



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

GRADUATION 2020

Special Edition to Honor the Department of Surgery Graduates

A Message from

Jon B. Morris, MD

**Vice Chair of Education, The Ernest F. Rosato-William
Maul Measey Professor in Surgical Education**



The common bond that all practicing surgeons share is the odyssey of postgraduate residency training. This marks a time of exponential intellectual and technical growth unequaled in one's professional career. Surgeons graduate from medical school as undifferentiated physicians and are taken in by mentors who embrace, encourage, cajole, and trust them to achieve their maximum potential. Through gradual increasing levels of autonomy, surgical trainees obtain the necessary skills to become independent practitioners of the art and science of surgery. It remains the province of academic departments of surgery to educate the future leaders of surgery. This is the essential factor that distinguishes elite programs like Penn, from other academic training programs. While not everyone who completes surgical education in an academic program desires to become a surgical leader, it is the very nature of our specialty that requires us to lead. Although we recognize the collaborative nature of surgical practice, there is only one person in charge in the operating room during a surgical procedure. Thus, all surgical programs produce leaders in one form or another and it is from academic programs that the intellectual leaders of the next generation will emerge. In these complex times, it becomes even more essential to have leaders who are well prepared to face the challenges that lie ahead. The Penn surgical training programs have always embraced the charge to equip these future leaders with the tools necessary to be successful.

The Graduate Medical Education training programs at Penn are the crown jewels of the Department of Surgery and a source of tremendous pride for all of us. Even in these tumultuous times, under the strong leadership of our Program Directors, along with the collaboration of their Program Coordinators, our passionate teaching faculty remained committed to our trainees. Trainees, who despite all the challenges of this new COVID world, continued to provide terrific care for our surgical patients.

We recognize that COVID interfered with our usual end of the academic year festivities. This special edition of the Penn Alumni Surgery Newsletter serves to acknowledge our 2020 graduates and celebrate their hard work, sacrifices and extraordinary accomplishments.

On behalf of the Department of Surgery, please join me in congratulating our 2020 graduates on a marvelous job well done!

Jomo

A Message from the Chair

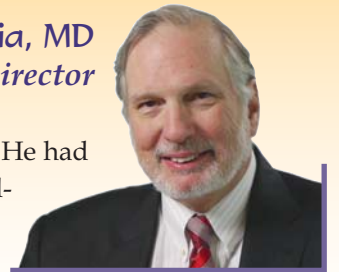
Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD



This special issue of the Penn Surgery Newsletter is dedicated to our trainees who graduated last June and July. As you will read, they are highly accomplished. The housestaff are the soul and the conscience of the department. Unfortunately, the pomp and circumstance that normally accompanies their departure was disrupted by the pandemic. In some ways, their experience was missing that final spoon of frosting on the cake, in terms of operative experience and the farewell. However, as they will come to learn, while they may no longer be physically present, the Penn Surgery bond persists, every hour of every day. They will be recognized as a Penn product and they will incorporate the vast training they received here into the rest of their professional (and personal) career. The academic circle of life continues with the new caterpillars having arrived and beginning their metamorphosis.

Aortic Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by Joseph Bavaria, MD
Program Director



Charlie Evans completed his 6 month Thoracic Aortic Fellowship at Penn on June 30, 2020. He had finished his CT Residency at the University of Maryland. Dr. Evans then accepted an attending position within the University of Maryland Health System as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery (Cardiothoracic). He did a phenomenal job while at Penn and navigated the difficult times during the worst of the COVID pandemic in March and April 2020 with a professionalism that inspired all around him. He was an excellent technical surgeon, a compassionate physician and a phenomenal team player. We're proud that he will remain a part of the Penn Thoracic Aortic diaspora.



Charles F. Evans, MD

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Maryland Health System

Residency: University of Maryland Medical Center

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine

Breast Surgery Fellowship

Julia Tchou, MD, PhD
Program Director



Susanna M. Nazarian, MD, PhD, FACS

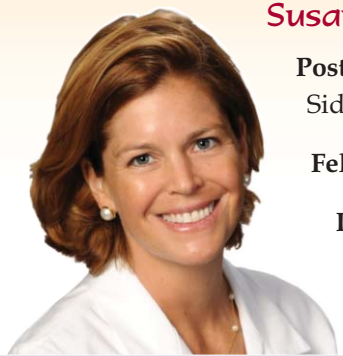
Post Graduate Position: Associate Professor of Surgery, Breast Surgery
Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University

Fellowship: Johns Hopkins Hospital (Abdominal Organ Transplantation)

Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital

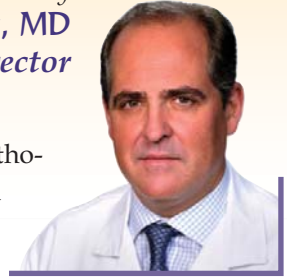
Graduate School: Johns Hopkins University

Medical School: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine



Cardiac Surgery Fellowship

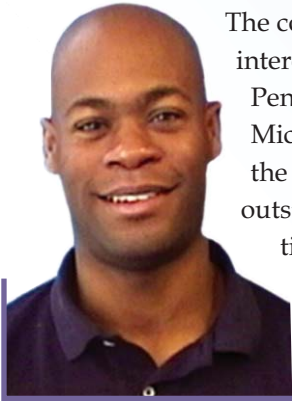
Contributed by
Christian Bermudez, MD
Program Director



The Department of Surgery has a long history of innovation in organ transplantation. The thoracic surgery transplant program, including our heart and lung programs, was established more than 30 years ago, and is one of the busiest in the country, attracting high acuity patients from the region and beyond. The faculty within the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at Penn are committed to providing a rigorous training program to prepare the future generation of surgeons with a focus in heart and lung transplantation, while maintaining the highest standard of clinical care. At Penn, we have the privilege to attract some of the most qualified surgical candidates in the country and the thoracic transplant fellowship has not been an exception. We have had the great privilege to train very gifted advanced fellows in thoracic transplant surgery, with Dr. Swain as the first fellow that was selected from our traditional, cardiac track training program. After a year of dedicated and hard work all our trainees have gone on to enjoy fulfilling careers. We are proud of our fellows, our clinical training program and I am sure Dr. Swain with his dedication and passion, will successfully continue the Penn legacy in this field.

JaBaris Swain, MD

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Associate Surgeon, Penn Health System and Associate Director of Global Translational and Experimental Medicine, Cardiovascular and Metabolism Therapeutic, Johnson & Johnson



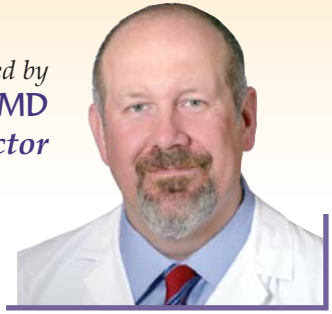
The commitment to clinical excellence and robust intellectual curiosity is what initially drew my interest in completing my cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. At its completion, the continued support and dedication of my chief - Dr. Michael Acker, my transplant program director - Dr. Christian Bermudez, the faculty within the division of cardiovascular surgery, the wonderful nursing staff, the incredible PAs, and the outstanding ancillary-support staff is what ultimately led to my decision to complete an additional post-graduate year in transplantation and mechanical support at Penn. Now having completed my clinical training, I am profoundly thankful for having had this opportunity, and I remain grateful for having been extended the privilege to remain connected to the Penn Health System as a clinical associate surgeon, supporting heart and lung recovery for the cardiovascular transplant program—all while I explore additional interests of mine in cardiovascular drug discovery as the Associate Director of Global Translational and Experimental Medicine in the Cardiovascular and Metabolism Therapeutic Area at Johnson & Johnson.



