

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

Another year has brought another outstanding group of graduating residents, as you will see in this issue of the Penn Surgery Newsletter. The surgical trainees are the core of our department. They have worked fervently and will now represent

Penn across American Surgery.



Jon B. Morris, MD

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

In the 2022–2023 academic year, 17 Program Directors and 10 Educational Staff from 20 Penn Surgical programs oversaw the training of 170+ 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, 51 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 2023!

GRADUATION

Breast Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by Julia Tchou, MD, PhD Program Director

Our Breast Surgery Fellowship Program was delighted to have Dr. Steven Woodward matched as our 2022-2023 breast surgery fellow. Dr. Woodward received his medical degree at the University of Maryland and completed his General Surgery Residency training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Woodward is an outstanding surgeon and a phenomenal fellow and colleague. We wish him and his family the very best as he embarks on an illustrious career as an academic breast surgeon in Annapolis, Maryland.



Steven G. Woodward, Jr., MD

Post Graduate Position: Breast Surgeon, Luminis Health, Annapolis, Maryland

It is an honor to complete my breast surgery training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. I would like to thank the entire breast surgery department for an incredible year. I would not be the surgeon I am today without the excellent training I received this year and I hope to emulate all of the great surgeons at Penn in my future practice. When my wife and I moved to Philadelphia seven years ago we had no idea that it would be such an incredible journey. We are excited to move back to our home in Maryland where I will be joining Luminis Health as a breast surgeon in Annapolis, Maryland but will certainly miss this wonderful city and our Penn family.

Steven with his wife Melanie and their daughter Ellis

Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship

Contributed by Marisa Cevasco, MD, MPH Program Director

Another year passes and another stellar class graduates from Penn's cardiac surgery training program. Each of this year's graduating class completed general surgery training, thus representing a traditional pathway into cardiac surgery. Their high level of technical skill and clinical aptitude demonstrates that graduates of the traditional fellowship are not disad-

vantaged *at all* in comparison to the integrated pathway graduates, and indeed both pathways are viable and important for training future cardiac surgeons. Mauer Biscotti III graduated from the general surgery program at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, and then spent four years as a Lieutenant Commander for the U.S. Navy. He was stationed overseas in combat situations, which prepared him well for cardiac surgery training at Penn. He headed back to New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center for advanced training in heart transplant and mechanical support, then on to Toronto General for an advanced lung transplant fellowship, and he will be returning to Penn as an attending in cardiac surgery. We are looking forward to having him back. Charlie Fraser III came to us as a graduate from the Johns Hopkins General Surgery training program, where he also completed his medical school training. Charlie will be going into the family business of congenital heart surgery after he completes his congenital training at the stellar University of Colorado training program. We miss him and wish him well. Thirdly, Kendall Lawrence is a graduate of the general surgery training program at New York Presbyterian/Cornell University Weill Medical Center, and she completed her medical school at Wake Forest. She is currently an advanced aortic fellow here at Penn, and we are tremendously excited that she will be officially starting on staff as an attending cardiac surgeon in January 2024.

Mauer Biscotti, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Cardiopulmonary Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support, Columbia University, New York, New York

I can't believe my two years of training at Penn have come to an end. I wasn't sure I'd be able to succeed here, given the excellence that both the "Penn" name and the field of cardiac surgery require. But, it was with the help of an amazing group of nurses, staff, APPs, attending surgeons, anesthesiologists, and most importantly, my co-residents/fellows that have helped me complete my training and fall in love with the institution

and cardiac surgery. I was in the military prior to my training here at Penn and quite literally went to war with people, and while that euphemism is thrown around too casually in sports or politics, I know that I went to war with the wonderful Penn cardiac surgery team and there is no better group of people that I would want by my side. This amazing place has helped me transform from a lapsed general surgeon into a cardiac surgeon and for that I will be forever grateful. I look forward to stepping out into the world with my newfound skills with the courage and confidence that this world-class training has engendered in me.

Kendall Lawrence, MD

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

I feel incredibly lucky to have trained at Penn for cardiac surgery fellowship where I am convinced I received the best training in the country. I have learned an immense amount from all the faculty members and feel incredibly grateful for their patient tutelage. I feel well prepared to enter practice and am immensely grateful to stay on at Penn for both an advanced aortic surgery fellowship and then as full-time faculty.



Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship

Charles D. Fraser, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellowship, Colorado Children's Hospital, Aurora, Colorado

The commitment to clinical excellence and robust intellectual and educational opportunities are what initially drew me to cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Penn. As I finish my fellowship, I am grateful for the opportunity to have trained in this esteemed program. Throughout my training, I have been constantly impressed by the dedication to the highest level of patient care at every level while maintaining a commitment to fostering the best training program in the country. I am forever grateful to the faculty and staff for the opportunity for all they have done for me during my time here at Penn. Most of all, I am thankful to my wife, Kathleen, who has supported me during this journey and continues to support me as I pursue a fellowship in congenital cardiac surgery.

> Charles with his wife, Kathleen, and their children, Grace, Charles, John, and Monroe

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by Joshua Bleier, MD Program Director

Penn Colorectal seems to have developed a tradition of getting fellows from UC Irvine who are excellent. Cyrus, who joined us in the summer of 2022, was no exception! From day one,

he jumped right in with tremendous enthusiasm and skill. Over the course of the year, he continued to be an unending source of energy, skill and leadership, and took phenomenal care of our patients. We couldn't be prouder, sending another graduate of Penn Colorectal back to the West Coast, and we wish him all the best on what will no doubt be a successful career!

Cyrus Farzaneh, MD

Post Graduate Position: Kaiser Permanente Roseville Medical Center, Roseville, California

What an amazing year! I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Penn as a fellow in colorectal surgery. Coming from the west coast, it has been a privilege to spend a year at Penn learning and being mentored by some of the best. Thank you so much to the faculty for their excellence and grooming me into the surgeon I am today. Thank you to the residents, APPs, medical students, staff, and the patients for teaching me and allowing me to grow as a leader. I will remember my time at Penn fondly.





General Surgery Residency

Contributed by Major Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD Program Director

A new program director has only two opportunities to call a class their first class – the first class that they graduate, and the first class that they recruited. I am proud to call

this my first class. I have seen this group mature from interns or in some cases medical students all the way through to trained surgeons. The years move quickly, but the professional growth has been amazing.

The residency experience is a life chapter to be referenced forever. I sincerely hope that this class looks back on their time here with the satisfaction that I took from my residency. I know that we here will take great pride in saying that we contributed to the careers of eight very talented surgeons and special individuals. We can now fully certify them as "Penn trained!"



Kevin with girlfriend Alycia and good boys Huxley and Dunkin

Kevin C. Eddinger, MD

Post Graduate Fellow, Vascular Surgery University of California - San Francisco

> The past 11 years at Penn have been incredible. It is hard to see just how special Penn is until you leave it. I miss it every day.

> I moved to the West Coast for fellowship. California is great – plenty of opportunities for hiking, exploring, and motorcycle riding. UCSF is also an amazing place to train, and I entered fellowship very well-prepared by my Penn chief year.

> I am grateful to all the faculty who contributed to my education over the past seven years. There are too many people to thank individually, but I would like to give

shout-outs to a couple: Drs. Jackson, Roses, Lee, DeMatteo, Fraker, Vollmer, Braslow, Harbison, Rosato, Mahmoud, Kirkland, Wernsing, Schuricht, Dumon, Wachtel, Mantell, Braslow, and countless more.

Thank you to JoMo for being a tireless advocate for the residents and an amazing friend. None of us could have done this without you, dog. Thank you to Dr. Lee for taking on the PD role and working every day to make this an even better place to be a trainee.

I would also like to thank Laura (congratulations on your new position), Kara, Andrea, Gabi, Liz, and everyone else in DSE who keeps the residency machine up and running. Thank you to Robin Noel for putting these newsletters together and keeping all of us in touch.

Finally, I would like to thank my co-residents. Penn has the best group of residents in the country, hands down. It has been a privilege to work with every one of you. To the residents that came before me – I appreciate your guidance. I was heavily influenced by Jash Datta, JW MacArthur, Seth Concors, Jenn Chung, Rob Swendiman, Grace Lee-Riddle, Eli Riddle, Doug Murken, Ann Gaffey, and many, many more.

To the current residents – thank you for your hard work. I am certain that all of you will go on to do remarkable things and I am excited to watch your careers unfold.

Come visit me on the West Coast!

General Surgery Residency

Ian W. Folkert, MD, PhD

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

The last few months have given me a unique perspective on what it means to have been a Penn Surgery resident. During my first three months of fellowship, I came to deeply appreciate the strong foundational training and

breadth of operative experience I gained at Penn. I felt well prepared for complex cases and was ready to hit the ground running when I arrived at MD Anderson. Then, just before the end of my third month in Houston, I received a call in the OR that our daughter Rowan was going to be urgently delivered at HUP, months earlier than expected.

Suddenly, I found myself back at HUP in a much different role. The outpouring of support from everyone in the Department during this difficult period has been tremendous. Throughout Rowan's time in the NICU, I have frequently turned to my friends, co-residents and the attendings here for support. From seeing friendly faces in the halls of HUP, to receiving countless texts, calls and visits, hardly a day goes by without someone from the Penn family checking in to make sure we are doing Ok.

As almost every prior graduate from this program has noted, the training at Penn is exceptional. I feel incredibly lucky to have been a part of this program, training alongside some of the best residents in the country, with faculty and staff so dedicated to pushing us to be the best surgeons we can possibly be. But the last few weeks have taught me how truly special this place is. Rowan, Hilary, and I can't begin to thank you all enough for everything you've done for us. Ian with his wife Hilary and daughter Rowan

General Surgery Residency

Matthew Goldshore, MD, PhD, MPH

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

I honestly cannot believe that it is over.

