SURGERY SYNOPSIS

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



DOUGLAS E. WOOD, MD, FACS, FRCSEd
The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair

As I write this column for the Fall issue of *Surgery Synopsis*, I am struck by a theme that runs through nearly every story in these pages: partnership.

Whether in patient care, research, education, philanthropy, or community engagement, our greatest accomplishments are built through collaboration. The articles in this issue highlight the many ways partnerships strengthen our work and expand our impact.

REGIONAL BURN CENTER AT HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

In this issue, we introduce Dr. **Barclay Stewart**, who became Director of the Regional Burn Center in July 2026, succeeding Dr. **Tam Pham**. Dr. Stewart shares his vision for the future of the Burn Center while honoring the extraordinary foundation built over decades by Drs. Heimbach, Gibran, and Pham.

As he notes, *"For more than 50 years, clinicians, educators, researchers, patients, families, and supporters have helped make our Burn Center the standard-bearer for multidisciplinary burn care and rehabilitation."*

The Burn Center's success is rooted in partnerships. These include collaborations with regional healthcare organizations such as the Alaska Native Medical Center, community partners including the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and the Seattle Fire Department, and the unique Northwest Regional Burn Model System, where burn survivors play an active role in shaping recovery research and supporting patients. Together, these partnerships expand access to care, advance research, and improve outcomes throughout our region. **Read the Burn Center story.**

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (VIPP)

Partnership is also at the heart of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP). Dr. **Deepika Nehra** reflects on the growing toll of gun violence in our region, noting that 350 patients were treated for gun-related injuries in 2025 alone.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

"We are not just a trauma center; we help rebuild lives in our community," she explains. *"As a trauma surgeon, I knew that suturing physical wounds wasn't enough. We needed a comprehensive, wrap-around support system to break the cycle of violence for our patients and their families."*

Established in 2021, VIPP brings together partners across government, public health, and community organizations, including the Washington State Department of Commerce, Public Health-Seattle & King County, and the City of Seattle. Their collective efforts provide support that extends far beyond the hospital walls. **Read the VIPP gun violence story.**

CLINICAL CARE – A PARTNERSHIP OF BROTHERS

In this feature, **Shinjiro Hirose**, MD, and **Ryutaro Hirose**, MD, reflect on a lifetime shaped by family, loss, and a shared commitment to caring for some of the most complex patients in the Pacific Northwest. Their unique collaboration brings together pediatric and transplant surgery expertise, expanding treatment possibilities for children with challenging liver tumors and vascular diseases while demonstrating the power of trust forged long before they entered the operating room. **Read the Hirose brothers' story.**

PHILANTHROPY PARTNERS

Our work is strengthened by the generosity of philanthropic partners who share our commitment to advancing excellence in patient care, research, and education.

Their support fuels innovation, accelerates discovery, expands access to care, and helps ensure that our residency and fellowship programs remain among the nation's best. In this issue, our colleagues in UW Advancement highlight the many ways donor support advances our missions and showcase several inspiring examples of philanthropy's impact on the Department of Surgery. **Read the philanthropy partners story.**

Partnership takes many forms, but its impact is universal. Together, we can accomplish far more than any individual or organization could achieve alone. Whether through collaboration, shared expertise, community engagement, or philanthropy, our partners make it possible for us to fulfill our mission and expand our impact.

2026 SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

Our annual Surgical Ethics Conference (held in September 2026) was a two-day event dedicated to the practical application of ethics in surgical care and education. The intended conference audience is broad, designed for doctors, nurses, advanced practice providers, social workers and administrators.

Practical tools for ethical analysis were introduced in which attendees learned techniques for analyzing and resolving difficult ethical issues in patient care and surgical decision-making. It was an outstanding conference, ending with the presentation of the Surgical Ethics Lifetime Award to Dr. **Ronald Maier**, a recently retired Professor of Surgery. The award honors individuals whose leadership, scholarship, and commitment have had a lasting impact on ethical practice in surgery and healthcare. **Read the 2026 Surgical Ethics conference story.**

2026 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS ANNUAL CLINICAL CONGRESS

A highlight of the year is the American College of Surgeons' annual Clinical Congress. This year was no exception. This year's Clinical Congress featured a comprehensive educational program that included scientific forums, panel discussions, grand rounds, named lectures, video-based education sessions, and emerging topics in clinical informatics and artificial intelligence. The meeting provided an important venue for surgeons and researchers to share cutting-edge discoveries, discuss advances in patient care, and explore the future of surgical practice. The Department of Surgery was well-represented in the presentations, poster sessions, and scientific forums. **Please read about the ACS presentations and see a complete list of presenters and topics.**

AWARDS–HONORS–APPOINTMENTS

We have a number of awards and honors in this issue. These awards and honors highlight these outstanding faculty and also display the importance of philanthropic gifts to the life of the Department.

Dr. **Eileen Bulger** was awarded the Jane and Donald Dr. Trunkey Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery. This Chair supports advanced research and leadership in trauma at UW and HMC. **Read Dr. Bulger's award story.**

Dr. **John Dimarakis** was named the Lester and Connie LeRoss Endowed Professorship in Cardiovascular Surgery. This endowment helps work in developing equipment, procedures, training techniques and personnel to treat heart-related ailments. **Read Dr. Dimarakis' professorship story.**

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The following awards are made possible by the **Kelly and Carlos Pellegrini, MD Endowed Fund for Leadership Development.**

Dr. **Jake Hemingway** was chosen as the representative for the Visiting Professor Exchange Program with the University of Michigan. Dr. Jake Hemingway is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery.

Dr. **John Scott** was chosen to represent the UW in the West Coast Surgery Collaborative Visiting Professor Program. Dr. Scott is an Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care.

CELEBRATIONS

Dr. **Lorrie Langdale** recently retired from UW. A wonderful event celebrating her 41 year-career was held in September. **Read about Dr. Langdale's career and this event.**

Dr. **Stephen Rayhill**, Professor of Transplant Surgery retired October 1, 2026. **Read about Dr. Rayhill's life and career.**

We were also pleased to welcome a number of new faculty members to the Department between July and November. These outstanding individuals were carefully recruited to strengthen and expand our expertise across a range of specialties. I hope you will enjoy learning more about them and the many contributions they will bring to our missions of patient care, research, and education. **Read about our new faculty.**

In addition, we introduce our newest fellows, most of whom began their training in August and September 2026. Our fellowship programs play a vital role in preparing the next generation of surgical leaders, providing advanced training that shapes both careers and the future of our specialty. Many of our fellows go on to join academic faculties, including our own, underscoring the lasting impact of these exceptional programs. **Read about our new fellows.**

Our #Getting To Know DoS (#GTK) features Dr. **Paul Comish**, who is an Assistant Professor, in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care, and is a burn surgeon.

I hope this issue illustrates just how essential partnerships are to everything we do. Our mission is broad, ambitious, and deeply meaningful, but it is not one we can accomplish alone. We rely on the dedication, expertise, collaboration, and generosity of countless partners who help us advance patient care, education, research, and innovation.

To all those who contribute their time, knowledge, and philanthropic support, thank you. Your partnership makes our work possible and strengthens our ability to serve our patients, trainees, and communities.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Surgery Synopsis* and the many stories that demonstrate the power of partnership in advancing our work and serving our communities.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS E. WOOD, MD, FACS, FRCSED
The Henry N. Harkins Professor & Chair
Department of Surgery
University of Washington

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

PHILANTHROPY ADVANCING SURGERY

Across the UW Medicine's Department of Surgery (DoS), innovation and compassionate care go hand in hand. Every day, surgeons, researchers, trainees, and care teams work together to solve complex surgical challenges for patients across Washington and beyond. Philanthropy plays an essential role in advancing that mission, helping expand access to care, fuel discovery, and train the next generation of surgical leaders. In this issue, we feature our valued partners in UW Medicine Philanthropy and where they impact our missions most.

As a major gifts team supporting the DoS, we have the privilege of partnering with donors who are passionate about improving lives through surgical care, research, and education. Their generosity continues to create meaningful momentum across every division of the Department.



ALEX SCHISEL

Divisions of Cardiothoracic, Pediatric, and Vascular Surgery

In **Cardiothoracic Surgery**, donor support over the past three years has significantly advanced the Aortic Research Program, accelerating innovation in the diagnosis and treatment of complex aortic disease. Philanthropy also helped establish the **Aortic Research Fund in Cardiothoracic Surgery** strengthening UW Medicine's leadership in this highly specialized field.

In **Pediatric Surgery**, philanthropy helps ensure children and families receive highly specialized care close to home, supporting research, family-centered care programs, and technologies that improve outcomes for young patients throughout the region. Gifts like the **Herbert E. Coe Endowed Chair in Pediatric Surgery** help foster advancements in the field.

Vascular Surgery has also benefited from transformative philanthropy. An anonymous gift established the **Vascular Residency Research and Program Support Fund**, a dedicated research fellowship that allows residents to spend a full year focused on research outside their clinical rotations, advancing both surgical education and discovery.



KARLA LANDIS

Division of General Surgery

General Surgery continues to drive innovation across a broad range of specialties, while also seeing a groundswell of support for the **Carlos Pellegrini Endowed Professorship**, with the long-term goal of elevating it to an endowed chair in honor of Dr. Pellegrini's enduring impact on academic surgery.



TABITHA CLAUS

Division of Plastic Surgery and Regional Burn/Regional Trauma Center

Plastic Surgery combines reconstructive expertise with innovation to restore both function and confidence for patients recovering from trauma, cancer, burns, and congenital conditions. A recent $250,000 commitment from the Lookout Foundation is supporting Dr. Jeffrey Friedrich and the Multidisciplinary Extremity Reconstruction Consortium at Harborview Medical Center. This work is helping clinicians better determine whether reconstruction or

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

PHILANTHROPY ADVANCING SURGERY

early amputation will provide the best outcomes for patients with severe extremity injuries. Funds like the **Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Research Fund** help support work like this.

The **Trauma, Burns, and Critical Care Surgery division** serves patients during some of the most urgent moments of their lives. A recent anonymous gift of $100,000 to the Harborview Burn Center supported the development of BurnCore, a mobile app designed to help burn survivors navigate recovery through symptom management tools, rehabilitation tracking, and peer support resources. The **UW Regional Burn Center at Harborview Education and Research Endowed Fund** helps support the mission of the Burn Center.





HELEN SCARLETT
Division of Transplant Surgery

NICK LACCINOLE
Division of Transplant Surgery

In **Transplant Surgery**, donor generosity supports patients throughout the transplant journey. After receiving a successful kidney transplant at UW Medicine in 2024, Andrew Storfer, PhD, now supports the **UW Medicine Transplant Institute's Patient Emergency Fund** through annual gifts and a $500,000 estate endowment. His generosity helps kidney transplant patients and caregivers offset housing, travel, and lodging costs during treatment.





