

SURGERY Synopsis



Summer is wrapping up – in many ways it is the busiest time of year in an academic medicine department. July marks the start of a new academic year– we bring on our new resident classes; many of our new faculty, whom we’ve recruited and prepared for over the preceding months, come on board during the summer; graduating Residents and Fellows transition to new roles and jobs; and some of our faculty depart: some to exciting new chapters in their professional life, and some to enjoy the pleasures of retirement. This is the normal rhythm of the Department of Surgery.

The summer of activities, of comings and goings and all the events associated, inspired focus on the “Community” of the Department of Surgery. Thinking about our community – what makes it happen, how it thrives and endures – first requires that we develop a shared understanding of what it means. Authors McMillan and Chavis note some important attributes of Community in their 1986 article “Sense of community: A definition and theory”: a sense of belonging and identification, a feeling of influence, group cohesiveness and boundaries, emotional safety, shared values and personal investment in the community.¹

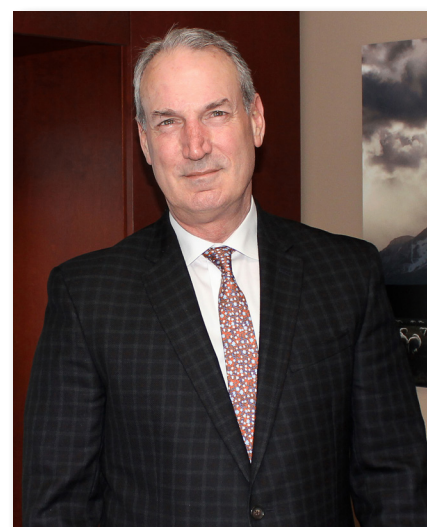
These attributes resonate with my sense of community within the Department of Surgery. I am proud and grateful the Department of Surgery has a strong sense of community that we continue to

build and expand. I was powerfully reminded of this at our first annual summer all-faculty, staff, and trainees “Pellegrini Day,” picnic held on July 14, 2019. Not only was it a community-building event which was well attended by all segments of our Department and their families, but we also had opportunity to hear from Dr. Pellegrini. He reflected on the Department and noted that with the benefit of time since leaving his post as Chair, he realizes how unique the sense of community in the Department of Surgery is. We get along, there is a sense of camaraderie and belonging, shared values, mutual respect and personal investment. He noted that while there certainly are other Departments of Surgery that have strong community, we are unique in the strength of our relationships and the resilience of our shared purpose. Reading back through the tribute to Carlos upon his stepping down after 20 years as Chair in 2012, the testimonials tell us how much he had to do with building our Community. *“He treats everyone like family.” “From him I learned how to be a better clinician, educator and surgeon, but also a better person.” “He taught me that we are not separate pieces: work life and home life, but a woven cloth of values and passions.”*

We are good and have a solid foundation, but I would propose we are not yet great. I want us to be GREAT!

I have learned from many of you of the gaps and weaknesses in our community.

CHAIR’S MESSAGE



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

Many have heard me discuss this over the past months. I especially want to thank the residents for speaking up and helping us identify areas for improvement, with the goal of continuing to change and improve our culture. A key point is that we are ALL responsible for culture and community. It is my stated goal and highest priority to continue and grow our Department of Surgery Community, but I can’t do it myself, nor can just the faculty. Every one of us is responsible and has a role in positively influencing the culture and community that we all live and work in.

¹McMillan, D.W., & Chavis, D.M. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. American Journal of Community Psychology, 14(1), 6-23.

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Division of General Surgery

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Trauma, Injury &
Inflammation T32 Research Fellowship

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Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes,
T32 Research Fellowship

Russell Ettinger, MD, Assistant Professor,
Division of Plastic Surgery

Richard Hopper, MD, MS, Professor
and Marlys C. Larson Endowed Chair in
Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery,
Division of Plastic Surgery

Alex Lois, MD, Gastrointestinal Surgical
Outcomes T32 Research Fellowship

Dr. Jamie Oh, Senior Fellow, Trauma,
Injury & Inflammation
Inflammation T32 Research Fellowship

Barclay Stewart, MD, PhD, MScPH, Assistant
Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn &
Critical Care Surgery

Estell Williams, MD, Assistant Professor,
Division of General Surgery

Nicole Zern, MD, Assistant Professor,
Division of General Surgery

CHAIR'S MESSAGE –

Continued from page 1

My column in the last issue of Surgery Synopsis focused on our Wellness Initiative. A bold plan was laid out, the primary goal of improving individual wellness to inspire better patient care. Secondary goals are: 1) promote rewarding work-life balance; 2) improve professional interactions; 3) sustain and energize morale; 4) build community; and 5) promote faculty satisfaction and retention. Our first step in this journey has happened: a comprehensive survey to all faculty, trainees and staff has just closed and we are awaiting compilation and analysis of the data. We are excited to learn where we are and to use the data to map our future directions in this arena.

Another important aspect of community-building is to continue our journey toward greater diversity and inclusion. The Department of Surgery co-sponsored a June event including a symposium, conversations, and lectures regarding racism in medicine and its impact on health disparities. Dr. Rachael Hardeman and Dr. Eduardo Medina were the invited guests. The sessions were thought provoking and difficult, but necessary conversations took place. This event culminated with a Grand Rounds entitled "Structural Racism and Clinical Practice: Challenges and Opportunities." We were pleased to have participated in making this event a reality. Please read more about it on page 11.

Our community has brought on some outstanding new faculty. Please read about them on page 8. Our new group of residents and fellows continues to be a strong, diverse group of doctors and we're proud to have them join us. Please read about and view the pictures of our new residents and fellows on pages 4 and 6.

We've also said goodbye to a truly outstanding faculty member: We lost Dr. **Joseph Gruss** to pancreatic cancer in June. He was a Pediatric Plastic/Craniofacial Surgeon & Professor Emeritus. He lived a remarkable life and his work was world-renowned. Read the touching tribute to him on page 3.

Our faculty continue to make news: please read "In the Media" (page 12) to find reference to news items such as public policy research being conducted to address gun violence; and the UW Medicine milestone of the 1,000th lung transplant, performed by Dr. **Mike Mulligan**; and many others.

