



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

GRADUATION 2022

Special Edition to Honor the Department of Surgery Graduates

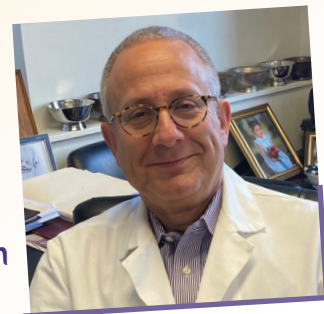
Messages from



Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery
John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery

This issue of the Penn Surgery Newsletter highlights another stellar group of recent graduates. The surgical residents and fellows are the foundation of our department. As you will see, they are highly talented and are ready to carry the Penn Surgery torch across the country.

Jon B. Morris, MD
Vice Chair of Education, The Ernest F. Rosato-William
Maul Measey Professor in Surgical Education



In the 2021-2022 academic year, 17 Program Directors and 11 Educational Staff from 20 Penn Surgical programs oversaw the training of 171 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, 47 such individuals will have the "Penn trained" imprimatur on their resume. Our residents and fellows remain the Crown Jewels of the Department of Surgery.

Please join me in congratulating the Penn Surgery Class of 2022!



2022 General Surgery Graduates

(bottom row L to R) Cary Aarons, Justin Hatchimonji, Lauren Krumeich, Yun Song, Kendall Brooks, Ron DeMatteo
(back row) Mark Etherington, Paul Hernandez and Charlie Vasquez

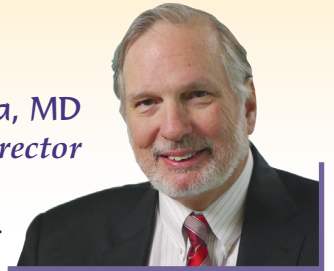


2022 Plastic Surgery Graduates

Olatomide Familusi, Monica Llado-Farrulla, Michael Tecce and Andrew Bauder

Aortic Surgery Fellowship

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



Keerit Tauh completed his one year Fellowship in Thoracic Aortic Surgery on June 30, 2022. Keerit came to us from the Integrated Cardiac Surgery residency at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. During his time here he was simply a spectacular Aortic Fellow. He is a profoundly knowledgeable physician, an excellent technical and intellectual surgeon and a fantastic teacher of junior residents. Both his patients and his colleagues loved him. While we will miss his cheer and skill and surgical creativity, he has accepted a position in Cardiac Surgery in British Columbia and will lead a Thoracic Aortic program in Kelowna, within the University of British Columbia.

Omar Jarral spent 6 months with us here at Penn as an Advanced Thoracic Aortic Fellow. Omar came to us from London, as well as being the recipient of the prestigious American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Graham fellowship, which is offered to residents from outside the US to study and learn at US institutions. He split his fellowship between Duke and Penn and flourished at both institutions.

Omar did a great job and is now back in London finishing his last few months of residency upon accepting a position as an attending surgeon in London. We wish him the best and we will stay connected far into the future.

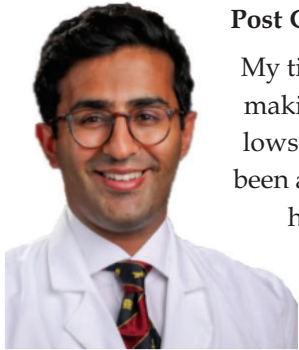
Keerit Tauh, MD

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Professor of Surgery,
Division of Cardiovascular Surgery,
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

What a place to conclude my formal training in Aortic Surgery! As a Canadian import from British Columbia having completed a 6-year clinical and 2-year research training in cardiovascular surgery, UPenn was not only a revelation into the world of Advanced Aortic Surgery, but also into the workings of a world-renowned and leading-edge surgical center. Penn is a unique training center where their legacy is grounded within its exceptional training faculty and clinical trainees. Graduates from this program have moved across the world to progress the limits within medicine and with immense pleasure and privilege, I hope to call Penn my Alma Mater. The mentorship and friendship I have developed at Penn will be life-long, I would like to specifically thank Drs. Joseph Bavaria, Nimesh Desai, and Joshua Grimm for teaching me to "See David!" Equally critical to my success at Penn has been my family who have always been fierce supporters of me and have put up with much time away from me. I am excited to be returning to British Columbia with my better half Tonia and Obi while we await the addition our next little one. Thank you to all OR staff, ICU Staff, and PAV9 staff who have made this a pivotal experience in my life. Much Love!



Omar A. Jarral, MBBS PhD FRCS (CTh)



Post Graduate Position: Attending Cardiac Surgeon, University of London

My time at Penn with Dr. Bavaria was incredible. He has helped significantly refine my decision making and operative skills in aortic surgery. The level of responsibility he gives his aortic fellows has allowed me to clinically mature in a very short space of time. Outside of the OR, it has been a pleasure spending time with him at conferences and socially. In addition to the above, he has been incredibly generous with his extensive network, and has put me in touch with other leaders in cardiac surgery. This has allowed me to learn further technical skills in Texas and New York. In summary, he has equipped me with the skills required to function as an attending, and inspired me to try to become a leader in the field.

Breast Surgery Fellowship

*Contributed by
Julia Tchou, MD, PhD
Program Director*



We would like to congratulate Dr. Jenn Fieber for completing her fellowship in breast surgery after her general surgery training at Penn. We are proud of her clinical and academic accomplishments and will miss having her on our service. Jenn and her family also recently welcomed her beautiful daughter, Alyssa, to join her husband, Aleksey, and sons, Max and Drew. Jenn will be joining the Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Florida as an Assistant Professor this fall.

Jennifer Fieber, MD

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

I can't believe my 8 years of Penn Surgery training are very quickly coming to a close. This year I had an amazing experience learning the nuances of breast surgery from Penn faculty new and old. I would like to thank the breast department, especially Drs. Fayanju, Sataloff, and Brooks, as well as the entire general surgery department, especially Drs. Kelz, Wachtel, and Roses, for your support throughout the years. This year definitely felt special as I completed my last year of surgery training, became a board certified general surgeon, and welcomed my daughter into our family. My husband and I are super excited to be joining the faculty at the University of Florida, but I will always be grateful for my time in Philly with the Penn Family and hope to stay in touch.

Jenn with husband (Dr.) Aleksey Novikov, and sons Max and Drew and baby Alyssa.



Cardiothoracic Surgical Residency

Contributed by
Marisa Cevalco, MD, MPH
Program Director



It is hard to imagine a better graduating class than Chase Brown, Jennifer Chung, and Todd Crawford. Characterized by an incredible sense of camaraderie and collegiality, hard work, and dedication to patient care, these three individuals left an indelible mark on our program. Chase Brown graduated from our integrated training pathway, after 6 clinical years and 2 research years at Penn. He will stay on as an attending cardiac surgeon, with a focus on aortic surgery and advanced coronary surgery. Jennifer Chung, a Penn general surgery graduate, finished our two-year traditional program, and after an additional six months with Dr. Joe Bavaria, will be heading to Santa Clara, California to work at Kaiser as an attending cardiac surgeon. Finally, Todd Crawford came to us from Johns Hopkins general surgery, and also graduated from the traditional program. He too will spend six dedicated months with Dr. Bavaria, before heading back to his hometown of Kansas City, Kansas, where he will be an attending cardiac surgeon at the University of Kansas. We congratulate these tremendous individuals on finishing their training, and we wish them all the best in their careers.

Chase Brown MD

Post Graduate Position:

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

Medical School: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Undergraduate: Wheaton College



Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship

Jennifer Chung, MD

*(Graduating after completing both a Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship
 and an Aortic Surgery Fellowship)*

Post Graduate Position: Cardiac Surgeon, Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara, California

When I decided I wanted to be a surgeon over a decade ago, I had only a vague idea of what I was getting myself into. Though many emphasize the rigors of training in terms of hours worked or sleepless nights on call, I quickly discovered the greatest challenge in what we do is the mental burden of being entrusted with the life of another individual.

Working daily to be worthy of that trust - from our patients, our attendings, our nurses & APPs, and my fellow co-residents - has been my driving motivation through this journey. And though my efforts have been imperfect, through the last decade, this team has given me the opportunities, training and support to try, fail, grow, improve and ultimately, to achieve my dream. I know that these opportunities have come at a cost, not the least of which are the grey hairs and white knuckles of my long-suffering attendings - for your sacrifice and patience, I am forever indebted. As I get ready to head off to a new coast and start independent practice, I will take all these hard earned lessons with me and continue to honor the legacy of those who have trained me and trained with me. Thank you all for the memories and the opportunity of a lifetime - you have given me the best gift that I could never repay, but that I hope to pay forward. You will forever be family. Please don't hesitate to reach out and come visit if you're ever in the Bay Area!



Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship

Todd C. Crawford, MD

(Graduating after completing both a Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship and an Aortic Surgery Fellowship)

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

The opportunity to complete my cardiothoracic surgical training at the University of Pennsylvania is an honor that I will forever cherish. The commitment of the faculty to educating and preparing the surgical leaders of the future, coupled with a tireless devotion to provide the highest quality of patient care is what makes this place unique. The field of cardiothoracic surgery is incredibly humbling. It is unimaginable to picture what it is like for our patients to navigate the hardships of heart surgery...until one day you are the patient. To the faculty, my mentors, and the residents and fellows, nurses, advanced practice providers, perfusionists, and ancillary staff that took such great care of me, I am forever grateful for your kindness and compassion. Finally, I would not have been able to complete this journey without my wife, Tori, the pillar of our family, and my parents and in-laws who took care of our son the last two years. Tori worked full-time in a different state, commuting back and forth with our son every week for two years and also cared for me during my recovery. I am so fortunate to have you in my life and look forward to our growing family (Baby Girl Crawford coming January 2023) and our new opportunity at the University of Kansas.



Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship

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

This past year, it seemed we were beginning to see the rays of sunshine past the clouds of COVID - and one of the brightest rays of light in our Division was Dr. Keri Mayers. In the next iteration of our apparent academic exchange programs with UC Irvine, Keri Mayers came to us sent with the highest recommendations of the faculty there including one of our prior fellows, and she did not disappoint! Keri absorbed knowledge and showed amazing clinical skills from Day One, and I don't think I have ever seen a fellow smile continuously all the way through her fellowship the way Keri did. She was a joy to teach, and quickly became a trusted peer and beloved of the housestaff and her patients. We are sad to see her go, but excited that she will be joining the Division of Colorectal Services at the University of West Virginia alongside another of our past Fellows, Doug Murken. It has been a pleasure working with her and getting to know her family, and we wish her all the best!



Keri Mayers, DO

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology/ Colorectal Services, University of West Virginia

Medical School: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine California

General Surgery Residency

Contributed by
Cary Aarons, MD, MEd
Program Director



Another amazing year for our Penn General Surgery Residency Program! Congratulations to another phenomenal class of gifted young surgeons who are poised to accomplish great things in their respective careers. We are profoundly grateful for the time that you have each dedicated to the care of our patients and for your thoughtful stewardship of the program's tradition of excellence. Your contributions to the residency program have enriched us all and we are immensely proud of all that you have accomplished. While graduation from residency marks the end of one chapter, our bond persists and we will enthusiastically track your careers for all of the many accolades to come. All the best.

Kendall Brooks, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Thank you, Penn, Dr. Morris and Dr. Aarons, for not only providing me with the incrementally transformative experience that is the general surgical residency, but for surrounding me with exceptional people. The number of milestones between intern and chief resident, both professionally and personally is unimaginable. The teachers, mentors, peers, and friends I have had the pleasure of working with at Penn have all contributed to molding me into the surgeon I am today. Penn Surgery has given me the confidence, knowledge, level-headedness, and technical skill I am taking forth in my career as a plastic surgeon.

Thank you to each faculty member for allowing me to care for your patients. Your continued dedication to teaching does not go unnoticed. It's your time and sacrifice that truly makes Penn an incredible place to train. Thank you for always answering your phone, providing your guidance, and pushing me to be a better surgeon. A special thanks to doctors Williams, Lee, Kovach, and Mantell for your mentorship. Thank you to my co-chiefs. The past seven years wouldn't have been the same without you. I learned a tremendous amount from our shared experience. Our time together taught me the value of learning from peers. Not to mention the life hacks like reading surgical texts to my children at bedtime. Thank you to the interns, junior residents and APPs who made our jobs as chiefs easier. Thank you to Laura Huth and Andrea Brumbach for keeping me in line and listening to us residents complain. You two are the definition of unsung heroes. Thank you to the OR staff who taught me more than you know and for keeping me out of trouble. Finally, thank you to my wife, Brittany, for your support, sacrifice, and love.



Kendall with wife Brittany, and daughters Olivia and baby Luciana

General Surgery Residency

Mark Etherington MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Surgical Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A few months away from Penn have put into perspective how special it was to be a resident there, learning from world class co-residents and faculty. My desire from day one of fellowship has been to show the UPMC faculty just how good our training program is. There is no question that I have been well-trained. The graded autonomy afforded by our teaching faculty has allowed me to transition into fellowship without a hitch. The chief year of residency was, comparative to other programs, such a rich experience. My sincerest thanks to Drs. DeMatteo, Fraker, Mahmoud, Roses, Karakousis, Wachtel, Vollmer, Lee, and Shanmugan (the list goes on and on) for taking my training during that year to the next level. I also want to specifically thank Dr. Williams for all the robotic sleeves – the repetition on the robot put me well ahead of my peers in this regard, and sets the stage for tackling the UPMC robotic Whipple curriculum. I truly believe, upon retrospection, that the investment of time and sweat has paid off. I also dearly miss my co-residents. I know that you are thriving. Please continue to reach out to me. Lastly, I would be remiss not to mention Jo to the Mo, the OGPD, Jon Morris, for teaching me all the intangibles of how to be LEGIT, and for igniting a love of funk music.

We've had a lot of fun in Pittsburgh in a short period of time. We saw the Pirates lose to the Cubs, went up the Duquesne incline, and even tried Primanti Bros. It's a really nice place to live for anyone with young kids. I hope to keep in touch with as many of you as possible, thank you again for all the support over the years.



Mark and wife Neha with daughter Rhea

General Surgery Residency

Justin Hatchimonji, MD

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

Training at Penn has been a true privilege. Without taking up too much space, I need to articulate a few thank-yous. I would like to thank all of the faculty for their guidance; in particular, Drs. DeMatteo and Aarons for their leadership and Drs. Drebin and Morris for allowing me to be here in the first place.

The trauma division has been particularly supportive of me since the beginning. Research mentors include Dan Holena, Mark Seamon, Elinore Kaufman, and Jeremy Cannon. Dr. Braslow has not only provided excellent clinical teaching, but has shown me that it is possible to both be ever-present for my patients and prioritize my family. Dr. Martin began mentoring me as a medical student and has been an unending source of wisdom and support for the past decade.

Thanks to the OR staff for “raising” me in an environment that was, at some points, intimidating.

DSE, and in particular Laura Huth - thank you for putting up with us, for dealing with our complaints, and for ensuring that all the “other stuff” happens so that we can focus on the patients.

To my co-chiefs - From the very beginning, I have felt undeserving of a spot amongst you. I am in awe of your brilliance and truly humbled to train alongside you.

Most importantly, I owe thanks to my wife, Danielle, and my sons, Evan and Jack. I could not have accomplished this without their support and patience; I am only now able to say that I am Penn-trained because of the sacrifices they have made.

I’m not going anywhere - I have the great privilege of continuing my training here at Penn as a Trauma/Critical Care fellow. I will see you all soon.

**Justin with his wife Danielle,
and sons Evan (5 years old)
and Jack (2 years old)**



General Surgery Residency

Paul Hernandez, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York

I can't imagine anything more challenging than having just a few short paragraphs to convey the honor I have to count myself a graduate of this program and the gratitude I feel for everyone who made this possible.

Having finally left Penn after 11 years, I now have the perspective to state with certainty that our training program is special. The care and support that residents in this program show for each other is unrivaled. I can't thank my co-residents enough. These last seven years have been so hard but it's because of you all that these have also been some of the best years of my life.

As for the faculty, I thank you all for your patience and your sacrifice. While I know that it's something I will eventually have to do myself, I really can't imagine giving up all the best parts of every case. The mere fact that you have entrusted us with the care of your patients speaks volumes.

Of course, there are people in this hospital who aren't formally responsible for our education, but they take it upon themselves to make us better surgeons and better doctors every day. Without the incredible commitment of the nurses and techs in the operating room I wouldn't be the surgeon I am today.

Being part of this program is a privilege that I don't take lightly, and as I take these next steps in my career I will always strive to carry myself in a way that perpetuates the great legacy that is Penn Surgery.

Thank you.



Paul and his wife Orysia Bezpalko-Hernandez

General Surgery Residency

Lauren Krumeich, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship, Endocrine Surgery, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts

I maintain the certainty today that I felt seven years ago that Penn was my ideal place to train. I resonated with the commitment to excellent patient care and team camaraderie, and I embraced the extensive opportunities in translational research and clinical surgery. My personal and professional evolution is a reflection of the tireless commitment of the entire Penn Surgery family to my growth. This program is mentally and physically demanding, as I experienced through a Whipple with Dr. Lee when I was 39 weeks pregnant, but the journey was a joyful one. I feel immense pride carrying on the Penn legacy and strive to make lasting contributions to academic endocrine surgery that will make my son proud.

**Lauren with husband Matt
and son Declan**



General Surgery Residency

Yun Song, MD

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



Yun, with husband Chuan and son Yi



Yun and Yi

The past 7 years have been an unforgettable journey, with ups and downs along the way, but at the end of it all, I am grateful for all that I have learned and everyone who has made an impact on my growth. First and foremost, I would like to thank my co-residents, whose daily toils keep the hospital functioning. Rachael, Gracia, Nic, and Neha – your positive attitudes, boundless energy and eagerness to learn, and excellent patient care made the role of senior resident incredibly easy. The APPs and OR staff – especially Latesha, Maureen, Tina, Jules, Shawnte, Malcolm, Ronovex, Seng, Peachie, Kolon – for taking us under your wings as interns who knew nothing and leading us in the right direction every step of the way. Laura, Andrea, and the

DSE for making sure the residents are always taken care of. All of the attendings who have shaped my development as a Penn surgeon – Drs. Roses, Lee, Karakousis, DeMatteo, Morris, Williams, Wachtel, Miura, Fraker, Kirkland, Schuricht, just to name a few – for all that you have taught me and for entrusting me with the care of patients. My family – my husband, Chuan, my son, Yi, and my parents – for tolerating all the time away from home and for your endless support. As I look towards following the footsteps of other Penn Surgery alumni to a surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson, I am endlessly grateful for having the chance to be a part of the Penn Surgery family.

General Surgery Residency

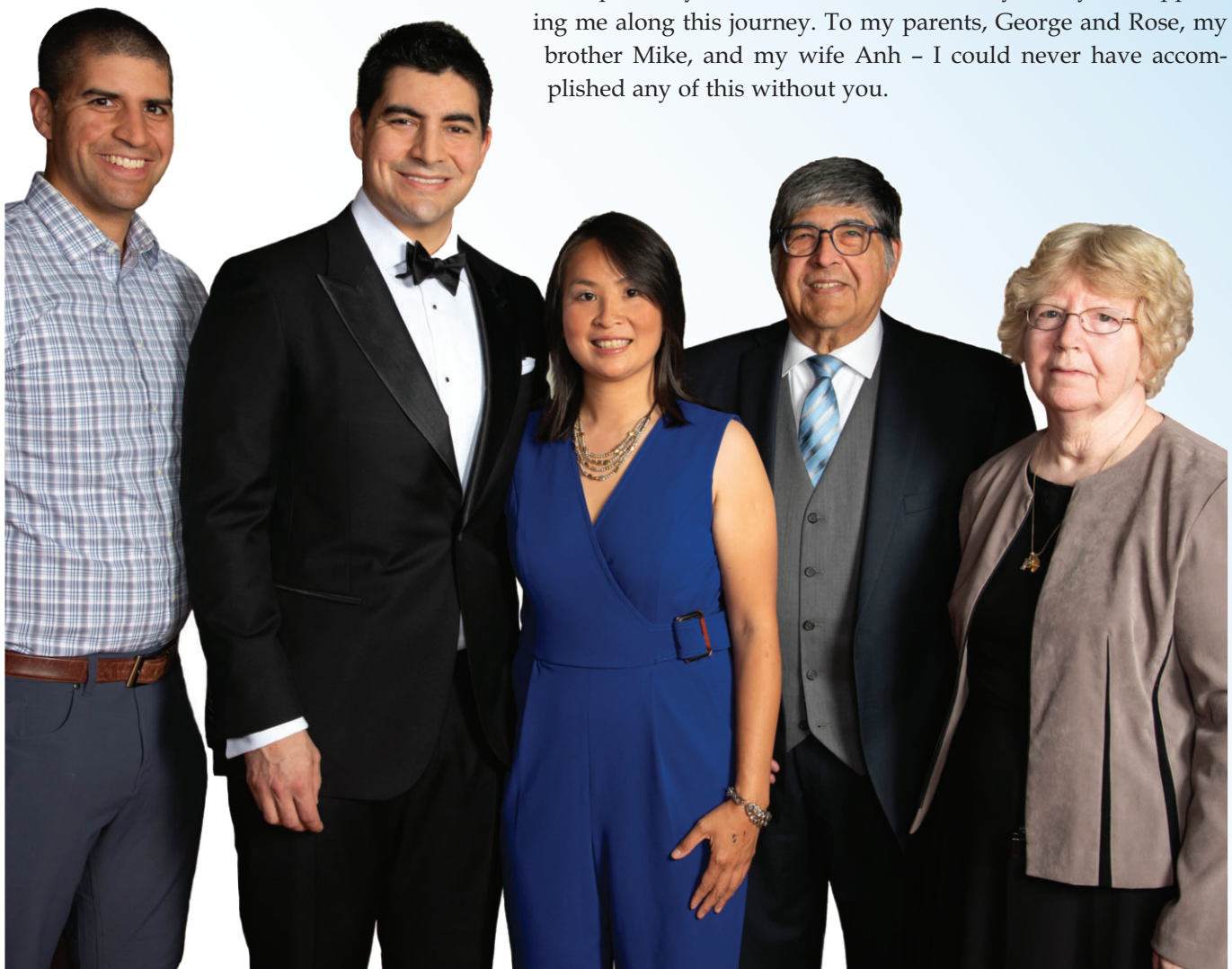
Charles Vasquez, MD

Post Graduate Position: Faculty, Department of Surgery, Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Since starting on staff at the University of Pennsylvania, I have become even more appreciative of the exceptional training that I received during residency and during surgical critical care fellowship. It's hard to imagine any program in the country that offers such breadth and depth of clinical experience. In an era in which fewer and fewer residents graduate residency and begin practice, my Penn training has given me the confidence and skills to hit the ground running.

