

SURGERY

Synopsis



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd
The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair

Welcome to the next edition of *Surgery Synopsis*. We are highlighting the area of Transplant Surgery in this issue. The early part of my career was focused on transplantation; I was recruited to UW to develop general thoracic surgery, but importantly, also to start and lead a new program in lung transplantation. My very first surgery at UW was also the beginning of the lung transplant program at UW, performed on Easter Sunday, fitting as Easter is a day that stands for renewal of life in the Christian tradition, and April is National Donate Life Month. You cannot imagine how stressful it was to have my first case as an attending also be an operation with so much at stake. Fortunately, the finishing cardiothoracic surgery fellow, only a few months junior to me in training, was an excellent surgeon, better than me, and so the case went smoothly with me as a “teaching assistant” and starting my career.

While growing the lung transplant program, I benefited from a fast education in transplant policy. Serving on the Board of Directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), as well as the Thoracic Transplant Committee and Membership and Professional Standards Committee.

As the program grew, it became clear that we needed a true lung transplant leader who had more expertise than myself, and who would focus on leading the lung transplant program to its next stage of growth and development. In 1999, we were very fortunate to recruit Dr. Michael Mulligan, who became the director of the lung transplant program and now also serves as the Division Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Dr. Mulligan did just what we hoped for; he elevated the UW lung transplant program to one of the largest programs in the country, and one with outstanding outcomes. It has been hugely rewarding to see how he accelerated the lung transplant program's development, and it was a very proud moment when we passed our 1,000th lung transplant in July of 2019. Please read Dr. Mulligan's comments on the current state of our lung transplant program on page [10](#).

Lung transplantation is only one of the transplant specialties within the Department of Surgery at UW. The Department has a solid organ transplant program that includes:

1. Heart transplantation (adult and pediatric)
2. Kidney transplantation: Living Donor and Cadaveric (adult and pediatric)
3. Liver transplantation: Living Donor (LDLT) and Cadaveric (adult and pediatric)
4. Pancreas transplantation (adult)
5. Transplants that use combinations of these organs (e.g., pancreas and kidney)

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There is a lot to say about transplantation surgery; accordingly, we have asked Dr. Jorge Reyes, Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery, to write an overall summary of our transplant program, including the important research done by the [Clinical and Bio-Analytics Transplant Laboratory \(CBATL\)](#). A timeline of our transplant program milestones as well as other data points of interest are on page 3.

You will also find a summary of each area of transplantation written by our faculty program directors. These summaries provide a more robust and exciting view of our transplantation programs. Please find them starting on page 4.

One transplant activity that is developing as this is written, is the creation of a new UW Medicine Transplant Institute. Transplant is by its very nature multi-disciplinary: the cardiologists and cardiac surgeons must work together; the nephrologists and kidney transplant surgeons work together, and so on. To make transplant programs work together more efficiently and effectively for our patients and providers, the multi-disciplinary team will be organized along the lines of the UW Medicine Heart Institute. This is an exciting development; look for more details in the near future.

I've offered a look at transplantation by program areas and highlights, but above all the transplant program is about the people involved – in particular the donors and recipients: the donor offering the gift of a life-saving organ - perhaps the most altruistic act a person can make; and the recipients, receiving such a gift with grace, humility and gratitude. We are privileged to share three inspiring stories from recipients and donors with you. Please find those beginning on page 5.

Other features in this issue of *Surgery Synopsis* include our faculty recognitions and achievements, new faculty introductions, and #GettingtoKnowDoS.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Surgery Synopsis*.

Sincerely,

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