And, get to know another side of Dr. **Niten Singh** in our #GettingToKnowDOS column on page 14. Dr. Singh is a professor and Associate Chief of Vascular Surgery. He is a talented clinician and educator and leader in that Division and nation-wide.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Sincerely,

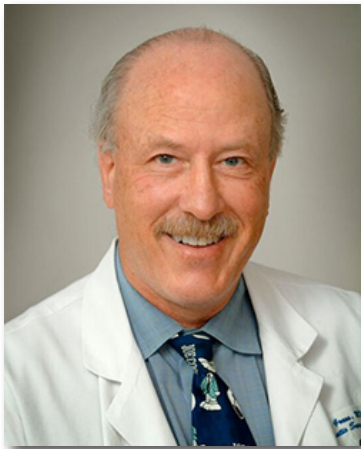
Douglas E. Wood, MD,
FACS, FRCSEd (ad hom)
The Henry N. Harkins
Professor and Chair



Surgery News

DR. JOSEPH GRUSS REMEMBRANCE

RICHARD HOPPER, MD, MS, PROFESSOR AND MARLYS C. LARSON
ENDOWED CHAIR IN PEDIATRIC CRANIOFACIAL SURGERY, DIVISION OF
PLASTIC SURGERY



The Department of Surgery celebrates
the remarkable life and career
of Dr. Joseph S. Gruss

The Department of Surgery wishes to recognize and celebrate the career of Dr. Joseph S. Gruss, Professor Emeritus of the University of Washington. Dr. Gruss retired from active practice last year after 28 years of service at the University. He died this June after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer.

Joe Gruss was born in Johannesburg, South Africa on April 5th, 1945. After declining an opportunity to become a professional footballer, he completed his medical training and spent a year as a family doctor and casualty officer before moving to England for surgical training. In 1973, Joe moved to Toronto to train as a plastic surgeon. In his first faculty position at the University of Toronto, Joe displayed his life-long passion and talent for facial reconstruction. Despite fierce early criticism and resistance, he introduced novel and controversial concepts of early bone grafting and fixation that are now the foundation of modern facial trauma surgery. Already an internationally known surgeon, Joe was recruited in 1991 to join the Division of Plastic Surgery

at the University of Washington as a full Professor. He continued his ground-breaking work at the Harborview Medical Center facial trauma program, but he also saw the opportunity to take principles of facial trauma surgery and apply them to help children born with complex craniofacial deformities. He joined the Craniofacial team at Seattle Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center and fostered its growth into the world-class interdisciplinary Seattle Children's Hospital Craniofacial Center. He published pioneering papers on how to distinguish infant skull deformities that needed surgery from those that did not. His dedication to team care of children born with cleft lip and palate earned him the Marlys C. Larson Endowed Chair. Patients were referred from around the world for his surgical approach to giant neurofibroma tumors of the face and neck. A tireless educator, Joe gave more than 300 invited lectures, and founded the UW Craniofacial Surgery fellowship program 18 years ago that has graduated many of today's leading surgeons. Although he received many prestigious career achievement awards, Joe Gruss always said his true honor was the opportunity to work with and get to know so many inspiring young patients as they faced their severe facial differences with courage and determination.

In January of this year, Joe wanted a celebration of craniofacial surgery in Seattle, and fellows and colleagues from around the world joined him at the first Gruss Lectureship in Facial Reconstruction. Afterwards, he said that event was his true eulogy. Our Department will forever miss and thank our friend, pioneer and thought-leader, not just for his tremendous surgical skill and experience, but for the passion and heart he dedicated to the care of children from around the world.



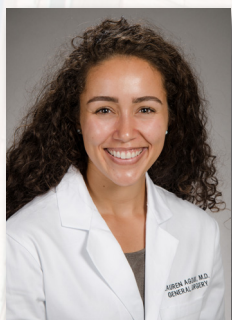
Joe Gruss at Komfe Anochie Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana as a member of the Seattle Children's Partners in Africa Cleft Teams (PACT) program. A passionate educator, Gruss loved to travel the world to share his experience and knowledge with young surgeons.

In lieu of a memorial service, Dr. Gruss asked that friends and family continue his work advancing pediatric craniofacial surgery through donations to the Seattle Children's Joseph S. Gruss Lectureship Fund (<https://givetoseattlechildrens.org/gruss>)

The Department of Surgery welcomes our new, first-year 2019-2020 residents. The Department is proud to have this group begin their surgical educational journeys working towards being leaders in their fields.

Surgery

News



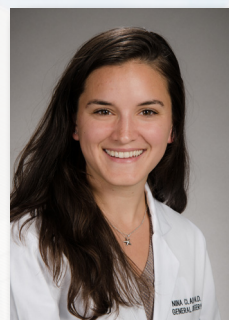
Lauren Agoubi, MD
General Surgery R1



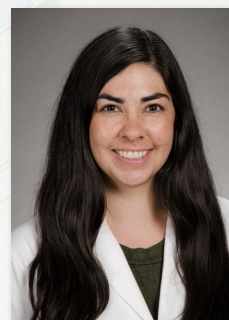
Christina Beck, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



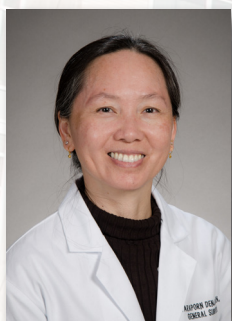
Alex Charboneau, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Nina Clark, MD
General Surgery R1



K. Concha-Moore, MD
Vascular Surgery R1



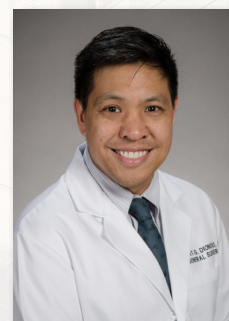
May Denjearn, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Arjune Dhanekula, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery R1



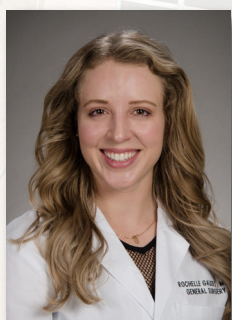
Lindsay Dickerson, MD
General Surgery R1



