



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

GRADUATION 2021

Special Edition to Honor the Department of Surgery Graduates

Messages from



Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD

*Chair, Department of Surgery
John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery*

This issue of the Penn Surgery Newsletter highlights our recent graduating trainees. The surgical residents and fellows are the foundation of our department. As detailed below, they are highly talented. They are now Penn Surgery ambassadors and will instill the hallmarks of Penn Surgery into those with whom they interact.

Jon B. Morris, MD

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



A year ago the COVID pandemic forced all formal surgical training program end of year graduation celebrations into abeyance. This gave rise to the concept of a special edition of the Penn Surgery Society Newsletter to honor the Department of Surgery housestaff graduates. We received very positive feedback on this publication from alumni, faculty and trainees. Therefore we have decided to continue this effort on an annual basis.

In the 2020 - 2021 academic year, 17 Program Directors and 9 Educational Staff from 20 Penn Surgical programs oversaw the training of 162 top notch residents and fellows. A primary endpoint for superb training programs is to prepare their graduates to deliver outstanding and safe patient care and lead the next generation of academic surgeons. This year, 42 such individuals will have the "Penn trained" imprimatur on their resume.

Please join me in congratulating the Penn Surgery Class of 2021!



General Surgery Graduates

(bottom row L to R) Seth Concors, Jenn Fieber, Victoria Gershuni, Liza Sonnenberg, Salman Zaheer
(back row) Phillip Dowzicky, Cary Aarons, Ron DeMatteo, Robert Swendiman

Aortic Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by **Joseph Bavaria, MD**
Program Director



Dr. Scott DeRoo came to us from Columbia University where he completed his 6 year Cardiac Surgery I-6 Residency. He completed a one year Fellowship in Thoracic Aorta Surgery on June 30, 2021. He accepted a Faculty appointment at the University of Washington Department of Surgery in Seattle. Scott was simply an outstanding fellow during his year at Penn. He is 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.



Scott C. DeRoo, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Cardiac and Aortic Surgery
University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, Washington

Residency: New York Presbyterian Hospital - Columbia Campus

Medical School: University of Michigan Medical School

Breast Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Julia Tchou, MD, PhD
Program Director



We are so proud of Dr. Seye Adekeye's accomplishments this year. She has been a tremendous asset to the Breast Surgery Section. Aside from her clinical accomplishments, she is the first author in a manuscript entitled "PTGES3 is associated with breast cancer pathogenesis and prognosis" currently being considered for the "Featured Article" of the Journal of Surgical Research. She has also been invited to co-author a chapter entitled "Advantages in Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Therapy for Breast Cancer" for the 14th edition of Current Surgical Therapy. Dr. Adekeye will be staying in the Philadelphia area and has accepted a faculty position at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.



Seye Adekeye, MD, PhD

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Residency: University of North Dakota, Fargo (General Surgery)

Graduate School: University of North Dakota

Medical School: SUNY Upstate Medical University

Cardiothoracic Surgical Residency

Contributed by
Marisa Cevasco, MD, MPH
Program Director



Michael Ibrahim, Marijan Koprivanac, and J. Trent Magruder are three of the most colorful personalities and talented surgeons to come through our training program in cardiothoracic surgery. Mike will be completing advanced training in minimally invasive, aortic, and mitral surgeries, and then will remain on staff as an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Marijan is also completing additional advanced cardiac training, but at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, where he hopes to stay on as faculty. Trent is heading to Georgia, where he will be working in a busy private practice affiliated with Emory University. Mike graduated from our I-6 program, where our trainees come to CT surgery directly from medical school. Marijan and Trent completed general surgery residencies, and then came to us for advanced training in cardiac surgery. It is clear that great training can be achieved in either pathway, based on the success of this group of highly talented and dedicated individuals. We are proud to have trained these three surgeons, and look forward to their continued success. Congratulations!

Michael Ibrahim, MA, MBBS, PhD

Post Graduate Position:

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery
 Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Training at Penn has been one of the outstanding privileges of my career. Penn Cardiac Surgery is a place of intense clinical and academic activity at the highest levels. I always wanted to be as good as the graduating chief residents who set a standard of unrelenting excellence. I am excited to begin my career as a faculty member within the Division of Cardiac Surgery with a focus on valve disease and heart failure. I will also be working as a bench scientist focused on understanding how the cell membrane of adult ventricular cells remodels in heart failure. My soon-to-be wife, Audrey, will also be joining the Penn family as a cardiac intensivist and anesthesiologist. I am so grateful for all the kindness from everyone over the last six years.

Michael with Dr. Audrey Spelde (Penn Cardiac Anesthesiologist & Intensivist) and Cairo (English Pointer).



Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship



J. Trent Magruder, MD

Post Graduate Position: Cardiothoracic Surgeon,
Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens, Georgia

I'm tremendously grateful for my time at Penn - the training and mentorship has been fantastic. The CT surgery fellowship here is unparalleled and a testament to Dr. Acker's vision and leadership. I will especially remember the courage, grit, and determination our faculty, residents, and staff at all levels showed throughout the COVID pandemic. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with you all.

Marijan Koprivanac, MD

Post Graduate Position: Aortic Clinical Associate,
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Penn is a unique place of clinical and academic excellence with the legacy of creating the best cardiac surgery training program. I am truly fortunate and honored to be a part of the Penn family and to carry this legacy in my future career. I would like to thank the faculty, residents, APPs, and nurses for the wonderful time and experiences we shared. It has been a true pleasure working with everyone. We all worked hard as a team and enjoyed every second, just like a true Penn family. I would also like to thank my wife Marta, and our little boys Nikola and Benjamin, for their constant support and unconditional love.