JENNIFER BLUME
Division of Healthcare Simulation Science

MADISON GIRARD
Division of Healthcare Simulation Science

Healthcare Simulation Science plays a vital role in preparing healthcare teams through immersive simulation and team-based training through WISH, the WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare, a partnership between the UW School of Medicine, UW Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center. Philanthropy supports development of advanced technologies in CREST, the Center for Research and Education in Simulation Technologies, and educational experiences that improve patient safety and strengthen clinical excellence, such as the Masters of Science in Healthcare Simulation Education. **WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare (WISH) Education and Training Gift Fund**

At the heart of every gift is a shared commitment to improving health and advancing the future of surgery. We are grateful to the alumni, patients, families, faculty, and friends whose generosity continues to strengthen care for communities throughout our region and beyond.

HONORING THE PAST, ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF BURN CARE

LEGACY OF BURN LEADERSHIP

For more than five decades, UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview has served as the Pacific Northwest's leading resource for burn care, combining clinical excellence, research, education, and regional outreach in service of patients and families throughout the region. As the Burn Center has evolved, its leaders have expanded its mission, building on a foundation of exceptional clinical care while advancing recovery, rehabilitation, research, education, and regional partnership.



The center's reputation was established through the leadership of pioneering surgeons who helped shape modern burn care. Dr. **David Heimbach** helped build Harborview into an internationally recognized burn center, advancing innovative approaches to burn treatment while establishing a culture of excellence in patient care, education, and multidisciplinary collaboration that continues today.



Working alongside Dr. Heimbach, Dr. **Loren Engrav** helped broaden the center's impact through advances in reconstructive surgery, rehabilitation, and outcomes research. His work contributed significantly to understanding the long-term effects of burn injury and recovery, reinforcing the center's commitment not only to survival, but to restoring quality of life for burn survivors.



Building on the work of Drs. Heimbach and Engrav, Dr. **Nicole Gibran** guided the Burn Center through an era of academic growth and national prominence. As surgeon, scientist, educator, and mentor, she strengthened the center's culture of inquiry and innovation while advancing research in wound healing, scar formation, and long-term recovery after burn injury. Her commitment to outcomes measurement, quality improvement, multidisciplinary care, and leadership within the burn community helped further establish Harborview as one of the nation's premier burn centers.



Since 2018, Dr. **Tam Pham** has led the Burn Center through a period of modernization and expanded regional engagement. Under his leadership, the center advanced telemedicine, strengthened partnerships throughout the Northwest, enhanced quality and patient experience initiatives, and continued its tradition of excellence in research, education, and clinical care. His tenure further extended Harborview's reach, helping ensure specialized burn expertise is available to communities across the region.

Now, as Dr. Barclay Stewart assumes leadership, he joins a tradition of leaders dedicated to advancing recovery and improving outcomes for burn survivors. A burn, trauma, and critical care surgeon, Dr. Stewart brings expertise in clinical innovation, injury prevention, and long-term recovery research. Together with the Burn Center's multidisciplinary team, he will build on a legacy that has made Harborview a leader in burn care for patients throughout the Northwest and beyond.

ADVANCING CARE, SUPPORTING RECOVERY, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY:

UW MEDICINE REGIONAL BURN CENTER



DR. BARCLAY T. STEWART

Associate Professor, Section Chief, Burn Surgery, Director, UW Medicine Regional Burn Center

A burn injury can change a person's life in an instant, disrupting a parent's livelihood or a child's return to school. Recovery depends on the expertise of care teams and the support of loved ones and communities. These relationships are at the heart of the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center (HMC). As director, I am privileged to build on its legacy of service and innovation by investing in the people and partnerships that make exceptional care possible. My vision is for the Burn Center to set the standard for what burn care can achieve and whom it can reach. Realizing that vision means investing in our faculty and staff, translating innovation into practice, and building systems that make advances in treatment and recovery available to everyone we serve.



Burn nurses preparing procedure areas for wound care. Photo credit: Dan Nolin-Harborview Patient Care Technician & Medical Photographer

A LEGACY ROOTED IN HARBORVIEW'S MISSION

For more than 50 years, clinicians, educators, researchers, patients, families, and supporters have helped make our Burn Center the standard-bearer for multidisciplinary burn care and rehabilitation. We owe much to past directors Drs. **P. William Curreri**, **David M. Heimbach**, **Nicole S. Gibran**, and Tam N. Pham, and longtime associate director Dr. **Loren H. Engrav**. Their leadership established the culture of service and commitment to excellence that define our program, while their research, teaching, and consultation advanced burn care worldwide.

As a public safety net hospital and Level I adult and pediatric trauma center, HMC is committed to exceptional care for every person, regardless of circumstance, and to preparing our region for emergencies of every scale. For the Burn Center, that responsibility begins with caring for people and families facing devastating injuries every day, often compounded by financial hardship, unstable housing, or long distances from specialized services. It extends to strengthening regional capacity to respond when disasters place sudden demands on local care teams.

ADVANCING CARE, SUPPORTING RECOVERY, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY:

UW MEDICINE REGIONAL BURN CENTER

Meeting these needs takes the combined expertise and compassion of nurses, physicians, advanced practice providers, therapists, psychologists, pharmacists, dietitians, social workers, child life specialists, and many others. Collaboration within the Burn Center and across HMC's specialties allows us to treat the most complex injuries and continually improve care. That commitment extends beyond hospitalization, helping people regain function and return to the activities and relationships that matter to them.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXTEND OUR REACH

Strong partnerships help prevent injuries and ensure that specialized care is available when needed. Through outreach and telemedicine, we help regional clinicians care for injured children and adults closer to home and coordinate transfer when needed. Community partnerships extend prevention and care to people facing substantial barriers, including those living unhoused. Collaboration with regional partners, such as Alaska Native Medical Center, connects teams serving rural and remote communities across great distances. These relationships also strengthen our response to extreme weather and wildfires in the Pacific Northwest, including the risks of cold injuries and burns.

HMC's Army Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training program (AMCT3) builds on this commitment to preparedness, helping military surgeons and their teams maintain the skills needed to care for severely injured service members. The exchange of civilian and military expertise within the Burn Center strengthens patient care while preparing teams for the demands of disasters and conflicts.

Regional Burn Center



REGIONAL PRESENCE
2,100+ referrals from WAMI



OUTPATIENT CARE
4,600+ clinic visits including approximately 1,200 pediatric visits



SURGICAL CARE
1,250 cases



CRITICAL CARE CAPACITY
18 ICU beds including 6 pediatric ICU beds



SURVIVAL
96.9% inpatient survival • No pediatric deaths in the last 3 years



OUTREACH & TRAINING
1,192 participants in outreach educational activities



RESEARCH
119 publications since 2024 • 6 randomized studies • 17 multicenter studies • >$5.5M federal funding



INPATIENT CARE
780+ adult and pediatric burn admissions annually plus 300+ Fast Track encounters annually.

ADVANCING CARE, SUPPORTING RECOVERY, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY:

UW MEDICINE REGIONAL BURN CENTER



Window view Harborview 8th floor, East Hospital. Photo credit: Dan Nolin-Harborview Patient Care Technician & Medical Photographer





Burn Center Staff at Camp Eyabsut's Annual Chili Cookoff event.

Shared learning also guides our research. Researchers in the Burn Center collaborate with innovators across UW, people living with burn injury, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, the Seattle Fire Department, and other burn centers to address patient and community priorities. Through HMC's Northwest Regional Burn Model System, supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, burn survivors help guide recovery research and create practical resources for patients, families, and community providers.

With partners in Nepal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, and Ethiopia, the Burn Center has led in the development of practical approaches to burn and blast injury care suited to available resources and the demands of austere settings. Learning together helps us put effective solutions into practice where care is most difficult to deliver.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT CHAPTER

King County voters' overwhelming approval of the HMC bond measure in 2020 affirmed the hospital's essential role in caring for injured our region, particularly its most vulnerable residents. Through the HMC Bond Program, King County and UW Medicine are working together to develop a new inpatient medical tower and improve essential hospital facilities. For the Burn Center, it offers an opportunity to plan spaces that better support emergency and surgical care, rehabilitation, and the participation of families in care.

ADVANCING CARE, SUPPORTING RECOVERY, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY:

UW MEDICINE REGIONAL BURN CENTER

Philanthropy can complement this public investment by preparing our staff and programs for the transition. The *Burn Memorial Discretionary Fund* supports access to specialized equipment and services, as well as training for our growing team. It can also help launch research responsive to patients' needs and sustain initiatives to improve care. These investments support the people who choose this demanding work and benefit patients throughout the program.

Patients and families, faculty and staff, community partners, and donors all have a part in shaping what comes next. Shared commitment makes it possible to help people through the most difficult moments of their lives and support their return to the communities they call home.

BARCLAY T. STEWART, MD, PHD, FACS, FABA

Director, UW Medicine Regional Burn Center

SUPPORT THE BURN MEMORIAL DISCRETIONARY FUND

Your caring support covers vital needs at the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview, ensuring patients receive the very best in burn injury care.

GIVE NOW

ALL IN THE FAMILY

TWO BROTHERS, ONE MISSION



DR. RYUTARO HIROSE

Professor & Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery, Interim Chief of Pediatric Transplant Surgical Director, UW Medicine Transplant Institute and Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery



DR. SHINJIRO HIROSE

Professor, Executive Director, Fetal Center and Division Head of Fetal Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital

For brothers **Shinjiro Hirose**, MD and **Ryutaro Hirose**, MD, surgery is more than a profession. It is a family legacy, a shared calling forged by personal loss, decades of training, and an uncommon trust that now helps some of the region's most complex patients.

Today, Dr. Ryutaro Hirose, Surgical Director of the **UW Medicine Transplant Institute** and Chief of the **Division of Transplant Surgery**, specializes in liver transplantation and complex vascular reconstruction. His younger brother, Dr. Shinjiro Hirose, Executive Director of the **Fetal Center** and Division Head of **Fetal Surgery at Seattle Children's**, focuses on pediatric and fetal surgery. Though their specialties differ, the brothers increasingly find themselves side by side in the operating room, combining expertise to treat children with challenging liver tumors and vascular disease.

THEIR PATHWAYS INTO SURGERY BEGAN DIFFERENTLY

For Ryutaro, the defining moment came during his first year of medical school, when renowned transplant surgeon, Dr. Keith Reemtsma, invited him to observe a heart transplant. Watching a donor heart begin beating inside a recipient's chest was transformative.

"I was astonished," Ryutaro recalled. "That's when I first thought about being a surgeon." The experience ultimately led him to transplant surgery, a field that appealed to his desire to combine the problem-solving of internal medicine with the technical demands of surgery.

