

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
PLASTIC SURGERY
DIVISION NEWSLETTER
Fall 2026

STARTING A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



It is with incredible pride in our Division that we launch this new academic year. We are welcoming a record four new faculty this fall, bringing our total faculty complement to twenty. UW Plastic Surgery continues, through this growth, to fulfill our goal of offering the full breadth of the field to patients in the Pacific Northwest. New faculty bring new skill sets to complement the immense talent already represented in the Division, and established faculty continue the cycle of mentoring and career development. It's going to be a big year. Take a look below at what we've been up to.

-Kari A. Keys, MD *Chief, UW Division of Plastic Surgery*

Welcome New Faculty Members!



Laura Barnes, MD



Dani Eble, MD



Solomon Lee, MD, MS



Nikki Thrikutam, MD, MPH

Laura Barnes: I'm thrilled to be at UW and a part of this thriving Division. Looking forward to working with everyone and helping my patients on their reconstructive journeys.

Dani Eble: As a recent graduate from the Division of Plastic Surgery's Integrated Residency Program, I have a deep and personal connection to UW Medicine. I am proud to be a product of an institution with a strong tradition of surgical excellence, an exemplary commitment to education and research, and an ethos of caring for the underserved. It is a distinct privilege to return as faculty and to carry forth this legacy in my own work.

Solomon Lee: I am honored to continue my work at UW and SCH in service to our patients and families.

Nikki Thrikutam: I am so excited and grateful to be back at the University of Washington and working at Harborview Medical Center. The staff and patients of UW Medicine trained me to be a surgeon, and I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to this community. I look forward to working with the trainees, staff, and my new colleagues!

uwsurgery.org/divisions/plastic-surgery/

Alumni Spotlight

Laura K. Tom (2017)



Since completing her residency training at the University of Washington in 2017, Dr. Laura K. Tom has built a career focused on reconstructive microsurgery and lymphatic surgery. Following residency, she pursued fellowship training in lymphatic surgery at the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona, Spain, with additional training across Europe and Asia. She subsequently joined the faculty at Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she helped establish and grow a lymphatic surgery program.

A Pacific Northwest native, Dr. Tom returned to the region as Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University. At OHSU, she is expanding access to advanced breast reconstruction and lymphatic surgery. Her work reflects the technical excellence, innovation, and patient-centered care that define the UW Plastic Surgery community.

Faculty News and Accomplishments

- Seenu Susarla was named a PRS Top Reviewer.
- Kari Keys became the first female full Professor in UW Division of Plastic Surgery.
- Seenu Susarla was elected Medical Staff President of Seattle Children's Hospital.
- Seenu Susarla was invited as visiting professor at SUNY Upstate, Johns Hopkins, and Yale.
- Shane Morrison was invited to deliver Grand Rounds at Mass General Brigham.
- Craig Birgfeld was invited as keynote speaker at the Brazilian Congress of Craniofacial Surgery.
- Raymond Tse was invited to teach at the International Cleft Palate Master Courses in Amsterdam.



Research SPOTLIGHTS

RESEARCH FELLOWS

UW Plastic Surgery is thrilled to welcome this year's Research Fellows. Five students, selected through a competitive application process, collaborate across the three main campuses to support the growth of research in Breast, Trauma, Nerve, Extremity, and Gender-Affirming Surgery.



ABSTRACTS

PSRC 2026

- **Wang** - *Postoperative outcomes in immediate and delayed sarcoma reconstruction*
- **Keys** - *Risk factors for amputation after lower extremity salvage*
- **Crowe** - *Influence of mechanism of injury on outcomes following lower extremity trauma*
- **Liu** - *Safety of same-day discharge from outpatient complex peripheral nerve surgeries*
- **Liu** - *Characteristics of patients undergoing UE fasciotomies for compartment syndrome*
- **Friedrich** - *Neurotized free flaps for upper extremity reconstruction*
- **Keys** - *Factors affecting healing in necrotizing fasciitis patients undergoing DPC*

PSRC 2026 (cont'd)

Best Paper

- **Liu** - *Psychological impact of delayed peripheral nerve surgery*
- **Morrison** - *Standardizing core outcomes measurement in genital gender-affirming surgery*
- **Morrison** - *Patient-reported outcomes in gender-affirming chest surgery*
- **Morrison** - *Patient-reported outcomes after facial feminization surgery*

ACPA 2026

- **Tse** - *Developing a 3D data-driven model of the unilateral cleft lip nasal deformity in early mixed dentition*

Society of Surgical Oncology 2026

- **Wang** - *Early Outcomes of Immediate Versus Staged Sarcoma Reconstruction*

AWARDS

University of WA Jaconette L. Tietze Young Scientist Award:
Yusha Katie Liu
For stem cell research

ASSH/AFSH Basic Science Grant:
Yusha Katie Liu
Induced pluripotent stem cells to model the neuromuscular junction

ASSH/AFSH Clinical Research Grant:
Christopher Crowe
Electrodiagnostic Features of Hyperselective Neurectomy in the Spastic Upper Limb

Pacific Hospital Preservation and Development Authority Grant:
Shane Morrison
Peer Support Program for Patients Seeking Gender-Affirming Surgery

Education HIGHLIGHTS

UW PRS and ReSurge: DIEP Collaboration in Tanzania

This October, Drs. Shannon Colohan, Olivia Bennett, and Kamlah Zughni, joined by Dr. Suzanne Inchauste (former UW Faculty member, now with U. of Wisconsin), traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with ReSurge International. With surgeons and trainees at Muhimbili National Hospital, the team performed breast reconstruction, revision, and reduction procedures, including Tanzania's first DIEP flap breast reconstruction. The core mission included seminars, patient screening, cadaver dissections, and a rich exchange with Tanzanian colleagues. The visit fostered a shared commitment to expanding access to a wide array of breast surgery. We look forward to a growing collaboration with our Tanzanian partners.



We thank donor Dr. Emilia Ploplys and Doximity for their financial support of this work.

Shaping Smiles in Guatemala



Chief resident, Thais Calderon, traveled to Antigua, Guatemala to participate in a multidisciplinary cleft and craniofacial HUGS Foundation surgical mission alongside UW Craniofacial Fellowship graduate, Dr. Clinton Morrison (URochester Medicine), and Obras Sociales and Tessa Unlimited.
Dr. Calderon expressed profound gratitude to Dr Morrison, Dr. Sara Neimanis and the HUGS Foundation for this amazing opportunity, and for getting to do this with patients and families in her native language. Thank you to the UW Plastic Surgery World Travel Fund and donor Dr. Emilia Ploplys the financial support.

ASSH Resident Scholarship Recipient

PGY4 Resident, Fei Wang, received the ASSH Integrated Plastic Surgery Resident Travel Scholarship to attend the Adrian E. Flatt Residents and Fellows Conference in Hand Surgery and the ASSH 2026 Annual Meeting in Boston.
Dr. Wang has focused interest in hand and upper extremity surgery, including microsurgery, limb salvage, and peripheral nerve.