As an intern, I remember laying on the floor in the Fitts library with Adrienne (then, Bruce) Shannon and Kevin Eddinger completely exhausted and screaming at the near top of my lungs about a patient update that hadn't been communicated to me overnight. I remember fearing Jash Datta's disappointment when I had to share with him this delay in care. I remember becoming close with Joanne Jones, and Amy Smith, and Noelle



Marco, Matt, Melon and Hank

Gesualdo. I remember the day my beloved Gracie died while I was an intern on GI Red. I remember our graduating class heading out to Nantucket as a team to celebrate the completion of our first year as doctors.

As a PGY2, I remember waking up on a dark post-call January afternoon to find Dr. Braslow on the line inquiring as to why I consented a patient with acute appendicitis for a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. I remember caring for a woman named Carol, my first patient death in the CTSICU, who lived with Marfan's and died in her partner Lisa's arms after I had resuscitated her on Founders 5.

As a PGY3, I remember Dr. Abt guiding me through the magic of my first kidney transplant in OR29. I think about being the GI-Gold "baby-chief," fearful of making a mistake but confident that Dr. Morris would support me at each stage of my professional development. I remember building a relationship with JoMo and MamaMo. I remember working with Carrie Morales and JoMo as we began conceptualizing the Center for Surgical Health, something that has become a thing and will hopefully continue to positively impact the Penn community for years to come. Best of all, I remember meeting my partner Marco.

I remember being a critical care fellow during the peak of COVID. I remember quarantine. I remember missing the operating room. I remember missing our community and feeling far from the HUP Pulse. I remember sadness, and optimism. I remember hoping that the pandemic would be over in time for our squad to have Chief's Dinner. I remember starting to refer to Laura Huth as "Mama."

As a clinical 4, I remember the trauma bay. Oh, and I remember the trauma bay. I remember being Dr. William's senior resident, being proud that I had become the person to run his service when just a few years prior I felt like I couldn't tie a knot.

And, as a chief, I remember the best year of my life. I remember operating with Dr. Wachtel, Dr. Roses and Dr. Lee. I remember countless evenings doing transplants with Dr. Redfield. I remember Jordan's wedding and spending time with our whole team on the dance floor. I felt like we were back at the Chicken Box.

In my first few months of fellowship in Pediatric Surgery, my nephew Justin was diagnosed with perforated appendicitis. Matt Hornick and Dave Stitelman are his surgeons. I consider Justin the luckiest patient in the world.

So, I am forever thankful to each and every one of your who has touched my life. Marco and I haven't gone far. In fact, just about 200 feet Southwest. Please be in touch. And to be clear, I love you all.

GRADUATION

General Surgery Residency

Andrew N. Hanna, MD

Post Graduate Position:

Fellow, General Surgical Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

"I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." This is true of the Penn General Surgery Residency. While I have moved on and am enjoying fellowship with my talented and bright co-fellows, nothing comes close to the privilege of training, working, and "growing up" with Matthew, Ian, Ciaran, Kevin, Catie, Adrienne, and Jordan.

To JoMo - thank you for your willingness to put the above mentioned group of doctors together. I hope we have proven ourselves worthy of that selection.

To the current residents - I am grateful for your trust and patience with me as your chief resident last year.

To my interns - strong work . . . if your roast of the chiefs at the graduation after-party is indicative of your



Andrew, Martina, and Hercules

intelligence, determination, and humor, you will be exceptional surgeons.

To Dr. DeMatteo - thank you for guiding this program for the majority of my residency as well as personally guiding me into the dawn of my career. I am humbled and reminded of your legacy daily at MSK.

To Laura Huth - thank you for being you and sorry for being me.

To Drs. Fraker, Roses, Karakousis, Wachtel, Kelz, and Miura - it is no accident that surgical oncology is a popular career choice for our residents. Thank you for showing me the light.

To Drs. Lee and Dr. Vollmer - my last rotation as a chief resident was on your service and a very fitting way to end my residency learning from two greats at Penn Surgery.

To the ESS, GI, CRS, Vascular, Pennsy, and PPMC teams - I cannot say enough about the dedication to my training you all have shown me and all I have learned from you. I know that I will be a better surgical oncologist because of my training as a general, vascular, colorectal, and thoracic surgeon.

To the OR staff - thank you for being the coolest, most fun group in the hospital. The OR staff in New York aren't as fun.

Finally, to my family, including Martina, my siblings, parents and in-laws - I am at my best only with your love and support.

Training at Penn is something that will forever be a part of me. Thank you again for everything, Penn Surgery, and please keep in touch.

General Surgery Residency

Catherine Lancaster Mavroudis, MD, MBA

Post Graduate Position: General Surgeon, Inspira Health Network, Woodbury, New Jersey

I am a whopping one month into practice at Inspira, and am grateful for my Penn Surgery training every day. When I operate or see patients in the clinic, I hear Drs. Braslow, Lee, Morris, Williams, Kelz and others' voices in my head, chiming in with reminders and best practices. The surgical world is small and it has been so wonderful to find connections to Penn everywhere I look.