Shinjiro's journey was less direct. Initially trained and employed as a mechanical engineer, he entered medical school expecting to pursue orthopedics or trauma surgery. During residency, however, encounters with several gifted pediatric surgeons reshaped his plans. Their ability to care for children with congenital anomalies, trauma, and cancer inspired him to pursue pediatric surgery, eventually leading him to fetal surgery and complex hepatobiliary care.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

TWO BROTHERS, ONE MISSION

UNDERLYING BOTH CAREERS WAS A PROFOUNDLY PERSONAL INFLUENCE

When the brothers were young, their mother died of metastatic breast cancer at age 43. Ryutaro was 16, younger sister Keiko was 14, Shinjiro 13, and Kenzo, the youngest, was seven. The loss left a lasting mark on the family and helped shape the futures of all four siblings from their mother's first marriage, each of whom eventually entered medicine and academic surgery.

"It was a sad event," Ryutaro said, "but it probably helped move us along a career where we all wanted to be physicians."



The Hirose siblings: (top right-left) Keiko Hirose, Shinjiro Hirose, (bottom right-left) Kenzo Hirose, and Ryutaro Hirose.



Shinjiro Hirose, Kenzo Hirose (center), and Ryutaro Hirose perform a kidney transplant at UCSF, where Ryutaro served as a faculty member while his brothers trained in surgery.

The brothers' professional relationship stretches back decades. While Ryutaro was a transplant fellow, Shinjiro was an intern who occasionally joined him on organ procurement trips. Later, all three Hirose brothers, including their youngest brother, hepatobiliary surgeon Kenzo Hirose, MD, trained or served on faculty at University of California San Francisco (UCSF), where Ryutaro frequently assisted his younger brothers with demanding tumor operations involving major blood vessels.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

TWO BROTHERS, ONE MISSION



A childhood photo of Dr. Ryutaro Hirose (left), sibling Keiko (right), and baby Shinjiro with their mother.

THEIR COLLABORATION CONTINUES TODAY IN SEATTLE

Both surgeons share a common interest in liver surgery, albeit from different perspectives. Shinjiro brings expertise in pediatric surgical oncology and the unique needs of children, while Ryutaro contributes advanced transplant techniques and extensive experience reconstructing major blood vessels. Together, they have performed complex operations involving large liver tumor resections and reconstruction of the inferior vena cava, procedures that draw heavily from transplant surgery techniques.

THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER ARE SUBSTANTIAL

After a lifetime of knowing one another, communication comes naturally. “There’s not much that’s unexpected,” Ryutaro said.

Shinjiro describes an even deeper level of trust during high-stakes procedures. When facing life-threatening operations, he says, there is comfort in knowing exactly how his brother thinks and works. The familiarity eliminates many of the communication hurdles that can arise when specialists from different disciplines meet for the first time in the operating room.



Shinjiro with his father, Mr. Hirose

ALL IN THE FAMILY

TWO BROTHERS, ONE MISSION

As for drawbacks, both struggle to identify any significant ones. Ryutaro jokes that he may occasionally revert to his role as the older brother. Shinjiro's chief concern is choosing the music in the operating room.

More importantly, their partnership expands what's possible for patients.

By combining pediatric surgery and transplant expertise, the brothers can tackle tumors that might otherwise be considered difficult or even unresectable. Their collaborative approach gives patients access to a broader range of surgical options and allows multiple specialists to evaluate treatment strategies together.

Looking ahead, both envision building an even more integrated pediatric hepatobiliary program, bringing together transplant surgery, pediatric surgery, hepatology, gastroenterology, interventional radiology, intensive care, and anesthesia. The goal is a deliberately multidisciplinary model of care that offers children and families the benefit of collective expertise.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT WILL PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THAT VISION

The brothers point to three primary needs: advancing research into pediatric abdominal tumors and transplantation, supporting education and training opportunities for future surgeons, and helping families who travel long distances for care. Housing, transportation, and caregiver support remain significant challenges for many patients receiving highly specialized treatment in Seattle.

For the Hirose brothers, however, the story is ultimately about more than surgery. It is about family, resilience, and a shared commitment to helping patients facing their most difficult moments.

"It's really fun to keep it in the family," Ryutaro said. And for patients who benefit from the combined talents of two brothers at the operating table, it is a family tradition making a very real difference.

TRANSPLANT SERVICE GIFT FUND

Advance transplantation through surgeon education and research at UW Medicine.

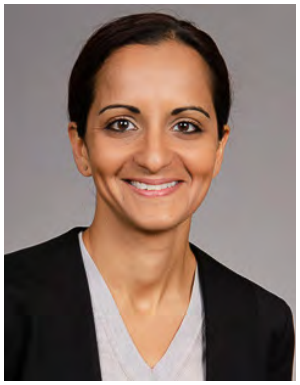
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SUPPORT SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Explore ways to donate to Seattle Children's Hospital

GIVE NOW

FROM CRISIS TO CARE:
HARBORVIEW'S RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE



DEEPIKA NEHRA, MD

Associate Professor, Medical Director, Violence Intervention & Prevention Program, Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

As trauma surgeons, we see the devastating toll of gun violence firsthand in our operating rooms every single day.

Harborview remains at the absolute center of this crisis in our region. In the last year alone, 350 patients came through our emergency doors with gun-related injuries, and many others sought post-injury and follow-up care in our outpatient clinics.

As the provider of care for approximately 99 percent of gun-related injuries in King County—alongside a significant portion of patients from across Washington State—we bear a profound responsibility. We are not just a trauma center; we help rebuild lives in our community when tragedy strikes.

OUR EVOLUTION: FROM EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO STATEWIDE CARE

When we launched the **Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP)** in 2021, we were responding to a deeply concerning spike in gun violence during the pandemic.

As a trauma surgeon, I knew that suturing physical wounds wasn't enough. We needed a comprehensive, wrap-around support system to break the cycle of violence for our patients and their families. And so, we built a team to do just this.

Initially, our outreach focused on teenagers and young adults. However, we soon recognized the need for a broader, public-health-driven perspective.

In July 2022, we expanded VIPP to serve *any* accidental or violent gun-related injury from Washington state cared for at Harborview. This work and vital expansion of the work is made possible by ongoing generous grant funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce, Public Health—Seattle & King County and the City of Seattle.

While the statistic of 350 patients this past year is sobering, it actually represents a meaningful decline from our peak in 2023,

> *"We are not just a trauma center; we help rebuild lives in our community when tragedy strikes."*

FROM CRISIS TO CARE:
HARBORVIEW'S RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE

when we treated nearly 600 individuals. This downward trend is a testament to what happens when we unite people across a common goal. We are seeing the impact of collaborative work spanning law enforcement, healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and advocates. A cornerstone of this effort is our partnership with community-based organizations doing critical work in this space.

THE VIPP TEAM: CULTIVATING TRUST AND EMPATHY

The VIPP team has become a meaningful and vital part of our trauma care continuum. Our team bridges the gap between the sterile environment of the hospital and the lived realities of our patients. I am proud to introduce the dedicated and passionate members of our growing team.

One of our first full-time hires was Paul J. Carter III, a former Harborview trauma patient himself. Paul's transition from a dedicated volunteer to a full-time Violence Intervention Prevention Specialist was natural. Because he knows firsthand the grueling road to recovery after a gunshot wound, he connects with patients from a place of profound, authentic empathy. We have since expanded the team to include Tarrell Harrison Jr., another incredible specialist who holds deep, trusted connections across communities impacted by gun violence.

As lifelong Seattle residents, Paul and Tarrell are instrumental in building community trust. They help us treat the psychological and emotional wounds inflicted by trauma, not just the physical ones.

Rounding out our multi-disciplinary team of compassionate experts are:

LAURA JOHNSON
Program Manager & Clinical Supervisor

BELÉN SÁNCHEZ
Social Work Assistant

JANITSA DOLAN
Outpatient Clinical Social Worker

DRA THOMPSON
Inpatient Clinical Social Worker

SARA MILLER
Trauma Therapist & Social Worker

MIMI ROGERS
Administrative Assistant

JACLYN COOK
Associate Director of Social Work

DEEPIKA NEHRA, MD
Medical Director

Our team doesn't just stay within the hospital walls; they proactively sit and listen in community meetings, building transparent feedback loops. When they bring tough feedback back to our clinical and trauma teams, it sparks

FROM CRISIS TO CARE:
HARBORVIEW'S RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE

difficult, necessary conversations about how we can evolve our care. Listening ensures we remain a true resource for the people we serve.

THE CONTINUUM OF CARE: HOW VIPP WORKS

Our intervention begins the moment a patient arrives in the Emergency Department (ED). While our ED social workers manage the immediate crisis and contact family members, Paul or Tarrell step in to meet with the patient and their support system, establishing rapport and acting as their advocate and mentor throughout their hospitalization.

Recognizing that financial and social instability can hinder physical recovery, our Social Work Assistant (Belén) and Clinical Social Workers (Dra and Janitsa), step in to connect families with critical resources. This includes everything from food resources and medical transportation to help applying for Crime Victim's Compensation. In fact, through Belén's dedicated work, we have been able to recoup over $2.7 million for our patients through the Crime Victims Compensation program alone since 2023. We also provide immediate relief funds for families, offering parking passes, meal vouchers, and gas cards so loved ones can afford to be at the bedside.

When a patient is discharged, our work is far from over. Paul and Tarrell maintain consistent contact, while Janitsa and Dra ensure patients return to our outpatient clinics for essential follow-up care. Our social workers actively work to dismantle barriers to keeping these appointments, trying to ensure adequate follow-up medical and surgical care in addition to continuously assessing ongoing psychosocial needs.

"What makes VIPP truly remarkable is our warm-handoff approach. We don't just hand a patient a resource list at discharge and wish them luck."

What makes VIPP truly remarkable is our warm-handoff approach. We don't just hand a patient a resource list at discharge and wish them luck. We make the phone calls, schedule the appointments, and ensure they are fully connected to the right systems before they leave. Additionally, we have partnered with the Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center, where our Trauma Therapist, Sara, is located and meets with our patients and families working with the program to address their mental health needs.

As medical professionals and community members, we will continue to do the heavy, vital work of turning trauma into recovery.

SUPPORT THE TRAUMA SURGERY RESEARCH FUND

Help transform trauma care by supporting pioneering research at Harborview Medical Center.

GIVE NOW

Getting To Know DoS



Paul Comish, MD

Assistant Professor

Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

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

No. I initially thought that I was going to do urology, which I guess is still among the surgical fields, but I wanted something more general and with more breadth of procedures, so I decided to do general surgery, and then it really wasn't until general surgery residency that I knew I wanted to focus more on burn surgery.

WHAT'S YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH, AND HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED OR INTERESTED?

