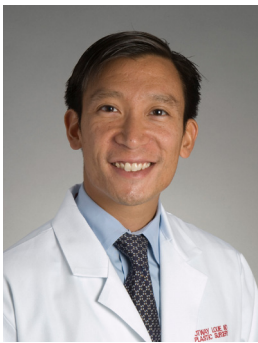


Surgery News

Dr. Otway Louie Named Section Chief of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Nicholas Vedder
*Professor & Chief,
Division of Plastic Surgery*



Dr. Otway Louie was named UWMC Section Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Louie has served as Interim Section Chief since January 1, 2021, replacing Dr. Peter Neligan who held the position for 13 years before his retirement. Otway is an outstanding clinician, teacher, academician, leader, administrator, and friend. He will do an outstanding job carrying forward the culture of excellence and collaboration that has defined our group over the years. Having been a faculty member since 2008, we are impressed with his deep knowledge of the UWMC Section of Plastic Surgery as well as his insight into the opportunities for growth, collaboration, and support of other services across the institution, with a special interest in integration and optimization of services between UW Medical Center – Montlake and UW Medical Center – Northwest. We wish to personally welcome and thank Otway for his commitment to this important role. We look forward to his excellent leadership.

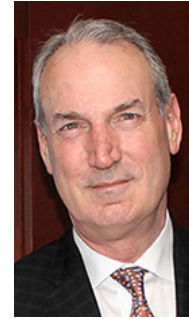
American College of Surgeons/Society of Thoracic Surgeons Verification Program in General Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Farhood Farjah
*Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research
Associate Professor,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Associate Medical Director,
Surgical Outcomes Research Center*

The University of Washington (UW) Section of Thoracic Surgery is the second program in the nation to participate in the American College of Surgeons/Society of Thoracic Surgeons Verification Program in General Thoracic Surgery. This new program is a quality improvement initiative modelled from similar programs for trauma and bariatric surgery. A key feature of verification programs is to help surgeons obtain the necessary resources to provide the highest quality care.

Verification involves a set of standards and a site visit every three years. The standards include structures and processes of care as well as a requirement for programs to use benchmarked, risk-adjusted outcomes to drive practice change. Site visitors evaluate prepared documents, interview various stakeholders, and review redacted patient records to determine compliance with standards.

Members of the UW Section of Thoracic Surgery who helped develop the verification for General Thoracic Surgery include Drs. **Douglas E. Wood** (above left), The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair and **Farhood Farjah** (above right), Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of



Cardiothoracic Surgery, Associate Medical Director, Surgical Outcomes Research Center, partnered with Drs. Lisa Brown (University of California Davis) and Mark Allen (Mayo Clinic) to draft, vet, and revise the standards in close collaboration with Drs. David Hoyt and Clifford Ko from the American College of Surgeons. These standards were evaluated by designees from various allied professional societies (e.g. pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, anesthesiology, etc.) and surgeons working in non-academic settings. Dr. Brown and her team were the first to volunteer as a pilot site. The next step for the Verification Program is to pilot the process at non-academic medical centers.

The Verification Program determined that the UW Section of Thoracic Surgery is compliant with standards. Opportunities for improvement were identified, as were the additional resources needed to realize these opportunities. The UW will continue to play an ongoing leadership role in the deployment of this new national quality improvement initiative.