General Surgery Residency

Ciaran S. O'Brien, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Vascular Surgery

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Since starting vascular surgery fellowship I have been humbled by how much I have learned over the past seven years, and by how much more there is to learn. Training at Penn for General Surgery was an amazing experience, and I am thankful to the patients, my co-residents, the operating room staff and the faculty for their time and guidance over the years. While general surgery was incredibly formative, it is exciting to have found the place where I belong in the division of vascular urgery, and I am so thankful for the ongoing support and mentorship of the Penn vascular surgeons.

Ciaran and his wife Sophia with their daughters Saoirse and Aoife



General Surgery Residency

Adrienne Bruce Shannon, MD

Post Graduate Position: Fellowship, Complex General Surgical Oncology Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL



Adrienne with her husband Matt and son, Wells and daughter Isla

It's hard to compile all of my thanks and thoughts related to leaving Penn onto one page, but I will try my best. When I woke up the morning after Chief's Dinner, the reality of leaving the nest was suddenly tangible. You don't realize how much you value the education, mentorship, and people here until you leave. The realization that I can no longer just wander into the ORs of Drs. Lee, Karakousis, Roses, or Braslow for advice or to say hello at any given time is sobering. I think that is a testament to this place and the connections that you make with the people that train you here. These are truly formative years where you pass through leaps and bounds of professional and personal milestones.

Thank you, Penn, for creating a program with this kind of atmosphere. Thank you, Dr. Morris (OGPD, sir), for selecting me to train here and become a part of this legacy; I hope our class has made you proud. Thank you, Dr. Lee, for being a transformative educator in the operating room and stepping into your role as new program director with such ease; how lucky my class is to have been the first class to graduate under your leadership. Thank you to the faculty within the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, particularly Drs. Karakousis, Miura, Fraker, and Roses, for fostering my love for surgical oncology and for being the best of company along the way.

Thank you to each and every faculty member in our Department who allowed me to care for their patients. Each of the experiences that we have shared through the years have slowly shaped the surgeon that I am now and what I will carry into the world. Your patience with me and entrustment of your patients in me have been a massive gift. You have all given me the knowledge, technical ability, and confidence to step into my role as an oncologic surgeon.

Thank you to my co-chiefs; I'll miss you all and can't wait to follow along with your careers. Thank you to the other residents in this program; these years are long and, at times, challenging, but thank you for standing next to me through it all. Thank you to the OR staff (especially Maureen, Malcolm, Tina, and Shawnte), for raising me in the OR, and, of course, for always catching me when I fainted while pregnant. Thank you to our advanced practice providers, especially Latesha Colbert-Mack, who raised me on the floors. Lastly, thank you to my family, including my husband, Matt, my son, Wells, and my daughter, Isla, for being my eternal support.

Being here as a trainee has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I hope to always practice and conduct myself as a surgeon in a way that exemplifies the amazing legacy that is Penn Surgery. I am so proud to have been a part of this training institution and to be a part of this lifelong family.

General Surgery Residency

Jordan B. Stoecker, MD, MSCE

Post Graduate Position: Fellow, Vascular Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Jordan and his wife Dana are adjusting well to life in Boston but obviously miss the Penn Surgery family and were overjoyed to see many at the recent ACS event.

Dana and I out and about in Boston



General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

Contributed by Noel N. Williams, MD Program Director

It is with great admiration and respect that I would like to congratulate and thank all the preliminary Surgical residents who have completed their training here at Penn Surgery in June 2023. Everyone is a credit to our program and performed at a

high level in the clinics. Erum Baig, Sameer Khan and Loukas Stoupis have remained in the Department as CY2 preliminary residents and continue to work hard and gain experience. The following residents have continued their careers in other institutions around the country: Ammaar Abbasi has commenced a categorical surgery internship a Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Lisa Coleman is a CY2 resident at St. Barnabas Hospital in Bronx, New York. Ryan-Assaad El-Ghazal has remained at Penn as a research fellow in the Radiology department in the Penn Image-Guided Interventions Laboratory. Emily Kindall secured a categorical position in general surgery in the South Texas Health System in McAllen, Texas. Antonio Melhem successful entered the match and is currently a CY1 categorical surgery resident at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. Hasaan Omar completed his preliminary internship and commenced his Interventional Radiology Residency at St. Louis University. Sunny Pervaiz is currently a PGY3 resident in general surgery in Virtua South Jersey in Camden, New Jersey. Omid Shafaat matriculated into the Interventional Radiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Thomas Seykora entered the radiology match and secured a position at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

I am pleased to acknowledge this group of general surgery preliminary residents as they advance in their careers and wish them well.