Robert Dionisio, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Danielle Eble, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



Rochelle Gaudet, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



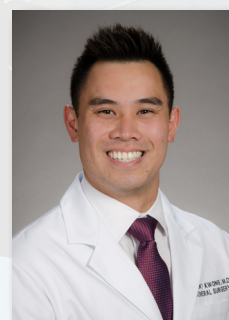
Abhi Jain, DO
Preliminary Surgery R1



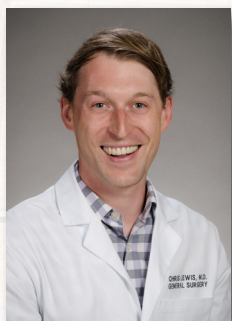
Cameron Kneib, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



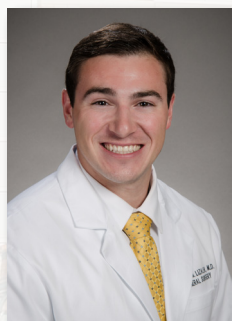
L. Kuzomunhu, MD
General Surgery R1



Jacky Kwong, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Christopher Lewis, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



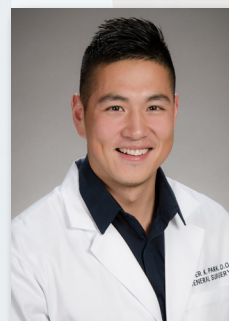
Jason Lizalek, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Kate McNevin, MD
General Surgery R1



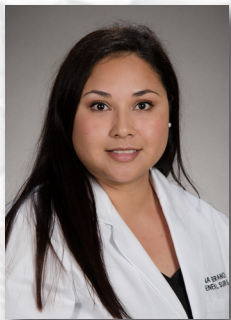
Ryan Musolf, DO
Preliminary Surgery R1



Peter Park, DO
Preliminary Surgery R1

Surgery

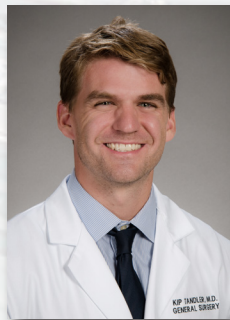
News



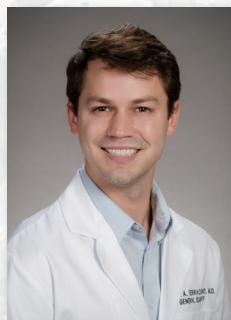
Elina Serrano, MD
General Surgery R1



Amar Shah, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



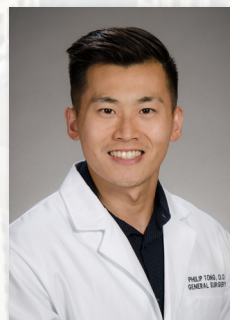
Charles "Kip" Tandler, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



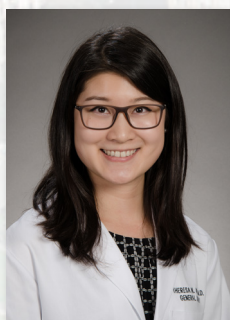
Justin Terracciano, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Nikhitha Thrikutam, MD
Plastic Surgery R1



Philip Tong, DO
Preliminary Surgery R1



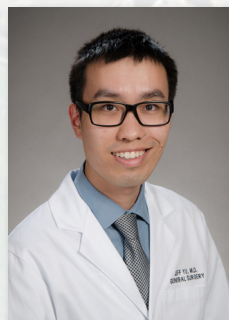
Theresa Wang, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Michael Wong, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1



Denzel Woode, MD
General Surgery R1



Jefferson Yu, MD
Preliminary Surgery R1

WHY I CHOSE RESIDENCY AT UW DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

"Fantastic program with an excellent track record of supporting its residents. Great departmental and institutional culture."

"The clinical experience, particularly that which is offered at Harborview Medical Center is second-to-none and it was a privilege to join this surgical family."

"I absolutely loved the people and program here on my interview day. Then, once you factor in the great city, stunning nature, and friends of mine in the area--it was an easy choice."

"First, I was impressed and identified with the department's values and priorities. Second, the conversations I had during and after my interview were some of the most genuine, engaging interactions I had throughout the entire interview process. Third, I felt like at UW I could achieve my clinical, academic, and leadership goals and, importantly, be happy and have fun while doing it. Finally, I saw Mount Rainier through the hospital window and knew I wanted to live here."

"The opportunity to come home for a year while learning to care for complicated surgical patients."

"Multiple reasons but most importantly, the culture among residents and attendings is incredibly collegial and supportive. The level of training at UW is already exceptional and that, coupled with a nurturing environment, I think is the best part about being at UW."

"I chose to come to UW for the year because of its supportive culture of medicine that emphasizes education and teamwork."

"The culture and quality. UW has a culture of inclusion and excellence. It makes the learning environment that much more productive. There is also a clear sense that everyone from the top down is concerned with producing top quality care for their patients. It's the kind of place I wanted to be, and it has not disappointed."

Surgery News

We are proud to present this year's new research residents. Research is a key component of the UW Department of Surgery's residency programs and these residents have each "paused" their clinical training in order to complete a two-year research fellowship. Our research residents, along with their clinical peers who work hard to find time to participate in numerous projects throughout their training, all play an integral role in fulfilling the Department's research mission.



Catherine Beni, MD, PhD, 2019-2021

Dr. Beni is a research fellow in the NIH-funded **T32 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma and Burns** under the direction of Principal Investigator Dr. **Grant O'Keefe**, Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery. Dr. Beni's work is focused on translational research for precision trauma resuscitation. She is working with existing ICU patient data to better understand current resuscitation practices after trauma, with the goal of creating decision-making tools and feedback-control algorithms (utilizing mathematical modeling) for fluid resuscitation. She is also working on improving the evaluation of volume status in critically ill patients. She ultimately intends to pursue a fellowship in trauma and critical care.



