

SURGERY SYNOPSIS



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



DOUGLAS E. WOOD,
MD, FACS, FRCSEd

The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair

Welcome to our Spring 2025 Issue of *Surgery Synopsis*. I am always grateful for the first signs of spring in the Pacific Northwest. It's been a rather chilly spring, but nonetheless, flowers are blooming, showing renewal and promise. This issue we acknowledge and are grateful for all the members of this Department and their steadfast depth of commitment to our mission during chaotic and uncertain times. We have weekly, or even daily, reminders about the evolving landscape. We are fortunate to work at the University of Washington and within the School of Medicine where there is a consistent commitment to stay true to our mission, "to improve the health of the public."

And as a department, we are unwavering in our commitment to our broader mission statement: "The Department of Surgery Will Provide Compassionate And High-Quality Patient Care, Train Future Generations Of Surgical Leaders And Conduct Research In A Collegial Environment Which Embraces Diversity And Promotes Inclusiveness."

The goal for our people—faculty, trainees, and staff—is not just to fulfill our mission, but to do so in a way and within an environment that allows each person to reach that potential in clinical care, in our commitment to education, and in advancement of the field through research, and to have the tools of resilience to thrive, even in uncertain times. In this issue we want to share some of things we're doing, and will be doing, that we believe are essential to a department that flourishes.

WELL-BEING INITIATIVES

One of the ways we are investing in our people is by promoting wellness and professional development—in all aspects of our lives.



Sara Kim, PhD

With the hire of **Sara Kim**, PhD, as our departmental Executive and Professional Development Coach, we have taken an important step in achieving this goal. Dr. Kim has been introduced to the Department via email, and she has attended several Department meetings—Leadership Council, Divisional meetings, and a meeting with the Vice Chairs and administrative leadership. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber joining our department to assist, free of individual or divisional charge, all Departmental employees, including faculty, staff and trainees. We've asked her to write about how she envisions her role in the Department. Please read more on [page 6](#). Contact details, along with a description of services, are included in the article.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Dr. Lorrie
Langdale



Dr. Beth Ann
Reimel

We are pleased that the Department has received a Well-Being Award that supports *Enhanced Stress Resilience Training* (ESRT). These awards are part of the UW Medicine Well-Being Grant initiative and underscore the Department's dedication to fostering a supportive and thriving environment for surgical trainees. The success and innovation of the ESRT program have been bolstered

by the leadership and collaboration of Drs. [Lorrie Langdale](#), Director of the Wellness Committee, and [Beth Ann Reimel](#), co-faculty lead for the ESRT program. Please read more about the program on [page 17](#).

THRIVING FINANCIALLY

It is hard to think about thriving financially in today's environment, with uncertainties about research funding, decreases in state funding, and potential cuts to Medicaid. But this department is working to be fiscally sound in order to support our people and fulfill our mission. We are good stewards of our resources and recognize that our department is critical to UW Medicine's bottom line. Years of underfunding are being addressed at the UW Medicine level, and Department leadership is working to ensure the tremendous work that is done in our Department is recognized by our hospital and School of Medicine partners and leveraged to support our programs and our people.

Thriving financially also means investing in new programs that can increase and enhance our care of the patients in the areas



Dr. Shinjiro
Hirose

we serve. We previewed one such program in our last issue of *Surgery Synopsis* titled “Fetal Surgery Center” which is a collaboration with our Department, UW Medicine and, Seattle Children’s Hospital. Dr. [Shinjiro Hirose](#), featured in that article, is the Chief of Fetal Surgery and joined our Department in March. He is featured in the [new faculty section](#). This is a long-term strategy, and we believe this multi-year expansion of the Fetal Medicine program will result in a nationally recognized and successful fetal surgery center.

Stable finances have also allowed us to return to a commitment to innovation and scholarship. Research at UW and within our Department has long been at the forefront of important advances in health care. We are continuing to lead innovation in surgery through investments in key strategic faculty recruitments and investments in our core services under the Division of Research. UW Surgery is a clinical powerhouse, and our people are leaders in surgical outcomes research as well as translational research that improves the way we care for patients.

We continue to evaluate new areas of opportunity to see where/how we might expand our services that extend our mission while continuing to support UW Medicine.

OUR DONORS

We would be remiss if we did not mention how important our donors are to program growth. We mention our donors and their contributions in every issue of *Surgery Synopsis*. Their generosity is a critical foundation of our multifaceted mission. We are deeply grateful and appreciative for these substantial gifts. We are thrilled to announce a significant enhancement to our general surgery residency program, made possible through generous philanthropic donations. Gift contributions have enabled the purchase of three new FLS All-In-One Trainer Systems, which will be used by our residents at UW Medical Center–Montlake, UW Medical Center–Northwest, and Harborview Medical Center. Please read about these generous gifts on [page 5](#).

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

March was “match month” for our residency and fellowship programs. Our Summer issue of *Surgery Synopsis* will provide a much more extensive review of our education programs and trainees. Every year I am amazed by the incredible accomplishments and the quality of our incoming residents and fellows. Once again, our programs successfully matched with top applicants, and you can find a list of all our new trainees on [page 15](#). We remain committed to our education mission and are thrilled with its success.



Dr. Meghan
Flanagan

Our West Coast Collaborative Visiting Professor Program continues to thrive, creating opportunity for clinical and research networking across five institutions (Stanford, UCSF, UC Davis, OHSU, and UW), and an opportunity for faculty development for our early to mid-career faculty. In our last edition of [Surgery Synopsis \(Winter 2025\)](#), the West Coast Collaborative Program was highlighted. Dr. [Meghan Flanagan](#) will be the UW Surgery representative as visiting professor at Stanford. And we are welcoming Dr. **Merisa Piper**, Assistant Professor, in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Associate Program Director, Plastic Surgery Residency, from UCSF. We will feature details of this exchange in a future edition of *Surgery Synopsis*.



Dr. Erika
Bisgaard



Dr. Anne
Ehlers

This year we have added an additional faculty exchange program with the University of Michigan. Dr. [Erika Bisgaard](#), Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, was selected to be the UW representative to University of Michigan, and Dr. [Anne Ehlers](#), Assistant Professor of Surgery at University of Michigan, returned to UW where she completed her surgical training, and presented Grand Rounds on May 21st.

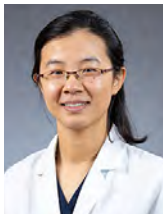
CHAIR'S MESSAGE

These programs are another way we can see our faculty grow and expand their influence beyond UW, as well as strengthen our relationships and opportunities for collaboration with peer institutions. Read about Dr. Bisgaard's experience in Michigan on [page 8](#).