Marijan and his wife Marta

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship

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



This past year has been one for the history books, and COVID presented tremendous challenges for everyone, especially graduating surgical residents. But, these challenges have brought out the very best in all of them. Our fellow for the 2020-2021 year exemplified this: Ben Kuritzkes came from Columbia, one of the hardest hit hospitals by COVID in NYC. Already having been boarded in critical care, Ben spent 3 full months in a COVID ICU, enduring the rare highs and many lows. Despite this, Ben joined us at Penn in August with an incredible amount of enthusiasm and tremendous skill. He was a superlative fellow, relentless in pursuing his training and a smile never left his face. His academic and clinical prowess wowed us all – he crushed both his Colorectal in-training exam and his written GS Boards, all while supporting and leading incredibly busy services. Ben was a pleasure to train, and to learn from! We are not only confident, but also proud to send him back to rejoin the faculty at Columbia as a Penn-trained colorectal surgeon. We wish him and his (growing!) family all the best!



Benjamin Alexander Kuritzkes, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, Division of Colorectal Surgery
Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York

Looking back on my fellowship year, I am humbled and grateful. Penn's Division of Colorectal Surgery is a remarkable place. It was my honor to train with such a dedicated group of surgeons. Your commitment to clinical excellence, education, and to each other is inspiring.

Moreover, I am proud to have worked alongside all of you -- staff, nurses, PAs and NPs, students, residents, and faculty -- who comprise Penn Surgery. I have learned so much from each of you, and I am a better surgeon for it.

And of course, I am thankful for my family – for my wife, Miriam, and our daughter, Yael – for supporting me this year and always. I could not have done any of this without you.

Now, I am headed back to Columbia University, to join their Division of Colorectal Surgery. I look forward to seeing you all in the years to come. Thank you.

General Surgery Residency

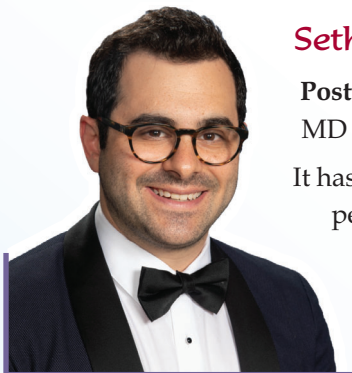
Contributed by
Cary Aarons, MD, MEd
Program Director



Please join me in congratulating our seven distinguished 2021 General Surgery graduates, all of whom are poised to transform the landscape of academic surgery.

Forged in the challenges of the past 2 years, they have emerged as resilient individuals and gifted, triple-threat surgeons. We are profoundly grateful for the countless hours that you have dedicated to the care of our complex patients, for your thoughtful dedication to the development and education of your peers, and your impactful research portfolios that span a broad range of interests.

The field of surgery is richer by your presence and our program has been iteratively enhanced by your innumerable daily contributions. We are immensely proud of all that you have accomplished and we will certainly be watching your meteoric careers with interest.



Seth J. Concors, MD

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

It has truly been my pleasure to train at the University of Pennsylvania with such incredible people. It is hard to put into words what the last seven years has meant to me. Looking back, I remember admiring the amazing senior residents -- JW, Heather, Ned, Gbenga, Rob Caskey, Reilly, Jeff Cohen, Matt Boelig, Matt Hornick, Ann Gaffey, Dave Aufhauser, Jen Chung, Brett, Andrew, and Andy – and imagining one day being in their shoes, embodying everything they taught me.

To all the attendings who have trained me along the way – Thank you. Every clinical decision I make, or operative technique I utilize is a direct result of the surgeon you have trained me to become. I will carry your lessons with me for the rest of my career. You entrusted me to care for your patients as colleagues, and for that trust I am immensely thankful.

The OR staff – Jules, Shawnte, Malcolm, Maureen, Tina, Maria, Delayna, Kolon, and Peachie – I've learned as much from you as I have anyone else in residency. You made sure I did not make a fool of myself as an intern and made me look good (as good as possible) as a chief resident. To the APPs – thank you for making my job easy as a chief.

To the entire Division of Surgery Education – especially Andrea and Laura – everyone knows you are the lifeblood of this program, and your support all along has been incalculable.

To my co-residents – you impress me every day. I did not feel like I had met “my people” in life until I came here and became friends with all of you. Your friendship through this journey has been invaluable. I learned from each of you every day. Continue to dedicate yourself without reservation to our patients. Trust the process – this is not a 6 to 6 job – and strive to be better for our patients each day. I know I will stay in touch with many of you.

Looking back on residency with a small bit of space emphatically highlights the importance it had in my life. Not a moment goes by without missing my daily interaction with the faculty, co-residents, co-chiefs, and peri-op staff. I already miss Penn every day – the people and experiences I have had will stay with me forever. Thank you all again, and I hope to see you again soon.



Andrew Newton (2020 grad),
Seth Concors and Jon Morris

General Surgery Residency

Phillip M. Dowzicky, MD, MSHP

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

I vividly remember opening the envelope on match day in 2014 and trying to process the words “Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.” The prospect of Penn surgical training was thrilling, but I truly had no idea how transformational the next seven years of my life would be.

Words can never capture the profound gratitude and respect that I have for every individual who was part of this incredible journey. Fancy robotic technology and investigative new drugs may steal the spotlight, but relationships remain the backbone of modern medicine. The relationships that I’ve formed here at Penn have helped me to become a better son, sibling, husband, friend, and of course, surgeon. It’s impossible to overstate how wonderful the people are in our surgical training program and how lucky we are to work in such an environment. The opportunity to further strengthen these relationships is one of the core reasons that I am so excited to return as a traumatology and surgical critical care fellow. I’d like to especially thank every patient who has allowed me to participate in their care. The stories and experiences of you and your loved ones inspire me daily to be better and have helped mold me into the physician that I am today.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart and I can’t wait to continue to work with so many of you again in August!