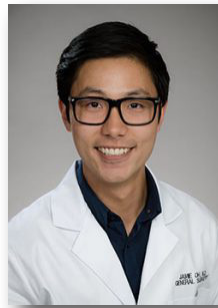
David Drouillard, MD, 2019-2021

Dr. Drouillard is a trainee in the NIDDK-funded **T32 fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research** at the **Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)** under the direction of Dr. **David Flum**, Professor in the Division of General Surgery. He is interested in comparative effectiveness research and health systems and policy. His research will involve multiple areas of general surgery with a focus on the evidence-based management of diverticulitis. During his fellowship, Dr. Drouillard will also complete a Master of Science in Public Health at the University of Washington with a focus on Health Services. He plans to ultimately pursue a fellowship in colorectal surgery and a career as an academic surgeon.



Alex Lois, MD, 2019-2021

Dr. Lois is a trainee in the NIDDK-funded **T32 fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research** at the **Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)** under the tutelage of Dr. **David Flum**, Professor in the Division of General Surgery. His research will span a variety of clinical areas including health systems and policy, surgical ethics, and examining patient reported outcomes in general and foregut surgery. Additionally, Dr. Lois will be enrolled at the University of Washington, completing a Master of Science degree with a focus in Epidemiology. This advanced coursework in quantitative and qualitative research methodology and data analysis will facilitate his ongoing research at SORCE and help prepare him for a future career as a physician scientist. Following residency Dr. Lois plans to complete a fellowship in minimally invasive and foregut surgery with the goal of continuing a career in academic surgery.



Jamie Oh, MD, 2019-2021

Dr. Oh is a research fellow in the NIH-funded **T32 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma and Burns** under the direction of Principal Investigator Dr. **Grant O'Keefe**, Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, and 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. Dr. Oh will focus on translational research involving human models for wound healing. He will be analyzing RNA and DNA genome data to elucidate genetic influences on scarring and long term functional outcomes following burn injury. He will also work on clinical projects involving the burn registry, such as determining racial and socioeconomic determinants for outcomes after burn injury. During these two years, Dr. Oh will also be enrolled in the Masters of Science in Epidemiology program through the UW School of Public Health, focusing on clinical research methods. He plans to ultimately pursue a fellowship in trauma and critical care.

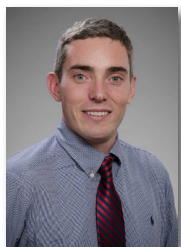
The Department of Surgery is honored to welcome our new clinical and research fellows.

Surgery

News



Dr. Arezou Abbasi,
Senior Fellow,
PI: Dr. Venu Pillarisetty Lab



Dr. Jeffrey Anderson,
Fellow, Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



Dr. Catherine Beni, Senior Fellow,
Trauma, Injury & Inflammation
Inflammation T32 Research Fellowship



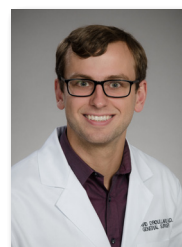
Dr. Navin Bhatia, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



Dr. Mert Calis, Senior Fellow,
Pediatric Craniofacial
Surgery Fellowship



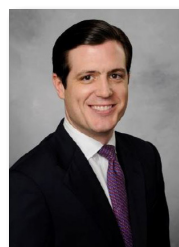
Dr. Zhanjiang Cao,
Senior Fellow,
PI: Dr. Sherene Shalhub



Dr. David, Drouillard, Senior Fellow,
Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes
T32 Research Fellowship



Dr. Sarah Goldsberry-Long,
Senior Fellow,
Microsurgery Fellowship



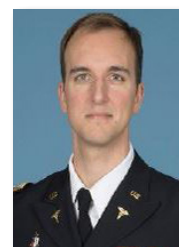
Dr. James Hendele,
Senior Fellow,
Clinical Transplant Fellowship



Dr. Colette Inaba,
Senior Fellow, Advanced GI/Minimally
Invasive Surgical Fellowship



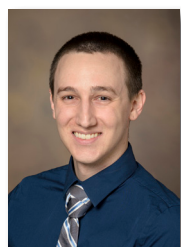
Dr. Abbie Jensen, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



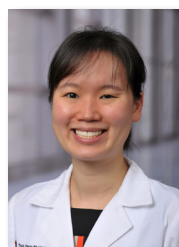
Dr. Andrew Kaufman, Fellow,
Pediatric Congenital Cardiac
Surgery Fellowship



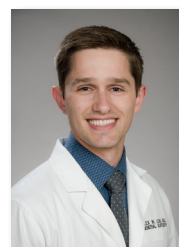
Dr. Nicole Kurnik,
Senior Fellow,
Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship



Dr. Charles Lawrence,
Senior Fellow, ExtraCorporeal
Life Support (ECLS) Fellowship



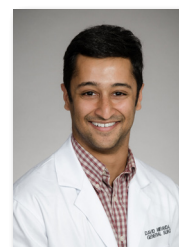
Dr. Madonna Lee, Senior Fellow,
Pediatric Congenital Cardiac
Surgery Fellowship



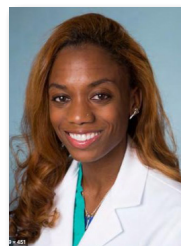
Dr. Alex Lois, Senior Fellow,
Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes
T32 Research Fellowship



Dr. Stephanie Mason, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



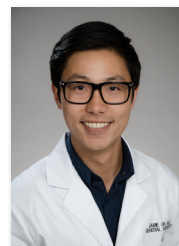
Dr. David Miranda, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



Dr. Scha'chia Murphy, Senior Fellow,
Trauma, Injury & Inflammation
Inflammation T32 Research Fellowship



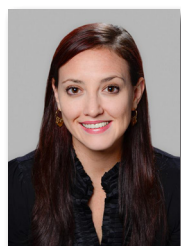
Dr. Karina Newhall, Fellow,
Vascular Surgery Fellowship



Dr. Jamie Oh, Senior Fellow,
Trauma, Injury & Inflammation
Inflammation T32 Research Fellowship



Dr. Rachel Payne, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



Dr. Lela Posey, Fellow,
Surgical Critical
Care Fellowship



Dr. Akila Ramaraj, Senior
Fellow, Pediatric Surgery
Research Fellowship



Dr. Alan Utria, Senior Fellow,
Pediatric Surgery
Research Fellowship

It is with great pleasure we announce and welcome our new faculty members. Each new faculty member introduces an added level of experience, quality, and service to the Department of Surgery.