We have a number of honors and awards to share in this issue, including Interlink's Programs of Excellence in Transplant. Our transplant programs in heart, kidney, and liver at both UW Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital were named "Programs of Excellence." You can read more on [page 19](#).



Dr. Russell
Ettinger



Dr. Yiqiao
Boa

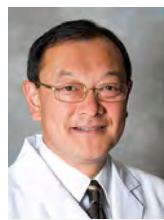
Closer to home, two members of our team earned the UW Medicine Cares Award, including Dr. [Russell Ettinger](#), Associate Professor, Plastic Surgery, and [Yiqiao Bao](#), General Surgery Resident. Please read about the award on [page 16](#).

Several of our residents have won prestigious awards for papers they have presented to various organizations, including the Committee on Trauma (COT), the American College of Surgeon's Advocacy and Health Policy Competition, and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST). Please read more about these awards on [page 16](#).



Dr. Gretchen
Schwarze

The annual Schilling Symposium and Lecture occurred in March. We were honored to have Dr. [Gretchen Schwarze](#), from University of Wisconsin presenting "Strengths and Limitations: Reflections on Data, Measurement, and Surgeon Communication." It was an exceptional event. Details and winners of the resident research competition can be found on [page 22](#).



Dr. Thomas
Hatsukami

In this issue, we honor Dr. [Thomas Hatsukami](#) upon his retirement. Tom has been a Vascular Surgery surgeon and research powerhouse for many years. Please read about his life and career on [page 11](#). His gracious manner and excellent research skills will be missed. Dr. Meissner, also from Vascular Surgery is retiring at the end of June, along with three other surgeons and we honored him, as well as Drs. Byrd, McIntosh, and Vedder in the [Surgery Synopsis \(Winter 2025\)](#) issue. Read or re-read these [tributes](#).



Dr. Alison
Bae

Our Getting to Know Department of Surgery #GTKDOS features Dr. [Alison Bae](#), Assistant Professor in Plastic Surgery. As always, this is an interesting and in-depth look at one of our faculty members.

There are other Honors & Awards and Surgery News in this edition. We encourage you to read the issue from cover to cover.

We appreciate your readership and enjoy bringing *Surgery Synopsis* to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. Wood".

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

A GENEROUS GIFT ENHANCES RESIDENT TRAINING



Dr. David Byrd

The Department of Surgery at the University of Washington is thrilled to announce a significant enhancement to our general surgery residency program, made possible through generous philanthropic donations. Gift contributions have enabled the purchase of three new FLS (Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery) All-In-One Trainer

Systems, which will be used by our residents at UW Medical Center–Montlake, UW Medical Center–Northwest, and Harborview Medical Center.

The FLS All-In-One Trainer System is a comprehensive tool designed to simulate real surgical scenarios, allowing residents to practice and refine their laparoscopic techniques. These systems include a training box, TV camera, and a variety of consumables and instruments necessary for practicing fundamental laparoscopic skills such as suturing, knot tying, and precision cutting.

[David R. Byrd](#), MD, Professor, Division of General Surgery, played a pivotal role in directing these gift funds towards the acquisition of these advanced training systems. Dr. Byrd, known for his exceptional contributions to surgical oncology and resident education, recognized the profound impact these trainers would have on the

development of laparoscopic skills among our residents. He has been instrumental in integrating advanced simulation training into the residency curriculum, ensuring that our residents receive the highest quality training. His teaching philosophy emphasizes hands-on experience, critical thinking, and compassionate patient care, making him a respected mentor and educator.

In June 2024, the graduating Chief Resident class established the David Byrd PDS Teaching Award in his honor. This award is given to a faculty member in recognition of excellence and dedication in resident education and engagement.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors and to Dr. Byrd for his unwavering dedication to advancing surgical education. Together, we are shaping the future of surgery and ensuring that our residents are well-prepared to meet the challenges of modern healthcare.

SURGERY GENERAL GIFT FUND

The Surgery General Gift Fund helps the Department of Surgery provide support for the department's faculty to obtain crucial training equipment such as the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery) All-In-One Trainer Systems which enhances our exceptional surgical residents experience. Make a gift to help us continue to provide our surgical trainees with state-of-the-art training equipment.

MAKE A GIFT



UW Medicine–Montlake
FLS Training System



Harborview Medical Center
FLS Training System



UW Medical Center–Northwest
FLS Training System

INTRODUCING SARA KIM, PHD, EXECUTIVE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COACH



Dr. Sara Kim

I'm honored to step into a role close to my heart, serving as the Department of Surgery's Executive and Professional Development Coach. This new position is designed to benefit all departmental members—faculty, residents, and staff—by cultivating leadership, navigating conflict, and strengthening

communication, while also supporting well-being and a collaborative culture across all career stages.

My desire to become a coach, trainer, and mediator was sparked two decades ago by a difficult personal experience. Earlier in my career at the University of Washington (UW), I experienced an interpersonal conflict with a senior colleague (outside of surgery). The tension between us escalated into a prolonged dispute, fracturing a long-standing relationship and ultimately prompting me to continue my career at another medical school.

During that chapter away from Seattle, I wrestled with many questions: What truly ignited the conflict between us? How did the power hierarchy make the circumstances profoundly difficult for me? What set of skills might have resolved the matter before it spiraled out of control?

To my surprise and delight, I was invited in 2012 to join the UW Department of Surgery as the George Bilsten Endowed Professor in the Art of Communication with Peers and Patients. I accepted this opportunity as a calling—to support those seeking their sources of empowerment while navigating everyday challenges. Ultimately, I became a certified coach through the

International Coaching Federation and a mediator with the King County Dispute Resolution Center.

In conversations with leaders, colleagues, and trainees, I often draw from my own experiences and meet each person with deep respect for how challenging it is to lead, to speak up, and to rekindle a sense of purpose in their work.

With my experience and education, I hope to be useful in providing guidance for you. Here are some of the ways we might work together.

COACHING

Coaching provides a confidential space for pausing, reflecting, and exploring options to inform decisions and take action. Here are a few common challenges people bring to coaching conversations:

- How do I rally the team around a common mission that feels absent?
- My confidence takes a hit when I hear criticism. How do I reduce self-doubt and build resilience?
- I'm struggling to work with a colleague who seems dismissive of me. How can I shift that dynamic constructively?

As your coach, I don't fix your problems. Instead, I partner with you in a creative process involving:

- Listening attentively to your experiences and perspectives, without judgment.
- Mirroring your thoughts and emotions to foster self-awareness.
- Highlighting emerging themes or opportunities for deeper reflection.
- Helping pivot the conversation toward insight and next steps.

In short, I will support you as your coach, with full regard for what matters most to you.

INTRODUCING SARA KIM, PHD,
EXECUTIVE & PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COACH (CONT.)

TEAM TRAINING

Beyond one-on-one coaching, training will be offered to strengthen communication, collaboration, trust, and conflict engagement in teams. I welcome the opportunity to partner with you in co-designing and delivering training sessions.

CULTURE BUILDING

To foster a respectful and collaborative culture within the Department, I will partner with you and departmental leaders to identify opportunities to enhance leadership practices, decision-making processes, and team well-being.

Whether you're curious about coaching, ready to dive in, or interested in exploring opportunities for collaborative training, please contact me at sarakim@uw.edu.

I look forward to connecting with many of you.

GEORGE G. B. BILSTEN PROFESSORSHIP
IN THE ART OF COMMUNICATION WITH
PEERS AND PATIENTS

Dr. Sara Kim's role is essential to the Department of Surgery's mission to train surgical leaders' communication skills so they may learn to communicate more effectively with peers and patients. Help us continue this endeavor by making a gift to this vital professorship to provide our surgical trainees with state-of-the-art training equipment.

MAKE A GIFT

HARKINS ANNUAL FUND FOR SURGERY RESIDENT EDUCATION

The Department of Surgery is dedicated to offering compassionate, high-quality patient care by training future surgical leaders. We foster a collaborative environment that values diversity and encourages inclusivity. You can help us further these goals by supporting educational activities for our residents, which includes research initiatives, conference participation, travel opportunities, and necessary supplies. Your contributions make a difference in our mission!

MAKE A GIFT

mark your calendar

2025 SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 2 & 3, 2025

More details to be announced.

HEALTHCARE "SIM"POSIUM

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 | 8:30AM-4:00PM

UW SOUTH LAKE UNION – ORIN SMITH AUDITORIUM

More details to be announced.



2025 HARKINS SYMPOSIUM &
STRAUSS VISITING LECTURER

OCTOBER 24, 2025

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – DR. DIANA FARMER
Chair of the UC Davis Department of Surgery

More details to be announced.

2025 HARKINS ALUMNI DINNER

OCTOBER 24, 2025 | 6:00PM-9:00PM

IVARS ACRES OF CLAMS, SEATTLE, WA

2026 RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM &
ANNUAL SCHILLING LECTURE

MARCH 2026

More details to be announced.



department of surgery
event calendar

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MICHIGAN VISITING PROFESSOR EXCHANGE

Each year, the University of Michigan partners with a single institution to support faculty development, national networking, and scholarly visibility through its Visiting Professor Exchange Program. This year, we were honored to be selected as Michigan's institutional partner. The program promotes academic collaboration, fosters national reputation, and provides invited speaking opportunities that support faculty advancement and promotion.

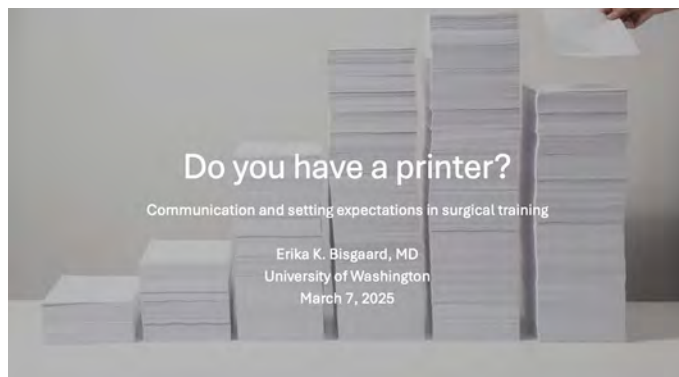


Dr. Erika Bisgaard

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. [Erika Bisgaard](#), Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery, and Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency at Harborview, was

selected through a highly competitive process to represent the University of Washington.

During her visit to the University of Michigan, Dr. Bisgaard delivered a Grand Rounds lecture titled “Do You Have a Printer? Communication and Setting Expectations in Surgical Training,” which sparked dynamic discussion among faculty and trainees. She also attended the institution's signature D&C (Death and Complications) conference, met with education leaders including Dr. [Justin Dimick](#), Department Chair, and engaged in one-on-one mentorship with her host, Dr. [Gurjit Sandhu](#), Professor of Surgery. The mentorship ultimately supported the completion of Dr. Bisgaard's first grant application.



Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Bisgaard shared: “My visit to the University of Michigan was a great experience and chance for me to meet and collaborate with people from a different institution with common interests...I left with pages of ideas and directions to build out my research upon my return to UW. Part of my talk focused on mentorship, and I believe I have gained several new mentors who will influence my career in many positive ways.”

As part of the exchange, UW welcomed Dr. [Anne Ehlers](#), Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, for a Grand Rounds lecture. Dr. Ehlers is a proud UW alumna, having completed her residency, [T32 SORCE fellowship](#), and [Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship](#) here. Since joining Michigan in 2019, she has become a national leader in surgical outcomes research, with a focus on improving access to bariatric surgery, understanding patient-reported outcomes, and refining surgical decision-making. Her work on frailty, abdominal wall reconstruction, and evidence-based surgical practice has been widely recognized. This exchange continues to offer invaluable opportunities for early-career faculty—both through external engagement and by hosting exceptional scholars. We remain deeply committed to advancing the careers of our junior faculty, fostering surgical excellence, and cultivating an inclusive academic environment that supports innovation, mentorship, and collaboration across institutions.

KELLY AND CARLOS PELLEGRINI, MD, ENDOWED FUND FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Help us support programs and activities such as the West Coast Collaborative Visiting Professor Program that fosters collaboration and leadership development for our faculty and trainees.

MAKE A GIFT

GETTING To Know DoS

ALISON BAE, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



IN YOUR MEDICAL EDUCATION JOURNEY, DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE A SURGEON?

I knew I was interested in something procedural but didn't know if I wanted to be a surgeon. I found plastic surgery relatively late in medical school. I liked my OBGYN rotation and my surgery rotation. I first discovered plastic surgery on an elective rotation at the end of my third year and was immediately enthralled by the types of procedures performed. Before the elective, I had always assumed plastic surgery was solely cosmetic surgery. I did several home and away



Alison and her partners, Suzie Inchauste and Duane Wang, climbing at Frenchman Coulee in Central Washington, specifically on Zig Zag Wall.

subinternships which solidified my desire to become a plastic surgeon. I'm glad that I stumbled upon plastic surgery when I did.

