

# SURGERY Synopsis



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



[Douglas E. Wood](#),  
MD, FACS, FRCSEd  
*The Henry N. Harkins  
Professor & Chair*

This issue of *Surgery Synopsis* will focus on the research mission of the Department of Surgery. Research is a critical pillar of our department's threefold mission (Clinical Care-Education-Research) and boldly leans into the future. The innovative treatments and concepts that surgeons across the world will be using tomorrow are being developed right now in labs, conference rooms, simulation suites and patient care areas across UW. Research is one of our most hopeful pursuits: researchers look at what we do today and imagine what might be. As a department we share a passion for innovation and improving the field of surgery. Asking questions about what, why, and how we care for patients is fundamental to academic surgery and every day our faculty and trainees are asking and answering these questions. Our

department is engaged in a wide spectrum of research: we conduct basic laboratory bench research, clinical research, clinical trials, device trials, outcomes, and translational research. We enroll patients in trials; publish and present our work; test new technology; and work to form or reform policies that lead to better and more equitable health for all. We are a part of a culture of curiosity that strives to produce results that directly benefit human health.

Our department is so fortunate to have the talent and passion for research in Professor [David Flum](#), MD, MPH. Dave is the Vice Chair of Research for the department. He understands and leads the research efforts in our department and as the result of a research strategic planning initiative that took place throughout 2022, the concept and structure of the Division of Research was formed. He has been a tireless champion in establishing and now leading the Division of Research within the department. He was and continues to be the driving force behind development of the [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#). As a PI of note on many research projects, Dave is well-known and respected throughout the country and internationally. We asked that Dave write a "column" or letter to the *Surgery Synopsis* community describing his vision for research in his role as the "Inaugural" Vice Chair for Research, as well as an overview and vision of the Division of Research and the exciting things that are happening. Read his letter on [page 3](#).

One of the key strategic projects that is now in place is the Center for Immunomodulation Research (CFIR). This center is a new venture for the department. The mission of CFIR is to enhance basic and translational bench research in surgically relevant aspects of the immune system. As part of establishing the center, Dr. [Ian N. \(Nick\) Crispe](#), MB, BS, PhD, a Professor in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, is joining our department. He was initially trained as a general physician but has been a full-time researcher for most of his career. He is and will be working with bench/translational researchers in the department to develop our focus on bench research related to immunomodulation for cancer and inflammation. The center will be coordinated by Dr. [Venu Pillarisetty](#), Professor, Division of General Surgery, who has recently been awarded a grant in this area. Please see [page 6](#) to learn more about this research. Establishing this center is an exciting and innovative structure that multiplies individual research efforts. You can read more about the CFIR on [page 4](#).

Another area of research that is near and dear to my heart is re(forming) public policy. A number of our faculty have working in the public policy arena over the years. An example is one of Dr. Bulger's projects as PI for the Seattle site of the Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network. Her service, spanning 10 years, resulted in engineering/safety changes to automobiles. Research she spearheaded resulted in new standards to increase the roof strength in passenger vehicles. More recently, Dr. [Deepika Nehra](#), Associate Professor, Division of Trauma,

(continued on page 2)

# FEATURES

CHAIR'S MESSAGE ..... 1

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIR OF RESEARCH ..... 3  
 THE CENTER FOR IMMUNOMODULATION RESEARCH ..... 4  
 IAN N. (NICK) CRISPE, MB, BS, PHD ..... 5  
 VENU PILLARISETTY, MD, AND THE UW TUMOR  
 IMMUNE MICROENVIRONMENT (TIME) LAB ..... 6  
 YUSHA KATIE LIU, MD, PHD  
 NERVE REGENERATION RESEARCH ..... 7

## FEATURES

2024 SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE ..... 4  
 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY COMMUNITY ..... 8  
 CLINICAL HIGHLIGHT ..... 9  
 GRAND ROUNDS ..... 9  
 HARKINS CORNER ..... 10  
 DIVERSITY IN DOS ..... 11  
 GETTING TO KNOW DOS—  
 BARCLAY STEWART, MD, MPH, PHD ..... 12  
 NEW FACULTY ..... 14  
 HARKINS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ..... 15  
 FACULTY RETIREMENTS  
 DR. JAMES PERKINS ..... 16  
 DR. BENJAMIN ANDERSON ..... 17  
 DR. JORGE REYES ..... 18

## SURGERY NEWS

DR. BENJAMIN STARNES STEPPED DOWN AS  
 DIVISION CHIEF OF VASCULAR SURGERY ..... 19  
 DR. RUSSELL ETTINGER INTERIM  
 CHIEF OF PEDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERY ..... 19  
 CALS - CARDIAC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT ..... 20  
 HONORS & AWARDS  
 FALL 2023 UW MEDICINE CARES AWARD WINNERS ... 21  
 DR. JONATHAN SHAM RECEIVES BOTH  
 EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR AWARD &  
 THE CHARLES A. COLTMAN JR. FELLOWSHIP ..... 21  
 DR. RAYMOND YEUNG RECEIVES UO1 FUNDING  
 FOR AI TECHNOLOGY IN CANCER CARE ..... 21  
 DR. ELINA QUIROGA INDUCTED INTO ACS  
 ACADEMY OF MASTER SURGEON EDUCATORS ..... 22  
 DR. SHANE MORRISON SELECTED AS  
 2024 PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLAR ..... 22  
 DR. HANNAH WILD AWARDED THE  
 HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGES GRANT  
 AND NIH FOGARTY GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY  
 SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIP ..... 22  
 DOUGLAS E. WOOD FELLOWSHIP FOR DIVERSITY  
 IN SURGICAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP ..... 23  
 2023 UW MEDICINE WELL-BEING  
 GRANT AWARDEES ..... 23  
 2023 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
 CLINICAL CONGRESS ..... 24  
 2023 HARKINS SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM &  
 74TH ANNUAL DR. ALFRED A. STRAUSS LECTURE ..... 25  
 IN THE MEDIA ..... 26  
 PUBLICATIONS ..... 27  
 MARK YOUR CALENDAR ..... 28

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Burn & Critical Care has been involved with gun violence intervention and prevention and was awarded renewed and increased grant funding to support the Harborview Violence Intervention and Prevention Program. This state funding from the [Washington State Department of Commerce Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention \(OFSVP\)](#) will support Dr. Nehra's multidisciplinary efforts to build a Harborview Medical Center-based team dedicated to providing wraparound support services for patients and families impacted by gun violence.

I have been deeply involved in developing [lung cancer screening guidelines](#) and advocating for the national coverage policies to support their adoption. Policy formation and implementation is often a long and difficult journey, but the impact can be huge. Lung cancer screening policy has been a game changer in cancer care, with subsequent improvements in lung cancer mortality driving record-breaking improvements in all-cause cancer mortality. This means more individuals becoming cancer survivors rather than cancer victims.

Healthcare disparities and equity in healthcare systems is a burgeoning area of research across the country and within the Department of Surgery. The goals for research in this area can be summarized by the mission statement for the [UW's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Center for Transformational Research](#): "to study and ultimately eliminate health disparities by promoting the principles of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in the research of vulnerable populations and by increasing the recruitment, retention and advancement of students, residents, fellows, and faculty from groups under-represented in medicine." We have several faculty members engaged in healthcare disparities/equity research and will focus in-depth on equity, diversity and inclusion research in one of our upcoming *Surgery Synopsis* issues.

As we press forward with our research efforts, it is important to remember that research is expensive. While all of our faculty work very diligently to become funded, we are fortunate that the Department of Surgery also has a number of individuals who support the mission with their philanthropy, and we are grateful and appreciative of those gifts that support our mission of discovery. The stories of what has inspired them to give to our department would fill a book: A patient, grateful to be alive after a difficult surgery shows their gratitude with a gift—large or small; the family of a patient, in gratitude or in memory, sets up a fund to advance research related to their disease; alumni grateful for the outstanding education they received give to make sure that commitment to education continues; staff members who are proud of the mission and demonstrated expertise in this department give to help carry on their good work. And our faculty give back because they helped to build this department and want to ensure its future greatness. We depend upon your generosity—please note the "giving buttons" throughout *Surgery Synopsis* that can be used to give a tax deductible gift of any size.

This issue of *Surgery Synopsis* also includes a focus on one of our clinical areas, introduction to several of our new faculty, faculty that are in the news, and a favorite feature, #GettingtoKnowDoS. In this issue, we learn more about Dr. [Barclay Stewart](#), Assistant Professor. I hope you enjoy reading all parts of this issue of *Surgery Synopsis*.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd  
*The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*  
 Department of Surgery  
 University of Washington

# Message from the Vice Chair of Research



[David R. Flum, MD, MPH](#)

Vice Chair, Division of Research  
Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dear Synopsis Community,

It is my pleasure to serve as the inaugural Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery and to lead the department's newly formed Division of Research. These new roles developed partly from a research strategic planning initiative that took place in 2022. This included interviews with over 35 surgeon-scientists, departmental administrators, and staff. These interviews revealed multiple pressure points and opportunities to improve. Several issues were high priority, including:

1. a drop off in the number of bench/translational researchers;
2. financial challenges to starting and sustaining research; and
3. the need for a governance structure for research related policy, performance, and infrastructure spending.

The Division of Research was created in July 2023 to address these issues. The division is comprised of 45 faculty members, and several surgeon-scientist core leaders—which includes Drs. [Scott Brakenridge](#), Associate Professor, [Meghan Flanagan](#), Assistant Professor, and [Venu Pillarisetty](#), Professor, with [Victoria Good](#), [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) Program Operations Specialist, providing administrative support. [Erin Fannon](#), SORCE Director of Program Operations, is also leading the central services core, including the formation of a clinical trials unit, grant writing support, biostatistical resources, and support structures for research staff. Some of the division's early success was the coordination of key investments in bench/translational research, including the recruitment of two bench/translational researchers. Dr. Katie Liu, Assistant Professor, joined the department in fall 2023 as a plastic surgeon and will be collaborating with the Institute for Stem Cell Research on developing a peripheral nerve regeneration research program. Dr. [Ian N. \(Nick\) Crispe](#), Professor of Laboratory Medicine, Department of Immunology, has also joined the department as our first Schilling Visiting Lecturer and has been working with bench/translational researchers across several labs to develop our focus on bench research related to immunomodulation for cancer and inflammation. You can read profiles on both new researchers in this Surgery Synopsis issue. The new, cross-departmental bench/translational focus is coordinated by Dr. Pillarisetty and is described in this Surgery Synopsis issue as well. With Dr. Flanagan's support, the

Division of Research is streamlining the research training process for residents in the seven-year general surgery track, which makes it easier for students and trainees to engage in research. With Dr. Brakenridge's support, we are finding more effective ways to measure and improve the research enterprise. As a group, we are working on policies that will strengthen research moving forward. Lastly, we now have [updated web profiles](#) of all members of the division which, for the first time in recent history, will allow us to generate a research yearbook for the department. These are early days for the division, and we know there are many challenges that still need to be addressed. We think the divisional structure will greatly enhance the work of supporting the research mission and are optimistic about all that can be accomplished. Working together, the team leading the new Division of Research is taking on the challenges that the strategic planning process identified and is excited about prospects for the future.

The vision for research in the department is that all who are involved in research—faculty, fellows, residents, and staff, find greater satisfaction, support, and success in research. Whether or not research is an important part of your day-to-day work in the department, you are key to actualizing this vision.

Thank you for all you do to reinforce the culture of inquiry and innovation that makes this department so unique.

Sincerely,

David R. Flum, MD, MPH  
Vice Chair, Division of Research  
UW Department of Surgery

SUPPORT THIS WORK

# The Center for Immunomodulation Research

The Center for Immunomodulation Research (CFIR) is a new venture in the Department of Surgery (DoS), based on the recognition that the immune system is central to much of surgical science. The immune system is composed of two elements, an innate immune system we share with all animals and plants, and an adaptive immune system based on B and T cells, which we share with other vertebrates. These two systems both provide essential protection against infection, but they do not always function optimally. In sepsis, a frequent and life-threatening complication of infections that afflict seriously ill surgical patients, the innate immune system is over-active and causes multiple organs to shut down. To manage this problem better, we need to understand how the innate immune system is regulated. In organ transplantation, the problem is an unwanted T and B cell immune response against the donor organ, resulting sometimes in failure of the transplant despite immunosuppressive drugs. The best way to enhance transplantation, and avoid the need for immunosuppression, would be to control the adaptive immune system so it no longer treats the transplanted organ like an invader, but instead

accepts it as part of the body. Conversely, in cancer the problem is often inadequate T cell immunity. While some cancers are very sensitive to new treatments that enhance T cell immunity, the approach works well only in some patients, and only in some cancers. It's not clear why. The concept that brings all these issues together is **Immunomodulation**. We want to understand enough about how the innate and adaptive immune responses are regulated, so that we can control them both when they are too active, as in sepsis, or not active enough, as in cancer. Immunomodulation covers both enhancing and suppressing aspects of immune function, for clinical benefit.

The mission of the CFIR is to enhance basic and translational bench research in surgically relevant aspects of the immune system. The first task is to connect the current basic and translational researchers in the DoS and find ways to help them contribute to each other's research work. This will result in the wider sharing of knowledge, ideas and technical approaches. Next, the CFIR will grow a core lab, in which resident and fellow trainee surgeon-scientists will work alongside PhD scientists, learning both the

technical approaches and the thinking behind laboratory investigation. All research is critically dependent on funding, and the CFIR will both advocate for seed money from internal sources and enhance the process of grant submission by convening internal review groups, so grants that are submitted to federal and other agencies will first benefit from the critical input of this large group of experts. A long-term goal will be to incorporate a small number of carefully selected basic science faculty to work alongside surgeon-scientists in directly adjoining laboratory space, fostering intellectual and technologically cross-talk at all levels. More of our faculty will become adjunct professors in basic science departments, including the Department of Immunology, and will then be able to supervise graduate students in PhD programs. The CFIR aims to be a flagship program that will attract academically inclined surgeons to the University of Washington, support their research, and ensure their retention. Along the way, we will generate knowledge that improves clinical care in cancer, transplantation and sepsis.

SUPPORT THIS WORK

## 2024 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

The annual Surgical Ethics Conference will be held **Thursday, August 1st and Friday, August 2nd**. This conference introduces participants to skills and information to enable them to make competent ethical decisions in clinical situations.

The conference is open for both in-person and online participation and incorporates asynchronous content including multi-disciplinary small group discussions. Topics are tailored to surgical specialties and define ethical

principles and concepts, allowing participants to better understand the ethical debates that bear upon each topic.

Check the [Center for Surgical Ethics' web page](#) for conference updates and to learn more about the center. Please contact [dosadmin@uw.edu](mailto:dosadmin@uw.edu) / 206-543-3680 if you have questions.

### — CENTER OF SURGICAL ETHICS' LEADERSHIP —



Professor of Surgery, University of Buenos Aires, Associate Director, Education and Research, Clínicas Hospital "José de San Martín," University of Buenos Aires

Dr. Alberto R. Ferreres



Professor (Joint), Bioethics & Humanities and Pediatrics, Division of Bioethics & Palliative Care, Chief, UW Medicine Ethics Consultation Service, Organizational Ethics Consultation Service, Seattle Children's

Denise Dudzinski, PhD, HEC-C



Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery

Dr. Douglas E. Wood



Professor, Division of General Surgery & Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery Endowed Professor

Dr. Andrew S. Wright

# Ian N. (Nick) Crispe, MB, BS, PhD

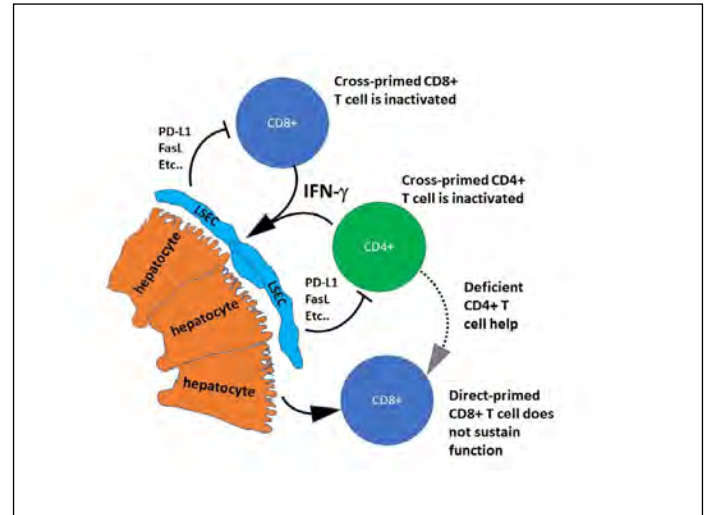


[Ian N. \(Nick\) Crispe, MB, BS, PhD](#)

Professor, Laboratory Medicine  
Department of Immunology

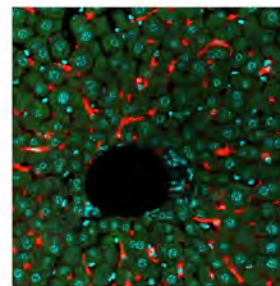
Ian N. (Nick) Crispe, MB, BS, PhD, initially trained as a general physician but early on became entranced by the immune system and has been a full-time researcher for most of his career. The Crispe Lab studies immunity in the liver, with a focus on the surprising fact that T cells that are activated there often end up non-functional, and on the diverse liver cell types that promote such T cell dysfunction. Recent research has addressed both innate immunity and T cell immunity in animal and human livers, using the tissue slice platform. Thus, the lab has documented abnormal innate immunity in Hepatitis C-infected livers that persists after the virus has been eradicated by anti-viral drugs, and devised methods to study T cell function in the context of liver tissue, which is very different from T cells in a culture dish. The cutting edge of cancer medicine is manipulation of the immune system using antibodies to target checkpoints that may prevent T cells from enacting their defensive function. However, the distinct immune microenvironment of the liver poses difficulties for immunotherapy. When colonic or other metastatic cancer spreads to the liver, the metastases build themselves by using local resources, including the same liver cells that promote T cell inactivation in other contexts. Going forward, the Center for Immunomodulation Research will focus on how cells from the host liver tissue are recruited into developing metastases, and how such cells influence the cancer's resistance to immunotherapy. This will help devise future immunotherapy that will be effective in the liver, which is a critical need since metastatic cancer in the liver is a major cause of cancer deaths and remains difficult to treat by other means.

SUPPORT THIS WORK

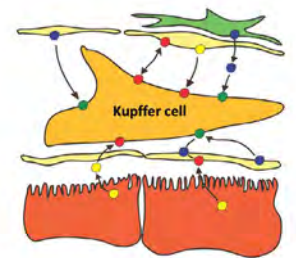


**Figure 1:** T cells have a dysfunctional relationship with the liver. Mostly when T cells make Interferon-gamma (IFN-g), it is part of their defense against viruses, but in the liver, we think that IFN-g activates negative feedback molecules that turn the T cells off. Very similar mechanisms operate in cancer and are the targets for immunotherapy, except that immunotherapy doesn't work well for cancer in the liver. This is a riddle we intend to solve, in partnership with Drs. Raymond Yeung and Venu Pillarisetty.

## Kupffer cells: most abundant immune cell in liver



Abundant macrophages in sinusoids



Cross-talk with other liver cell types

**Figure 2:** Innate immunity is central in sepsis, and we think macrophages are the cell that drives this out-of-control immune response. The biggest population of macrophages is in the liver, where they are called Kupffer cells. These Kupffer cells talk to all their cellular neighbors; if we understand this cellular crosstalk it will be easier to know where to intervene, to calm overactive innate immunity. Sepsis is a frequent cause of death in surgical patients, and better insights into how it works will save many lives. We are building new approaches to the problem with Dr. Scott Brakenridge.

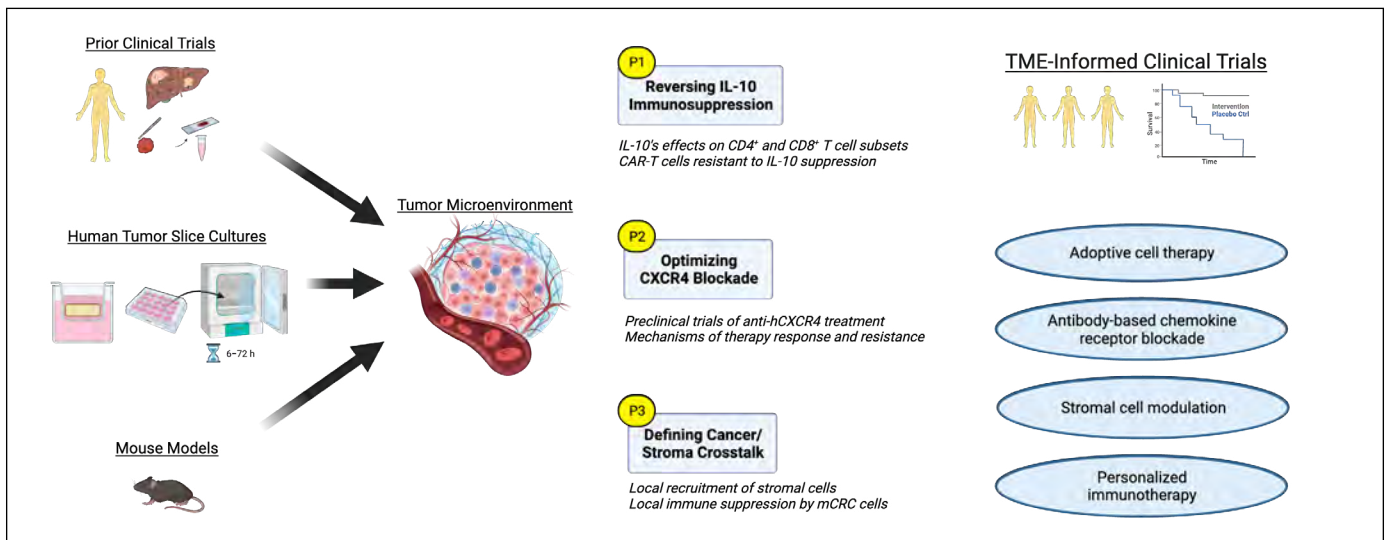
# Venu Pillarisetty, MD, and the UW Tumor Immune Microenvironment (TIME) Lab