Surgery News



Sarah Atkinson, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dr. Atkinson is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery with additional fellowship-trained expertise in colon and rectal surgery. She specializes in the full breadth of colon and rectal surgery, including inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer, anorectal disease, diverticular disease, and diseases of the pelvic floor. Dr. Atkinson was born

and raised in Washington D.C. and then moved to New Orleans where she received her undergraduate degree from Tulane University. She completed medical school at the University of Illinois and then relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio for her general surgery residency. Most recently she has completed her Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Atkinson is board certified through the American Board of Surgery (ABS) and is a member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS). Dr. Atkinson is married to Dr. J.P. Giliberto, a UW Otolaryngologist who also works at University of Washington Medical Center. In her free time she enjoys skiing, farmers markets, reading, and exploring the Pacific Northwest with her husband. They are excited to expand their family with a baby girl this fall.



Russell Ettinger, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Ettinger is an Assistant Professor and Craniofacial Surgeon in the Division of Plastic Surgery with expertise in both pediatric and adult craniofacial reconstruction. His primary areas of interest include cleft lip and palate, orthognathic surgery, pediatric plastic surgery, adult facial trauma, facial burn reconstruction, and gender affirming surgery. His

primary sites of practice include Seattle Children's Hospital and Harborview Medical Center. Dr. Ettinger received his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and matriculated to the University of Washington School of Medicine where he also earned his medical degree. He completed his residency training in Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan, including a one-year T-32 NIH research fellowship during which Dr. Ettinger investigated translational approaches to the pharmacologic augmentation of bone healing in the setting of radiation induced injury. He then returned to Seattle to complete his Craniofacial

Surgery Fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital and Harborview Medical Center, after which he was recruited to join the faculty within the Division of Plastic Surgery. When not caring for patients Dr. Ettinger enjoys spending time with his family, friends, and enjoying all the outdoor activities that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.



Barclay Stewart, MD, PhD, MscPH, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery

Dr. Stewart completed both his General Surgery residency and Burn Surgical Critical Care fellowship at the University of Washington. His post-graduate training in public health and health systems strengthening was completed at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom and

Stellenbosch University in South Africa, respectively. In addition to providing clinical care at Harborview Medical Center (HMC) and UW Medicine Regional Burn Center, Dr. Stewart will be a faculty lead within the Strategic Analysis, Research & Training (START) Center, which is a global health consulting group established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UW Department of Global Health. He will also work with Drs. **Charles Mock**, Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, **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, and **Tam Pham**, Director, HMC Burn Center, Professor & Chief, Burn Center, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, to build on the productivity and support renewal of existing grants (e.g., NIH/Fogarty support for improving trauma care in West Africa; National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research support for the Burn Model System program). Dr. Stewart's research and advocacy interests relate to global surgery, defined not by geographic boundaries, but by ubiquitous issues such as: health equity; access to safe surgical care for all when needed; resilient healthcare systems; and emergency, trauma and surgical care systems development in low-resourced settings. He will take the lead in coordinating our Department's existing global surgery efforts, mentor interested trainees, and support the development of global surgery curricula for residents and surgical critical care fellows. We look forward to his inputs toward a more formal and sustained global surgery program. Outside of his professional work, Dr. Stewart enjoys cycling, kayaking and backpacking with his wife, Melissa. They also love cooking for friends and family and sharing in the delights of the Pacific Northwest.

Surgery

HONORS AND AWARDS

News

FACULTY



In June 2019, the Washington Global Health Alliance (WGHA) awarded Dr. **Benjamin Anderson**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, and Co-Founder and Chair of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the 2019 Pioneers of Global Health Award. Dr. Anderson was recognized for his work in creating a global breast oncology community to improve breast cancer early diagnosis and treatment in low-resource settings.

Winners were selected by a panel of global health experts chaired by Erin McCarthy, senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and WGHA board member. Awardees will be honored at the Pioneers of Global Health Awards Dinner & Auction in October 2019.

"The 2019 Pioneers awardees are bold, compassionate, creative, and persistent in their work to improve health equity. They include a young woman whose impatience to prevent HIV in pregnant women has already helped 20,000 women in Kenya and expanded HIV prevention options; a man who created a global community and resource-appropriate guidelines for breast cancer care; and two organizations who collaborate to diagnose chronic myeloid leukemia earlier and help patients live longer and healthier lives," said Dena Morris, WGHA president. [Read more >>](#)



Dr. **Giana Davidson**, Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery and Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery, has been elected UW Medical Center (UWMC) Chief of Staff Elect. She began her two-year term July 1 and will chair UWMC's Credentials Committee as part of this role. Dr. Davidson expresses, "I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the medical staff at UWMC and look forward to working across the medical teams and our leadership in this role."

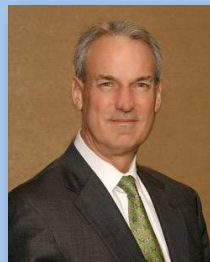


Dr. **John H.T. Waldhausen**, Chief of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery and Director of the Pediatric Fellowship Surgery Training Program at Seattle Children's Hospital became President Elect of the **American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA)** at its annual meeting in May.

Dr. Waldhausen comments, "Being elected the President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association is the pinnacle of a pediatric surgeon's career and to follow in the footsteps of so many who have influenced and led our profession is a great honor. One of the major issues confronting our specialty is how we train surgeons of the future

(continued on page 10)

Dr. Douglas Wood Awarded David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award



Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, was presented with the **Western Thoracic Surgical Association's (WTSA)** David J. Dugan Distinguished Service Award. To date, this award has been given out 13 times in the 45 year history of WTSA. The award is presented to members of the association in

recognition of distinguished achievement and outstanding contributions to the field of thoracic surgery in the areas of science or leadership over a sustained period of time.

Dr. **Michael Mulligan**, Professor & Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery, made the award's introduction:

"This year's David J. Dugan Award Recipient is a world leader in thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology. He is past president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, and the Seattle Surgical Society. He has served as Director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and Chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Thoracic RRC. He was recently elected Cardiothoracic Surgery Network President and is currently the chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Lung Cancer Screening Panel and vice-chair of the NCCN Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Panel. His opinions are widely sought and he has been a visiting professor at over 40 institutions around the world.

