

# FACULTY CLINICAL HIGHLIGHT—DR. NICOLE ZERN



Dr. Nicole Zern

## Roosevelt Thyroid Nodule Clinic Opens

The Department of Surgery is proud to announce the grand opening of the Thyroid Nodule Clinic this August.

The Thyroid Nodule Clinic is located at the UW Roosevelt Clinic and is the result of the hard work and collaborative efforts of the UW Endocrine Tumor Program, a group comprised surgeons, endocrinologists, pathologists and otolaryngologists. This multidisciplinary clinic offers patients the opportunity to meet with an expert thyroid clinician, undergo fine needle aspiration (FNA) of the thyroid nodule, and obtain results all within one same-day clinic encounter. This streamlined patient experience is unique to the Pacific Northwest.

Thyroid cancer is now the 9th most common malignancy and is being diagnosed more frequently, in part due to increased detection. While the 5-year survival rate for people with thyroid cancer is high (~98%), patients can suffer from recurrence of their disease even after many years.

Endocrine surgery is a very specialized field dedicated to the management of endocrine diseases of the neck and abdomen. Endocrine surgery encompasses care of thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreatic disease, both benign and malignant.

There are currently only four American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES) members in Washington State, including Dr. **Nicole Zern**, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery, who joined the Department of Surgery faculty in 2016. Dr. Zern completed her general surgery training at UW followed by fellowship training at the University of Sydney in Australia, during which time she performed over 300 operations on the thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands.

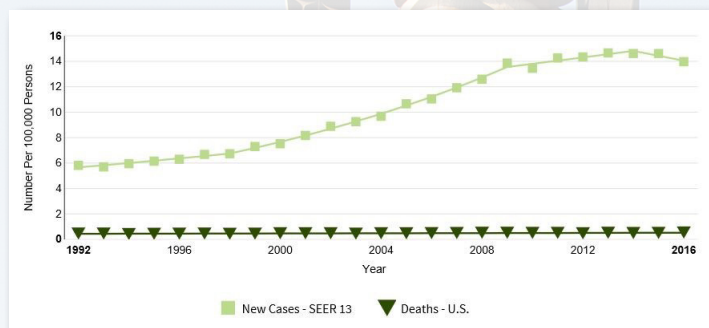


Figure 1. SEER data showing new thyroid cancer cases and deaths in United States, 1992–2016 (<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/thyro.html>)

If you have a patient with a thyroid nodule or endocrine disorder, or have questions about the new Same-Day FNA Clinic, please feel free to contact Dr. Zern directly at [nkzern@uw.edu](mailto:nkzern@uw.edu).

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY—IN THE MEDIA

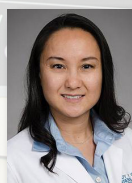


Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor & Chief of Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

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Dr. **Judy Chen**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

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Dr. **Nicole Gibran**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education for Harborview Medical Center, David and Nancy Auth Endowed Chair for Restorative Burn Surgery, and Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

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