

# Surgery News

## 2019 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS

### Dr. Carlos Pellegrini Receives ACS Icon in Surgery Honor



Image courtesy of the Archives of the  
American College of Surgeons

Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor Emeritus, former UW Medicine Chief Medical Officer and UW Vice President for Medical Affairs, was honored by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as an **"Icon in Surgery"** at the ACS annual Clinical Congress in October 2019.

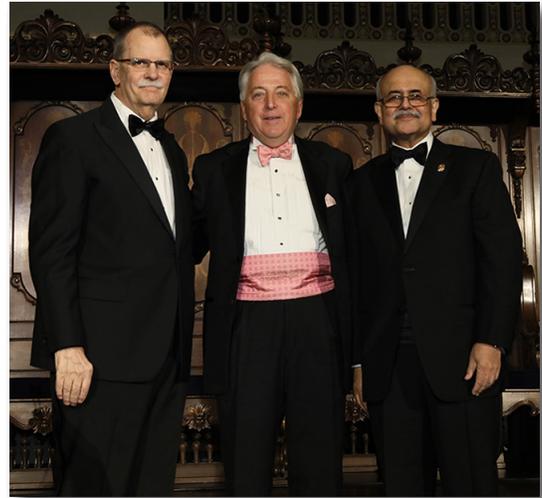
"I was honored and humbled by the ACS decision to confer this honor to me," expresses Dr. Pellegrini. "I am the first one to recognize that my designation reflects in great part the dedication and the work of every member of the Department of Surgery (DOS) at the University of Washington (UW) with whom I have had the privilege to work. And, for that, I am particularly thankful. While the ceremony was impressive, what really touched my heart were the words of all those who reflected on their special relationship with me...those expressions of gratitude are permanently engraved in my memory – and in my soul."

"Dr. Pellegrini is a role model, colleague, and friend for all of us in UW DOS," states Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair. "His accomplishments and recognitions are legendary, but this most recent honor as an 'Icon in Surgery' by the ACS is a rare and

singular celebration of Dr. Pellegrini's long influence in surgery, and on the people he has touched. Although Dr. Pellegrini is a renowned surgical leader, what holds him apart is his strength of character, integrity, kindness, and his deep understanding and love for people. Dr. Pellegrini is the type of surgeon, and person, that we all aspire to be."

[View Dr. Pellegrini's ACS Icons in Surgery video >>](#)

### Dr. Ed Verrier Inducted into ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators



Left to right: David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons and Member of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators Steering Committee; Ed D. Verrier, K. Alvin and Shirley Merendino Endowed Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery; Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FACS, FRCSC, FSACME, Director of the ACS Division of Education and Co-Chair of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators Steering Committee  
Image courtesy of the Archives of the American College of Surgeons

Dr. **Ed Verrier**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was inducted into the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. This honor is a tribute to a lifetime of dedication to surgical education. As program director for the Cardiothoracic Residency at UW, Dr. Verrier has been a mentor and role model who has influenced our department's culture and commitment to surgical education. At the national level, his leadership of the Joint Council for Thoracic Surgical Education completely changed the curriculum, focus, and paradigm for residency programs in cardiothoracic surgery.

"In academic surgery we have three priorities: excellence in clinical care, furthering our specialties through research, and educating the next generation of surgeons," states Dr. Verrier. "In our current world of incentives, education has been less rewarded as it is frequently viewed as an art form rather than a science...if one is a good clinical surgeon, then one is most likely a good educator. For the ACS to honor "Master Surgical Educators" is an incredible step forward in recognizing the importance of teaching, mentorship, and coaching at every level of surgical education. For me personally as the sole cardiothoracic

## 2019 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS (cont.)

surgeon recognized, being inducted into the Academy of Master Surgical Educators is the pinnacle of my career and will always be cherished. It is also a responsibility. I hope to continue to contribute more to the Academy and the UW in the future and strengthen this message to the next generation of surgical educators.”

The aim of the new ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators is to recognize and assemble a team of Master Surgeon Educators of national and international renown who will work closely with the ACS Division of Education to advance the science and practice of avant-garde surgical education and training.

The goals of the Academy include defining megatrends in surgical education and training; steering advances in the field; fostering innovation and collaboration; supporting faculty development and recognition; and underscoring the critical importance of surgical education and training in the changing milieu of health care.

### Dr. Mika Sinanan Elected ACS Secretary by Board of Governors



Dr. **Mika Sinanan**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, was elected Secretary of ACS Board of Governors in October 2019.

Dr. Sinanan expresses, “In the role of Secretary to the Board of Governors, I’m very honored to serve on the Executive Committee. I look forward to representing the Governors’ perspective and sharing back with them the strategic and financial priorities of the ACS.”

“Dr. Mika Sinanan has been an influential leader in UW Medicine and nationally,” said Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair. “He led our physicians organization as President of University of Washington Physicians, and he has served in leadership positions in our state and regional organizations. With a long commitment to advocacy and physician engagement in health care policy, Dr. Sinanan serves as the ACS Pillar Lead for Advocacy and Health Policy. His election to the prominent position of Secretary of the ACS Board of Governors is recognition of his national leadership and affords him major influence in the direction of the ACS.”

