

Surgery News

DR. CARLOS A. PELLEGRINI, UW MEDICINE CMO, RETIRES FROM UW MEDICINE

*Excerpted from announcement by Dr. Paul Ramsey,
CEO, UW Medicine, Executive Vice President for
Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine*



Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini, Professor Emeritus, announced his retirement as Chief Medical Officer (CMO) from UW Medicine effective December 31, 2018.

During his remarkable career, Dr. Pellegrini served as Chair of the Department of Surgery for 23 years and has been our founding CMO for the last three years. In these major administrative roles, he provided outstanding leadership and made numerous contributions to our mission of improving the health of the public.

As department Chair, Dr. Pellegrini was an exemplary role model for the UW Medicine “Patients Are First” approach to clinical care. He was a mentor to faculty,

staff and students, and focused on developing relationships to bring people together as the best way to advance the profession. His work to advance the Department of Surgery included helping to raise more than \$30 million from patients and community supporters to create several endowed Chairs and professorships. In addition, with his wife, Kelly, he made significant personal donations to create a fellowship in surgical ethics, a fellowship in education, and the **Carlos A. Pellegrini Diversity Visiting Student Internships Program**.

Dr. Pellegrini’s impact as CMO has been equally significant. He provided executive leadership and strategic guidance for the integration of clinical practice with education and research activities across all UW Medicine sites of practice. He has also focused on building support for care transformation as a way to achieve the Triple Aim goals for healthcare reform: provide a high-quality patient experience, improve the health of populations and decrease healthcare costs. As part of this care transformation, he has been a passionate advocate for advancing healthcare equity, diversity and inclusion, and under his leadership, UW Medicine has become a national leader with our **Healthcare Equity Blueprint**.

“As UW Medicine’s first CMO, I had a chance to reach beyond the individual patients and help our larger community, patients and providers alike,” Dr. Pellegrini says. “This would have never been possible without the team that I had the privilege to work with. I am tremendously indebted to them for their dedication and for the inspiration they provided me.”

With Dr. Pellegrini’s retirement, Dr. Tim Dellit has agreed to serve as CMO for UW Medicine, effective January 2019.

We wish to thank Dr. Pellegrini for his 26 years of service to UW Medicine.

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SAWIN STEPPING DOWN AS SEATTLE CHILDREN'S SURGEON-IN-CHIEF

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



Dr. **Bob Sawin**, Professor & Surgeon-in-Chief, Division of Pediatric General Surgery at **Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH)**, announced he will step down as Surgeon-in-Chief in June 2019.

Dr. Sawin is an incredibly dedicated and talented surgeon and leader who has led exponential growth in our surgery program. He came to SCH in 1987 as a surgical fellow, served as chief surgical resident from 1988 to 1989 and joined the SCH's University Medical Group (CUMG) faculty in 1989.

He has built an incredible legacy during his decades-long tenure. Within his first year as a faculty member, Dr. Sawin collaborated with Drs. Denis Mayock, neonatologist, and Pearl O'Rourke, former chief of Children's Pediatric ICU, to set up SCH's Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program. He performed the vast majority of the first 50 ECMO cannulations.

Also in 1990, he collaborated with Dr. **Jim Perkins**, Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery, to set up SCH's liver transplant program. Together they performed the first 25 liver transplant surgeries.

Dr. Sawin was named chief of the Division of Pediatric General Surgery in 1995. He served as a SCH Department of Surgery, Associate Director from 1999 to 2002 and was then named Surgeon-in-Chief.

When he took on the role in 2002, the Department of Surgery had 19 CUMG faculty members; today it has 47. He has done an incredible job growing our surgical program by partnering with Chairs of surgical departments at the UW School of Medicine to recruit top talent in all disciplines, and working to ensure each faculty member is set up for success so he can "step out of their way and let them do their very best work."

He served in a teaching capacity at the UW since 1989 and was named the Herbert E. Coe Endowed Chair of Pediatric Surgery in 2008. He has also served as president of the CUMG faculty practice plan since 2008 and is a member and leader of countless associations, including the American College of Surgeons where he serves on the Pediatric Surgical Advisory Committee, the Children's Surgery Center Committee, and the Quality Pillar of the College. He currently serves as president of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association.

Although Dr. Sawin will step down from the Surgeon-in-Chief role in June, he will continue to serve Children's through some inpatient rounding and seeing patients in clinic. He looks forward to continuing to teach and mentor residents and fellows, sharing his invaluable expertise with the next generation of surgeons. Bob will also embark on a new adventure — he is trained as an executive coach and plans to work with healthcare providers to help them be and do their best.