Phillip and his wife Vanessa

General Surgery Residency

Jennifer H. Fieber, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Breast Surgery Oncology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

As excited as I am to complete these 7 years as a general surgery house elf, there are so many day to day things that I'll miss that have become so familiar. I'll miss team breakfasts; stories of Penn surgery past, OR visitors changing the mood or offering a set of fresh eyes, hanging out in the call room with my co-chiefs that will likely never all be in the same place together again, and working with everyone that has become like family over the years. I wanted to use this opportunity to thank my mentors, attendings, seniors, co-chiefs and juniors for all the support and lessons that you taught me along the way. I am honored to earn your trust to help care for your patients. I also wanted to thank my parents for their confidence in me, my husband for his love and willingness to scramble through my final years of training, and my children for teaching me what is important and being incredibly resilient as pandemic toddlers. As many times as I heard, "trust the system," it took me until the last few months to get there and realize what an honor it was to do my surgical training at Penn and how much I developed into a surgeon and real adult over the years. I would like to end with a few words of advice to the residents: 1. Remember to take care of yourself and your family no matter what is going on at work; 2. You will never go wrong if you listen carefully to your patients and try your best to do the right thing for them; 3. Have fun! I feel so lucky to hang around Penn surgery for one more year of fellowship.

Jenn with husband (Dr.) Aleksey Novikov, sons Max and Drew and dog, Abby.



General Surgery Residency

Victoria M. Gershuni, MD, MSGM, MSTR

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Foregut/Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Washington University in St. Louis - Barnes Jewish Hospital

It has been a tremendous honor to train at Penn. I was drawn to Penn by the inspiring surgeons who have walked these same hallowed halls. I have been blessed by the incredible training and enriched by the amazing people that I have had the opportunity to work with. I arrived with high hopes and a very green understanding of what makes a surgeon. Now, I close out this formative chapter in my young career with even bigger dreams and the benefit of extraordinary training, and the wisdom that comes from dedicated, hard work. The people and relationships that I have formed have left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will treasure the memories.

To my Attendings, thank you -- for teaching me, for your mentorship, and, most importantly, for trusting me. The clinical judgment and technical skills that I've acquired are not by accident but due to sheer dedication on the part of our teaching faculty and the senior residents that came before me. To Drs. Williams, Kelz, Mahmoud, Morris, and Wachtel, your mentorship, guidance, and advice have been instrumental in my development and accomplishments.

To my Co-chiefs, we did it. It has been an honor to train alongside each of you, and you will all hold a special place in my heart. While each of us is unique with our own perspective, together we created a team that was dynamic, inspiring, and most of all, incredibly passionate about the things that matter most to us.

To all of our co-residents, APPs, OR and office staff, you all make this job possible. Each one of you has had a role in making us into the surgeons we are today. Trust the process; trust the Penn Surgery product.

To the DSE staff, thank you for putting up with me! Without you, I definitely would not be credentialed or allowed to walk into this place. But in all seriousness, Laura and Andrea, you take care of us like we're your children, and we all owe you our gratitude.

To Laura, thank you for making Penn Surgery not just a place that turned me into a surgeon, but also the place that turned me into a wife and mother. I am eternally grateful for your matchmaking skills that led to you setting me up with my husband, Scott. Our daughter, Violet Amelia, is a direct result of your contribution to our love story.

To my friends and family, I owe you more than I will ever be able to give for your time, flexibility, understanding, support, kindness, and patience over the past 7 years. Thank you for fielding phone calls in the middle of the night, letting me cry it out, dealing with me falling asleep at gatherings, and most of all, for helping me maintain sanity throughout it all.

To my husband, I am so grateful that I get to go on this journey with you by my side. Thank you for always pushing me to do the thing that will get me closer to my goals even if it means making our life more complicated. Your support and encouragement mean more than I am ever able to express.



Victoria with husband Scott and daughter Violet

General Surgery Residency

Elizabeth M. Sonnenberg, MD, MSHP

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Transplant Surgery
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

I can't believe residency is coming to an end. While I'm incredibly excited to start my fellowship at the University of Michigan, I am sad to end this chapter. As a medical student, I wanted to stay at Penn for the people – both the skilled faculty and the dedicated and compassionate residents. I feel so privileged to have trained at Penn and learned so much from my experiences and interactions with everyone in the Penn Surgery community.



Liza with husband Nate

To the faculty – thank you for teaching us to think and operate as surgeons. I realize this takes patience and persistence. Thank you for trusting us with your patients and treating us as your colleagues. Specifically, thank you to Dr. Kelz who welcomed me into my first OR as an MS1, to Dr. Morris whose repetition in the OR have engrained in us all how to do an inguinal hernia and whose constant questions taught us how to think and anticipate a patient's plan, to Dr. Lee who is always down to review a scan (with more insight than radiology) and discuss a patient's management, and Dr. DeMatteo who brings vivacious energy to every case and has vision to grow and develop our department. Lastly, thank you to the entire transplant division for taking us through some of the most technically complex cases and sparking a passion for transplant in me. Specifically, thank you to Dr. Abt for sharing your wisdom, enthusiasm for every transplant (especially when the kidney pees!) and incredible technical skills and mentorship.

To my co-chiefs – what a journey! Thanks for always picking up your phone. Thank you for finding humor in both the challenging and the mundane moments. I've learned exponentially from sharing our experiences with each other.

To the residents – thank you for working tirelessly and what sometimes feels like thank-less-ly to take excellent care of both our patients and the hospital's patients. You each inspire me with your energy, knowledge, humor and humanity.

To the OR staff – thank you for teaching us surgery and keeping us in line.... giving us what we need and not what we ask for. Telling us how each attending does it and already having the equipment we need in the room. We would be lost without you.

