

# SURGERY SYNOPSIS



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



**DOUGLAS E. WOOD,**

MD, FACS, FRCSEd

*The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair*

Welcome to the summer issue of *Surgery Synopsis*. We typically showcase our education programs in this issue. In the [Spring 2025 issue](#) we described the program's match results. In this issue, we focus on who these trainees are, and we honor and celebrate our graduating residents and fellows.

We remain extraordinarily proud of our Education Division—the program directors, associate program directors, program coordinators, and education

staff under the leadership of Dr. [Jeff Friedrich](#), our vice chair of education. This group leads our education efforts and continues to make our education programs successful. Our [showcased and celebrated education programs](#) are only successful because they are well-supported by our superb education administrative leadership and staff and would not be what they are without the close partnership between faculty education leaders and education administrative staff.

I have been struck by the phrase I've heard recently "Collaboration is a Force Multiplier." An example of our department making collaboration a force multiplier is the launch of the Maternal Fetal Surgery Program. I believe collaboration starts with observing a need, realizing that there needs to be more than one person, a team—perhaps a multispecialty team—taking collective action to address a complex healthcare problem. Collaboration involves cooperation, communication, trust, respect, and understanding with an interdependent team to solve problems.

The collaborative culture in our department and across UW Medicine is a great strength. We exist in a thriving environment of interdisciplinary collaboration. I am convinced that these partnerships in how we work together is an important path through the difficult financial and policy landscape we are experiencing at present.

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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

We are fortunate to have facilitated that partnership between Seattle Children's Hospital and the University of Washington Medical Center, as well as the collaboration involving the departments of Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, and Radiology.

When we recruited Dr. [Steven Lee](#) as a new Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery, he had a vision for developing Seattle and Seattle Children's Hospital/UW Medicine as a center for fetal surgery. We identified the need of caring for a vulnerable population and capitalizing on the incredible expertise of our teams already here. Additionally, it is the right moment. In our organizations, we have resources to bring this together: a world-class Seattle Children's Hospital and UW Medicine. UW Medicine brings the underlying structures necessary for such an effort with the [Maternal Fetal Program](#) that assures the best care for the mother AND for the child. Finally, we have the opportunity. We have recruited the right faculty, and we have the will to make this happen.

Drs. [Shinjiro Hirose](#) and [Mary Austin](#), both world-class surgeons, are now on faculty in the department. [Read about Dr. Austin's career and forward focus.](#) The collaboration between Seattle Children's Hospital and UW Medical Center will make Seattle a destination for lifesaving fetal care.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Adding to the momentum, we are fortunate to have secured Dr. [Diana Farmer](#) as our [76th Annual Alfred A Strauss Visiting Professor](#) on October 24th. Dr. Farmer is an internationally known and pioneering fetal surgeon, who has focused her research and clinical practice on spina bifida, with important research into the efficacy of in utero surgery to correct this condition.

We also have [five new faculty](#) beginning this fall and a record number of [promotions](#)—ten with seven promoting from Assistant to Associate Professor and three promoting to Professor.

We celebrate the [Women's Council](#)—now in its ninth year of existence. The Women's Council has as its goal advancing gender equity in surgery. This group has accomplished many things and has been the inspiration for a resident Women's Council as well.

We focus on two areas of research that are somewhat novel. Dr. [Christopher Childers](#), Assistant Professor in the Section of Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgery, focuses on healthcare finance and policy. He's published broadly on that topic and he hopes that his [research](#) will lead to a new RVU system that better aligns the incentives of physicians with their patients.

The other area of research comes from the Division of Plastic Surgery and is in the early stages of launching new clinical registries aimed at improving outcomes, advancing research and supporting quality initiatives in key clinical areas. [Dr. Chris Crowe and Dr. Katie Liu are guiding this work.](#)

This year [Harkins Society](#) is our focus for philanthropic giving. The Harkins Scholars Program continues to be a vital resource for our residents.

In our popular #GTKDOS, [we interview Dr. Erika Bisgaard](#), Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care.

As usual, we have highlighted our faculty's numerous [awards and honors](#).

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

Sincerely,



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

# PEDIATRIC SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

The Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at Seattle Children’s Hospital (SCH) and the University of Washington (UW) was one of the 14 original pediatric surgical training programs in the United States. The program was first accredited by the ACGME in 1975 and has held continuous accreditation since that time. The program is tasked with training recent graduates of general surgery residency in the technical and clinical aspects of pediatric surgery to produce skilled pediatric surgeons ready for independent practice in two years.

The fellowship is clinically busy and comprehensive as our trainees need to learn everything about the diverse field of pediatric surgery in two short years. Our fellowship is unique in that we emphasize the pediatric surgeon’s role in management of our patients in the Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units. While most of the fellowship is spent at SCH, the junior fellow gains brief exposure to the Neonatal ICU at UW-Montlake and the Trauma ICU at Harborview Medical Center. The training program includes a robust experience in the operating room, and our fellows each typically graduate with over 1200 cases in two years. Our fellows represent our growing division throughout the hospital and interact on a daily basis with attending physicians from all pediatric medical and surgical sub-specialties.

The fellowship program is led by [Patrick Javid](#), MD, who serves as the Program Director and [Caitlin Smith](#), MD, who serves as Associate Program Director. [Sarah Greenberg](#), MD, MPH, has played a lead

role in developing our technical evaluation platform (using the Firefly app) for OR cases and also runs our implicit bias education sessions prior to every interview season. We have a successful simulation program led by [John Meehan](#), MD for the past decade during which our

fellows practice minimally invasive cases using 3-D printed tissue models. The current simulation program focuses on minimally invasive pulmonary lobectomy and laparoscopic or thoracoscopic repairs of duodenal atresia, esophageal atresia with tracheo-esophageal fistula, and congenital diaphragmatic hernia.

Our fellows also participate in quality improvement projects and the academic mission of the division. While the clinical component of the fellowship is the priority, all of our fellows participate in a research project with the pediatric surgery faculty during their fellowship.

We are very proud of our fellowship graduates who have become successful academic surgeons and leaders in the pediatric surgery community. The future of pediatric surgery is strong, and we continue to attract talented and technically skilled applicants from leading general surgery training programs to our fellowship. We anticipate that this trend will continue as our division grows and as we add clinical programs, such as Fetal Surgery and Bariatric Surgery.



Pediatric surgery fellows Drs. Mark Barry and Stephanie Iantorno

HERBERT E. COE ENDOWED CHAIR  
IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY

MAKE A GIFT

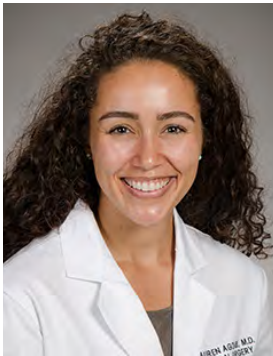


# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS

## GENERAL SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

This past spring, we introduced four new Administrative Chief and Associate Chief roles to complement our existing Chief Resident structure. Residents and faculty voted to create the following positions: Administrative Chief (R5), Associate Administrative Chief (R4), Education Chief (R5), and Associate Education Chief (R4). They will chair the Resident Engagement and Change Committee (REACH) committee, act as liaisons to the Education Work Group, lead a comprehensive review of our rotations, and collaborate with program leadership on rotation improvements. They will also continue to drive the development of our ABSITE, PDS, Medical Student, and Technical Skills curriculum.

Our Administrative and Education Chiefs and Associate Chiefs for this year are:



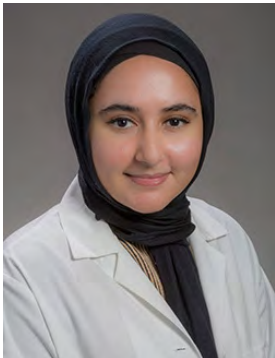
**LAUREN AGOUBI, MD**  
*Administrative Chief*

**Medical School:** University of Michigan

**Clinical Interest:** Plastic Surgery—doing fellowship at Emory

**Research Interest:** Injury prevention

**Hobbies:** Volleyball, hiking, reading



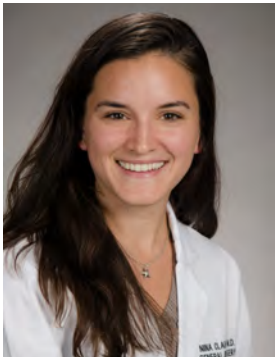
**ASMAA EL-GHAZALI, MD**  
*Associate Administrative Chief*

**Medical School:** University of Washington

**Clinical Interest:** Trauma/Burns/ Surgical Critical Care and General Surgery

**Research Interest:** Although I’m not currently engaged in research, I’m open to exploring future opportunities that pertain to caring for trauma and burn patients in conflict zones.

**Hobbies:** Traveling, photography, and you can occasionally find me outdoors doing PNW things!



**NINA CLARK, MD**  
*Education Chief*

**Medical School:** University of California, San Francisco

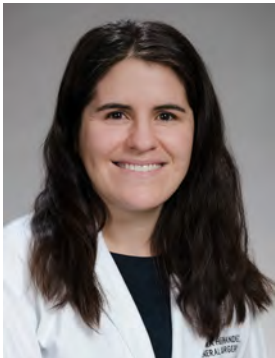
**Clinical Interest:** Trauma/ Surgical Critical Care/Emergency General Surgery. I am currently at the tail end of applying for a fellowship!

**Research Interest:** I’m interested in the ways that patients access care in surgical emergencies. Specifically, I have done research looking into triage and transfer of emergency general surgery and burn patients and am interested in surgical systems development in rural areas.

**Hobbies:** I’m a trail runner and backpacker and did a trail ultramarathon in my research time! We just adopted a new dog named Ivy after our previous dog died, so our free time has been mostly obsessing over her!

# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS

## GENERAL SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES



**ALEX HERNANDEZ, MD**  
*Associate Education Chief*

**Medical School:**  
Oregon Health and Science  
University

**Clinical Interest:**  
Trauma and Burns

**Research Interest:** Post-discharge  
outcomes after injury

**Hobbies:** Playing with my cute baby,  
gardening, and when I can, hiking!

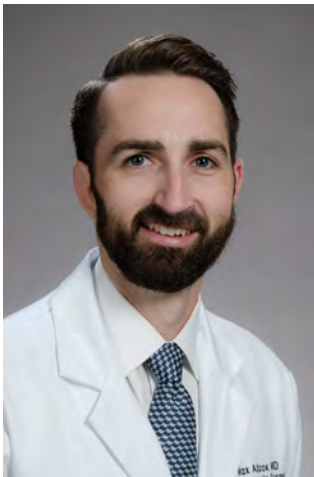
The entire R5 class will continue in their key leadership roles as Chief Residents by creating the call schedules, building and supporting resident families and program culture, leading resident involvement in orientation and recruitment events, and advocating for residents.

We are excited about these changes and grateful to our residents for their partnership and enthusiasm in shaping these roles!

CARLOS AND KELLY PELLEGRINI ENDOWMENT  
FOR SURGERY RESIDENTS

MAKE A GIFT

# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS



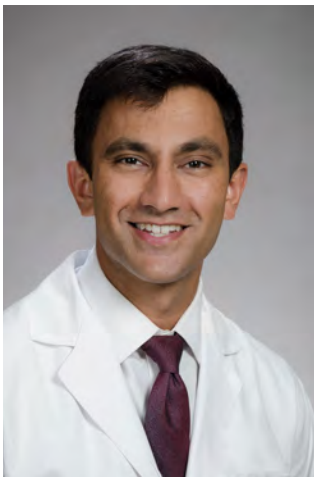
**DR. MAX ADCOX**  
**CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY**  
**CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. Adcox completed his undergraduate studies with a BA in Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology at Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. He then completed his Master’s in Biophysics and Physiology at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. before earning his MD from the University of Washington School of

Medicine in 2020. His clinical interests include general cardiac surgery, and heart and lung transplants. His research interests include exploring clinical uses for AI (echo interpretation) and organ recovery techniques. Outside of medicine, Max enjoys going to UW football games, running, and doing hot yoga.

K. ALVIN AND SHIRLEY E. MERENDINO  
ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

MAKE A GIFT



**DR. AMIT PUJARI**  
**VASCULAR SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. Pujari completed his undergraduate studies in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania before earning his MD from Emory University School of Medicine in 2020. After his third year of vascular surgery residency at the University of Washington, he completed a dedicated fellowship year in palliative care. That experience shaped his clinical approach and deepened his commitment to patient-

centered, longitudinal care. For Amit, the most compelling aspect of vascular surgery is the enduring relationship between surgeons and their patients—each encounter marking the beginning of a shared journey. His clinical interests include integrating palliative care principles into vascular surgery. Outside of medicine, Amit is an avid south asian dancer, ultimate frisbee player, and cyclist. A fun fact: he has a twin brother!

