

# SURGERY

## Synopsis



### CHAIR'S MESSAGE



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

The 2020 Fall Issue of Surgery Synopsis is dedicated to our teaching mission. We are filled with pride as our graduating trainees—residents and fellows from all our programs: general, plastic, cardiothoracic, and vascular surgery—conclude this important phase of their career and begin the next phase, some moving on to fellowships, many beginning their full-fledged careers as clinicians, researchers and teachers. It is hard to find words that express the bittersweet emotions we all feel and we will miss them greatly!

This year's graduation celebrations were necessarily different due to COVID-19 but our excellent Residency Program Directors and education staff adeptly pivoted to virtual graduation ceremonies. Hard work, ingenuity and technology produced meaningful ending rituals. Please read more about our graduation ceremonies and events on [page 4](#).

While sad to see our graduates leaving, we are excited to welcome our new group of residents and fellows and are delighted to have them join the UW Surgery community. During this most unusual of years, so much had to be reconfigured to address the challenges of the pandemic while still providing a stellar training experience.

I am impressed with the collaborative response by our Program Directors (PDs) under the overall direction of our Associate Chair of Education, Dr. **Karen Horvath**: Drs. Horvath (General Surgery); **Jeff Friedrich** (Plastic Surgery); **Kathleen Berfield** (Cardiothoracic Surgery); and **Niten Singh** (Vascular Surgery) met extensively to coordinate and implement a cohesive Department plan. The dedicated work and imagination of our PDs and of

our education staff, all working together, resulted in new methods and incorporation of new technology to maintain and even enhance our high-quality training, in spite of a pandemic. Some of the changes include:

- Restructuring the resident teams in a 'platoon' fashion during the peak of the crisis. The experience was published in JAMA Surgery and served as a reference for many training programs in the US and worldwide in how to safely reorganize in a pandemic. "[Emergency Restructuring of a General Surgery Residency Program During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic—The University of Washington Experience](#);"
- Restructuring department residency orientation days to allow for social distancing;
- Moving all didactic teaching to online formats;

Amidst these changes, we additionally look ahead to the next academic year as resident recruitment season begins. We are adapting and changing in order to attract and match medical students in all of our programs.

# FEATURES

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

PAGE 1

## SURGERY NEWS

### 2020 RESIDENT GRADUATION DINNER

PAGE 4

### NEW RESIDENTS

PAGE 7

### NEW RESEARCH RESIDENTS

PAGE 9

### NEW FELLOWS

PAGE 10

### NEW FACULTY

PAGE 11

### FACULTY PROMOTIONS

PAGE 16

### STRAUSS LECTURE / HARKINS SYMPOSIUM

PAGE 17

### 2020 ACS CLINICAL CONGRESS

PAGE 19

## DIVERSITY IN DOS

PAGE 27

## CLINICAL HIGHLIGHT

PAGE 28

## #GETTINGTOKNOWDOS— DR. KRISTINE CALHOUN

PAGE 29

## HARKINS' CORNER

PAGE 33

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY— IN THE MEDIA

PAGE 33

## HONORS, AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

PAGE 34

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

We are faced with the new challenge of introducing our Department, the University and the Puget Sound region to remote students from around the country. And, in turn, these students will be selecting and ranking residency programs without ever traveling to Seattle, visiting our teaching hospitals, or directly meeting our faculty and residents. The residency program hosted "Virtual Visits" for medical students interested in applying to our program. Topics included: Resident Rounds including Q&A with current trainees; hospital site overview; research and professional development opportunities; discussion of Department Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (including the Women's Council) as well as the Department's Wellness initiatives.

Finally, the residency website is in the process of upgrading to better assist and inform residency applicants and create virtual visits and interviews to closely reflect an in-person experience.

While everyone hopes we return to in-person interviews, the lessons learned now will continue to be invaluable long term. A silver lining of this experience is that we may find ways to use some of the virtual format in the future to help more students learn about our programs, and to simplify expenses and logistics for both the students and our programs, which may increase the number and diversity of medical students that might otherwise not make a physical trip to Seattle.

The pandemic has also affected our medical student education and our surgical clerkships have been adjusted to meet the challenge. The entire spring quarter was cancelled across the School of Medicine (SOM) and medical students were removed from clinical environments in March and were not able to return until June 29th.

