Biomedical Statistics; Sarah Monsell, MS, Biostatistician in the Center for Biomedical Statistics; Mariam Hantouli, MD, Research Fellow, Department of Surgery; and Margo Godersky, Project Manager, Department of Surgery.

2020 Faculty Promotion

Dr. Patrick Healey
Professor
Section Chief of Pediatric Transplantation
Division of Transplant Surgery

Dr. Patrick Healey is a transplant surgeon at Seattle Children’s Hospital (SCH). He oversees the Kidney Transplantation, Liver Transplantation, and Intestine Transplantation Programs at SCH, and is Seattle Children’s Transplant Center point person to United Network for Organ Sharing. Dr. Healey is also the Director of the Living Donor Kidney Program, and has solidified our community presence by offering this procedure to our transplant candidates and their families, with great outcomes and an increase in access. In this role, he has provided mentorship to faculty, fellows, and general surgery and urology residents since the inception of the living donor team in 1999.

Dr. Healey introduced the donor paired exchange program, which identifies, screens, and manages multiple donors from ours and other institutions to facilitate donation from incompatible donors. His ongoing vision and strategic planning continues to increase living donor awareness, providing the most favorable outcomes for the recipients.

Dr. Healey developed critically important non-transplant programs for children of the Pacific Northwest which include hepatobiliary surgery for tumors, vascular anomalies of the liver, and portal hypertension surgery. His clinical, surgical, innovation, mentorship, and program development skills have resulted in nationally recognized expertise and excellent outcomes in these areas.

2021 New Faculty

Dr. Lyubomyr Bohuta
Associate Professor
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Bohuta’s specialty is pediatric cardiac surgery with a focus on neonatal surgery and surgery in low-weight patients. Originally from Ukraine, he graduated from Lviv State Medical University, and after completing his training in general surgery spent over 10 years at Ukrainian Children’s Cardiac Center in Kyiv. Over this period, he was able to progress from junior fellow to a leading surgeon and department head. During his training, Dr. Bohuta spent 18 months as a fellow at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. He obtained his PhD in the Ukraine performing clinical research focused on anomalous pulmonary veins. In 2015, Dr. Bohuta moved to Denmark, where he worked for two years at Aarhus University Hospital. Following that, he joined the world-famous Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, UK, where he served for three and a half years as a consultant surgeon and one of the leaders in complex neonatal cardiac surgery. Dr. Bohuta is excited to join University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital to contribute his knowledge and extensive experience to the program. He also enjoys being so close to the beauties of the Pacific Northwest with his family.

Diversity in DOS

This month the Department of Surgery Anti-Racist Reading Group has been discussing the book “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Seattle area author Ijeoma Oluo. We’ve had a series of fantastic small group meetings that have been powerful and thought-provoking. Although the book is not explicitly about health care, there are many lessons that we can all learn about race and the impact of (continued on page 9)
systemic racism on individuals as well as on culture and society. It has been a great first read for the group, as it sets a common conceptual framework and language that we can use for future discussions.

We will be wrapping up discussion of this book in the coming weeks. If Department of Surgery staff, faculty or trainees are interested in joining us it’s not too late! It is by no means required to attend all of the small group sessions and we would love for any interested parties to join when and if they are able. If you would like to join, email Ellison Fidler at ellisonf@uw.edu to be added to our email list.

The next work that we will be reading is the book "Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present" by author Harriet Washington. This history is a searing but necessary look at the ways in which the medical establishment has used and mis-used black Americans, which continues to impact healthcare today. Please consider reading and joining us for what will surely be an important discussion.

TECHdesk HELPS UW MEDICINE WITH COVID-19 RESEARCH IN THE CLOUD

A little over two years ago, a group of UW Medicine faculty and staff met with a team from Microsoft Research-Cambridge (MSRC) to explore a data science partnership. MSRC proposed to combine the clinical and data science expertise at UW Medicine with the expertise of MSRC in data science and machine learning to solve a long-standing problem – perioperative hypotension. The combined team would apply machine learning models to a large and unique UW Medicine clinical dataset to identify risk factors and predictors for the development of perioperative hypotension. The hope was to create an algorithm that could predict the risk of perioperative hypotension better than a trained clinician.

The team had a problem, however. MSRC did not want to accept the risk of having the UW Medicine dataset transferred to them. UW Medicine did not have a safe way for MSRC researchers to log into UW Medicine systems to access the data.

This is where Rob Fabiano (right-top) and Roland Lai (right-bottom) of TECHdesk came in. Over the course of seven months, from mid-2019 to early 2020, TECHdesk built what came to be known as a Digital Research Environment (DRE) in the Microsoft Azure Cloud. Many people use cloud computing every day. Whenever you do a web search, send email from your UW Medicine email account, or watch a show on a streaming video service, you are using cloud computing. Cloud computing has a key feature that makes it perfect for data science research – it is elastic. That is, you can purchase as much computing storage and power for as long as you need it. When your project is over, you just turn it off and stop paying for it.

TECHdesk worked with UW-IT, UW Medicine ITS Security, UW Medicine Compliance, and Microsoft to overcome numerous regulatory, security, and technical challenges building the DRE. Many of these issues UW and UW Medicine had never encountered before – from the mundane, like creating a process to accept the Azure computing credits that Microsoft was offering, to extremely complex, like connecting UW networks and servers to the Azure cloud in a HIPAA-compliant manner.

Just weeks after the first DRE launched, the nation went into lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The MSRC and UW Medicine teams saw an opportunity to partner again, this time to find ways to more efficiently allocate limited resources to care for COVID-19 patients. The research team again approached TECHdesk for help. TECHdesk was able to deploy another DRE, and leverage all they had learned from the first experience to do it much more quickly. As a result of this collaboration, UW Medicine can now do data science on ePHI in the cloud.

Manuscripts for both research projects have been submitted for publication. The UW eScience Institute has published a detailed article if you want to learn more.

Roland Lai
IT Director
Department of Surgery