BENJAMIN W. AND MARGIE STARNES ENDOWMENT  
FOR VASCULAR SURGERY TRAINEES

MAKE A GIFT

# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS



**DR. NICO STAFFORINI**  
**VASCULAR SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. Stafforini earned his medical degree from Instituto Universitario CEMIC Escuela de Medicina in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2015. He completed his general surgery residency in Argentina and first joined the University of Washington as a visiting resident. Nico was drawn to vascular surgery by its profound impact on patients' quality of life, the opportunity to build long-term relationships, and the commitment to caring

for vulnerable and underserved populations. His clinical interests include complex aortic surgery and aortic trauma, and his research focuses on long-term outcomes following vascular trauma and major aortic interventions. Outside of the hospital, Nico enjoys playing soccer and rugby, snowboarding in the Cascades, and spending time with friends. A fun fact: Nico also has a twin brother!



**DR. GIULIA DANESHGARAN**  
**PLASTIC SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. Daneshgaran was born and raised in northern Italy. In 2007, Giulia moved to Los Angeles to begin high school and later earned a bachelor's degree in Physiological Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, inspired by an early dream of becoming a physician and surgeon. In 2015, Giulia relocated to New York to attend the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. During medical school, she completed a dedicated research year at the University of Southern California, focusing on lymphedema prevention and management using animal models in a basic science laboratory.

After graduating in 2020, Giulia moved to Seattle to begin a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery residency at the University of Washington and has since matched into an aesthetics fellowship at South Coast Plastic Surgery in California.

Outside of medicine, Giulia enjoys spending time with friends and family, whether practicing yoga, skiing, hiking, playing volleyball or guitar, traveling abroad, or relaxing with video games. Her favorite aspects of Seattle include the city's striking combination of natural beauty, vibrant food culture, abundant waterways, and the warm, adventurous spirit of the Pacific Northwest.

THOMAS  
HATSUKAMI AND  
KATHLEEN SIE  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR VASCULAR  
SURGERY  
TRAINEES

MAKE A GIFT



# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS



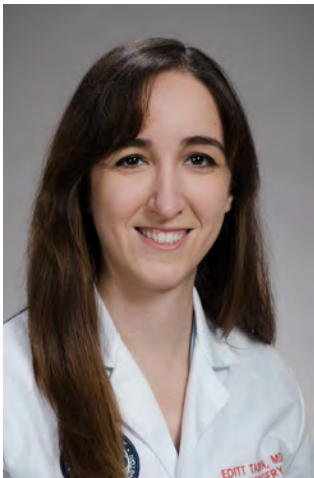
**DR. SHANIQUE MARTIN**  
PLASTIC SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT

Dr. Martin was born in Jamaica and spent her first 11 years there before moving with her family to Miami, FL. In high school, she discovered her passion for the chemical and biological sciences and was introduced to the sport of rowing. She went on to attend Stanford University, where she majored in chemistry and competed for two years on the women’s open weight rowing team.

After graduation, Shanique joined a small health technology research and development team at Apple Inc. before returning to Stanford to pursue her medical degree. Her clinical interests include oncologic breast and extremity

microsurgical reconstruction, with a focus on determinants of surgical care, patient-centered outcomes, and global surgical education. Drawn by the diversity of the patient population, the innovation of the faculty, and the camaraderie of the residents, she joined the University of Washington Plastic Surgery program in 2020. Upon completing her residency training, she will be heading to Stanford for a one-year microsurgery fellowship.

Outside of medicine, Shanique enjoys traveling with her husband Andrew, cycling, skiing, baking, exploring new recipes, pottery, knitting, spending time outdoors and connecting with friends.



**DR. EDITT TASLAKIAN**  
PLASTIC SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT

Dr. Taslakian grew up in Los Angeles and earned her bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2013, followed by a master’s degree in Global Medicine from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in 2014. She then spent two years as Program Coordinator for the global health nonprofit Mending Kids, which provides children around the world with critical surgical care otherwise inaccessible to them.

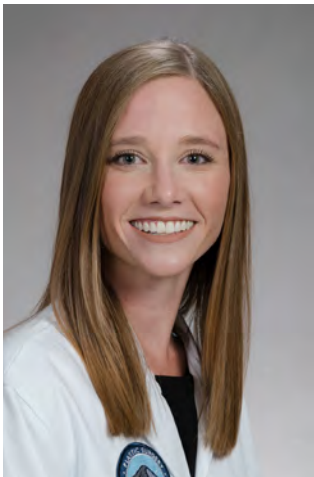
In 2020, she received her medical degree from the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine in Rochester, MN. Her clinical interests include pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgery for congenital malformations and traumatic injuries, as well as global surgery training and education in developing countries. She is currently applying to craniofacial surgery fellowships.

Outside of medicine, she enjoys spending time with family, traveling, Armenian cooking, and Armenian dance.

VISHAL KAPOOR,  
M.D. ENDOWED  
FUND FOR UW  
RESIDENTS IN  
PLASTIC SURGERY

MAKE A GIFT

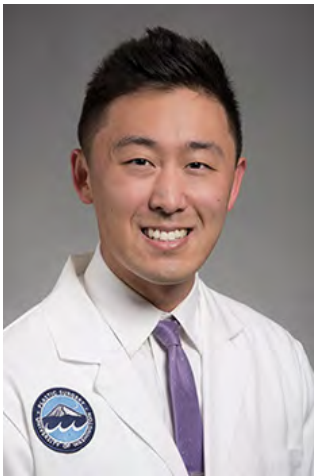
# 2025-26 CHIEF RESIDENTS



**DR. LINDSEY TEAL**  
**PLASTIC SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. Teal grew up in Beaumont, Texas, and completed her undergraduate, graduate, and medical education in her home state. After earning a degree in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M, she initially began dental school but soon realized her true path lay in medicine. She went on to earn her MD and MPH from Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. In 2020 she was drawn to the University of Washington for its high surgical

volume, faculty expertise, and strong sense of community among residents. Lindsey is now applying to craniofacial fellowships this fall. Outside of medicine, she enjoys traveling, reading, hiking and camping in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and dog, and exploring Seattle’s diverse food scene. Rainy days often find her curled up with a good book and her pup.



**DR. BRANDON DE RUITER**  
**PLASTIC SURGERY CHIEF RESIDENT**

Dr. De Ruiter was born in Pusan, South Korea but was adopted as an infant and grew up in various parts of suburban New Jersey. In 2014 he earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Geneva College near Pittsburgh, PA. After graduation, he returned home for a year working at a local painting company to save money for the MCAT and medical school applications. He ultimately attended medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, where he also completed a one-year research fellowship primarily looking at facial trauma management and outcomes. After graduating medical school in 2020, he began his plastic surgery training with an internship at Case Western Reserve University/

University Hospitals. After their accreditation loss in 2021, we welcomed him to the University of Washington’s plastic surgery program to continue his residency training. Here, he was exposed to all forms of reconstructive surgery and developed an interest in microsurgery. He has since matched into a microsurgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he will start in the summer of 2026. Outside the hospital, Brandon enjoys New York sports, fantasy football, rapid and bullet chess, indie and singer song-writer music, and collecting vinyl records. He is immensely grateful for the opportunity he was given at UW and for all the faculty and residents that have supported him to this point.

RECONSTRUCTIVE  
PLASTIC SURGERY  
RESEARCH FUND

MAKE A GIFT

# WELCOME 2025-26 RESIDENTS



**ISRA ABDULWADOOD, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**JOSHUA ALUMBAUGH, DDS, MD**  
*OMS R1*



**PRAVJIT BHATTI, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**LAUREN CALLAGHAN, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**SEAN CHAN, MD, MS**  
*General Surgery R1*



**ALEXIS CHENEY, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**RANDY CURE, MD**  
*Cardiothoracic Surgery R1*



**MIA DO, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**NOAH IRCINK, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**SAMAGRA JAIN, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**KEILAN JOHNSON, MD, MPH**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**INDERPREET KHALSA, MD, MS**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**DANIEL KOH, MD**  
*Vascular Surgery R1*



**TINNA KOSOKO, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**ASHA KRISHNAKUMAR, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**LILY KUHLMAN, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**TIM LI, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**ROBERT S. LY, DMD**  
*OMS R1*



**JENNA MAREK, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**ADRIAN MARKEWYCH, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**ZAHRA MASROORI, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**DANIEL MEHRABIAN, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**SAMANTHA MOSLE, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**JULIA PERSKY, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**SAI PINNI, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**NICHOLAS PITCHER, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**CYNTHIA RAMAZANI, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**JESSICA REISINGER, MD**  
*General Surgery R1*



**LUCAS RUTER  
KANAMORI, MD**  
*Vascular Surgery R1*



**MEGANA SARIPELLA, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**SAIRANDRI  
SATHYANARAYANAN, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



**DANIELLE SIM, MD**  
*Plastic Surgery R1*



**MICHAEL G. SNOW, DMD, MD**  
*OMS R1*



**ANDREW SPENCER, MD**  
*Preliminary Surgery R1*



WELCOME 2025-26 SURGERY FELLOWS



Iman Afif, MD, MPH  
Trauma/Critical Care



Eric Anderson, MD  
Burn/Critical Care



Swara Bajpai, MD, MSHA  
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Mark Barry, MD  
Pediatric Surgery



Lucy Chau, MD  
Abdominal Transplant



Panpan Chen, MD  
Vascular Surgery



Claire de Crescenzo, MD  
Vascular Surgery



Jolanta Gorecka, MD, MHS  
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Brynn Hathaway, MD  
Hand Surgery



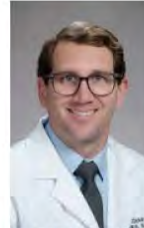
Stephanie Iantorno, MD  
Pediatric Surgery



Solomon Lee, MD, MS  
Craniofacial Surgery



John Marquart, MD  
Trauma/Critical Care



Cody McHargue, MD  
Burn/Critical Care



Yoshihiro Mochizuki, MD  
Abdominal Transplant



Peter Nicksic, MD  
Hand Surgery



Dewahar Senthoo, MD  
Abdominal Transplant



Alexander Vasconcellos, MD  
Hand Surgery



Caitlyn Waldrop, MD  
Trauma/Critical Care



Theresa Wang, MD, MS  
Advanced GI MIS/Foregut



Casey Wright, MD  
Hand Surgery



Dennis Zheng, MD, MPH  
Trauma/Critical Care



Emily Zurbuchen, MD  
Microsurgery



# 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.



**ISRA  
ABDULWADOOD, MD**  
*R1, PLASTIC SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO  
BE A SURGEON?**

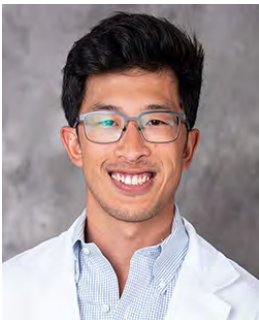
I’m not the type of person that believes an individual is “born” to do something. I think we’re all shaped by our experiences and the millions of choices we make each day, so I’m here because of the positive impact I’ve seen my mentors make on the lives of their patients. I want to emulate their abilities and dedication to patient care.

**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

I immediately felt like I was a part of the team, and I didn’t have to waste any energy proving I belonged in the OR. It was so easy to just focus on learning how to be a surgeon.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST  
REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

I’m definitely most excited to get to know my co-residents and to find my niche in plastic surgery! I got to see and do so much as a sub-intern, I can’t wait to see what residency has in store for me.



**WANG PONG  
(SEAN) CHAN, MD**  
*R1, VASCULAR SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO  
BE A SURGEON?**

I have always enjoyed learning complex physical maneuvers (like the handstand), and want to work on a craft for the rest of my life. I think there is a need for increased collaboration between surgery and data science.

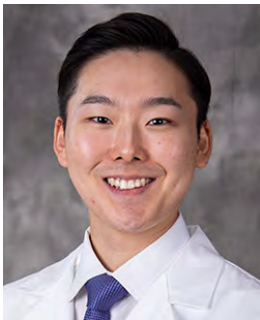
**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

My mentors trained at UW, and I really admire their leadership. The clinical training here is unparalleled, and the expectations are high. UW is a leading institution for both surgical critical care as well data science, arguably the best in natural language processing. You also can’t beat the PNW summers.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST  
REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

It’s only the start, but I have already learned a tremendous amount from my co-residents and attendings. There’s something really special about the people in this program- they push you, but they are kind, which I think is a rare skill. I can’t wait to tap into the data science projects at UW and continue discovering hidden waterfalls and lakes with my cohort, who have been beyond amazing.

# NEW RESIDENTS HIGHLIGHTS



**DANIEL J. KOH, MD**  
*R1, VASCULAR SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO BE A SURGEON?**

I’m drawn to high-acuity, procedure-focused care—especially in Vascular Surgery.

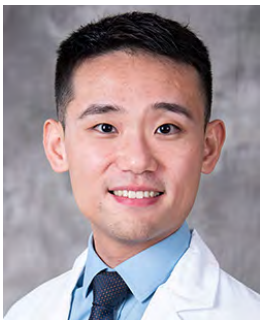
I thrive under pressure, enjoy thinking critically in real time, and find meaning in using my hands to restore health when minutes matter.

**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

The variety of training sites—Harborview, UW Medical Center, VA, and community hospitals—offers unmatched breadth. I chose UW for its rigorous operative training, culture of mentorship, and commitment to serving the Pacific Northwest.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

The depth of surgical exposure across UW’s diverse hospital systems excites me. I’m eager to learn from exceptional faculty, take care of complex patients, and become a technically excellent, thoughtful surgeon.