**Venu Pillarisetty, MD**  
Professor, Surgical Oncology  
Division of General Surgery

Dr. Venu Pillarisetty, a surgeon-scientist specializing in hepatopancreatobiliary cancers, and his colleagues were recently awarded a grant from the Department of Defense for the research project, “Enhancing Immunity in Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases.” The [UW Tumor Immune Microenvironment \(TIME\)](#) Lab led by Dr. Pillarisetty will work with Dr. Peter Westcott at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and

the Department of Surgery’s Center for Immunomodulation Research (CFIR) led by Dr. Nick Crispe to perform three independent but related projects. In **Project 1**, Dr. Pillarisetty will use human cancer in tissue culture to test the importance of a molecule that can switch off many kinds of immunity. Interleukin-10 is present in the liver and may be the reason why colon cancer that has spread to the liver is resistant to other kinds of immune attack. Therefore, as a starting point, antibodies will be used to inactivate Interleukin-10 and follow the effects on the cancer cells and on other cells. In **Project 2**, Dr. Westcott will focus on the idea that anti-cancer immune cells may not gain access to the cancer cells because they are immobilized in the wrong parts of the tissue. Antibody treatments and genetically engineered mice will be used to explore ways to liberate these immune cells so that they can reach their intended targets. As a colon cancer grows in the liver, it constricts local tissue cells to provide it with a blood supply and corrupts their immune functions to further disable anti-cancer immunity. In **Project 3**, Dr. Crispe will use genetically engineered mice to trace where the non-cancerous cells in the growing cancer come from, how they control immune responses, and how they are influenced by the presence of the colon cancer cells. Conclusions will be confirmed by going back to human cancers to determine if they act in the same way. From this research the UW TIME Lab/Cold Spring Harbor/CFIR will devise new approaches to immune therapy for colon cancer which has spread to the liver, and thus push back the growing wave of cancer deaths from this cause that increasingly afflicts younger people.



**Figure 1: TTSA Proposal Overview.**

Our proposal is composed of three independent, but interrelated, projects focused on translating knowledge gained from the Time-informed clinical trials and sophisticated model systems towards clinical practice. The downstream product of our projects will be improved understanding of the tumor biology that drives resistance to therapy in patients with liver metastases, facilitating next-generation clinical trials. Created with BioRender.com

SUPPORT THIS WORK

# Yusha Katie Liu, MD, PhD

## Nerve Regeneration Research



[Yusha Katie Liu, MD, PhD](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of Plastic Surgery

Returning to UW as faculty in fall 2023, Yusha Katie Liu, MD, PhD, is a hand and peripheral nerve surgeon-scientist working to elucidate the biological mechanisms underlying peripheral nerve injury and recovery. In close collaboration with the other PIs in the Neuromuscular Disease Research Group (Mark Bothwell, PhD, David Mack, PhD and Alec Smith, PhD) Dr. Liu has launched a basic science lab on the UW Medicine South Lake Union campus as part of the Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine.

Dr. Liu's current research interests include:

1. Characterizing regeneration in different axonal subtypes after peripheral nerve injury.
2. Examining the mechanisms underlying the degeneration of the neuromuscular junction, as muscle reinnervation by regenerating axons is not possible after a critical window of 12-18 months.
3. Exploring the role of vascularization and angiogenesis in peripheral nerve regeneration.

SUPPORT THIS WORK

Additionally, Dr. Liu is continuing clinical research projects she began during her time as a plastic surgery resident. One of her primary projects was the development of a novel surface electromyography (EMG)-driven, smartphone-integrated therapeutic gaming system for rehabilitation. In partnership with [Aaron Bunnell, MD](#), in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, and Orthocare Innovations LLC, they designed a wireless surface EMG device to detect the electrical signals generated from underlying muscle contractions and used this to control a simple game. Dr. Liu and team found that even patients with significant muscle weakness could use the system to engage in active therapy exercises. For patients with peripheral nerve injuries, the system could facilitate motor relearning after nerve and tendon transfer surgeries. The other major focus of Dr. Liu's clinical research is to better understand phantom limb sensations and pain in patients after limb amputation.

Complementary to these research efforts is her clinical subspecialty focus on peripheral nerve surgery. With Dr. Liu's arrival, [a new multidisciplinary clinic at Harborview Medical Center](#) has been created to streamline care for patients with peripheral nerve injuries, from diagnosis to surgery to rehabilitation. The comprehensive care team includes plastic surgery, neurosurgery, rehabilitation medicine, rehabilitation psychology, hand therapy, radiology, and interventional pain. Dr. Liu is excited to integrate science and surgery to translate new discoveries into innovative treatments, ultimately to improve functional outcomes for our patients.



Electromyography (EMG)-driven, smartphone-integrated therapeutic gaming system for rehabilitation.

# Department of Surgery Community

The Edgewater Hotel played host to the 2023 Department of Surgery Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17th. This yearly event provides a cheerful setting for colleagues to mingle and socialize at year's end. This year's event photographers, Farrah Leland, Associate Director, Resource Management & Compliance, and Tea Florence-Moreland, Program Operations Specialist, captured wonderful shots of colleagues and guests enjoying the festive occasion.





# Clinical Highlight

Meghan R. Flanagan, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery



[Meghan R. Flanagan, MD, MPH](#)  
Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery

My clinical practice is primarily geared towards treating breast cancer patients, although I also treat high risk patients such as those with genetic mutations predisposing them to developing breast cancer, or patients who have a biopsy proven high risk breast lesion that needs to be surgically excised. Although there is not a huge variety in the types of surgeries I perform, one aspect of being a breast cancer surgeon that I really enjoy is the fact that every cancer and every patient has a slightly different combination of factors that makes that case unique. My job is to figure out how to integrate patient preferences with evidence-based best practices to achieve the best oncologic and cosmetic outcome for the patient. This always involves multi-disciplinary collaboration, which I also find to be a gratifying part of my job. Another aspect that I really enjoy is learning from each patient, and integrating the questions that arise into my research. Some of my favorite research projects have come from questions I have faced with patient management, such as whether to excise high risk lesions when found synchronous with a breast cancer, whether to operate on contralateral axillary metastasis because patients with this type of metastasis have outcomes similar to stage IIIC, and how a common genetic variant may impact anti-estrogen treatment in women with estrogen-sensitive breast cancer.

I have been fortunate to receive support from the Department of Surgery, the Fred Hutch Cancer Consortium, and independent foundations such as the Kuni Foundation and Swim Across America to fund these projects, the outcomes of some of which I have then been able to apply back to my own patients.



Sarah Brennan and Drs. Emily Palmquist, and Meghan Flanagan

SUPPORT THIS WORK



## Department of Surgery Grand Rounds



January 17, 2024

[“Metabolic Surgery: Past, Present, and Future”](#)

[Saurabh Khandelwal, MD](#)  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Division of General Surgery  
University of Washington



December 6, 2023

[“Back to the Future: Burn Resuscitation in Combat Casualty Care”](#)

[Col. Jennifer M. Gurney, MD, FACS, MC](#)  
Director, Joint Trauma System  
U.S. Army, Defense Health Agency  
Joint Trauma System, San Antonio, TX



November 8, 2023

[“From TINA to TARA: The Story of Liver Transplant”](#)

[Tiffany Wong, MBChB, MS, FHKAM, FRCS](#)  
Clinic Associate Professor  
Department of Surgery, School of Clinic Medicine  
Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine  
The University of Hong Kong



November 1, 2023

[“Building a Case for Adult ECMO: The Harborview Experience”](#)

[Eileen Bulger, MD](#)  
Professor & Chief of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery & Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  
University of Washington



October 4, 2023

[“Ergonomic Injury in Surgeons: The Hidden Epidemic”](#)

[Andrew Wright, MD](#)  
Professor of Surgery  
Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery Endowed Professor  
Director, UW Advanced GI MIS / Foregut Fellowship  
Director, UW Medicine Hernia Clinic  
Division of General Surgery  
University of Washington



September 6, 2023

[“Best-CLI: A Journey to Evidence”](#)

[Alik Farber, MD, MBA](#)  
Associate Chief Medical Officer for Surgical Services  
Vice Chair, Department of Surgery, Vascular and Endovascular Division  
Boston Medical Center

# Harkins Corner



Dear Harkins Alumni,

Happy New Year! 2023 was a remarkable year for the Henry N. Harkins Surgical Society. With great support from the UW Department of Surgery (DoS) and its nearly 1,000 alumni, we emphasized the society's central mission of building and maintaining community across generations of UW DoS alumni and current trainees across all programs.

The 2023 Harkins Dinner highlighted this purpose with over 20 alumni in attendance. Graduates from 1983 to 2022 representing general surgery, pediatric surgery, hepatobiliary, thoracic, vascular, plastic, colorectal, trauma, endocrine, and transplant surgery joined over 30 current residents and fellows at Anthony's Pier 66 in Seattle for an evening of fun, networking, and community building. Residents and fellows were matched with alumni who practice in their specialty of interest to enhance professional development opportunities and foster longer-term relationships between trainees and alumni.

The dinner was also attended by Dr. Steve Stain, the 2023 Alfred A. Strauss Distinguished Lecturer, and John Friedlander, who has been an avid supporter of the Strauss Lectureship for decades. During dinner, Dr. Hugh Foy, Professor Emeritus, provided a fascinating oral history of the department and society as only he can.

We look forward to continuing to build relationships across the UW DoS Alumni community in 2024. If you have any suggestions, or just want to say hi, don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

One last thing...Save the Date! - The 2024 Harkins Alumni Dinner will be on November 1st, 2024. We'd love to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sham, MD, MBEE  
*President, Henry N. Harkins Surgical Society*

Please consider a contribution to support Harkins activities for our chief residents and alumni.

[DONATE](#)

When completing your gift, please enter "Apply to Chief Residents and Alumni" in the Comments/Special Instructions field.

– Thank you –



# DIVERSITY IN DoS



**Denzel Woode, MD**  
*Diversity Council Member*  
*General Surgery Chief Resident*

From September 28th-30th, the University of Michigan hosted the Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) for their 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference. Over the course of three days alternating between Detroit and Ann Arbor, the program and presentations reflected and highlighted the society's excellence in research, clinical achievements, and celebration of the community and the experience of black and underrepresented minorities within the field of academic sur-

gery. We were able to celebrate the contributions and success of contemporaries and legends in our field, such as Drs. Asa Yancey, Velma Scantlebury, L.D. Britt, and Gifty Kwakye. The conference also served as a safe space for continued discussion of common experiences and mentorship for medical students, residents, and junior and senior faculty. Each year I am warmed and revived by the stories and the strong community at this conference. We can reconnect with friends and co-residents from across the country and form new relationships that will last the length of our careers. It is always rewarding to see the success of so many black and underrepresented faculty and residents in academic surgery, who are also navigating the field and have paved the way to find academic fulfillment and success.

Our department was well represented by five faculty (Drs. Estell Williams, Brant Oelschlager, Rebecca Petersen, Doug Wood, and André Dick), four residents (Drs. Vanessa Dlamini, Nzuekoh Nchinda, Lovemore

Kuzomunhu, and Denzel Woode), in addition to two of our medical students from UW. Resident attendees were sponsored by the UW Department of Surgery's Platinum Membership with SBAS and funding from the Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Estell Williams. I have been greatly appreciative of the opportunity to become a member of SBAS and attend this conference these past few years and I plan to continue to be active in this community as I grow as a surgeon.

