

SURGERY Synopsis



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



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

Without philanthropic giving from our friends, patients, alumni and current staff and faculty, our mission to “improve the health of the public” would be compromised; research to advance innovation would be curtailed, some clinical programs reduced in scope, investments in our residents and fellows diminished, and our commitment to vulnerable populations threatened.

Giving Back

We are fortunate that the Department of Surgery (DOS) has a number of individuals who support the mission with their philanthropy, and we are grateful and appreciative of those gifts. The stories

of what has inspired them to give to our Department would fill a book: A patient, grateful to be alive after a difficult surgery

shows their gratitude with a gift – large or small; the family of a patient, in gratitude or in memory, sets up a fund to advance research related to their disease; alumni grateful for the outstanding education they received give to make sure that commitment to education continues; staff members who are proud of the mission and demonstrated expertise in this Department, give to help carry on their good work. And our faculty give back because they helped to build this department and want to ensure its future greatness.

Scattered throughout this issue you will read several vignettes from individuals who have supported the department in meaningful ways and describe what motivates their giving. We believe you will find these narratives inspiring and appreciate the motivations that are common to many. We have also taken a look at the gifts that support our Department’s tri-part missions: teaching, research and clinical care, and describe how giving relates to our initiatives to become an ever-more diverse and inclusive Department. As the holder of the Harkins Endowed Chair, I can tell you that sustained gifts such as endowments and professorships have given us the ability to recruit new talent, grow important and life-saving programs and launch new initiatives in our Department. Without these gifts, our Department would not be the powerhouse it is today. As Chair, I am grateful to each and every donor.

Please read the entire issue to capture the flavor, depth and breadth of the philanthropy support of our Department.

UW at ACS Clinical Congress

The DOS was well represented and frequently honored during the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Annual Clinical Congress, held in San Francisco in late October. Some of the highlights: Dr. Pellegrini was honored with an “Icon of Surgery” award; Dr. Verrier was inducted into the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators; Dr. Mika Sinanan was elected Secretary of the ACS Board of Governors; Dr. Ron Maier concluded his very successful year as ACS President; and Dr. Valarie Rusch, a UW Surgery Alumnus became President of the ACS. There were numerous faculty and residents who were invited to speak or present. Please read all about the Department’s representation at the ACS Clinical Congress on page 8.

Innovation and Introductions

Clinically, the Department proudly continues at the forefront of innovation. The University of Washington Medical Center received the very first Robotic Surgery Center of Excellence (COE) designation on the West Coast, a recognition of many individuals, but with special appreciation to the leadership of Dr. Jim Park in taking us to this level in robotic surgery. Read about it on page 18.

The annual Harkins Symposium and Strauss Lecture were held in October. We were honored to have Dr. Valerie Rusch as our 70th Alfred A. Strauss Visiting Professor, a former resident and faculty at the University of Washington

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and current President of the ACS. Dr. Rusch was also honored by the Harkins Society as this year's Distinguished Alumnus. We provide highlights of these always important and inspiring events on page 17.

We welcomed some new faculty since the last issue. Please read their bios on page 13 and join us in welcoming them to our Department. And, we learn more about Dr. Catherine Kling in our popular #GettingtoKnowDoS on page 19.

I wish each and all Happy Holidays and a promising New Year.

Sincerely,

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

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

SURGERY SYNOPSIS

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