JaBaris Swain and faculty member, Yoshikazu Suzuki

Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship

Contributed by
Matthew L. Williams, MD
Program Director



Andrew Goldstone MD PhD, Josh Grimm MD, and Constantine Mavroudis MD are three of the best surgeons and people to finish our training program in cardiothoracic surgery. Andrew and Constantine are training now to become pediatric heart surgeons at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, while Josh is now an attending cardiac surgeon and Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he will have an emphasis in Aortic Surgery. Andrew and Constantine completed the I-6 program, where our trainees come to CT surgery directly from medical school, while Josh completed a traditional fellowship after 5 years of clinical training in general surgery. Collectively the excellence of this group reinforces our belief that there is not one "correct" way to train future cardiac surgeons. Great training can be achieved in either pathway and we want to continue to attract the best and the brightest to our institution through both programs. Congratulations to all three of these stellar individuals. We are proud of our association with you and look forward to your future achievements!



Joshua C. Grimm, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

I thoroughly enjoyed my two years of cardiac surgery fellowship training at Penn. While the academic richness of the institution is palpable, there is also an intense focus on clinical excellence. I was constantly impressed by the dedication to patient care evident at all levels within the hospital. I am excited and humbled to continue my career as a faculty member within the Division of Cardiac Surgery with a focus on complex thoracic aortopathy. My wife, Jessica, and two children, Oliver and Edie, have been patient and supportive during my 10-year maze of training.

Joshua with wife Jessica,
 and their children Oliver and Edie

Cardiothoracic Surgical Residency

Andrew B. Goldstone, MD, PhD

Post Graduate Position: Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellowship
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

It's challenging to sum up nearly a decade of life in just a paragraph, particularly when it was without a doubt the most difficult and rewarding years of my life so far, both personally and professionally. But it isn't just the 10,000 hours of training – it's the people we work with and the complexity of the cases we see that makes Penn the best training program in the country. I always hoped to one day be as good as the graduating chiefs, and the consistency of excellence among them speaks to the greatness of this program. To teach, one must truly have mastered the craft, and that is true of all the faculty I have had the honor to work with. Over the last decade Penn has become my family. I'd like to thank everyone – faculty, residents, APPs and nurses – who supported me through difficult personal times throughout residency. I'd especially like to thank my co-chiefs Josh and Constantine, you are true superstars and I'm excited to get to say "I knew them when." Finally, I'd like to thank my wife, Arielle, and two sons, Oliver and Julius, for their constant support and unconditional love.

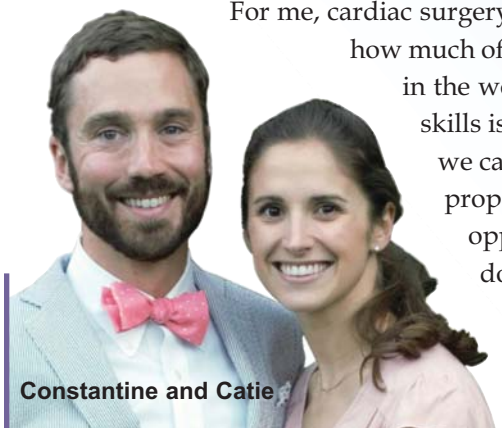


Arielle and Andrew with sons Oliver and Julius

Constantine Mavroudis, MD, MSc, MTR

Post Graduate Position: Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellowship, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

For me, cardiac surgery is a family business, but it was only when I came to Penn that I saw just how much of a family this business could be. This is truly the greatest training program in the world. While operating on the heart is a terrifying privilege, teaching these skills is simply terrifying. The enormous sacrifices our faculty have made so that we can stand before you as trained cardiac surgeons is a debt that we can never properly repay. We are all honored and profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to take care of your patients, to have benefitted from your wisdom and teaching, and to have gained your trust and respect as surgical colleagues. Thank you to my parents, my growing family, and my wife, Catie, for their unwavering support and unconditional love. Jack Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."



Constantine and Catie

In these last eight years I have learned more than I thought was possible so that I might do what I once thought was impossible. I will carry this wisdom with me as I start my career, and I cannot thank you all enough for your support.

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by **Joshua Bleier, MD**
Program Director



It is with a fond farewell that Doug Murken finally said goodbye to Penn Surgery after 8 long years! Doug completed his surgery residency in 2019. We were proud to match him into our Colorectal Fellowship! As our 12th fellow, Doug did an outstanding job, stepping into this position with exceptional skill and unbelievable thirst to continue to learn. Despite the COVID slowdown, Doug finished his fellowship with outstanding clinical volume and was exceptionally well-prepared to step out into the world of academic colorectal surgery, taking a job at the University of West Virginia. We will miss his humor and consummate skill, but wish him well on this new adventure! All of us at Penn Colorectal are proud to have trained him.

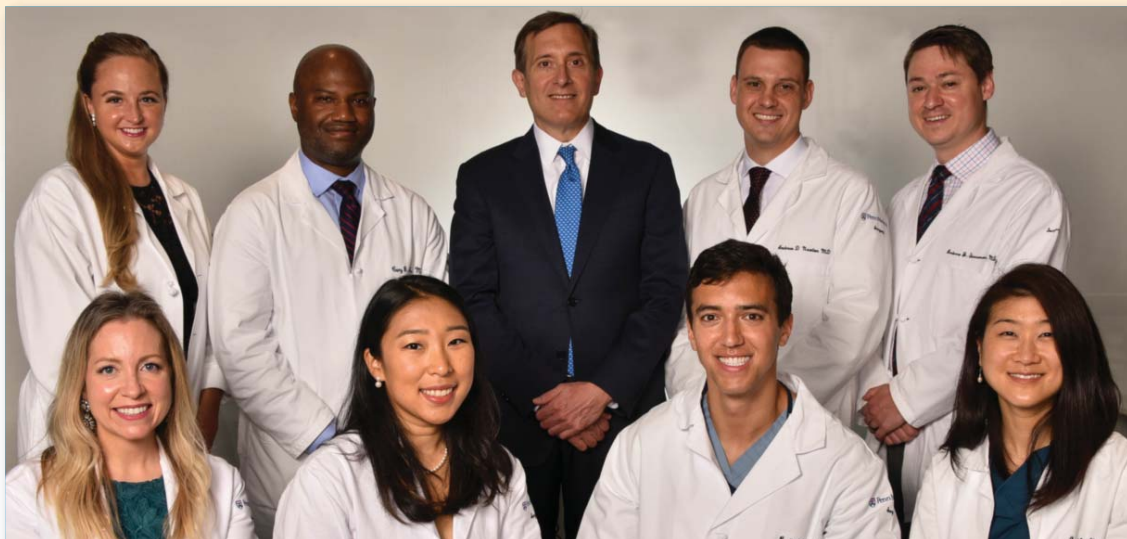


Douglas Murken, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, Clinical Tract, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

As I look back on my fellowship (and residency) training at Penn, I identify two predominant emotions: the first is an immense gratitude for all that was invested in me by the faculty and the department -- it is not until I finally entered independent practice that I could really evaluate my training and fully appreciate how well prepared Penn-trained surgeons are. The second emotion is a true sadness for having had to say goodbye to all of the incredible people who contributed to my development -- some of the best residents in the country whom I hope to recruit to WVU Medicine in the near future, the perioperative staff who made each day on Founders 4, CUPP 2 or in the basement of PAH both clinically rewarding and as importantly fun, and of course six amazing colon and rectal surgeons and educators who I think of each day. My long term goal is to build a division and a fellowship program here in Morgantown, and there is no better model than the place that I consider home.