He has had a marked impact on our specialty. He helped lead the landmark National Emphysema Treatment Trial and has been a champion for lung cancer screening. Indeed, he led the testimony to the US Preventative Services Task Force to move forward with positive recommendations for lung cancer screening.

He is a terrific surgeon, a brilliant administrator, inspiring leader, a wonderful teacher, and ambassador for our specialty. For the last twenty years he has been my partner and dear friend. It is my honor to present the 2019 Dugan Award to Douglas E. Wood."

Upon receiving the award, Dr. Wood stated, "I am gratified every day by the privilege of doing what we do, the miracles that change people's lives, the honor of teaching that skill to our residents and fellows, the camaraderie and collegiality that I have with my team at UW, and with my friends in the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. I am truly blessed and honored!"

HONORS AND AWARDS

(continued from page 9)

and maintenance of competence. Much of my career has been devoted to surgical education and my plan as president will be to work with the American Board of Surgery and the Residency Review Committee (Surgery) to solve some of these significant educational issues that confront us."

RESIDENTS



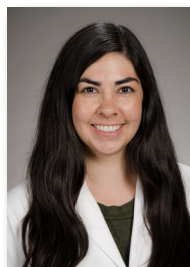
Drs. **Elissa Butler**, Research Fellow in the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, (pictured top) and **Kate Stadeli**, General Surgery Resident (R4), (pictured below) have each received grants from Medic One Foundation for their individual research projects.



Dr. Butler received an award of \$8,700 to support her research project "Evaluation Of Pre-Hospital Blood Product Use By Air Medical Services," and Dr. Stadeli received \$24,997 to support her research project titled "Working Toward Equity In Emergencies: Bringing Communities And Emergency First Responders Together To Exchange Skills And Cultural Knowledge." Dr. Butler states "This award will fund a collaboration of the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center, Airlift Northwest, and

Surgery News

Harborview Medical Center's Transfusion Services to evaluate the impact of blood availability on Airlift Northwest flights transporting trauma patients to Harborview Medical Center. We are grateful to the Medic One Foundation for this funding and looking forward to carrying out the project."



Dr. **Kirsten Concha-Moore**, Vascular Surgery Resident (R1), was selected as one of the 2019 Patricia Numann Outstanding Medical Student Award recipients on behalf of the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) and the AWS Foundation. This award is named in honor of the founder of AWS and established to encourage and support female medical students pursuing a career in surgery. Awardees are chosen based on their potential leadership qualities or research contributions to the field of surgery.

The award will be presented to Dr. Concha-Moore at the AWS Foundation Awards Dinner in October 2019 where individuals who have made a difference for women in surgery are celebrated.

Department of Surgery Inaugural Summer Picnic – Pellegrini Day

The Department of Surgery hosted its "Department of Surgery Inaugural Summer Picnic – Pellegrini Day" on Sunday, July 14, 2019 for our faculty, residents, fellows, staff and their families. Those that attended were welcomed with Department of Surgery logo blankets—perfect for sitting on the lawn for a picnic! The event included two food trucks, many homemade side dishes and desserts, a snow cone machine, and plenty of activities for kids and adults alike such

as giant Jenga, corn-hole, beach balls, face painting and so much more! Chair Doug Wood briefly spoke about the unique community that we have within the Department, and honored past Chair Carlos Pellegrini for his contributions past and present to the Department. It was wonderful to see so many of you with your families in a relaxed atmosphere—we can't wait to do it again!



DIVERSITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Dr. Estell Williams, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery



The Department of Surgery in collaboration with the UW Center for Leadership & Innovation in Medical Education (CLIME), Center for Equity Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI) and UW Medicine Health Equity Office, sponsored a two-day visit to University of Washington this June by Dr. **Rachel Hardeman** (pictured left) and Dr. **Eduardo Medina** (pictured right). The extensive schedule included a considerable amount of educational and academic discourse, scholarly evidence and critical theory shared by Drs. Hardeman and Medina regarding racism in medicine and its impact on health disparities. The many difficult but necessary conversations greatly enhanced our institution's understanding of these issues.

The event opened with a CLIME symposium and research "hackathon" at Talaris Conference Center. The event was at full capacity and

featured amazing research topics and projects targeting efforts to not only improve our understanding around bias and disparities within our health system, but also ways in which we can and are working to improve our health system. This symposium featured representation from departments across the UW Medicine Health System, fostering interdepartmental collaboration and creation of an environment conducive to effectively tapping into the large "brain trust" here at UW. The Department of Surgery-sponsored reception was a wonderful culmination to the first day, with many community members, students, faculty, and staff in attendance. A closed conversation with Dr. Hardeman entitled "Fighting Racism and Improving our Health: A Discussion for Black Women by Black Women" exceeded attendance expectations, requiring a last minute room change. The discussion, which will now be a regularly occurring event, sparked collaboration among UW black women faculty and staff and offered a space for support to combat feelings of isolation, thus promoting wellness and offering interdepartmental partnership. The visit culminated in a stirring Grand Rounds entitled "Structural Racism and Clinical Practice: Challenges and Opportunities."

The Diversity Council would like to thank Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, and the Department of Surgery for their leadership and commitment to addressing issues around racism and inequities within our institution and by leading the charge so that UW can be a thought leader and pioneer in addressing these issues and advancing health care for all people. If you would like to learn more about Dr. Hardeman and her work please visit her website <https://www.rachelhardeman.com>.

HARKINS' CORNER



Dr. Nicole Zern

Hello all!

The new academic year is off and running, and we are busy in preparation for the annual Harkins' Alumni Society fall events. Please mark your calendars for the following events and join us if you can!

The **Annual Harkins Symposium** for resident education will be held on **Friday, October 11, 2019** in the Hogness Auditorium in the Mag-

nuson Health Sciences Building. The symposium will again feature department faculty presenting the latest updates and advances in their field. The symposium will be followed by the **Strauss Lecture**, presented this year by Dr. Valerie Rusch, MD, FACS. Dr. Rusch is a renowned alumnus of our general and cardiothoracic surgical training programs, and we are thrilled she is returning to Seattle for this event.