**TIM LI, MD**  
*R1, PLASTIC SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO BE A SURGEON?**

I want to be a plastic surgeon because it combines my background in bioengineering

with my passion for hands-on problem solving. During my first plastic surgery rotation in medical school, I was immediately drawn to the fast-paced, detail-oriented environment of the OR, where precision and creativity come together to restore form and function. Plastic surgery offers the unique opportunity to apply technical skill and innovation in ways that directly improve patients’ lives. I’m excited to grow in this field and develop the expertise needed to better serve my future patients.

**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

I chose UW because I wanted to train in a program that combines rigorous clinical experience with a culture of collaboration and support. UW offers an unparalleled breadth and volume of plastic surgery cases, serving a highly diverse patient population across the WWAMI region.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

The opportunity to build lifelong friendships and camaraderie with my colleagues while having the privilege to care for patients during some of their most vulnerable moments.

# NEW RESIDENTS HIGHLIGHTS



**SAI PINNI, MD**  
*R1, PRELIMINARY SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO BE A SURGEON?**

I’m drawn to the creativity of surgical problem-solving—making unapparent anatomical

connections mirrored blending seemingly disparate musical styles in fusion a cappella. I also fell in love with the technical challenge through animal surgeries for research. Finally, it’s a privilege to care for patients in some of their most vulnerable moments.

**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

Outstanding training across specialties and exposure to diverse, complex cases from across the WWAMI region. I also value the opportunity to train in various hospital settings, from Harborview to Montlake to a free-standing children’s hospital and more. Most of all, I chose UW because I genuinely loved the people here.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

I am excited to learn. Surgery is an apprenticeship model, and it has been incredible to work alongside and learn from such dedicated faculty and residents. Even in just my first month, I have seen myself grow as a doctor and surgeon, and I look forward to continuing that growth.



**CYNTHIA RAMAZANI, MD**  
*R1, GENERAL SURGERY*

**WHY DO I WANT TO BE A SURGEON?**

To operate is to be trusted with something irreversible.

That responsibility humbles me. I want to be a surgeon because it is a profound privilege to care for someone in their most vulnerable moments and offer healing with my hands. I hope to bring that care to places where it’s still out of reach and never forget the weight of that responsibility.

**WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?**

During my away rotation at UW, I immediately felt at home. I was welcomed into a community that values collaboration, mentorship, and service. The clinical training is excellent, but what stood out most was the shared commitment to equity, global health, and taking care of each other.

**WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?**

I am excited to train alongside people who challenge and support each other, to care for patients from all walks of life, and to grow through tough cases and small wins. Most of all, I am excited to become the kind of surgeon who lifts others up, inside and outside the OR.

# NEW RESIDENTS HIGHLIGHTS



JESSICA REISINGER, MD  
*R1, GENERAL SURGERY*

“WHY DO I WANT TO  
BE A SURGEON?”

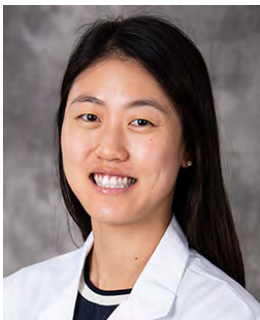
I’ve always considered myself an artist. Creating through dance and musical theater has been a constant in my life. For me, surgery is a continuation of that same creative drive. I chose to become a surgeon to keep making art, just in a different kind of theater.

“WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?”

I’m from Alaska and attended UW for medical school. I’m drawn to UW’s surgery residency for its academic excellence and proximity to home. Its service to the WWAMI region allows me to continue caring for Alaskan communities—a population I’m deeply committed to serving throughout my surgical career.

“WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST  
REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?”

I am excited about the community and family I get to build within UW DoS and throughout the UW Medicine system.



DANI SIM, MD  
*R1, PLASTIC SURGERY*

“WHY DO I WANT TO  
BE A SURGEON?”

I chose to be a surgeon for the opportunity to improve patients’ quality of life through medical knowledge and technical skill. I also love the team-oriented culture in surgery that relies on every team member’s expertise to care for the patient.

“WHY DID I CHOOSE UW DOS RESIDENCY?”

I chose UW for its rich clinical diversity and commitment to resident education which will help me become a well-rounded and conscientious surgeon.

“WHAT EXCITES ME THE MOST  
REGARDING MY RESIDENCY?”

I am most excited to work with and learn from compassionate co-residents and attendings from all disciplines within the Department of Surgery.



# 2025 CHIEF RESIDENTS' GRADUATION DINNER

On June 14, 2025, the Department of Surgery 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 2025

### DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY INTEGRATED RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**CHRISTINA BECK, MD, PHD**  
*Microsurgery Fellowship*  
*University of California Irvine*

**DANIELLE EBLE, MD**  
*Gender Surgery Fellowship*  
*Oregon Health & Science University*

**CAMERON KNEIB, MD**  
*Burn & Surgical Critical Care Fellowship*  
*UT Southwestern/Parkland*

**NIKHITHA THRIKUTAM, MD**  
*Reconstructive Microsurgery Fellowship*  
*Johns Hopkins University*

### DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**KYLE S. BILODEAU, MD, MS**  
*Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship*  
*University of Michigan*

**CHRISTOPHER JOHN LITTLE, MD**  
*Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery Fellowship*  
*University of Toronto*

**CODY WAYNE MCHARGUE, MD**  
*Burn/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship*  
*University of Washington*

**DANIELA REBOLLO SALAZAR, MD, MPH**  
*Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship*  
*University of Miami*

**MICHAEL BERNARD WEYKAMP, MD, MS**  
*Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship*  
*University of Pennsylvania*

**ANNIE YANG, MD**  
*Surgical Critical Care and AAST ACS Fellowship*  
*Emory University*

**FRANK FEIYANG YANG, MD, MHS**  
*Endocrine Surgery Fellowship*  
*University of Miami*

### DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY INTEGRATED RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**REGINALD NICHOLS-NKANSAH, MD**  
*Vascular Surgeon*  
*Cleveland Clinic*

## PRELIMINARY RESIDENTS FINISHING JUNE 2025

**YIQIAO BAO, MD, PHD**  
**JOHN BARTLETT, MD**  
**ANGEL BILLINGSLEY, MD, MPH, JD**  
**BRITTANY BROOKNER, MD, BA**  
**VADIM CHESNOKOV, MD**  
**JACK LINSLEY, MD**  
**SANAA MANSOOR, MD, MS**  
**SPENCER NEAVILLE, DO**  
**MCKENNA NOE, MD**  
**VARUN RAO, MD**  
**DAISY SPOER, MD, MS**  
**AI PHUONG TONG, MD, PHD**  
**BRANDON YESHOVA, BS, MD, MHA**

## FELLOWS FINISHING JUNE 2025

**ABIGAIL CORTEZ, MD**  
*Hand Surgery*  
**EMMA DWYER, MD**  
*Hand Surgery*  
**CLAIRE FALTERMEIER, MD, PHD**  
*Cardiothoracic Surgery*  
**JAPJIT KAUR GREEN, MD**  
*Microsurgery*

# 2025 CHIEF RESIDENTS' GRADUATION DINNER

## FELLOWS FINISHING JUNE 2025 (CONT.)

**DANIEL KAUFMAN, MD, PHD**  
*Abdominal Transplant Surgery*

**HYOK JUN KWON, MD**  
*Craniofacial Surgery*

**AISLINN LEWIS, MD**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**ALEXANDER LI, MD**  
*Hand Surgery*

**CHRISTINA LIU, MD**  
*Hand Surgery*

**MEGHAN MALI, MD, MS**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**HEATHER MATHENY, MD, MS**  
*Vascular Surgery*

**KAJAL MEHTA, MD, MPH**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**JOSH ROSEN, MD, MHS**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**REBECCA SORBER, MD**  
*Vascular Surgery*

**RUTH TEVLIN, MB, BAO,  
BCH, MRCS, MD**  
*Craniofacial Surgery*

**LAUREN TUFTS, MD**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**ALAN UTRIA, MD**  
*Pediatric Surgery*

**ERIN WHITE, MD, MHS**  
*Surgical Critical Care*

**IRENE ZHANG, MD, MPH**  
*Minimally Invasive Surgery*

## GRADUATION DINNER AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### HARKINS SOCIETY & HENRY HARKINS AWARD (EST. 1985)



#### AWARDEE— JESSICA REISINGER, 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— NOAH IRCINCK, MD

*This award recognizes a UW SOM medical student in research in the general field of surgery.*

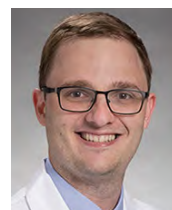
### RESIDENT AWARD FOR MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHING (EST. 2013)



#### AWARDEE— DOMINIQUE DEGRAAFF, MD

*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)



#### AWARDEE— JASON CARTER, MD, PHD

*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.*

HARKINS ANNUAL FUND  
FOR SURGERY  
RESIDENT EDUCATION

MAKE A GIFT

# 2025 CHIEF RESIDENTS' GRADUATION DINNER

## INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD (EST. 2024)



**AWARDEE—  
CRISTINA  
SALINAS, BS, 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.*

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



**AWARDEE—  
ANNIE YANG, MD**

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

## DAVID BYRD PDS TEACHING AWARD (EST. 2024)



UDYAVAR

**AWARDEES—  
RHEA  
UDYAVAR, MD**

**JOHN  
SCOTT, MD, MPH**

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



SCOTT

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



**AWARDEE—  
KAREN D.  
HORVATH,  
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.*

DAVID TAPPER, MD FUND

MAKE A GIFT

# SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FETAL CENTER:

## LEADING THE NEXT FRONTIER IN MATERNAL AND NEONATAL SURGERY

Seattle Children's Hospital continues to redefine excellence in pediatric and surgical care with the evolution of its Fetal Care and Treatment Center in partnership with UW Medicine. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. [Shinjiro Hirose](#), newly appointed Director and Professor in the Department of Surgery, and the recent recruitment of Dr. [Mary Austin](#), Professor, Department of Surgery, the Center is entering a

neonatal outcomes. Success will be measured not only in growth but in lives transformed.

The Fetal Center was established to address a longstanding need in the Pacific Northwest: a comprehensive, coordinated program for families facing high-risk fetal conditions. Previously, many patients had to travel out of state to access specialized therapies. Today, the Center offers a regional solution that aligns with Seattle Children's mission to deliver world-class, family-centered care while advancing research and education. By serving as a referral hub for the broader Pacific Northwest, the Center is improving access to advanced therapies for families who previously faced fragmented care and long-distance travel. The goal is clear: better outcomes, reduced maternal and fetal morbidity, and greater equity in care delivery.

At the heart of the Center is a robust team-based approach. Maternal-fetal medicine specialists, pediatric surgeons, cardiologists, neonatologists, radiologists,

geneticists, anesthesiologists, nurses, social workers, and care coordinators work in concert to provide holistic, integrated care. This model ensures that every phase—from prenatal diagnosis through delivery and postnatal surgery—is meticulously coordinated to optimize outcomes. Every aspect of the Center is designed with families in mind. Dedicated care coordinators, social workers, and counselors guide patients through the emotional and logistical complexities of fetal diagnoses. Long-term follow-up ensures continuity of care, and patient stories underscore the profound impact of being supported by a compassionate, expert team during life's most vulnerable moments.

The Center is equipped with cutting-edge facilities, including advanced imaging suites, dedicated operating rooms, and integrated digital platforms for telemedicine consultations. Its thoughtfully designed environment supports both clinical excellence and the comfort of families navigating prolonged care journeys.



HIROSE



AUSTIN

transformative era—one marked by multidisciplinary collaboration, groundbreaking research, and a steadfast commitment to families navigating complex fetal diagnoses. Plans include expanding surgical capabilities, increasing research output, and setting new benchmarks for maternal and



# SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FETAL CENTER:

## LEADING THE NEXT FRONTIER IN MATERNAL AND NEONATAL SURGERY

Translational research from bench to bedside provides the foundations for care innovations. Current initiatives include advanced fetal imaging, minimally invasive surgical techniques, and clinical trials exploring novel therapies. Notably, research is underway to develop fetal interventions for conditions such as gastroschisis and congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Collaborations with the University of Washington and national research consortia position the Fetal Care and Treatment Center as a hub for innovation—where discoveries move swiftly from bench to bedside.

The Center also serves as a dynamic training ground for fellows, residents, and medical students. Through

exposure to rare and complex fetal conditions, simulation-based education, and continuing medical education (CME) programs, the Center is cultivating the next generation of fetal and neonatal care providers. Outreach to regional healthcare systems further strengthens capacity across Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana.

For surgeons, the Seattle Children's Fetal Center offers a unique opportunity to collaborate across disciplines, engage in pioneering research, and shape the future of fetal and neonatal surgery. This is more than a program—it's a movement toward redefining maternal and child health.

# GETTING To Know DoS

**MARY AUSTIN, MD, MPH**

**PROFESSOR**

**DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY**



## HAVE YOU BEEN TO WASHINGTON BEFORE?

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I moved to Washington in mid-June and my family will move a short while later. So they're living there, and I've just been back and forth. But yes, the Pacific Northwest is one of my favorite places in the country.