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH AND HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED/INTERESTED?

I'm most interested in clinical outcomes research related to the types of oncologic reconstruction I perform. I've done research regarding prophylactic lymphovenous bypass to prevent development of lymphedema and usage of implanted collagen matrix to induce lymphangiogenesis for the treatment of lymphedema. As I develop my surgical practice, I anticipate my research interests will follow.

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST CHALLENGING IN YOUR SURGICAL CAREER?

I'm a new attending, so all of it is challenging. Having my training wheels off and being ultimately responsible is a bit stressful. Complications feel more personal as an attending surgeon



Alison and her wife, Elizabeth, and their two dogs, Hollie and Gertie, at Vantage.

even though I know complications happen to everyone. I am grateful for my amazing partners at UW who've helped me adjust into this new role.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED THIS PAST YEAR YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

I'm proud of performing a flap for lower extremity reconstruction that I hadn't done or seen before.

GETTING To Know DoS

ALISON BAE, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



I prepared a lot for this case and felt like I utilized the plastic surgery principles I had learned in residency. I challenged myself and was able to work through some unforeseen issues. And the flap survived!

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"It'll be fine" – Peter Neligan, MB, Professor Emeritus–2021. Whenever things in the operating room didn't seem to be going well, he would reassure me with these three simple words. He was right most of the time. Although he's retired, his words still resonate.



Alison and Elizabeth
in wedding dresses
during their elopement.

RAPID FIRE

WHAT IS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt.

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY WATCHING?

"Younger" on Netflix.

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SNACK?

Varies but right now I have a large pack of peanut butter crackers I bought at Costco.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE?

Chocolate cake and coffee ice cream.

WHO IS YOUR INSPIRATION AND WHY?

My parents, because they have worked hard to get me to where I am today.

IF A MOVIE WAS MADE ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHO WOULD PLAY YOU?

I'm really terrible with actors. I was a big "Greys Anatomy" fan so maybe Sandra Oh.

WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR PROFESSIONALLY OR PERSONALLY?

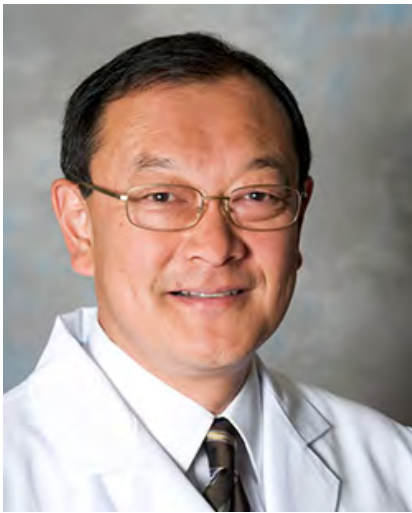
Personally, I think I'm known for enjoying a lot of outdoor activities outside of work. I like to climb and play softball. I've summited Mt Rainier and Mt Baker. Professionally, my colleagues think I am technically sound, quiet, reliable, and even-keeled.

RECONSTRUCTIVE PLASTIC SURGERY GIFT FUND

The Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Gift Fund plays a vital role in supporting educational initiatives for students, residents, and faculty in the Division of Plastic Surgery. Their efforts help maintain the Department of Surgery's excellence in patient care.

MAKE A GIFT

DR. THOMAS HATSUKAMI RETIRES



It is with deep appreciation and admiration that we celebrate the retirement of Dr. [Thomas Hatsukami](#) from the Department of Surgery (DOS), Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Washington (UW).

Dr. Hatsukami completed his undergraduate studies at Stanford University and received his MD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1982 and joined the UW DOS soon after, completing his residency in 1987, a vascular surgery fellowship (1988–1990), and a two-year research fellowship (1990–1992). He joined the faculty in 1992, rising to full Professor by 2003. For over three decades, he has been a vital contributor to UW Medicine as a clinician, researcher, educator, and mentor. His path to vascular surgery, however, was anything but predetermined. Raised in Eureka, California—a town of just 26,000—

his early goal was to return home to practice general surgery. During his UW surgery residency interview, Dr. Alec Clowes, a leading basic scientist in vascular biology, asked him about his research interests. “I had no experience,” Dr. Hatsukami states and told him he wanted to return to Eureka. He left the interview assuming he would not be accepted.

But that was not the case, and he began his residency at UW. During his fourth year of residency, uncertain about next steps, he had a chance encounter with Dr. D. Eugene Strandness, Jr., outside the vascular lab. Sensing his uncertainty, Dr. Strandness encouraged him to apply for the vascular fellowship, sharing that his own early ambition was to become a football coach—and that plans change. Dr. Clowes also offered lasting advice: “The world changes every six months.” These mentors helped Dr. Hatsukami embrace the unexpected path ahead. Just several years later he would become Co-Director of the Vascular Imaging Laboratory in 1995 and Assistant Division Chief for Vascular Surgery at the VA Puget Sound, a position which he held from 1992 to 2008.

Dr. Hatsukami combined clinical excellence with a passion for discovery. He has served as principal investigator on multiple NIH-funded studies dating back to 1998 and continues to lead two NIH projects today. His scholarly output—over 200 peer-reviewed publications, two books, and 13 book chapters—has shaped the field of vascular surgery worldwide.

An exceptional educator and mentor, Dr. Hatsukami has trained countless students, residents, and fellows, many of whom now lead their own programs and labs. His dedication to teaching and research mentorship have left a profound legacy within the Department.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hatsukami has also been an active and respected member of the American College of Surgeons, the Society for Vascular Surgery, the Western Vascular Society, and the Pacific Northwest Vascular Society. As he enters retirement, Dr. Hatsukami is turning his attention



Dr. Hatsukami and wife Kathy the month after their wedding. This was during his first year of his vascular surgery fellowship—Kathy was a senior resident in Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery.

DR. THOMAS HATSUKAMI RETIRES (CONT.)



(Left to Right) Dr. Hatsukami's daughters, Andrea, Alyssa, and his dad and mom.

to what matters most: his family and the natural beauty of the Northwest. "One of my top priorities is caring for my mom, who turns 96 this year," he states. "My dad passed away two years ago, five days after his 101st birthday. I wish I had spent more time with him. Now I want to make the most of this time with my family—especially outdoors in August and September, the best time of year here."

Reflecting on his time at UW, Dr. Hatsukami adds, "I'm grateful for the many opportunities I've had at the University of Washington—for the chance to work with talented students, research fellows, residents, and clinical fellows, and for the enduring support of my family, colleagues, and collaborators."