General Surgery Residency



Avery Rossidis, Cary Aarons, Ron DeMatteo, Andy Newton, Andrew Sinnamon, Kate Sharoky, Grace Lee-Riddle, Brett Ecker and Jenn Chung

General Surgery Residency

Contributed by
Cary Aarons, MD, MSEd
Program Director



We are immensely proud of our 2020 General Surgery Residency graduates, who represent the best and brightest surgeons entering academic surgery. Our program aspires to train the future leaders and innovators in Surgery and these seven exceptional residents will undoubtedly fill these roles comfortably – each offering their unique perspective. We are eternally grateful for all that you have contributed to the Penn Surgery community, to the development of your colleagues, and your contributions as surgeon scientists. We will enthusiastically track your careers for all of the future milestones and accomplishments that you will undoubtedly have.



Jennifer Chung, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Cardiac Surgery, Hospital of the Univ. of Pennsylvania

The world in 2020 AC (after COVID) has forced us all to make some adjustments - and while I realize I may only be able to say this because I'm not home-zoom-schooling young children - it hasn't been all bad. Although it felt incomplete to end 7 years of training with a socially distant wave and an emailed thank you, the circumstances also proved that no ceremony, speech or acknowledgement would make or break what we built in those 7 years. Every day since June 20, 2013, the big and seemingly small things - the first time we felt the weight of being someone's surgeon and participated in Thursday morning confessional, the first time we took a junior through a case and realized how difficult things are from the attending's side, the co-residents who made us laugh when we wanted to cry, and the OR staff who make possible the Penn motto of "any case, any time" - have made us better, wiser, and have made us proud to be Penn surgeons.

I would like to issue a few special thank you's: to Dr. Barker and Robin Noel for making this newsletter possible and to Jason Davis and his team for always being willing to troubleshoot all our IT issues and keep us connected through these COVID times; to Grace, Andy, all the rec chairs and to Drs. Aarons, Kelz, Lee, Morris and Williams who invest countless hours and effort to optimizing our educational experience. Thank you to Dr. DeMatteo for his genuine excitement for surgery and research, and his vision to make Penn Surgery an even stronger contributor to new knowledge and innovation in the field.

Thank you to: the Trauma/ESS attendings for being our teachers in some of the most acute, unpredictable and immediately life-saving opportunities we face, and suffering through our earliest laparoscopic cases; the Transplant division for teaching us tenacity and taking us through some of our first highly technical cases; the GI surgery division for developing our minimally invasive skills and teaching us everything from the fundamentals of our field to the Cadillac operation of general surgery; to the EOS group for inspiring so many of our graduates to pursue this field and contribute to better outcomes for cancer patients, and for introducing us to the magic of the stager; to the Colorectal division for their enthusiasm for advancing our lap and robotic skills to the next level as we deal with the complex anatomy and disease states of their patients; to the Thoracic division for taking us through our first foray above the diaphragm and introducing us to a new set of physiologic concepts; and to the Vascular surgeons for teaching us to differentiate the cold from the cool legs and exposing us to the vast world of endovascular techniques. I regret that there is not room to thank everyone individually, but please know that I plan to honor the priceless gifts you have all given me by sharing your time, your wisdom, and your patients with me, by paying them forward to the next generation and always upholding the highest standards in my own practice.

Last, but most definitely not least, thank you Andrea, Laura and the DSE for all you do behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly and take care of us like family.

I will always be grateful, proud and humbled to be part of the Penn Surgery family. Thank you for a great 7 years.

General Surgery Residency

Brett Ecker, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow - Surgical Oncology,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York

It has been an absolute honor to train at Penn.

First, to all the attendings of Penn Surgery, thank you for making me a Surgeon. Seven years ago, I remember the pride of slipping on my long white coat for the first time – the Penn Surgery emblem on the left shoulder. I had no idea what it meant, nor as Kate Sharoky and I on our first month of nights quickly discovered, no real idea of what it meant to do this job. Thank you for your trust, your patience, and your mentorship. You've shown me, every day, what it looks like to be dedicated to one's craft. The endless pursuit to know more and do better. Passion for solving complex problems and advancing the field. And all for the sake of our patients. Thank you for showing me what it meant to be a Penn surgeon. I will carry that brand in my heart wherever I go.



Thank you to my co-chiefs -- I couldn't be more proud of our collective accomplishments. Each of you is more tenacious than the next, with the result that we've pushed ourselves to be our best clinical selves. Thank you to your families for raising such inspirational people, and to your partners for sharing you all for these long days in the trenches.

To the DSE staff, Andrea, and especially Laura – Thank you for always advocating for us. You have been parents to 50 Penn children and we probably don't express our gratitude enough. Please know how much we appreciate all you do for us.

I remember my senior residents – Will Hiesinger, Caroline Reinke, Ned Bartlett, Gbenga, JW, Heather Wachtel – and how, as their junior, I would marvel at their knowledge, their clinical acumen, and their surgical skills. They were Penn Surgery at its best, tirelessly dedicated to their patient, fearless in leading their team, and beyond capable inside and outside the OR. To the junior residents, remember that --The days are long but the years are short. You will be in my place much sooner than you can even imagine. Trust the Penn product and the process it takes. Neither the care of the patients nor your development into a surgeon occurs on a 6-to-6 work day. This is your chance to be great; don't miss the opportunity. I am confident that we leave this place in good hands and excited to see where you will go.

General Surgery Residency



Grace Lee-Riddle, MD, MSME

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Abdominal Transplantation, Columbia University, New York

While it would have been a touching capstone to graduate with a Chief's Dinner, in some ways, I am glad to have the chance to write this with a month of fellowship under my belt. I think it allows me to more definitively and authoritatively say the following – Penn is the absolute best place to train in general surgery and I am so grateful for the eight transformative years I had with you all.

To the faculty and all my former chief residents – I was more than well-trained to start my transplant fellowship. From specific OR skills to postop management to critically thinking through tough cases, I was ready for this. I strive to emulate your dedication to this craft and want you to know that your example has left an indelible impression on me. I could not have asked for better mentors and even friends who have sparked my curiosity and nurtured my personal and professional development. Thank you for trusting your patients to me and for teaching me so well.

To my colleagues – co-residents, OR staff, APPs, nurses, and DSE – I miss the Penn family dearly and it's absolutely true that the people make the place. Sometimes the days and nights were long and the list of things to do seemed daunting... but I always felt I could do it all because I was part of some of the best teams ever. You made me stronger and made me more capable than I ever imagined. Thank you for the countless memories, laughs, and support you've given me over the years.

To my co-chiefs – what a ride! I don't know if I could have graduated with a more awe-inspiring group of individuals. I am so glad we are keeping in touch and can't wait to see where life takes us going forward. Congratulations again and thank you for welcoming me into the class.

To my friends and family – I don't know how to express my sincerest thanks for your patience, understanding, flexibility, support, and dedication to me despite my many lapses in providing all the above for you during my training. I could not have done this without you and I thank you for keeping me grounded. Training to be a surgeon was certainly an evolution I wanted but you kept me being Grace Sohee Lee the person. Thank you for never giving up on me.

To Elijah – my colleague, my husband, my best friend. Words cannot express how much you have impacted and changed me and have made all things possible. You believe in me always, even when I don't believe in myself. You make me my best self, whether you are supporting me through some real surgery benders or going on adventures together in our new home. I am so proud of you and ecstatic for the next chapter in our lives – I know we can do it because we will be doing it together. I would have never dreamt of marrying a southern gentleman from Alabama who became a global surgeon starting a surgery residency half the world away but sometimes real life is better than anything I could dream up. Thank you Eli for undertaking the journey of a lifetime together. I can't wait to do it all with you.