My interests are in burn, infection, inflammation, and resuscitation, and I had a lot of exposure to all of these as a resident. I really found it fascinating how these patients came in with an acute injury that lasted for such a long time.



First application of Cutiss denovoSkin™ in the United States at Massachusetts General Hospital. Paul Comish (Far Left), former mentor Jeremy Goverman (Fourth from Left).



Paul Comish (second from right) celebrates his general surgery residency graduation with parents George Comish (left) and Sandra Comish (second from left) and husband, Chris Bright.

There wasn't a lot of evidence on how to tone down the inflammation from those injuries. These patients go on to have horrible infections and things that you treat for many months, and that's what initially got me interested in inflammation.

Currently, I'm doing some quality improvement projects on our burn patients, looking at their infection rates and recovery from that, and some special dressings that we use.

Getting To Know DoS

Paul Comish, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery

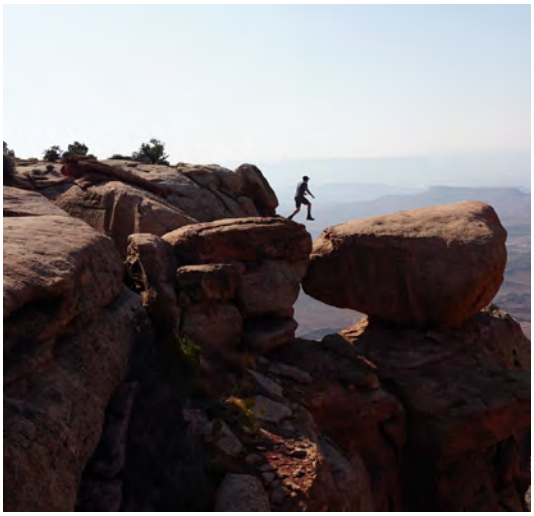


WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST CHALLENGING IN YOUR SURGICAL CAREER?

I would say the most difficult thing as a burn surgeon is dealing with a patient population who may not have access to the best socioeconomic resources. And so you have to be creative in how you treat some of these patients. It's not cookie-cutter. Some patients may need one surgery, and you try to do the best you can to optimize them and give them skin grafts or whatever it is they need, and other patients, you're able to really do thorough and good wound care, because they have access to more resources. Becoming creative in how you treat patients can be difficult and challenging at times.



Paul Comish and Chris Bright (husband) golfing at Marina Vallarta Golf Course in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.





TOP PHOTO: Paul Comish jumping over a small gap at Island in the Sky, Canyonlands, Utah.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Paul Comish finishing the descent of the Huemul Circuit, Patagonia, Argentina.

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

I am the quality improvement lead for our burn surgery division, and we have grown the Burn Center in the Division of Trauma, Burns and Critical Care. A key success has been growing the Burn Center's quality improvement program to actively engage nursing and occupational therapy teams. This has sparked meaningful interest in research, resulting in new quality improvement projects and scholarly activities, including work that is being advanced for presentation at national professional meetings.

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

I'd say when you're trying to choose a specialty, the people that you surround yourself with are important, because they give you good advice. I would say the best advice that I got was do the job that you would do if you were not getting a paycheck. Secondly,

Paul Comish, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery



whatever field you decide to go into, whatever the worst scenario in that field is, if you're okay doing that, then you're okay doing that field. And I would say that's held true.

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

I would say I am very approachable, and I am known as the nice guy as far as personality goes. I think it has been brought up many times that I don't have the typical personality for a surgeon. I'm a typical nice guy, I guess, as they would say. And then, professionally, I would say being dedicated, I think.

Rapid Fire

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK THAT YOU READ?

I am a huge sci-fi nerd. The book I'm reading now is *Dungeon Crawler Carl* by Matt Dinniman.

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU WATCHING RIGHT NOW?

I just finished the most recent season of "Alone." It's a series with 11 or 12 outdoorsmen, left alone in the woods to fend for themselves, and it's a reality competition.

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO SNACK?

String cheese. I eat a lot of string cheese.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GUILTY PLEASURE?

Sci-fi movies and sci-fi fiction—I like a lot of sci-fi.

WHO IS YOUR INSPIRATION, AND WHY?

Professionally, I would say my biggest inspiration is my mentor, Dr. Jeremy Goverman, from Mass General in Boston. He was my mentor during my fellowship. He's a burn and plastic surgeon who really sort of indoctrinated me in how to be successful and how to be efficient in the OR, and how to manage patients properly. I still keep in contact with him.

Personally, I would say my mom. She was the breadwinner of the family, and she always took care of us, made dinner, went to work, just kind of did it all. So, something to strive for!

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

I guess a lot of people think I look like John Cusack, so I guess I'd say John Cusack.

HARKINS CORNER

A YEAR OF CONNECTION AND GENEROSITY



JONATHAN G. SHAM, MD, MBEE, FACS
Associate Professor,
President,
Henry N. Harkins Surgical Society

The Harkins Society exists to keep the University of Washington (UW) surgical family connected across generations, and this fall brought two memorable reminders of what that community looks like.

At the American College of Surgeons' Clinical Congress in Washington, DC, the Society hosted its annual reception, bringing together alumni, faculty, and trainees from across the country. It was a wonderful evening of reunions and introductions. Former co-residents caught up, alumni met current trainees, and we celebrated the many ways our graduates are shaping surgery nationally. Thank you to everyone who made time to join us during a busy meeting.

In October, more than 70 residents, faculty, and alumni gathered for the Annual Harkins Society Banquet to honor the retirements of four legends of UW Surgery: Drs. **Lorrie Langdale**, **David Byrd**, **Nick Vedder**, and **Ronald Maier**. Together, they have trained generations of surgeons, built programs that define our department, and set the standard for what it means to be a surgeon, teacher, and colleague. We were also honored to welcome Dr. Anton Sidawy as this year's Strauss Lecturer and to recognize Dr. **James Grotting** as the Harkins Distinguished Alumnus. It was a night to remember, filled with stories, laughter, and gratitude, and a powerful reminder of the legacy each of us inherits.

That legacy lives on in the Society's support of our residents, and nowhere is it more visible than in the ***Harkins Scholars Program***. Funded entirely by alumni gifts, the program had another banner year. Now in its fourth year, it has helped more than 60 trainees from every residency program attend national meetings and professional development programs, including conferences hosted by the American Burn Association, the American Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Scholars have presented research, attended advocacy summits, and connected with leaders across their fields. These experiences offer exposure to the latest advances, a broader view of their specialty, and professional networks that can help launch their careers. All of this is made possible by your involvement and generosity.

None of this happens without you. Every gift to the Harkins Society goes directly to our trainees. It sends a resident to present their first national abstract, opens doors to new mentors and opportunities, and keeps our alumni community strong. As you consider your philanthropic priorities this year, I hope you will make the Harkins

HARKINS CORNER

A YEAR OF CONNECTION AND GENEROSITY

Society one of them. Whether you are a recent graduate or a longtime supporter, your gift makes a lasting difference for the surgeons who follow in your footsteps.

Beyond giving, we'd love to have you join us at next year's reception and banquet—details coming soon!

With gratitude,

JONATHAN G. SHAM, MD, MBEE, FACS
Associate Professor
President, Henry N. Harkins Surgical Society

SUPPORT THE HARKINS ANNUAL FUND FOR SURGERY RESIDENT EDUCATION

Your generous support of the Department of Surgery's Harkins Annual Fund for Surgery Resident Education helps us support the educational activities for department residents, including research, travel, conference participation, and supplies.

GIVE NOW









FIRST PHOTO: Dr. Jonathan Sham

SECOND PHOTO: Drs. Gabe Wallace, Meera Kotagal, Mukta Krane, Andrew Mesher, Jonathan Sham

THIRD PHOTO: Drs. Chris Childers, Rhea Udyavar, Shilpa Murthy, Anton McCourtie, Christina Graber, Barclay Stewart, Tommy McNally, Rebecca Petersen, Jonathan Sham, Scott Brakenridge

FOURTH PHOTO: Drs. Douglas Wood, Morgan Richards, Jonathan Sham, Andrew Mesher, Gabe Wallace, Lorrie Langdale, Meghan Flanagan

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS 2026 CLINICAL CONGRESS

CELEBRATING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Department of Surgery (DoS) faculty, residents, fellows, and research trainees showcased their latest scientific discoveries at the **2026 American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress**, held September 26-29 in Washington, DC. The annual meeting is one of the largest gatherings of surgeons and surgical professionals in the world, bringing together more than 10,000 attendees for four days of education, research, collaboration, and innovation across the surgical specialties.

This year's Clinical Congress featured a comprehensive educational program that included scientific forums, panel discussions, grand rounds, named lectures, video-based education sessions, and emerging topics in clinical informatics and artificial intelligence. The meeting provided an important venue for surgeons and researchers to share cutting-edge discoveries, discuss advances in patient care, and explore the future of surgical practice.

Through oral presentations, posters, scientific forums, and video sessions, DoS investigators highlighted research spanning clinical outcomes, surgical education, health services research, quality improvement, translational science, and innovative approaches to patient care.

Participation in Clinical Congress reflects the department's ongoing commitment to advancing surgical knowledge and improving outcomes for patients locally and around the world.

Below is a list of DoS presentations featured at 2026 ACS Clinical Congress:

GRIFFEN ALLEN, MD, MBE

Research Resident

"Antibiotics-First Treatment of Appendicitis: Use and Outcomes Beyond the Research Setting"

"Is the Use of Antibiotics for the Treatment of Appendicitis Really Cost Saving: A Cost Analysis of the Comparison of Outcomes of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial"

(In addition to presenting two research studies, Dr. Allen was selected to present in the Clinical Congress "Exceptional Quick Shot" presentation session, a distinction that recognizes outstanding research and highlights notable contributions to the meeting program.)

ERIKA BISGAARD, MD

Assistant Professor

"Evaluating Hybrid Versus Traditional ATLS Learner Outcomes"

SCOTT BRAKENRIDGE, MD

Professor

"Introduction of the 2026 Owen H. Wangensteen Scientific Forum Dedicatee"

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS 2026 CLINICAL CONGRESS

CELEBRATING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

JASON CARTER, MD
Research Resident
"Spatial Transcriptomics Reveals Targetable Immune Niches in Fibrolamellar Carcinoma"

LILY CHANG, MD
Professor

MICHELLE JU, MD
Assistant Professor
"Beyond the CV: Interview Skills for the Next Step"

E. PATCHEN DILLINGER, MD
Professor Emeritus
"Implementation of SSI Prevention Bundles That Limit Unnecessary Antibiotic Exposure"

KRISTIN GOODSELL, MD
Research Resident
"Exploring the Role of Osteopontin Secretion by Macrophages in Anti-Tumor Immunity in Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases"

SARAH GREENBERG, MD, MPH
Associate Professor

ERICA JOHNSON, MD
Pediatric Surgery Fellow
"Systemic Barriers To Training Black American Surgeons: From Segregation To Civil Rights"

ANUSHA JAYARAM, MD
Pediatric Surgery Fellow
"Fire Safety Resources and Practices in Rural Nepal: Results from a Community-Stratified, Population-Proportional, Cluster Randomized Household Survey"

GRACE KENNEDY
Medical Student
"Blood Product Utilization in Trauma: Accounting for Patient Heterogeneity in Resource Planning"

REBECCA PETERSEN, MD, MSC
Associate Professor
"Panelist of Panel II: Finding Meaning and Sustainability for Program Directors and Residency Leadership"

JAMIE SCHNUCK, MD
Research Resident
"Use of a Mediterranean Diet Intervention to Prevent Recurrent Diverticulitis"

DOUGLAS WOOD, MD
The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair
"Workplace Standards for Surgeons"

The department congratulates all presenters and contributing research teams for sharing their work on this national stage and representing the University of Washington DoS at one of surgery's premier scientific meetings.