We hope to bring a similar atmosphere and sense of community when the UW Department of Surgery hosts the first annual Latino Surgical Society Symposium on Latino Health from May 17 - 19, 2024 in Seattle. Our goal will be similar to that of SBAS: to highlight and celebrate the success of the Latino and other underrepresented minorities in the field of surgery, discuss the specific healthcare disparities affecting the Latinx community, and overall, to build on the community and mentorship nationally amongst the Latinx surgical community.



Back row (left to right): Drs. Denzel Woode, Hope Jackson, Vanessa Dlamini, Estell Williams, Damien Carter, Nzuekoh Nchinda  
 Front row (left to right): Dr. Lovemore Kuzomunhu, Deja Nicholas (MS3), Bisu Asmerom (MS3), Dr. Brant K Oelschlager



Back row (left to right): Edwin Lindo, JD, Estell Williams, MD, Douglas Wood, MD, Vanessa Dlamini, MD, Lovemore Kuzomunhu, MD, Denzel Woode, MD  
 Front row (left to right): Deja Nicholas (MS3), Rebecca Petersen, MD, Bisu Asmerom (MS3), Nzuekoh Nchinda, MD

# GETTING To Know DoS

[BARCLAY STEWART, MD, PHD, MPH](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery



**In your medical education journey, did you always want to be a surgeon?**

My plan was to be a tropical medicine and neglected tropical disease control specialist. In fact, my first job after graduate school was in South Sudan as a tropical disease control officer. In addition to mitigating the usual offenders—malaria, schistosomiasis, dracunculiasis, dengue, trypanosomiasis, filariasis—we worked with local surgeons to estimate the prevalence of echinococcosis among pastoralists using field ultrasound. While working with those surgeons, I was exposed to the real neglected conditions of people living amid conflict and in a health system with very limited surgical care capacity which included burns, ballistic and blast injuries, obstructed labor, appendicitis, typhoid and peptic ulcer perforations, massive goiters, etc. My purpose became clear, and I knew I needed to train in a busy program that included time in a large public hospital, trauma and burn center, and world-class global health department. Several months later, I flew from Juba to Seattle and was in Dr. [Karen Horvath](#)'s office interviewing for general surgery residency. Six months later, I met Dr. [Joseph Cuschieri](#) in the elevator on my first night at Harborview. He introduced himself and asked what I wanted to do with my life. I told him I wanted his job (as a trauma surgeon, not his actual job). Now, 13 years later, I sit in an office next to his old one and use his famed Wishbook retractor—be careful what you wish for!

**What is your area of research and how did you get involved/interested?**

My predominant areas of research are injury prevention and control and developing contextually useful models of trauma care in low-resource settings. We have worked on defining burdens of injury with population-proportional cluster-randomized household surveys; identifying and intervening on hazards related to road safety, cookstoves and chemical assault/acid attacks; conducting trials of decision-support tools, resuscitation strategies, and adaptive quality improvement programs; and improving the humanitarian trauma response. I

have been very fortunate to work with wonderful mentors, colleagues, and trainees from around the world all of whom share a passion for preventing injury and improving care for the injured.



Drs. Barclay Stewart and Kajal Mehta, Chief General Surgery resident, in Ghana meeting with collaborators Dr. Adam Gyedu (surgeon and injury control researcher at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) and Commander Kwesi Nsaful (surgeon and burn director at 37 Military Hospital) to discuss logistics of U.S. Department of Defense-funded, 'Far-Forward, Fluid First,' enteral resuscitation (4F EnteroResus) for major burn injuries in Ghana: a hybrid type II effectiveness-implementation cluster randomized trial.

**What is the best career advice you've ever received?**

Three pieces of advice stick out in my mind. Dr. [Nicole Gibran](#), recent past UW Medicine Regional Burn Center Director, said something to the tune of, "Bring your bench to the bedside - the most important ideas for innovation don't come from inside your little mind, they come from your patients, their families, and teammates." Dr. Gibran cultivated a culture of inquiry and using our clinical observations to identify and prioritize problems in need of solutions achieved only through research.

Dr. [Charlie Mock](#), our fearless leader in global surgery and Head of the Global Injury Section at [Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center](#),

reminds us to work with integrity, transparency, and inclusivity above all else. Much of the work we do as injury researchers in low-resource settings is fraught with risk of death and disability, in settings where there are high rates of preventable burdens of disease. Protecting people, engineering safety into projects, building overall capacity to provide better care through research, and holding ourselves to higher standards than those of institutional review boards are tenets of his work and what he has taught his mentees (me included!).

Dr. [Tam Pham](#), a visionary and our highly effective Director of UW Medicine Regional Burn Center, has passed on numerous leadership and clinical pearls to his trainees, mentees, and junior colleagues. Perhaps his most quoted quip has been "Love the one you're with!" It's often easier to trod off on your own path than to pause, work with what you have, and bring people alongside you. By this, he reminds us to invest in our colleagues and current resources without defaulting to asking for more - the grass is only green where and when you water it.

**What have you found most challenging in your surgical career?**

The injury and burn problems locally and globally are enormous and urgent. Despite working incessantly to address them, it feels like we hardly make a dent. That is hard to stomach, knowing how injury impacts people, their families, and our society at large. However, when we zoom in and see the effects of a career of work like those of Drs. [Charles Mock](#), [Benjamin Anderson](#), [Ron Maier](#), [Eileen Bulger](#), [Saman Arbabi](#), [Lisa McIntyre](#), [Grant O'Keefe](#), [Tam Pham](#), [Lorrie Langdale](#), [Dana Lyng](#), and [Nicole Gibran](#), and the growing impacts of efforts like the Violence Intervention Program led by Dr. [Deepika Nehra](#), the Surgical Palliative Care Program led by Dr. [Kathleen O'Connell](#), national and statewide policy changes that stemmed from work by Dr. John Scott, key data from which to develop personalized strategies to address shock and sepsis generated by Dr. [Scott Brakenridge](#), advances in critical care practice guidelines led by Dr. [Bryce Robinson](#), innovations in the electronic health re-

(continued on page 13)

# GETTING To Know DoS

BARCLAY STEWART, MD, PHD, MPH

Assistant Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery



cord that allow us to provide safer and more efficient care created by Dr. [Erik Van Eaton](#), and more, I realize that we do make dents in the problem. Those dents matter for people, and those people can tell you their story of how they mattered.

## What is something you've accomplished this past year you're most proud of?

The list is long! I've hugged patients in clinic who were thought to not have a chance of survival, I've watched my mentees become global leaders in their areas of expertise, we've met major milestones in clinical trials in Nepal and Ghana, guidelines we wrote have been ratified by the World Health Organization, we now have colleagues in nursing, therapy and pharmacy within the burn center producing impactful research for the first time in their careers; my research coordinator has become an independent investigator, and, most of all, Melissa and I have a new partner in crime, Henry, who is now four months old and has the biggest, gummy smile you can imagine. I'm also incredibly proud to have an office on 7 Center Tower at Harborview. We have a clear and important mission, are surrounded by extraordinary clinicians and mentors, and get to train amazing residents and fellows to advance the work we do.



## RAPID FIRE

### What is the last book you read?

"Fire Weather" by John Valliant - an incredible story that weaves fire and climate science, dangers of the oil and natural gas industry, and human psychology together in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada where the most destructive forest fire in recorded history stared into the face of disbelief. He also wrote "The Golden Spruce" and "The Tiger" - both are breathtaking reads that tell complex stories of clashing cultures (natural and human), differences in indigenous and other peoples' environmental reverence, and misunderstood/villainized underdogs trying to shine light on a shared path forward.

### What TV show are you currently watching?

"David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet" - what a legacy he has generated by bringing the natural world to our consciousness and challenging us to preserve our precious habitat and all its inhabitants.

### What is your go-to snack?

A cup of soup from the Harborview cafeteria!

### What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Cooking up something unnecessarily extravagant with my wife, Melissa. Although, we have to define chef and sous chef roles to avoid senseless friction surrounding direction, timing, and plating. Know where the landmines live!

### Who is your inspiration and why?

There are so many, but it starts with my mom, a selfless civil servant and devoted mother (and now grandmother!). Now being a novice parent, I look back on her personal sacrifices, commitment to our personal growth, and strategic boundary setting as nothing short of heroic.

### If a movie was made about your life, who would play you?

Who knows? I just hope to provide sufficient inspirational content to balance my ample comedic follies to be in the running for Best Picture. However, if it turns out to be watchable at all I think that it would be more likely to win Best Film Editing.

# WELCOME

# NEW FACULTY

## **BASSEL AL-ALAO, MBBS, MD, MRCSI, FRCSI(CTH)**

**CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY



Bassel Al-Alao, MBBS, MD, MRCSI, FRCSI(CTH), joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in January 2024 as a Clinical Assistant Professor.

Dr. Al-Alao's practice site is UW Medical Center-Montlake as a cardiothoracic organ procurement specialist. In addition, he will provide essential cardiac and thoracic surgical duties and fully participate in the clinical education of our cardiothoracic residents and fellows. He will work closely with Dr. Jay Pal, Professor and Surgical Director for Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support.

Dr. Al-Alao received his medical degree from Damascus University, Syria, in 1999 and began his General Surgery training at that same site, continuing it in Ireland, until 2003. He then pursued his cardiothoracic surgical training in the U.K. until 2013. Dr. Al-Alao completed an one-year advanced thoracic surgical fellowship at the Mayo Clinic-Rochester, MN, an advanced adult cardiac fellowship at Emory University then returned to the U.K. to John Radcliffe hospital at Oxford University from 2016 to 2017. He relocated to the U.S. as Clinical Instructor at the University of Minnesota, and in 2018 was Clinical Associate for Thoracic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He was a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Cleveland Clinic/Fisher-Titus Medical Center affiliated hospital from 2019-2020. Dr. Al-Alao returned to the U.K. to continue his training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital from 2020-2022 and 2023 at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cardiothoracic Transplant Surgery.

Dr. Al-Alao received his medical degree from Damascus University, Syria, in 1999 and began his General Surgery training at that same site, continuing it in Ireland, until 2003. He then pursued his cardiothoracic surgical training in the U.K. until 2013. Dr. Al-Alao completed an one-year advanced thoracic surgical fellowship at the Mayo Clinic-Rochester, MN, an advanced adult cardiac fellowship at Emory University then returned to the U.K. to John Radcliffe hospital at Oxford University from 2016 to 2017. He relocated to the U.S. as Clinical Instructor at the University of Minnesota, and in 2018 was Clinical Associate for Thoracic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He was a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Cleveland Clinic/Fisher-Titus Medical Center affiliated hospital from 2019-2020. Dr. Al-Alao returned to the U.K. to continue his training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital from 2020-2022 and 2023 at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cardiothoracic Transplant Surgery.