I am realizing that it is impossible to capture all that I would want to say to you in just a letter. I am so sorry I can't tell you this all in person in the setting you deserve for all you have done for me. Suffice it to say, I already reflect on my time at Penn so fondly. Thank you for being a part of my story and please stay in touch.

General Surgery Residency

Andrew Newton, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship, Surgical Oncology,
MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

Greetings from Houston. I could not have enjoyed my time at Penn more or have trained at a better residency program. In lieu of a graduation speech, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to some of those that meant the most. For those not mentioned, it is only because we have limited space – I am eternally grateful to every single person that contributed to my education at Penn.

Thank you to the junior residents and APPs who made our jobs as chiefs easy. As I write my own progress notes and do my own discharges in fellowship, my appreciation for all of you has grown exponentially. A special thanks to Latesha Colbert who always expertly did what the attending would want even when it wasn't what I suggested on rounds. Thank you to Laura Huth and Andrea Brumbach for ensuring I was on track to graduate despite my repeated failures to follow simple directions or read emails. Thank you to the OR nurses and scrub techs, who I spent more time with than anyone and who taught me so much. A special thanks to Malcolm, Maureen, Kolon, Tina, Jules, Shawntae, Kim, Peachie, Maria, and Delayna, who looked out for me as an intern and were still looking out for me as a chief. Thank you to all of the attendings for your dedication to our education, for serving as role models, and for allowing us to care for your patients. Thank you to Dr. DeMatteo and Dr. Aarons for your leadership and support. Thank you to Dr. Singhal for teaching me how to do translational research and run clinical trials. Thank you to Dr. Dempsey for your wisdom and for demonstrating how a difficult operation can be made to look effortless when set up properly. Thank you to Dr. Fraker for your clinical expertise and excellence that shaped so much of my time at Penn. Thank you to Dr. Braslow for giving me autonomy and always adding humor to every situation, usually at my expense. Thank you to Dr. Williams for being demanding in the OR but as kind and generous as anyone the second the case was over. Thank you to Dr. Wachtel for teaching me how to be a resident and manage a team. Thank you to Dr. Mahmoud for the example you set as the ultimate surgeon, clinician, and leader, completely dedicated to her patients and her craft. Thank you to Dr. Lee for teaching me more about complex HPB surgery than anyone; he patiently watched me struggle through Whipples I covered while in the lab and then pushed me to be better as a chief. Thank you to Dr. Morris for his leadership in shaping Penn surgery into the outstanding training program it is today and his relentless advocacy for myself and every other resident he trained. Last, but most certainly not least, thank you to Dr. Roses for being a master surgeon, clinician, and educator, my biggest advocate, and a great friend. I would also like to recognize my co-chief residents; I was incredibly fortunate and constantly humbled to train with such a talented, compassionate, and driven group of individuals. Finally, thank you to my wife Joni for her unwavering support in allowing me to pursue my dream and for being the rock of our family.

I miss you all and look forward to seeing you again soon.

With the utmost gratitude, Andy



General Surgery Residency

Avery Rossidis, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Pediatric General, Thoracic, and Fetal Surgery, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Back in June, when I finished my seven years of general surgical training at the Nation's First, I walked out of the Pennsylvania Hospital doors for the last time and thought to myself, "Is this it? Is this really it?!" While I likely would have had the same inner dialogue no matter when I finished my training, the year 2020 has made us all question reality time and time again. Trying to summarize and reflect upon my experience at Penn in a paragraph for a newsletter feels wholly inadequate and, quite frankly, is an impossible task. There are countless individuals who have influenced my education and have helped to shape the surgeon that I am today. I cannot write about all of you, but you know who you are and I hope you know how much I appreciate your support, tutelage, and friendship. Even in this truncated format, however, a few must be named:



Dr. Williams – I'll never forget the first case we did together (my first case EVER) on the first day of my intern year. I am beyond grateful for your mentorship and feel incredibly lucky to now call you a friend.

Dr. Morris – If intern year makes you a doctor, it's JoMo's service that makes you a surgeon. You are a fierce advocate and devoted teacher whose dedication to preserving resident autonomy is more important now than ever.

My Co-Chiefs – It's been a wild ride and I can't imagine having lived through it with anyone else. I am honored to have trained amongst an especially talented and brilliant Penn Surgery class and I look forward to continuing both our personal and professional relationships for many years to come.

My Family – You have all supported me in different, yet equally essential ways. I will forever be indebted to you, but I promise that after another two *short* years of fellowship training, I will make every effort to be more present in your lives. You deserve at least that of me.

My Husband – Michael, I surely wouldn't have made it this far without you. All the clichés are true... you are my rock, you are my soulmate, you (and now Jax) are my everything. I don't know how anyone makes it through a surgical residency without a partner like you and I know I'm beyond lucky to have found you at such a young age.

To my junior resident colleagues, remember there are no minor surgeries, only minor surgeons, and none at Penn. You may not yet know how lucky you are to have access to the resources and the people that make up Penn Surgery, but you will when your training ends. There are truly no limits on what you can do and where you can go.

Now one month into my pediatric surgery fellowship, I thank Penn for preparing me for this road ahead. Taking care of sick kids is a very humbling experience and carries even more weight for me now that I am a mother. I feel completely prepared and confident for this next (and final!) phase of training and that is because of Penn. Please don't be a stranger and remember I'm just next door!

General Surgery Residency



Catherine Sharoky, MD, MSCE

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Surgical Critical Care, The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore

When I came to Penn, I remember being in awe of the level of professionalism, intelligence, drive and skill that I saw from those around me. My co-residents worked hard, held themselves to extremely high standards, yet remained kind and compassionate. In seven years, my admiration and respect has never wavered. It has been an

honor to have trained amongst the greats of Penn Surgery. I have been consistently challenged, and have learned more about surgery, medicine, life, and myself than I can begin to articulate. I want to thank all of my mentors, faculty, co-residents, DSE, nurses, OR staff, and students who made my time at Penn so transformative. In particular, I want to thank the countless patients whose stories I've had the privilege to be part of over the last seven years. We bear witness to devastating tragedy, unabashed joy, and incredible feats of resilience in our patients and their families on a daily basis, and it has been imperative for me to pause and reflect on these experiences throughout my training and acknowledge their weight. These moments have shaped me as a physician and as a surgeon. Thank you to my family and my husband for your endless support, and to my daughter Sophie who has brought more joy to my life than I could have ever imagined. Being your mother is my proudest accomplishment.



Husband Jason, Kate and Sophie

Andrew Sinnamon, MD, MSCE



Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Surgical Oncology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida

I am now about two months into fellowship, which is a bit of a different experience than I had grown accustomed to during chief year, but it is going well. I dearly miss Navicare, access to the EMR using Haiku on my phone, Philadelphia cuisine, delegating progress notes and electrolyte repletion to various interns, and seeing my friends and colleagues in the OR every day.

Thank you to all of the faculty who I have had the opportunity to work with over the past seven years. From each of you I have taken away something -big or small-that I will use to develop my own practice. Words cannot do justice to how much I appreciate everything you have taught me and for trusting me to care for your patients.

Thank you to the entire Division of Surgery Education, but especially Laura and Andrea. Everyone knows I would have been kicked out long ago without your support.

Thank you to all of the perioperative staff for your patience and for being an ever present source of assistance and encouragement. Or discouragement, when appropriate.

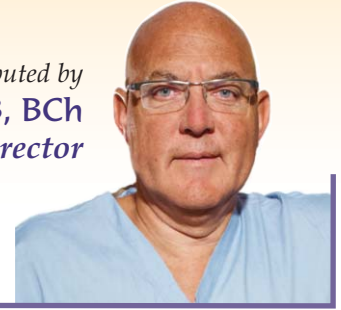
Good luck to the junior residents, and to the chiefs, I hope you are enjoying your year as much as I did. It goes too quickly.