Ammaar Abbasi, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY1 General Surgery Residency, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan

Medical School: Aga Khan University Medical College

Lisa Coleman, MD, MPH

Post Graduate Position: PGY2 General Surgery Residency, St. Barnabas Hospital, Bronx, New York



Medical School: Ohio State University College of Medicine



Ryan-Assaad El-Ghazal, MD

Post Graduate Position: Post Doctoral Researcher, Penn Image-Guided Interventions Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania **Medical School:** American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine

Emily Kindall, MD

Post Graduate Position: General Surgery, South Texas Health System McAllen **Medical School:** Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland School of Medicine

General Surgery - Preliminary Residency

Antonio Melhem, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY1 General Surgery Residency, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York

Medical School: University of Balamand Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences

Hasaan Omar, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY1 Interventional Radiology Residency, St. Louis University , St. Louis, Missouri

Medical School: Aga Khan University Medical College

Sunny Pervaiz, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY3 General Surgery Residency, Virtua South Jersey, Camden, New Jersey

Medical School: Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland School of Medicine

Omid Shafaat, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY2 Integrated Interventional Radiology Residency, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama

Medical School: Arak University of Medical Sciences

Thomas Seykora, MD

Post Graduate Position: PGY1 Diagnostic Radiology Residency, St. Luke's Anderson Campus

Medical School: Georgetown University School of Medicine









GRADUATION

Plastic Surgery - Integrated Residency

Joshua Fosnot, MD Program Director





Javier Couto Cuervo, MD

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

Medical School: University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

Undergraduate School: University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine

Michael Lanni, MD

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

Medical School: Albany Medical College

Undergraduate School: State University of New York at Geneseo





Wen Xu, MD

Post Graduate Position: Hand Fellowship Stanford University, Stanford, California

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania

Undergraduate School: University of Pittsburgh

SURGERY SOCIE

Plastic Surgery - Independent Residency



Eric Weiss, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Boca Raton, Florida Residency: Einstein Healthcare Network, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Medical School: Temple University - Lewis Katz School of Medicine,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate School: Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship

Jordan W. Swanson, MD, MSc **Program Director**





Matthew E. Pontell, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Residency: Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsyvania Medical School: St. George's University School of Medicine, St. George's, Grenada Undergraduate School: Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Lower Extremity Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



Brett Chatman, DPM **Program Director**

Sean Van Aken, DPM, AACFAS

Post Graduate Position: Heritage Valley Health System, Beaver, Pennsylvania

Residency: Heritage Valley Health System, Beaver, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Des Moines University, West Des Moines, Iowa

Undergraduate School: Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan

Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

Stephen J. Kovach, III, MD Program Director

Michael Holland, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Laguna Beach, California Residency: University of California, San Francisco Medical School: University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, Virginia Undergraduate School: George Washington University, Washington, DC

Sean Li, MD

Post Graduate Position: Clinical Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Residency: University of California San Diego Health
Medical School: Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia
Undergraduate School: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia





Irfan Rhemtulla, MD

Post Graduate Position: Christiana Health System, Newark, Delaware Residency: University of Utah, Salt Lake City Medical School: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

Pedro Salomao Piccinini, MD

Post Graduate Position: Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York **Residency:** UT Health San Antonio, Texas **Medical School:** Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil



Transplant Surgery Fellowship

Contributed by Peter L. Abt, MD **Program Director**



The Division of Transplant Surgery is saying a heartfelt goodbye to Oren Shaked after his two years at Penn. After completing his undergrad and medical education

at Penn, Oren completed a general surgery residency at UCSF. Oren is returning to the west coast as a multi-organ transplant surgeon at the Oregon Health and Science University. We look forward to watching his career flourish.

Oren Shaked, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Abdominal Transplant Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon

It was a true privilege to come back to the University of Pennsylvania after completing my general surgery training at UCSF to undertake my fellowship training in abdominal transplant surgery. The team at Penn has an incredible professional relationship, which is absolutely necessary for the care of the transplant patient. Through extreme ded-



of hard work they achieved many new records and continue to expand the program while maintaining excellent outcomes. I was fortunate to train during these past two years, where I had exceptional exposure to all aspects of complex abdominal transplant care for both adult and pediatric patients, research

Oren with his wife Alona and their duaghter Ella

opportunities, and support from all the faculty and staff. The degree to which the faculty, APPs, OR staff, floor staff, consult services, administrative staff and others welcomed me into the fold is beyond my capacity to fully thank. Though the training was difficult and at times humbling, I knew that I could always rely on the team to go above and beyond to do the very best for the patients under our care. I will forever be grateful for this incredible experience and opportunity. I would also like to thank my wife Alona, who is not in the medical field, for putting up with the unpredictable and demanding lifestyle of a transplant surgery fellow. We had our first child, Ella, a few months into fellowship training, and I cannot express enough my gratitude for having a partner that allowed me to start a family while also supporting me in my career.

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.

Adeolu Adeboye, MD

Post Graduate Position: Staff Trauma Surgeon, Director of Surgical Education HCA Bayonet Point Hospital, Hudson Florida

Residency: Guthrie/Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University, North Haven, Connecticut

Undergraduate School: Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Carl A. Beyer, MD

Post Graduate Position: Staff Trauma Surgeon, MacDill AFB and Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Thank you all for the amazing training over the past two years! It has been a privilege to care for some of our most vulnerable patients at HUP and PPMC. I have learned so much, and everyone including the faculty, my co-fellows, the residents, APPs, and other staff have really made it feel like a Penn Trauma Family. My wife and I are excited for our next adventure on the Florida Gulf Coast.