## **RYUTARO HIROSE, MD**

**PROFESSOR & CHIEF**

DIVISION OF TRANSPLANT SURGERY



Dr. Ryutaro Hirose was recently appointed Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and Co-Director of the UW Medicine Transplant Institute, starting his position on November 1, 2023. Dr. Hirose is a senior and well-known transplant surgeon who had previously worked at UCSF. He has extensive experience in UNOS, within the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), and he currently serves as the Surgical Director of the Scientific Registry

of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). As a leader in transplantation, Dr. Hirose has served as Chair of the UNOS Liver Committee, Chair of the ASTS Fellowship Training Committee, the Standards and Quality Committee and served as Councilor at Large. He is currently the chair of the AASLD Liver Transplantation and Surgery Committee. As an academic surgeon he has focused on ischemia reperfusion injury in the past, has current and past research funding, and now has extensive publications and national/international presentations on policy and health services research.

## **YUSHA KATIE LIU, MD, PHD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



Dr. Yusha Katie Liu joined the Division of Plastic Surgery in September 2023. Dr. Liu received her doctorate degree in neurobiology in 2014 and her medical degree in 2016 from the University of Washington Medical Scientist Training Program before joining the UW Department of Surgery's integrated plastic surgery residency.

Dr. Liu is a member of the DoS Division of Research. Her basic science interests include mechanisms of axonal regeneration and muscle denervation/reinnervation. Her clinical/translational research focuses on surface EMG-based rehabilitation of muscle weakness, ultrasound in diagnosis and prognostication for peripheral nerve injuries, and functional outcomes after surgery. Dr. Liu's science research home is in the [UW Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine \(ISCRM\)](#) and her clinical research home is within the [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) and the [Clinical Learning, Evidence and Research \(CLEAR\) Center](#).

(continued on page 15)

As a member of the combined orthopaedics and plastic surgery [UW Hand Center](#), Dr. Liu's clinical practice focuses on hand and peripheral nerve surgery. Dr. Liu has also led the creation of the [Northwest Institute for Nerve Injury at Harborview Medical Center](#), a new multidisciplinary clinic caring for peripheral nerve patients, in close collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery, and Department of Radiology.

## GLORIA KIM, MD, MPH, MS

### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY



Gloria Kim, MD, joined the Division of Vascular Surgery as Assistant Professor in October 2023. She graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in Computer Science and earned her MD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2016. She completed an integrated Vascular Surgery residency at the University of Michigan, which included two years of dedicated research and a Master of Science in Health and Healthcare Research from the University of Michigan. During the two years of dedicated research, Dr. Kim received T32 funding and was a University of Michigan Center for Healthcare Outcomes & Policy fellow as well as an active member of a multidisciplinary aging research group. In a prior ca-

reer, her work involved health policy research at one of the largest county public health departments in the country. She also has a Master of Public Health in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Dr. Kim's practice site is VA Puget Sound Health Care System, covering scheduled outpatient clinics and inpatient and outpatient surgeries. She holds clinical privileges at UW Medical Center-Montlake, UW Medical Center-Northwest, and Harborview Medical Center, participating in divisional clinical call coverage and rotation at all sites with fellow vascular surgery attendings.

Dr. Kim's research focuses on optimizing surgical care for frail patients, improving disparities in vascular surgery, better understanding the patient-doctor relationship with the aim of enhancing shared treatment decisions for peripheral artery disease, taking a wide-angle approach to improving patient-reported outcomes, and developing new technology to improve patient care. She also conducts research evaluating clinical outcomes and has significant research experience using large administrative data and registry data as well as qualitative research methods. Dr. Kim's long-term goal is to facilitate patient-centered care in real-world clinical settings through valuable, easily applicable ways.

Dr. Kim participated in clinical education during her residency as a vascular surgery trainee curriculum coordinator and as an instructor for the University of Michigan Clinical Simulation Center. She will continue her teaching responsibilities for the department's medical students, residents, and fellows both in the clinic and operating room, as well as participate in scheduled didactic sessions for medical students and residents.

Dr. Kim received T32 funding and was a University of Michigan Center for Healthcare Outcomes & Policy fellow as well as an active member of a multidisciplinary aging research group. In a prior ca-

## 2023 HARKINS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



The Department of Surgery at the University of Washington has had many graduates with significant and essential contributions to the art and science

of medicine and surgery; even among this group, Dr. Martin Schreiber's contributions shine brightly. Dr. Schreiber continues to be one of the most respected experts in trauma-induced coagulopathy and hemorrhage control. His contributions form the cornerstone of our current management of the injured patient.

Dr. Schreiber graduated with honors from the University of Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1984. He

then obtained his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1988. After completing his surgical internship at Madigan Army Medical Center, he joined the University of Washington as a general surgery resident in 1989, and completed his general surgery training in 1994. After his general surgery training, he completed his Trauma and Surgical Critical Care training at the University of Washington and Harborview Medical Center in 1995. He then spent four years on active duty at William Beaumont Army Medical Center and subsequently, Baylor College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. In 2008, he moved to Oregon Health and Science University as a Professor of Surgery, where he currently is the Division Chief for Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery and the Trauma Medical Director. He is also active in both bench and clinical research and is also a Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology.

Dr. Schreiber has extensive active military service and is currently a colonel in the United States Army Reserve. He has had multiple leadership positions in various deployed settings, including Chief of Trauma, 228th combat support Hospital in Tikrit, Iraq; The Joint Theater Trauma System Director for Iraq and Afghanistan; and Chief of Trauma of the 932nd Forward Surgical Team in Shank, Afghanistan.

Dr. Schreiber is a well-known national and international expert in the management of patients with traumatic injury. He has made significant contributions in almost every aspect of trauma care. His prominent contributions to our understanding of trauma-induced coagulopathy have improved the care of the trauma patients with advanced hemorrhage control.

He continues to receive extensive funding from both government and industry, though perhaps his biggest contribution is in training multiple future trauma leaders.

# RETIREMENT

## FACULTY RETIREMENTS DR. JAMES PERKINS



After 33 years of service, Dr. James D. Perkins retired from his position as Professor of Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery (DoS), at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Dr. Perkins received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock in 1974, and then graduated medical school from the University of Arkansas Medical Science Campus in 1979. He subsequently trained in General Surgery at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, followed by training in Transplantation at the University of Utah College of Medicine and the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. In 1989, he was recruited to lead the Division of Transplant Surgery at the University of Washington Medical Center.

During his tenure as Chief of Transplant Surgery (1989-2004), Dr. Perkins established Liver Transplantation in the Pacific Northwest (in adults and children), by pioneering innovative procedures including: split-liver transplants (where a deceased donor liver can save the lives of two recipients, first live liver donor (from a mother who gave part of her liver to save her child), and further expanded pancreas transplantation and kidney transplantation by helping develop a kidney transplant chain.

In 2004, he stepped down as division chief and focused on the development of quality assurance initiatives and outcomes research in transplantation. In 2010, he formed a new “think tank” for improving transplant patient care, becoming director of the highly published research laboratory, [Clinical and Bio-Analytics Transplant Laboratory \(CBATL\)](#). CBATL has supported research for numerous DoS faculty, residents, and medical students, and has contributed to Transplantation, Plastic Surgery, and International Medicine fields. Several years later, in 2013, he created and became Director of the Transplantomics Research Laboratory, which generated the Gerber-funded study: Genomic Analysis of Hepatoblastoma in Children: Pilot study to identify specific genes indicating recurrence after treatment for hepatoblastoma for future longitudinal studies, among other research.

While in the DoS, Dr. Perkins fulfilled other notable roles: He was Associate Medical Director for Transplantation, a University of Washington School of Medicine representative to the

AAMC, Vice Chair of Quality, and Chairman of the Clinical Working Group in Quality (during which time he developed a dashboard for the DoS). He also served as a member on several committees: Faculty Senate, Quality Oversight Committee, and was the Department of Surgery representative to the University of Washington IRB.

Dr. Perkins has continued to be productive in research over the years, producing over 350 publications! His research interests include improving surgical care through evidence-based clinical guidelines and continuous performance measures, outcomes research, machine learning to build predictive models that improve patient care, and process improvement in clinical care. In 2015, he obtained his Masters of Science in Machine Learning from Northwestern University, which honed his technical expertise and helped him develop models to predict readmissions, rejection, biliary complications, sepsis, delirium and length of hospital stay. His contributions have resulted in significant improvements in clinical care and development of clinical standards, ultimately impacting patient outcomes.

Dr. Perkins will be hired back as Professor Emeritus on February 1st, and will continue to provide his expertise to the Division of Transplant Surgery by supporting analytic and quality improvement projects, maintaining current predictive models, and building new predictive models. With his newfound free time, Dr. Perkins intends to spend more time vacationing with his children and grandchildren, and continues to enjoy the world of horse breeding and racing throughout the country. He still checks his UW email first thing in the morning and acknowledges that this is a hard habit to break!





# RETIREMENT

## FACULTY RETIREMENTS DR. BENJAMIN ANDERSON



I first met Dr. **Ben Anderson** at a visiting professor lecture he gave at Massachusetts General Hospital when I was in fellowship. My first impression was that he was high-energy and extraordinarily passionate about his work in global breast health. Plus, he gave, as I would later come to know is par for the course for Ben, a polished, energetic (arm gesticulations abound and serve to enhance the delivery!) and riveting talk that made you want to follow in his footsteps. Ben was a big reason I was initially drawn to the University of Washington (UW). When I spoke with Ben that day about jobs after fellowship, he shared with me that he attributed much of his success to the support and leadership of the UW Department of Surgery, led by Dr. Carlos Pellegrini at the time. After completing his surgical oncology fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 1994, Dr. Anderson was recruited to UW. In 1996, along with his surgical partners Drs. David Byrd and Roger Moe, Ben built the two main clinics which stand today: the [Breast Health Clinic](#) and the [Breast Cancer Specialty Clinic](#), the first multidisciplinary breast cancer clinic of its kind in the PNW.

Ben is nationally and internationally renowned for his life's work striving to diagnose and treat breast cancer at earlier stages in low- and middle-income countries around the globe. Since launching the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) in 2002 using seed grant funding from the Komen Foundation, Ben grew in prominence to be recognized and recruited by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Switzerland in 2020. As a WHO Consultant and Medical Officer in Cancer Control from 2020-2023, he led the launch of the Global Breast Cancer Initiative in 2021, the framework of which was based upon what he developed with BHGI, emphasizing the importance of earlier detection and comprehensive treatment to reduce breast cancer mortality.

Throughout his prolific career, Ben served as an extraordinary mentor and sponsor to the faculty within our Breast Section. He would frequently give junior faculty opportunities to first-author articles in prestigious journals like JAMA Oncology, which he'd been invited to contribute to, to speak at national meetings on topics he was the true expert on, and recommended us for appointment to national committees such as the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Breast Screening and Treatment Guidelines Panels. He also self-effacingly recommended his junior faculty rather than himself for prominent journal editorial board positions and for committees within our

national organizations, the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) and the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS). Ben also kept us all abreast (pun intended) with the latest and greatest in breast surgery, sending emails and journal articles while traveling on intercontinental flights that could rival any Up-to-Date chapter on what he summarized from his review of the literature on any given topic. He also injected every one of his emails with humor. Ben expressed gratitude to all of us on a regular basis, whether through bringing back chocolates from one of his trips abroad to thank us for covering his patients or hosting a backyard barbeque replete with a magician for the entire breast health clinic staff. Now it is our turn to thank YOU, Ben, for your many years as our leader in Breast Health and Breast Surgery. We will miss you greatly and look forward to seeing all that you accomplish in your new position at MGO City Cancer Challenge (C/Can)!

