



# Penn Surgery Society NEWS

Fall 2011

The Penn Surgery Society News is published quarterly for its members, colleagues and friends of the Department of Surgery. For submissions, inquiries or comments, please contact [Mary.Hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Mary.Hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu).

## October 25, 2011 ACS Reception

The annual alumni reception of the Penn Surgery Society at the American College of Surgeons meeting took place on Tuesday, October 25th. The well attended event was held in the St. Francis Suite of the Westin St. Francis in downtown San Francisco. Great food, wonderful conversation, and good times were enjoyed by all - we are already looking forward to next year in Chicago! (For more pictures from this event, as well as a historical look at past ACS gatherings, turn to page 6)



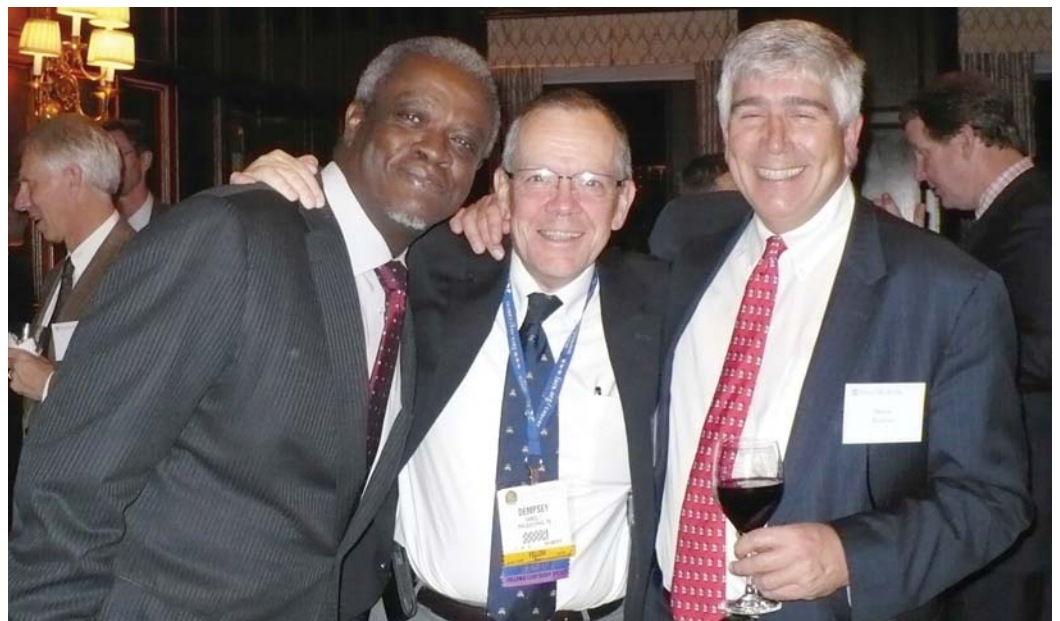
Najjia Mahmoud, M.D., Associate Professor, HUP; Joseph (Stryker) Rodriguez, M.D., Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, NH.



Todd Bauer, M.D., Assistant Professor University of Virginia; W. Roy Smythe, M.D., Professor & Chairman Department of Surgery, Texas A&M.

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Danny Jacobs, M.D., Professor & Chairman Surgery, Duke University; Daniel Dempsey, M.D., Professor of Surgery & Chief GI Surgery, HUP, former Chair Surgery Temple; Steven Bartlett, M.D., Professor & Chairman Surgery, University of Maryland.



## From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

William Fitts who is profiled in this issue was an important member of the small team recruited by I.S. Ravdin at the end of World War II to help him develop Penn's modern department of surgery. As Dr. Ravdin approached retirement in the late 1950's some predicted that Dr. Fitts would be his successor instead of Jonathan Rhoads who by then had become Provost of the University of Pennsylvania. But in 1960 when Ravdin eventually stepped down as Surgery Chairman, Fitts had become temporarily disabled by a series of serious illnesses including a near fatal hemorrhage from his long standing duodenal ulcer. Dr. Rhoads became Chairman but when he retired in 1972 the 60 year old Fitts was appointed John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman a position he acknowledged as his career long ambition. Ironically, the administrative pressures of the job and his tenuous health conspired in forcing him to relinquish the chair after only 3 years (the shortest tenure of any Penn surgery chairmen). In spite of this disappointment and several other misfortunes including the sudden death of his wife, Bill Fitts again became active and productive. In fact relieved of the responsibility of the chairmanship he was restored to his usually cheerful, even ebullient self. For the remainder of his life he remained a productive, beloved and unforgettable character.