Please join us for our annual Harkins' Alumni Banquet following the symposium. This year we return to Ivar's Salmon House on beautiful Lake Union. The event will begin at 5:30 pm and will include dinner and drinks with fellow alumni, as well as our current chief residents in general, cardiothoracic, plastic and vascular surgery. Tickets will be available for purchase on the Harkins society website <http://www.harkinssociety.org> beginning in September.

The UW Harkins Alumni Reception at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in San Francisco, CA will be held on **Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 6-9 pm**. We have selected a local "book-themed" bar for our annual alumni get-together at the ACS meeting. Novela is within walking distance of the conference center and will be a great chance to connect with your fellow UW alumni in a trendy San Francisco setting!

We are also excited to announce some changes to the Harkins' Alumni Society membership structure. In keeping with national trends, we will no longer be charging membership dues. Alternatively, all alumni of our surgical training programs are automatically granted membership into the society upon graduation, which is traditionally conferred at the annual reception in October. We hope this will enable our large and diverse group of alumni to remain active in the society by participating in our annual fall events. We continue to work to maintain our alumni database, and will do our best to keep everyone involved in fostering our training programs at UW!

Sincerely,

Nicole Zern, MD, FACS
Harkins Society President

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.

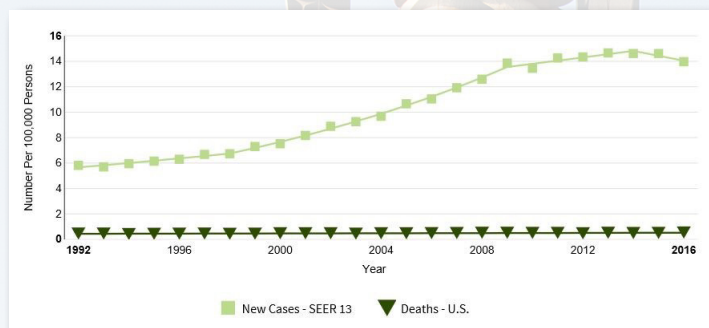


Figure 1. SEER data showing new thyroid cancer cases and deaths in United States, 1992-2016 (<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/thyro.html>)

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.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY—IN THE MEDIA



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

UW Medicine | The Huddle | June 3, 2019

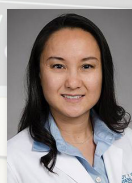
SFD recognizes Harborview team for saving drowning victim

UW Medicine | The Huddle | August 7, 2019

A public health approach could address gun violence

The Seattle Times | Editorials | August 14, 2019

Tap know-how to prevent firearm deaths



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

KING5 News | July 25, 2019

Metabolic surgery may help those with Type 2 Diabetes

UW Medicine | Newsroom | August 27, 2019

Bariatric surgery for teens coming into mainstream



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

The Stranger | June 26, 2019

UW researchers unite to salvage their work after radiation leak shuts down their labs

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY—IN THE MEDIA



Dr. **Joseph Gruss**, Professor Emeritus

American Society of Plastic Surgeons | July 2, 2019

Remembering Joseph S. Gruss, MB, BCH



Dr. **Billie Hwang**, Research Scientist,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Science in Seattle | April 24, 2019

**Dr. Billie Hwang Talks Exosomes and
Lung Ischemia Reperfusion**



Dr. **Kari Keys**, Associate Professor,
Division of Plastic Surgery

UW Medicine | The Huddle | June 28, 2019

**As July 4 nears, remember:
Fireworks are explosives**



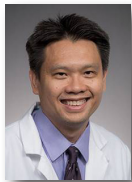
Dr. **Mike Mulligan**, Professor & Chief,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery,
Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery

UW Medicine | Newsroom | August 7, 2019

**UW Medicine milestone:
1,000 lung-transplant recipients**

Ivanhoe | August 7, 2019

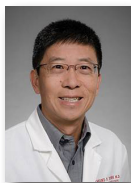
Blood Clots and Birth Control



Dr. **Tam Pham**, Director, HMC Burn
Center, Professor, Division of Trauma,
Burn & Critical Care Surgery

UW Medicine | The Huddle | August 7, 2019

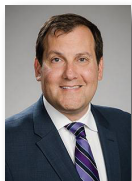
Rising beyond the scars



Drs. **Raymond Yeung**, Professor,
Division of General Surgery and
Kimberly Riehle, Associate Professor,
Division of Pediatric General Surgery

UW Medicine | Newsroom | July 3, 2019

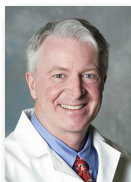
**Treatment target pinpointed for
liver cancer in young adults**



Dr. **Robert Sweet**, Professor,
Department of Urology, Executive
Director, WWAMI Institute for
Simulation in Healthcare (WISH),
Director, Center for Research in
Education and Simulation Technologies
(CREST), Medical Director, UW Medicine
Kidney Stone Center

UW Medicine | The Huddle | August 1, 2019

**Exposing young minds to
science and medicine**



Drs. **Nicholas Vedder**, Professor, Chief
of Division of Plastic Surgery and **Peter
Neligan**, Professor & Chief, UWMC
Center for Reconstructive Surgery

UW Medicine | The Huddle | August 29, 2019

**10 years after boating accident,
teen gets final surgery**

SAVE THE DATES

2019 Harkins Symposium and Strauss Lecture

Friday October 11, 2019,
7:00am-5:00pm, Health
Sciences Building, Hogness
Auditorium, Room A-420

More information:

dosadmin@uw.edu

206-543-3680

2020 Research Resident Symposium & 26th Annual Helen and John Schilling Lecture

Friday March 13, 2020,
Time and Location TBA

More information:

dosadmin@uw.edu

206-543-3680

Department of Surgery Monthly Grand Rounds

First Wednesday of each
month, 6:30am-7:30am,
Health Sciences Building,
Room K-069

More information:

dosadmin@uw.edu

206-543-3680



In this issue, we had the pleasure to interview Dr. **Niten Singh**. Dr. Singh joined the department in 2013 and is a Professor and Associate Chief of Vascular Surgery.