# Surgery News

## Surgical Metrics Project at the ACS Clinical Congress



In October, several surgeons from UW participated in an ongoing project on the value of testing aging surgeons at the ACS Clinical Congress in San Francisco. Earlier in the year, ACS learned of a related article “[The Aging Physician and the Medical Profession: A Review.](#)” *JAMA Surg.* 2017;152(10):967-71 by Drs. **Carlos Pellegrini**,

(top left ) Professor Emeritus, former UW Medicine Chief Medical Officer and UW Vice President for Medical Affairs, and **E. Patchen Dellinger**, (bottom left) Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery. ACS asked Drs. Pellegrini and Dellinger to join a discussion with members of the College regarding the possibility of assessing surgeons’ technical performance and determining the degree to which several factors impact



that performance as. Dr. Carla Pugh, Professor of Surgery at Stanford, had developed methods for measuring several aspects of technical performance and led the experiment, calling it the “Surgical Metrics Project.” In the activity, participants were equipped with magnetic motion tracking technology synchronized with headgear that captured EEG, video, and audio data. Working in sync, these instruments provided a moment-to-moment account of each step and decision that the surgeon made while operating and measured time and flow efficiency to provide an accurate assessment of the surgical process while the surgeon repaired a defect in a sample of porcine intestine. A total of 252 surgeons participated at the Congress at 10 workstations in the exhibit hall. Data obtained will be analyzed to answer the following questions:

- What decisions do surgeons make when faced with a surgical task? (i.e., how do they position themselves, their assistant, the tissue, the instruments, etc.)
- How do decisions and technical approaches affect outcomes/bowel repair quality?
- Can data collected here serve as an initial platform to create a database that might serve as a benchmarking resource for trainees and even for practicing surgeons?
- Is there an expert strategy or evidenced-based approach that can be discovered in the data and shared with participants?
- How do certain external stimuli affect performance?
- Can this database serve as a platform to discuss the possibility of longitudinal, personal assessment where participants track their own performance throughout their career?

Additional description and details regarding this project can be found in the [September ACS Bulletin](#).

# Surgery

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### 2019 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS (cont.)

#### Department of Surgery 2019 ACS Clinical Congress Presentations



Bulger



Davidson



Dick



Flum

Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor & Chief, of Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, "How can we improve outcome for NSTI"

Dr. **Giana Davidson**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, "ACS General Surgery Review Course: Benign Biliary Disease" and "Clinical Panel: State of the Evidence - Antibiotics for Appendicitis"

Dr. **Andre Dick**, Associate Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery, "The Impact of Insurance Status on Children Undergoing Liver Transplantation" and Surgical Metrics Project

Dr. **David Flum**, Professor, Associate Chair for Research, Division of General Surgery, "Nonoperative management of appendicitis"



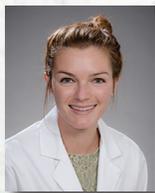
Maier



Pellegrini



Sinanan



Daniel

Dr. **Ron Maier**, Professor & Chief, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care, "Surgery Resident Program at Clinical Congress: Essential Skills for Surgery Residents: Fireside chat with Ronald V. Maier," "Convocation Introduction" and "I.S. Ravdin Lecture in the Basic and Surgical Sciences Response to Injury: The Genomic Storm and Precision Medicine"

Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor Emeritus, former UW Medicine Chief Medical Officer and UW Vice President for Medical Affairs, "Icon in Surgery Presentation (Recipient)" and Surgical Metrics Project

Dr. **Mika Sinanan**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, "Business environment for surgery" (to the Board of Regents and Board of Governors of the ACS)

Dr. **Sara Daniel**, Research Resident, "Evaluating the role of hypoxia in anti-tumor immune response to pancreatic adenocarcinoma"

### Dr. Edward Verrier Selected Puget Sound Business Journal Physician Educator of the Year



"I am very pleased and proud to announce Dr. **Ed Verrier**, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has been selected as the Physician Educator of the Year by the Puget Sound Business Journal as part of their 2019 Health Care Leadership Awards.

Dr. Verrier has a lifelong career of dedication to surgical education, with a profound influence here at UW, but also nationally and internationally. For many years as Program Director of the Cardiothoracic (CT) Surgery Residency, he created a culture of educational commitment that has led our CT programs to be considered among the top programs in the country. Dr. Verrier was then selected to be the Surgical Director of the Joint Council of Thoracic Surgical Education, a major investment of CT organizations to upgrade and revolutionize CT education in the United States. His leadership of this effort has transformed CT surgery training and has created a new generation of surgical educators with his "Educating the Educators" courses.

Dr. Verrier has been honored with virtually every teaching award he could be eligible for, beginning with the John K. Stevenson Award from the residents in the UW DOS. He received the Socrates Award from the Thoracic Surgery Residents Association, and the Bruce Gilliland Award as the teacher of the year throughout the UW system of over 3,000 faculty. In October 2019, he was inducted into the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. This latest honor from the Puget Sound Business Journal is well-deserved and acknowledges Dr. Verrier's major impact on surgical education in our community and also across specialties well beyond UW Surgery. There is no one I can think of who is more deserving of this award and recognition. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Verrier for his remarkable leadership in surgery and education."

Dr. Verrier says "Being recognized by the Puget Sound Business Journal as Physician Educator of the Year is an unexpected and welcomed honor. In surgical academia we can be appreciated for our clinical skills or productivity in the research arena but often educational commitment is taken for granted. Maintaining superb clinical outcomes with the additional responsibility of training the next generation is worth noting. This type of recognition really celebrates all surgeons who commit to not only exceptional clinical care but also teaching, mentoring and coaching young surgeons in training to care for our loved ones in the future."

[Puget Sound Business Journal story >>](#)

Dr. Douglas Wood  
The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair