

SURGERY Synopsis



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



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

This annual “education issue” of *Surgery Synopsis* is where we celebrate and marvel at our residents, both coming and going. It’s the end of a residency year with graduation and these amazing surgeons are headed off to jobs and fellowships around the country. And at the other end of the training curve, we welcome the start of our new class of residents. They are smart, talented, and ready to learn; and we are ready to be challenged by and learn from them. We are thrilled that all four of our integrated residency programs—General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery—year after year graduate stellar residents and continue to attract equally remarkable new residents. The residents leav-

ing us are well prepared for the next step in their professional life, whether it is additional training in a fellowship, their first appointment at an academic medical center, or in community practice. The mission statement of the General Surgery residency program states well what our education programs aspire to: *“Our mission is to train leaders in surgery and to train physicians who can operate in a community environment that holds to the highest ethical and professional standards and espouses the core surgical values of duty, honor and responsibility to patients.”*

Surgical training starts with our medical students, then the residents, and for many, additional fellowship training. While our residency programs are the core of our training mission, in this issue we will also look at our medical student education (clerkship) program and some of our fellowship opportunities.

MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENT EDUCATION

Surgery is a required rotation for medical students, but after the required rotation, medical students can add elective surgical rotations. These additional surgical rotations allow medical students to further explore and prepare for a surgical residency. Because our medical school covers a five-state region—

Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (called the WWAMI region)—University of Washington (UW) medical students have a broad range of opportunities to explore surgery across different clinical sites around the WWAMI region from rural practices to metropolitan, large medical centers to small community practices. We are proud of the way in which we have designed and optimized the Department’s medical student surgical education and grateful to the dedicated faculty who teach our students, and of course the faculty and staff who manage the medical student education program. The current Director of Medical Student Surgical Education is Dr. **Kristine Calhoun**. Dr. **Roger Tatum** is the Associate Director and Kristen Seiler is the Medical Student Program Manager. You can read about our medical clerkship program on [page 9](#) and on our [website](#).

Additionally, the Department has set up Sub-Internships (Sub-I’s) for both UW and visiting medical students (medical students that are not UW Medical School students). Sub-Internships give fourth-year medical students the chance to explore different surgical specialties, e.g., trauma, surgical oncology, cardiothoracic, plastic, etc. This is a chance to learn more about a surgical specialty and to network and gain experience that can help students select the program where they would like to train. Two Sub-I’s offered by the

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Department are specifically for medical students who have overcome difficult paths to surgery, e.g., racism, sexism, poverty. These two Sub-I's—the [Seattle Children's Visiting Elective in Pediatric Surgery for Underrepresented in Medicine Medical Students](#) and the [Carlos A. Pellegrini Diversity Visiting Student Internship Program](#)—are designed to give students from diverse backgrounds a chance to experience the exceptional training that the UW has to offer. The Sub-I programs offer a stipend to the successful applicants to come to, and stay, at the UW during their Sub-Internship. These programs strongly “pay it forward” in increasing the breadth, depth, and diversity of our surgeons of the future.

**DEPARTMENT OF
SURGERY FELLOWSHIPS**

The Department of Surgery has outstanding fellowships, however, compared to many academic surgical departments we are relatively “fellowship light.” This is a conscious choice that we have made to prioritize our integrated residency programs and to be intentional about not adding additional trainees who may compromise our important residency training. The development of any new fellowship program is a rigorous process done in collaboration with our faculty, residents, and the UW Office of Graduate Medical Education. Our intent is to “complement, not compete.” We work diligently to ensure that our residents have a full-bodied training experience, with robust OR time and ever-increasing independence. And we work equally diligently to ensure that our fellowships have the department and faculty infrastructure in place, and that patient volumes in these areas are strong and growing to ensure a consequential fellowship experience. And, as stated, we take seriously the impact of fellowship training on our resident education, balancing the needs of the residents with the needs of a fellowship training program. There are currently fellowships in 15 areas within our department that are a mix of AC-

GME-accredited and non-ACGME accredited fellowships. Review our current [fellowship programs](#).

We are excited to announce two new ACGME-accredited fellowships: the Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship, which is fully approved and currently accepting its first applicants for 2025/2026; and the UW/Fred Hutchison Cancer Center Multidisciplinary Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship. The application for this fellowship has been accepted for accreditation, with the final step for approval being a site visit. Please read more about both fellowships on [page 8](#).

In addition, we are pleased to offer two T32—research fellowship programs: 1) a two-year NDDK Gastrointestinal Surgical Outcomes Research fellowship that involves didactic training and practical experience in advanced research methodology focused on interventions related to the gastrointestinal system, obesity, and obesity-associated conditions (Dr. [David Flum](#), Director); and 2) A T32 NIH, NIGMS Institutional Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma, Injury, and Inflammation (Dr. [Grant O'Keefe](#), Director). The T32 research fellowships are vital to a robust research fellowship program and contribute to the health of an academic surgical department. We are fortunate to have secured these T32 fellowships which have been renewed year over year. These fellowships are highlighted in this issue on [page 6](#). Great thanks is given to the program directors and managers of the T32 fellowships. Award of a T32 is difficult and time-consuming, and ongoing management of the T32s is complicated and resource-intensive.

Finally, I want to circle back to the residency track that was established just a year ago—the Rural Surgery Residency Rotation. To recap that program, the UW School of Medicine serves the largest rural landmass—comprised of the WWAMI states—Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho—of any medical school in this country. This constitutes 27% of the land mass of the conti-

(continued on page 3)

mental USA with more than 40% of the population of these states living in rural regions. After a search that lasted over a decade, **Dana Lynge**, MD, Associate Professor, VA, and **Barclay Stewart**, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery established a general surgery residency rotation at the Billings Clinic. The Billings Clinic is the provider of healthcare for western Montana and adjacent Wyoming. Dr. **Hannah Wild** was the resident in the inaugural year of the Rural Health residency rotation. Sadly, and as you will read more about in a special tribute, Dr. Dana Lynge, the driving force behind the creation of the Rural Residency rotation, passed away suddenly on June 22, 2024. He poured his heart and soul into the creation of this residency track and his passion and time resulted in a meaningful addition to our residency program. We plan to name the Rural Residency track for him to continually honor his commitment and dedication to residency education in the rural setting. Please be sure to read the tribute to Dr. Lynge on [page 23](#). His passing was a very sorrowful event for our Department, and as you will see in the tributes to him, he will be greatly missed.

Dr. Barclay Stewart has graciously agreed to take on direction of this residency rotation, along with his duties as the director of the newly created Global Residency Track program.

In this issue you will also find our faculty that were promoted as of July 2024 and as is usual, we have a number of honors and awards. We congratulate our faculty on their achievements, and you can read about them starting on [page 29](#).

Our Getting to Know the Department of Surgery (#GTKDOS) features Dr. **Rebecca Petersen**, Associate Professor in General Surgery and Director of our General Surgery residency program. This is one of our most popular segments in *Surgery Synopsis*, and I think you will find a deeper look into Dr. Rebecca Petersen's life, fascinating.

I hope you find this issue interesting and thank you for being part of our *Surgery Synopsis* family.

Sincerely,



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

Education Highlight

Colon & Rectal Surgery Fellowship

In July 2024, the Department of Surgery (DoS) debuts its newest ACGME-accredited fellowship program—the Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship. The purpose of this fellowship is to *“to create a well-rounded, exceptional surgeon with clinical and technical competence and expertise who will serve as a surgical leader in education, research, and treatment of all aspects of colon and rectal surgery.”*

This ACGME-accredited fellowship offers fellows a wide range of expertise in open, laparoscopic, robotic, and endoscopic techniques. The fellows will participate in ongoing, and/or create their own research projects, clinical trials, and publications under the guidance of Program Director, Dr. [Mukta Krane](#); Program Administrator, [China Hardison](#), Colorectal DoS faculty, Drs. [Sarah Atkinson](#) and [Joy Chen](#); Valley Medical Center Colorectal faculty [Greta Bernier](#) and [Phillip Dean](#); and [Nancy Unger](#), ARNP,



Mukta
Krane, MD



China
Hardison



Sarah
Atkinson, MD



Greta
Bernier, MD



Joy
Chen, MD



Phillip
Dean, MD



Nancy
Unger, ARNP

DoS Division of General Surgery, with the support of the UW Department of Surgery. Through this program, the fellow will gain experience from clinical rotations at UW Medical Center-Montlake, UW Medical Center-Northwest, and Valley Medical Center. These sites will provide fellows with the opportunity to develop skills in colon and rectal surgery across multiple practice settings and offer an unmatched range of pathology and exposure to basic and complex cases across the spectrum of colon and rectal surgery.

They began accepting applications July 3, 2024 with reviews beginning July 17, 2024. As of July 25, 2025, the program has received an impressive 138 applications. The selected fellow will begin the program August 1, 2025.

Visit DoS [Colon and Rectal Fellowship](#) to learn more about the program.

Education Highlight

Craniofacial Fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington

The Craniofacial Fellowship is unique in the depth and breadth of clinical volume experienced by the trainees. First begun in the 1990s by Dr. Joe Gruss and later expanded by Dr. Richard Hopper to include international fellows, our training has produced over 30 craniofacial surgeons, most of whom have continued on to academic careers. We have to thank for our high clinical volume the wide catchment area of Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) and the fact that Harborview Medical Center (HMC) is our only Level 1 Trauma Center in the five state WWAMI region. While craniofacial surgeons focus on the skull and face, our fellowship provides training in a very diverse range of conditions. At SCH, we primarily treat craniosynostosis and cleft lip and palate are able to restore both form and function with the surgeries we provide. We also perform pediatric hand and brachial plexus surgery, pediatric skin lesions and vascular malformation procedures, orthognathic surgery, facial reanimation, head and neck microsurgery, and pediatric facial trauma. Speaking of trauma, our fellowship provides extensive exposure to complex craniofacial trauma at HMC. Facial trauma at HMC is a mix of ballistic, blunt force and penetrating trauma and our fellows become facile in treating complex fracture patterns that are quite



Left to right: Drs. Raymond Tse, Andrew Linkuge, Craig Birgfeld, Erin Anstadt, Srinivas Susarla, and Russell Ettinger

rare at other centers. Additional training at HMC includes adult cleft care, post-trauma recon, microsurgery, and gender affirming surgery. Our faculty consider ourselves blessed to be able to work in this environment and to be able to share our experience with our trainees and to develop the next generation of craniofacial surgeons.

Education Highlight

Research Training Fellowships

In support of its mission of research and education, there are several ways the Department of Surgery (DOS) offers research-focused training and education to residents and other postdoctoral scholars. An important avenue for this training is through the Ruth L. Kirschstein Institutional National Research Service Award, commonly called T32 grants, funded by the National Institutes of Health. T32 grants are awarded to institutions to recruit individuals for pre- or post-doctoral research training in specified scientific areas, with the goal of preparing individuals for health-related research careers. T32 grants typically offer funds for trainee stipends and some tuition and travel costs.

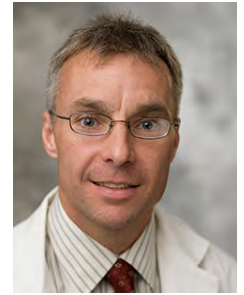
The DOS currently has two T32 grants, the **Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma, Injury and Inflammation** (Program Director: **Grant O’Keefe**;

funder: NIGMS) and the **Gastrointestinal Outcomes Surgery Research Fellowship** (Program Director: **David Flum**; funder: NIDDK). Between them, these two programs offer six postdoctoral training positions each year for DOS residents, and/or external residents or trainees interested in the subject areas for each program. These programs offer an invaluable mechanism for our residents to build a foundation of research knowledge and training that will allow them to grow successful academic research careers.

Though the details of a T32-funded research training program can vary, in the DOS, training programs are typically for two years, and include independent research and further education via the UW School of Public Health graduate programs (e.g., MPH, MS). During this research time, trainees may participate in limited surgical activities to keep their



Dr. David Flum



Dr. Grant O’Keefe

skills fresh while working on their research projects. Trainees may also have an individual development plan (IDP) that provides a roadmap of what they hope to achieve during their research time. Trainees graduate from these programs with knowledge, experience, and training in the ethical conduct of research and how to design, operationalize, conduct, analyze, and disseminate findings from their own independent research.

Program Name	Scientific Focus Area	Funder	Program Director	Year First Funded	Number of Fellows / Year
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Trauma, Injury, and Inflammation	The goal of this program is to provide scientists-in-training with mentorship and practical experience with research methods related to the biology of trauma, sepsis, and burns and to prepare them for a career in academic surgery.	NIGMS	Grant O’Keefe	2017	3
Gastrointestinal Surgery Outcomes Research Fellowship	This fellowship involves didactic training and practical experience in advanced research methodology focused on interventions related to the gastrointestinal system, obesity, and obesity-associated conditions.	NIDDK	David Flum	2010	3

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY T32 RESEARCH TRAINING ALUMNI

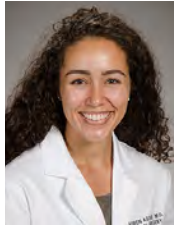


**NINA CLARK,
MD, MS**

Program: Gastrointestinal
Surgery Outcomes
Research Fellowship
Years: 2022-2024

RESEARCH FOCUS: Differential use of non-operative management of appendicitis based on sociodemographic characteristics; access to care in surgical emergencies, including evaluations of transfer patterns in emergency general surgery, telemedicine triage in burn care, timeliness of emergency care for surgical patients, and the availability and education of rural surgeons who can be front-line providers in these situations.

What are you doing now, and how will you continue applying your research? Currently, I am a General Surgery resident again – loving taking care of patients and trying to remember how to operate after two years doing statistics. I will be applying for the trauma/critical care fellowship this year and aim to continue my research in triage, access, and surgical care in rural places into my academic career.



**LAUREN AGOUBI,
MD, MA, MPH**

Program: T32 Pediatric
Injury Research
Training Program
Years: 2022-2024

RESEARCH FOCUS: My research focused on firearm injury prevention, the social determinants of health as they relate to injured patients and quality of life in their recoveries, and surgical systems strengthening both in the US and globally.

What are you doing now, and how will you continue applying your research? I have returned to clinical work as a General Surgery resident and am enjoying getting to care for patients again as part of a surgical team. I will be applying for the plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the end of the year and plan to continue research focused on quality of life after injury, injury prevention, and global surgery systems strengthening.

Education Highlight

UW Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center Multidisciplinary Breast Oncology Fellowship

We are pleased to announce that the application for the “University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center Multidisciplinary Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship” was accepted by the Society of Surgical Oncology and American Society of Breast Surgeons for a site visit, which is the last step in the new fellowship approval process.

This unique multidisciplinary fellowship, which will be supported by the [Roger E. Moe Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Care fund](#), allows each fellow to train not only in breast surgical oncology, but with all the disciplines that take part in breast cancer care. The application is for one fellow each year who will rotate on breast surgical oncology, plastic surgery, medical and radiation oncology, psychosocial oncology and rehabilitation, radiology and pathology. Another important element of their training is learning research methodology and participating in research projects with faculty in the Breast Surgery Section, the UW Department of Surgery [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) or multidisciplinary oncology faculty at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Program Director, Dr. [Meghan Flanagan](#), Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, along with six site directors (Dr. [Isaac Stein](#) (plastic surgery), Dr. [Lynn Symonds](#) (medical oncology), Dr. [Janice Kim](#) (radiation oncology), Dr. [Jesse Fann](#) (psychosocial oncology), Dr. [Matthew Phelps](#) (radiology), and Dr. [Rebeca Alvarez](#) (pathology), will oversee training each fellow. The fellowship has received the critical support of the residents on the general surgery REACH committee and the General Surgery Program Director, Dr. [Rebecca Petersen](#), who



Dr. Meghan Flanagan



Dr. Isaac Stein



Dr. Lynn Symonds



Dr. Janice Kim



Dr. Jesse Fann



Dr. Matthew Phelps



Dr. Rebeca Alvarez



Dr. Rebecca Petersen

believe a breast surgical oncology fellowship will also enhance the residents’ educational experience.

We anticipate that the fellowship will be approved in Fall 2024 so we may begin recruitment of our first fellow for matriculation into the program in August 2026.

Please support the [Roger E. Moe Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Care fund](#), which offers financial assistance to fellows focusing on breast cancer care within the Department of Surgery.

Education Highlight

Medical Clerkship Program



Kristen Seiler

The medical student program is a team effort consisting of the Director of Medical Student Surgical Education, Drs. **Kristine Calhoun**, Associate Clerkship Directors **Roger Tatum** and **Judy Chen**, and the Manager of Medical Student Programs, **Kristen Seiler**. They help students through their required clerkships, decide on appropriate electives, and advise students who are interested in matching in surgery. Additional career advisors

include Drs. **Sarah Atkinson**, **Erika Bisgaard**, **Nick Cetrulo**, Collette Inaba, and Zoe Parr. Last academic year, the team had a successful match season, guiding 20 UW students on the road to surgical residency.

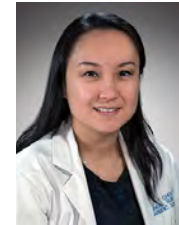
The required general surgery clerkship is a six-week experience that is eagerly anticipated by some and dreaded by others. It is our sincere hope, however, that both during and after a student's time with us, they will have not only gained new and useful knowledge, but enjoyed themselves. Students can rotate at one of our 22 sites across the WWA-MI region and have opportunities to see things they will not see elsewhere and participate in patient care in a very in-depth and comprehensive manner. The team is excited to announce the opening of two new sites this year at MultiCare Deaconess Hospital in Spokane and Boise Saint Alphonsus.



Dr. Kristine Calhoun



Dr. Roger Tatum



Dr. Judy Chen



Dr. Sarah Atkinson



Dr. Erika Bisgaard



Dr. Nick Cetrulo

Our elective courses allow students to explore different sub-specialties of surgery. There are numerous surgical sub-specialty electives available across Seattle and the WWAMI region. Additionally, we offer elective rotations to visiting students from around the country, so they can experience learning from our amazing faculty.

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and our programs!

Kristen Seiler
Medical Student Program Manager

Education Highlight

New Research Residents



**GRIFFEN ALLEN,
MD, MBE**

Dr. Allen is a PGY-4 beginning his research years as a **Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE) T32 fellow**.

He is originally from southern Georgia, though attended college at Colby College in Maine completing a degree in philosophy. He obtained a masters degree in bioethics from Harvard University prior to attending the Medical College of Georgia, where he developed an interest in surgical outcomes and surgical palliative care. While a General Surgery resident at the University of Washington (UW), he developed an interest in colorectal surgery, and is looking forward to joining these interests through continued work in surgical palliative care and surgeon communication, colorectal surgical outcomes, and exploring health economics and large database research methods. He will also be completing a Masters of Science in Health Services at the University of Washington School of Public Health.



**JAMIE
OLAPO, MD**

Dr. Olapo is a current PGY-4 General Surgery Resident beginning her research years as a **Surgical Outcomes**

Research Center (SORCE) NIH T32 Research fellow. She is originally from Oconomowoc, WI and moved to Seattle for residency with her husband, Ayoola, and Belgian Malinois pup, Simba! She has clinical interests in breast surgical oncology and integrative medicine. This translates to her research interests in the impact holistic medicine and nutrition can have on surgical outcomes and using food as medicine. Additionally, she has plans to work on secondary prevention of recurrence of common gastrointestinal surgical diseases through lifestyle modifications. Outside of the hospital, she can be found spending time in the mountains or training for her next upcoming triathlon!

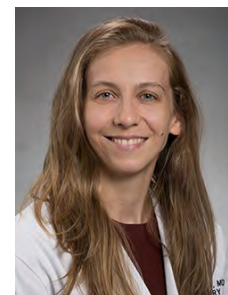


**JASON CARTER,
MD, PHD**

Dr. Carter is a research fellow in the **UW Tumor Immune Microenvironment (TIME) Lab** under the mentorship of

Dr. **Venu Pillarisetty**, Professor of Surgical Oncology. Building upon a background in computational immunology, Jason's research interests focus on improving our mechanistic understanding

of immunosuppression within the tumor microenvironment of hepatobiliary cancers, including a rare form of liver cancer known as fibrolamellar carcinoma. The project aims to combine a unique human tumor slice culture model with a variety of spatial and multi-omics approaches and the long-term goal of developing new, targeted immunotherapies. Dr. Carter plans to pursue a career in surgical oncology as a surgeon-scientist and is currently supported by the Career Development Award through the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.



**KRISTIN
GOODSELL, MD**

Dr. Goodsell is a PGY-4 General Surgery resident joining the **UW Tumor Immune Microenvironment (TIME) Lab**

under the mentorship of Dr. **Venu Pillarisetty**. Using the tumor slice culture platform, which was developed to study the immune microenvironment of solid tumors, she plans to investigate immune signaling pathways in metastatic colorectal cancer and other surgical malignancies. She also plans to continue working under the guidance of affiliate faculty Dr. James Park and faculty within the department of radiation oncology on refining a theranostic platform to improve imaging and drug delivery in the diagnosis and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma. She looks forward to her research years training as a surgeon-scientist and plans to pursue a career in academic surgery.

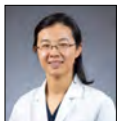
Welcome 2024-25 Surgery Residents



ARMAN ASHRAFI, MD
*General Surgery Keck School of Medicine
of the University of Southern California*



BISU ASMEROM, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



YIQIAO BAO, PHD, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth*



JOHN BARTLETT, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Oregon Health & Science University
School of Medicine*



ANGEL BILLINGSLEY, MD, MPH, JD
*Preliminary Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine*



SARAH BRENNAN, MD
*General Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



BRITTANY BROOKNER, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine*



MADYSON BROWN, MD
*Plastic Surgery
University of Mississippi School of Medicine*



HILLIARD BRYDGES, MD
*Plastic Surgery
Boston University School of Medicine*



VADIM CHESNOKOV, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Washington State University
Elson S. Floyd COM*



MICHAELA CURRY, MD
*General Surgery
Oregon Health & Science University
School of Medicine*



KAY DARKWA, MD
*Vascular Surgery
University of Illinois COM*



DOMINIQUE DEGRAAFF, MD
*Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



JOSH DRAKE, MD, MPH
*General Surgery
Tufts University School of Medicine*



DEVIN GASKINS, MD
*General Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



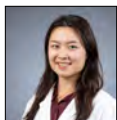
JACK GRIFFITH-LINSLEY, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Indiana University School of Medicine*



ANNA INTARA, MD
*General Surgery
Columbia University Vagelos
College of Physicians & Surgeons*



DANIEL LAWRENCE, MD, MS
*Preliminary Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



VIVIAN LOU, MD, MPH
*Preliminary Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine*



EVAN MARSH, MD
*Plastic Surgery
Washington University in St. Louis
School of Medicine*



KEVIN MARTINEZ QUINCIN, MD
*General Surgery
University of New Mexico School of Medicine*



SPENCER NEAVILLE, DO
*Preliminary Surgery
Liberty University College of
Osteopathic Medicine*



ALBERT NG, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



MCKENNA NOE, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
University of Michigan Medical School*



GILLIAN O'CONNELL, MD
*Plastic Surgery
Columbia University Vagelos
College of Physicians & Surgeons*



VARUN RAO, MD
*Preliminary Surgery
Indiana University School of Medicine*



CRISTINA SALINAS, MD
*Plastic Surgery
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine*



DAISY SPOER, MD, MS
*Preliminary Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine*



AI PHUONG TONG, MD, PHD
*Preliminary Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine*



KARISSA WANG, MD
*Vascular Surgery
University of California, Los Angeles
David Geffen School of Medicine*



BRANDON YESHOUA, MD, MHA
*Preliminary Surgery
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Welcome 2024-25 Surgery Fellows



Swara Bajpai, MD, MSHA
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Mark Berry, MD
Pediatric Surgery



Abigail Cortez, MD
Hand Surgery



Claire de Crescenzo, MD
Vascular Surgery



Emma Dwyer, MD
Hand Surgery



Claire Haltermeyer, MD, PhD
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Jolanta Gorecka, MD, MHS
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Japjit Green, MD
Microsurgery



Daniel Kaufman, MD, PhD
Abdominal Transplant



Aislinn Lewis, MD
Trauma/Critical Care



Alexander Li, MD
Hand Surgery



Christina Liu, MD
Hand Surgery



Meghan Mali, MD, MS
Trauma/Critical Care



Heather Matheny, MD, MS
Vascular Surgery



Kajal Mehta, MD, MPH
Burn/Critical Care



Josh Rosen, MD, MHS
Trauma/Critical Care



Dewafar Senthooor, MD
Abdominal Transplant



Rebecca Sorber, MD
Vascular Surgery



Lauren Tufts, MD
Vascular Surgery



Alan Utria, MD
Pediatric Surgery



Erin White, MD, MHS
Burn/Critical Care

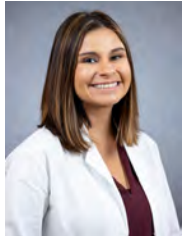


Irene Zhang, MD, MPH
Advanced GI MIS/Foregut

Education Highlight

New Residents Highlights

This is an exciting time of the year for the department as our new residents begin their training. Several of our new residents gave insights to their goals.



DOMINIQUE L. DEGRAAFF, MD

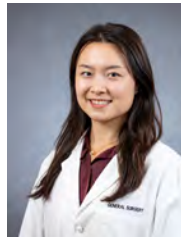
Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Why do I want to be a surgeon?

Surgery found me in medical school. I had attendings recommend I consider surgery after working in the anatomy lab. I walked into a cardiothoracic OR as a first-year medical student and could not imagine myself doing anything else. My passion for working with my hands and people collided and I haven't looked back.

Why did I choose the UW DoS residency?

I went to the UW School of Medicine and loved my time as a medical student. Throughout the interview season I kept my options open but realized no program could offer me the support that DOS could.



VIVIAN LOU, MD

Division of General Surgery–
Categorical

Why do I want to be a surgeon?

I chose surgery for the privilege of providing care during major changes in patients' lives, and for the opportunity to build the utmost trust with my patients.

Why did I choose the UW DoS residency?

UW provides the most well-rounded experience that I look for in a residency program, with emphasis on an equity-oriented mission to serve a wide catchment area, strong clinical training through exposure in different fields within general surgery, and access to abundant academic resources and innovative research projects.

What excites me the most regarding my residency?

I am thrilled to work alongside and learn from my co-residents and faculty. I am also very excited to play a role in educating the next generation of medical students at UW!



ALBERT NG, MD

Division of General
Surgery–Preliminary

Why do I want to be a surgeon?

Surgery uniquely combines the pathophysiology of wound healing with problem-solving and tactile creativity to restore form and function. There is a special joy in partnering with patients to holistically address both physical and emotional injuries from trauma, helping them reclaim their sense of self, normalcy and, affirmation of identity.

Why did I choose the UW DoS residency?

UW DoS and UW Medicine offer a unique opportunity for high-volume operative training, complex patient management, and balanced operative management of common and rare disease pathology. The WWAMI catchment area offers training in managing patients from resource-limited areas and research on low-cost technologies for perioperative and postoperative rehabilitation.

What excites me the most regarding my residency?

I am excited for immersive exposure to various surgical subspecialties, opportunities to teach and mentor medical students, and, of course, more time in the operating room.

Education Highlight

New Residents Highlights



GILLIAN
O'CONNELL, MD
Division of Plastic Surgery

Why do I want to be a surgeon?

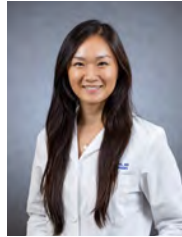
Patients are at the core of my desire to practice surgery. Helping others live healthy, meaningful and fulfilling lives is such a privilege, and surgeons are uniquely positioned to provide patient-centered interventions with an immediate impact. I also love the creativity, cross-specialty collaboration, and opportunities to innovate, that plastic surgery offers.

Why did I choose the UW DoS residency?

During my sub-internship, I was immediately struck by the supportiveness, enthusiasm, and warmth of the surgery community. I knew that the people here, combined with the diverse, high-volume case exposure of the WWAMI region, would make for unparalleled surgical training. Having the beautiful nature of the Seattle area as a backdrop is a wonderful bonus!

What excites me the most regarding my residency?

I am thrilled to be part of a program that supports residents in both their professional and personal growth. These will be life-changing years, and I am humbled to share them with such amazing mentors and colleagues.



KARISSA
WANG, MD
Division of Vascular Surgery

Why do I want to be a surgeon?

I love that surgeons can help patients address their health needs using relevant procedures and operations in conjunction with lifestyle counseling and other medical therapies. It is an honor to earn the amount of trust that patients place in their providers, when making the decision to pursue surgery.

Why did I choose the UW DoS residency?

I chose UW because the surgery department here has such a patient-centered and learning-centered culture. When I rotated here as a visiting student during my last year of medical school, I was extremely impressed with the emphasis placed on education and how they involved trainees in every level in patient care.

What excites me the most regarding my residency?

The people! It is a tremendous privilege to serve patients who travel from all over the WWAMI region to seek care. I am also grateful to work with and learn from the experienced UW physicians, other UW trainees, and the various other care team members here!

DIVERSITY IN DoS

West Coast Surgery Collaborative: Empowering Faculty & Advancing Diversity

The West Coast Surgery Collaborative is a transformative partnership among five premier institutions: Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), University of California, Davis (UC Davis), Stanford University, and the University of Washington (UW). This alliance aims to bolster faculty development, advance the careers of junior and mid-career faculty, and strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Eligibility for this prestigious opportunity is exclusive to associate professors and assistant professors in their fourth year or above, at the UW. A dedicated selection committee rigorously evaluates all applications to choose the UW Department of Surgery's (DOS) representative for the West Coast Surgery Collaborative Visiting Professor Program. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to working synergistically with other leading institutions on the northern west coast.

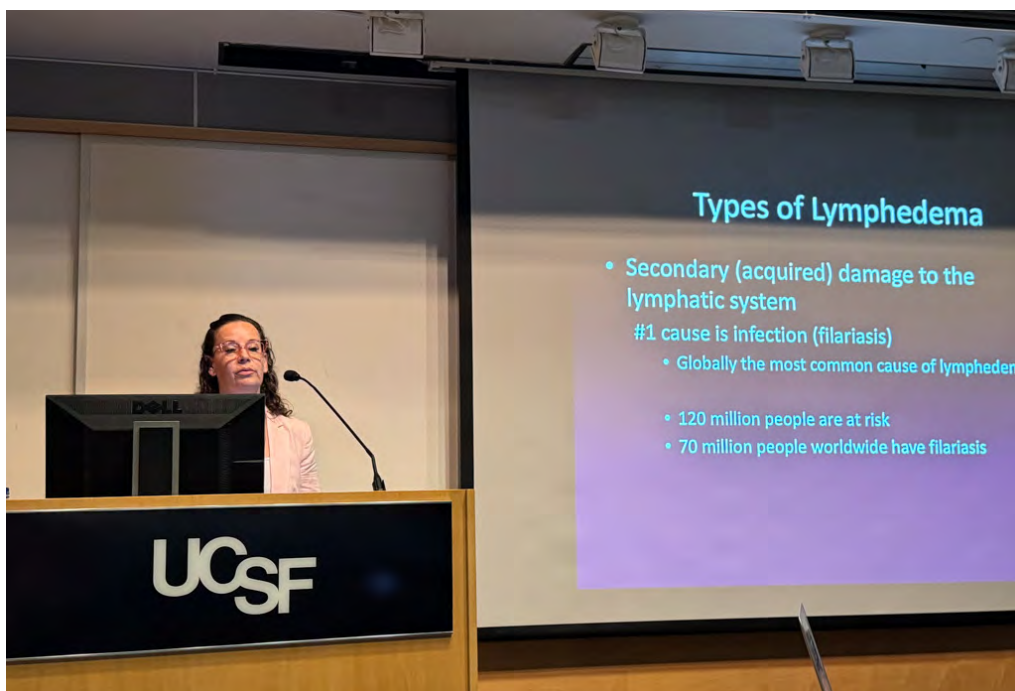
We are thrilled to highlight Dr. **Suzanne Inchauste**, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, who was selected as last year's awardee. Dr. Inchauste's well-thought-out application and comprehensive plan, embodied the spirit of the collaborative, showcas-

ing achievable goals that introduced her to new mentors and established invaluable connections.

Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Inchauste shared, *"The West Coast Surgery Collaborative Visiting Professor Program is an amazing opportunity to present, discuss, and learn more about one of my professional interests, lymphatic surgery. Learning about their lymphatic surgery programs provided me with the tools to continue building our program at the UW. Lymphatic surgery is still in its infancy, with limited research, publications with small patient sample sizes, and short follow-up. My goal is to partner with the five West Coast Surgery Collaborative institutions to conduct more powerful clinical outcomes research with larger patient numbers, longer follow-*

up, and more robust evidence about the effectiveness of lymphatic surgery for treating lymphedema. More robust research is needed to demonstrate to insurance companies the benefit of these surgeries, allowing plastic surgeons a better opportunity to advocate for improved patient access to insurance coverage. I am honored and excited to have been awarded this opportunity and to collaborate with other outstanding institutions."

Dr. Inchauste had an outstanding experience at UCSF, underscoring the collaborative's value in fostering professional growth and strengthening inter-institutional ties. This was the second year the UW DOS has participated in the West Coast Collaborative, highlighting our ongoing commitment to this valuable initiative.



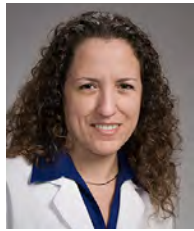
Dr. Suzanne Inchauste presenting at the UCSF Grand Rounds as the West Coast Collaborative Visiting Professor.

2024 Faculty Promotions

PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



CRAIG BIRGFELD, MD
*Division of
Plastic Surgery*



**ELINA QUIROGA,
MD, MPH**
*Division of
Vascular Surgery*



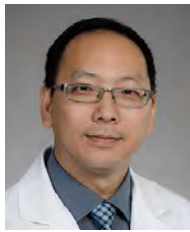
RAYMOND TSE, MD
*Division of
Plastic Surgery*

PROMOTION TO CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



NICOLE WHITE, MD
*Division of
General Surgery*

PROMOTION TO CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



DANIEL KIM, MD
*Division of
General Surgery*

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY



**CHRISTOPHER
BURKE, MD**
*Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery*



**MEGHAN
FLANAGAN, MD, MPH**
*Division of
General Surgery*



**CATHERINE
KLING, MD, MPH**
*Division of
Transplant Surgery*



**KATHLEEN
O'CONNELL, MD, MPH**
*Division of Trauma, Burn
& Critical Care Surgery*



**BARCLAY STEWART,
MD, PHD, MSCPH**
*Division of Trauma, Burn
& Critical Care Surgery*

GETTING To Know DoS

REBECCA P. PETERSEN, MD, MSc, FACS

Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery



In your medical educational journey, what made you decide your surgical specialty?

Initially, entering the General Surgery Residency at Duke, I was set on pursuing Thoracic Surgery, because I was especially excited about new developments like minimally invasive techniques for treating lung cancer. After my second year of residency, I spent two years in the thoracic oncology lab doing translational research. While my mentors in thoracic surgery, Drs. D'Amico and Harpole, were absolutely amazing, I also grew close to several general surgery faculty mentors as a more senior resident. Drs. Pryor and Pappas, in particular, introduced me to the enticing world of minimally invasive general surgery and I was hooked! It was the right time to move on from North Carolina, and I sought out the best fellowships in the country. The Department of Surgery's (DOS) Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery and Foregut Fellowship Program, led by Drs. Carlos Pellegrini and Brant Oelschlager at the time, was clearly the best fit for me. The rest of the minimally invasive surgery faculty have since become an incredible network of friends and colleagues.

You've been Program Director for the General and Preliminary Surgery residency programs for two years. What has been most unexpected in your role over this period of time?

I continue to be amazed by the creativity and innovation of all our trainees. During my training, there was a considerably more "top-down" structure, and resident input was more limited. Over my time here, I have

strived to engage our residents in shaping the future of our program, and I am continually astonished by the thoughtful, forward-looking, and novel ideas they develop!

How have your goals as Program Director been achieved?

One of the first challenges we faced was revamping the program's approach to the residency match. To fully embrace the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we developed a holistic recruitment strategy. While this was labor-intensive at the outset, it has significantly improved our ability to attract stellar candidates, and I am incredibly proud of the process and the results we've achieved. These changes were not only implemented on an aggressive timeline, but were also optimized based on feedback from applicants, residents, and faculty the following year. This truly was a collective effort, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support and expertise of the Diversity Council, our Chair, Division Chiefs, faculty, residents, associate program directors (APDs), and administrative staff, particularly Joanna Ames and Kristelle Calma. I especially want to thank Drs. Caitlin Smith and Collette Inaba for leading the way!

The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges for didactic surgical training. While we adapted to online meetings and education, we lost many of the benefits of immediate feedback, real-world experience, and a

strong sense of community. Even before the pandemic, there was a need to modernize our didactic and educational approach. Fortunately, our timing was right, and we seized the opportunity to work with the residents to completely revamp our infrastructure. Our Education Team plans to continue collaborating with our resident-run Education Work Group, and our next big focus will be on optimizing our surgical skills and simulation curriculum.

Finally, we have made significant strides in establishing more flexibility during the senior years of residency. This was made possible by expanding our complement, increasing the number of residents per class from seven to eight. This expansion facilitated the addition of a Mixed Tumor Service at our Montlake Campus and allowed for a truly protected elective of choice for our R4 class, with two residents set to rotate in Billings, Montana, this academic year. Even more flexibility will be available next year when we have a total of eight chiefs.

To reach this point and achieve our full complement per class sooner, there has been a lot of strategic planning involved,



Family trip to Costa Rica

GETTING TO KNOW DOS

REBECCA P. PETERSEN, MD, MSc, FACS

Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery



and we were fortunate to have the opportunity to backfill a few positions. Overall, this expansion has been well received by both residents and faculty. I would like to especially recognize the hard work of Dr. **Karen Horvath** and Gina Colucchio, who ignited this process years before I took over as Program Director.

What challenges did you experience working towards these goals?

We have one of the most complex healthcare systems in the country, with our residents rotating at seven different sites that serve patients across five states (WWAMI). Each site has its own unique culture and specialization, which makes our program a true standout nationally. However, this also requires significantly more time, energy, and frequent communication to implement changes in the residency program. Fortunately, I couldn't ask for a better education team of APDs and administrative staff to help make this happen! I also want to express my deepest gratitude to our Chair, Vice Chair of Education, Division Chiefs, faculty at large, and, most importantly, our residents for their dedication and support in bringing these goals to fruition!

Tell us about your role in the DoS Women's Council.

The Women's Council has been an invaluable part of my experience here in the DOS, tackling a range of important issues under the leadership of Dr. **Kris Calhoun**. With Dr. **Douglas Wood**'s support, we have successfully developed policies around pregnancy, family planning (including adoption and infertility), parental leave, lactation, and more. We're especially excited about an upcoming all-day retreat on Sunday, October 6th, where we plan to gather and discuss issues unique to women in surgery. Our resident members have arranged for Dr.



Department of Surgery Women's Council members

Elizabeth Umphress from the Foster School of Business, to be our Keynote Speaker. She is renowned for her work in negotiations, diversity, and ethical decision-making. The agenda is packed with panels and speakers, featuring faculty, alumni, and residents, promising to be an inspiring and impactful event!

Which goal are you most proud of achieving and why?

The revamping of our protected didactics program. The residents initiated this, and as a program, we presented a detailed, evidenced-based plan to the department's Leadership Council. With Dr. Wood's very strong support, we were able to modernize the educational experience which has been exceedingly successful in improving the camaraderie of the program. We are looking forward to improving this programming even further and greatly appreciate the faculty's support in this effort.

What has been the best career advice you've received?

In the words of Dr. Pellegrini, "Be passionate about what you do and the rest will work itself out." This advice was given to me when I was a fellow and again as a junior faculty member. I was given the oppor-

tunity by Dr. Oelschlager shortly following my fellowship, to help develop our comprehensive UW Hernia Center. What I later realized is that finding a niche and being passionate about it will eventually lead to opportunities that align with your clinical interests. At the beginning of my career, I sought out opportunities to develop and grow my skillset which allowed me to further specialize and significantly contribute to program development. The establishment of the UW Hernia Center at the Northwest campus fostered collaboration, increased case volume, and eventually lead to educational, research and societal opportunities. Like most advice that we receive early on, we do not fully understand or appreciate it until later down the road. I am exceedingly thankful for the voices of my mentors that continue to ring in my ears to this day!

Where did you travel on your most memorable vacation?

My most memorable vacation destination is Santorini! My husband and I first traveled there during residency, before we got married about 20 years ago. It was one of the most relaxing and low-key vacations we've ever had. We recently returned for my husband's 50th birthday, this time with

GETTING TO KNOW DOs

REBECCA P. PETERSEN, MD, MSc, FACS
Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery



our twin boys, and it was just as magical as we remembered (which is rare when things are so perfect the first time around). Santorini is the one place where I can truly unwind, soak in the views, savor fresh produce from the local market, lose myself in a good book, and celebrate the sunset every evening.

Who has been your inspiration and why?

My husband, John, and I met during my residency at Duke on a semi-blind date—technically not completely blind, as there were some “walk-bys” involved while I was rotating in the CTICU. At the time, I was an intern, and he was a chief resident in internal medicine. Over the past 20 years, my admiration and respect for him have only deepened. He has always been incredibly supportive of my career and personal goals, even through the challenges we’ve faced together. John is an amazing husband, father, and friend, and above all, he is kind and patient. He never ceases to amaze me with his wit, humor, and extensive knowledge of trivia. He is truly my greatest inspiration.

What is your personal motto?

Alright, I know this might sound a bit cheesy, but when I was a tween aspiring to be a principal ballet dancer, I had a poster of Mikhail Baryshnikov in my room with a quote that read, “Dream your dream, then do your best. Never doubt and never rest until that dream is yours.” I realize this might seem a bit naïve, as life is far more complex than a simple quote suggests, but there’s something to be said about the importance of hard work and perseverance.



Favorite family ski destination-Alta, Utah!

RAPID FIRE

What is the last book you read?

“I am Pilgrim” by Terry Hayes. My oldest sister highly recommended it to me, and it was definitely worth the read!

What is your favorite tv show you’re currently watching?

“We Were the Lucky Ones” It’s a Hulu TV series based on a true story. I have also been in a routine of watching reruns of *Saturday Night Live* episodes with my boys during our downtime this summer.

What is your favorite movie?

Difficult question! I have been a long-standing Hitchcock fan since I was a teenager. I would say *Vertigo*.

What is your go-to snack?

My son, Jay, introduced me to frozen grapes with lime juice. Yes—he learned this recipe from YouTube. It tastes better than it sounds and is addictive, especially during the hot summer months!

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Planning future family ski vacations!

Tell us something about yourself nobody knows.

I am a huge animal lover! To add to the chaos, when our twin boys were toddlers, we had twin pygmy goats (Beau & Tucker), along with our Weimaraner (Victor) and Bengal cat (Hunter). You’d think we lived on a farm, but this was on Queen Anne! Most recently, our tween boys, with a little help from us, have fostered seven cats (not all at once) for the Bengal Rescue Society.

2024 Chief Residents' Graduation Dinner

On June 15, 2024, the Department of Surgery (DoS) graduating trainees, faculty and education staff gathered for the Chief Residents' Dinner at Bell Harbor International Conference Center. Dr. Douglas Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, welcomed guests and DoS faculty presented awards to the attendees. This annual event celebrates the graduation of all program residents and fellows from some of the top training programs in the nation.

CHIEF RESIDENTS FINISHING JUNE 2024

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY INTEGRATED RESIDENCY PROGRAM

ALDRIN ALPUERTO, MD
*Dignity Health Medical Group
Bakersfield, CA*

PLASTIC SURGERY INTEGRATED RESIDENCY PROGRAM

REBECCA DESANTI, MD
*Microsurgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

VANESSA LEONHARD, DO
*St. Luke's and Mercy Hospitals
Physicians Clinic of Iowa
Cedar Rapids, IA*

JOHNATHAN SHIH, MD
*Kaiser Permanente -
Oakland Medical Center
Oakland, CA*

PHILIP TOLLEY, MD
*Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

SURGERY GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

CATHERINE ELIZABETH BENI, MD, PHD
*Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of Southern California*

LOVEMORE SIMBARASHE KUZOMUNHU, MD, MS
*Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
Johns Hopkins University*

KATE MCNEVIN, MD
*Pediatric Surgery Research
Seattle Children's Hospital*

KAJAL MEHTA, MD, MPH
*Burn/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of Washington*

JOSHUA ELI ROSEN, MD, MHS
*Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of Washington*

DENZEL R. WOODE, MD
*Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of California San Francisco*

IRENE YING ZHANG, MD, MPH
*Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery/Foregut Fellowship
University of Washington*

PRELIMINARY RESIDENTS FINISHING JUNE 2024

KHALED ABDHELGHANY, MD

EDEN ANDERSON, MD

DANIEL BOCZAR LINS SANTANA, MD

JEFFREY FAROOQ, MD, MS, MPH

VIBOL HENG, MD, PHD

DANIEL JIMENEZ, MD

OLIVIA LANE, MD

ANTHONY MENGHINI, MD, MS

FRANCES TIFFANY MORDEN, MD

PRITHVI SHETTY, MD

IAN SMITH, DO, MS

RUT THAKKAR, MD

PHILIP WHALEN, DO, MS

JOLAN WU, DO, MS

FELLOWS FINISHING JUNE 2024

ERIN ANSTADT, MD
*Craniofacial Surgery
Assistant Professor, University of Utah-
Primary Children's Hospital*

MUSTAFA CHOPAN, MD
*Microsurgery
Oroville Hospital in Oroville, CA*

RICHARD DUBOIS, MD
*Cardiothoracic Surgery
Assistant Professor (as of September 1, 2024)
UW Department of Surgery, Seattle, WA*

NISHANT DWIVEDI, MD
*Hand Surgery
Twin Cities Orthopedics, Minneapolis, MN*

CHRISTOPHER FLEURY, MD
*Hand Surgery
Center for Plastic Surgery, Washington DC*

MELISSA FORDE, MD
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, Tacoma General, Tacoma, WA*

GUY JENSEN, MD, MPH
*Pediatric Surgery
Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO*

JAMES KENNY, MD, MS
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, Regions Hospital, St. Paul, MN*

ANDREW LINKUGEL, MD
*Craniofacial Surgery
Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH*

ALEX LOIS, MD, MS
*Minimally Invasive Surgery
Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Chicago*

CHRIS MARFO, MD, MBA
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, UW Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA*

HAYTHAM MARIA, MD
*Abdominal Surgery
Unknown*

ALEX MORZYCKI, MD, MS
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, University of Edmonton, Canada*

JAMIE OH, MD, MS
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, Medstar Washington Hospital Center, DC*

GRAHAM SKELHORNE-GROSS, MD, PHD
*Surgical Critical Care
Attending, Buffalo General Medical Center, Buffalo, NY*

LAURA WONG, MD, PHD
*Hand Surgery
Plastic Surgery Faculty at the University of Utah*

JENNY YU, MD
*Hand Surgery
District Medical Group at Valleywise
Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ.*

2024 Chief Residents' Graduation Dinner

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GRADUATION DINNER AWARDS



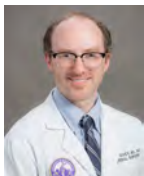
HARKINS SOCIETY & HENRY HARKINS AWARD (EST. 1985)

AWARDEE—SARAH BRENNAN, MD
This award is presented to a University of Washington School of Medicine (UW SOM) medical student who has completed outstanding clinical work and demonstrated a strong interest in pursuing training in a surgical discipline.



MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (EST. 1985)

AWARDEE—DEVIN GASKINS, MD
This award recognizes a UW SOM medical student in research in the general field of surgery.



RESIDENT AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHING (EST. 2013)

AWARDEE—LIAM HOVEY, MD, PHD
This award is given biannually to a Department of Surgery resident of any level who has had a positive impact on medical students through teaching and mentoring.

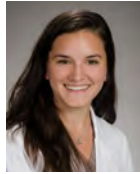
RESIDENT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD (EST. 2017)

This award is presented annually to those General Surgery residents who scored in the 85th percentile or greater from across the nation on the ABSITE exam this year.

AWARDEES—



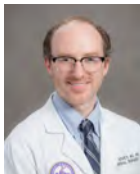
Dr. Jason Carter



Dr. Nina Clark



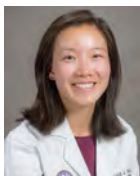
Dr. Kristin Goodsell



Dr. Liam Hovey



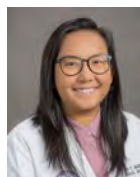
Dr. Nzuekoh Nchinda



Dr. Alice Tao



Dr. Ben Vierra



INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD (EST. 2024)

AWARDEE—FRANCES TIFFANY MORDEN, MD

The candidate is voted by the R2 residents through Chief classes from our four DoS Residency Programs. They were asked to vote for the intern who they believe exemplifies the best of our profession for their dedication to patient care, ability to work well with and help others, administrative excellence, and the pursuit of knowledge and technical skills.



DAVID BYRD PDS TEACHING AWARD (EST. 2024)

AWARDEE—ERIKA BISGAARD, MD

This award is named after one of our most exemplary resident educators and advocates. This award is for a faculty member who conducted outstanding didactics sessions as we transitioned to a new General Surgery Residency curriculum this year and was selected by the residency. This faculty member led sessions that were incredibly engaging, thoughtful and pushed us as trainees.



JOHN K. STEVENSON FACULTY TEACHING AWARD (EST. 1989)

AWARDEE—DEEPIKA NEHRA, MD, FACS

This award is presented in memory of former faculty member John K. Stevenson, and salutes faculty teaching excellence and dedication to resident education.



HMC HOUSESTAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEE

AWARDEE—KATE MCNEVIN, MD

This award recognizes the nominee for their "extraordinary clinical ability and humanitarian concern," as best shown through their exemplary care provided to HMC's patients.

THE DAVID TAPPER RESIDENT TEACHING & LEADERSHIP AWARD (EST. 2003)

AWARDEE—KATE MCNEVIN, MD

This award is given to a General Surgery Chief Resident who exemplifies the teaching and leadership qualities that others seek to emulate.

2024 Chief Residents' Graduation Dinner

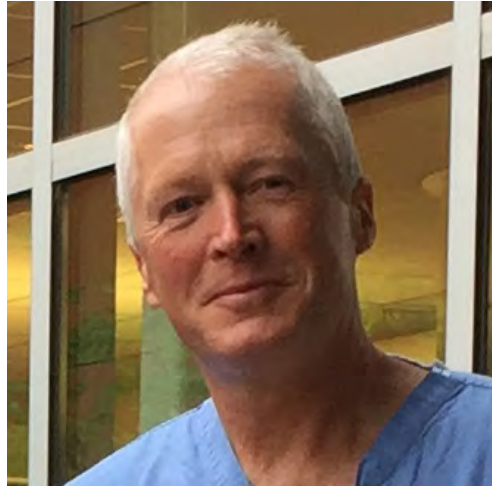


Dana Lyngé Tribute

It is with profound sadness we share with you Dr. Dana Christian Lyngé, a highly valued member of our faculty since 1993, unexpectedly passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2024.

Dr. Lyngé's faculty practice was at the Veteran's Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VA). Dr. Lyngé was a staunch advocate of our residents throughout his surgical career. He was, and always will be, well known for his wisdom and wit. A rare intellect with a deep fund of knowledge both within and outside the realm of general surgery, Dana deeply touched the lives of hundreds of UW residents, students, and faculty. His presence made every day better for those around him. The brilliantly funny introductions during his many years as the host of the Chief Resident Graduation Dinner are the stuff of legend and set the pattern and the high bar for all who followed.

Dr. Lyngé was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and spent his childhood in the province of Manitoba, Canada. He attended Stanford University, graduating with a degree in English



Dr. Dana Lyngé

Literature, which provided him a lifetime of erudite references and perspective. He earned his MD at McGill University in Montreal and subsequently performed a rotating internship at that same institution. Inspiring his career-long interest in rural surgery, Dana worked as a general practitioner (and Chief of Staff) at a small rural hospital in the far northern reaches of Quebec province, then worked with the International Rescue Committee in Pakistan until he began his residency in General Surgery here in Seattle at Virginia Mason Medical Center. He was immediately thereafter hired by the University of Washington Department of Surgery as a staff surgeon at the VA, where he was a highly talented and dedicated member of our faculty for over 30 years.