Fitts was the most approachable and friendly of the senior faculty, especially to the young residents and medical students. Early in my residency my wife and I became close friends of Bill and Barbara Fitts who asked us to stay in their house for several weeks to look after their three young children while they were away at meetings of the American College of Surgeons and Trauma Society.

This sort of friendship with the Fittses was nothing special or limited to us. Fitts was everybody's friend and easily the most informal and unpretentious member of the faculty. A classic illustration was the good natured enthusiasm with which in his broad southern accent Fitts gabbed with everybody about his wager with the similarly portly Plastic Surgery Chief over which of them could lose the most weight by a prescribed date. Fellow faculty members and even residents were betting on the outcome as these two strived to outdo each other by sneaking large doses of lasix as the deadline of the contest approached.

This enigmatic character was also an intellectual giant who had graduated at the top of his class in every school he attended. In writing a memoir of Fitts, Len Miller who succeeded him as Department Chair commented that "he used language well", an understatement since Fitts had been asked to serve as a consultant to the publishers of the third edition of *Webster's International Dictionary*. Because Miller also used language so well, I found it impossible to improve on his essay on Fitts. Therefore it is included on page 5 with only minor changes mostly to shorten it as it appeared 30 years ago in the *Transactions of the American Surgical Association*.



By chance this issue also contains death notices of 2 other historically important Penn Surgical Society members Jerry Peskin and Lloyd Stevens. Although they survived Bill Fitts by 30 years they were his near contemporaries in the HUP residency.

Jerry Peskin (HUP Chief Resident, 1957) was probably Bill Fitts' closest faculty friend. Like Fitts, he was unusually approachable by students and residents and was devoted to teaching. Jerry was perhaps the first HUP faculty member to allow residents to operate on his patients (under appropriate supervision). Many of the residents and junior faculty members considered him to be their most important mentor.

Lloyd Stevens (Chief Resident, 1944) was the last HUP resident to be trained by Eldridge Eliason (Department Chairman, 1935-1945). In 1946, I. S. Ravdin returned from the war and succeeded Eliason as Chairman. Ravdin was determined to transform Penn Surgery into a research oriented academic department by implementing a geographic full time system which he planned to model after the one that he admired at Hopkins. He intended to include as its faculty only surgeons that had trained under him or who had served with him in the 20th General Hospital in India. Stevens and several other highly accomplished Eliason trainees were apparently not attracted by this new full time system or perhaps not encouraged by Ravdin to accept its constraints. Stevens therefore centered his large practice at Presbyterian Hospital where he was successful as Chief of Surgery for several decades. Lloyd Stevens was one of the cadre of Eliason trained surgeons known for exceptional technical skill in the operating room. Some critics said that in contrast the Ravdin trained surgeons, like their Chief, were more likely to deserve praise for their accomplishments in research and other aspects of academic surgery rather than for their technical expertise.

## In Memory of

# Jagajan "JJ" Karmacharya, M.D.

**10/10/65 – 9/25/11**

*Ronald M. Fairman*

Many, if not most of you already know that our Department of Surgery lost one of its most endearing alumni on September 25, when JJ Karmacharya was killed in a plane crash in Nepal. He was returning home to visit his mother who had developed progressive medical problems and renal failure. Accompanying him was his fiancé as well as a brother and his wife. In addition to his mother, JJ is survived by a teen-aged son and two brothers who also reside here in the United States.

JJ's journey through life reads like a larger than life novel. Born and raised in Kathmandu, he received his medical degree from Nilratan Sircar Medical College at the University of Calcutta (MBBS), and following completion of a compulsory rotating internship was licensed to practice medicine in 1990. Following medical school he did some traveling in his homeland and served as a Medical Officer at United Mission Hospital as well as Anandaban Leprosy Hospital in Nepal. He had a passion for motorcycles which became his signature mode of transportation when traveling over mountainous terrain to rural hospitals in his homeland. His interpersonal skills were extraordinary and when Princess Diana visited Nepal shortly after her divorce from Prince Charles, JJ was selected to accompany her on a tour of the Leprosy Hospital. When later asked to describe his impressions of the famous Princess, he reportedly stated with a smile that "she had large feet." From 1993 to 1996 he received surgical training in the United Kingdom and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. He developed an interest in craniofacial surgery and he corresponded