Sara Javid, MD  
Professor & Section Chief, Breast Surgery  
Division of General Surgery



# RETIREMENT

## FACULTY RETIREMENTS DR. JORGE REYES



On January 3rd, 2024, after 20 years of service, Dr. Jorge Reyes, the Roger K. Giesecke Distinguished Chair and Professor of Surgery at the University of Washington (UW), retired from his position in the

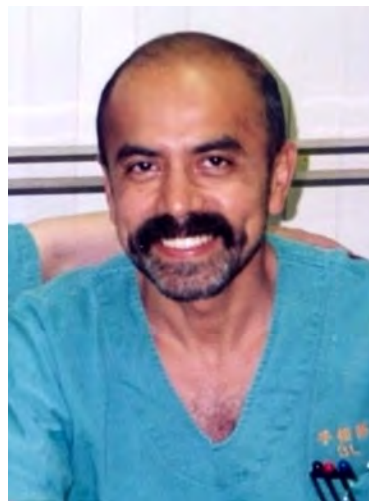
Division of Transplant Surgery. Prior to joining

the UW Department of Surgery as Chief of Transplant Surgery, Dr. Reyes gained national and international recognition during his early professional career at the University of Pittsburgh as a protegee of the famed Dr. Thomas Starzl, aka the “Father of Modern Transplantation,” the surgeon who performed the first human liver transplant. While at Pitt, Dr. Reyes completed his fellowship in transplantation and continued on to become Director of Pediatric Transplantation, forging developmental strides in pediatric transplantation, split liver transplantation, and intestinal transplantation. He also managed to squeeze in time to found and direct the still popular Camp Chihopi Children’s Summer Transplant Camp in Morgantown, West Virginia, a camp that promotes self-esteem for former transplant pediatric patients in an environment where they interact with other children with similar medical backgrounds.

Dr. Reyes’ accomplishments since joining the UW in July 2004 as Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and Chief of Pediatric Transplantation at Seattle Children’s Hospital, have been just as impressive. Dr. Reyes was the first surgeon to be appointed The Roger K. Giesecke Distinguished Chair in Transplant Surgery, which has supported the groundbreaking Living Donor Liver Transplant program since its inception. During this time he ushered further growth in transplantation of all organs, improving quality and outcomes and with national recognition for increasing the utilization of organs. The Seattle Children’s Hospital experienced similar growth and national recognition, with the establishment of intestinal failure management and transplantation. Several generations of trainees experienced this environment of change and excellence, many going on to forge programs around the country. The Transplant Surgery Division is a team of skilled and academically strong surgeons. His contributions included research in the development of new immunosuppressive drug trials, minimization of immunosuppression in children, and tolerance induction; with a clinical focus on transplantation of hepatic segments, intestinal transplantation, intestinal failure management, and development of transplantation services in other countries. Dr. Reyes published over 360 articles and 47 book chapters, and presented

nationally and internationally on transplant issues. Beyond academia, Dr. Reyes exerted his influence politically in leadership roles for various national and international transplant organizations, including the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), and endeavored to make a difference culturally in the Department of Surgery itself by establishing and serving as Chair of the Department of Surgery’s Diversity Council. During this time, he expanded its membership, oversaw the creation of the Diversity Council website, and helped sponsor a newly created [Diversity sub-intern fund](#), which continues to help minorities finance their medical training. For his final hurrah, Dr. Reyes advocated and developed the platform for the formation of the future UW Medicine Transplant Institute, an organizational paradigm that will provide the care needed to face ongoing challenges in healthcare and disease.

Dr. Reyes’ absence will be strongly felt by the Department of Surgery and the transplant community, but his contributions will live on through the lasting influence of his academic, sociopolitical, and cultural contributions, and most importantly, his patients. Interestingly, his retirement chapter has become another journey since he has taken on a position of Professor of Research at the Starzl Transplant Institute (STI) at the University of Pittsburgh, the birthplace of modern transplantation. Together with their renowned transplant team, Dr. Reyes is taking his three decades in transplantation (and four decades in surgery) to help translate STI’s cutting-edge research to the bedside. Perhaps old surgeons never really retire.



Dr. Reyes early in his surgical career

“We tell our children that these are the real-life superheroes”  
- Jarad (transplant patient)

## DR. BENJAMIN STARNES STEPPED DOWN AS DIVISION CHIEF OF VASCULAR SURGERY



In October 2023, Dr. [Benjamin Starnes](#) stepped down as Division Chief of Vascular Surgery. I have been impressed with Dr. Starnes' thoughtfulness and selflessness in wanting to support proactive succession planning and leadership growth for others in the division. Many hold onto our leadership positions until we retire, however, Dr. Starnes is far from retirement with his energy, vision, and innovative ideas, yet he has decided he would like to focus his energies in other areas and allow leadership opportunities for others along with continued and new vision for vascular surgery growth. Dr. [Niten Singh](#) agreed to step in as Interim Division Chief, while we conduct a national search for our next division chief. Dr. [Kris Calhoun](#), Vice-Chair for Faculty Affairs and Development, Professor, Division of General Surgery, has agreed to chair this search.

In 2006, Dr. Starnes was recruited as Division Chief of Vascular Surgery—a division with a rich legacy of leadership under Eugene Strandness and Alec Clowes. Dr. Starnes is the longest serving chief of the Vascular Surgery Division, and his impact on our clinical, education, and research programs has been nothing short of transformational. Under his leader-

ship, vascular surgery clinical volumes have grown 1300%, faculty have grown from six to 16, a new vascular surgery integrated residency was initiated, now grown to two residents per year and is considered one of the best vascular residencies in the country. Dr. Starnes has received national recognition for reducing mortality from ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms and obtained two Investigational Device Exemptions for FDA clinical trials to provide innovative care for patients with aortic disease. He has been recognized for innumerable “firsts,” particularly in fenestrated endografts and Physician Modified Endografts. Under his leadership, the vascular surgery division surpassed 100 publications per year in recent years for their clinical and research work. He was the 34th President of the Western Vascular Society and is the inaugural holder of the Alexander Whitehill Clowes Endowed Chair.

Finally, I know that what Dr. Starnes is most proud of is the faculty he has recruited and mentored at UW, and the residents and fellows they have trained together who are becoming their own leaders in vascular surgery. Dr. Starnes has been an inspiration for me to work with in my time as chair, and I am constantly amazed by his enthusiasm, strength of character, and his commitment to his team and to his patients. I also admire his thoughtfulness to give room for others and his courage to step away from the official leadership role into new commitments. Dr. Starnes will continue to be an important force in vascular surgery and in our department. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Dr. Starnes for his incredible accomplishments over the past 17 years, and wishing him continued success in his ongoing ventures.

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd  
*The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*  
Department of Surgery  
University of Washington

## DR. RUSSELL ETTINGER INTERIM CHIEF OF PEDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERY



Dr. [Russell Ettinger](#) was named the interim Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, a position recently vacated by Dr. Richard Hopper. Dr. Ettinger was selected due to his knowledge of the division and Seattle Children's, and for the respect he has from the faculty and teams that comprise the pediatric and craniofacial plastic surgery programs. Dr. Ettinger will serve in this capacity until a new Chief has been selected. Dr. [Steven Lee](#) is leading the search committee for the internal search for the next Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, which is a Section Chief position in the Division of Plastic Surgery and Department of Surgery, and a Division Chief position at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Lee and the search committee are evaluating the candidates for this position and are expected to provide a recommendation in February.

## CALS - CARDIAC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

Patients with cardiovascular diseases are amongst the most likely to experience a “code blue” in the hospital. Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) was developed to provide an emergency response for these patients and is the standard of care for medical personnel. However, patients who have undergone recent cardiac surgery require a specialized response. In 2017, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Task Force on Resuscitation After Cardiac Surgery, including UW thoracic surgeon Dr. [Aaron Cheng](#), endorsed a modification known as CALS (Cardiac Advanced Life Support). CALS prioritizes defibrillation and cardiac pacing before chest compressions, and prepares for emergent sternotomy.

For the past 18 months, [Jennifer Peterson](#), ARNP, Lead Advanced Practice Provider in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has led a multidisciplinary effort to reimagine the code response process at the University of Washington Medical Center.

This new process, Surgical Cardiac Code, led to the creation of a new code team with specific training and expertise in the management of patients with cardiovascular diseases, postoperative patients,



Dr. Aaron Cheng



Jennifer Peterson, ARNP

and those with mechanical circulatory support devices. In an emergency situation, this team is capable of performing heart surgery in the ICU, including placing patients on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenator—a mobile variation of the heart lung machine used in the operating room).

“We learned that these highly complex code situations could benefit from improved coordination between code team members, the surgical team, the ECMO team, our nursing staff, and the required equipment. This work has helped us define, streamline, and most importantly, practice our response together with the multidisciplinary team in a high-fidelity simulation environment to best care for our patients in the event of arrest.”

- Jennifer Peterson

Jordan Surrusco, PA-C, in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Janet Regan-Baggs, DNP, ACNS-BD, CCNS, CCRN-K Critical Care & MCS Clinical Nurse Specialist, led the training, which included high-fidelity simulation supported by [WISH](#).

The new surgical cardiac code response will go live on February 6, 2024.



Photo credit: Kevin Ke

## honors & awards

### FALL 2023 UW MEDICINE CARES AWARD WINNERS

The UW Medicine Cares Awards were established in 2013 to formally recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and teams who consistently exemplify our UW Medicine Service Culture Guidelines. Nominees go above and beyond to support other members of the UW Medicine community.



**Aaron Cheng, MD**  
Associate Professor  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

As Harborview's primary thoracic surgeon, Dr. [Aaron Cheng](#) is consistently thoughtful and compassionate and is widely considered to be an outstanding colleague and consultant. He collaborates well with a variety of teams within the UW Medicine system to provide the best care for his patients, and he is committed to his patients, collaboration, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence.



**Meghan Flanagan, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery

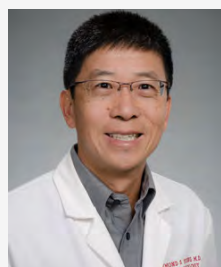
Dr. [Meghan Flanagan](#) goes above and beyond with her patients who have recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. She also goes above and beyond with the staff in her clinic. Dr. Flanagan is a mentor who takes care to make everyone feel valued as part of the team, inspiring her colleagues to greater achievements through her leadership of the Breast Surgery Clinic. She is a consummate academic physician who attains excellence in domains as broad as patient care, research, education, mentorship of residents and medical students. She leads with grace using a supportive, mature leadership style.

### DR. JONATHAN SHAM RECEIVES BOTH EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR AWARD & THE CHARLES A. COLTMAN JR. FELLOWSHIP



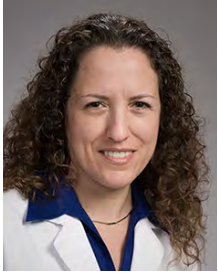
Dr. [Jonathan Sham](#), Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, was honored at the 2023 SWOG Fall Group Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, for receiving both the Early Stage Investigator Award and the prestigious Charles A. Coltman, Jr. Fellowship from the Hope Foundation for Cancer research. Through his work in SWOG, Dr. Sham is National Principal Investigator of S2408: *Multicenter Randomized Trial of Lanreotide for the Prevention of Postoperative Pancreatic Fistulae*. Dr. Sham is seen here with his study mentor, Dr. Robert Krouse (University of Pennsylvania).