Programs were then asked to accommodate 12 months of clinical education into 9 months and the Department of Surgery developed an altered course schedule that remains six weeks long but now consists of four weeks of in-person clinical training and two weeks of online virtual coursework to supplement their learning. This change eliminated overlap of students in the clinical environment while still accommodating required rotations and necessary training.

These changes were a tremendous undertaking. Collaboration among more than 30 Department faculty produced 32 new lectures on common surgical topics which integrated core curriculum from the American College of Surgeons and Association for Surgical Education, as well as incorporating numerous virtual cases. Students also now complete a virtual skills lab on suturing that is hosted by Dr. Dennis Kao and the plastic surgery faculty and residents.

The American Journal of Surgery [published the Department's plan](#) for the altered structured in April.

(continued on page 3)

It was an enormous undertaking to create this structure and implement extensive changes to the clerkships in a short period of time, and we are all so grateful for the faculty coming together to undertake this challenge.

The Surgery Recovery Initiative has proven vital as we have returned to pre-COVID clinical activities while continuing to work in a COVID environment. The Department continues to adapt to working during COVID, taking safe care of patients, faculty and other caregivers. I am pleased to report at this time that surgical volumes have ramped back up to near normal levels. This is good news for everyone: patients who need surgery, our faculty, trainees and our financial stability.

Our staff are unparalleled in their dedication to keeping the important work moving forward. Many of our Department staff are able to work remotely, even though many would prefer to return to work in our offices. Faculty have been supportive of their staff and have adapted to having fewer staff around on a day-to-day basis but are looking forward to a time when we can return to working together in person.

I am so proud of all members of our Department and their willingness to adapt to circumstances to keep taking excellent care of patients, providing quality teaching to our trainees, and keeping the research and administrative work of the department moving forward.

Our focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism continues within the Department. The Diversity Council has completed a Department environmental survey, which were shared at our annual Harkins Symposium on October 16th. A group

of faculty and residents have established a book club, open to all Department of Surgery employees, with a focus on self-education on race issues, believing that we all need to be responsible for our own education, and not simply lean on the Diversity Council or our minority colleagues to teach us about racism.

The staff have established an Anti-Racism Group that is composed of members from across the Department. Susan Marx, Vice-Chair of Finance & Administration, is leading this group. Their mission is to develop a space to brainstorm ideas and pathways for education, awareness and actions and become a department of conscience that embeds diversity, equity and inclusion in every aspect of our staff operations. This group works in alignment with the Diversity Council, but its work is focused on staff. Susan Marx has authored our "Diversity Column" for this issue. Please find it on page 27.

In keeping with our focus on education, our focus on Research is on the resident research activities. Please read on 9.

We have included a section on the Department of Surgery participation in this year's recently concluded American College of Surgeons (ACS) annual Clinical Congress. DoS faculty were highly involved with this year's virtual Congress activities, including numerous presentations, a keynote address, and through committees work and other ACS leadership roles.

Of note, featured at the ACS Clinical Congress was a presentation on the multi-year study Comparing Outcomes of Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) conducted through the Surgical Outcomes Resource Center (SORCE) under the direction of Prin-

cipal Investigator **David Flum, MD, MPH**, Director of SORCE (he is also the Department's Associate Chair for Research) and Co-Investigator **Giana Davidson, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Surgery in General Surgery Division and Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery. The [CODA study results](#) have been published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Our 71st annual Harkins Symposium and Strauss Lecture took place on Friday, October 16, 2020. This year's lecturer was Dr. Edward Cornwell, III, MD, FACS, FCCM, and he gave a lecture entitled "Outcomes Disparities in Trauma Care: Who, When, Why." Dr. Cornwell is the Surgeon-In-Chief at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. as well as Chair of the Howard University College of Medicine Department of Surgery. Please read page 17 to learn more about this year's Harkins/Strauss events and topics.

We have added several new faculty in the past several months. They are introduced on page 11.

As always is the case, our faculty continue to shine, win awards, honors and are in the media. Sixty-four of our faculty were "Top Docs" in the two Seattle magazines, Seattle Met and Seattle Magazine.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Surgery Synopsis.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd  
The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor & Chair  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington