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FACULTY



Dr. **Kathleen Berfield**, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Chief of Thoracic Surgery VA Puget Sound Health Care System, was named Chair of the inaugural National Surgery Office Thoracic Surgical Advisory Board (SAB). As Chair, she will lead other Thoracic surgeons within the Veterans Health Administration and serve as subject matter expert to the National Surgery Office and Veterans Health Administration leadership. Dr. Berfield, previously served on the Cardiothoracic Surgery SAB, and started her 3-year term as Chair for Thoracic Surgery on June 1st.



Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor & Chief, Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, was named President Elect of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve in the leadership of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)," said Dr. Bulger. "The AAST is dedicated to discovery, dissemination, implementation, and evaluation of knowledge related to acute care surgery (trauma, surgical critical care, and emergency general surgery) by fostering

research, education, and professional development in an environment of fellowship, collegiality, inclusion, diversity and equity. It is a joy to work side by side with peers who are passionate about advancing the care of the critically ill and injured and supporting the future of our specialty."



Dr. **Jeffrey Friedrich**, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, was selected as a member in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Plastic Surgery. Dr. Friedrich will be setting, maintaining, and monitoring the curricula and standards for the ACGME's Plastic Surgery RRC. As Program Director of the Department of Surgery's Plastic Surgery residency since 2011, he has advanced the department from a coordinated program with nine residents to a fully integrated program with 25 residents currently.



Dr. **Mark Meissner**, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, was awarded Vascular Interventional Advances' 2021 VEINS (Venous Endovascular Interventional Strategies) Award honoring him as an outstanding clinician, innovator, educator, and mentor. The award was presented to Dr. Meissner at the 11th annual VEINS conference.

"I am very pleased that this award recognizes the significant contributions that the University of Washington has made to advancing the care of patients with acute and chronic venous disease," said Dr. Meissner. "It would have not been possible without the support from my colleagues in the Department of Surgery who have supported me and allowed me to pursue my interest in venous disease over the past 30 years."



Dr. **Sherene Shalhub**, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, received the Pioneer in EDS and HSD Research Award for demonstrating a long-term commitment to outstanding research and progression into Ehlers-Danlos syndromes, hypermobility spectrum disorders, and the associated symptoms and conditions. "I am truly humbled," said Dr. Shalhub. "I feel a deep sense of gratitude every day for all the help and support from everyone to make this possible."

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Dr. **Jonathan Sham**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, was awarded the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association's (AHPBA) **2021 Research Development Grant** for his research project, "**Novel Drug-eluting Biopolymer Reduce Pancreatic Fistula After Pancreatic Surgery.**" The research is in partnership with **Buddy Ratner**, the Michael L. & Myrna Darland Endowed Chair in Technology Commercialization in the Department of Bioengineering. Dr. Sham was this year's sole recipient of the award, which was the AHPBA's most competitive year ever. Dr. Sham was formally recognized for this achievement at the August AHPBA meeting in Miami.



Dr. **Mika Sinanan**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, named President of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) at its annual House of Delegates meeting in September 2021. The WSMA represents physicians, physician assistants, resident physicians, and medical students throughout Washington state. "I've spent my entire career at the UW and thank the many great colleagues, residents, students, and mentors here who I have learned and benefited from," said Dr. Sinanan. "While in my WSMA role I work for physicians and PAs across our entire state, my clinical home is the anchor and inspiration I draw on each day and will always be grateful for."



Dr. **Peter Wu**, Associate Professor, VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA), received the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer's (CoC) State Chair Outstanding Performance Award for exhibiting outstanding leadership, innovation and making significant contributions to cancer care improvement in Washington state. The award will be presented to Dr. Wu at the CoC's virtual State Chair Town Hall meeting in October 2021.

Dr. Wu also received a \$20,000 American Cancer Society award to support his "Return to Screening Quality of Improvement Project" to address the impact of COVID-19 on colorectal cancer screening at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System.

RESIDENTS



Dr. **John Monu**, Chief Resident, General Surgery, published "Psychological Traits and the Persuasiveness of Lung Cancer Screening Health Messages" in the Annals of Thoracic Surgery.

"Lung cancer screening has been proven to save lives, yet it remains underutilized," said Dr. Monu. "In a prior study, we learned that individuals eligible for lung cancer screening are primarily interested in learning more

about screening before deciding to be screened. By combining knowledge from the field of psychology that examines personality and its effects on decision-making, we assessed screen-eligible individuals' preferences related to lung cancer screening image advertisements. We found that advertisements that focus on the "big picture" and the benefits of lung cancer screening were most persuasive. This knowledge can be used to guide the design of more effective communications that inform our eligible patients about lung cancer screening. I am fortunate to have world-class researchers and experts in various fields here at UW. Our study relied on a strong collaboration with Professor of Marketing at the UW Foster School of Business, Dr. Nidhi Agrawal. Being able to draw on her expertise allowed us to explore a unique approach to studying ways in which we can improve our communication as health care providers."