2026 SURGICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

GUIDING ETHICAL DECISIONS IN SURGERY

The annual Surgical Ethics Conference, which occurred in September in the Health Sciences Education Building, returned as a two-day continuing medical education event dedicated to the practical application of ethics in surgical care and education. Designed for surgeons, anesthesiologists, surgical nurses, physician assistants, social workers, and hospital administrators, the conference was intended to provide valuable tools to address complex ethical challenges encountered in clinical practice. Presenters included distinguished faculty from the University of Washington as well as nationally recognized experts from outside institutions, offering a broad range of insights on ethics in healthcare and surgery.

These tools for ethical analysis were introduced during the Department of Bioethics and Humanities' Summer Seminar in Health Care Ethics, featuring the "four-box method" of ethical analysis developed by Albert Jonsen, Mark Siegler, and William Winslade in *Clinical Ethics*. Through this structured approach, attendees learned practical techniques for analyzing and resolving difficult ethical issues in patient care and surgical decision-making.



Drs. Alberto Ferreres, Ron Maier, and Andrew Wright address attendees during Grand Rounds at the 2026 Department of Surgery Surgical Ethics Conference.

The Surgical Ethics Conference featured specialty-specific discussions that examined bioethical questions across a range of surgical disciplines, expert-led lectures, and multidisciplinary small-group discussions. The interactive format fostered meaningful dialogue and provided opportunities for attendees to apply ethical analysis methods to real-world cases.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the **Surgical Ethics Lifetime Award** to Dr. **Ronald Maier**, former Surgeon-in-Chief at Harborview Medical Center and recently retired Professor of Surgery at the University of Washington. Dr. Maier, who also delivered the Grand Rounds presentation titled "*Our Calling*," was recognized for his exceptional and enduring contributions to the field of surgical ethics. **View Dr. Ron Maier's Grand Rounds presentation**. The award honors individuals whose leadership, scholarship, and commitment have had a lasting impact on ethical practice in surgery and healthcare.

Through its combination of education, discussion, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the Annual Surgical Ethics Conference continues to advance ethical excellence in surgical care while equipping healthcare professionals with practical skills to navigate the increasingly complex moral dimensions of modern medicine.

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

Your generous support of the Department of Surgery's Kelly and Carlos Pellegrini, MD Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Surgical Ethics helps us enhance the University's ability to recruit, retain, and/or provide opportunities for professional development for faculty in the Department of Surgery.

GIVE NOW

CELEBRATING DR. LORRIE LANGDALE

FOUR DECADES OF MENTORSHIP AND IMPACT



LORRIE LANGDALE, MD
PROFESSOR

The University of Washington (UW) Department of Surgery (DoS) and VA Division of Surgery hosted a wonderful celebration in honor of Dr. **Lorrie Langdale**'s 41-year career, the evening of September 19, 2026, at a beautiful event space in the Woodland Park Zoo. Dr. Langdale was honored by many attendees, including Drs. **Douglas Wood**, **Roger Tatum**, **Deborah Marquardt**, **Eileen Bulger**, **Ronald Maier**, **Sam Arbabi**, as well as **Alex Lee** from the Department of Anesthesiology, who all gave speeches praising her calm, yet powerful, leadership. The event was well attended by faculty from all clinical sites across the DoS, as well as former trainees and multiple faculty across many other services and divisions, a testimony to Dr. Langdale's broad and profound impact on the Department, VA Puget Sound, and the UW.

Dr. Langdale, a graduate of both the UW College of Arts and Sciences and the UW School of Medicine, came to the UW DoS and the Seattle VA in 1985, after completing her surgical training in general surgery and surgical critical care. Her multiple contributions to the Department and beyond were highlighted at the party, including leading and developing educational programs for the School of Medicine, General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care residency and fellowship training programs, and tenure and leadership locally and nationally, including the presidency of the Seattle Surgical Society, Washington American College of Surgeons (ACS) Chapter, and Pacific Coast Surgical Association; her service on the ACGME Board of Directors; Governor for the ACS; and leading the ACS Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP) through present day. She is also only one of a select few faculty members to have been awarded the John K. Stevenson Resident Teaching Award twice. Dr. Langdale officially retired from full-time practice in June of this year but will continue to remain active clinically and in education, providing intermittent surgical ICU care coverage, continuing to lead the SESAP, and providing ongoing contributions to resident mentorship through participation in The Forum, a resident-led monthly gathering that incorporates attending surgeons as mentors on a rotating or invitational basis.



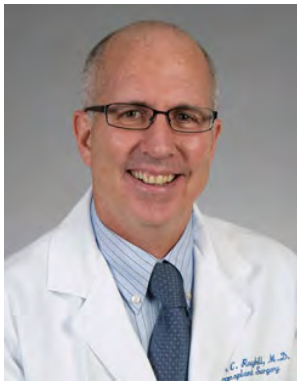
At her retirement celebration, Dr. Lorrie Langdale shares memories of bringing residents to Pilates class.



Dr. Lorrie Langdale with colleagues Drs. Deborah Marquardt, Nicole Zern, Ted Kohler, and Douglas Wood during her retirement celebration.

REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN TRANSPLANT SURGERY:

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. STEPHEN RAYHILL



STEPHEN RAYHILL, MD
PROFESSOR
Division of Transplant Surgery

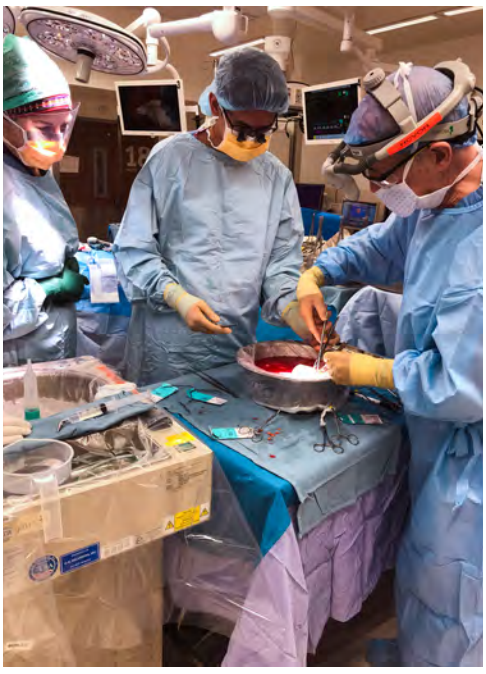
Few careers in medicine follow a straight path. For Dr. Stephen Rayhill, Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery, the road to leadership in transplantation was shaped by personal experience, intellectual curiosity, and a lifelong connection to the Pacific Northwest. His journey reflects how diverse life experiences can converge in a career dedicated to saving lives.

Dr. Rayhill's interest in medicine began with a personal experience. As a young man, he watched his mother undergo life-saving heart surgery. Seeing the impact physicians had on her recovery revealed both the scientific and human dimensions of medicine and inspired him to pursue a medical career.

His route to medicine, however, was far from traditional. As a liberal arts student, Dr. Rayhill explored a wide range of interests. He studied physics, played football, and pursued outdoor adventures, including skiing, surfing, and lifeguarding. He also spent time traveling, programming computers, and studying literature and philosophy. These varied experiences helped develop the perspective, adaptability, and resilience that would later benefit him as a surgeon.

The Pacific Northwest became part of his story long before he settled there professionally. Time spent in Alaska and throughout the region fostered a strong appreciation for its landscapes, communities, and culture. The combination of natural beauty and innovation left a lasting impression that would later influence major career decisions.

After completing his pre-medical studies, Dr. Rayhill attended Columbia University for medical school. There, he developed a strong interest in cardiovascular science and conducted research in cardiac electrophysiology. His commitment to scientific inquiry continued during his



Dr. Rayhill doing a prep of a kidney for transplantation with a nurse and a fellow.

REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN TRANSPLANT SURGERY:

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. STEPHEN RAYHILL

surgical residency at Stanford University, where he studied left ventricular mechanics. These experiences strengthened his understanding of complex physiology and reinforced the value of combining research with clinical care.

A pivotal turning point came when Dr. Rayhill was introduced to transplant surgery through mentors and colleagues. He subsequently entered the transplant fellowship program at the University of Wisconsin (UW-Madison), where he discovered a specialty that combined technical surgical skill, scientific innovation, and the opportunity to dramatically improve patients' lives. The field quickly became his professional calling.



Wife Reny and Stephen with daughters, Corrigan, Josie and Maisie.

After completing the fellowship at the UW-Madison, Dr. Rayhill worked at the University of Iowa (UI) as an assistant professor, for several years. It was an especially memorable era of his career–at UI he not only performed a liver transplant in the heaviest transplant patient (550 pounds) to enter their operating rooms, but also performed surgery on the smallest living liver donor (a five pound, 18-day old baby)!

Dr. Rayhill later returned to the Pacific Northwest to join Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where he served as Director of Pancreas Transplantation and Director of Diseased Donor Kidney Transplantation, and also helped develop their pediatric and donor liver transplant programs. As his career progressed, he collaborated with physicians and healthcare leaders across the country, including colleagues at the University of Washington (UW). Those relationships, coupled with his longstanding appreciation for Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, eventually led him to a new opportunity.

In 2010, Dr. Rayhill joined the Division of Transplant Surgery in the Department of Surgery (DoS) at UW, as a professor. Not only did he hold several leadership positions that helped shape the institution's transplant programs, but for several years he also was able to have an impact nationally in his role as Chair of the OPTN/UNOS Liver-Kidney Transplantation Subcommittee and Kidney Transplantation Committee.

REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER IN TRANSPLANT SURGERY:

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. STEPHEN RAYHILL



Dr. Rayhill working in the fishing industry in beautiful, remote, and dangerous Yakutat Alaska before bringing 250,000 lbs of frozen salmon down to his first (and inspiring) visit to Seattle.