I am incredibly grateful to the surgical and critical care faculty, APPs, and OR staff for teaching me over the past eight years. Thank you to the DSE, especially to Laura Huth, for your support and friendship. And of course, thank you to all the residents. You continue to be the beating heart of Penn surgery and I'm humbled to have the opportunity to work with you now as an attending.

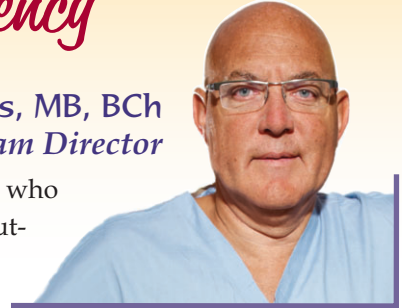
Most importantly, I am forever indebted to my family for supporting me along this journey. To my parents, George and Rose, my brother Mike, and my wife Anh - I could never have accomplished any of this without you.



Brother Mike, Charlie, his wife Anh and parents George and Rose Vasquez

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. Sunny Pervaiz, Kevin Zhou and Lisa Coleman have remained as PGY2 residents and continue to do a great job and are proceeding through the year successfully. The following residents have continued their careers in other institutions around the country: Following her internship here at Penn, Blaire Beers-Milroy matched in Anesthesia in Maine. Alexey Gurevich has begun his IR residency here at Penn. Following her internship here, Zoya Butt matched in Obgyn at Pennsylvania Hospital. Samaher Fageiry matched in Neurosurgery at the University of Louisville. Yazid Ghanem matriculated in to a PGY 2 Categorical position at Cooper Univeristy Hospital in New Jersey. Fatimah Sorefan-Mangou has returned to her native Toronto and Tyler York matriculated into a categorical surgery PGY 3 position at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome preliminary interns to Penn Surgery and see them advance their careers thereafter.



Blaire Beers-Mulroy, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: PGY2 Anesthesia Residency, Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine

Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland

Undergraduate School: UCLA

Zoya Butts, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: PGY1 OB/GYN Residency, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Aga Khan Medical College

Undergraduate School: Aga Khan University



Samaher Fageiry, MD, PhD

Post Preliminary Year Position: PGY1 Neurosurgery Residency, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

Medical School: University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Undergraduate School: Kings College, London

General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

Alexey Gurevich MD

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

Medical School: Tel Aviv University

Undergraduate School: University of Toronto



Fatimah Sorefan-Mangou, MD

Post Preliminary Year Position: Returned back to Canada to further her education.

Medical School: University College Cork - National University of Ireland

Undergraduate School: McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Tyler York, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY3 General Surgery Residency, Rutgers, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Bahrain

Undergraduate School: Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University



Plastic Surgery - Integrated Residency

Joshua Fosnot, MD
Program Director



Andrew Bauder, MD

Post Graduate Position: Harvard Hand/Upper Extremity Fellowship
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

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

Undergraduate School: University of Pennsylvania

Olatomide Familusi, MD

Post Graduate Position: Cosmetic Fellowship with Dr. Louis Bucky,
Washington Square, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Binghamton University



Michael G. Tecce, DO

Post Graduate Position: Microsurgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Medical School: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Undergraduate School: St. Joseph's University

Plastic Surgery - Independent Residency



Monica Llado-Farrulla, MD

Post Graduate Position: Transgender Surgery Fellowship
Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon

Medical School: University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: Boston College

Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship



Daniel Cho, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor
Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Residency: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency, University of Washington

Medical School: Brown Medical School

Undergraduate School: Brown University

Jesse Taylor, MD
Program Director



Lower Extremity Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



Gina Nguyen, DPM

Post Graduate Position: Department of Podiatry,
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Residency: Aventura Hospital & Medical Center

Medical School: Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine

Undergraduate School: Oregon State University

Stephen Kovach, MD
Program Director



Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

Liza Wu, MD
Program Director



Marten Basta, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Member, Departments of Breast and Cutaneous Oncology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa Florida

Residency: Brown University

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

Undergraduate School: University of Pennsylvania

Gabriela Garcia-Nores, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Residency: Plastic Surgery Residency, Emory University Hospital
General Surgery Residency, NYU Hospital System

Medical School: Universidad San Martin de Porres, Facultad de Medicina Humana, Lima, Peru



Prakash J. Mathew, MD, MBA

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Virtua/Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Residency: General Surgery Residency, University of Arizona College of Medicine

Medical School: University of California, Irvine - College of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of California, Berkeley



Lauren Whipple, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, San Antonio, Texas

Residency: Albany Medical College

Medical School: Albany Medical College

Undergraduate School: Siena College in Albany, New York



Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by
Peter L. Abt, MD
Program Director



The Division of Transplant Surgery is saying a heartfelt goodbye to Melissa Chen after two years at Penn. A graduate of the Tulane School of Medicine, Melissa completed her general surgery training in Los Angeles at Cedars Sinai. While at Penn, Melissa worked long hours during a period of programmatic growth, delivering superb care to the transplant patients, while endearing herself to many of the Penn staff. Melissa will be joining the Transplant Surgery Division at the University of North Carolina. We look forward to seeing Melissa's career thrive and seeing pictures of her Bernedoodle puppy.



Melissa Chen, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Abdominal Transplant Surgery, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

After completing General Surgery Residency in Los Angeles, I came to Penn to pursue fellowship training in abdominal transplant surgery. I am grateful for the depth and breadth of training here. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to learn from and work with everyone in the Penn Transplant Institute (surgeons, hepatologists, nephrologists, coordinators).

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

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



The Traumatology / Acute Care Surgery & Surgical Critical Care Fellowship programs finished another spectacular 7 fellows this year. All 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 trained under one of the most violent periods in Philadelphia's history, and as a group, have saved countless lives at the trauma center. This invaluable experience, compounded with their academic, educational, and leadership experiences, make them primed to become the academic leaders of tomorrow. They have been recruited to some of the very best positions around the country. We could not be more proud of our graduates and look forward to their many future accolades in patient care, education, science, and leadership.

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Joanelle Bailey, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery
Surgery at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey

Residency: General Surgery, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Medical School: Thomas Jefferson University

Gary Bass, MD

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

Residency: General Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons

Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons

Undergraduate: University College Dublin in Ireland



Dale Butler, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas, Texas

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a trauma fellow at Penn. My family and I have enjoyed experiencing life in Paoli for the past year. We will be moving back to Dallas, Texas this summer.

Dale holding daughter Lucy and his wife Sadie and son Timmy.



Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Frederick Gmora, DO

Post Graduate Position: Jefferson Torresdale Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Residency: UMDNJ-University Hospital

Medical School: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine



Melissa Hornor, MD

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

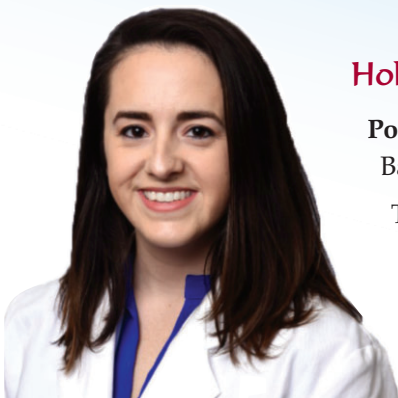
Residency: Ohio State University Hospital

Medical School: Ohio State University College of Medicine

Christina Jacovides, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Temple University,
Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thanks to all for the amazing training and opportunities! It has been a great privilege and joy for me to come back to Penn as a trauma and critical care fellow during these past two years after having been a medical student and research resident here. I have learned so much from the faculty, my co-fellows, the residents, the APPs, the medical students, the staff, and the patients. I have been impressed by the strong commitment to education, patient care, and research that I have seen modeled here. I hope to carry forward the many lessons I have learned here in my future career. Thanks to all for an amazing several years!



Holly Weis, MD

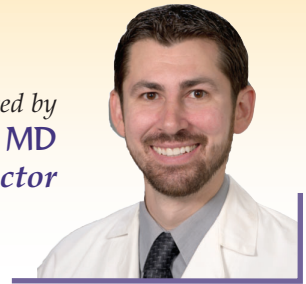
Post Graduate Position:

Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

This year exceeded my expectations - the faculty are brilliant, the educational experience is superb, and my co-fellows are not only impressive surgeons/clinicians but wonderful people.

Urology Residency

Contributed by
R. Caleb Kovell, MD
Program Director



Everyone at Penn Urology will sorely miss the four larger than life characters who graduated from our residency program this year. Ani Fombona, Brian Friel, Raju Chelluri, and Ruchika Talwar leave this place as one of the most talented, accomplished, caring, compassionate and memorable classes to have mastered the urologic arts here at Penn. Over their 5 years of training with us, this group handled every challenge thrown at them and much more. We know they will be spectacular as they fly the Penn flag proudly going forward. We all wish them tremendous success on their sure to be amazing careers.



**Raj and colleague
 at Fox Chase**

Raju Chelluri, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Urologic Oncology, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(Contributed by Caleb Kovell) Raju Chelluri has migrated to the north part of Philadelphia and has joined the team at Fox Chase Cancer Center as their urologic oncology fellow. Raj was known here for his tremendous grit, determination, and work ethic – someone who was willing to run through a brick wall if needed to get things done for his patients and his team. He has an outstanding mind for surgery and science, having already authored a staggering number of peer reviewed papers while starting efforts to push forward the basic science research program here. We have little doubt he will move the needle forward on many fronts in the oncology world throughout his career.

Anisleidy Fombona, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Suncoast Urology, Hudson, Florida

(Contributed by Caleb Kovell) Ani Fombona has left us for warmer climates in Florida, but her legacy here at Penn Urology will always endure. Ani left here as a tremendously accomplished surgeon who could handle the entire breadth, depth and complexity that urology demands. She was universally beloved by her patients and team members, maintaining a positive mindset even in the most challenging of times. She will be joining a high-level team where her practice will span the entire breadth of urology including robotic surgeries, prosthetic implants, and any challenging case that can come her way.



Brian Friel, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(Contributed by Caleb Kovell) Despite many attempts to lure him into pediatrics, reconstruction, oncology, and basically ever other sub-specialty, Brian Friel decided he did not want to give up any part of urology and has taken on a position in the western suburbs at Midlantic Urology. Brian was widely known in the program for his never-waivering positive attitude, superlative teaching of junior residents and medical students, and his ability to take on any surgical case one could imagine. We are delighted that he will continue to work with the residents of Main Line Health and know they will all benefit immensely from the time they spend with him. He leaves here as the consummate clinician and a master of the urologic arts.