> Carl with daughter Merrill and his wife Michael Ann with son Jack



Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Jacqueline Blank, MD

Post Graduate Position: Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Residency: Medical College of Wisconsin

Medical School: Loyola University Chicago

Undergraduate School: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Caitlin Cohan, MD

Post Graduate Position: Associate Physician, Department of Trauma Surgery Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center, Sacramento, California

Residency: UCSF East Bay Surgery Program, Oakland, California

Medical School: University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York





Phillip M. Dowzicky, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery University of Chicago Medicine

Residency: Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

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

Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Nicole A. Meredyth, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor, Acute Care Surgery Division Northwestern Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Residency: New York Presbyterian Hospital (Cornell Campus)

Medical School: University of Vermont College of Medicine



Shyam Murali, MD

Post Graduate Position: Adjunct Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine in Surgery at University of Pennsylvania; Trauma and Critical Care at Grand View Hospital, Sellersville, Pennsylvania

> The past couple of years have been incredibly transformative for me, marked by invaluable learning experiences. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of my clinical faculty, who have played a pivotal role in guiding me through the art and science of critical care. Their encouragement and mentorship helped me secure a dream job with Penn Medicine and the Grand View Hospital Division of Trauma. I am thankful to the entire trauma and SICU APP team for their invaluable contributions to my education and for saving my butt more times than I would like to admit. Finally, I want to thank my wife, Vrinda Goel, and my son, Rishi Goel Murali, for their unwavering support through a very busy time for our family. Looking forward to the next journey!

Grace M. Niziolek, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Residency: University of Cincinnati, Ohio

Medical School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Urology Residency

Contributed by R. Caleb Kovell, MD Program Director



GRADUATION



Esther Nivasch Turner, MD

Post Graduate Position: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at Minnesota Urology

Contributed by Dr. Kovell: After an incredible run in Philadelphia at the Perelman School of Medicine followed by residency here at Penn Urology, Esther will be moving on to colder climates for fellowship training in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at Minnesota Urology. Esther was known for her keen intellect, warm compassion, endless drive and ability to bring a team together over any case or procedure. Esther made her mark here on Penn Urology in so many ways, but perhaps her most indelible contribution was her tireless efforts to help the underserved gain access to the care they need-

ed. Esther was the driving force for Penn Urology's presence at Puentes de Salud and within the Center for Surgical Health, a legacy that will only continue to grow thanks to her drive and dedication. We know she will make us all proud and wish her the best on the next exciting chapter, don't cha know.

Ankur Shah, MD, MBA

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice - St. Pete Urology, St. Petersburg, Florida

Contributed by Dr. Kovell: Ankur leaves Penn Urology at the top of his game. He somehow managed to handle every challenge we threw at him with grace, skill and compassion, and managed to impress everyone he worked with along the way. A true leader and surgeon's surgeon, he will be joining an incredible group which includes two of our illustrious Penn Alumni in St. Pete, Florida. In his role on the team, he will be asked to handle any case that the Florida coast can



Ankur Shah (center) with Penn Urology alumni (left) Nicholas Laryngakis (2012 Chief Resident) and (right) Reid Graves (2013 Chief Resident). Ankur accepted a position at St. Pete Urology where Nick and Reid practice.

throw at him, and without a doubt, he comes out with the skills to manage any urologic malady under the sun. Along with his MBA and leadership training here at Penn, all of us expect to be working for Dr. Shah at some point in the near future. He will be deeply missed here at Penn Urology, but we are thrilled he'll be bringing another generation of talent to the amazing group he will be joining.

Urology Residency

Kiran Sury, MD

Post Graduate Position: Reconstructive Urology and Genitourinary Cancer Survivorship Fellowship, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

After graduating from Penn, I stayed around in Philly for the birth of my daughter (thanks Pennsy!). Then I took my boards and left for Duke, where I will complete a one year fellowship in Reconstruction and Genitourinary Cancer Survivorship. I'm hoping for an academic job where I get to mentor residents and learn to be comfortable in "disaster bellies" just like Dr. Kovell.



Kiran with his wife, Catherine Droser and their daughter Naraya

Contributed by Dr. Kovell: Without a doubt, Kiran has left an indelible mark on the Penn Urology program. He'll long be remembered for his (some may say endless) good-natured probing questions, Socratic teaching style, keen intellect and individually packaged bananas and hot sauce bottles. Kiran really blossomed during his time at Penn Urology, even after a pair of shoes almost ended the whole run early. Although he clearly had all the chops to become a Pulitzer winning journalist, Kiran stayed on and grew into an incredible, thoughtful, compassionate, and skilled surgeon as well as one of the finest debaters and orators on the urologic stage. Kiran is pursuing fellowship training at Duke Urology in genitourinary reconstruction and plans to take on the biggest most complex cases the reconstructive world has to offer. We all know he'll handle the challenge with flying colors.