During his tenure in the DoS, the transplant team more than doubled the number of kidney transplants, ranking within the top ten percent in the nation for liver and kidney patient graft survival (despite using higher risk grafts), and were consequently awarded the Collaborative Innovation and Improvement Network Center of Excellence Award. They are one of the few programs in the country to maintain a consistent five-star rating for both rate of transplantation and kidney transplant outcomes. And if those honorable recognitions were not impressive enough, more recently UW Medical Center's Kidney Transplant Program was awarded INTERLINK's 2025 Chairman's Award for Transplant Excellence (Interlink is a national managed care company) as the top-performing kidney transplant program in the nation.



Stephen, Bruce Springstein, and daughters Corrigan and Josie.

For Dr. Rayhill, the rewards of transplant surgery extend beyond technical achievement. Throughout his career, he has witnessed transplantation transform the lives of patients and families facing life-threatening disease. His journey from student and adventurer to transplant surgeon illustrates how personal experiences, mentorship, scientific inquiry, and a deep connection to the Pacific Northwest shaped a career devoted to advancing transplantation and giving patients a second chance at life.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY



LAURA BARNES, MD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Dr. Barnes is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon who joined the University of Washington faculty in September. Originally trained as an engineer, she earned her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Duke University before attending Tulane University School of Medicine. She then completed her plastic surgery residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), followed by a microsurgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Barne's clinical practice focuses on complex oncologic reconstruction, including reconstruction following treatment of breast cancer, sarcoma, and other challenging oncologic defects. She has expertise in microsurgical and other advanced reconstructive techniques, with an emphasis on developing individualized reconstructive plans that restore form and function while integrating with patients' broader cancer treatment. Her research has focused on improving outcomes in reconstructive surgery, particularly breast reconstruction, including the impact of radiation therapy, patient factors, timing of reconstruction, and strategies to reduce postoperative complications. She has also studied the breast microbiome and its relationship to infection in implant-based breast reconstruction, with the goal of better understanding and preventing reconstructive infections. More broadly, she is interested in clinically meaningful research that improves surgical decision-making, patient outcomes, and the overall experience of cancer care.

Dr. Barnes is also passionate about surgical education, mentorship, and developing supportive training environments. During residency, she served in leadership and mentorship roles within UCSF and participated in national committees through the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, that focused on clinical research and resident education.

Outside of work, Dr. Barnes enjoys spending time with her husband and children and is greatly looking forward to exploring the Pacific Northwest.



DANIELLE EBLE, MD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Dr. Eble is a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon who joined the University of Washington (UW) and Seattle Children's Hospital faculty in September. Dr. Eble is an east coast transplant who grew up in the rural Adirondack mountains of upstate New York and earned her undergraduate and medical degrees from Boston University. She went on to complete a six-year residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the UW, as well as a highly specialized one-year fellowship in gender-affirming surgery at Oregon Health & Science University.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY

As a former trainee, Dr. Eble has a deep and personal connection to the UW Department of Surgery and considers it a distinct privilege to return as faculty.

Her practice comprises the spectrum of chest, trunk, and pelvic reconstruction, ranging from congenital and growth anomalies amongst pediatric and adolescent patients to affirming surgery for transgender and gender-diverse persons. Her scholarly work focuses on clinical outcomes, medical ethics, and healthcare advocacy. She is also an accomplished medical illustrator.

Outside of work, Dr. Eble enjoys spending time with her husband and their cats, exploring the food and cocktails of the Pacific Northwest, hosting themed parties, and being creative in various mediums.



BELAIN EYOB, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Eyob joined us on November 1, 2026 as part of the Division of General Surgery, Section of Complex Abdominal Surgery.

Dr. Eyob received her MD from the Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed her General Surgery residency at Columbia University Irving Medical Center in New York. She spent two years during her academic development time obtaining a Master of Public Health from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and completed a fellowship with the Program of Global Surgery and Social Change. Dr Eyob pursued advanced fellowship training in Complex General Surgical Oncology Surgery at University of California Irvine Health.

At the University of Washington, Dr. Eyob's clinical practice focuses on the surgical treatment of complex abdominal and retroperitoneal tumors, including regional therapies for peritoneal surface malignancies. Beyond her clinical practice, she is passionate about advancing equitable access to surgical oncology care in low- and middle-income countries, with a focus on sustainable frameworks for surgical oncology capacity building.



LI (AMILY) GUO, MD, PHD

Research Assistant Professor

DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN AND CRITICAL CARE SURGERY

Dr. Guo joined the University of Washington Department of Surgery (UW DoS) as an Research Assistant Professor in September. She also holds adjunct appointments at Fred Hutch Cancer Center and the UW Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine. Before joining the DoS, she

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY

was an Assistant Professor, in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, and based at Bloodworks Research Institute.

Dr. Guo earned her MD at Shandong University in China, where she studied the pathogenesis of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). During her PhD in Medical Science at the University of Toronto, she discovered that allogeneic MHC class I on platelets induces CD8+ T cell suppression in ITP, challenging existing dogma, and showed that B cell depletion therapy is effective in antibody-negative ITP. She continued to study how platelet MHC class I shapes host CD8+ T cell responses as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Utah.

Dr. Guo's lab studies the immune functions of platelets and how they communicate with white blood cells in health and disease. Her work focuses on how platelets regulate adaptive immunity, generation of new platelet products with specialized immune functions. She has published more than 30 peer-reviewed papers, including three first-author articles in *Blood*.

Her honors include the ASH-EHA Translational Research Training in Hematology (TRTH) Award, an American Heart Association Career Development Award, and the Midwest Platelet Conference Best Presentation Award, and others. She serves as an editor of *Thrombosis Journal* and is on the Early Career Editorial Board of *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology* (ATVB).

Outside of work, Dr. Guo enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter, hiking, biking, and skiing.



ALEXANDER GUPTA, MD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF TRANSPLANT SURGERY

Dr. Gupta is an abdominal transplant surgeon who joined the University of Washington faculty in September as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery. Originally from Dallas, Texas, he earned a degree in electrical engineering at Southern Methodist University and his medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He completed his general surgery residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where he spent two years as an NIH-funded research fellow in immune tolerance and served as administrative chief resident. He then completed fellowship training in abdominal transplantation at UCSF.

Dr. Gupta treats adult patients at UW Medical Center and pediatric patients at Seattle Children's Hospital. His clinical interests include liver, kidney, pancreas, and living donor transplantation, as well as minimally invasive approaches. His research focuses on making human donor organs available for scientific study. At UCSF, he co-led the Viable Tissue Acquisition Laboratory (VITAL) Core and helped develop a normothermic perfusion platform for research.

Outside of work, Alex enjoys golfing, hiking, cooking, and exploring Seattle's restaurants with his wife.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY



JANET LEE, MD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Lee is a colorectal surgeon who joined the Department in October. A Seattle native, she earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and her medical degree at Virginia Commonwealth University. She completed her general surgery residency at the University of Colorado, followed by fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Lee practices at UW Medical Center-Montlake, UW Medical Center-Northwest, and Fred Hutch Cancer Center. Her practice focuses on benign and malignant colorectal diseases, using both minimally invasive and open surgical techniques, and she also performs endoscopic procedures. Her research interests include clinical outcomes research and quality improvement.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, three kids, and her dog.



SHILPA S. MURTHY, MD, MPH
Associate Professor
VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Dr. Murthy joined the VA Puget Sound and University of Washington (UW) as an Associate Professor of Surgery in August. Dr. Murthy completed her undergraduate degree with high honors in molecular cellular and developmental biology from the University of Michigan. She attended medical school at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine.

She completed her general surgery residency training at Indiana University and a colorectal fellowship at the John Goligher Colorectal Unit, NHS Leeds Teaching Hospitals, in England. This was sponsored by the Royal College of Surgeons England, and during her fellowship she was chosen as the chief administrative colorectal fellow. Her colorectal fellowship was focused on locally advanced and recurrent colorectal and anal cancers. She then went on to complete a Surgical Oncology Global Cancer Disparities Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) where she spent clinical and research time training at MSKCC in New York City as well as in Nigeria, Africa.

Dr. Murthy's research interests lie at the intersection of surgery and public health and explores how these two fields can improve cancer care delivery for underserved and disenfranchised patients. During her residency, she obtained a Master of Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and was a research fellow at the Center for the Surgery and Public Health/Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, where she was trained in health services research, global surgery/ oncology, and spent time working in Rwanda, Africa. Dr. Murthy worked as an attending general surgeon at Navajo Nation in Gallup, New Mexico and Cherokee Nation working for the

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY

Indian Health Service to better understand local disparities in surgical care.

Dr. Murthy also brings considerable experience from working at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland in the Cancer Division where she contributed to the *WHO Report on Cancer* and research on premature mortality outcomes of various cancers, and the global cancer workforce. She was also a Lancet Commissioner for the Lancet Oncology Journal Commissions in Global Cancer Surgery Part I and Part II, and is on the international advisory board for *Lancet Oncology and Lancet Surgery* and *Anesthesiology Journals*.

Prior to joining the team in Seattle, Shilpa was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Yale University in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery and at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Hospital in Connecticut. She brought a $1.1 million dollar Department of Defense, CDR Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program Career Development Award with her to VA Puget Sound. She also received research funding from Yale Cancer Center, a pilot award for research on cancer care equity. Her current research focuses on risk factors and military related exposures associated with early onset colorectal cancer, global oncology and health policy, and community based participatory research. Her research aims to advance clinical care and policies that improve access to high-quality cancer and surgical care for veterans and underserved populations.



EVAN NADLER, MD

Clinical Professor

DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Nadler joined Seattle Children's Hospital starting October 2026 as a Clinical Professor of Surgery, in order to help them build their childhood obesity research and treatment programs. He previously served as Co-Director of the Children's National Obesity Programs and Director of the Child and Adolescent Weight Loss Surgery Program at Children's National Hospital from 2009 until 2023.

He was also a tenured Associate Professor of Surgery, and Pediatrics, at The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences and continues there as an Adjunct Associate Professor. His current pursuits include pediatric obesity treatment program development, authoring a book on obesity, and educating the public about obesity via his YouTube channel, website, and media appearances.

Dr. Nadler is an international leader in the field of child and adolescent obesity, has authored multiple publications and textbook chapters on the topic of pediatric bariatric surgery, and was one of the founding members of the Childhood Obesity Committee of the American Pediatric Surgery Association.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY



TOMOKI SAKATA, MD, PHD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Dr. Sakata is a cardiac surgeon who joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery, in August. He specializes in heart and lung transplantation and mechanical circulatory support for patients with advanced heart and lung disease. He also provides comprehensive adult cardiac surgical care.