Dr. Lyngé served as both General Surgery residency VA site director and medical student clerkship site director for more than half that time. Most recently, his years-long endeavor to create a rural surgery track for the UW general surgery residency program has come to fruition, with the first resident enrolled over this last academic year, cementing his enduring legacy.

Dr. Lyngé is survived by his wife, Dr. Martha Johnson, an anesthesiologist and UW faculty member, his son Bjorn, and his daughter Claire. The insightful techniques he taught and the brilliant stories he told will continue to be passed down by his past and present trainees as well as colleagues, who have immensely enjoyed the time they had with Dana. He will be greatly missed by all of us who knew and worked with him and who will strive to uphold the ideals that Dr. Lyngé represents.

With deep sorrow,

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

Roger Tatum, MD
 Professor & Chief
 Division of VA Health Care
 The Veteran's Affairs Puget Sound
 Health Care System

Dana Lynge Tribute (cont.)

REMEMBRANCES

DR. ROGER TATUM

*Professor & Chief
Division of VA Health Care*

Early in my days here as a new faculty member, Dana (a proud Dane) learned from one of the residents that I had been playing ABBA songs in the OR one day. He promptly called me into his office to ask why. After my brief and befuddled explanation, he had only one thing to say: “But Roger... They’re Swedes.”

In addition, I am sure that my colleagues included here would be fine with me sharing Dana’s sobriquets for all of them (sadly, I do not know if he had one for me, and so far no one has been willing to share it if he did...):

Deb Marquardt = “Lord Marquardt” (reference to character in Shrek, of course)

Peter Wu = “The Great and Mysterious Dr. Wu”

Edgar Figueredo = “The Sartorially Resplendent Don Edgar”

Lorrie Langdale = “The Fang of God” (a derivation from an earlier one, “Fangdale”)

DR. BARCLAY STEWART

*Associate Professor
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care*

Dana would call to give messages that most of us send over text – he’d call multiple times per day, often several times per week. I have been looking at my phone expecting to see his name. His death still seems abstract or unreal.

I didn’t know him too well as a resident – no more than other attendings from whom I learned. Over the past two years we have/had come to be more than colleagues. We planned over beers, he gave parenting advice to me the new father, and we’d do bike rides together.

Dana was much more than most residents and faculty realize – he was a dutiful surgeon, doting husband, and model of a parent. He would step out of our meetings in the evenings repeatedly. I joked with him when he’d return about the happenings of his mysterious dismissals. I came to learn that he would talk to his children, particularly his daughter, in the evenings – just to check in and talk about their days.

His satirical, sage, and pragmatic approach to his work and our rural surgery mission was exciting and fun to be a part of. The Billings pathway gave him a new lease on his career. He would always lovingly accuse me of

being an ‘acadwebic.’ However, last week over beers, he asked if I would help him frame this in his promotion packet for professor, which he previously had not felt inspired to do. The Billings program, his refreshed role as a mentor and researcher, and hope for the future of rural care had inspired him to revisit academic surgery in this new light.

DR. LORRIE LANGDALE

*Professor & Chief
Section of General Surgery
Division of VA Health Care*

Way back when I used to cover HMC call as well as VA, I met Dana when he rotated from VM as an R3. I took him through his first small bowel resection as a fresh-out-of-fellowship attending. After he graduated and was hired at the VA, he was the first to adopt lap choles—then he taught me. He ceased doing lap cases when he was teaching Hub Radke to do them and the camera failed, but Hub kept operating (no vision!). Dana had so much PTSD that he made the rest of us do them from then on.

I always thought the residents underestimated Dana—he used to do all of our liver resections and did the most detailed abdominoperineal resection (APR) surgery you ever saw. Ultimately, he and Martha wanted to raise their two children on Vashon so he backed away from cases that re-

Dana Lynge Tribute (cont.)

REMEMBRANCES

quired any significant length of stay, preferring to do cases that many regarded as “intern cases”—hernias, ano-rectal etc. But any chief going into private practice eventually fought to work with him, usually in the months prior to graduation, when they realized that it would be these cases that put food on the table.

Yes, he had nicknames for everyone. Mine morphed into “McGonagall” during the period when he was reading Harry Potter with his kids. He was a devoted father and husband, putting his family first at every turn. We had planned to put him up for a well-deserved promotion to full Professor this summer. His legacy of the Rural Surgery rotation, at least will make sure we never forget.

DR. PETER WU

*Associate Professor
Division of VA Health Care*

Dana’s nickname for Roger = “El Jefe” (Commander-in-Chief)

When I first arrived at the VA in July 2004, I inherited an old office with disorganized government furniture, and rearranged the desk and cabinets for easier access. Dana strolled in and gave me a warm welcome and commented, “Peter, I like what you’ve done with the office and appreciate how you incorporated traditional Feng Shui elements.” I looked at him and scratched my head and replied, “Dana, I have no idea what you mean and I’m just an Asian guy from Pittsburgh, PA . . .” That was our first laugh together and the sarcasm we shared only grew from that point on.

As Dana would frequently bike to the VA, even during the time he commuted from Vashon Island, he would quickly change into scrubs to see clinic patients. He frequently told residents the story about Dr. Matthias Stelzner (whom Dana nicknamed “The Kaiser”), a colleague at the VA Puget Sound, commenting on Dana’s work attire, “Dana, when I was an attending at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, a medical student who was the son of our chairman once wore scrubs into my clinic. I did not hesitate to send him home immediately to change into a shirt and tie.” Dana calmly replied, “That’s very impressive . . . but I prefer infection control” citing multiple studies of pathogens on doctor’s ties.

Dana will never be forgotten.

Department of Surgery Center for Surgical Ethics 2024 Conference

The annual Department of Surgery (DoS) Surgical Ethics Conference took place on August 1st and 2nd. With over 60 attendees in a hybrid in-person and virtual modality, the conference was a great success.

Attendees had the pleasure of listening to ground-breaking topics from invited guest faculty:

- Dr. Peter Angelos, University of Chicago
- Dr. Andrew Shuman, University of Michigan
- Dr. Sabha Ganai, University of North Dakota
- Dr. Pirooska Kopar, Washington University St. Louis
- Dr. Douglas Brown, Washington University St. Louis

Other faculty presenters joined the conference virtually:

- Dr. Anji Wall, Baylor College
- Dr. Malini Sur, Northside Hospital Cancer Institution
- Dr. Alexander Langerman, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Dr. Sunil Gevarghese, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Dr. Martin Montenovio, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Dr. Connie Shao, University of Alabama, Birmingham
- Dr. Sharmila Dissanaik, University of New Mexico
- Dr. Baila Macqbool, University of New Mexico



Dr. Carlos Pellegrini

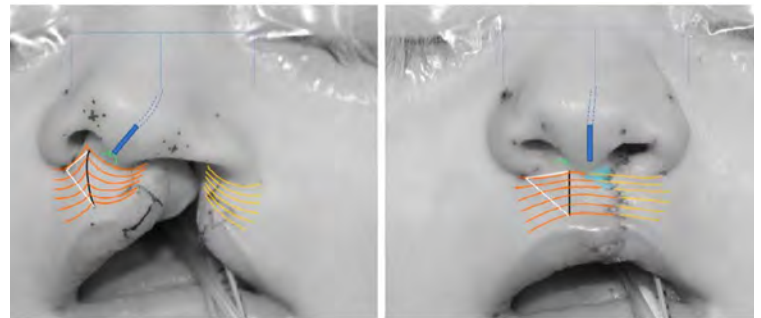
The highlight of this scientific conference was the Life Time Achievement Award presented to Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, UW DOS Emeritus Professor, for his contributions to the field. He delivered a memorable and impactful keynote lecture “Connecting with patients and colleagues: The role of Trust and Communication.” The DoS Center for Surgical Ethics’ leadership planning committee anticipates the 2025 conference to be held on August 7th and

8th. Read [The Huddle article](#) to learn more about the Center for Surgical Ethics and its 2024 conference. Please email surgethics@uw.edu if you have questions.

The Craniofacial Center at Seattle Children’s Hospital—Dr. Raymond Tse

The *Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* (PRS) is the most important and widely read journal for plastic surgery nationally and internationally. The journal announced the publication by Drs. **Benjamin Massenberg**, **Ezgi Mercan**, **Russell Ettinger**, and **Raymond Tse** entitled “**The Yin and Yang of Primary Unilateral Cleft Lip and Nose Repair: Balance through Opposing Cleft and Noncleft Side Changes**” has been named the 2024 PRS Best Paper Award for Pediatric/Craniofacial.

It is the team’s third such award in four years and reaffirms the Craniofacial Center at Seattle Children’s Hospital is a worldwide leader. The Craniofacial Center team cares for children with cleft and craniofacial conditions and is one of the largest and most comprehensive multidisciplinary teams. While the award is an honor, the greatest honor for the team is serving children and families with cleft and craniofacial conditions.



