotations.

Dr. Calhoun has been working in surgical education since 2007, when she became the Site Director for medical students rotating at UWMC in General Surgery. During her time in that position more and more students have sought out UWMC as a desired site at which to perform their third year surgery clerkships. In 2013 Dr. Calhoun became the Associate Director for Medical Student Surgical Education, and has implemented a number of improvements and changes to the clerkship experience for all students, including development of a curriculum in pain management and a robust process for mid-clerkship feedback.

Dr. Calhoun will be replacing Dr. **Roger Tatum** who has served in the Director role since 2005. Over the last 13 years of Dr. Tatum's tenure, the size of the UW School of Medicine entering class has grown dramatically from approximately 180 students to 270 each year. The Department has responded by increasing the number of clerkship sites at which our students rotate from eight back in 2005 to 20 today, including new sites in all five WWAMI states and in Seattle. The number of appointed clinical faculty involved with medical student teaching has doubled. Dr. Tatum oversaw the creation of a robust career counseling program for UW medical students within the Department. For additional perspective, from six UW students pursuing surgical specialties in 2006 we now have nearly 10% of the class applying in surgery which is double the average percentage of students across the country. Dr. Tatum will now transition into the Associate Director role vacated by Dr. Calhoun and of course will continue to serve as the Chief of Surgery at VA Puget Sound.

Dr. Calhoun comments, "I am excited to assume this role from the capable hands of Dr Tatum and thank him for his service to students these past 13 years. Training our future surgeons starts

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at the clerkship level and we have seen an amazing increase in the number of UWSoM students interested in surgical careers. This is a direct reflection of the breadth of experiences available at the many Surgery clerkship sites and the strength of the faculty and residents involved in their education. I look forward to continuing the relationships we have established, forging new ones, and finessing medical student education at the many WWAMI sites that welcome students.”

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Calhoun as she assumes this important leadership position at an exciting time in our Department with our new Division of Education!

Teresa Kim, MD, Appointed Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery

Dr. **Teresa Kim** is a surgical oncologist with expertise in the management of sarcomas, melanomas, and other cancers of the soft tissue, skin, and gastrointestinal tract. Her primary sites of practice are at UWMC, where she operates, and **Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA)**, where she sees patients in clinic. 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 the University of Washington (UW). 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.



Dr. Teresa Kim

Dr. Kim’s clinical interests include sarcoma, gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), melanoma, immunotherapy, and clinical trials. Her research interests include translational tumor immunology and novel approaches to combination therapy. Outside of work, she and her husband enjoy exploring the Pacific Northwest.

Surgical Ethics Conference



Drs. Douglas Wood & Alberto Ferreres

Earlier this month, the Department of Surgery’s Center for Surgical Ethics hosted its 2nd Annual Summer Conference. The event, co-hosted by Drs. **Alberto Ferreres**, Director of the UW Center for Surgical Ethics, Denise Dudzinski, Chair, Department of Bioethics and Humanities, and **Douglas Wood**, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair*, drew a crowd of nearly 40 conference participants – including surgeons, nurses, clinical psychologists, chaplains, administrators, and academic faculty from 8 U.S. states as well as one participant from Argentina.

The conference’s flash sessions, presented by colleagues from Seattle Children’s, Swedish Hospital, University of Michigan, and University of Washington’s (UW) Department of Surgery were punctuated by this year’s keynote address “What’s Different About Surgical Ethics,” provided by Dr. Peter Angelos, Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics, University of Chicago. The presentations highlighted a variety of challenges facing healthcare providers in today’s ever-changing healthcare climate, including the patient/family member’s role in shared decision making and informed consent, as well as discussion around the topic of surgical gatekeeping and the surgeon’s responsibilities to their patients.

In the afternoon, conference participants delved deeper into the intricacies of ethical decision making and moral reasoning through small group case studies, led by ethicists from the UW’s Department

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of Bioethics and Humanities. The afternoon's presentations were highlighted by a panel discussion, navigating the ethics of the mentor-mentee relationship in healthcare.

To learn more about the Center for Surgical Ethics and next year's Surgical Ethics Conference, please contact Megan Sherman (shermm@uw.edu).

#ilooklikeasurgeon Artwork by Andrea Gahl Highlighted in JAMA Network



Andrea Gahl

The Department of Surgery highlighted artwork by **Andrea Gahl**, trauma nurse coordinator at Harborview Medical Center, in the Spring 2018 *Surgery Synopsis* issue, in the article “#ilooklikeasurgeon Art,” for her paintings promoting and respecting diversity in the surgical community. Andrea's artwork has now been highlighted in a **JAMA Network** article “**Deck the Halls With Diverse Portraits**” featuring her painting “Millennial Madonna, or Estell, Finally.”



Millennial Madonna, or Estell, Finally by Andrea Gahl, oil on canvas, 30 x 48 in, 2018.

Andrea reflects, “I think of artists as observers and recorders of culture, past, present, and imagined futures. I was honored that Drs. Wellbery and Mishori saw one of my portraits as an example of the diversity of future leaders in medicine. I'm grateful to the many residents who sat for me and shared their stories with me. Their stories and perspectives on racial and gender equity encouraged and inspired me to continue exploration of the topic through my paintings. I'm heartened that more medical institutions are realizing that tangible representation by both race and gender are critical and am hopeful that accompanied with intentional institutional interventions, we can create an inclusive culture that allows for diversity of perspectives and improves the care we provide to our community.”

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY— IN THE MEDIA



Lavallee

Dr. **Danielle Lavallee**, Research Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery
“Episode 2: Put me in doc, the patient as team player”
 UW Care Transformation — The Transformer Podcast



Mandell

Dr. **Sam Mandell**, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery
“When did scald burns become a prank?”
 — UW Medicine Newsroom



Pellegrini



Pillarisetty

Drs. **Carlos Pellegrini**, UW Medicine Chief Medical Officer, **Venu Pillarisetty**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, and Heidi Gray, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
“Episode 3: Cookbook Medicine: A Recipe for Success?” UW Care Transformation — The Transformer Podcast



Sibulesky

Dr. **Lena Sibulesky**, Associate Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery, **“You need a new kidney to stay alive. Would you reject one from someone who died of a drug overdose?”** STAT, September, 18, 2018



Smith

Dr. **Jason Smith**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
“Heart-transplant program opens access to Hep C-positive donors” — UW Medicine Newsroom



Verrier

Dr. **Edward Verrier**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
“Woman receives second heart transplant at UW—27 years after first” — Seattle KIRO 7 News



Wood

Dr. **Douglas Wood**, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair*, University of Washington, Department of Surgery
“Have you been screened? Learn about UW/SCCA's lung cancer screening program” — UW Medicine's The Huddle

Dr. **Douglas Wood**, *The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair*, University of Washington, Department of Surgery
“Should lung cancer screening be expanded to those who don't meet criteria?” — CHEST Journal Podcasts Released June 19, 2018 (Requires iTunes)