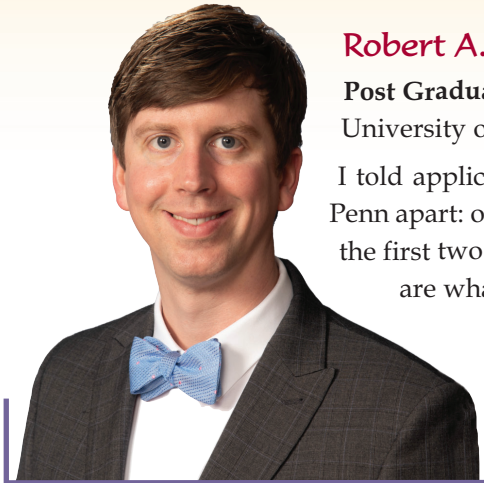
To the APPs – thank you for making our job easier. From intern year to chief year, we look to your knowledge about the service or attending's preferences. Thank you for spending the extra time with our patients or their family, alleviating their concerns and answering their questions.

To DSE – Laura and Andrea – thank you for keeping everyone in line and caring for us more deeply than is in your job description.

To my family and my husband Nate – thank you for supporting me through this journey. When I, as a single 20 year old, thought about becoming a surgeon, I thought the one thing harder than being a surgical resident is being married to a surgical resident. So thank you – I couldn't have done it without you!

As I move to Ann Arbor, I'm filled with gratitude for these experiences, support and friendships and I know I will always be part of the Penn Surgery family. I look forward to our paths crossing again!

General Surgery Residency



Robert A. Swendiman, MD, MPP, MSCE

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Pediatric Surgery, Primary Children’s Hospital, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

I told applicants to the Penn General Surgery program that there are three things set Penn apart: operative autonomy, the opportunities in the lab, and the people. And while the first two of these are extremely important, after 7 years I am certain that the people are what sets Penn apart.

I distinctly remember when I matched here being welcomed by residents and faculty to the “Penn family.” Since then, it has been an incredible journey. Brenda and I moved to Philadelphia together and have lived a lifetime. We got married, had two children, bought a home, and set our sights on moving out west. Throughout it all, my colleagues, the faculty, OR teams, and the friends we picked up along the way have supported us through the good times and bad. You have rushed to our sides when in need and celebrated in times of joy. During our time in Philly, our immediate family doubled in size, but our Penn family grew exponentially.

There are too many people to thank individually, but there are a few that I must mention. Thank you to Dr. Jon Morris and Dr. Jeff Drebin for recruiting me here, Laura and Andrea for literally everything along the way, Dr. Michael Nance for his mentorship and guidance, my father for supporting me throughout this journey, my mother watching over me every day, and of course my beautiful wife, Brenda, who somehow found a way to put up with all of this for 7 glorious years.

Thank you to every one of you who makes this place so special. And to the new interns who have the best 7 years of their life ahead of them: Welcome to the Penn family.



Lucy



Luke

General Surgery Residency

Salman Zaheer, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Cardiac Surgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

When I attended the chief graduation dinner as an intern, Dr. Fraker asked me “Don’t you want to be up there?” And I responded, “I wish I can”. And he replied, “We will get you there”.

And here I am, graduating from this prestigious program six years later. This is the single greatest accomplishment of my life so far, made possible by the relentless support of my parents, my fiancé, all the faculty members, my co-residents, OR staff, advance practice providers and the nurses. Six years ago, when I started as an intern, I was as clueless as one can be but over this beautiful journey, all of you taught me how to be a doctor, a good surgeon, and above all a better human being.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the people who 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.

First of all, I want to thank my chief residents, Heather Wachtel for showing me how to lead by example and to be firm and soft at the same time - the art I am still learning, JW McArthur for showing me how to hustle and to put patient care above everything else, Jash Datta for being available for advice and support whenever I needed it. I want to thank Andy Newton and Brett Ecker for their friendship during residency and for supporting me from when I was an intern to the time I became a chief. I want to thank the upcoming chief class Justin, Paul, Mark, Anna, Yun, Lauren, and Kendall for being the greatest co-interns, I appreciated all of your support and friendship especially through the first 2 years of residency. I want to thank the current interns Nic, Adele, Jasmine, Chris, and Madison for all your hard work and for making the chief year so much easy for me.

Thank you to my Co-Chiefs, who made the last 2 years of the residency so much enjoyable. I am extremely proud of all of your accomplishments, and I am thankful that I got the opportunity to learn from you and work with each of you. I especially want to thank Seth for his friendship and for pushing me to be a better doctor and better surgeon.

Thanks to all the OR staff esp Malcolm, Maureen, Jules, Shawnte, Kolon, Peachie and Martha for looking out for me in the OR and making me look good.

Thanks to Andrea and Laura for pampering me like a child throughout and making sure that I graduate from this program and don’t get fired.

Thank you, Dr. Morris for inducting me into this prestigious program, you gave me my dream job and I can never forget that. Thanks, Dr. Williams for being a father figure and a friend and making sure that I do well at every stage of my training. Thanks, Dr. Dempsey for your pearls of wisdom and for showing how one can be humble and a master surgeon at the same time. Thank you Dr. Braslow for your teaching and humor inside and outside the OR, ESS is bearable just because of you. Thanks, Dr. Lee for showing me the ins and outs of HPB surgery. Thanks, Dr. DeMatteo for all your expert advice in the OR, and for letting me lead through challenging cases, the only regret I have during my residency is that I did not get to spend enough time with you in the OR. Thanks, Dr. Aarons for your leadership and support.

Now I want to thank a group of people for who words are insufficient to pay my gratitude. I would not be here if this was not for the support of these people. These people are my family who welcomed me to their life like their own 10 years ago and then nurtured me throughout my training, Dr. Karakousis, Dr. Kelz, Dr. Roses, and last but not the least my mentor, my role model, my friend Dr. Fraker. I will forever be grateful for everything you have done for me.

I want to thank my fiancé Sam for being there during the low moments and for providing support when I had no one else to go to.