Dr. Austin in surgery at the University of Texas

## WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL?

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Well, I am excited to join as the Surgical Director of the fetal surgeon program and to help build this program at Seattle Children's Hospital. That's been a big part of my practice for the last 15 years here at the University of Texas, and so I'm excited to bring that skill set and partner with Dr. Shinjiro Hirose and others to open an exciting new program at Seattle Children's.

## WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING YOUR MOVE TO THE NORTHWEST?

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Professionally, I'm looking forward to being in a busy children's hospital and I've known some of the people at Seattle Children's for many, many years so I'm really excited about working with

them and developing this new program. From a personal standpoint, I'm incredibly excited to move my family to the Pacific Northwest. We are very outdoorsy people. All of us. I have three daughters who are 14, 12, and 7. The Pacific Northwest is honestly one of our favorite destinations for travel, because we're all avid runners, bikers, and hikers so are super excited to be in that part of the country.

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

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I was actually born with spina bifida and so I have been interacting with the health care system from a very young age. And I don't remember this, but my mother assures me that by the time I could talk I wanted to be a doctor. I didn't know at that time what type of doctor. She says that I used to love interacting with our family practitioner in

# GETTING To KNOW DoS

MARY AUSTIN, MD, MPH

PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY



rural Kentucky and I always said I wanted to be a doctor. As far as being a surgeon, that's probably also related to my diagnosis. I initially wanted to be a neurosurgeon, and in college shadowed a neurosurgeon. I did some research in the field with neurosurgeons but it was pediatrics that I really loved. Being able to take care of children is really special, and for someone to give you the privilege of operating on their child—I honestly believe there's no greater trust somebody can put in another person, especially now that I have my own children. As pediatric surgeons we get to do a lot of different things. We operate on almost every part of the body, and almost every age, all the way from fetal through childhood and in late adolescence and their early twenties.

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

So, I've kind of navigated through different areas of research throughout my career. It's mostly been clinical research. I got a master's of public health during my residency at Vanderbilt, and what I'm most interested in is two things: one is in understanding and

## RAPID FIRE

### WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK THAT YOU READ?

I'm reading "Freakonomics" by Steven Leavitt" right now. The last book I read was, "The First Ladies," by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray. It was fantastic. It's about Eleanor Roosevelt and her friend Mary. I love historical fiction so share that in common with my older two daughters.

### WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY WATCHING?

I don't watch TV—can't stand it.

### WHAT'S YOUR GO TO SNACK?

My favorite food is sushi! I would eat sushi for breakfast honestly!

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE?

Well, I don't know if I'm guilty about it but I love a glass of red wine.

### WHO IS YOUR INSPIRATION AND WHY?

There are so many! As a child it would have been my family physician at Vanderbilt. I was fortunate to work with someone named James O'Neill. He's a retired pediatric surgeon, who is quite accomplished in his career. He was a real inspiration to me, and how he not only took care of patients with such passion and care, but the people around him.

More recently, some of my patients. There's a young man who is a survivor of stage four kidney cancer. I've known him for probably four or five years and now, we're just friends. So, I think they're really inspiring for me, and what keep me going every day.

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

I would love it to be someone like Jennifer Aniston, because I think she's awesome.



# GETTING To KNOW DoS

MARY AUSTIN, MD, MPH

PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY



honestly figuring out how to alleviate the enormous health disparities that we have in our in our country, just really figuring out how to ensure equitable access to care for our patients; and the other is to try to figure out how to use technology to help better improve access to care for children with complex problems.

## WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST CHALLENGING IN YOUR SURGICAL CAREER?

I think honestly what I find most challenging is, sometimes it gets pretty emotional, especially now that I have my own children. I've been in a program with a very busy trauma center—taking care of a lot of injured children is emotionally challenging. There can be some long days and I think, balancing that, and just keeping myself sane at home, and still letting my kids be kids, is probably what I've found most challenging.



Dr. Austin and family

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

Can I extend the time period a little bit? So, I think what I'm most proud of in my career is a few years back, and honestly it was during Covid because I think we all struggled a lot emotionally and physically during that time period. It was very stressful for clinicians, for nurses, for everyone in healthcare, and I found myself, oftentimes, very frustrated at work. We had high nursing turnover. We had challenges that were not unique to our institution but were common and I remember one day just being kind of

tired and down and I thought to myself, what can I do to change this and at the same time, I'd been working on developing some skills with how to communicate with patients.

And I thought to myself, I really need to bring those skills to every interaction I have at work, because if I can communicate better with my colleagues, with the nurses in the operating room, with the nurses on the floor, with my colleagues, with my patients, then it's going to be a happier place for all of us. I made a really conscious effort to really get to know the people that I work with every day. It has been really



Dr. Austin and husband biking in the 2022 Ride the Rockies



# GETTING To KNOW DoS

MARY AUSTIN, MD, MPH

PROFESSOR

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY



transformative for me in terms of my work, and I hope to bring some of those skills with me. I'm sure that everyone there communicates great but I think it's really transformed my experience at work, and I hope it has helped others. And made it a happier place.

## WHAT'S THE BEST CAREER ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

Someone once told me, don't think about the end. Think about the journey, and what will keep you happy and interested along that journey. That was surgery for me. So, I think that's probably the best advice and that's advice that I give. The other advice that I did not get but do give is, don't feel like you need to do it all. I think this is especially true for some of my female colleagues. Everyone has 24 hours in the day, and from an outsider's perspective, probably do have it all. I have a great husband, I have three children, and I have a great career as a pediatric surgeon. But there are compromises that have to happen. Sometimes I miss my kids' events, and things like that. So being very honest about what it takes to do this job is something that I do.

## WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR? PROFESSIONALLY OR PERSONALLY?

Professionally, it's definitely fetal surgery and complex surgical oncology. Those are my two real clinical niches. I was one of two pediatric surgeons at the University of Texas, which is one of the busiest fetal programs in the country. Personally, it's being a mom of girl athletes and being crazy about doing sporting events together. So, you know, since the time my kids were little, we've been doing 5Ks and triathlons, and we continue to do that stuff together and love it.

I'm known for crazy long bike rides and anything you can do outdoors that's sporting related.



Dr. Austin and family at Houston Heights Run

# DIVERSITY IN DOS

The University of Washington (UW) [Department of Surgery \(DoS\) Women's Council](#) began in 2016. Although specifically developed to advise Dr. Douglas Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, on issues impacting women within the department, the overarching goal of the council is to improve the working environment for all.

The UW DoS Faculty Women's Council empowers and supports faculty with the goal of promoting gender equity in surgery. Our initial efforts focused on a department-wide career barriers survey, with results presented at the inaugural Women's Council Grand Rounds in February 2018. This work was presented at the 2019 Pacific Coast Surgical Association annual meeting and published in [JAMA Surgery](#). Next, the council created a pregnancy, leave, and lactation policy for faculty and residents. We defined when call, clinic, and elective surgery scheduling can stop for the pregnant surgeon and attempted to define clearer standards regarding leave time for all genders.

We have continued to sponsor an annual [DoS Grand Rounds](#). Speakers have included our own trauma surgeon Dr. [Eileen Bulger](#), the first woman to serve as Chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma; UW nephrologist, Dr. [Justin Bullock](#), who gave an inspired presentation entitled "Learning Environment is Key to Optimizing Performance and Equitable Assessment" and Dr. [Wendy Chen](#), a pediatric plastic surgeon from Houston who presented "Academic Surgery and DEI: Current and Future Directions."



Dr. Eileen  
Bulger



Dr. Justin  
Bullock



Dr. Wendy  
Chen



Dr. Elizabeth  
Umphress

In October 2024, the Council hosted a retreat at the UW Waterfront Center where faculty and trainees gathered to discuss topics including resiliency during surgical training, how they picked their careers, and what they wish they knew 10 years ago. DoS faculty speakers were joined by UW Obstetrics and Gynecology faculty to discuss family planning issues. A financial planner, Jacquelyn Denson, CFP, Vestia Personal Wealth Advisors, from Nebraska who discussed financial health topics, and our Keynote Speaker, Dr. [Elizabeth Umphress](#) from the UW Foster Business School, who spoke about Strategic Communications. The event was an overwhelming success that we look forward to repeating in the future.



# DIVERSITY IN DOS

In addition to the Faculty Women’s Council, a DoS Resident Women’s Council became its own entity in 2018. The UW DoS Resident Women’s Council empowers and supports residents and fellows while promoting gender equity in surgery. Resident council projects have focused on fostering mentorship opportunities between faculty and residents, building relationships between residents and UW SOM medical students, and conducting research projects related to advancing gender equity in surgery. The resident council created a mentorship program that matches medical students starting as early as the MS1 year, with residents in their surgical field of interest. The

pairs meet frequently, which gives prospective surgical applicants access to someone who can guide them and give them honest answers to career questions. In addition, the council hosts an annual welcome dinner for new women interns and monthly social meet ups designed to foster a sense of community, and most recently hosted a Women in Surgery Research Day.

In our nine years of existence, the DoS Faculty and Resident Women’s Councils have fostered community while improving the working environment for all. We look forward to what the next decade will bring.

UW MEDICINE SURGERY FUND FOR DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY AND INCLUSION

MAKE A GIFT



# HARKINS CORNER

## BUILDING COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING TRAINEES, AND SECURING THE FUTURE OF UW SURGERY: THE HARKINS SOCIETY'S MISSION IN ACTION



Dr. Henry Harkins

For more than five decades, the Harkins Surgical Society has fostered connection and community across the University of Washington (UW) Department of Surgery (DoS). Named in honor of Dr. Henry N. Harkins, the department's founding chair, the Society has nurtured a mission of building community across generations of trainees, faculty, and alumni. With over 1,000 graduates spanning the globe, UW DoS's alumni represent a diverse and accomplished network, united by a shared experience of rigorous training and commitment to surgical excellence.

Over the past year, the Harkins Society has celebrated remarkable successes in fulfilling this mission. A shining example of the Society's impact is the Harkins Scholars Program, which continues to grow as a vital resource for our residents. Since its inception, the program has supported more than two dozen trainees across surgical disciplines, providing critical resources for residents to present at research at national and international conferences, attend advanced educational courses, and pursued unique opportunities that enhance their training. Each scholar's achievements extend the UW legacy of innovation and leadership in surgery, while the program itself demonstrates the tangible power of alumni generosity to transform the trajectory of future surgeons.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we must also acknowledge the headwinds facing academic medicine and surgical education today. The national funding landscape has shifted dramatically, with

significant decreases in federal research support and increased uncertainty around future allocations. These changes have created a pressing and unique need for philanthropic investment to sustain the opportunities that allow our residents and faculty to thrive. At the same time, they underscore the resilience and commitment of our community to step forward when resources are needed most.

Philanthropic support of the Harkins Society directly fuels the programs that keep our department strong—funding professional development for residents, supporting alumni engagement, and ensuring that the legacy of Dr. Harkins endures through generations of UW-trained surgeons. Every contribution, large or small, makes a measurable difference. Together, we can bridge the gap left by declining federal dollars and continue to equip our residents not only with surgical skills, but also with the vision and leadership necessary to shape the future of healthcare.

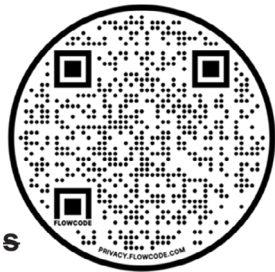


# HARKINS CORNER

## BUILDING COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING TRAINEES, AND SECURING THE FUTURE OF UW SURGERY: THE HARKINS SOCIETY’S MISSION IN ACTION

We invite you to join us in sustaining this momentum. By making a gift to the Harkins Surgical Society, you directly support the next generation of surgeons and affirm the values that have defined UW DoS for more than half a century. To learn more about giving opportunities and to make a donation, please visit the [Harkins Annual Fund](#).

With your partnership, the Harkins Society will continue to serve as a bridge between our proud past and a promising future. Thank you for your support.



Best regards,

Jonathan G. Sham, MD, MBEE  
*President  
Harkins Surgical Society*

# TRACKING WHAT REALLY MATTERS:

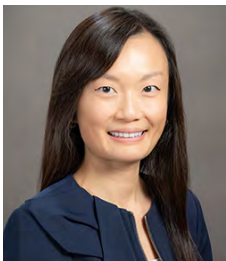
## EARLY STEPS IN PLASTIC SURGERY DATA INNOVATION

The [Division of Plastic Surgery](#) is in the early stages of launching new clinical registries aimed at improving outcomes, advancing research, and supporting quality initiatives in key clinical areas of the field. The developmental process includes refining registry specifications, identifying data elements, and mapping workflows for long-term sustainability.



Dr. Chris Crowe

Leading this work are Drs. [Chris Crowe](#), Director of Hand Surgery Research, and Katie Liu, Director of Plastic Surgery Division Research, guiding the incredible work of resident Dr. [Gillian O’Connell](#). Drawing on experience in both patient care and systems design, Drs. Crowe and Liu are working closely with faculty, the [Division of Research](#), and the broader Department of Surgery (DOS) to build a scalable model that can integrate seamlessly into clinical practice.