During my brief time in fellowship so far I have come to genuinely appreciate that the Penn Surgery program has truly trained me in an exceptional manner. I knew this would be the case years ago while applying for residency positions, but it is really something special now to look back from the other end of the road.

Please keep in touch, virtually and hopefully at some point in person. If you find yourself in Tampa in the near future please reach out.

General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

Contributed by
Noel N. Williams, MB, BCh
Program Director



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Preliminary Surgical Interns who completed the first year of their training here at Penn Surgery. They all did an outstanding job and were a credit to our program. Blair and Tina have remained as PGY2 residents and continue to excel. Samantha has entered a categorical GS training program in Iowa and Nikita has entered an OB/GYN residency in New York. Andrew, Lauren and Samar have entered their designated Radiology programs. I would also like to make a special shout out to Andreas, Luis and Sam, our outgoing PGY2 preliminary residents who did an outstanding job in the department over their tenure here. They have moved on to advanced categorical positions in Rochester, Geisinger and Lehigh. It gives me great pleasure to welcome preliminary interns to Penn Surgery and see them advance their careers thereafter.



Nikita Bansal, MB, BCh

Post Preliminary Year Position: Categorical PGY1, OB/GYN,
Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Undergraduate School: McGill University

Luis Pina, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: Categorical PGY3, Geisinger Medical Center

Two years that will influence my entire career. I have met the most amazing people and had the most amazing class. I have learned from everyone, from the medical students to the Attendings. I have enjoyed every moment and learned that you can be at Penn, beyond smart, excellent, gifted, and still be as humble as a human being can be. Thank you Penn for opening the doors to the pursue of my career goals. Thank you for giving me beyond what I ever deserved. Thank you for having me.



Andrew Dennison, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: Radiology Residency PGY1, Detroit Medical Center,
Wayne State University

Medical School: St. George's University School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Minnesota State University, Mankato

General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

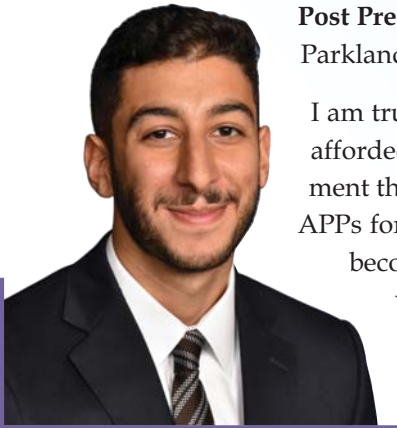
Andreas Giannakou, MD



Post Preliminary Year Position: Categorical PGY3, Rochester Medical Center, New York

When I left my home country 5 years ago to pursue my surgical training in the States I could have never imagined that I would be fortunate enough to get to work with the amazing group of Penn Surgery. A minute in my interview I knew that this is a special place to work to. Afar from the highest order of medicine delivered every day at all levels, it is the people that made my experience unique. Passionate, devoted and fascinating individuals, incredibly collegial and supportive, that soon felt like family. As I continue my training, I realize how my years at Penn gave me excellent experience and confidence and fully prepared me for my next steps. I already miss each and everyone of you and I hope I get to work with you in the future!

Samar Kayfan, MD



Post Preliminary Year Position: Radiology Residency PGY1, Parkland Hospital/UT Southwestern

I am truly thankful for my time at Penn for the outstanding learning opportunities I was afforded and relationships formed. This began with the inclusive, collaborative environment that Dr. Aarons and Dr. Williams created for the residents. I am also indebted to the APPs for sharing the inner workings of the Penn system so that we interns could quickly become acclimated to our new roles. Additionally, I will always recall my co-interns with great fondness as we faced enduring realities shoulder-to-shoulder with fortitude and determination. It must be said that Dr. Braslow, Dr. Sinnamon, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Ramadan served as outstanding role models whose distinctive characteristics I hope to emulate in my professional life. I am eternally grateful

for all of the experiences that I had at Penn during my internship year!

Even when I wore my Patriots Super Bowl jacket at HUP, I still felt a strong sense of brotherly love from our patients and staff.

I hope our paths cross in the future. I wish for you every success as you continue to deliver compassionate care to patients.

General Surgery - Preliminary Residency



Samantha Lloy, MBBS

Post Preliminary Year Position: Categorical PGY1, Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa

Medical School: Saint James School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Cape Breton University (Nova Scotia)

Lauren Shreve, MD, MBA

Post Preliminary Year Position: Radiology Residency PGY1, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Medical School: University of California, Irvine School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Michigan



Samuel Yellin, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: Categorical PGY2, Lehigh Valley Health Network

Thanks to everyone at Penn for making two years of surgical residency fly by and seem like such a short period of time. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have trained with and learned from all of you. Thanks to my co-residents for making sure the experience was both fun and educational, the support staff who make the experience seem so seamless, and to all the attendings for being wonderful mentors and educators. The training I received at Penn is serving me well at my current residency program and I know will play an influential role on my future surgical career.

Plastic Surgery - Integrated Residency



Joshua Fosnot, MD
Program Director



Cassandra Ligh, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Denver, Colorado

Medical School: Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina

Undergraduate School: Columbia University, New York

Jason Wink, MD

Post Graduate Position: Hand Fellowship,
Curtis Center, Baltimore, Maryland

I started at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in the summer of 2009 as an eager medical student having no idea of what kind of physician I would become. Medical school started off with a bang, as I tore my ACL on the first day. I left the University of Pennsylvania in the summer of 2020 as a father, husband and plastic surgeon. I have all of Penn Med and the Department of Surgery to thank for turning me into the person and surgeon I am today. I have a lifetime of memories and experiences shared with innumerable faculty, staff and co-residents. I am lucky and humbled to call the exceptional people of Penn Surgery my colleagues and friends. My biggest disappointment in not having a graduation ceremony was that I was not able to recognize my family for all of their support throughout my education and residency training. Thank you, Mom and Dad. It has been a long time since I was accepted to Penn Med and I still remember your first words: "How did that happen?" Congratulations to all of my fellow 2020 residency graduates. Come visit Sophie, Kate & me in Baltimore.



**Sophie,
Jason and Kate**

Chen Yan, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship - Microsurgery, UCLA
Los Angeles, California

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Undergraduate School: Harvard University



Plastic Surgery - Independent Residency



Takintope Akinbiyi, MD, MSc

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Assistant Professor,
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Residency: General Surgery, Rutgers' New Jersey Medical School

Medical School: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York

Undergraduate School: Johns Hopkins University

Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship

Jesse Taylor, MD
Program Director



Laura Humphries, MD

Post Graduate Position: University of Mississippi
Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi

Residency: University of Chicago Medicine

Medical School: Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine



Lower Extremity Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Stephen Kovach, MD
Program Director



Bryan Holand, DPM

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Residency: Department of Orthopedic Surgery/
Division of Podiatry, Podiatric Medicine & Surgery, Reconstructive Rearfoot & Ankle Surgery
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York

Medical School: Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Sciences, Chicago, Illinois

Undergraduate School: University of California, San Diego



Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

Liza Wu, MD
Program Director



Harry Nayar, MD



Post Graduate Position: University of Wisconsin
Division of Plastic Surgery & Cosmetics, Madison, Wisconsin

Residency: Plastic Surgery, University of Wisconsin

Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine

Christina Pasick, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, New Jersey

Residency: Plastic Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania



Paul Therattil, MD



Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, New Jersey

Residency: Plastic Surgery, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Medical School: Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Sarah Virk, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Residency: Plastic Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine,
Palo Alto, California

Medical School: New York University School of Medicine



Surgical Education Fellowship

Kristoffel R. Dumon, MD
Program Director



David Sigmon, MD



Post Graduate Position: General Surgery Residency, University of Illinois at Chicago

Medical School: Tulane University School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Johns Hopkins University

Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Peter L. Abt, MD
Program Director



Shelly Wilson MD PhD joined the Penn Abdominal Transplant Fellowship after completing general surgery residency at the University of Colorado. Beyond refined surgical skill and judgement, the adjectives organized and knowledgeable would readily identify Shelly. Making friends came easily and she will be missed by many who worked with her. We wish Shelly the best of luck as she brings the Penn tradition of transplant excellence to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Shelly Wilson, MD, PhD



Post Graduate Position: Recover Surgeon, Gift of Life Donor Program

I was born and raised in Oklahoma, and completed my Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Oklahoma State University. I attended the University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston, where I earned both an MD and PhD in Cell Biology studying liver regeneration. I underwent general surgery training at the University of Colorado prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania for an abdominal transplant surgery fellowship. After completion of my fellowship I was an organ recover surgeon for the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, then will work as a kidney transplant and hepatobiliary surgeon in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Contributed by **Niels D. Martin, MD - Program Director**

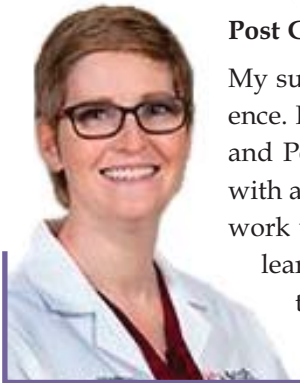
The Traumatology & Surgical Critical Care Fellowship finished 8 fellows this year. New this year was additional certification by the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) in Acute Care Surgery for the 4 surgical fellows completing two-years with us. Our graduates continue the Penn Trauma legacy of being recruited to the very best positions around the country, positioning them for tremendous success as academic surgeons. All of our graduates are now practicing at busy Level 1 Trauma centers and providing care in all domains of Acute Care Surgery. Penn Trauma was fortunate enough to entice Elinore Kaufman to stay and join our faculty. Jane Keating is at Hartford Hospital in the University of Connecticut system. Madhu Subramanian is at Johns Hopkins University. Andrew Young & Alex Helkin are at The Ohio State University. Lane Frasier is at the University of Cincinnati. David Poliner is doing additional training in Neuro Critical Care at the University of Maryland and Matthew Goldshore has returned to his residency in General Surgery here at Penn. We could not be more proud of our graduates and look forward to their many future accolades in patient care, education, science, and leadership.



Lane Frasier, MD, MS

Post Graduate Position: University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

My surgical critical care fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania was an incredible experience. I especially enjoyed spending time at both the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. Their very different patient populations provided me with a breadth and depth of clinical care hard to match at any one institution. It was valuable to work with both resident physicians and advanced practice providers in the ICU setting, and I learned about teaching, and leading different types of clinical care teams. I am so grateful for the opportunity to train at the University of Pennsylvania, and as I begin my career at the University of Cincinnati I know I have been well-prepared for all aspects of caring for critically ill and critically injured patients.



Matthew Goldshore, MD, PhD, MPH

Post Graduate Position: General Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

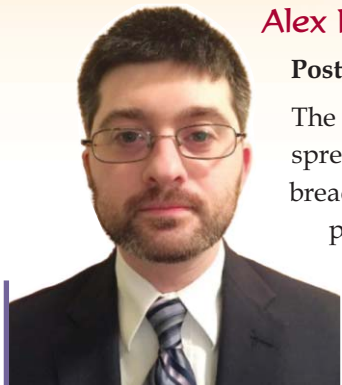
Given my interest in pediatric surgical critical care, Dr. Martin and I created a unique curriculum specifically designed to learn how to provide evidence-based care to critically ill children throughout the perioperative continuum. Pediatric surgery is unique in that it remains a bastion of general surgery amidst a field with progressively more subspecialty care. Pediatric surgeons care for children throughout the life course, from fetal to adolescence, and largely outsource critical care to pediatric intensivists. With innovations in pediatric surgery as well as advances in pediatric critical care medicine, the need to train providers with expertise in surgery and in pediatric surgical critical care is imperative to meet the demands of this complex population.



I spent half of my fellowship year rotating through Rhoades 5 (HUP) and PAC 4 (PPMC) and two months in each of the pediatric ICUs (neonatal ICU, pediatric ICU, cardiac ICU) at CHOP. I had the opportunity to both resuscitate a child with congenital diaphragmatic hernia who developed life threatening pulmonary hypertension necessitating ECMO as well as activate massive transfusion for a PAC 4 patient who fell victim to the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our community. Not to mention the (hopefully) once in a lifetime opportunity to work as a critical care fellow during a global pandemic. The breadth and depth of my experience was nothing short of incredible.

I would be seriously remiss if I didn't communicate my sincere appreciation to Dr. Brian Smith and Dr. Tim Gaulton whose doctoring I consider the gold-standard; to Dr. Niels Martin whose advocacy for my unique pathway was unprecedented; to the nurses and APPs who I consider both friends and clinical mentors and, of course, to all patients and families who I had the opportunity to care for during my fellowship year. I could not be more thankful!

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Alex Helkin, MD

Post Graduate Position: The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

The past year was an incredible time to be a Trauma and Critical Care fellow. From wide-spread social unrest to a global pandemic, plus the complexities seen routinely at Penn, the breadth of patients to care for provided a continuous challenge. I could not think of a better place to train. The nurses, therapists and advanced practice providers perform at the highest levels, and I owe a great deal to them for the education they provided. I am eternally grateful to Drs. Reilly, Martin, Kaplan, Pascual-Lopez, the rest of the Trauma and Critical Care faculty and of course, my co-fellows, for welcoming me into the Penn Trauma Family, and for an excellent year.

Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Coming to Penn for my surgical critical care and trauma fellowship at has given me the unparalleled opportunity to work with the best across all disciplines to care for severely ill and injured patients. It has been a privilege to learn from nurses, respiratory therapists, APPs, and physicians who are as committed to continuous improvement as they are to current excellence. I am thrilled to be continuing on as part of the surgical critical care and trauma family here at Penn. To my family, I can't thank you enough for your love and support through these many years of training. To my co-fellows, I will miss you and will keep texting you, but I know you will be saying "At Penn, we..." with pride.



Partner Maria Alvarez and Elinore with their kids Margaret and Esperanza

Jane Keating, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Acute Care Surgery at Hartford Hospital, Connecticut



After 9 years at the University of Pennsylvania, I returned home to Connecticut where I took a position at the University of Connecticut as an Assistant Professor of Acute Care Surgery at Hartford Hospital. My wife, Kelly, is the Director of the Early Childhood Center at Renbrook School in West Hartford where we currently live with our beloved toddler, Josephine. My training at Penn put me in a position where I felt poised for success at UConn. I will continue to be involved in education and am a core faculty member of the Acute Care Surgery and Surgical Critical Care fellowships. Additionally, I am the PI of two research interests collaborating with both the Injury Prevention Center and the Center for Anti-Infective Research and Development at Hartford Hospital. Although I will miss my Penn family immensely, I am thrilled to be a stone's throw away from my parents, siblings and nieces.