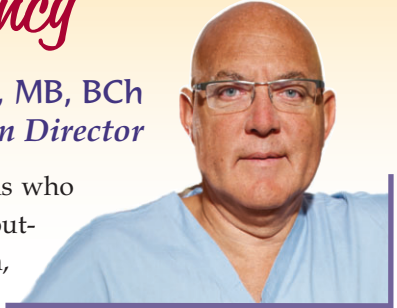
Lastly, I want to thank my parents who sacrificed so much throughout their life so that I can achieve my dreams. I promise once done with my training I will try to be a better son and be more present in your lives.

I am as proud as one can be graduating from this prestigious program and be a part of the Penn Surgery family. I look forward to carrying the Penn Surgery tradition throughout my career and staying in touch with all of you. Thank You!



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. Juan Esteban Perez, Evan Smith, Fatimah Sorefan-Mangou and Tyler York have remained as PGY2 residents and continue to excel. The following residents have continued their careers in other institutions around the country: Following his internship here at Penn, Michael Chun matched at Stamford Hospital in General Surgery. Monica Matsumoto has begun her IR residency here at Penn. Following her internship here, Kathryn Ogborn entered a categorical GS program at Mercy Health St. Elizabeth in Ohio as PGY2 resident. Tina Bharani, Pasha Shakoori, and Blair Segsworth all completed their PGY2 year at Penn. Tina Bharani has entered a categorical GS training program (PGY3) at Jefferson University Hospital here in Philadelphia. Pasha Shakoori has begun his Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Independent Residency at USC in Los Angeles. Blair Segsworth has begun his Anesthesia Residency at UC Davis in Sacramento. It gives me great pleasure to welcome preliminary interns to Penn Surgery and see them advance their careers thereafter.



Tina Bharani, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: General Surgery Residency, PGY3, Thomas Jefferson
 I'm really grateful to the Penn Surgery family for playing an instrumental role in my early surgical training and helping me pursue my goals! My time with the Department of Surgery has not only laid a strong foundation in my formative years as a surgical trainee, but has also gifted me with everlasting friendships.

Michael B. Chun, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: General Surgery Residency, PGY1, Stamford Health
Medical School: Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Undergraduate School: Stanford University School of Medicine



Monica M. Matsumoto, MD

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

First of all, I want to thank you all for your collegiality throughout my year with Penn Surgery, from the attendings and chiefs, to my amazing co-interns. Second, I am so happy I will be able to continue to see you all throughout the next 5 years, and I look forward to reading all your periop imaging and taking your IR consults! Perhaps most importantly, you all taught me so much about the joys of teamwork, the dedication to patient care, and just plain old hard work. Best of luck to everyone in your respective journeys, and I will always be proud to have worked with you and to call you all colleagues.



General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

Kathryn M. Ogborn, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: General Surgery Residency, PGY2,
St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, Ohio

Medical School: American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine,
Sint Maartin

Undergraduate School: James Madison University



Blair M. Segsworth, MD, M.Sc

Post Preliminary Year Position: Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine Residency,
PGY3, UC Davis Health

Greetings from California! Taking a moment to reflect on my time at Penn has shown me how transformative of an experience it was. I came to you as a wide-eyed intern and left with a strong foundation and the key principles for what it means to be a good physician. My co residents at Penn set the example for teamwork and supporting one another which will be carried on throughout my career. Thank you again to the attendings who take pride in teaching their residents and helping us all develop into the physicians we hope to be. And to the incredible administrative staff- you are the backbone of the department, all of the things that we do during the day would not be possible without your effort. It was always appreciated.

The past two years were an incredible challenge to us all, both inside and out of the hospital, but I will always reflect on them positively. And most importantly, I will always remember that I was at Penn when I got married to my incredible wife, Maria Jose.

Anesthesia at UC Davis has been incredible so far, and I hope to work with all of you someday from the other side of the drapes.

Blair with wife, Maria Jose



Pasha Shakoory, DDS, MD

Post Graduate Position: Plastic and Reconstructive Independent Residency,
University of Southern California

Graduate School: Columbia University

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

Undergraduate School: University of California



Plastic Surgery - Integrated Residency

Joshua Fosnot, MD
Program Director



Duncan Mackay, MD

Post Graduate Position: Craniofacial Fellowship, Stanford University

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

Undergraduate School: Duke University



J. Thomas Paliga, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Duke University School of Medicine

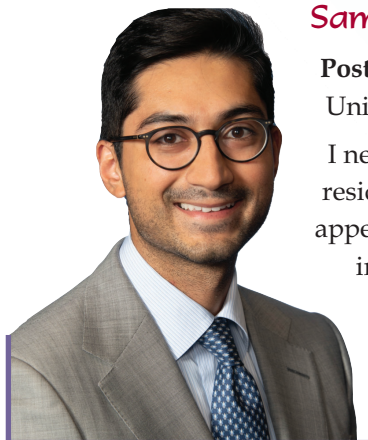
Undergraduate School: Claremont McKenna College



Sameer Shakir, MD

Post Graduate Position: Craniofacial Fellowship,
University of Washington - Seattle Children's Hospital

I never quite understood why so many of my mentors fondly reminisced of their days in residency. The long hours, times of uncertainty, and delayed gratification are not exactly appealing. I realized after graduating this past summer, however, that these aspects are immaterial. My time at Penn has left me with unparalleled clinical training, mentors who give me something to aspire to, and a band of brothers and sisters known as my co-residents. I will forever cherish my six years of training in Philadelphia and the accompanying experiences and invaluable relationships that will undoubtedly shape my career in the years to come.