Dr. Katie Liu

In addition to focusing on Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs), Dr. O’Connell is working to develop standardized EMR documentation practices and implement clinical workflows that improve data capture in service of delivering high quality care. “Fundamentally, these efforts will allow us to automatically translate the nuanced information we already record every day into trackable, quarriable data” says Dr. O’Connell



Dr. Gillian O’Connell

“These registries represent a critical bridge between what happens in the operating room and understanding long-term patient outcomes,” says Dr. Chris Crowe, “We’re not just collecting data points—we’re building the infrastructure to continuously improve how we care for patients and advance the field of plastic surgery. Registries aren’t just about data—they are about accountability, learning, and improving care.”

“This represents exactly the kind of forward-thinking approach that defines the next era for our division,” explains Dr. [Kari Keys](#), Associate Professor, Interim Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery. “We’re investing in the infrastructure that will drive quality improvement, support our research mission, and ultimately ensure we’re providing the best possible outcomes for every patient we serve.”



Dr. Kari Keys

The initial focus areas include breast reconstruction, gender-affirming surgery, hand and wrist trauma, and lower extremity reconstruction—domains where systematic data tracking could help refine surgical decision-making and benchmark long-term outcomes. Even in this formative phase, the initiative reflects the division’s commitment to data-driven innovation and patient-centered care.

The team anticipates a phased implementation beginning with a pilot registry. Ultimately, these registries will serve as a foundation for research collaborations, quality improvement, and educational initiatives—further strengthening the University of Washington Division of Plastic Surgery’s leadership in the field.

RECONSTRUCTIVE  
PLASTIC  
SURGERY  
RESEARCH FUND

MAKE A GIFT

NORTHWEST INSTITUTE  
FOR NERVE INJURY AT  
HARBORVIEW MEDICAL  
CENTER FUND

MAKE A GIFT

# DR. CHRISTOPHER CHILDERS INVESTIGATES THE RVU SYSTEM



Dr. Christopher Childers

Christopher Childers, MD, PhD, joined the Department of Surgery in the Fall of 2024 as an Assistant Professor of Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgery in the Division of General Surgery. Dr. Childers completed his general surgery residency at UCLA and surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. During his general surgery training, he received a PhD in Health Policy & Management from the Fielding School of Public Health.

Dr. Childers’ research focuses on healthcare finance. He has published broadly on the topic, including analyses that look at the costs of operating rooms,

hospitals, dialysis, and emerging technologies. His more recent work has focused on the physician fee schedule, commonly termed the “RVU system.” He is interested in understanding how the physician fee schedule influences physician decision-making and its subsequent downstream effects on patient access and outcomes. He is particularly interested in the health policy implications of this work, including how this research might inform local institutional policies as well as state and national health policy. His long-term goal is to generate a new RVU system that better aligns the incentives of physicians with their patients. He is just beginning to explore the opportunities at the University of Washington and welcomes any and all opportunities to collaborate on this topic or anything that revolves around healthcare finance.

## mark your calendar

### 2025 HARKINS SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 24, 2025 | 7:30AM–1:00PM  
HOGNESS AUDITORIUM  
HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING



### 76TH STRAUSS VISITING LECTURER

- KEYNOTE SPEAKER -  
[DR. DIANA FARMER](#)

*Chair, Department of Surgery, UC Davis*

OCTOBER 24, 2025 | 3:00PM–4:00PM  
HOGNESS AUDITORIUM  
HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

### 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

## department of surgery event calendar





# GETTING To Know DoS

**ERIKA BISGAARD, MD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN  
& CRITICAL CARE SURGERY**



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

I grew up as a gymnast and competed on the national team and traveled around. When I made it to the national team, there was an orthopedic surgeon who used to travel with us as our sort of team doctor, and I saw his job and thought it was the coolest thing and was like, I want to do that

job. That's the job I want to do. I was about 14 years old.

So, I decided when I was young that I was going to go to medical school, and I was going to be an orthopedic surgeon and take care of gymnasts and ballerinas. Then I got to medical school and figured out that I liked physiology way too much to do orthopedic surgery, and sort of shifted at that point to general surgery, because it was a kind of nice

mix of medicine and operating. I did research and worked with the trauma surgery group at Louisiana State University, where I did my medical school, starting my first year there, and kind of stayed on that path. You know I did that thing you're not supposed to do where I decided super early and didn't really veer, but I kind of always knew that was going to be where I ended up.

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

I did a summer fellowship program, and I got a grant as a first year medical student and worked with our trauma group looking at alcohol, intoxication and traumatic injuries. I did a couple of projects like that, and found my research mentor, who I worked with for all four years of medical school, and I still see him at meetings and talk to that group who sort of brought me up through medical school.



Harborview Trauma Fellowship-Class of 2022

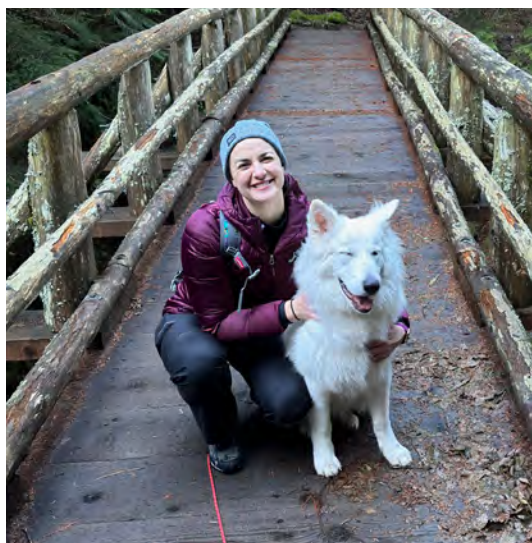
Left to right: Drs. Kate Stadeli, Raymond Jean, Stephen Kaplan, and Erika Bisgaard on Harborview Medical Center's helipad



# GETTING To KNOW DoS

**ERIKA BISGAARD, MD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN  
& CRITICAL CARE SURGERY**



Top - Hiking on Cougar Mountain at Easter

Bottom - Dr. Bisgaard and Teddy hiking at Snow Lake

## WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR INTEREST IN DRUG AND ALCOHOL IN TRAUMA?

A little bit of personal history about me. My dad was an alcoholic, and I've always sort of intellectualized things to make them make sense, and I think it was a sort of coping for me and learning a lot more

## RAPID FIRE

### WHAT IS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

"Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell.

### WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY WATCHING?

"Your Friends and Neighbors"

### WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SNACK?

Popcorn!

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE?

If I get a night off to myself, I love sitting with some trashy, bad, romantic comedy movie, with a glass of wine and a tub of raw cookie dough.

### WHO IS YOUR INSPIRATION AND WHY?

My mom. She was always the biggest cheerleader for me. From the time I was little, she would say, "Don't marry a doctor, be a doctor," and she was very supportive of everything I ever did. She got breast cancer when

I was in high school, and she went through all the chemotherapy, and then surgery. It recurred when I was in college and that was part of the reason I went to LSU for medical school. She was still in New Orleans, and I needed to come home. Then from 2011 until she died in 2017 she was on chemotherapy or radiation, or some kind of treatment, pretty much nonstop, and she never stopped going. She kept working the whole time, and she kept showing up for my brother and me, working right up until the end. She was so tough and worked so hard that I want to make her proud.

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

When I was little, Dawson's Creek was popular, and I've been told that I looked like Katie Holmes. I used to get told I was a little Joey Potter!

# GETTING To Know DoS

**ERIKA BISGAARD, MD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN  
& CRITICAL CARE SURGERY**



made it make sense. So that's kind of how I wound up in that spot. And it just so happened that the grant was in that space, anyway.

## WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST CHALLENGING IN YOUR SURGICAL CAREER?

The most challenging thing has been trying to find some balance. I'm a bit of a perfectionist, and want to be the best all the time. When I was younger, I went straight through from high school to college, to medical school, and straight through to residency. I did not take any breaks. Part of that was I grew up in the South, and it's a little bit of a different culture down there. When I said I was going to do medical school, I was told you'll be so old when you finish—it's such a long path. So, I was like, well, I'll just do it fast. I went as fast as you could possibly go and did five years of general surgery—I didn't take research time. Then I did one year trauma fellowship, and I finished. I had just turned 32, and then was like, oh, I could have slowed down a little bit.



Dr. Bisgaard's husband Dr. Dylan Jason, son Riley and herself pedal boating on Orcas Island

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

So, outside of surgery, in this past year, I had my first child. I had my daughter, and figuring out how to be a mom and a surgeon has been a new challenge for sure, but it's been the most fulfilling thing I've ever done.

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

The best career advice I ever received is to do it how you want to do it and don't listen to people from outside telling you negative things about your choices and decisions.

It's advice I was given by one of my mentors in medical school because I'd gotten so much bad advice from people who were not in my field, like, "Well, you're a woman," "You'll be so old,"



# GETTING To KNOW DoS

**ERIKA BISGAARD, MD**

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN  
& CRITICAL CARE SURGERY**



Dr. Bisgaard and her son  
Riley, working on research  
from home



Dr. Bisgaard and husband  
Dr. Dylan Jason, at a friend's  
wedding in New Orleans

“When will you have children?” “How could you possibly want to do that as your career?” those sorts of things—I know that sexism isn’t eradicated in this day and age, but that blows my mind. It was a pretty common thing I was told, especially when I was an intern, even some of it happened in medical school when I was at home in the South. But when I was an intern one of the fellows asked me what I wanted to do. I’d been an intern for like a month and a half and I said I chose this program because it’s pretty broad, and I don’t really know exactly what I want to do yet so I wanted great exposure to a bunch of different things. He said “You know, all you girls go in wanting to do something super intense, like vascular or cardiac, and then you all end up just doing breast anyway.”

Don’t listen to somebody who’s not doing the job you want to do, because they don’t know how to do it and you know yourself better than they do. So, listen to yourself and do it how you want it done. It’s advice I give the residents all the time.

## WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR PROFESSIONALLY OR PERSONALLY?

Professionally I’m known as the one of the education people. I’ve always loved working with the residents and medical students. That’s why I’m one of the associate program directors for the residency now, but that’s sort of been my niche from the from the get-go. That’s what I love getting to do every day—teach the different levels of trainees.

## WAS THIS SPARKED BY YOUR OWN TRAINING?

After I stopped gymnastics, I started dancing a lot and taught dancing to students, from three-year-olds to 18-year-olds for years and absolutely loved being in that space. Then I got to medical school and was a TA. In medical school I did some of the same, and when I got to residency, I really took to teaching the medical students. That was just a space I found I really enjoyed, and I was pretty good at. I thought it was nice to be able to impart what I’ve learned to the next generation, so they could help patients by what I could teach them. So that’s been my philosophy. It’s important, because I’m training to replace myself. So all the things I’ve learned I can teach to more people than just me, and that’ll be better for patients. That’s where my drive and passion for it comes from.

RONALD AND LAUREN MAIER  
ENDOWED TRAUMA RESEARCH  
AND EDUCATION FUND

MAKE A GIFT

# 76TH ALFRED A. STRAUSS VISITING LECTURE & HARKINS SYMPOSIUM



Dr. Diana Farmer

We are pleased that Dr. [Diana Farmer](#) will be the 76th Alfred A. Strauss Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Surgery's annual Dr. Alfred A. Strauss Lecture and Harkins Symposium on Friday, October 24, 2025, 3:00PM-4:00PM.

The Harkins Symposium and Strauss Lecture are always the highlights of the department's academic year; this year is no exception. Dr. Farmer is the Distinguished Professor, Pearl Stamps Steward Endowed Chair and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of California Davis. She also serves as Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Shriners Children's Northern California and is the Founder and Co-Director of the UC Davis Center for Surgical Bioengineering. She is an alumna of the University of Washington School of Medicine, graduating in

1983, and subsequently did her surgical internship in our own Department of Surgery (DoS).

She completed her general surgery residency training at the University of California, San Francisco, and her Pediatric Surgical training was completed at the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Dr. Farmer was the first female fetal surgeon and is an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon.

Dr. Farmer is known for her skilled surgical treatment of congenital anomalies and for her expertise in cancer, airway, and intestinal surgeries in newborns, and for her investigations on the safety and effectiveness of providing spina bifida treatments before birth.

It is auspicious that Dr. Farmer is the Strauss Visiting Lecture as DoS, together with the Department of OB-GYN, the Department of Pediatrics, the Seattle Children's Hospital and UW Medical Center-Montlake hospital's maternal-fetal medicine are combining to expand on our fetal medicine program by launching the fetal surgery center.

Among other positions, Dr. Farmer has held and currently holds, she is Founder and Co-director of the UC Davis Center for Surgical Bioengineering. The Center is a hub for faculty, residents, research fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate and post-baccalaureate junior scientists conducting interdisciplinary, groundbreaking research to engineer solutions for the full spectrum of surgical disease.

One area of focus is on regenerative medicine and in particular, in utero cell therapy for myelomeningocele (MMC), the most severe form of spinal bifida.