directly with Dr. Linton Whitaker at Penn who encouraged JJ to come to Philadelphia. JJ arrived with his wife and very young son initially as an unpaid Research Fellow in Richard Kirschner's laboratory at CHOP in 1998. He worked at a gas station and delivered newspapers to support his family, but ultimately secured research funding. He was enormously productive academically during this period time and authored well over 20 peer-reviewed publications and presented more than 25 abstracts. Unfortunately, there was no fast track into a plastic surgery fellowship for an internationally trained surgeon, but to our advantage, JJ was accepted into the Penn general surgical training program with PGY-1 preliminary status in 2001, became a categorical resident in 2002, and graduated as a Chief Resident in 2005. During his residency he established himself as a gifted technical surgeon who loved being in the operating room, demonstrating a passion for teaching junior residents. While rotating on the HUP vascular service as a PGY-4, he realized his calling and decided upon a career in vascular and endovascular surgery.



Four HUP vascular fellowship graduates in June at the 2011 SVS Penn Vascular Surgery reception in Chicago. JJ, Chris Skelly, M.D., Chief, Vascular Surgery, Univ of Chicago, Elena Rakhlin, M.D., Ben Jackson, Asst Prof, Vascular Surgery, HUP.

(continued on next page)

## “JJ” Karmacharya (continued from page 3)

His curriculum vitae had the appearance of someone going up for promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery and he was one of the most sought after candidates in the vascular match. I received a call from Richard Cambria at the MGH, who had JJ at the top of his match list. JJ was of course our first choice and he stayed at Penn completing his fellowship in 2007.

Following his fellowship JJ spent a brief period of time at Cedars Sinai in LA under the Chairmanship of Bruce Gewertz and from all accounts was highly respected for his technical and interpersonal skills. Omaidia Velazquez successfully recruited JJ to the University of Miami three years ago and he quickly developed a robust clinical practice and a reputation as an educator. He was instrumental in securing accreditation from the ACGME for the Vascular Surgery Fellowship there this past year and was to serve as the Program Director. He became very active in the South Florida Vascular Society and partnered with Omaidia and Lee Goldstein (yes, other Penn alumni) to create a Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Miami that now clearly dominates the region. He served as Chief of Vascular Surgery at the Miami VA Hospital and provided sophisticated state of the art vascular services to veterans in the South Florida region. He continued to chase his passion for motorcycles and purchased a Ducati which he rode on the crowded city streets of Miami, much to the distress of his colleagues. He took advantage of the local geography and became an avid sailor, while continuing to travel at every opportunity.

I had the honor of participating in his memorial service at the University of Miami on October 5th and listened to colleagues and friends eulogize JJ in a conference room packed with several hundred people, standing room only. It is very clear that JJ loved life and although it ended prematurely and tragically, he lived it to the fullest. To everyone at Miami who knew JJ, he was rather larger than life, he was bold, he had true grit, and he made a difference.

In his memory, the University of Miami  
Department of Surgery in collaboration with  
the South Florida Society for Vascular Surgery  
has established the

### **Dr. "JJ" Karmacharya Award and Education Fund in Vascular Surgery**

Gifts may be submitted to:

Cory L. Witherspoon

Director of Development, Department of Surgery

University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

Office of Medical Development

P.O. Box 016960 (R-100)

Miami, Florida 33101

Phone: 305-243-4150

Email: [cwitherspoon@med.miami.edu](mailto:cwitherspoon@med.miami.edu)

# Penn Surgical Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference

The HUP Department of Surgery sponsored the inaugural "Penn Surgical Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference" on Saturday, September 24th in Wharton's Huntsman Hall. The purpose of this conference was to introduce potential surgical innovators in surgery, medicine, engineering and business to the practical knowledge necessary to translate innovative ideas into successful products. The course outlined for participants how to navigate the process from innovation to successful production. Speakers included Tom Fogarty (Fogarty Institute for Innovation), John Nash (Kensey Nash Corp.), Katherine Kuchenbecker (Penn School of Engineering), Jeff Solomon (Infiniti Medical), and John Swartley (Penn Center for Tech Transfer). The conference was moderated by Dan Dempsey,

Chief of GI Surgery and Assistant Director of Perioperative Services. Presentations covered critically important topics for the surgical innovator such as idea generation, capture, and protection (patents); working with engineers and prototyping; fundraising and forming a business; and the future of surgical innovation. The conference was very well received, with over 100 attendees including practicing surgeons, trainees, and students from multiple disciplines including medicine, engineering, and business. To view the presentations from the conference, please go to <http://surgery.uphs.upenn.edu>.