Russell Ettinger New Program Director of Plastic Surgery

Dear Surgery Synopsis Readers,

Approximately six months ago, Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich announced his intention to step down as UW Department of Surgery Plastic Surgery Residency Program Director. He accomplished an amazing 12-year tenure as Program Director, taking us from a “coordinated” residency of three residents/year (total nine) to currently the largest integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program in the world—it includes 30 ACGME-accredited residency positions and was recently ranked first nationally on Doximity. In addition to expanding the program, Dr. Friedrich has immensely improved the program experience so our trainees truly receive the very finest training in all aspects of Plastic Surgery of any other program. I am so incredibly proud and grateful for what he has done.

Following Dr. Friedrich’s announcement to step down, we formed an internal search committee to select his successor. This committee was chaired by Dr. Kari Keys, and included representatives from all the UW Plastic Surgery sites – Drs. Craig Birgfeld, Otway Louie, Erin Miller, and Jeff Friedrich (I was not involved). The committee received open ap-



Dr. Russell Ettinger

plications, interviewed candidates, received input from many residents, and had multiple meetings to successfully achieve consensus. I attended the committee’s concluding meeting and was incredibly impressed with their sincerity, inclusiveness, professionalism, and their thoughtful deliberations—taking all aspects into account. Their consensus recommendation was to appoint Dr. Russell Ettinger as the next Program Director, a recommendation I wholeheartedly accepted.

“I am incredibly excited and grateful to be taking on the role of Program Director for UW Plastic Surgery,” expressed Dr. Ettinger. *“There is a long-standing tradition of excellence in clinical training that I intend to build on for both our current and future residents. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to Dr. Friedrich for his years of dedication and contributions to the program over his 12-year tenure as Program Director.”*

Drs. **Shannon Colohan**, **Kari Keys**, and **Craig Birgfeld**, agreed to continue as associate program directors (APD) in what we hope will be an expanded role for our APDs going forward—I thank them all most sincerely.



Dr. Shannon Colohan



Dr. Kari Keys



Dr. Craig Birgfeld

Thank you everyone for your input and support in this most critical transition for our amazing residency program. Thank you, Jeff, and congratulations, Russell. You have some big shoes to fill!

Nicholas B. Vedder, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery & Orthopaedics
Jamie Hunter Endowed Chair,
Chief of Plastic Surgery
University of Washington

**SEATTLE
MAGAZINE'S****2024
TOP
DOCS**

Seattle Magazine announced their 2024 Top Doctors and we are pleased to share this recognition of selected Department of Surgery faculty. These providers practice at Harborview Medical Center, UW Medical Center–Montlake, Veterans Administration, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Seattle Children's Hospital, and UW Medical Center–Northwest.

Top Doctors is one manner of recognition by the medical community and shows they hold our surgeons in high esteem. Although this is a list of individuals, all of our surgeons approach their practice in team effort.

Congratulations to our faculty—the department is honored by your mention. Below is a listing of our faculty recognized this year by their specialty.

COLON & RECTAL SURGERY

Mukta Krane

HAND AND WRIST SURGERY

Jeffrey B. Friedrich

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Jeffrey Avansino

Andre A. Dick

Adam B. Goldin

Patrick J. Healey

Patrick J. Javid

PLASTIC SURGERY

Nicholas B. Vedder

Craig B. Birgfeld

Shannon M. Colohan

Kari A. Keys

Otway Louie

GENERAL SURGERY

Nicole B. White

Estell J. Williams

Andrew S. Wright

Karen Horvath

Brant K. Oelschlager

Alison L. Perrin

Roger P. Tatum

TRANSPLANT SURGERY

Catherine E. Kling

**TRAUMA, BURN & CRITICAL
CARE SURGERY**

Saman Arbabi

Eileen Bulger

Ronald V. Maier

Grant O'Keefe

EMERITUS

Jorge D. Reyes

Robert S. Sawin

Lester Permut

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Claire L. Buchanan

David R. Byrd

Kristine E. Calhoun

Sara H. Javid

Harveshp Mogal

Venu G. Pillarisetty

Jonathan G. Sham

Raymond S. W. Yeung

CARDIAC SURGERY

Gabriel S. Aldea

THORACIC SURGERY

Farhood Farjah

Michael S. Mulligan

Douglas E. Wood

VASCULAR SURGERY

Elina Quiroga

Benjamin Ware Starnes

Matthew P. Sweet

Nam T. Tran

Mark H. Meissner

honors & awards

Dr. Elina Quiroga Named Society for Vascular Surgery's Distinguished Fellow

Dr. **Elina Quiroga**, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, was named Society for Vascular Surgery's (SVS) Distinguished Fellow. This prestigious recognition is bestowed upon SVS members who have distinguished themselves by making substantial contributions in two of three categories: research, service, or education. The announcement was made during the SVS 2024 Vascular Annual Meeting, held June 19-22, 2024, in Chicago, IL.



Dr. Jonathan Sham Elected At-Large Trustee for UWP Board of Trustees— Dr. Estell Williams Completes Three-Year Term UWP Board



Dr. Jonathan Sham



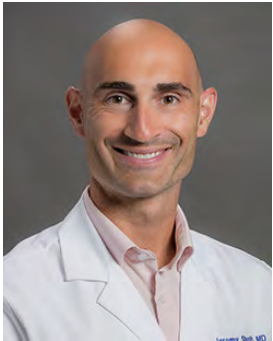
Dr. Estell Williams

Dr. **Jonathan Sham**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, has been elected as an At-Large Trustee for the University of Washington Physicians (UWP) Board of Trustees. Dr. Sham will be an important voice to represent our the Department of Surgery and all of its UWP members on the issues addressed by the board.

Dr. **Estell Williams**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, just completed her three-year term on the UWP Board. She has been an important contributor and we remain in good hands with the representation from Dr. Sham.

honors & awards

Dr. Jeremy Sharib Awarded Kuni Foundation Grant



Dr. Jeremy Sharib

Dr. **Jeremy Sharib**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, Section of Hepatobiliary Surgery, was awarded a \$1,050,000, three-year Kuni Foundation Grant to study how to best personalize hyperthermic peritoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for patients with peritoneal surface malignancies. Dr. Sharib plans to attempt to grow a model of the patient's tumor in the lab and

treat lab-grown cells with various HIPEC agents to test efficacy, while using an AI-based drug screening platform developed by Fred Hutchinson scientist Taran Gurjal, PhD, to match the patient's tumor cell characteristics with the best chemotherapy agents. The goal will be to pre-test agents and select the most efficacious agents for each individual patient's tumor prior to treatment. Dr. Sharib also plans to investigate whether circulating tumor DNA can be identified in abdominal fluid washings during routine cancer resection surgery. If present, this may allow surgeons to target individuals for HIPEC prior to peritoneal spread, in a preventive manner.

Dr. Nicholas Vedder Receives AAPS Clinician of the Year Award



Dr. Nicholas Vedder

Dr. **Nicholas Vedder**, Professor & Chief of Plastic Surgery, and the Jamie Hunter Endowed Chair in Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, received the 2024 American Association of Plastic Surgeons (AAPS) Clinician of the Year Award—the oldest and most prestigious plastic surgery organization in the world.

surgery. Dr. Vedder's long experience and results of treatment in hand surgery and reconstructive microsurgery were acknowledged by current AAPS President, W.P. Andrew Lee, MD, EVP, for Academic Affairs, Provost, and Dean of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, in his introduction of Dr. Vedder for his opening ceremonies presentation at the Annual Meeting held May 2024 in Boston, MA. In receiving this award, Dr. Vedder joins a distinguished group of plastic surgery leaders going back 50 years, including surgeons such as the late Joseph E. Murray, who received the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work in organ transplantation. Dr. Vedder is also a past president of the AAPS 2018-19.

The Clinician of the Year is chosen annually by the AAPS President and Association members to recognize significant clinical achievement in the field of plastic

Department of Surgery

in the media



“A Day in the Life of Employees Improving Well-Being With Art”

UW Medicine-The Huddle

June 24, 2024

Dr. [Sara Kim](#), Research Professor, WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH)



“These Surgeons are Asking (and Answering) Ethical Questions”

UW Medicine-The Huddle

July 17, 2024

Dr. [Andrew Wright](#), Professor, Division of General Surgery



“Patient-Provider Decision-Making Is Crucial for Patients with Appendicitis”

American College of Surgeons-Viewpoint

June 12, 2024

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

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



“Antibiotics May Help People Avoid Surgery for Appendicitis”

The Seattle Times

August 18, 2024

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



“Students learn medical simulation skills at annual UW STEM Camp at W.F. West”

The Daily Chronicle

August 7, 2024

[Farrah Leland](#), Associate Director of Resource Management & Compliance, WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH)



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.



2024 Harkins Alumni Dinner

Friday, November 1, 2024
6:00pm-9:00pm

Ivar's Acres of Clams

More details to be announced.



2025 Research Symposium & 30th Annual Helen & John Schilling Lecture

Friday, March 1, 2025

More details to be announced.
Contact dosadmin@uw.edu / 206-543-3680 for information.

**CLICK OR SCAN TO VIEW
OUR UPCOMING EVENTS**



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.

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