Spina bifida is a birth defect caused when a baby's spinal cord fails to develop properly in the womb. In myelomeningocele, the most severe form of spina



# 76TH ALFRED A. STRAUSS VISITING LECTURE & HARKINS SYMPOSIUM

bifida, a portion of the spinal cord or nerves is exposed in a sac through an opening in the spine. Most people with myelomeningocele have changes in their brain structure, leg weakness, and bladder and bowel dysfunction.

In 2000, Dr. Farmer's team made the seminal discovery that fetal sheep hindbrain herniation— i.e., the lower portion of the brain, pushes or herniates through the opening at the base of the skull— could be ameliorated by prenatal surgical repair. This breakthrough led to the \$22 million-dollar, multi-center Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS), a randomized human clinical trial of MMC closure before and after birth (MOMS was selected as the clinical trial of the year in 2012). The MOMS trial definitively showed that in utero surgical repair of the spina bifida defect is safe and results in better outcomes than postnatal repair, and as such, defined the new standard of care.

Dr. Farmer's groundbreaking research continues to focus on regenerative medicine, particularly in utero stem cell therapy for myelomeningocele (MMC). After her landmark publication of the MOMS trial in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2011, she returned to the lab and in 2020, her team achieved FDA Investigational New Drug (IND) approval for an innovative allogeneic placental mesenchymal stem cell product, which is now part of the CuRe (Cellular Therapy for in Utero Repair of MMC) clinical trial—the first FDA-regulated human trial of stem cell therapy delivered prenatally. Early results from the trial show promising progress in fetal spinal cord repair, marking a significant advancement in fetal regenerative therapies.

[Watch Dr. Farmer present her research.](#)

Dr. Farmer served as President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) in 2017 and became a regent of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in 2019. In 2022, she was named a Harrington Institute

Scholar Innovator and served as President of the American Surgical Association (ASA). In 2024, Dr. Farmer was named President-Elect of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association (PCSA).

Her global contributions are exemplified by her founding of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS), which aims to improve pediatric surgical care in underserved areas. She served as President of the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society (IFMSS) in 2022.

She has been honored with numerous awards throughout her career and was named Fellow by election of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2010. In 2020, she received the Universitas 21 Award for her work in internationalization.

She was a Luce Scholar, a competitive leadership development fellowship that provides emerging leaders with immersive professional experiences in Asia.

She was a recipient of Wellesley College's Alumnae Achievement Award and past Chair of the Board of

# 76TH ALFRED A. STRAUSS VISITING LECTURE & HARKINS SYMPOSIUM

Governors of the American College of Surgeons. She is a Regent of the American College of Surgeons and was the 2022 President of the American Surgical Association.

As she explains: “I have over two decades of experience treating birth defects in and outside of the womb. I have pioneered foundational techniques in pediatric and fetal surgery and have been active in developing animal models to study these translational interventions.”

As a mentor, educator, and researcher, Dr. Farmer continues to influence the next generation of surgeons while pursuing pioneering work in fetal surgery and regenerative medicine.

### SOURCE MATERIAL

[Diana Farmer ORCID](#)

[California Institute for Regenerative Medicine \(CIRM\)](#)

[The Stem Cellar – The Official Blog of CIRM: A little history in the making by helping the tiniest patients.](#)

[UC Davis Center for Surgical Bioengineering](#)

ALFRED A. STRAUSS, M.D. ENDOWED  
LECTURESHIP IN SURGERY

MAKE A GIFT

## in the media

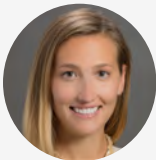


**[CHRISTOPHER CHILDERS, MD, PHD](#)**

Assistant Professor  
Division of  
General Surgery

[Surgeries getting longer as cases grow more complex](#)

UW Medicine–  
Newsroom  
August 14, 2025



**LAUREN REDDY**  
Advanced Registered  
Nurse Practitioner

Division of  
Transplant Surgery

[By donating a kidney to a stranger, WA woman forged an immediate bond](#)

The Seattle Times  
August 30, 2025



**CAITLIN SMITH, MD**  
Associate Professor  
Division of Pediatric  
General Surgery

[Seattle Children’s performs historic 18-hour surgery to separate conjoined twins](#)

KIRO7 News Seattle  
September 18, 2025

# 2025 SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

The annual Department of Surgery Surgical Ethics Conference once again delivered a powerhouse of thought-provoking lectures at the University of Washington Health Sciences Education Building, on Sept 2nd and 3rd, this year. The conference attracted colleagues from throughout the United States, both in-person and virtually, spanning various surgical specialties.

Dr. Chris Ellison, Professor Emeritus of Surgery and Academy Professor at The Ohio State University, presented the keynote address on September 2nd, titled “Contemporary Ethical Challenges in the Practice of Surgery.” Additionally, Dr. Ellison presented at the Department of Surgery Grand Rounds on September 3rd with a lecture, titled “Surgical Training In The 21st Century: Progress Is Impossible Without Change.”



Dr. Chris Ellison

KELLY AND CARLOS PELLEGRINI, MD  
ENDOWED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP IN  
SURGICAL ETHICS

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Other invited faculty members presented at the conference, including:

**Dr. Anji Wall**, Baylor College “Ownership stakes in Transplantation: Impact on the Creation and Resolution of Ethical Dilemmas”

**Dr. Alberto Ferreres**, University of Buenos Aires “Educating Trainees Ethically in an Age of Innovation”

**Dr. Carlos Pellegrini**, University of Washington (Emeritus) “Leadership and Ethics: The Mortal Imperative in Decision-Making”

**Dr. Patrick Healey**, University of Washington “Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatric Transplantation”

### INVITED VIRTUAL SPEAKERS

**Dr. Eric Singer**, The Ohio State University “Ethical Issues of AI in Surgery”

**Dr. Peter Angelos**, University of Chicago “Ethical Issues in the Use of AI to Assist Intraoperative Decision Making”

**Dr. Baila Maqbool**, University of New Mexico “Surgical Ethics in the Hidden Curriculum”

**Dr. Catherine Frenkel**, Wake Forest University “Teaching the Ethics of Innovation”

**Dr. Margaret Tarpley**, Vanderbilt University “Global Surgical Ethics Education”

**Dr. Sabha Ganai**, University of North Dakota “Ethics of Persuasion in Surgery”

**Dr. Carlos Pellegrini**, University of Washington “Leadership and Ethics: The Mortal Imperative in Decision-Making”

**Dr. Christopher Ellison**, The Ohio State University “Contemporary Ethical Challenges in The Practice of Surgery”

**Dr. Eric Singer**, The Ohio State University “Ethical Issues of AI in Surgery”

**Dr. Peter Angelos** University of Chicago “Ethical Issues in the Use of AI to Assist Intraoperative Decision Making”

**Dr. Anji Wall**, Baylor University “Ownership stakes in Transplantation: Impact on the Creation and Resolution of Ethical Dilemmas”

**Dr. Sabha Ganai** University of North Dakota “Ethics of Persuasion in Surgery”

**Dr. Baila Maqbool**, New Mexico State University “Surgical Ethics in the Hidden Curriculum”

**Dr. Catherine Frenkel**, Wake Forest University “Teaching the Ethics of Innovation”

**Dr. Margaret Tarpley**, Vanderbilt University & University of Botswana “Global Surgical Ethics Education”

**Dr. Anji Wall**, Baylor University “Pregnancy experiences in uterus transplantation - qualitative study of the DUETs trail from Baylor”

This exciting group, along with many of UW’s own faculty members, tackled many hot-button topics such as artificial intelligence, confronting death, transgender and neonatal surgeries, organ transplantation, justice/equity/discrimination/inclusion, and the surgeon/patient relationship.

## NEW FACULTY



**MARY AUSTIN,  
MD, MPH**

**PROFESSOR**

*DIVISION OF PEDIATRICS  
GENERAL SURGERY*

Mary Austin, MD, MPH, joined Seattle Children's Hospital August, 25, 2025, as Professor and Surgical Director of the Fetal Program. Previous

to her arrival, Dr. Austin was a professor in both the Department of Pediatric Surgery at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) and in Surgical Oncology and Pediatrics at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. She completed her surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. During residency, Dr. Austin also received a Masters in Public Health from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She completed her Surgical Critical Care and Pediatric Surgery training at Children's Hospital Los Angeles in July 2010. Dr. Austin is board certified in Surgery, Surgical Critical Care and Pediatric Surgery.

She has a special interest in pediatric surgical oncology, surgical critical care including ECMO, fetal surgery and clinical research. She is interested in identifying geographic and socioeconomic barriers to care for pediatric cancer patients and working to dissolve these barriers. More specifically, her research focuses on developing methods that incorporate technology to improve access to care for children with complex medical problems.

In her free time, she enjoys participating in sports and outdoor activities with her family. Dr. Austin looks forward to enjoying all the outdoor activities the Pacific Northwest has to offer.



**LILY CHANG,  
MD, FACS**

**PROFESSOR**

*DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SURGERY*

Lily Chang, MD, FACS, is a general surgeon who joined the University of Washington (UW) Division of General Surgery in September 2025 as an

emergency general surgeon. A graduate of UC Berkeley for her undergraduate studies and Tufts University for medical school, Dr. Chang completed both her general surgery residency, as well as her minimally invasive surgery fellowship, at the UW.

With over 18 years of experience in general and bariatric surgery at Virginia Mason Medical Center, Dr. Chang is now returning back to her alma mater at UW to further contribute to the field. She brings over two decades of expertise in patient care and is dedicated to expanding emergency general surgery services in our region. She is a past President of the Seattle Surgical Society and has enjoyed collaborating closely with surgeons throughout the area to strengthen our community.

Dr. Chang is also passionate about the future of surgical education. She had the honor of serving as the Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program at Virginia Mason for 10 years and intends to continue mentoring the next generation of surgeons at UW. Additionally, she recently returned from her annual surgical mission to Guatemala, an experience that has been both personally and professionally enriching. Outside of her clinical and educational endeavors, Dr. Chang enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, skiing, and striving to hit her daily goal of 10,000 steps.



## NEW FACULTY (CONT.)



**PAUL COMISH,  
MD, MPH**

**ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR**

*DIVISION OF TRAUMA,  
BURN & CRITICAL  
CARE SURGERY*

Paul Comish, MD, attended Texas Tech University where he earned his undergraduate degrees

in Biochemistry and a second degree in Spanish before enrolling into a Master of Public Health program at the University of Texas at Houston, where he specialized in epidemiology. Following his Master's program, he enrolled at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson for medical school. Dr. Comish then completed his general surgery training at UT Southwestern/Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he became interested specifically in burn surgery. He further completed a research fellowship at UT Southwestern, where he investigated the inflammatory response seen in burn injury. Following surgical residency, he completed a burn and reconstruction fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by an additional Critical Care Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Comish has special interests in burn resuscitation, scar reconstruction and management of acute burn injury. Outside of work, Dr. Comish enjoys backpacking, golfing, running and traveling.



**MICHELLE JU,  
MD, MPH**

**ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR**

*DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SURGERY*

Michelle Ju, MD, MPH, is a surgical oncologist who has joined the Division of General Surgery in the Section of Hepatobiliary

Surgery at the University of Washington Sept 1, 2025. A Pacific Northwest native, she was raised in Bellevue, Washington. She earned her undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis before returning home for medical school at the University of Washington (UW).

Dr. Ju completed her general surgery residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, during which she also obtained a Master of Public Health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. She then pursued advanced fellowship training in both Complex General Surgical Oncology and Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery at Duke University.

At the UW, Dr. Ju's clinical practice focuses on the surgical treatment of liver and pancreatic tumors, employing a wide range of techniques including hepatic arterial infusion pump therapy and robotic surgery. Her research interests include preoperative optimization and the intensification of supportive care for patients undergoing complex oncologic procedures. She is also dedicated to surgical education and simulation-based training.

When she is not chasing after her toddler, she enjoys playing pickleball and watching cooking competition shows with her husband Jonathan (an orthopedic surgeon) hosting dinner parties, and game nights with friends.

## NEW FACULTY (CONT.)

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### **KRYSTLE COLLINS, MD**

#### **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

*DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SURGERY*

Dr. Krystle Collins is a breast surgical oncologist who joined the Department of Surgery September 1, 2025. She received a degree in psychological anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles which inspired her to pursue a career in medicine to help patients, caregivers and practitioners navigate complex interpersonal decision making. She completed a post-baccalaureate at California State University, Fullerton before matriculating to Columbia University for medical school. She completed her general surgery residency at Oregon Health

& Science University. She pursued additional fellowships in immuno-oncology at Providence Cancer Institute and breast surgical oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. She places a strong emphasis on bringing high quality care into the community and understanding strategies to mitigate a myriad of competing factors impacting receipt of guideline concordant care. She looks forward to pursuing projects aimed at survivorship and restoration of “self”. She brings an enthusiasm for education and cannot wait to train the next generation of physicians.

When she is not working, you can find her doing just about anything outdoors, from off-roading, to trail running, skiing, or backpacking. She also enjoys teaching wilderness medicine to empower everyone to get outside. She is excited to return to the Pacific Northwest and create wilderness programming for breast cancer patients and experience all the great state of Washington has to offer.