Plastic Surgery - Independent Residency



Said Azoury, MD

Post Graduate Position: Microsurgical Fellowship, Memorial Sloan Kettering

Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital

Medical School: Eastern Virginia Medical School

Undergraduate School: University of Virginia

Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship



Anna Carlson, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Michigan State, East Lansing, Michigan

Residency: Duke University

Medical School: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison

Jesse Taylor, MD
Program Director



Lower Extremity Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Stephen Kovach, MD
Program Director



William 'Jake' Brownell, III, DPM, MA

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of Pennsylvania

Residency: Resident Physician, Penn Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System

Medical School: Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine

Undergraduate School: Temple University



Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

Liza Wu, MD
Program Director



Matthew T. Joy, MD



Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Residency: Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Medical School: Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Southern California

Khang T. Nguyen, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Tucson, Arizona

Residency: North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

Medical School: McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University

Undergraduate School: Harvard University



Hunter Oliver-Allen, MD



Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Spokane, Washington

Residency: University of California San Francisco

Medical School: Indiana University School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Colorado College

Juan Rendon, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Los Angeles, California

Residency: The Ohio State University

Medical School: Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Georgetown University



Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Peter L. Abt, MD
 Program Director



It is with a touch of sadness that the Division of Transplant Surgery is saying goodbye to Alex Chang. Alex is a graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine and residency in general surgery at the University of Cincinnati. Indefatigable in all aspects, with excellent surgical skills, and a knowledge base that few fellows can match, Alex delivered superb care to the transplant patients with his usual aplomb. Alex will be returning to Cincinnati this summer where he will be joining the abdominal transplant service. We look forward to seeing his career flourish.



Alex L. Chang, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

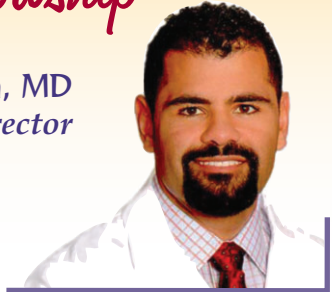
After completing medical school in Texas and General Surgery Residency in Ohio, I came to Penn to pursue abdominal transplant fellowship. The hard working team at Penn Transplant Institute showed incredible perseverance and got through the last two years despite all the challenges and I am grateful for the depth and breadth of training. I am going on to continue my career as a faculty of the University of Cincinnati in transplant surgery.



Alex Chang in the OR

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

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



The Traumatology / Acute Care Surgery & Surgical Critical Care Fellowships finished 7 fellows this year; all graduates finished with a certificate in Surgical Critical Care and 4 fellows received an added certificate from the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) in Acute Care Surgery. This year’s 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 this year’s graduates will be practicing at busy Level 1 Trauma centers and providing care in all domains of Acute Care Surgery.

James Byrne will be joining the renowned faculty at Johns Hopkins University. Drew Farmer is heading to UT Southwestern with a primary practice at Presbyterian Dallas. Christopher Graham is heading to the busiest trauma center in New York City at Montefiore / Jacobi Medical Center and will have a faculty appointment at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dane Scantling will be faculty at Boston University and is joining the group at Boston Medical Center. Drew Benjamin is heading to the University of Chicago, one of the busiest centers in the country treating penetrating trauma. Jon Imran will be practicing at Christiana Care with a faculty appointment at Thomas Jefferson University. Allyson Hynes is joining the faculty at the University of New Mexico and practicing at the State’s only Level 1 Trauma Center in Albuquerque.

We could not be more proud of our graduates and look forward to their many future accolades in patient care, education, science, and leadership.



Andrew Benjamin, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery,
 University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

Residency: University of Chicago Medicine

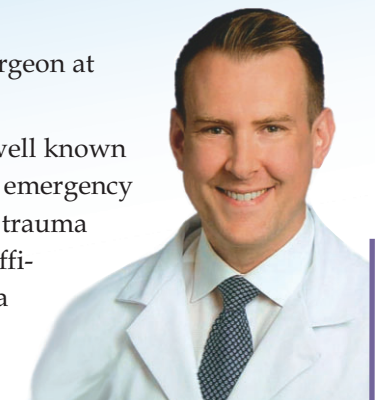
Medical School: Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Chicago Medicine

James P. Byrne, MD, PhD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

I knew when I chose to come to Penn for trauma fellowship that the program was well known and great for mentorship. But I could not have anticipated the level of trauma and emergency surgery experience that awaited me. During one of the busiest years for penetrating trauma in the city of Philadelphia in decades, the faculty supported my learning through difficult cases and my evolution into the attending mindset. They've instilled in me a motivation to keep learning and strive to do the best for my patients. I am forever grateful. Now off to serve injured patients in the city of Baltimore, I can't wait to get going.



Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Drew Randal Farmer, MD

Post Graduate Position: UT Southwestern, Primary Practice at Presbyterian Dallas

Residency: Baylor University Medical Center

Medical School: Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Texas at Austin

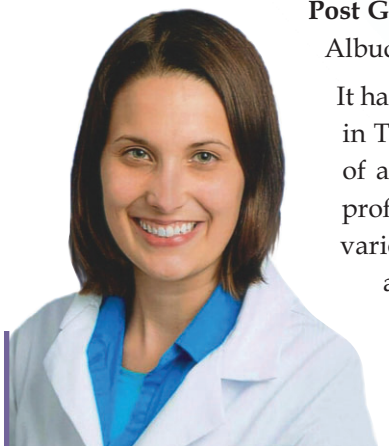
Christopher David Graham MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Jacobi, Bronx, New York

At Penn we had exceptional exposure and mentorship in the three disciplines that make up the specialty. As a quaternary center, our emergency surgery service received patients with the most complex anatomy in the region; even our “straight-forward appendectomies” were bilateral lung transplant patients. Critical care in the time of COVID at Penn was unparalleled – ongoing research, connections to industry, and excellent multidisciplinary support ensured that we were well versed in both the fundamentals and cutting edge of critical care. Trauma in Philadelphia is unique – police drop-offs bring gunshot victims to the trauma bay within ten minutes from time of injury and make it feel like a lab unlike any in the world – one where you could perfect your initial resuscitation and management of critically injured patients. There is no better place to train in the world.



Allyson M. Hynes, MD



Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

It has been an absolute honor to be able at the University of Pennsylvania for fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care during these past two years. With an abundance of academic richness, there is also an immense drive for both clinical excellence and professional development. It has been a tremendous privilege to be able to learn from various faculty members, fellows of various training backgrounds, house staff, advanced practitioner providers, pharmacists, nurses, and respiratory therapists- all that exist throughout the various healthcare locations. I will take with me many fond memories, and I know that I have been well equipped for my future endeavors.

