

Surgery News

2021 HARKINS SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS (CONT.)

**Dr. Kristine Calhoun, Professor,
Division of General Surgery**

*“Addressing the Leaky Pipeline: An Update From the
Department of Surgery Women’s Council”*

**Dr. Lara Oyetunji, Assistant Professor,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery**

“Impacts of Race on Cardiovascular Disease”

**Dr. Henri Ford, Dean and Chief Academic Officer,
University of Miami, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**

*HARKINS LECTURE—“Reflections on the Making of
an Academic Surgeon: My Personal Journey”*

**Dr. Scott Brakenridge, Associate Professor,
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery**

“Surgical Sepsis Update: What the Surgeon Needs to Know...”

**Dr. Sara Rasmussen, Associate Professor,
Division of Transplant Surgery**

*“Pediatric Liver Transplant: Strategies for
Stretching a Limited Resource”*

**Dr. David Rothstein, Professor,
Division of Pediatric General Surgery**

*“Where Do They Go From Here? Transition of
Care from Pediatric to Adult Surgery”*

**Dr. Maziar Khorrnsandi, Assistant Professor,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery**

*“Low Ejection Fraction Coronary Revascularization:
Treating an Underserved Population”*

**Dr. Jeffrey Keenan, Assistant Professor,
Division of Transplant Surgery**

“Modern Circulatory Support: Evolving Tools and Strategies”

**Dr. Colette Inaba, Clinical Assistant Professor,
Division of General Surgery**

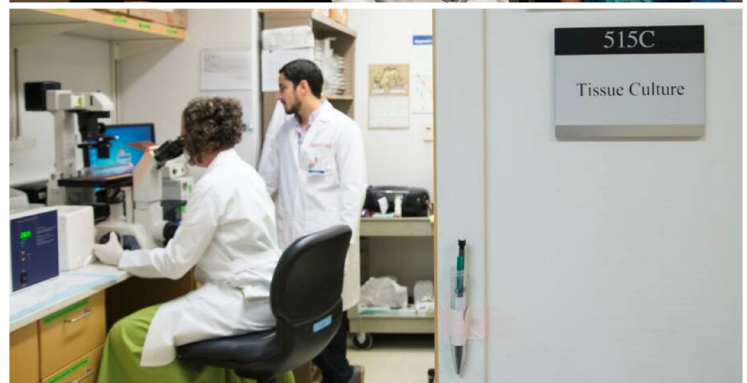
“Personal Finance: An Introduction for Residents”

■ Dr. Nicole Gibran Retires

**Dr. Ron Maier, Professor & Chief
Kira Martin, Administrator**

Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

Dr. Nicole Gibran, Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, retired on July 31st, 2021. It was hard for me to see her go, to imagine Harborview Medical Center and the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center without her, even though she gave us two years’ notice and stayed even longer to tie up loose ends at R&T! I think this was the case with many of us, really each of us who have worked closely with her – whether fellow faculty, administrative staff, UW Regional Burn Center multidisciplinary team members, residents, fellows, researchers or visiting scholars. She left an indelible impression on each person she interacted with, every patient and family member she cared for. Dr. Gibran instilled fear, awe, admiration and



Top: Nicole Gibran's lab research team

Bottom: Nicole Gibran at the microscope with Dr. Ravi Sood

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ultimately love and respect in those that were fortunate enough to benefit from her tutelage, her at times scathing (yet on point) feedback, her wit and her unwavering dedication and passion for excellence, innovation and achievement in her profession and in her daily work.

We influence people every day by what we say and do, by what we write, create and share. And all of that influence adds up. Dr. Gibran has gained most of her creativity and energy from her husband, Dr. Frank Isik, and her two sons, Alexander and Oliver; from these individuals she has learned her most valuable life lessons. When asked what she is most proud of, Dr. Gibran shared, *"By far my most significant accomplishment is my children who are kind, caring and on their respective career paths. After that I would say that I am most proud of team building. Whether it be in the burn center, the R&T radiation remediation project or*

the ABA Burn Quality consensus project (which launched the ABA BQIP program) I have managed to bring people who otherwise have different priorities and viewpoints to work as a team."

Dr. Gibran completed her MD degree at Boston University School of Medicine and continued through her surgery residency at Boston University. She completed Burn and Intensive Care, NIH Post-Doctoral Trauma and Burns, and Northwest Burn Foundation Research Fellowships at the University of Washington. Dr. Gibran's independent professional career has been in the UW Medicine Department of Surgery and the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center, which she directed since 2002. Dr. Gibran ran a very successful NIH-funded research program at Harborview throughout her career (26 years of continuous federal funding is nothing to sneeze at!), allowing her to provide research experiences for many undergraduate students, medical students, residents and fellows as they launched their own careers. She has been deeply committed to the culture and work of the Harborview community for the entirety of her professional life.