Urology Residency

Ruchika Talwar, MD

Post Graduate Position: Urologic Oncology Fellow,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Since graduating from Penn Urology residency, I have been on my clinical year of a two-year Urologic Oncology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. On the academic side, I have been working with the Vanderbilt Office of Population Health on the implementation of bundled payment models for medical and surgical disease states -- it's extremely rewarding to have the ability to affect broad value-based healthcare reform and reduce financial toxicity in our patient population. Fellowship has been an incredible experience thus far, and I am very grateful for the excellent clinical training that I received at Penn. I do miss my amazing co-residents, mentors, nursing colleagues, and friends who helped me so much along the way!



Urology Robotics Fellowship

Contributed by
Justin B. Ziembra, MD, MSEd
Program Director



We want to congratulate Dr. Benjamin "the Hammer" Schurhamer 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. Everyone loves his infectious Midwestern laugh. 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. Schurhamer is no exception. We are fortunate he will be joining us on faculty at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He will be responsible for consultative urology across our ever-expanding HUP campus and building an advanced and single port robotic surgery practice. We look forward to watching his continued success and career.



**Ben, Charie and my wife Maggie
with Linley and Josie**

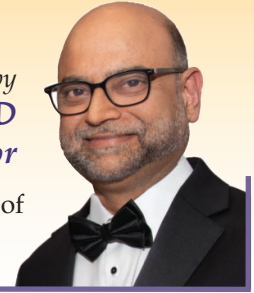
Benjamin Schurhamer, MD

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

I thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of training at Penn and continue to see the benefits in my daily practice. I stayed on as faculty after graduation and now work at HUP. It has been an honor to bring the skills and mentorship from fellowship and provide them not only for our community but also pass them along to the students and trainees. Excited to implement an SP robot program at HUP while delivering high quality care to all patients.

Vascular Surgery Residency

Contributed by
Venkat R. Kalapatapu, MD
 Program Director



On behalf of the division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy at the University of Pennsylvania, I am truly proud to announce that we graduated 4 outstanding trainees this year. Jaclyn Milici graduated from our fellowship program and started her career at Abington hospital, outside Philadelphia. Alexander Fairman, Nathan Belkin and Christopher Blackstock graduated from our integrated residency program. Alexander Fairman and Nathan Belkin, both joined our faculty at Penn. Christopher Blackstock joined the Ochsner health system in New Orleans, Louisiana. It has been a great pleasure to have watched all our trainees become outstanding vascular surgeons over the course of their time at Penn. We wish them the very best in their careers.

Nathan Belkin, MD

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



**Nate with wife Kate
 and daughter Isla**

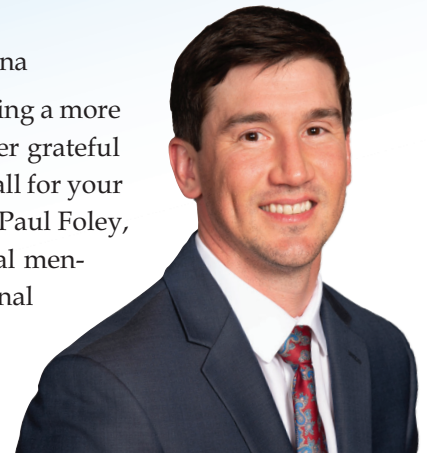
It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to train at the University of Pennsylvania with such incredible people over the past six years. From the early years of my training on general surgery rotations through to the more recent years on vascular surgery rotations I have had the most educational, friendly, and transformative experience. I have been fortunate enough to learn operative techniques and life skills from former and current division chiefs Dr. Ron Fairman and Dr. Darren Schneider. It has been a pleasure to train under and work alongside former program director Dr. Ben Jackson and current director Dr. Venkat Kalapatapu. My research mentor Dr. Grace Wang has always been my strongest supporter, clinical advisor, and friend. To all the other attendings, OR staff, and nurses who have guided me over the years, I can't thank you enough. It is impossible for me to thank by name all the past and present residents and fellows that have made my time here at Penn such a wonderful environment. The opportunity to further strengthen my current relationships with resi-

dents and attendings in this environment is one of the core reasons that I am so excited to return as an attending in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at Penn Presbyterian Hospital next year. Most importantly I must thank my family for their tremendous and unwavering support through these past six years. I look forward to establishing a new home in Philadelphia with my amazing wife Kate and beautiful baby girl Isla. I could not have done this without you!

Christopher Blackstock, MD, PhD

Post Graduate Position: Vascular Surgeon, Ochsner Health, New Orleans, Louisiana

My experience at Penn will have an everlasting impact on me. I cannot imagine getting a more comprehensive and robust operative experience in a training program. I am forever grateful for all of the Penn Surgery faculty who have guided and supported me. Thank you all for your patience and dedication to teaching. I would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Paul Foley, Dr. Ben Jackson, Dr. Grace Wang, and Dr. Venkat Kalapatapu for their exceptional mentorship over the years. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you on a personal level as well as professional level and I hope to maintain connection throughout my career. Also thank you to, Dr. Ron Fairman, Dr. Michael Golden, and Dr. Darren Schneider for sharing your incredible experience, wisdom, and expertise. It has been a great honor to have trained with all of you. *(continued on next page)*



Vascular Surgery Residency

Christopher Blackstock, MD, PhD - *continued*

I also want to thank all of my co-residents and fellows who have always been dependable team players. I have made lasting friendships with many of you and look forward to watching you all advance in your careers. Of course, I owe a huge thank you to all of the APPs, coordinators, radiology techs and OR staff. I have greatly depended on your help regularly, and I have learned an incredible amount from you. Thank you for your dedication to exceptional patient care and for making for an enjoyable working environment. It has been a great privilege to be part of the Penn tradition, for which I will always be grateful.