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Thomas Hatsukami on a remarkable career and in wishing him the best in his future adventures in this next chapter. His legacy at UW will continue to inspire for years to come.

V. PAUL GAVORA AND HELEN S. AND JOHN A. SCHILLING ENDOWED CHAIR IN VASCULAR SURGERY

The Department of Surgery is committed to supporting distinguished vascular surgery faculty in their scholarly and research work, such as Dr. Thomas Hatsukami. Help us continue this commitment by making a gift to the V. Paul Gavora and Helen S. and John A. Schilling Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery.

MAKE A GIFT

ALEXANDER WHITEHILL CLOWES, MD ENDOWED CHAIR IN VASCULAR SURGERY

The Alexander Whitehill Clowes, MD Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery enables the Department of Surgery to recruit and retain prominent vascular surgery faculty leaders like Dr. Niten Singh. Make a gift to help us continue Dr. Clowes' legacy in vascular surgery.

MAKE A GIFT

NEW CLOWES ENDOWED CHAIR FOR VASCULAR SURGERY

It was announced that Dr. [Niten Singh](#), Chief and Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, has been appointed the Alexander Whitehill Clowes, MD Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery.

The purpose of this chair is to enhance the University's ability to recruit and retain distinguished faculty in vascular surgery by providing professional support in vascular surgery research, training, education, and clinical care. This position is typically held by the chief of the division. Funds may be used to support research performed by junior faculty in the division.



Dr. Niten Singh

THE CURRENT STATE OF HEALTHCARE IN THE U.S.

A PRESENTATION BY DR. HUGH FOY



Hugh Foy, MD, Professor Emeritus of Surgery at the University of Washington, delivered a compelling presentation titled *“What Are We Waiting For? US Health Care State of Affairs”* on March 20, 2025. The virtual talk, given at a Department of Surgery All-Staff Meeting, aimed to provide insights into the current state of healthcare in the United States, addressing critical issues such as access to care, insurance coverage, workforce planning, and the consolidation of healthcare providers.

KEY POINTS FROM DR. FOY’S PRESENTATION

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Dr. Foy outlined the primary goal of his presentation: to help attendees gain a deeper understanding of the current barriers to healthcare in the US. He set specific objectives, including appreciating the barriers to care, understanding the structure of healthcare delivery, recognizing the forces driving and threatening healthcare, and gaining insight into needed changes and possible solutions.

CURRENT PROBLEMS

LACK OF ACCESS

Difficulty in making appointments and long wait times for specialist consultations. Dr. Foy provided real-world examples, such as a 74-year-old woman facing a 2.5-month wait for a gastroenterology appointment and a 26-year-old man with major depression symptoms waiting at least three weeks to see a psychiatrist.

LACK OF INSURANCE AND HIGH SPENDING

Many individuals remain uninsured, exacerbating access issues.

INADEQUATE PLANNING

Insufficient workforce and facilities planning.

HEALTHCARE SPENDING AND OUTCOMES

The US spends significantly more on healthcare per person compared to other countries yet ranks poorly in key health indicators like infant mortality and life expectancy.

CONSOLIDATION

The merging of providers, groups, and hospitals, which can limit patient choices and increase costs.

EXAMPLES OF ACCESS ISSUES

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Dr. Foy discussed various solutions, including increasing the number of doctors and nurses, improving residency training, and considering models like single-payer insurance or national health services.

THE CURRENT STATE OF HEALTHCARE IN THE U.S. –

A PRESENTATION BY DR. HUGH FOY (CONT.)

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING STAFF ON US HEALTHCARE STATE OF AFFAIRS

Educating healthcare staff about the current state of affairs in US healthcare is crucial for several reasons:

ADAPTATION TO CHANGES

Healthcare is a rapidly evolving field, and staff must be informed about changes in policies, technologies, and best practices to provide effective care.

IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES

Well-informed staff can better navigate the complexities of the healthcare system, leading to improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.

REDUCING ERRORS

Continuous education helps prevent medical errors, which are a significant public health issue and contribute to rising healthcare costs.

ENHANCING WORKFORCE PLANNING

Understanding the challenges and potential solutions in healthcare can aid in better workforce planning and resource allocation.

Dr. Foy's presentation served as a vital resource for staff, offering a comprehensive overview of the current challenges and potential pathways to improvement. During the virtual meeting, staff comments included, "This is the best presentation I've seen and I've been with the department for thirty years." Dr. Foy has reenergized interest among staff for learning more from our faculty about what they do. Our next faculty guest will be Dr. **Nick Vedder**, Professor and former Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, on June 18, 2025.

BACKGROUND ON DR. HUGH FOY

Dr. Hugh Foy is a distinguished figure in the field of surgery, with over 45 years of experience. He graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1978 and completed his general surgery residency at the University of Washington in 1983. Dr. Foy has been a member of the UW faculty since 1984 and has served as an attending surgeon at Harborview Medical Center. He is known for his excellence in teaching and mentorship, having received numerous accolades and awards for his contributions to medical education.

DISCLOSURE

Dr. Hugh Foy is actively involved with [Physicians for a National Health Program \(PNHP\)](#). PNHP is an advocacy organization dedicated to promoting a single-payer national health insurance system in the United States. Their mission is to achieve universal, comprehensive coverage for all Americans, ensuring that healthcare is treated as a human right rather than a privilege.

2025–26 RESIDENT MATCH RESULTS

Dear Readers,

To say that we are excited about this year's Department of Surgery Match results for all of our programs (Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Preliminary Surgery and Vascular Surgery) would be a huge understatement. These results are the culmination of countless hours of application preparation and review, interviews and rank list meetings, in addition to the herculean efforts of our applicants themselves, who solicit letters, do rotations, pay enormous amounts of money for interview travel, and sweat through the anxiety and excitement of Match Day. The end result is an entering intern class that is the most capable, highest achieving, and diverse and thoughtful group of new surgeons that could be found anywhere in the country. Please join all of us in welcoming these bright new physicians to our University of Washington family:

GENERAL SURGERY

Lauren Callaghan, Baylor College of Medicine
Sean Chan, Boston University School of Medicine
Noah Ircink, University of Washington School of Medicine
Lily Kuhlman, UT Houston McGovern Medical School
Jenna Marek, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
Julia Persky, UC Davis School of Medicine
Cynthia Ramazani, Emory University School of Medicine
Jessica Reisinger, University of Washington School of Medicine

PLASTIC SURGERY

Isra Abdulwadood, Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine
Mia Do, University of Washington School of Medicine
Tim Li, Weil Cornell Medical School
Adrian Markewych, Rush Medical College
Danielle Sim, University of Maryland School of Medicine