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Jonathan Burhan Imran, MD

Post Graduate Position: Trauma Surgeon, Christiana Care Hospital
Newark, Delaware

My experience as a surgical critical care fellow has been exceptional and I am so grateful for the opportunity to train at an institution like The University of Pennsylvania. My wife Katie and I expected to come to Philadelphia for the year and eventually move back to Texas or Florida after I was done with fellowship. However, we loved the Northeast so much that I took a position as a faculty surgeon at Christiana Hospital in Delaware starting in September. I know that the teaching I received and the opportunity to care for critically ill trauma and surgical patients while at Penn have prepared me well for the next step in my career. I will miss all the faculty and staff that I met during my time here and hope to keep in touch with everyone throughout the years!

Dane Richardson Scantling, DO, MPH

Post Graduate Position:
Assistant Professor
Boston University School of Medicine

I never thought when I met Dr. Reilly as a paramedic a decade ago that I would get to graduate from this program. Thank you for giving me the opportunity and for mentoring me through such a challenging - and rewarding - time to be in both critical care and trauma. I look forward to seeing you all again soon!



Dane, Izzy and Estelle

Urology Residency

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



Karl, Matt, Aseem and Kinnari finished the program in superb style. 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.



Karl Godlewski, MD

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

Medical School: Rush Medical College of Rush University

Undergraduate School: Georgetown

Matthew Heavner, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Annapolis, Maryland

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to train at Penn for five years under wonderful mentors and alongside three colleagues that have become my best friends. I would not have made it through without the unwavering support of my wife, Ellie, and our two wonderful daughters, Lucy and Halle. I am beginning a career in general urology with Anne Arundel Urology in Annapolis, Maryland and am thankful everyday for the superb training I received at Penn.



Aseem Malhotra, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Endourology and Minimally Invasive Oncology,
 Thomas Jefferson University

Medical School: Temple University School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Temple University



Urology Residency

Kinnari Patel Kennedy, MD

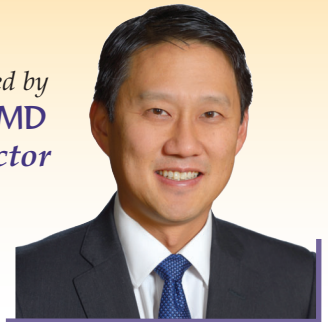
Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Vienna, Virginia

Starting practice has been a bit of a whirlwind but exciting so far. I feel incredibly grateful to have the voices of my mentors at Penn urology in the back of my mind in clinic and the OR. I miss operating with my coresidents and faculty every day and hope to be back soon to visit the team. Wishing the best to the current and future residents - the days may be long, but the years fly by - make the most of it! All my love, Kin.



Urology Robotics Fellowship

Contributed by
David Lee, MD
Program Director



We want to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Walker on the completion of his 1-year endourology fellowship, which encompassed all aspects of minimally invasive urology, including robotic surgery on the upper and lower urinary tract for benign and malignant conditions and percutaneous upper urinary tract surgery for kidney stones. He is a technically gifted surgeon. Equally as important is his bedside manner which puts patients at ease. He is a pleasure to work alongside and he is an excellent mentor and teacher to the urology residents. He is always willing to stay late to help with the clinical care of the faculty's patients, but also staff cases and consults for the residents when urgent or emergent needs arise as the primary attending surgeon. This type of selflessness and teamwork is characteristic of all of us in Penn Surgery, but in the Division of Urology in particular, and Dr. Walker is no exception. He also displayed excellent professionalism and support during our recent program leadership change and restructuring ensuring a continued legacy of successfully training endourology fellows for over the last 15 years at Penn. We are fortunate he is not going far as he will be building an advanced robotic surgery practice in the Philadelphia suburbs. We look forward to watching his continued success and career.

Jeffrey Bail Walker, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Philadelphia

It has been a true privilege training at Penn with such skilled and teaching-oriented mentors. This year has been invaluable in my surgical training, and I look forward to implementing the skills I've learned within the local Philadelphia suburbs and continuing the tradition of strong resident education. Thank you to all whom I have worked with in the urology division and the hospital staff. Thank you so much, Dr. David Lee, for sharing your expertise with me, and best wishes in your new role out west! Thank you to Dr. Tom Guzzo, Dr. Justin Ziemba, Dr. Phil Mucksavage, and Dr. Dan Lee for a smooth transition and commitment to my education. I'm extremely confident that future fellows will continue to benefit greatly from this outstanding program!



Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Venkat R. Kalapatapu, MD
Program Director



From the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, we would like to congratulate Ann Gaffey on completion of her vascular surgery fellowship in 2021. Ann graduated from Wellesley College and went to medical school at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. She joined Penn to complete her general surgery residency at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania. She also obtained a Master's degree in Translational Research at Penn in 2016. She joined our fellowship program in 2019. Ann has been nothing short of phenomenal during her time at Penn vascular surgery. She developed excellent clinical skills and maintained an excellent relationship with all the residents, fellows and faculty. With her very unique excellent interpersonal skills, she quickly became leader among residents and a role model. She played a critically important role during the COVID-19 pandemic with the vascular surgery team, in taking care of seriously ill patients with COVID-19. Ann demonstrated exceptional ability in taking care of a wide range of complex and challenging vascular surgery patients during her time. Among her many administrative accomplishments, she was also the resident advisor of the Penn Global Surgery group. We are all very proud of her accomplishments and wish Ann the very best in her career at the University of California in San Diego.