### DR. RAYMOND YEUNG RECEIVES U01 FUNDING FOR AI TECHNOLOGY IN CANCER CARE



Dr. [Raymond Yeung](#), Professor & Section Chief, HPB Surgery, Division of General Surgery, was awarded a U01 grant in partnership with Dr. [Taran Gujral](#), Associate Professor, Human Biology Division, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, for their proposal, SMARTCORE Technology. This project will use AI and patient tissue to identify potential cancer therapies for ultra-rare cancers.

## DR. ELINA QUIROGA INDUCTED INTO ACS ACADEMY OF MASTER SURGEON EDUCATORS



Dr. [Elina Quiroga](#), Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, and Program Director, Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency and Vascular Surgery Fellowship, was inducted as an Associate Member in the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Academy of Master Surgeon Educators® on October 6, 2023. Dr. Quiroga is among a group of 63 esteemed surgical educators inducted and the sixth cohort of members inducted into this distinguished Academy.

The first inaugural cohort was inducted in 2018 and the Academy has since grown to include 358 Members, Associate Members, and Affiliate Members who represent ten surgical specialties other than general surgery. Once inducted, Academy members actively engage in advancing the Academy's programs and goals, which are to advance the science and practice of innovative lifelong surgical education, training, and scholarship in the changing milieu of health care; foster the exchange of creative ideas and collaboration; support the development and recognition of faculty; underscore the importance of lifelong surgical education and training; positively impact quality and patient safety through lifelong surgical education and training; disseminate advances in education and training to all surgeons; and offer mentorship to surgeon educators throughout their professional careers.

## DR. HANNAH WILD AWARDED THE HUMANITARIAN GRAND CHALLENGES GRANT AND NIH FOGARTY GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIP



Dr. [Hannah Wild](#), Research Resident, was awarded a Humanitarian Grand Challenges Grant funded by USAID, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Global Affairs Canada/Grand Challenges Canada. The grant is 250,000 CAD and successful projects are eligible for up to 1,500,000 CAD Phase 2 funding to scale. The focus of this project is to enhance coordination between humanitarian mine action and trauma care strengthening for civilian victims of explosive weapons. She will work with the mine action operator Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and local partners to conduct a pilot implementation of layperson first responder trainings in Burkina Faso among communities affected by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). She has also received a NIH Fogarty Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship through Yale University for her second research year working under the mentorship of Dr. [Barclay Stewart](#), Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery and Dr. Nicolas Meda at the University of Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

enough for civilian victims of explosive weapons. She will work with the mine action operator Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and local partners to conduct a pilot implementation of layperson first responder trainings in Burkina Faso among communities affected by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). She has also received a NIH Fogarty Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship through Yale University for her second research year working under the mentorship of Dr. [Barclay Stewart](#), Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery and Dr. Nicolas Meda at the University of Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

## DR. SHANE MORRISON SELECTED AS 2024 PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLAR



Dr. [Shane Morrison](#) was selected as one of 60 Scholars who will form the Presidential Leadership Scholars' (PLS) ninth class. For nearly a decade, PLS has served as a catalyst for a diverse network of leaders brought together to collaborate and create meaningful change in the United States and around the world as they learn about leadership through the lens of the presidential experiences of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson and their administrations.

Scholars were chosen based on their leadership growth potential and the strength of their personal leadership projects aimed at improving civic engagement or social good by addressing a problem or need in their community, the country, or the world. Over the course of the program, Scholars will travel to each participating presidential center to learn from key former administration officials, business and civic leaders, and leading academics. They will study and put into practice varying approaches to leadership and exchange ideas to help strengthen their impact in the communities they serve.

Dr. Morrison is an Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Urology. He and his colleagues offer comprehensive gender-affirming surgery, and his research interests are in surgical and patient-reported outcomes in gender-affirming surgery.

Beginning on January 24th in Washington, DC, Dr. Morrison will spend six months developing his initiative focused on improving the knowledge base about gender-affirming care and the quality of its delivery. He hopes to learn from the diverse set of other scholars about the implications of this work.



## DOUGLAS E. WOOD FELLOWSHIP FOR DIVERSITY IN SURGICAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP



Calderon

The primary purpose of the [Douglas E. Wood Fellowship for Diversity in Surgical Education and Leadership](#) is to enhance the University of Washington's ability to promote diversity within the UW Department of Surgery by supporting the department's ability to recruit, retain, and provide opportunities for professional development for faculty, residents, and fellows in the Department of Surgery. Managed by the Office of Healthcare Equity (OHCE), a 2024 fellow has been selected. Dr. **Thais Calderon**, Plastic Surgery PGY-3, has been selected to teach alongside DEI Plastics and Re-

constructive Surgery (PRS) Leaders at the 2024 ACEPS Meeting as part of the third annual PREPPED initiative. PREPPED (Plastic Surgery Research, Education, and Preparation Promoting Equity and Diversity) is a plastic surgery and reconstructive surgery program for under-represented in medicine third year medical students. This encompasses those students who identify as low social economical background, part of a racial minority, or those without a home program. Dr. Calderon was selected due to her strong application and goals for utilization of funds. She hopes to continue to contribute to efforts of diversifying the PRS field by attending the PREPPED boot camp as a UW representative and resident educator. This opportunity allows Dr. Calderon to represent the UW Department of Surgery and its values such as DEI, but it will also be a tremendous networking opportunity within PRS for her ongoing career development. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Calderon on this achievement in being named a Douglas E. Wood Fellow.

## 2023 UW MEDICINE WELL-BEING GRANT AWARDEES

Thanks to a generous donation, UW Medicine awarded well-being grants for projects that support impactful activities, programming, projects, and applied research that aligns with the goals of improving the workplace and learning environment for our community. The Department of Surgery community received the following awards.

### NW BREAST SURGERY CLINIC, SURGICAL SERVICES AND HERNIA CENTER AND NW COLORECTAL SURGERY—NEW TEAM BONDING AND WELL BEING 2023

The NW Meridian Pavilion New Team Bonding grant will focus their grant funds on a team bonding event. This team has 2-35 years of commitment in their perspective specialties and at the UW Medical Center. This team was told to involuntarily uproot their home (clinic), off site last year. After displaying a respectful amount of resilience and change management skills they would benefit greatly from a day of bonding with their new combined team. The well-being grant funds will go towards a Sounders FC game for the team to kick start the path of new memories together.

### GENERAL SURGERY EDUCATION REFORM

The General Surgery Education Reform Group is a resident-led initiative to completely reimagine our weekly education conference. Currently we

divide senior and junior residents with alternating weeks of education conference. Our vision is to instead unite all levels of general surgery residents each week for enhanced education, fostering resident-to-resident mentorship, ensuring consistent attendance, and flattening the PGY hierarchy. This grant funding will help to provide for a conference space large enough to accommodate all of the general surgery residents (~60 residents). Ultimately, we hope that improving educational content, including non-clinical skills labs on wellness, communication, and teambuilding will help create a culture of well-being that will impact the hospital through our residents' everyday interactions.

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY WOMEN'S RESIDENT COUNCIL PROJECT PROPOSAL

The University of Washington Department of Surgery Women's Resident Council is comprised of female-identifying physician trainees in General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, and Cardiothoracic Surgery. The Women's Council was founded in 2016 with the mission of addressing gender inequities in the field of surgery, creating educational opportunities for women surgeons, fostering collaboration across surgical subspecialties, and inspiring the next generation of women surgeons. We intend to use our UW Medicine Wellness Grant to support wellness, mentorship, and career development

events for residents and medical students during the upcoming academic year.

### DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY WOMEN'S COUNCIL RETREAT

More women than men in surgery experience sex-based discrimination, and this continues to be a concern among women considering entering the field. There is a need for women in the Department of Surgery to build community and mentorship, as well as engage in meaningful, protected dialogue about issues germane to being a female surgeon. Our wellness grant will support a single day retreat for all faculty and residents who self-identify as female to build community among women within the Department of Surgery. The day will include lectures on issues relevant to practicing female surgeons, as well as small group discussions on specific topics of interest to attendees.

### INDIVIDUAL WELLNESS GOALS AND REJUVENATION SPACE TO SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONAL WELLNESS

[Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) will use \$1,000 from the UW Medicine Well-Being Grant to purchase two walking desks for their shared office space. SORCE is grateful for the opportunity to move more throughout the day and know this is only the beginning of their mission of improving well-being at SORCE.

## Department of Surgery

# 2023 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

The 2023 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress was held in Boston, MA, and was well represented by the Department of Surgery. We are proud of the individuals we work beside every day.



*"The Rising Popularity-and Trauma-of E-bikes: An Evaluation of E-bike Traumatic Injuries and Comparison to Bicycle and Motorcycle Trauma"*

**Dr. Christina Grabar**  
General Surgery R1



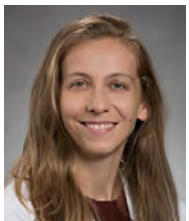
*"General Surgery Clinical Review Course: Benign Hepatobiliary Disease & Bowel Obstruction"*

**Dr. Giana Davidson**  
Professor & Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery  
Division of General Surgery



*"Expert Advice and Approaches for Damage Control Surgery"*

**Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich**  
Professor, Plastic Surgery  
Vice Chair of Education  
Division of Plastic Surgery



*"Pancreatic Lesions: Things Are 'NET' Always What They Seem"*

**Dr. Kristin Goodsell**  
General Surgery R3



*"Adult Intestinal Malrotation"*

**Dr. Steven Lee**  
Professor & Chief of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery  
Division of Pediatric General Surgery



*"Surgeons as Leaders: An update on Firearm Injury Prevention"*

**Dr. Eileen Bulger**  
Professor & Chief of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery & Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery



*"Robotic Kidney-Preserving Resection of a Left Renal Vein Leiomyosarcoma"*

**Dr. Sardar Shahmir Chauhan**  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
Division of General Surgery



*"ME205. Critical Issues in Laparoscopic Ventral Hernia Repair"*

**Dr. Andrew Wright**  
Professor, General Surgery  
Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery  
Endowed Professor  
Division of General Surgery



*"Therapeutic Modulation of Tumor-Infiltrating T Cell Function in Fibrolamellar Carcinoma"*

**Dr. Lindsay Dickerson**  
Research Resident



*"Coordinating Cancer Care Across a Vast Geographic Region"*

**Dr. Venu Pillarisetty**  
Professor  
Division of General Surgery



*"Tele-Triage Pathways Reduce Short-Stay Admissions for Acute Burns Referred to a Regional Burn Center"*

**Dr. Lauren Agoubi**  
Research Resident



Department of Surgery

## 2023 Harkins Surgical Symposium & 74th Annual Dr. Alfred A. Strauss Lecture



The Annual Dr. Alfred A. Strauss Lecture was held October 13, 2023, with guest lecturer [Steven C. Stain](#), MD, FACS, Chair, Department of Surgery, Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, Professor, Department of Surgery, Tufts University School of Medicine, with a secondary appointment as Professor of Surgery at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Stain's lecture was titled ["The Atlanta Compromise and The Talented Tenth: W.E.B. Du Bois & Booker T. Washington."](#)

Steven C. Stain received his undergraduate and M.D. degree from University of California, at Irvine. He completed his residency training in surgery at Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center in 1988 followed by fellowships in surgical critical care (USC), hepatobiliary surgery (University of Berne, Switzerland, and Health Services Research (AAMC).