PRELIMINARY SURGERY

Pravjit Bhatti, Georgetown University School of Medicine
Alexis Cheney, UCLA School of Medicine
Inderpreet Hayer, UCSF School of Medicine
Samagra Jain, Baylor College of Medicine
Keilan Johnson, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Tinna Kosoko, Washington University School of Medicine
Asha Krishnakumar, Virginia Commonwealth University
Sahra Masroori, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Daniel Mehrabian, Medical College of Georgia
Samantha Mosle, University of Miami School of Medicine
Sai Pinni, Washington University School of Medicine
Nicholas Pitcher, University of Iowa College of Medicine
Megana Saripella, UC San Diego School of Medicine
Sairandri Sathyanarayanan, UT Houston McGovern Medical School
Andrew Spencer, University of Washington School of Medicine

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Randy Cure, University of Washington School of Medicine

VASCULAR SURGERY

Lucas Ruiter Kanamori, Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da Santa Casa de São Paulo, Brazil
Dan Koh, Boston University School of Medicine

Warm regards,

Jeffrey B. Friedrich, MD, MC
*Vice Chair for Education
 Department of Surgery
 University of Washington*



honors & awards

DR. KAJAL MEHTA RECEIVES FIRST PLACE AWARD FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ACS COMMITTEE ON TRAUMA

Kajal Mehta, MD, MPH, Surgical Critical Care Fellow, won first place at this year's 48th Resident and Fellow Trauma Paper Competition, hosted by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (COT) in Chicago, IL, March 13–14, 2025.



Dr. Kajal Mehta (2nd from left) National COT Resident Fellow Paper Award

As a regional winner, Dr. Mehta was flown to the Annual Meeting of the Committee on Trauma, where she presented her winning paper *“Enteral-based Resuscitation for Major Burn Injuries in Nepal: Results from a Pilot Hybrid II Effectiveness–Implementation Randomized Trial,”* during the Scientific Session. After this session, she attended the COT banquet, where the winner of the Central Competition was announced.

As the first-place winner, Dr. Mehta's paper is eligible for publication in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. Congratulations to Dr. Mehta!

DRS. RUSSELL ETTINGER & YIQIAO BAO RECEIVE HARBORVIEW UW MEDICINE SERVICE AWARD

Drs. [Russell Ettinger](#), Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, and [Yiqiao Bao](#), general surgery resident, received the Harborview UW Medicine Service Award for their extraordinary dedication to patients, colleagues and community.



Dr. Russell Ettinger

DR. ETTINGER'S NOMINATION SUMMARY

“Dr. Russell Ettinger's nomination reflects his unwavering dedication to service culture values, including advocacy, collaboration, inclusivity, and excellence in care. Through his leadership, he has enhanced patient care by optimizing clinic operations, advocating for necessary nurse staffing, and introducing outpatient procedures that improve efficiency and accessibility. His tireless efforts on behalf of gender-diverse patients have fostered a culture

honors & awards

of respect and compassion, creating an inclusive environment for both patients and staff. As Program Director for Plastic Surgery Residency, Dr. Ettinger exemplifies mentorship by modeling compassionate care and implementing programs that elevate clinical excellence, solidifying his role as a transformational leader.”



Dr. Yiqiao
Bao

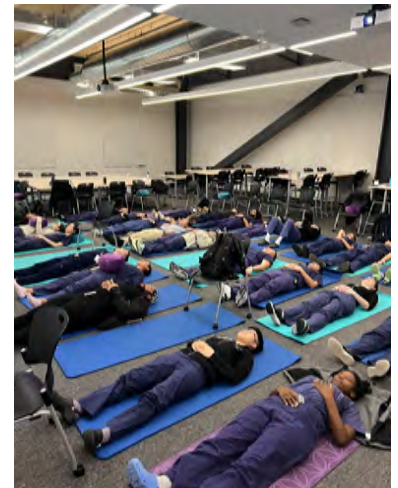
DR. BAO'S NOMINATION SUMMARY

“The nomination highlights Dr. Bao’s remarkable dedication to service culture values through her empathetic communication, collaboration, and unwavering support for patients and colleagues.

Despite the demanding nature of her role, Dr. Bao consistently prioritizes listening to patients and addressing their concerns, fostering an environment where they feel safe and valued. Her thoughtful gestures, such as bringing chocolates and offering words of encouragement to the night shift nurses, exemplify her kindness and teamwork. In an often challenging and thankless setting, Dr. Bao’s gratitude and collaborative spirit make her an inspiring and impactful provider.”

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS WELL-BEING AWARDS TO SUPPORT ESRT TRAINING

The Department of Surgery at UW Medicine has been honored with well-being awards for two consecutive years, recognizing its commitment to enhancing the mental health and resilience of its residents through the innovative Enhanced Stress Resilience Training (ESRT) program. These awards, part of the UW Medicine Well-Being Grant initiative, underscore the Department’s dedication to fostering a supportive and thriving environment for surgical trainees.



2024 Intern ESRT

NOVELTY OF THE AWARDS

The well-being awards are a testament to the Department’s proactive approach to addressing the unique challenges faced by surgical residents. By securing these grants, the Department has been able to implement and expand ESRT, a program specifically designed to mitigate stress and improve overall well-being. ESRT was developed by Dr. Carter Lebares, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Mindfulness in Surgery at the University of California–San Francisco (UCSF). Surgeon leaders from UCSF partner with surgeon leaders at UW to create and lead ESRT programming for residents. The UW Medicine awards highlight the

in the media



BEKAH KOOS, PA-C
Division of General Surgery

HUTCH NEWS STORIES

MARCH 25, 2025

[“PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
CARES FOR COLON CANCER
PATIENTS—THEN SHE
BECAME ONE”](#)

honors & awards

Department's leadership in prioritizing mental health and resilience, setting a benchmark for other medical institutions.

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES OF ESRT

ESRT introduces several cutting-edge strategies to help residents manage stress and enhance their performance:

MINDFULNESS-BASED COGNITIVE TRAINING

Adapted from Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), this training is tailored to the high-pressure environment of surgery. It equips residents with mindfulness techniques to better handle stress and improve cognitive function.

FOCUS ON RESILIENCE

The program emphasizes building resilience, enabling residents to maintain their well-being and performance even in the most demanding situations.

COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION

Participants undergo thorough evaluations at multiple stages—baseline, post-intervention, and follow-ups—to measure the impact of the training on their mental health, cognition, and performance.