Dr. Gibran's clinical expertise is in burn injury, critical care, and wound healing. Her research includes genetic influences on scarring and long-term recovery after burn injury. She served as the President of the American Burn Association (ABA) and on the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and the Board of the NTI. In 2018 Dr. Gibran announced her decision to step down as the Director of the Regional Burn Center and from patient care activities to focus on research, accepting the position of Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education, Harborview Medical Center. *"Transitioning from Director of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center to Associate Dean for Research was never something that I imagined. I welcome the opportunity to engage with faculty and administration to enrich and highlight our exemplary Harborview Medical Center based research programs."* Little did she know then that her new position would catapult her into an intense, stressful and unrelenting multi-year response to a radiation leak at the Harborview Research & Training (R&T) building on May 3rd, 2019, heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on research activities across all UW campuses.



Top: 1992 submitted by Marcia Usui, Dr. Gibran's 'lab mom' - *"You constantly juggled SO many hats and impacted so many young minds!"*

Bottom: submitted by May Reed - *"This is going WAAAAY back, but hopefully this picture reminds you of fun times in the Sage Lab as postdocs. I still don't know how you managed to always look so nice!"*

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Over 200 research employees and 35 Principal Investigators and their labs were required to relocate. An article published in *The Stranger* summarizes, “Dozens of PIs across UW’s sprawling campus volunteered to share their lab space with displaced researchers. Gibran has tried to match R&T researchers with other PIs doing similar work to ensure they’ll have the necessary equipment. But these shared lab spaces still needed equipment and biological samples that were trapped inside the R&T building. Gibran worked with the DOE and cleanup crews to schedule escorted trips inside the building so researchers could grab what they needed to get started. Employees had only 90 minutes.” Dr. Gibran worked tirelessly for two years to manage the aftermath, transition and reopening of the R&T building. Her distinct personality traits – unwavering dedication, no nonsense leadership, clear communication and an unrelenting drive for excellence, allowed the research communities at Harborview to survive the shut-down, recover and ultimately start to thrive again, during a period of unbelievable tumultuousness and uncertainty.

In closing, I would like to highlight several notes, memories and thoughts on Dr. Gibran shared by the many individuals she deeply and positively impacted over the years. Her current transition has triggered memories of her career over the years. She states, “I had the privilege of knowing so many patients and their families who trusted me to care for them. And that feels like an honor. In my garden I have three welded garden frogs that a grateful patient made for me - I shared two more with Beth Costa whom he also appreciated. For me they represent constant reminder of my clinical contributions.”

“Thank you so much for navigating these past two tumultuous years when R&T went down, the pandemic hit, and bringing the building back online again. Your straightforward communication and leadership have been a godsend for me in trying to herd the cats back into building again. I really could not have done it without your help. I’ll miss the leadership and tenacity you brought to the table within the School of Medicine.” – Kim Wisecup, Manager, Space Planning & Management, Office of Facilities, UW Medicine

“Thank you for your tremendous example, leadership, and devotion to teaching and mentorship as just one piece of your amazing career. You were the first faculty member to interview me so many years ago and have provided such sage advice many times over the years that has aided me and my career.” – Dr. Deborah Marquardt, Assistant Professor, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

“A few years back when I first saw you do a burn case, I thought: “Wow! This person knows the value of doing things as well as they can be done. Your attention to detail in the OR, the lab and in the conference room has served the Burn Community and more importantly, our patients well.” – Dr. Hugh Foy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery

“I’ve always appreciated your candor, sense of humor, and ability to get things done.” – Mike Stanislaus, Director, School of Medicine, Chief Business Office

“I am thankful to have worked with you both as a trainee and as a colleague. I learned a tremendous amount from you, much of which is now incorporated into my own teaching. Your pioneering path

in burns and more recently in the rehab of the R&T building has been inspiring to witness. Thank you so much for your time, your teaching and your honest and unvarnished takes on the world around you.” – Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery

“I met you as a Burn Fellow and watched as you became the Burn Center Director and first female ABA President. I was often approached at the ABA and the ISBI and asked...” Do you really know Dr. Nicole Gibran? Does she talk to you?” I was and will always be proud to be one of your battle-axes. I’m proud to know you as a mentor and friend. You have enriched more lives than you will ever know.” – Kathy Espey, RN, Burn/Pediatric Unit, Harborview Medical Center

“We R&T investigators were well served by your surgeon instincts, taking command of the situation, making quick decisions, and getting things done. You were an exemplary leader, and our many thanks don't do justice to the job that you did.” – Dr. Nick Poolos, Professor, Department of Neurology

“I have watched you with awe as you have succeeded as a surgeon, scientist, clinician, administrator and leader. Our interactions and collaborations were always productive and fun.” – Dr. John Olerud, Professor Emeritus, Department of Dermatology