Dr. Stain participated in the development of the Meharry Vanderbilt Alliance, serving as the Co-Principal Investigator in their \$7.5 million NCI funded U54 Cancer Partnership. He is the author of 155 peer-reviewed publications, 13 book chapters, and one book. His current research efforts are in oncology, health disparities and surgical training.

### HARKINS SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

*"Changing Paradigms in Rectal Cancer Care"*

Dr. [Vlad Simianu](#)

Medical Director  
Benaroya Research Institute's  
Clinical Research Program  
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

*"Towards More Evidence-based Diverticulitis Care: The COSMID Trial"*

Dr. [Mariam Hantouli](#)

Acting Instructor  
Surgical Outcomes Research Center  
University of Washington

*"The Evolving Role of Liver Transplantation for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer"*

Dr. [Mark Sturdevant](#)

Associate Professor  
Division of Transplant Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Innovations in Aortic Surgery"*

Dr. [Chris Burke](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Domino Heart Transplantation: The UW Experience"*

Dr. [John Dimarakis](#)

Associate Professor  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Reprogramming Notions in Surgical Care: Do We Say What"*

Dr. [Kathleen O'Connell](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Unmet Social Health Needs as a Driver of Inequitable Outcomes After Surgery"*

Dr. [John Scott](#)

Associate Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Impact of Individual Patient Anatomy on Outcomes"*

Dr. [Sara Zettervall](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of Vascular Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Perioperative Therapy for Retroperitoneal Sarcoma"*

Dr. [Jeremy Sharib](#)

Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Advances in the Management of Peritoneal Malignancies"*

Dr. [Harveshp Mogal](#)

Associate Professor  
Section Chief, Complex Abdominal Cancer  
Division of General Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Bariatric Emergencies for General Surgeons"*

Dr. [C. Rees Porta](#)

Madigan Army Medical Center

*"Pediatric Short Bowel Syndrome: A Case Study"*

Dr. [Patrick Javid](#)

Professor  
Division of Pediatric General Surgery  
University of Washington

*"Five Year Experience in Pediatric Plastic and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery: Lessons I've Learned with Trainees"*

Dr. [Srinivas Susarla](#)

Associate Professor  
Division of Plastic Surgery  
University of Washington

# Department of Surgery

## in the media

read



Bulger

[“Seattle-Area Homicides Are Nearing Record High, Bucking National Trend”](#)

**The Seattle Times**  
December 23, 2023

Dr. [Eileen Bulger](#), Professor & Chief of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery & Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery



Sweet

[“Breaking Boundaries for Better Aortic Care”](#)

**UW Medicine-The Huddle**  
December 18, 2023

Dr. [Matthew Sweet](#), Professor & Section Chief of Vascular Surgery  
Division of Vascular Surgery



Burke

Dr. [Chris Burke](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery



Davidson

[“Pharmacy Transitional Team: Evaluating the Value for Patients with Limited English Proficiency”](#)

**The Donaghue Foundation Annual Report**  
December 14, 2023

Dr. [Giana Davidson](#), Professor & Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery  
Division of General Surgery



Flum

[“Stephen Colbert Has Surgery for Ruptured Appendix - Recent Studies Have Focused on Whether Appendicitis Can Be Managed With Antibiotics Alone”](#)

**MedPage Today**  
November 28, 2023

Dr. [David Flum](#), Vice Chair of Research & Professor  
Division of General Surgery



Palmquist

[“Looking for Reliable Info Online on Breast Cancer Surgery? It’s Tough to Find”](#)

**U.S. News & World Report**  
October 25, 2023

Dr. [Emily Palmquist](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery

[“Reliable Patient Education Materials on Breast Cancer are Difficult to Access”](#)

**Medical Xpress by American College of Surgeons**  
October 20, 2023



Jason

[“Seattle Doctors, Nurses Swap Scrubs for Fire Gear to Gain New Insight into First Responder Challenges”](#)

**KOMO News**  
October 10, 2023

Dr. [Dylan Jason](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

[“Wildfire Survivor Returns Home”](#)

**UW Medicine Newsroom**  
October 5, 2023



Quiroga

[“Celebrating National Latino Physician Day”](#)

**UW Medicine-The Huddle**  
October 27, 2023

Dr. [Elna Quiroga](#), Associate Professor & Program Director, Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency and Vascular Surgery Fellowship  
Division of Vascular Surgery



Sham

[“Real Change Vendor Sharon Sherpa Shines Through Her Scars”](#)

**Real Change**  
September 20, 2023

Dr. [Jonathan Sham](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery

listen



Burke

[“Burke’s Surgeon Knot”](#)

**UW Medicine - Coffee + Cardiology**  
December 18, 2023

Dr. [Chris Burke](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery



Wright



White



Cetrulo



Herman



Vierra

[“Clinical Challenges in Minimally Invasive Surgery: MIS in the Pregnant Patient”](#)

**Behind the Knife Podcast - Episode #677**  
November 16, 2023

Dr. [Andrew Wright](#), Professor, General Surgery  
Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery Endowed Professor

Dr. [Nicole White](#), Clinical Associate Professor & Section Chief of  
UW Medicine-Northwest General Surgery

Dr. [Nick Cetrulo](#), Clinical Assistant Professor, General Surgery

Dr. [Paul Herman](#), General Surgery R3

Dr. [Ben Vierra](#), General Surgery R2  
Division of General Surgery



Drs. Nicole White, Nick Cetrulo, Paul Herman, and Andrew Wright in “Behind the Knife” recording session.

(continued on page 27)

# Department of Surgery

## in the media

## publications

### listen



Davidson

[Operative vs Nonoperative Management of Acute Cholecystitis During the Different Trimesters of Pregnancy](#)

**JN Learning**

November 15, 2023

Dr. [Giana Davidson](#), Professor & Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery  
Division of General Surgery

Dr. [Mariam Hantouli](#), Acting Instructor  
Surgical Outcomes Research Center



Hantouli



Flanagan

["Interdisciplinary Cancer Team Series Module 2: A Multi-Institutional Review of Contralateral Axillary Metastases: Time for Reclassification as a Local-Regional Event"](#)

**SSO SurgOnc Today Podcast**

October 26, 2023

Dr. [Meghan Flanagan](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of General Surgery



Dickerson

["Clinical Challenges in Surgical Palliative Care: "When the Horse Is Out of The Barn: Skills to Avoid Offering Surgical Overtreatment at The End of Life"](#)

**Behind the Knife Podcast - Episode #662**

September 25, 2023

Dr. [Lindsay Dickerson](#), Research Resident

Dr. [Kathleen O'Connell](#), Assistant Professor  
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

Dr. [Virginia Wang](#), General Surgery R2



O'Connell



Pham

**Behind the Knife Podcast**

["Clinical Challenges in Burn Surgery: Electrical Burns"](#)

[Episode #660 Part 1](#) September 18, 2023

[Episode #661 Part 2](#) September 21, 2023

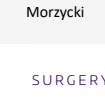
Dr. [Tam Pham](#), Professor & Chief of Burn Surgery

Dr. [Jamie Oh](#), Surgical Critical Care Fellow-Burn Track

Dr. [Alex Morzycki](#), Surgical Critical Care Fellow-Burn Track



Oh



Morzycki



Hantouli

["Operative vs Nonoperative Management of Acute Cholecystitis During the Different Trimesters of Pregnancy"](#)

**JAMA Network**

November 15, 2023

Dr. [Mariam Hantouli](#), Acting Instructor  
Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)



Wright

Dr. [Andrew Wright](#), Professor, General Surgery  
Center for Video Endoscopic Surgery Endowed Professor  
Division of General Surgery



Flum

Dr. [David Flum](#), Vice Chair of Research & Professor  
Division of General Surgery



Davidson

Dr. [Giana Davidson](#), Professor & Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery  
Division of General Surgery



Starnes

["Five-Year Outcome of A Staged Giant Shamblin Type III Carotid Body Tumor Excision"](#)

**Journal of Vascular Surgery Cases, Innovations and Techniques**

December 9, 2023

Dr. [Benjamin Starnes](#), Professor



Singh

Dr. [Niten Singh](#), Professor & Division Chief of Vascular Surgery



Dittman

Dr. [James Dittman](#), Vascular Surgery R2  
Division of Vascular Surgery

# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

## UW Medicine

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WHICH CELEBRATES THE DIVERSE CULTURES, TRADITIONS, HISTORIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE MONTH, AND FIND [RESOURCES](#) FOR SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND CELEBRATION.

# Mark Your Calendar

## 2024 Research Symposium & 29th Annual Helen & John Schilling Lecture

Friday, March 15, 2024

7:30am-3:30pm | UW Tower

### Fiemu Nwariaku, MD, MBA, FACS

Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery  
Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine,  
University of Utah

Helen Lowe Bamberger Colby Presidential  
Endowed Chair in Health Sciences

More details to be announced.



## 2024 Department of Surgery Chief Residents' Graduation Dinner

Saturday, June 15, 2024

5:30pm-9:30pm

Bell Harbor International Conference Center

A formal email invitation will follow closer to the date.

More details to be announced.



## 2024 Department of Surgery Surgical Ethics Conference

Thursday, August 1, 2024 & Friday August 2, 2024

The conference is open for both in-person and online participation. More details to be announced.

Contact [dosadmin@uw.edu](mailto:dosadmin@uw.edu) / 206-543-3680 for conference details and visit the Department of Surgery's [Center for Surgical Ethics](#) web page for conference updates and to learn more about the center.

UW Medicine  
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

## 2024 Harkins Symposium & 75th Annual Dr. Alfred A. Strauss Lecture

Friday, November 1, 2024

7:00am-4:00pm

### Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS

Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer,  
American College of Surgeons

More details to be announced.



[CLICK](#) OR SCAN TO VIEW  
OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



UW Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Surgery Synopsis is an in-house newsletter published on a quarterly basis to highlight the clinical, academic and research activities of the University of Washington School of Medicine Department of Surgery. This publication is distributed to the department's faculty, residents, staff, and friends.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Douglas E. Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd

*The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*

Susan Marx, MBA, PMP

*Vice Chair, Finance & Administration*

Judith Rapp

*Assistant Director, Human Resources,*

*Faculty Affairs & Communications*

Kate Rimmer, MBA

*Associate Director, Clinical Finance and Programs*

Stacy Nagy

*Administrator, Program Operations,*

*Marketing and Communications*

Michael Hilleary, BS

*Public Information Specialist*

Sandra Burkhart, MA

*Program Operations Specialist*

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Judith Rapp

*Assistant Director, Human Resources,*

*Faculty Affairs & Communications*

### LAYOUT AND PUBLICATION

Michael Hilleary, BS

*Public Information Specialist*

### PHOTO CREDITS

Portraits and Background Photos—

UW Medicine Strategic Marketing

& Communications

University of Washington

Box 356410

Seattle, WA 98195-6410

206-543-3680

206-685-6912 (FAX)

[dosnews@uw.edu](mailto:dosnews@uw.edu)

© 2024 University of Washington

Department of Surgery.

All rights reserved.