## FACULTY PROMOTIONS

**C**ongratulating to the 10 faculty who were promoted on July 1st, 2025. This is a remarkable number of promotions and one that we should all celebrate.

The following faculty were promoted from Assistant/Clinical Assistant Professor to Associate Professor/Clinical Associate Professor:

### DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY



**LARA OYETUNJI, MD, MPH**  
*Associate Professor*

### DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY



**L. NICK CETRULO, MD**  
*Clinical Associate Professor*



**JONATHAN SHAM, MD, MBEE**  
*Associate Professor*



**ESTELL WILLIAMS, MD**  
*Associate Professor*

### DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY



**SARA ZETTERVALL, MD, MPH**  
*Associate Professor*

### DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



**RUSSELL ETTINGER, MD**  
*Associate Professor*



**ERIN MILLER, MD**  
*Associate Professor*

The following faculty were promoted from Associate/Clinical Associate Professor to Professor/Clinical Professor:

### DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY



**KIMBERLY RIEHLE, MD**  
*Professor*

### DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY



**SRINIVAS SUSARLA, MD**  
*Professor*

### DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY



**SCOTT BRAKENRIDGE, MD**  
*Professor*

## honors & awards

### CARLOS A. PELLEGRINI, MD, TO BE HONORED WITH AWS DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD



The Department of Surgery at the University of Washington (UW) is proud to share that Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department, has been selected as the [2025 recipient of the Dr. Charles W. Putnam Distinguished Member Award](#) by the [Association of Women Surgeons \(AWS\) Foundation](#). This honor will be awarded at the AWS Foundation Gala on October 5, 2025.

This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional support for the mission of AWS—to advance the careers of women in surgery and address gender disparities in the field. Dr. Pellegrini’s longstanding commitment to mentorship, equity, and professional development has made a lasting impact on generations of surgeons, both at the UW and nationally.

Founded in 1981, AWS has grown into a vital organization supporting women surgeons through education, advocacy, and community. The AWS Foundation, established in 1994, funds fellowships, research awards, and scholarships, and annually honors individuals who exemplify its mission.

Dr. Pellegrini’s recognition by AWS underscores his legacy as a leader who has championed inclusive excellence in surgery at the UW and beyond. We celebrate this well-deserved honor and thank him for his enduring contributions to our department and the broader surgical community.

### DR. JONATHAN SHAM RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NCI AWARD



**Jonathan G. Sham, MD, MBEE**, Chief of the Section of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery and Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, was awarded the 2025 Early Career Cancer Clinical Investigator Award

(ECIA) from the National Cancer Institute. He was selected from applicants across multiple disciplines (medical oncology, radiation oncology, etc.) and is the first surgical oncologist to receive this competitive award.

The ECIA will support Dr. Sham in his role as National Study Chair of S2408 – an international multicenter randomized control trial evaluating whether a single dose of lanreotide reduces rates of postoperative pancreatic fistula. The grant also supports his work within the National Clinical Trials Network, advancing multiple national clinical trials through the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) Gastrointestinal and Surgery Committees. Locally, the award provides resources for developing and implementing a novel clinical trials navigation program within the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, to enhance recruitment and retention of participants to clinical trials across all disease sites.



## honors & awards



Dr. Douglas Wood

We had an incredible meeting of the Washington/Oregon Chapters of the American College of Surgeons this past weekend at Campbell's Resort in Chelan. Dr. [Judy Chen](#) led a great meeting from the presentations to the social functions and the invited speakers. Congratulations to Dr. Chen for her leadership of our state chapter and for a successful meeting. The Department of Surgery had a strong presence at the meeting and I was impressed with our residents, fellows, and students presenting their work, and equally impressed and grateful for the incredible mentors that

supported our trainees in their projects. Dr. **Jamie Olapo** was a top winner in the podium presentations, but you can see our other Awards of Distinction and Student Award for our residents and medical students. There was also a special session led by Dr. [Giana Davidson](#) on how to design a career with purpose and passion. For those of you who were not able to be there, I have listed all of the papers presented by UW below so you can appreciate the breadth of what we do, and so you can congratulate both the presenters and their mentors on the work they are doing. I could not be more proud of our faculty, residents, and fellows when I see the positive impact you are all making. Our world feels pretty tough right now but I think we can be optimistic when we see the intelligence, integrity, and creativity of our people and their influence on the world.

### TOP WINNER

#### DR. JAMIE OLAPO

*Research Resident*

#### INVESTIGATION OF MEDICAL MANAGEMENT TO PREVENT EPISODES OF DIVERTICULITIS (IMPEDE) TRIAL

Olapo J, Strate LL, Comstock BA, Agrawal N, Liao JM, Mata-Diaz S, Mallon Andrews K, Morrow K, Fannon E, Lawrence S, Pullar KKM, Schmicker R, Tveleneva A, Morenz A, Drewnowski A, Neuhouser M, Flum DR | University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, UT Southwestern, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

### AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

#### DR. DIVYA RAMAKRISHNAN

*R4, General Surgery*

#### BURNOUT AND ATTRITION: LOOKING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY IN SURGICAL EDUCATION

Ramakrishnan D, Hernandez A, Peterson R, Horton M, Chang L, Kim S, Smith CA | University of Washington, Swedish Medical Center, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, Seattle

## honors & awards



Department of Surgery faculty and trainees at the 2025 Washington - Oregon ACS Annual Meeting

### DR. BETELHEM YOHANNES

*R3, General Surgery*

#### **TIES THAT BIND: CONSISTENCY DEFINES SURGICAL CULTURE ACROSS INSTITUTIONS**

Liechty A, Yohannes B, Chapman C, Stadel K, Cook M, Myers Q, Christian N, Sion M, Maine R, Bisgaard E | University of Washington

### DR. GRIFFEN ALLEN

*Research Resident*

#### **ACCOUNTING FOR URGENCY: IMPLICATIONS OF RISK ADJUSTMENT FOR SURGICAL SITE INFECTION AFTER EMERGENCY COLON SURGERY AT SAFETY NET HOSPITALS**

Clark NM, Allen G, Gaskins D, Hernandez A, Long D, Childers, C Liu C, Scott J, Bisgaard E.

### DR. MICHAEL SHANG

*R4, Cardiothoracic Surgery*

#### **SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES OF THE ROSS PROCEDURE IN PATIENTS GREATER AND LESS THAN 45 YEARS OF AGE**

DeGraaff D, Reimann-Moody A, DeGraaff B, Dhanekula A, Shang M, Mossman A, Flodin R, Mauchley D, Burke CR, DeRoo SC | University of Washington, Seattle Children's Hospital, Division of Cardiac Surgery

## honors & awards

### STUDENT TRAINEE TOP PRIZE

#### DR. STEPHANIE VU

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

#### **IMPACT OF SURGICAL TECHNIQUES ON OUTCOMES IN NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS (NSTI) PATIENTS MANAGED WITH DELAYED PRIMARY CLOSURE (DPC)**

Wang F, Vu SH, Calderon T, Fine K, Taslakian E, Alice Liu A, Wicklund T, Bisgaard E, Keys K.

#### **DESIGNING A CAREER THAT FITS: ALIGNING PASSION, PURPOSE, AND PRACTICE**

MODERATOR: DR. GIANA DAVIDSON

#### **UNDERSTANDING RESPONSE TO IL-10 BLOCKADE IN A HUMAN TUMOR SLICE CULTURE MODEL OF COLORECTAL CANCER LIVER METASTASES: EARLY STEPS IN THE QUEST FOR PERSONALIZED CANCER CARE**

Goodsell KE, Carter JA, Damle SR, Jiang X, Kenerson HL, Cernak J, Crispe IN, Pillarisetty VG University of Washington

PRESENTER: DR. KRISTIN GOODSSELL

#### **USE AND OUTCOMES OF ANTIBIOTICS AS PRIMARY TREATMENT FOR APPENDICITIS OUTSIDE OF A TRIAL FRAMEWORK**

G.I. Allen, K.O. Sadiq, J.A. Uh, M.N. Hantouli, G.H. Davidson, D. Flum

PRESENTER: DR. GRIFFEN ALLEN

#### **DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT OF SEVERE OBESITY AND DIABETES ON POST-TRANSPLANT SURVIVAL IN METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION-ASSOCIATED STEATOHEPATITIS (MASH) VS. NON-MASH ETIOLOGIES: A 35,406-PATIENT ANALYSIS FROM THE OPTN DATABASE**

Dewahar Senthoo, Catherine Kling, Lena Sibulesky, Renuka Bhattacharya, Meredith Pearson, Jim Perkins, Philip Vutien

PRESENTER: DR. DEWAHAR SENTHOOR

#### **IMPACT OF RECONSTRUCTIVE TIMING ON OUTCOMES IN NSTI PATIENTS UNDERGOING SKINSPARING APPROACH OF DELAYED PRIMARY CLOSURE**

Fei Wang, MD, MS; Stephanie H. Vu, BS; Thais Calderon, MD; Kate Fine, BS; Editt Taslakian, MD; Alice Liu, MD; Taylor Wicklund, MD; Kari Keys, MD; Erika Bisgaard, MD

PRESENTER: DR. STEPHANIE VU

#### **IMPACT OF RESIDUAL AORTIC INSUFFICIENCY AFTER VALVE SPARING AORTIC ROOT REPLACEMENT**

Angeline Fry, BS, Bret DeGraaff, MD, Christopher R. Burke, MD, Arjune Dhanekula, MD, Anne Reimann-Moody, BS, Artur Rybachok, BS, Rachel Flodin, MS, Becky Schwaegler, BS, RDCS, Scott DeRoo, MD

PRESENTER: DR. ANGELINE FRY

## honors & awards

### **ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SDOH SCREENING TOOL AND SDOH INDICES**

Erica Johnson MD, Dwight Barry PhD, Sarah Greenberg MD, MPH, Nicole Chicoine DO, MPH

**PRESENTER: DR. ERICA JOHNSON**

### **REVISITING GODINA'S PARADIGM: TIMING VERSUS INJURY SEVERITY IN LOWER EXTREMITY RECONSTRUCTION COMPLICATIONS**

Editt N. Taslakian, MD, MS; Ryan K. Badiee, MD; Stephanie H. Vu, BS; Gillian O'Connell, MD; Mahsa Taskindoust, MD; Fei Wang, MD, MS; Sonja Katt, BA; Erika Roddy, MD; Erin A. Miller, MD, MS; Jeffrey B. Friedrich, MD, MC, FACS; Yusha Katie Liu, MD, PhD; Kari A. Keys, MD

**PRESENTER: DR. STEPHANIE VU**

### **ASSESSMENT OF A NOVEL CLINICAL INFLAMMATORY BIOMARKER: THE NEUTROPHILLYMPHOCYTE RATIO (NLR)**

Knouff I, Jones I, Olapo J, DePaoli S, Ashford N, Rodriguez Martinez A, Ohara S, Flum D  
University of Washington School of Medicine

**PRESENTER: DR. ISAAC KNOUFF**

### **IMPACT OF SURGICAL TECHNIQUES ON OUTCOMES IN NSTI PATIENTS MANAGED WITH DELAYED PRIMARY CLOSURE**

Fei Wang, MD, MS; Stephanie H. Vu, BS; Thais Calderon, MD; Kate Fine, BS; Editt Taslakian, MD; Alice Liu, MD; Taylor Wicklund, MD; Erika Bisgaard, MD; Kari Keys, MD

**PRESENTER: DR. STEPHANIE VU**

### **SURGICAL CULTURE ACROSS INSTITUTIONS: WHAT DO WE HAVE IN COMMON?**

Liechty, Andrew MD; Yohannes, Bethelam MD, Chapman, Cara BS; Stadel, Kathryn MD; Cook, Mackenzie MD; Myers, Quintin PhD; Christian, Nicole MD; Sion, Melanie MD; Maine, Rebecca MD; Bisgaard, Erika MD

**PRESENTER: DR. ANDREW LIECHTY**

### **ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH SCREENING RESPONSES IN PEDIATRIC SURGICAL PATIENTS**

Erica Johnson MD; Dwight Barry PhD; Sarah Greenberg MD, MPH; Nicole Chicoine DO, MPH  
Seattle Children's Hospital

**PRESENTER: DR. ERICA JOHNSON**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF A COOPERATIVE DISSECTION LAB EXPERIENCE FOR TRAINEES**

Hugh Foy, Kate McNevin, Rebecca Petersen  
University of Washington

**PRESENTER: DR. HUGH FOY**



## honors & awards

### SEATTLE MAGAZINE'S 2025 TOP DOCS

Seattle Magazine announced their [2025 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, MD

#### HAND SURGERY

Jeffrey B. Friedrich, MD

#### PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Andre A. Dick, MD  
Adam B. Goldin, MD  
Patrick J. Healey, MD  
Patrick J. Javid, MD  
Jeffrey Avansino, MD

#### PLASTIC SURGERY

Shannon M. Colohan, MD  
Kari A. Keys, MD  
Otway Louie, MD  
Craig B. Birgfeld, MD

#### GENERAL SURGERY

Brant K. Oelschlager, MD  
Alison L. Perrin, MD  
Roger P. Tatum, MD  
Nicole B. White, MD  
Estell J. Williams, MD  
Andrew S. Wright, MD  
Karen Horvath, MD

#### THORACIC & CARDIAC SURGERY

Gabriel S. Aldea, MD (*Retired*)  
Christopher R. Burke, MD  
Lester Permut, MD (*Retired*)

#### THORACIC SURGERY

Michael S. Mulligan, MD  
Douglas E. Wood, MD  
Farhood Farjah, MD

#### TRANSPLANT

Catherine E. Kling, MD

#### TRAUMA-BURN-CRITICAL CARE SURGERY

Saman Arbabi, MD  
Eileen Bulger, MD  
Grant O'Keefe, MD

## publications

### DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Howington J, Souter LH, Arenberg D, Blasberg J, Detterbeck F, **Farjah F**, Lanuti M, Leighl N, Videtic GM, Murthy S. [Management of Patients With Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: An American College of Chest Physicians Clinical Practice Guideline - PubMed](#) Chest. 2025 Jun 23:S0012-3692(25)00737-8. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2025.06.023. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40562304.