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



David Poliner, DO

Post Graduate Position: Fellow - The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Residency: Allegheny General Hospital - Western Pennsylvania Hospital

Medical School: University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

Madhu Subramanian, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

Residency: General Surgery, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow: Burns/Trauma/Critical Care
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Chicago

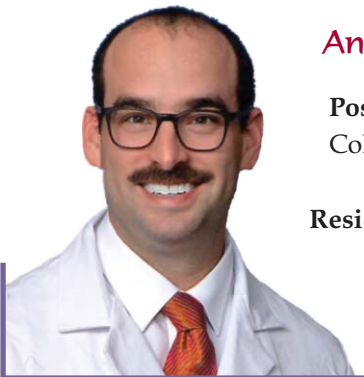


Andrew Young, MD

Post Graduate Position: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio

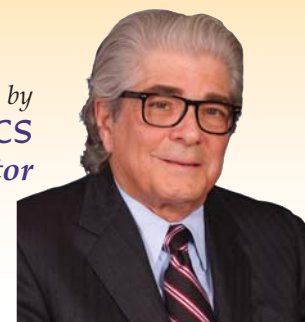
Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, Virginia

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore



Urology Residency

Contributed by
Alan J. Wein, MD, PhD (Hon). FACS
Program Director



Katie, Lior, and Cara finished the program in superb style, while absorbing the double whammy of losing the fourth member of their year to a transfer to a different specialty and Serving as leaders of and examples for the Urology team during the Initial onslaught of the Covid pandemic. Each of them is now a storehouse of urologic knowledge and a superb practitioner of their craft. I speak for all of us in Urology when I say that it was a true pleasure to have them with us for five years and to watch them develop their expertise.



Katherine Fischer, MD

Post Graduate Position: Pediatric Urology Fellowship,
 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

After an awesome 5 years at Penn, I am excited to stay nearby and continue my training in pediatric urology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I'm deeply grateful to all the attendings and co-residents who taught me, supported me and trusted me with their patients during my residency. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with many of the same attendings and residents over the next 2 years and am excited to start my career as a pediatric urologist.

Lior Hirsch, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Chester County, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University

Undergraduate School: University of Florida



Cara O'Brien, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Media, Pennsylvania

I graduated from the University of Virginia, with an undergraduate degree in Biology. I hold two masters degrees in biomedical sciences and dietetics, and received my medical doctorate from Eastern Virginia Medical School. I completed my general surgery internship and urologic surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. I am currently in private practice in Media, Pennsylvania.

Urology Robotics Fellowship

Contributed by
David Lee, MD
Program Director



Ryan Dobbs MD completed our robotic and minimally invasive urology fellowship. Ryan came to us from Chicago where he completed his residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has now made his way back where he has joined the faculty at Cook County Health Urology. Ryan will be putting his skills to great use taking care of patients with the minimally invasive approaches that he honed while with us while also teaching residents and students back in the Windy City. We congratulate him on his excellent work while he was here in Philly and know that he will continue his achievements in his new position!

Ryan Dobbs, MD



Post Graduate Position: Attending Urologist at Cook County Health and Hospitals, Chicago

I will be starting as an Attending Urologist at Cook County Health and Hospitals and as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Northwestern University and am looking forward to continuing my academic and clinical interests in providing access to urologic oncology care and addressing healthcare disparities for underserved populations in Chicago.

I want to thank all of the faculty, residents and staff that made a challenging year also a great opportunity for learning and development and would like to thank Dr. Lee and Dr. Guzzo for their guidance, patience and assistance throughout the year in making my fellowship a great experience.

Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Benjamin Jackson, MD
Program Director

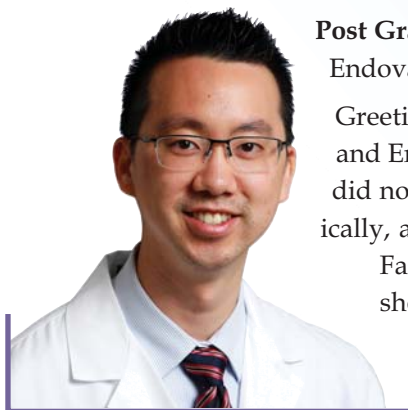


Two integrated residents and one traditional vascular fellow graduated from our programs this year. I speak for the entire vascular surgery faculty when I say that it was a distinct pleasure to work with and train these three young men. We expect great things from them in their careers, and we are pleased that they will continue the diaspora of Penn vascular surgery trainees around the country.

Jon Quatromoni has already started his clinical practice at the Cleveland Clinic, after being at Penn for his undergraduate education, medical school, and vascular surgery training. After spending all of his early years in the Philadelphia area, Anand Parikh has joined a single specialty practice north of Atlanta, Georgia, Vascular Surgical Associates. Finally, Sam Chen returned to UC Irvine, where he did his general surgery training, and has already started to bring Penn's approach to bear on vascular patients and his future academic pursuits.

While the conclusion of their training was marred by the obligations and uncertainties of caring for patients stricken during the coronavirus pandemic, I have confidence that Jon, Anand, and Sam will look back fondly on their years of training at Penn and will eagerly begin their careers with clinical sophistication and compassion for their patients.

Samuel Chen, MD



Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery, University of California, Irvine, California

Greetings from Southern California! Coming to Philadelphia to train in Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at HUP was my top choice for fellowship and my experience did not disappoint. I feel lucky to have experienced so many opportunities to grow clinically, administratively and academically during my time at Penn and I owe this to Drs.

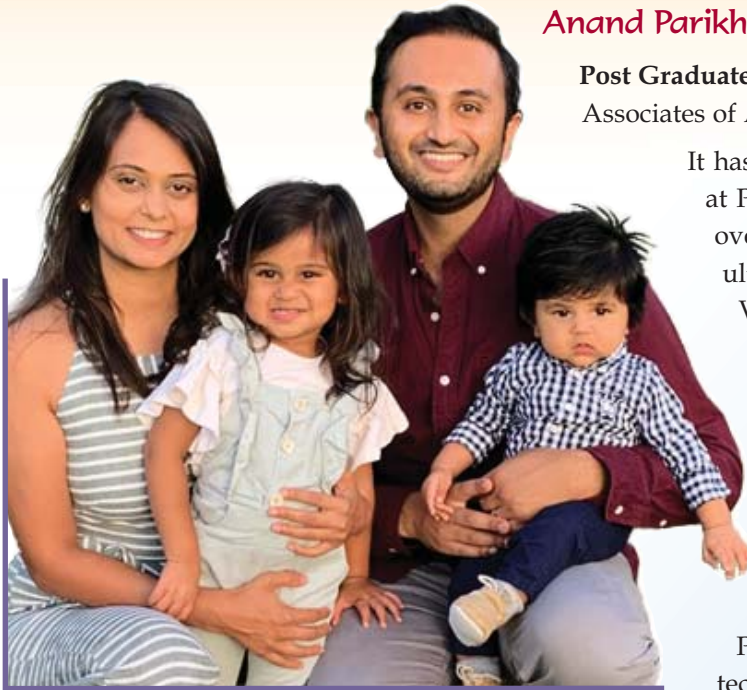
Fairman, Jackson, Wang, Foley, Damrauer, Kalapatapu and Glaser. The group showed me how to care for the sickest of patients with the most complex aortic pathology and advanced peripheral arterial disease, and allowed me to mature into a well-rounded, confident vascular surgeon. For this, I am extremely grateful. I am also very thankful to my fellow vascular fellows and residents

(Newton, Quatromoni, Parikh, Gaffey, Belkin, Fairman, Blackstock, Al-Adas, Biagetti, and Rice) for the camaraderie, the junior residents for their hard work in the trenches and all the APPs, nurses, radiology techs, OR staff and office staff for their support of common goals to optimally take care of our patients. The exceptionally collaborative model within Penn Surgery is one I will hope to emulate throughout my career. And finally, to all the patients of West Philly and beyond who entrusted their care to me, thank you! I am excited to see how Penn will continue to flourish as a national and international leader in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and am proud to stand among the esteemed line of trainees who had a privilege of training at Penn.