Ann C. Gaffey, MD, MSTR

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor In-Residence
 Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
 University of California-San Diego

I am grateful for every encounter and lesson learned from the faculty, nurses, and support staff at Penn. Throughout this decade, a number of people have inspired me and challenged me to be a better Vascular Surgeon- Thank you. I want to specifically thank Drs. Ben Jackson and Pavan Atluri for their unwavering support in both my clinical training and academic development. Lastly thank you to Andrew Bauder for being an amazing partner during this journey and his unconditional love. We are looking forward to our next adventure.

General Surgery Awards

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence and "Top Gun"

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



Ian W. Folkert, MD, PhD



Jordan Stoecker, MD



Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Awardee - Daniel T. Dempsey, 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 - Ciaran S. O'Brien, MD

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 - Ruchika Talwar, 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.



90's Club

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

Azari, Feredun

DePaolo, Jack

Dowzicky, Phillip

Folkert, Ian

Krumeich, Lauren

Passman, Jesse

Ramadan, Omar

Riley, John

Sonnenberg, Liza

Stoecker, Jordan

Tieniber, Andrew

Tortorello, Gabriella

Whitlock, Anna Garcia

General Surgery Awards

Leonard D. Miller Awardee - Paul Hernandez, MD

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.

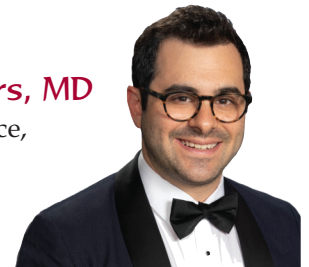


Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Awardee - Robert Swendiman, MD, MPP, MSCE

Awarded to the chief resident who contributed the most to the education of the junior surgical residents - selected by the junior surgical residents (PGY1-PGY4).

Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Awardee - Seth J. Concors, 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.

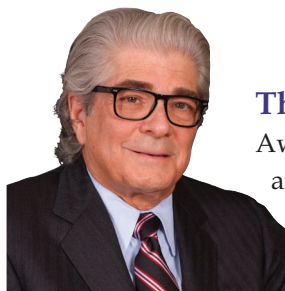


Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Awardee - Justin Hatchimonji, MD

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 - Major 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 - Alan J. Wein, MD, PhD (Hon)

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.

Jon B. Morris Faculty Teaching Awardee - Giorgos C. Karakousis, MD

Awarded to the surgical faculty member whose clinical instruction and mentorship has been most instrumental in enriching the learning environment and development of junior surgical residents - selected by the junior surgical residents (PGY1-PGY2).



Plastic Surgery Awards

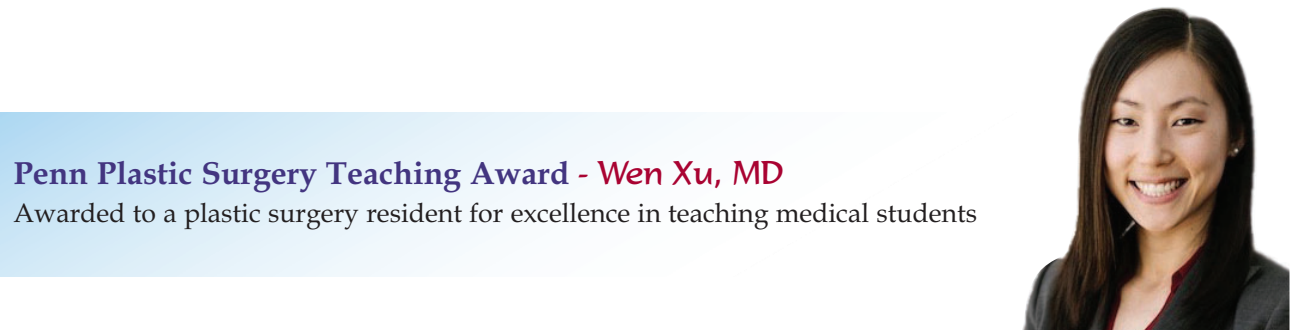
Don LaRossa Teaching Award - Joseph Serletti, MD

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



Benjamin Chang Teaching Award - Scott Bartlett, MD

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



Penn Plastic Surgery Teaching Award - Wen Xu, MD

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



Chief Resident Teaching Award - J. Brien Murphy, MD

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

Urology Awards

Linda and Joel Appel Award – Raju Chelluri, MD

Award for research in prostate cancer

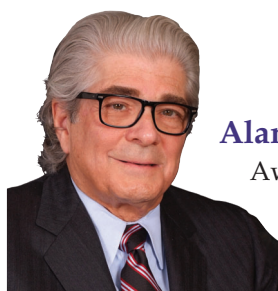


Keith Van Arsdalen Teaching Award – William Jaffe, MD

Award for excellence in operating room teaching - selected by the PGY4's

Paul Rodin Leberman Teaching Award – Phillip Mucksavage, MD

Awarded in recognition of overall excellence in resident education
- selected by the chief residents



Alan J. Wein Mentorship Award – Alan J. Wein, MD, PhD (hon), FACS

Awarded to the faculty member who has been the most instrumental in mentorship
for residents both individually and collectively - selected by the chief residents

Inaugural Urology Resident Medical Student Teaching Award

– Esther Nivasch Turner, MD

Awarded to the resident that contributed the most to the medical students
education in Urology - selected by the Medical Students



Urology Awards

Outstanding Scholar in Urology – *Aseem Malhotra, MD*
 Laparoendoscopic Surgeon Award – *Aseem Malhotra, MD*



Outstanding Technical Excellence in Urology – *Karl Godlewski, MD*

Outstanding Clinical Excellence in Urology – *Matthew Heavner, MD*



Outstanding Educational Efforts in Urology – *Kinnari Patel, MD*

Cardiothoracic Surgery Award

Teaching Award to Resident or Fellow from Integrated and Fellowship Program – *Marijan Koprivanac, MD*
 Awarded to the resident or fellow that contributed the most to the medical students education in Cardiothoracic Surgery - selected by the Medical Students



Education Staff

Laura Huth
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



Jennifer Prassas

Program Administrator
Urology Program



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