Through his fellowship training at the University of Washington, Dr. Sakata has developed strong collaborative relationships across the multidisciplinary teams involved in the care of complex cardiothoracic patients. He believes in being present at the bedside, examining and engaging directly with his patients, and values clear face-to-face communication with patients, families, and colleagues throughout their care.

Dr. Sakata's clinical expertise includes heart and lung transplantation, ventricular assist devices and other forms of mechanical circulatory support, coronary artery bypass surgery, heart valve surgery, and surgery for aortic disease. His practice encompasses both advanced heart failure and transplantation as well as the broader spectrum of adult cardiac surgery.

Dr. Sakata enjoys spending time with his two children, exploring the outdoors, cooking, playing basketball, and DJ'ing in his free time.



SOLOMON LEE, MD
Assistant Professor
DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Dr. Lee is a pediatric and adult craniofacial surgeon who joined the University of Washington (UW) and Seattle Children's Hospital faculty in September 2026. He was raised in the California Bay Area where he completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University, followed by his Master of Science in Global Health Sciences, medical school education, and plastic surgery residency, at the University of California, San Francisco. He moved to Seattle for his fellowship training in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery at the UW and Seattle Children's Hospital and is honored to remain at these institutions as a member of the Plastic Surgery Division.

At Seattle Children's, Solomon's clinical practice focuses on comprehensive pediatric craniofacial and general plastic surgery. His adult practice is primarily at Harborview Medical Center where he focuses on adult craniofacial trauma and secondary reconstruction. His academic interests are in vertical integration of pediatric craniofacial global health work, bridging the gap between essential patient-oriented field programs with systems-level data analysis and health policy impact.

Outside of work, Solomon enjoys spending time with his wife and toddler, his favorite photography subjects, all while scouring the Seattle foodie scene and discovering new local towns to explore.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FACULTY



NIKHITHA (NIKKI) THRIKUTAM, MD

Assistant Professor

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Dr. Thrikutam joined the Division of Plastic Surgery as an Assistant Professor, in September. Dr. Thrikutam specializes in microsurgery, functional extremity reconstruction, and acute and secondary burn reconstruction.

She was born in Bangalore, India, though largely grew up in Dallas, Texas. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin and earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. She additionally completed a Masters in Public Health at the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. Nikki then went on to complete a six-year Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery residency at the University of Washington, followed by a specialized one-year fellowship in Microsurgery and Functional Extremity Reconstruction at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Thrikutam is primarily based at Harborview Medical Center. Her practice comprises acute and secondary burn reconstruction, trauma reconstruction, limb salvage, and the care of patients requiring extremity amputations with a special focus on osseointegration. Her research focuses on patient reported outcomes in extremity reconstruction, quality improvement with an emphasis on strengthening the informed consent process for patients requiring complex reconstruction, and the equitable treatment and advancement of female/minority surgeons. Her additional interests include increasing access to reconstructive surgery globally through partnerships with organizations like ReSurge International, as well as the advancement of trainee (student/resident/fellow) education programs.

Outside of work, Dr. Thrikutam can be found spending time with friends or family, running or hiking her way through the Pacific Northwest, and exploring Seattle's vibrant food scene.



THERESA WANG, MD

Assistant Professor

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Wang joined the Emergency section of the General Surgery Division, as an Assistant Professor in September. She grew up in Bellevue, Washington and completed her undergraduate education and medical school at the University of Washington (UW). She completed her general surgery internship at the UW and residency at The Ohio State University, where she also earned a Masters of Medical Science. Theresa then returned to Seattle to complete a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the UW.

Dr. Wang's's primary practice sites are Montlake and Northwest. Her clinical interests include abdominal wall reconstruction and minimally invasive approaches. She plans to continue local and national involvement in surgical education, and her research interests are in studying the development of autonomy and acquisition of surgical reasoning.

Outside of work, Dr. Wang enjoys pickleball, skiing, exploring new restaurants, and spending time with her new baby and family.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FELLOWS



GWENDOLYN DALY, MD

Breast Surgical Oncology Fellow

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Daly is a fellow in Breast Surgical Oncology at the University of Washington (UW) and Fred Hutch Cancer Center (Fred Hutch). Originally from Northern California, she earned her bachelor's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California, Berkeley and her medical degree from New York Medical College. She completed her general surgery residency at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon.

Gwendolyn cares for patients at UW Medical Center, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, and Northwest Hospital. Her research interests include management of occult breast cancer and breast cancer survivorship.

Outside of work, Gwendolyn enjoys training for triathlons, Barry's, reading for her book club, and spending time with her husband in Portland.



WILL GERULL, MD

Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery/ Foregut Surgery Fellow

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Gerull is a fellow in Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery/Foregut Surgery at the University of Washington (UW). Originally from Puyallup, Washington, he earned a degree in bioengineering at the UW and his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his general surgery residency at Washington University in St. Louis. During residency, he spent a research year as the surgical simulation fellow where he led surgical education programming initiatives and conducted grant-funded robotic operative performance metrics research.

Dr. Gerull cares for patients at UW Medical Center-Montlake and UW Medical Center-Northwest hospital. His clinical interests include minimally invasive hernia/abdominal wall reconstruction and foregut surgery. His research focuses on minimally invasive clinical outcomes, surgical education, and quality improvement. He has developed robotic surgery training curricula and published on surgical simulation, robotic paraesophageal hernia repair, median arcuate ligament syndrome, and gastric electrical stimulation.

Outside of work, Will enjoys exploring Seattle's restaurants with his wife, Kate, a hand surgery fellow at UW, and spending time with their daughter, Sophie, and family in Tacoma.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FELLOWS



ANUSHA JAYARAM, MD, MBA

Fogerty Fellow

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Dr. Jayaram was a general surgery resident at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center with an extensive background in global surgery research, education and advocacy. She joined UW for the 2025-2026 academic year as a Fogarty Fellow working on burn surgery research in Nepal under Dr. **Barclay Stewart**, Associate Professor of Trauma, Burns and Critical Care, and now continues as a Health Equity Research Fellow at Seattle Children's Hospital under Dr. **Sarah Greenberg**.

In Nepal, Anusha worked to improve burn care and recovery by implementing and studying the first Peer Support program for burn survivors and has recently won a grant to study the implementation of the burn center's skin bank program. Now at SCH, her research focuses on financial hardships for pediatric surgery patients and their families. Anusha aspires to be a global pediatric surgeon, working to improve access to surgical care for children around the world. Anusha attended Tufts University School of Medicine for her MD and concurrently, Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy for her MBA. Outside of work, Anusha loves spin classes, reading, live music, and Pokémon.



CHRISTOPHER RYAN, MD

Advanced Cardiac Surgery Fellow

DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

Christopher (Chris) Ryan, MD, is a cardiothoracic surgeon who joined the University of Washington as an Acting Instructor and Advanced Cardiac Surgery Fellow (Aortic Surgery) in August. Originally from Fayetteville, Arkansas, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Arkansas and a Medical Doctorate from Weill Cornell Medical College. He completed general surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he completed a two-year NIH T32 translational research fellowship in cardiac regeneration and gene therapy, followed by a Cardiothoracic Surgery fellowship at University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB).

Outside of work, Dr. Ryan enjoys exploring Seattle with his wife and daughter and getting outside when the sun makes an appearance.

SURGERY NEWS: NEW FELLOWS



DIANA WU, MD

Healthcare Simulation

DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE SIMULATION SCIENCE

Dr. Wu is a general surgery resident from the University of Texas at Tyler and is currently completing a fellowship in healthcare simulation at the University of Washington WWAMI Institute for Simulation in Healthcare. She earned her medical degree from the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology. She is also pursuing a Master's degree in Robotics and Autonomous Systems at Johns Hopkins University.

Diana is dedicated to simulation-based education and serves as an acting instructor, developing curricula and simulation devices to enhance both technical and non-technical skills among medical trainees. Her current work focuses on novel materials for low-cost, high-fidelity simulation models that expand training opportunities while reducing reliance on biological tissue.

Outside of work, Diana is an avid reader and crafter who enjoys making miniatures, sculpting, and knitting.

SURGERY NEWS

HONORS–AWARDS–NEW APPOINTMENTS

ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF TRAUMA CARE



On September 16th, **Eileen Bulger**, MD, FACS, was awarded **The Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery**, a prestigious position supporting advanced research and leadership in trauma at the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) and Harborview Medical Center (HMC). Dr. Bulger is Professor and Chief of the Division of Trauma, Burn and Critical Care Surgery, as well as the Surgeon-in-Chief at HMC.

Dr. Bulger expressed her gratitude for this professorship: "I am honored to serve as the Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery. Dr. Trunkey was a legendary leader in trauma care who helped shape the trauma systems that benefit our patients today. We all stand on the shoulders of giants and I assume this role from my mentor Dr. Ronald Maier, who helped this chair since its inception. This endowment provides critical support to advance research and education in the Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery Division at Harborview Medical Center. We are grateful for the tremendous generosity of the Trunkey family."

The endowed chair is funded through the Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Endowed Fund, established to support research in trauma surgery, as well as to help recruit and retain high-caliber faculty in the Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery.

LEADING THE FUTURE OF HEART SURGERY



John Dimarakis, MD, PhD, DIC, MEBCTS, FRCS, CTh, has been appointed to the **Lester and Connie LeRoss Endowed Professorship in Cardiovascular Surgery**. This endowed professorship was created in 1999 to help further work in developing equipment, procedures, training techniques, and personnel to treat heart-related ailments. It recognizes Dr. Dimarakis's outstanding contributions to cardiothoracic surgery, education, research, and patient care. The Lester and Connie LeRoss Endowed Professorship in Cardiovascular Surgery provides an important opportunity to support innovation and leadership in cardiovascular surgery for years to come.

Dr. Dimarakis, an Associate Professor in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division, is the Surgical Director of Heart Transplantation and Program Director of the Cardiothoracic Transplant and MCS Fellowship. His research interests span from basic science to surgical database analysis, and he maintains an active research interest in all aspects of regenerative medicine in heart disease. Dr. Dimarakis has an extensive background in adult cardiac surgery, cardiothoracic transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, aortic surgery, redo surgery, donation after circulatory death heart transplantation, and durable left ventricular assist device surgery.

SURGERY NEWS

HONORS–AWARDS–NEW APPOINTMENTS

CURIOSITY, COLLABORATION, AND NEW CONNECTIONS



Since 2024, the Department of Surgery (DoS) has participated in a **Visiting Professorship Exchange Program** with University of Michigan (UM), and this year DoS has selected Dr. **Jake Hemingway**, Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery. This program is open to all assistant professors and offers a unique opportunity for professional growth and collaboration with colleagues at UM.

The selected faculty member will deliver Grand Rounds and have other opportunities to connect with colleagues at UM.