Anand Parikh, Sam Chen and Jon Quatromoni

Vascular Surgery - Integrated Residency



Anand Parikh, MD, MBA

Post Graduate Position: Vascular Surgeon - Vascular Surgical Associates of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to train here at Penn and specifically with this outstanding Division over the past five years. I am forever grateful to the faculty of the Department of Surgery and our Division of Vascular Surgery for molding me into the surgeon I am today, for their guidance and mentorship, their leadership, and for pushing me to be better every day. It is their dedication to hard work and doing the right thing by the patient that I will hope to emulate in my career.

Penn has been an incredible institution to train at, but it became home because of its people. Thank you to my co-residents and fellows, our Advanced Practice Providers, our OR staff, nurses, radiology techs, and our office staff. Each of you has taught me so

Ushma and Anand with children Laavi and Kabir much over the past five years, but it is your friendship that I will miss most as I leave Penn. Lastly, thank you to my wife, Ushma, and our children Laavi and Kabir for their unwavering support, love, and understanding. I am honored to be a part of the Penn Surgery family and please keep in touch!

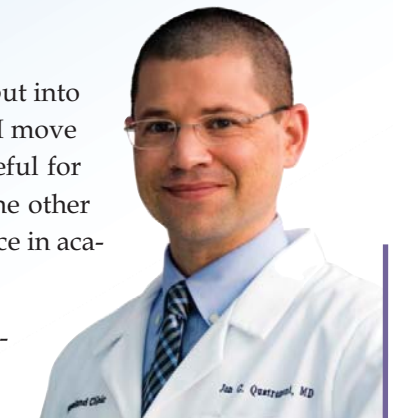
Jon Quatromoni, MD, MSTR

Post Graduate Position: Cleveland Clinic Vascular Surgery Staff, Cleveland, Ohio

Penn has been home to my wife and I for the last sixteen years, so it is difficult to put into words what the institution, city, and most importantly the people, mean to us. As I move forward, I am deeply proud of my surgical training at Penn and am forever grateful for the commitment of the faculty, both of the Division of Vascular Surgery and of the other surgical subspecialties in the Department of Surgery, to its trainees and to excellence in academic surgery.

I want to thank the everyone in the Division of Vascular Surgery, including the faculty, co-trainees, advanced practice providers, and administrative staff for making the past six years one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have learned so much from you all and it was a privilege to work with you on a daily basis. I want to specifically thank my program director, Dr. Ben Jackson, for his leadership, communication, and tireless commitment to the Division over the past year.

It is an honor to be a member of the Penn Surgical Family. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of service.



General Surgery Awards

90's Club

American Board of Surgery In-Service Exam (ABSITE) greater than 90

Feredun Azari, MD

Brett Ecker, MD

Omar Ramadan, MD

Emna Bakillah, MD

Mark Etherington, MD

Elizabeth Sonnenberg, MD, MSHP

Jack DePaolo, MD, PhD

Jennifer Fieber, MD

Phillip Dowzicky, MD, MSHP

William Johnston, MD

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence and "Top Gun" - Ian W. Folkert, MD

The Penn Center of Surgical Excellence is given to the surgical resident achieving highest honors on the annual American Board of Surgery In-Training Exam



Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Awardee - Andrew D. Newton, MD

Awarded to a Faculty or Resident member of the Department who has demonstrated leadership, interest and aptitude in surgical administration and management – selected by Award Committee.

William Y. Inouye Resident Awardee - Charles R. Vasquez, MD, MSCE

Awarded to a Surgical Resident for Excellence in Teaching Medical Students in the Surgery 200 Core Curriculum – selected by medical student evaluation scores.



William Y. Inouye Faculty Awardee - Robert E. Roses, MD

Awarded to the Surgical Faculty whose leadership, caring attitude and surgical judgment has been a model for the Surgeon-In-Training and with whom a bond of mutual respect and friendship has been established – selected by the Chief Residents.

Donald C. Liu Humanism Hero in Surgery Awardee - Katherine M. Fischer, MD

Awarded to a member of the surgical housestaff who exhibits compassion and sensitivity in the care of the surgical patient in a collegial, collaborative, selfless and ethical manner – selected by the chair and the vice chair of education based on peer and faculty nominations.



General Surgery Awards

Leonard D. Miller Awardee - Andrew J. Sinnamon, MD, MSCE

Awarded to the surgical resident whose clinical instruction of medical students most nearly approaches the standard of excellence set by Surgery’s Master Educator, Leonard D. Miller – selected by medical student vote.



Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Awardee - Jennifer J. Chung, MD

Awarded to the chief resident who contributed the most to the education of the junior surgical residents – selected by the junior surgical residents.

Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Awardee - Brett L. Ecker, MD

Awarded to the surgical resident who based on clinical evaluations, academic performance, and resident votes, in the opinion of the chair and program director is the top resident in the program.



Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Awardee - Yun Song, MD

Awarded to the surgical resident whose surgical investigation approaches an ideal epitomized by the Harrison Department of Surgical Research – selected by surgical research award committee.

Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Awardee - M. Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD

Awarded to the faculty member who has had the greatest impact on the education of the surgical residents – selected by the surgical residents.



The Surgical Mentorship Awardee - Giorgos C. Karakousis, MD

Awarded to the faculty member who has consistently demonstrated wise and trusted council and guidance to members of the surgical housestaff - selected by a committee consisting of the chair, vice chair of research and vice chair of education.

Plastic Surgery Awards

Don LaRossa Teaching Award - Scott Bartlett, MD

Awarded to a plastic surgery faculty member for excellence in teaching residents – selected by the chief residents



Benjamin Chang Teaching Award - Joshua Fosnot, MD

Awarded to a plastic surgery faculty member for excellence in teaching residents – selected by the junior residents

Penn Plastic Surgery Teaching Award - Cassandra Ligh, MD

Awarded to a plastic surgery resident for excellence in teaching medical students



Chief Resident Teaching Award - Ilaina Moyer, PA-C

Awarded to a non-faculty member for excellence in teaching residents

Linda and Joel Appel Award – Leilei Xia, MD

Award for research in prostate cancer



Howard Pollack Awards – Karl Godlewski, MD

Highest ISE Absolute Score and Highest ISE Rank

Urology Awards



Outstanding Scholar in Urology – *Katherine M. Fischer, MD*

Outstanding Technical Excellence in Urology – *Katherine M. Fischer, MD*



Outstanding Clinical Excellence in Urology – *Lior Hirsch, MD*



Outstanding Educational Efforts in Urology – *Cara O'Brien, MD*



Laparoendoscopic Surgeon Award – *Ruchika Talwar, MD*



Keith Van Arsdalen Teaching Award – *Daniel J. Lee, MD, MS*

Alan J. Wein Mentorship Award – *Daniel J. Lee, MD, MS*



Leberman Teaching Award – *Phillip Mucksavage, MD*

Education Staff

Laura Huth
Associate Director
Surgery Education Administration



Gabriella Bressi
Administrative Coordinator
Educational Programs



Andrea Brumbach
Program Administrator
General Surgery Residency



Damien DiStefano
Program Administrator
Fellowships, Integrated Programs



Liz Donaghue
Program Administrator
Undergraduate Medical Education,
Continuing Medical Education



Kris Gallagher
Program Administrator
Plastic Surgery



Kim Moore
Program Administrator,
Trauma/Surgical Critical Care
Fellowship Program



Robin Noel
Graphic Artist and
Web Administrator



Dominika Obrecht
Program Administrator
Trauma Fellowship



Jennifer Prassas
Program Administrator
Urology Program

Kathy Kratowicz
Program Administrator
Transplant Fellowship