Alexander Fairman, MD

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

Training at Penn in Vascular Surgery has been one of the greatest honors of my life, an experience that rewarded me with years of complex technical training and clinical mentorship. I will forever cherish these past five years and the relationships formed with faculty, residents, APPs, and the nursing staff as we all worked together to help our patients. I am particularly grateful to have trained under the mentorship of Drs. Benjamin Jackson, Grace Wang, and Venkat Kalapatapu--you all have made a tremendous impact on my life inside and outside of the hospital. To Dr. Joseph Bavaria--your passion for surgery is contagious, unrelenting, and inspiring. To Dr. Darren Schneider--it has been a life-long dream to work at Penn; thank you

for the amazing opportunity. To my parents, Ronald and Julie Fairman--you are my role models, and I am so thankful for your support. To my beautiful wife, Marisa--words can't describe how proud I am of what you have accomplished. Thank you for your support and unconditional love.

Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Jaclyn Milici, DO

Post Graduate Position: Vascular Surgeon, Surgical Care Specialists,
Jefferson-Abington Health, Abington, Pennsylvania

I am very grateful for the opportunity to have trained at Penn in Vascular Surgery. It has been an amazing experience to train under the wonderful faculty here, I have learned so much from all of you--thank you. I would like to say thank you to the amazing Rhoads 1 (now 7 City) nurses, the radiology technologists and the OR nurses who all work so hard to take fantastic care of our patients. Thank you to my co residents/fellows, I have learned so much while training alongside you. Lastly, thank you to my family and to Tim for your support in this journey.



General Surgery Awards

William Y. Inouye Resident Awardee - **Feredun S. Azari, MD**

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



Leonard D. Miller Awardee - **Lauren N. Krumeich, 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.

Allen H. Bar Endowed Humanity in Medicine Residency Awardee - **Cimarron E. Sharon, MD**

Awarded to a surgical resident who shows exceptional clinical promise with an interest in gastrointestinal surgery, and demonstrates respect and compassion for patients. – selected by Award Committee.



Ian Folkert, MD, PhD



John S. Riley, MD

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

William Y. Inouye Faculty Awardee - **Major Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD**

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.



Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Awardee - **Gregory T. Kennedy, 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.

General Surgery Awards

Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Awardee - Mark S. Etherington, MD

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).



Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Awardee - Steven Raper, MD, JD, MA (Hon)

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.

Jon B. Morris Faculty Teaching Awardee - John T. Miura, 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).

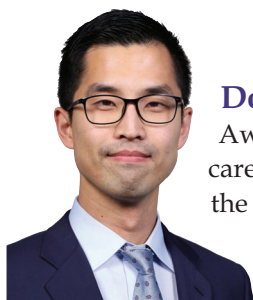


Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Awardee - Skandan Shanmugan, MD

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 - Patrick M. Reilly, 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.



Donald C. Liu Humanism Hero in Surgery Awardee - Jason J. Han, 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.

Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Awardee

- Paul T. Hernandez, 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.



General Surgery Awards

90's Club

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

Feredun Azari
Ian Folkert

William Johnston
John Riley

Drew Tieniber
Jason Tong

Gabi Tortorello

Plastic Surgery Awards

Don LaRossa Teaching Award - Paris Butler, MD, MPH

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



Benjamin Chang Teaching Award - Jordan Swanson, MD

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

Penn Plastic Surgery Teaching Award - Michael Lanni, MD

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



Chief Resident Teaching Award - Amy Spencer, NP

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

Urology Awards

Linda and Joel Appel Award – Leilei Xia, MD

Award for research in prostate cancer

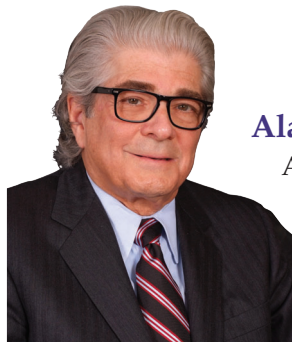


Keith Van Arsdalen Teaching Award – Joseph F. Harryhill, MD

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

Paul Rodin Leberman Teaching Award – Douglas A. Canning, 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)

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

Outstanding Technical Excellence in Urology – Brian Friel, MD

Urology Resident Medical Student Teaching Award

– Brian Friel, 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 – *Ruchika Talwar, MD*



Outstanding Robotic/Laparoendoscopic Surgeon Award
– *Ankur A. Shah, MD, MBA*

Outstanding Educational Efforts in Urology – *Raju Chelluri, MD*



Outstanding Clinical Excellence in Urology
– *Anisleidy Fombona, MD*

Cardiothoracic Surgery Award

Teaching Award to Resident or Fellow from Integrated and Fellowship Program – *Chase Brown, 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
Undergraduate and Continuing
Medical Education Coordinator



Kris Gallagher
Program Administrator
Plastic Surgery



Gretchen Harz
Program Administrator
Urology



Sarah Keeny
Program Administrator
Cardiothoracic



Kimberly Klepesky
Program Administrator
Vascular and Transplant Surgery



Kara Lehman
Program Administrator
General Surgery



Kim Moore
Program Administrator,
Trauma/Surgical Critical Care



Emmy Munroe
Program Administrator
Colon and Rectal Surgery,
Breast Surgery, Simulation



Robin Noel
Graphic Artist and
Web Administrator



Penn Surgery

Department of Surgery
4 Silverstein/HUP
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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