Dr. Lorrie
Langdale

LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

The success and innovation of the ESRT program have been bolstered by the leadership and collaboration within the UW Department of Surgery:

DR. LORRIE LANGDALE

As the Director of the Wellness Committee, Dr. Langdale has been instrumental in championing well-being initiatives and integrating ESRT into the Department's culture.



Dr. Beth Ann
Reimel

DR. BETH ANN REIMEL

Serving as the co-faculty lead for the ESRT program, Dr. Reimel has played a crucial role in developing and implementing the training, ensuring it meets the specific needs of surgical residents.

Additionally, the close collaboration with the UCSF Department of Surgery has allowed for the sharing of best practices, research findings, and training techniques, further enhancing the effectiveness of the program. Joint workshops and seminars have provided residents with a broader perspective on stress resilience and well-being.

EXPANSION GOALS FOR ESRT

The Department continues to broaden the scope and reach of ESRT by incorporating several approaches: increasing resident and faculty participation, fostering research and development, and integrating ESRT into the standard curriculum for surgical training. To that end, Drs. Reimel and Langdale will travel to UCSF in the fall to further their understanding of ESRT, and upon their return, share their new ideas with the DOS community.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Conducting further research to refine the program and explore additional strategies for stress resilience and mental health improvement.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Using the principles of ESRT to foster a culture of well-being and support within the surgical community, enhancing collaboration and mutual support among residents.

The continued support from UW Medicine through these well-being awards is crucial in driving these expansion goals, ensuring that the DOS remains at the forefront of innovative training and mental health support for its residents.



honors & awards

UW MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES TOP AWARD FOR TRANSPLANT EXCELLENCE

[UW Medical Center's kidney transplant program](#) has earned INTERLINK's 2025 Chairman's Award for Transplant Excellence, bestowed annually to the top-performing kidney transplant care teams in its [Programs of Excellence network](#).

The UW Medical Center kidney and liver programs also each received INTERLINK's ELITE Status Award, having demonstrated superior results across a wide range of validated, risk-adjusted metrics.

INTERLINK, a national managed care company, identifies the nation's top-performing transplant programs within their Programs of Excellence network each year. The award assessment is based on minimum annual transplant volume, Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients risk-adjusted data, Center for International Blood & Marrow Transplant Research data and INTERLINK's performance modeling program calculations.

ROGER K. GIESECKE DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN TRANSPLANT SURGERY

The Roger K. Giesecke Distinguished Chair in Transplant Surgery allows the Department of Surgery to attract leading transplant surgeons. Your generous contribution will help us sustain our mission of providing outstanding patient care in transplant surgery.

MAKE A GIFT

TRAUMA TRAINEE NATIONAL CHAMPS

Department of Surgery trainees have been honored with several prestigious, national awards this past academic year:



Dr. Kajal Mehta



Dr. Alex Hernandez



Dr. Nina Clark

Alex Hernandez, MD,

Research Resident, more recently won first place in the Nation at the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Advocacy and Health Policy Abstract Competition for her presentation on "Evaluating the Affordability of Surgical Care in the Decade after the Affordable Care Act." This competition is not trauma-specific and was held at the ACS Leadership and Advocacy meeting in WA DC, on April 6, 2025.

Kajal Mehta, MD, MPH, Surgical Critical Care Fellow, won first place in the nation at the ACS's Committee on Trauma Resident/Fellow Paper Competition for her presentation on "Enteral-based Resuscitation for Major Burn Injuries in Nepal," in Chicago, IL, March 13-14, 2025.

Nina Clark, MD, General Surgery R4, won first place in the nation for the Best Resident Paper at the 83rd Annual Meeting of AAST and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery and 7th World Trauma Congress in Las Vegas, NV, September 11-14, 2024.

HMC TRAUMA/CRITICAL CARE EDUCATION FUND

Our trainees, including Drs. Alex Hernandez, Kajal Mehta, and Nina Clark, are achieving their goals and earning awards thanks to the support provided by HMC Trauma/Critical Care Education Fund. Help us sustain our efforts to assist our trauma and critical care trainees as they pursue these initiatives, which enhance our commitment to exceptional patient care.

MAKE A GIFT

honors & awards

DR. MEGHAN FLANAGAN AWARDED GRANT



Dr. Meghan
Flanagan

Dr. [Meghan Flanagan](#), Director of Training and Engagement, Division of Research, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, was awarded the Discovery Grant for Cancer Research from the [Kuni Foundation](#).

This grant will support Dr. Flanagan's research project titled *"Improving Understanding and Outcomes of ER+ Locoregional Breast Cancer Recurrence."*

This project studies the treatment of ER+/HER2—breast cancer which has advanced with effective anti-estrogen therapies, but resistance, particularly in metastatic disease, has led to the development of more targeted treatments. However, for isolated, non-metastatic locoregional recurrence (ILRR) of breast cancer, research is limited despite thousands of annual cases and relatively high frequency of progression and breast cancer associated death.

This study aims to close that gap by characterizing the genomic landscape of ER+ ILRR and comparing it to metastatic disease, with the goal of identifying shared resistance mechanisms and informing future treatment strategies. By analyzing tissue from nearly 200 patients, the researchers seek to uncover biomarkers and pathways that could support the use of successful metastatic therapies in ILRR and guide the development of future clinical trials.

INTERNATIONAL BREAST HEALTH SURGERY FUND

The International Breast Health Surgery Fund plays a crucial role in supporting the Department of Surgery's faculty, including Dr. Meghan Flanagan, who is dedicated to extensive research and educational initiatives in the field of international breast health.

new faculty



Dr. Brian
Coakley

BRIAN COAKLEY, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC
GENERAL SURGERY

Brian A. Coakley, MD, FAAP, FACS, Dipl ABOM, is a pediatric general surgeon who joined Seattle Children's Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery in April 2025. Dr. Coakley attended college at Harvard University and medical school at Oregon Health and Science University.

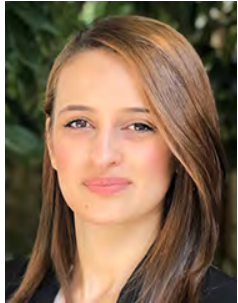
He completed his residency training at Mount Sinai Hospital—New York City, his pediatric surgery fellowship at British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada, and a pediatric surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Coakley spent eight years in practice at The Mount Sinai Health System (NYC) before moving to Seattle.

Having grown up in Portland, the move to Seattle represents a return to the Pacific Northwest for him. His primary clinical interests are performing bariatric surgery for adolescents battling obesity and obesity-related co-morbidities as well as the treatment of solid tumors in children. In addition to studying the effects of bariatric surgery on children, his research also focuses on the interplay between political partisanship and public policy with multiple barometers of childhood health.