Dr. Hemingway's proposed Grand Rounds topic is "Academic Surgery in Modern Medicine: Curiosity, Collaboration, and Building a Research Career Under Production Pressure," wherein he will discuss how relative value unit (RVU)-driven practice constrains traditional surgeon-scientist models, and why multi-institutional collaboration converts high clinical volume into research capacity and the opportunity to develop an academic career in modern medical practice.

COLLABORATION DRIVING BETTER OUTCOMES



This year the Department of Surgery selected **John Scott**, MD, MPH, FACS**,** to represent the University of Washington (UW) in the **West Coast Surgery Collaborative Visting Professor Program**. Dr. Scott is an Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn, & Critical Care Surgery, the ECMO Medical Director at Harborview Medical Center, and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Health Metrics Sciences, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the UW.

The West Coast Surgery Collaborative Visting Professor Program is a transformative partnership among five premier institutions: Oregon Health Sciences University, University of California San Francisco, University of California Davis, Stanford, and UW. Eligibility for this prestigious opportunity is exclusive to associate professors and assistant professors in their fourth year or above, at the UW, and a dedicated selection committee rigorously evaluates all applications.

Dr. Scott explains, "I will be meeting with faculty from San Francisco General Hospital to learn more about ways to optimize patient-reported outcomes, long-term outcomes, and financial hardship after injury. I am especially interested in learning about the similarities and differences in models of care, patient demographics, and recovery trajectories between two complimentary systems at Harborview and San Francisco General."

Participation in these programs are made possible by the **Kelly and Carlos Pellegrini, MD, Endowed Fund for Leadership Development.** This endowment was created to support programs and activities that foster collaboration and leadership development.

SURGERY NEWS

HONORS–AWARDS–NEW APPOINTMENTS

DR. SCOTT BRAKENRIDGE APPOINTED NIH STUDY SECTION CHAIR



The University of Washington Department of Surgery is pleased to announce that **Scott C. Brakenridge**, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery at Harborview Medical Center, has been appointed Chair of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MRAD) Study Section. Dr. Brakenridge will serve as Chair from 2026–2028, following five years as a standing member and ad hoc Chair of the committee.

The appointment recognizes Dr. Brakenridge's national leadership in biomedical research and scientific peer review. NIH study section chairs oversee the scientific review process for federal research grant applications, ensuring that proposals are evaluated fairly, rigorously, and according to the highest standards of scientific excellence. As Chair, Dr. Brakenridge will lead meetings of nationally recognized scientists and physician-scientists responsible for evaluating investigator-initiated research proposals from institutions across the United States.

The MRAD study section reviews applications submitted through the Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA; R35) program, which has become the primary funding mechanism used by National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to support independent investigators. Rather than funding individual projects, the R35 mechanism provides long-term support for an investigator's overall research program, allowing scientists greater flexibility to pursue innovative, high-impact discoveries.

Dr. Brakenridge's own research focuses on the immunology of severe traumatic injury and critical illness, with an emphasis on defining immune endotypes that drive chronic critical illness and poor long-term recovery after severe trauma and surgical sepsis. His laboratory integrates advanced immunophenotyping, genomics, and translational clinical research to develop precision medicine approaches for critically ill patients. He currently serves as Principal Investigator of an NIH/NIGMS R35 award investigating immunological endotyping following severe trauma.

The appointment reflects national recognition of Dr. Brakenridge's scientific leadership and places him among a small group of surgeon-scientists entrusted by the NIH to lead peer review of one of its premier investigator-initiated research programs. Given the relatively small representation of surgeon-scientists within the NIH peer review system, the appointment is a notable distinction recognizing sustained scientific excellence, leadership, and commitment to advancing the nation's biomedical research enterprise.

SURGERY NEWS
IN THE MEDIA



SAMAN ARBABI, MD, MPH

Professor & Chief of Trauma

DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY

UW TRAUMA EXPERTS SEEING DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS INVOLVING E-BIKES

KIRO 7 NEWS

AUGUST 12, 2026

A 14-year-old boy died on Sunday after being struck by a car while riding an e-bike in Bothell.

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office reported that officers found the teenager severely injured at the scene. Emergency responders took the teen to Providence Regional Medical Center before he was transferred to Harborview Medical Center, where he later died from his injuries.

The fatal collision occurred amid a broader surge in e-bike and scooter injuries reported across Western Washington. **Watch the KIRO 7 video report on the increase in e-bike accidents**



JONATHAN SHAM, MD, MBEE

Associate Professor and Section Chief, Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) Surgery

DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY

DR. JONATHAN SHAM HIGHLIGHTS CANCER RESEARCH AT OBLITERIDE

GREET MAGAZINE

AUGUST 8, 2026

Dr. Jonathan Sham, chief of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery at Fred Hutch Cancer Center and UW Medicine, was featured in a story on Fred Hutch's annual Obliteride fundraiser. Since 2022, he has raised funds through his team, "One Step Closer," to support innovative liver cancer research, including work to develop new drugs for hepatic arterial infusion (HAI) pumps. Dr. Sham calls Obliteride "a party with a mission," bringing together the community to advance cancer research. **Read the full story about Dr. Jonathan Sham and Fred Hutch Obliteride**



SCOTT BRAKENRIDGE, MD

Professor

DIVISION OF TRAUMA, BURN & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY

BIOMARKERS COULD HELP IDENTIFY ICU PATIENTS AT RISK OF CHRONIC CRITICAL ILLNESS

THE JOURNAL OF IMMUNOLOGY

JUNE 25, 2026

A study in *The Journal of Immunology*, co-authored by UW's Dr. Scott Brakenridge, identified an immune profile that may help detect trauma patients at risk for chronic critical illness (CCI) shortly after ICU admission. The findings could lead to earlier interventions and improved outcomes for severely injured patients. **Read the full news story**

SURGERY NEWS
IN THE MEDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FACULTY EARN TOP DOCTORS HONORS

The Department of Surgery is proud to celebrate the many faculty members recognized in Seattle Met's Top Doctors 2026 and Seattle Magazine's Top Doctors 2026 rankings. These honors reflect the extraordinary talent, dedication, and impact of our surgeons across a wide range of specialties. We also wish to recognize those Department of Surgery faculty whose names may not have appeared in the accompanying articles but whose inclusion in these prestigious lists represents an important professional achievement. Their collective accomplishments continue to elevate the department's reputation for excellence in patient care, education, and research.

BARIATRIC SURGERY

LILY CHANG, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

JUDY CHEN-MEEKIN, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SAURABH KHANDEWAL, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

CARDIAC SURGERY

CHRIS BURKE, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SCOTT DEROO, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

SHAKIRAT OYETUNJI, MD, MPH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

JAY PAL, MD, PHD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

COLON/RECTAL SURGERY

MUKTA KRANE, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SECTION CHIEF, COLORECTAL SURGERY
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SARAH ATKINSON, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

CHARLES LIU, MD, MS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

RAGA SIDDHARTHAN, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

GENERAL SURGERY

CATHERINE KLING, MD, MPH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

BRANT OELSCHLAGER, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

NICOLE WHITE THOMAS, MD
CLINICAL PROFESSOR & SECTION CHIEF, NW GENERAL SURGERY
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

ESTELL WILLIAMS, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SURGERY NEWS
IN THE MEDIA

ANDREW WRIGHT, MD
PROFESSOR & SECTION CHIEF, UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

GIANA DAVIDSON, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR & SECTION CHIEF, EMERGENCY GENERAL SURGERY
SEATTLE MET

DANIEL KIM, MD
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

ZOE PARR, MD
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

LILY CHANG, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

GRANT O'KEEFE, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAG

ALLISON PERRIN, MD
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAG

ROGER TATUM, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF, SURGEON-IN-CHIEF, VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
SEATTLE MAG

SAM ARBABI, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR, CHIEF OF TRAUMA
SEATTLE MAG

EILEEN BULGER, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF OF TRAUMA, BURNS & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY, SURGEON-IN-CHIEF
SEATTLE MAG

RON MAIER, MD
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
SEATTLE MAG

HAND SURGERY

JEFFREY FRIEDRICH, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

ERIN MILLER, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

JEFFREY AVANSINO, MD, MBA
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

ANDRE DICK, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

ADAM GOLDIN, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

PATRICK HEALEY, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

PATRICK JAVID, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SAMUEL RICE-TOWNSEND, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

KIM RIEHLE, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

CAITLIN SMITH, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

REBECCA STARK, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

CRAIG BIRGFELD, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SHANNON COLOHAN, MD, MSC
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

KARI KEYS, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

OTWAY LOUIE, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & SECTION CHIEF
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SRINIVAS SUSARLA, DMD, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR & CHIEF PEDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERY
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SURGERY NEWS
IN THE MEDIA

ALISON BAE, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

RUSSELL ETTINGER, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

ISAAC STEIN, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

DUANE WANG, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

RACHEL LENTZ, MD, MHS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

THORACIC SURGERY

FARHOOD FARJAH, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

MICHAEL MULLIGAN, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

DOUGLAS WOOD, MD
THE HENRY N. HARKINS PROFESSOR & CHAIR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINE

KATHLEEN BERFIELD, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CHIEF OF THORACIC SURGERY VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
SEATTLE MET

AARON CHENG, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

RICHARD DUBOIS, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

TRAUMA SURGERY

EILEEN BULGER, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF OF TRAUMA, BURNS & CRITICAL CARE SURGERY, SURGEON-IN-CHIEF, TRAUMA, BURNS & CRITICAL CARE
SEATTLE MET

SAMAN ARBABI, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

GRANT O'KEEFE, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

VASCULAR SURGERY

KATHLEEN GIBSON, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

ELINA QUIROGA, MD, MPH
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

BENJAMIN STARNES, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

MATTHEW SWEET, MD, MS
PROFESSOR & SECTION CHIEF, UW MEDICAL CENTER-MONTLAKE
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

NAM TRAN, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

SARA ZETTERVALL, MD, MPH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

NITEN SINGH, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF
SEATTLE MET

MARK MEISSNER, MD
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
SEATTLE MAG

ALISON PERRIN, MD
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

ROGER TATUM, MD
PROFESSOR & CHIEF, SURGEON-IN-CHIEF, VA PUGET SOUND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
SEATTLE MAGAZINE

SURGERY NEWS

IN THE MEDIA

BREAST SURGERY

CLAIRE BUCHANAN, MD
CLINICAL PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

KRISTINE CALHOUN, MD
PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

MEGHAN FLANAGAN, MD, MPH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SEATTLE MET

SARA JAVID, MD
PROFESSOR
SECTION CHIEF, BREAST SURGERY
SEATTLE MET & SEATTLE MAGAZINES

EMILY PALMQUIST, MD
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DECEMBER 2ND

MARCH 2027

32ND ANNUAL RESIDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AND HELEN AND JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE

MARCH 5TH

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