Where was the last place you travelled?

I recently returned from what I call the "Fake DC" which is National Harbor, MD, for the Society for Vascular Surgery national meeting. Before that, the last place I traveled was to Lake Chelan for a relaxing weekend with the family. We go every year over Memorial Day weekend for about the past ten years. **SS:** What is your next trip? **NS:** A quick trip to Nashville to help my daughter move back into her dorm. This year we're moving her in as a junior and she needs someone to lug boxes up 10 floors because there are no elevators. I will hang out for a day and head back to recuperate!

Who is your favorite person to follow on social media?

I don't use Twitter often but I do follow Dr. Elina Quiroga—she is a Twitter master. We will be in a conference and the next thing you know, she's typing on her phone and it pops up on the UW Vascular Twitter feed, which I also follow. Dr. Quiroga just knows how to get the information and post it quickly.



Which movie can you watch over and over without ever getting tired of it?

Well, that's a real conundrum because my wife always tells me I am the only person she knows who can watch a movie over and over and act like it's the first time I've seen it, but I say any Will Ferrell movie. I can watch his movies over and over and laugh every time. With Will Ferrell you know what you're getting into and you're not going to be disappointed. My favorite movie of his is "Old School." Aside from Will Ferrell movies, I can always rewatch all of the Star Wars movies—from the prequels up to the Return of the Jedi. But comedies are my favorite genre. What we do can be very stressful and what we read

#GettingToKnowDOS— Dr. Niten Singh

can be heavy with a lot of data so it can be stress-relieving for me to just get away and watch a movie that makes me laugh.

Which TV show character would be the most fun to change places with for a week?

I'm from the generation that loves Seinfeld so I think it would be fun to be Jerry Seinfeld's character. There's something to be said for having hilarious characters like Kramer, George and Elaine come over, hang out and do absolutely nothing like they did in the series. It was a unique cast who had great chemistry and the show had amazing writers. Who wouldn't want to change places with these characters for a week?

Who is your favorite musician?

I have to say my favorite musician is Bono and U2 is my favorite band—I've seen them three times in concert. They have spanned four decades and continue to produce great music. Bono's voice is still strong and unique with a band that has a unique sound. I also really like Pearl Jam. They personify that 90s grunge sound and again, produce just great music. I saw them in the 90s then again last year at Safeco Field. It was a phenomenal experience seeing someone now who you saw in concert in the 90s and they are still amazing.

What job would you want if you were guaranteed to be successful?

My job—I love what I do! I enjoy the specialty of vascular surgery. Is there a guarantee to be successful every time in surgery? That would be unrealistic, but I enjoy what I do and cannot imagine doing anything else, anywhere else. UW Medicine is a great system.



(continued on page 15)



What is the something we'd never guess about you?

I grew up in Alabama which to many on the west coast seems like a foreign country. The next question I always get is "where were you born," which is Utah and which leads to more discussion...

What is your most unusual talent?

I'm very good at impersonations. I could probably impersonate

anybody. **SS:** Give your favorite impersonation. **NS:** I have a lot of favorites, but... [channeling Jack Nicholson]: "We stand on the line. We're there every day. You use words like 'honor' and 'code' as a punchline at a party. We live it every day." **SS:** You nailed it!

What did you think you were going to be while growing up?

My grandfather was a policeman so I thought I was going to be in law enforcement. I looked up to him, he was a big, strong guy so that was formative to me as a kid. For a while I wanted to be an FBI agent. **SS:** When did you realize that wasn't going to be your route? **NS:** When I was in college in addition to other experiences in my life, but I always had an interest in medicine as well. Personally, I felt I could do more for people in medicine than I could in law enforcement. When I was in residency at Tripler Army Medical Center and I saw the vascular surgeons fixing aortic aneurysms, preventing ruptures, and saving legs I realized that was something I wanted to do. The mentorship by vascular surgeons throughout my residency training helped cement that decision.

What's the most unbelievable thing that's ever happened to you?

I was given a middle name when I joined the military. I put "n/a" in that field as I do not have a middle name and the military read it as Nia. All of my military documents have Nia as my middle name on them now.

Who's the most important role model or mentor you've had in your life?

My dad. As an immigrant to this country he believed that anyone can be successful by working hard and he made an indelible imprint in my life.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

Road trips with my family. **SS:** Where did you travel to? **NS:** Up and down the east coast in a Pontiac Catalina.

What do you wish you had placed in a time capsule 15 years ago?

A college picture of me with a mullet. **SS:** Do you have a photo of it that we could publish? **NS:** No

#GettingToKnowDOS— Dr. Niten Singh

(continued from page 14)

THIS OR THAT

Rain or snow? **Rain**
 Libraries or museums? **Museums**
 Summer or winter? **Summer**
 Reading or writing? **Reading**
 Boat or plane? **Plane**
 Puzzles or board games? **Board games**
 Ketchup or mustard? **Mustard**
 Chocolate or vanilla? **Chocolate**
 Fruit or vegetables? **Fruit**
 iPhone or Android? **iPhone**
 Tablet or Computer? **Computer**
 Tea or coffee? **Coffee**
 Text or call? **Text**
 Sweet or savory? **Sweet**
 Cookies or cake? **Cookies**
 Cats or dogs? **Dogs**
 Movie or book? **Movie**
 Mountains or beach? **Mountains**
 Cardio or Weights? **Both**
 Big Party or Small Gathering? **Small Gathering**
 Facebook or Twitter? **Neither**
 Online Shopping or Shopping in a Store? **I hate shopping**
 Pancake or Waffle? **Waffle**
 Movie at Home or Movie at the Theater? **Both**
 At a movie: Candy or Popcorn? **Popcorn**
 Superman or Batman? **Batman**
 Wonder Woman or Captain Marvel? **Wonder Woman**
 City or Countryside? **City**
 Weird or crazy? **Crazy**
 Swim in a pool or in the sea? **Sea**
 Pasta or pizza? **Pizza**

UW Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



Surgery Synopsis is an in-house newsletter published on a quarterly basis to highlight the academic and research activities of the University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Surgery. This publication is distributed to the Department's faculty, residents, staff, and friends.

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