Rudasill S, **Farjah F**. [Surgical Therapy for Stage I Lung Cancer-Lobar Versus Sublobar Resection - PubMed](#) Semin Respir Crit Care Med. 2025 Jul 30. doi: 10.1055/a-2649-9277. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40623691.

Bostock IC, Fox AH, Ward RC, Engelhardt KE, **Farjah F**, Jeffrey Yang CF, Smith RA, Gibney BC, Silvestri GA; American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable (NLCRT). [Outcomes After Surgical Management of Early-Stage Lung Cancer in Octogenarians: An In-Depth Analysis of a Nationally Representative Cohort - PubMed](#) J Thorac Oncol. 2025 Jun;20(6):786-798. doi: 10.1016/j.jtho.2025.01.020. Epub 2025 Jan 28. PMID: 39884390.

Lesgart M, Nguyen AA, Tompkins AK, **Berfield KS**, Kim R, **Wood DE**, Cooke DT, Erkmen CP; Society of Thoracic Surgeons Workforce on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. [From Enigma to Equity: Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Cardiothoracic Surgery - PubMed](#) Ann Thorac Surg. 2025 Jul;120(1):150-156. doi: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2025.01.036. Epub 2025 Mar 5. PMID: 40054682.

**Bakthavatsalam A**, **Hwang B**, **Cheng AM**, Ircink NC, **Mulligan MS**. [Impact of Difficult Lung Transplantation on Short-Term and Long-Term Survival - PubMed](#) Transplant Proc. 2024 Jul-Aug;56(6):1415-1419. doi: 10.1016/j.transproceed.2024.05.025. Epub 2024 Jul 21. PMID: 39034195.

**Bakthavatsalam A**, **Hwang B**, **Mulligan MS**. [Outcomes in lung transplantation after prior major cardiothoracic procedures - PubMed](#) JHLT Open. 2025 Jan 21;8:100218. doi: 10.1016/j.jhlto.2025.100218. PMID: 40144733; PMCID: PMC11935361.

. **Kapnadak SG**, **Ramos KJ**, **Flodin R**, **Mansoor S**, **Bilodeau K**, **Beidler P**, **Lease ED**, **Thomas R**, **Dubois R**, **Pal J**, **Mulligan MS**. [Airway complications after lung transplantation: Perioperative risk factors and clinical outcomes - PubMed](#) JHLT Open. 2025 Jun 6;9:100315. doi: 10.1016/j.jhlto.2025.100315. PMID: 40635784; PMCID: PMC12240133.

**Ditah C**, **Oyetunji S**, **Pal JD**. [On a Mission Toward Sustainability - PubMed](#) Ann Thorac Surg. 2024 Mar;117(3):661. doi: 10.1016/j.athoracsur.2023.11.009. Epub 2023 Nov 11. PMID: 37952757.

**Baglaev V**, **Pal JD**. [Commentary: Furthering our understanding of sex-based differences in cardiac disease - PubMed](#) J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2025 May 15:S0022-5223(25)00393-9. doi: 10.1016/j.jtcvs.2025.05.008. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40381729.

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Lin S, **Dimarakis I**, Minami E, **Bakthavatsalam R**, Bhattacharya R, Stempien-Otero A, Lin Y, Karatasakis A, **Khorsandi M**, Chou-Wu E, Gimferrer I, Golub MY, Fishbein D, Cheng RK, **Hirose R**, **Sturdevant M**, **Pal JD**. [Highly sensitized patients listed for heart after liver transplantation with or without domino - PubMed](#) J Heart Lung Transplant. 2025 Jan;44(1):125-128. doi: 10.1016/j.healun.2024.08.024. Epub 2024 Aug 31. PMID: 39222736.

**Dhanekula AS**, Harrison BR, Pharaoh G, Mattson-Hughes A, Tarantini S, Stuppard R, **DeRoo SC**, **Burke CR**, **Hwang B**, **Pal JD**, **Mulligan MS**, Marcinek DJ. [Mitochondrial Dysfunction Drives Age-Related Degeneration of the Thoracic Aorta - PubMed](#) bioRxiv [Preprint]. 2025 Jun 15:2025.06.13.659620. doi: 10.1101/2025.06.13.659620. PMID: 40661483; PMCID: PMC12259200.

DeGraaff B, **DeRoo SC**, George I. A [Aortic Dissection Following Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement - PubMed](#) 2025 Summer;37(2):136-142. doi: 10.1053/j.semtcvs.2024.11.006. Epub 2024 Dec 13. PMID: 39675492.

## DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY

Polcz VE, Barrios EL, Cox MC, Rocha I, Liang M, Hawkins RB, Darden D, Ungaro R, Dirain M, Mankowski R, Mohr AM, Moore FA, Moldawer LL, Efron PA, **Brakenridge SC**, Loftus TJ. [Severe trauma leads to sustained muscle loss, induced frailty, and distinct temporal changes in myokine and chemokine profiles of older patients.](#) Surgery. 2024 Nov;176(5):1516-1524. doi: 10.1016/j.surg.2024.07.031. Epub 2024 Aug 22. PMID: 39179433

Matthay MA, Zhou H, Sarma A, Alipanah-Lechner N, Hendrickson C, Kornblith LZ, Schreiber M, **Zonies D**, Khan A, Robinson B, Johnson NJ, Ware LB, Guillaumondegui O, Casey J, Moore L, Patel B, Kao L, Wade CE, Fox E, Cox C, Khawanja F, Aguillon Prada R, Hossri S, Callcut R, Albertson T, Delucchi KL, McMillan M, Langelier CR, Pati S, McKenna DH, Leroux C, Calfee CS, Liu KD. [Treatment with Allogenic Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for Moderate to Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Double-Blind, Placebo-controlled, Multi-Center, Phase 2b Clinical Trial \(STAT\) - PubMed](#) Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2025 Jul 29. doi: 10.1164/rccm



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Kodadek LM, Cook M, Young J, Cottrell-Cumber S, Farrell MS, Jawa R, Kirsch JM, Nohra EA, **Haruta A**, Lueckel S, Maerz LL, Toevs CC, Sanchez SE, Kaups KL, Pathak A, **Zonies D**, Cuschieri J, Stein DM, Cooper Z. [Primary palliative care in acute care surgery: an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Critical Care Committee and Palliative Care Committee clinical consensus document - PubMed](#) Trauma Surg Acute Care Open. 2025 Feb 4;10(1):e001616. doi: 10.1136/tsaco-2024-001616. eCollection 2025. PMID: 40395463 Free PMC article. No abstract available.

**Bisgaard EK, Bulger EM.** [Current diagnosis and management of necrotizing soft tissue infections: What you need to know - PubMed](#) J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2024 Nov 1;97(5):678-686. Epub 2024 May 1. PMID: 38689406

Clark NM, Hernandez AH, Knowlton LM, Stewart BT, **Bulger EM**, Malloy A, Anderson G, Dieleman JL, Zatzick D, Scott JW. [Pre- and postinjury financial hardship among trauma survivors: A national survey study - PubMed](#) J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2025 Feb 6. Online ahead of print. PMID: 39910712

Hernandez AH, Clark NM, **Bisgaard E, Nehra D, Stewart BT**, Malloy A, **Bulger EM**, Dieleman JL, Zatzick D, **Scott JW.** [National analysis of health-related social needs among adult injury survivors - PubMed](#) J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2025 Feb 1;98(2):243-250.. Epub 2025 Jan 6. PMID: 39760832

**Agoubi L, Reimel B, Maine R, O'Connell KM, Maier RV, McIntyre L.** [Intensive care unit readmission in injured older adults: Modifiable risk factors and implications - PubMed](#) J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2024; 96(5): 813-819. PMID: 37926991

**Agoubi, LL, Duan N, Rowhani-Rahbar A, Nehra D, Sakran JV, Rivara FP.** [Patterns in Location of Death From Firearm Injury in the US - PubMed](#) JAMA Surgery158 (6): 669-670, 2023

Kotagal M. **Nehra D**, Dicker R. [Exploring Racialized Economic Segregation and Reinjury and Violence Perpetration Among Survivors of Violent Injuries - PubMed](#) JAMA Netw Open 2023.

Orton CM, Gannon M, Mešić A, Chambers M, Enzian L, **Pham TN, Stewart BT.** [Understanding drivers of fire risk with people experiencing homelessness - PubMed](#) Burns. 2025 Apr 5;51(5):107482. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2025.107482. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 40250198.

Wild HB, Trautwein M, Fontanet C, Hottentot E, Kasack S, Munyambabazi A, Calvellido-Hynes E, Kushner A, **Stewart BT.** [A Qualitative Analysis of Opportunities to Strengthen Coordination Between Humanitarian Mine Action and Emergency Care for Civilian Casualties of Explosive Injury - PubMed](#) Disaster Med Public Health Prep. 2025 Feb 20;19:e37. doi: 10.1017/dmp.2025.30. PubMed PMID: 39973163; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC1192872

**Agoubi LL, Murphy S, McMullen K, Carrouger GJ, Mason SA, Carter DW, Thompson CM, Kowalske K, Scott JW, Stewart BT.** [Association between community distress and return to work after burn injury - PubMed](#) Burns. 2025 Feb;51(1):107294. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2024.107294. Epub 2024 Oct 18. PubMed PMID: 39522135

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**Stewart BT, Pham T, Cancio L, O’Keefe G, Nordlund MJ, Day AG, Heyland DK.** [Higher energy delivery is associated with improved long-term survival among adults with major burn injury: A multicenter, multinational, observational study - PubMed](#) J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2024 Nov 1;97(5):812-821. doi: 10.1097/TA.0000000000004432. Epub 2024 Sep 3. PubMed PMID: 39225723

**Prater L, Bulger E, Maier RV, Goldstein E, Thomas P, Russo J, Wang J, Engstrom A, Abu K, Whiteside L, Knutzen T, Iles-Shih M, Heagerty P, Zatzick D.** [Emergency Department and Inpatient Utilization Reductions and Cost Savings Associated With Trauma Center Mental Health Intervention: Results From a 5-year Longitudinal Randomized Clinical Trial Analysis - PubMed](#) Ann Surg. 2024 Jan 1;279(1):17-23. doi: 10.1097/SLA.00000000000006102. Epub 2023 Sep 25. PMID: 37747970; PMCID: PMC10843150.

**Ladner DP, Goldstein AM, Billiar TR, Cameron AM, Carpizo DR, Chu DI, Coopersmith CM, DeMatteo RP, Feng S, Gallagher KA, Gillanders WE, Lal BK, Lipshutz GS, Liu A, Maier RV, Mittendorf EA, Morris AM, Sicklick JK, Velazquez OC, Whitson BA, Wilke LG, Yoon SS, Zeiger MA, Farmer DL, Hwang ES; ASA Task Force for Research Sustainability.** [Transforming the Future of Surgeon-Scientists - PubMed](#) Ann Surg. 2024 Feb 1;279(2):231-239. doi: 10.1097/SLA.00000000000006148. Epub 2023 Nov 2. PMID: 37916404.

## DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

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**Bruce L, Khouri AN, Bloze A, Ibarra M, Richards B, Khalatbari S, Blasdel G, Hamill J, Hsu JJ, Wilkins EG, Morrison SD\*, and Lane M\*.** [Long-Term Regret and Satisfaction With Decision Following Gender-Affirming Mastectomy - PubMed](#) JAMA Surg. 2023;158(10):1070-1077.

**Chen L, Mercan E, Massenburg B, Hopper RA, Susarla Sr, LeeA; Ellenbogen RiG, BirgfelCB. .** [Comparison of Morphometric Outcomes following Open Posterior Expansion versus Endoscopic Strip Craniectomy for Sagittal Synostosis - PubMed](#) Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 153(5):p 1095-1106, May 2024. | DOI: 10.1097/PRS.00000000000010679

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### DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

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**Dr. Lorrie Langdale** is the Director and Lead Author of the *Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP) 19*, a publication of the American College of Surgeons, which will be released in October 2025.

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