Leilei Xia, MD

Post Graduate Position: Urologic Oncology Fellowship University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Contributed by Dr. Kovell: After five amazing years as a resident and three years previously as a research fellow, we had to say goodbye to the good Dr. Xia. Leilei is pursuing fellowship training in urologic oncology at the University of Southern California, where he takes his blend of surgical

prowess, research acumen, quick wit, and understated humor to the west coast. Leilei is fearless and bold, yet gentle and understanding with patients in need of the most compassion. He has achieved the perfect balance to be able to take on the next generation of challenges in cancer work as a clinician, academician and surgeon-scientist. None of us are quite sure if the Golden State is ready for Dr. Xia, but we all know that he'll be "cooking with gas" the whole time he's out in Southern California. A true hall of famer in all of our hearts for sure.

Urology Robotics Fellowship

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

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GRADUATION



Jay G. Fuletra, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice - MidLantic Urology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Contributed by Dr. Ziemba: We want to congratulate Dr. Jay Fuletra 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 tech-

nically gifted surgeon. Equally as important is his thoughtful, calming, and encouraging demeanor, which puts his patients at ease. It is with this same attitude that he is able to create a supportive and reassuring team environment that allows our students and residents to flourish and staff to want to work with him in the clinic and operating room. He is also a selfless individual willing to help with the clinical care of the faculty's patients, but also staff cases and consults when urgent or emergent needs arise as the primary attending surgeon. This devotion to teamwork is characteristic of all of us in Penn Surgery, but certainly in the Division of Urology, and Dr. Fuletra is no exception. We are fortune he will be remaining in the area. He will be responsible for complex minimally invasive and robotic surgery within the Mainline Health System. We look forward to watching his continued success and career.

Vascular Surgery Residency

Contributed by Venkat R. Kalapatapu, MD Program Director



I am thrilled to announce the graduation of three outstanding trainees from the Vascular Surgery program. Ziad Al-Adas graduated from the integrated residency program. Ziad graduated from the American University of Beirut medical school and matched at Penn in 2018. He now joins the faculty at the Vascular Surgery division at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Kara Rothenberg is one of our graduates from the Vascular Surgery fellowship. Kara completed her medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University, and she has now joined the Vascular Surgery Faculty at Kaiser in San Leandro, California. Matthew Carpiniello also graduated from the vascular fellowship. Matt went to medical school at Georgetown and completed a general surgery residency at Mount Sinai-St. Luke's Roosevelt. He joins the Vascular Surgery group at Rockland Thoracic and Vascular associates, a private practice group in Rockland County, New York. All our graduating trainees were phenomenal and have left us with many wonderful memories. We will miss them and wish them the very best in their future!

Ziad and his wife Sara

Matt is grateful for the exceptional training he has received at Penn, especially under the guidance of Drs. Keith Calligaro, Matt Dougherty and Doug Troutman at Pennsylvania Hospital. He is very appreciative of being warmly welcomed into the larger Penn Vascular family this year. After leaving Penn, Matt is looking forward to joining Rockland Thoracic and Vascular Associates, a private practice group in Rockland County New York.

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Vascular Surgery Residency

Ziad Al Adas, MD

Post Graduate Position: Assistant Professor of Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

It has been a true honor and pleasure to train at Penn Vascular Surgery for the last 5 years. This remarkable journey has been filled with invaluable lessons and transformative growth, both personally and professionally.

To the vascular surgery faculty, thank you for your support

and guidance. Your expertise, mentorship, and commitment to excellence will have an everlasting impact on me. To my fellow trainees, thank you for your camaraderie and collaboration throughout our shared journey. You made the challenging journey of residency more enjoyable and rewarding. To the advanced practice providers, nurses, techs, and coordinators, thank you for all the hard work you put to take fantastic care of our patients, and for creating a very enjoyable work environment. To my parents and brother, thank you for your unwavering belief in me and your sacrifices that made this journey possible. To my loving wife Sara, thank you for your support, understanding, and encouragement. Your presence has made the challenging times more bearable and the successes more rewarding.

As I embark on the next phase of my career, I am humbled and proud to carry the exceptional experiences, friendships, and memories from Penn. I look forward to staying in touch with you all.

Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Matthew Carpiniello, MD

Post Graduate Position: Private Practice, Rockland County, New York

Dr. Matthew Carpiniello was born and raised in Staten Island, New York by his parents Dr. Frank Carpiniello and Dr. Mary Spinelli, along with his older sister Francesca and his younger brother Philip. He then went on to Georgetown for college and medical school, where he solid-

ified his goal of becoming a surgeon. After medical school, he completed general surgery residency at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Roosevelt in New York City, where he had several great mentors who inspired him to pursue a career in vascular surgery. His top accomplishment during residency, however, was meeting his wife Dana Hamilton. Matt is eternally thankful for the anesthesiologist who cancelled his late-evening case in October 2020 so that he could make it to his first date with Dana on time.



Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Kara Rothenberg, MD

Post Graduate Position: Kaiser Permanente - San Leandro Medical Center, San Francisco, California

Dr. Kara Rothenberg and her younger sister Zoey were raised in Piedmont, California, by their parents Neil and Beverly Rothenberg. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a double major in Psychology and English. A "late bloomer"



Kara and her husband, David

with life choices, Kara worked as a manager at the GAP while trying to figure out what to do with her professional life. After four years of volunteering with the doctors at Planned Parenthood, Kara decided to pursue a career in medicine. While studying for the MCAT, Kara met her husband, David Cammarata, at her local rock climbing gym. They moved together to Richmond, Virginia, where Kara attended the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University. Initially planning to go into Family Medicine, Kara fell in love with surgery and completed her general surgery residency back home at UCSF-East Bay, in Oakland, California. The mentorship from her attendings at the VA in Reno, Nevada, and at Kaiser Oakland encouraged Kara to be a vascular surgeon. She was fortunate to spend two years in the lab during her training, and was awarded the UCSF-East Bay Research Resident award for her work with mentors Shipra Arya and Bobby Chang. After interviewing with Ben Jackson, Penn Vascular Surgery solidified itself as Kara's dream program, and she was thrilled to match for fellowship training. Kara is very grateful to her Penn Vascular mentors, coworkers, and friends, for all of the teaching, coaching, and support over the last two years. David also deserves a special thank you for his never wavering love and support despite being forced into a cross-country marriage for two years. Kara is looking forward to taking all of the knowledge and experience from the last two years and bringing it back with her to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she will be rejoining David in their Oakland home, and working with her new colleagues at Kaiser San Leandro.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Award

Teaching Award to Resident or Fellow from Integrated and Fellowship Program – Mauer Biscotti, MD

Awarded to the resident or fellow that contributed the most to the medical students education in Cardiothoracic Surgery - selected by the medical students



2023

General Surgery Awards

Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Awardees -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.



Feredun Azari, MD Awarded Basic Science/ Translational Research



Cimarron Sharon, MD Clinical Research



Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Awardee - Ian W. Folkert, MD, PhD 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 - Ian W. Folkert, MD, PhD

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.

William Y. Inouye Faculty Awardee - Jon B. Morris, 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.





Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Awardee - Robert E. Roses, MD Awarded to the faculty member who has had the greatest impact on the education of the surgical residents – selected by the surgical residents.

William Y. Inouye Resident Awardee - Claire B. Rosen, MD, MSME Awarded to a Surgical Resident for Excellence in Teaching Medical Students in the Surgery 200 Core Curriculum – selected by medical student evaluation scores.



General Surgery Awards

Leonard D. Miller Awardee - Richard J. Straker, III, 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 - Nicolas Muñoz, 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.

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence - Sarah I. Landau, MD

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

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).

Donald C. Liu Humanism Hero in Surgery Awardee - Sara Palazzo Ginzberg, MD, MSHP

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.

Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Awardee - Darren B. Schneider, 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.









Plastic Surgery Awards

Don LaRossa Teaching Award - Scott Bartlett, MD

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





Benjamin Chang Teaching Award - Jason Wink, MD Awarded to a plastic surgery faculty member for excellence in teaching residents - selected by the junior residents.

Penn Plastic Surgery Teaching Award - Natalie Plana, MD Awarded to a plastic surgery resident for excellence in teaching medical students.





Chief Resident Teaching Award - Ashley Brize Awarded to a non-faculty member for excellence in teaching residents.

Urology Awards

Linda and Joel Appel Award – Daniel Roberson, MD Award for research in prostate cancer.





Keith Van Arsdalen Teaching Award – Jennifer Lloyd-Harris, MD Award for excellence in operating room teaching - selected by the PGY4's.

Paul Rodin Leberman Teaching Award – Thomas Guzzo, MD, MPH Awarded in recognition of overall excellence in resident education - selected by the chief residents.





Alan J. Wein Mentorship Award – R. Caleb Kovell, MD

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



Urology Resident Medical Student Teaching Award – Clare Mallahan, MD

Awarded to the resident that contributed the most to the medical students' education in Urology - selected by the medical students.

Outstanding Technical Excellence in Urology – Ankur A. Shah, MD, MBA









Outstanding Educational Efforts in Urology - Esther Nivasch Turner, MD

Outstanding Clinical Excellence in Urology - Kiran Sury, MD







Vascular Surgery Awards

Ronald M. Fairman, MD Faculty Teaching Award - Venkat Kalapatapu, MD

Awarded to a member of 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 residents and fellows.





2023

Clyde F. Barker Chief Resident and Fellow Teaching Award - Ziad Al Adas, MD

Awarded to the chief resident or fellow who contributed the most to their education during their residency years - selected by residents and fellows.

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence - Ziad Al Adas, MD Awarded to the surgical resident achieving highest honors on the annual vascular surgery in-training exam - selected by award committee.

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



Department of Surgery Attn: Clyde Barker, MD 4 Silverstein/HUP 3400 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19104 Non Profit Org. US Postage **PAID** Philadelphia, PA Permit # 2563



2023 General Surgery Graduating Chiefs with Ron DeMatteo, Chair, Department of Surgery, Jon Morris, Vice Chair of Education and Ken Lee, Program Director, (front row) Catie Mavroudis, Andrew Hanna, Matt Goldshore, Jordan Stoecker, Adrienne Shannon (back row) Ron DeMatteo, Ciaran O'Brien, Ian Folkert, Jon Morris, Kevin Eddinger and Ken Lee