Outside of work, Dr. Coakley is a true "foodie" who also enjoys NBA basketball (GO TRAILBLAZERS!) and college football (GO DUCKS!). But most importantly, he enjoys spending time with his wife and their three children.

MAKE A GIFT

new faculty



Dr. Mariam Hantouli

MARIAM HANTOULI, MD

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF RESEARCH
SURGICAL OUTCOMES
RESEARCH CENTER (SORCE)

Mariam Hantouli, MD, joins the Department of Surgery as a Research Assistant Professor in the Division of Research. Dr. Hantouli completed her research fellowship at the University

of Washington's [Surgical Outcomes Research Center \(SORCE\)](#) in the Department of Surgery, and prior to her current appointment, she was an instructor in the department's Division of General Surgery.

Dr. Hantouli is a physician–researcher. Her work aims to improve patient–centered and evidence–based care by generating evidence, evaluating the outcomes of different interventional approaches, and translating findings into clinical practice. Her research expertise includes comparative effectiveness research, healthcare

claims data analysis, and implementation research. Dr. Hantouli is an expert in research methodology and currently serves as a co–investigator on several ongoing trials, including a patient–level randomized trial comparing the effectiveness of diverticulitis treatments (colectomy versus medical management) on clinical and patient–reported outcomes (COSMID trial); a system–level randomized trial evaluating interventions to improve care transitions from hospitals to skilled nursing facilities; and a qualitative study focused on improving the experiences of patients who speak English as a second language. She is also leading studies using national claims databases to evaluate the management and outcomes of appendicitis, biliary diseases, and diverticulitis during pregnancy and in patients with immunocompromising conditions.

In addition to her research, Dr. Hantouli is committed to mentoring, educating, and supporting the career development of surgical health services researchers. She regularly teaches the application of research methods to NIH–funded T32 research fellows, postdoctoral fellows, medical students, research staff, and faculty.



Dr. Shinjiro Hirose

SHINJIRO HIROSE, MD

PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC
GENERAL SURGERY

Shinjiro Hirose, MD, FACS, is a pediatric surgeon who specializes in thoracic and fetal surgery. He joins us from his position as Chief of Pediatric General, Thoracic and Fetal Surgery at the University of California, Davis. Dr.

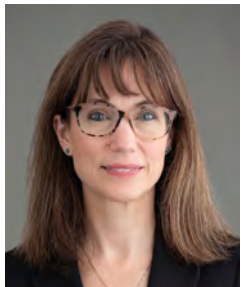
Hirose received his BS in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his MD from New York Medical College. Dr. Hirose's research efforts have included the investigation of topics such as cellular therapy for in utero myelomeningocele repair, fetal

tissue engineering to treat spina bifida before birth and the efficacy of using abdominal ultrasound to evaluate children with blunt abdominal trauma.

Dr. Hirose is the incoming Professor and Chief of the Fetal Surgery Section of the Division of Pediatric General Surgery and Chief of the Division of Fetal Surgery, Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Hirose brings over a decade of clinical and programmatic leadership in fetal surgery, having previously served in concurrent roles as the Chief of the Division of Pediatric General, Thoracic and Fetal Surgery at the UC Davis; the Director of Pediatric Surgery for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Northern California; the Surgeon–in–Chief at University of California, Davis, Children's Hospital; and Director of the Fetal Care and Treatment Center at University of California, Davis.

events

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCHILLING LECTURE



Dr. Gretchen Schwarze

Each year in March, the Department of Surgery (DOS) supports a series of events that celebrate the research of our residents, fellows and students, the dedication of the faculty who guide their work, and the opportunity to learn from an esteemed visiting scholar. This year, we welcomed Dr. [Gretchen Schwarze](#), the Morgridge Professor of Vascular Surgery and a

professor in the Departments of Surgery and Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin.

The week kicked off on Wednesday, March 19th, with a vibrant virtual poster session featuring concise, high-impact presentations from our trainees. Faculty discussants offered thoughtful questions and feedback, and our students and trainees rose to the occasion by clearly and confidently presenting their complex work under time pressure. Their performance was nothing short of outstanding!



Dr. Alison Haruta

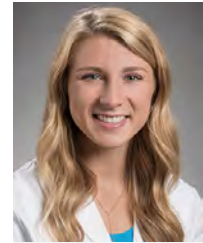
On Thursday, March 20th, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Schwarze in person at the University of Washington for a thought-provoking roundtable discussion with faculty from all divisions, moderated by Dr. **Alison Haruta**, Acting Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery. The conversation was dynamic and engaging, with a strong emphasis on the ethical dimensions of research and the responsibility we carry as surgeons.



Dr. Arjune Dhanekula



Dr. Sarah Rudasill



Dr. Jamie Olapo

The week culminated on Friday, March 21st, with the highly anticipated Schilling Research Symposium and Guest Lecture. Across 18 impressive presentations, every division was represented, with topics spanning ergonomics, diverticulitis, Godina's Paradigm, anti-tumor immunity, decisional regret, and the aorta. The breadth of research, from basic and translational science to outcomes and clinical research, highlighted the remarkable diversity and depth of inquiry in our department. Each year, three presenters are selected for awards based on the quality of their research and presentation, and this year we were thrilled to provide these awards to Drs. [Arjune Dhanekula](#), [Sarah Rudasill](#), and [Jamie Olapo](#).



Dr. E. Patchen Dellinger

In addition, we were deeply honored to recognize Dr. **E. Patchen Dellinger**, Professor Emeritus, with the Schilling Distinguished Faculty Award for his career-long contributions to surgical safety and surgical infectious disease.

The day culminated with a powerful and thought-provoking lecture from Dr. Schwarze, titled *"Strengths and Limitations: Reflections on Data, Measurement, and Surgeon Communication."* The lecture focused not only on her research on best case/worse case scenarios but challenged each of

us to rethink the process of informed consent and how we discuss options with our patients. Dr. Schwarze's lecture was the culmination of a week that was inspirational and a testament to the dynamic, engaged and innovative spirit of our research community.

This inspiring week of learning, reflection, and celebration was made possible by the generous support of the late Helen Schilling, in honor of her husband, Dr. John Schilling, a former Chair of the department. The Schillings' legacy lives on in the research, scholarship, and teaching that happens in our department every day.



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

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The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair

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Web Information Specialist

Sandra Burkhart, MA
Program Operations Specialist

MANAGING EDITOR

Judith Rapp
*Assistant Director, Human Resources,
Faculty Affairs & Communications*

LAYOUT AND PUBLICATION

Michael Hilleary, BS
Web 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

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