SCH is enlisting the assistance of an external firm to conduct a national search for the next Surgeon-in-Chief. In the meantime, we wish to thank Dr. Sawin for his years of service

to our patients, their families and each of us. SCH is a better place because of him.

CRAIG ROBERT VOCELKA RECEIVES THE 2019 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EXTRACORPOREAL TECHNOLOGY'S THE JOHN H. GIBBON JR. AWARD



Craig Robert Vocolka, Chief Perfusionist, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, received the 2019 American Society of Extracorporeal Technology's (AmSECT) The John H. Gibbon Jr. Award. This award is designed to honor a candidate who is making a significant contribution to the cardiopulmonary discipline interrelating with the field of extracorporeal circulation.

Craig was nominated by **Renee Axdorff—Dickey**, Pediatric Cardiovascular Perfusionist at Seattle Childrens Hospital. Renee's nomination comments included:

"Craig Vocolka's contributions to the field of Extracorporeal Technology and AMSECT are numerous. The breadth and depth of his involvement are remarkable, and he has helped transform our profession from an on-the-job trained technologist to the well-educated respected professional. Craig's dedicated, humble, and passionate approach to leading our community through publication, mentorship, and education to a greater level of competence is renowned.

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Craig's Curriculum Vitae (CV) shows how much he has accomplished in the way of setting up pumps and caring for patients. One of Craig's recent contributions to our profession, patients, and AmSECT, is a paper that includes a bold-faced honest review of a Legionella outbreak at the University of Washington (UW) Hospital. This subject might have been overlooked, unpublished and remained a little known bit of history about the UW hospital cardiac program. After publication, it is now in our minds as the landscape of our work changes on a daily basis. Craig's last paper brought ethics to the forefront of the conversation on patient care. Formulating a model for ethical decisions in medicine is a visionary concept on patient care. It's what we try to accomplish each day as part of our profession; make life better for those we care for?"

Craig commented on the award, "While this is great honor for me, I must say that this award really belongs to the entire team. The many UW perfusionists over the years have all supported my efforts in the lab and our professional society. I'm especially grateful to Dr. **Edward Verrier**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, who gave me the great opportunity to be involved with his lab during his work with inflammation and endothelial damage.

As I look at the list of the previous recipients, I am so honored and humbled to be listed with such great names in cardiac surgery and so thankful and blessed for all the support I've received at the University."

UW MEDICINE KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PROGRAM CELEBRATES 204 TRANSPLANTS

Ramasamy Bakthavatsalam, MBBS, Professor of Surgery and Urology, Division of Transplant Surgery

Nicolae Leca, MD, Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation and Clinical Associate Professor of Nephrology

Kay Wicks, Administrator, Department of Surgery



Bakthavatsalam



Leca

The **Kidney Transplant Program at UW Medicine** is celebrating the milestone of **204 kidney transplants** performed in 2018. This unprecedented achievement is accompanied by the best national outcomes at 3 years post kidney transplantation. These accomplishments identify the UW Kidney Transplant Program as one of the premier kidney transplant programs in the United States which contributed to its recognition by the United Network for Organ Sharing as a top 10 program nationally.

We would like to send our appreciation to the hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic transplant team, and to the support of UW Medicine leadership for this amazing achievement. We look forward to many more accomplishments in the future.

NEW FACULTY



Dr. **Christopher Burke** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. His clinical and research area of focus is diseases of the thoracic aorta. Dr. Burke strongly believes in the concept of a multi-disciplinary approach to thoracic aortic disease, incorporating cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, medical genetics, and cardiology. His hopes are to build upon the thoracic surgery aortic program by focusing on aortic valve repair, advanced endovascular therapy of the aortic arch and ascending aorta, and expanding the UW Medicine bicuspid and genetic aortopathy program.

Originally from Michigan, Dr. Burke completed undergraduate studies at Brown University and medical school at the University of Michigan. He then came to the UW and completed the integrated cardiothoracic surgery residency program. During his time as a surgical resident at UW, he finished an extracorporeal life support (ECLS) research fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital. Following completion of cardiothoracic surgery residency, he went on to the University of Pennsylvania to complete an advanced aortic surgery fellowship under Dr. Joseph Bavaria.

Dr. Burke's patient-care philosophy is simple: treat every single patient as you would like a parent or a sibling to be treated. In his free time, Dr. Burke enjoys exploring the Pacific Northwest with his wife, Maureen. Specifically, he is passionate about fly fishing and can be found chasing trout (usually with minimal success) in many local streams.