The next "Penn Surgical Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference" will be held in the Spring of 2012. Watch your email for the program and an invitation. Hope to see you there.

# Alumni History

## William T. Fitts, Jr. (1915 - 1980)

William Thomas Fitts, Jr., was born in Jackson, Tennessee, on October 6, 1915. His father was a distinguished internist in Jackson and at first, Bill aimed to follow in his footsteps. At Penn Medical School he was class president and graduated at the top of his class. At the outbreak of World War II, Bill was finishing a two year rotating internship at HUP. He became an Officer in the 20th General Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania Unit serving in India near the border of enemy held Burma. The hospital's task was to support the planned invasion of Burma which was being undertaken to restore a land supply route from India to allied forces in China otherwise only reached by treacherous flights over the Himalayas. The hospital began as a collection of bamboo huts surrounded by jungle. It eventually grew to 289 buildings with 2500 beds. It was the largest military hospital of World War II and admitted 73, 000 patients. It provided a wealth of clinical material, especially in trauma.

Bill's assignment to the hospital's surgical section was not particularly to his liking, since before being called into the Army he had been accepted for a medical residency at the Mayo Clinic. His assignment to the hospital's orthopedic service was fortunate since Bill learned a great deal about trauma and shock. This experience and the close relationship he developed with I.S. Ravdin, the hospital's commanding general changed his orientation to a surgical career and a lasting special interest in trauma and fractures. Ravdin, although occasionally given to hyperbole, was probably correct when he stated that Dr. Fitts while in India had done more onlay grafts for delayed union of the tibia than any surgeon in the United States.

Before he went overseas Bill had married Barbara Willits, whose father was Dean of the Wharton School. They had three children, Barbara and Michael, both lawyers and Austin, highly

successful in the business world. Michael is now Dean of Penn's Law School. After Barbara's tragic death, Bill married Stella White in 1976. Bill had known Stella since childhood. In fact, he was Stella's babysitter at a tender age, when their fathers both trained at the Mayo Clinic, hers in surgery and his in medicine.

After the war, Bill returned to HUP where he finished his surgical training under Ravdin (who had become Department Chairman) and began his career long appointment to the Penn Faculty. His continuing interest in trauma led him to active participation in the American college of Surgeons Trauma Committee, first as Chairman of the Regional Trauma Committee, later as a member of the National Committee on Trauma, and afterwards, as its Vice-Chairman. He also became extremely active in the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and was elected to all of the offices in the Association, serving as Secretary, Vice-President, President-elect and president. In connection with this he assumed the editorship of the Journal of Trauma in 1968 and transformed it to a monthly journal, greatly expanding its circulation and scope. In 1975, the Association established an Annual Lectureship in his honor. He was also one of the founders of the American Trauma Society and rejuvenated its activity and effectiveness, when he became President in 1972. The National Safety Council awarded him its Surgeon's Award for Distinguished Service to Safety in 1971.

Before the idea's time had come, he challenged, and in part rebuked, his colleagues about the state of trauma care in the United States. At the 20th General Hospital, Fitts had observed the quality of care that could be rendered in even the most hostile of environments. In contrast, Fitts found trauma care in the United States in an unacceptable state. In the 1970 Scudder Oration on Trauma, Fitts called attention to this problem:

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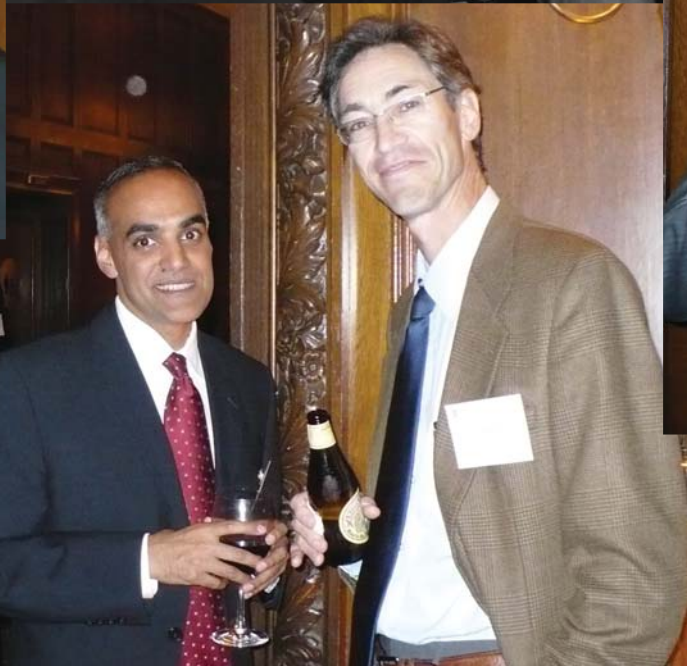
The reception during the 2011 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons was in keeping with a tradition started by Dr. Ravdin when he returned from World War II 65 years ago. HUP faculty, residents and alumni have met for cocktails and/or dinner during the College meeting ever since - first as the Ravdin Society, then the Ravdin-Rhoads Society and since 2011 as the Penn Surgical Society. An early meeting of the Ravdin Society is pictured here. Members I can identify include: Harold Zintel, Harold Barker, Jim Hardy, Bill Blakemore, Bob Witmer, Clete Schwegman, Paul Nemir, Bill Fitts, Jonathan Rhoads, Ada Kriebel, Henry Royster, Charley Kirby, Brooke Roberts, Dutch Dyson, IS Ravdin, Nick Gimbell, Julian Johnson, Jack Murphy. If some of the senior members of our Society can identify others please let us know.



1948-1949



John Rombeau, M.D., former HUP surgeon, now part-time attending at VA Palo Alto; Martin Karpeh, M.D., Chairman Surgery, Beth-Israel, NY.



Sunil Singhal, M.D., Assistant Professor, HUP; Joseph Shrager, M.D., Professor of Surgery & Chief, Thoracic Surgery, Stanford.



Douglas Fraker, M.D., Professor of Surgery & Chief, Endocrine & Oncologic Surgery, HUP; Jeffrey Drebin, M.D, Ph.D., Professor & Chairman Surgery, HUP.



Marc Mitchell, M.D., Professor & Chairman Surgery, University of Mississippi; James Markmann, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Surgery, Harvard & Chief Transplant Surgery, MGH.



Brian Hoey, M.D., Director, General Surgery Residency, St. Luke's Medical Center, PA; Marc Granson, M.D., Chief Surgery, St. Luke's Medical Center, PA.



Kenric Murayama, M.D., Professor of Surgery & Chief Surgery, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, PA; Amy Cha, M.D., Assistant Professor, PPMC.



Robert Redfield, M.D., Surgery Resident, HUP; Niamey Wilson, M.D., Surgery Resident, HUP; Jon B. Morris, M.D., Professor of Surgery & Vice-Chair Surgery Education, HUP.

# Alumni News

- ◆ **William T. Adamson, M.D.** was recently promoted to Division Chief for Pediatric Surgery of the University of North Carolina Health Care System. Bill had been the interim Division Chief since November of 2009. He has been a faculty member of UNC's surgery department since 2004. As Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, Bill will also serve as Surgeon-in-Chief of the North Carolina Children's Hospital.



- ◆ **Pavan Atluri, M.D.** Pavan Atluri, M.D. has been awarded the David C. Sabiston Research Scholarship from the American Association of Thoracic Surgery. The proposal, entitled "Tissue engineered endothelial progenitor cell construct to treat ischemic heart failure" was awarded \$160,000 over 2 years.



- ◆ Many alumni will recall working alongside or training under **Dr. Henry Berkowitz**, a prominent faculty member of the department's vascular division from 1970 to 1997. Now retired from the active practice of surgery, Dr. Berkowitz is now a practicing artist who recently had a very successful showing of his work at the Artists' House Gallery in Philadelphia. In their review of the event, the Philadelphia Inquirer referred to Dr. Berkowitz's work as one of the "show's standouts". Images of Henry's work can be seen at the Artists House website: [www.artistshouse.com](http://www.artistshouse.com).



- ◆ **Brian J. Czerniecki, M.D.** has been named the Harrington-Rhoads Associate Professor in Surgery. Dr. Czerniecki also currently serves as co-director of the Rena Rowan Breast Center and is Surgical Director of the Immunotherapy Program at the Abramson Cancer Center. Brian has been a faculty member of HUP's Department of Surgery since 1995.



- ◆ The 2nd Annual Ernest F. Rosato/William Maul Measey Endowed Lectureship in Surgical Education was given on November 3rd by Penn Surgery Society member, **Stanley J. Dudrick, M.D.** The title of his inspirational talk - "How Do Surgeons Get That Way? Some History, Beliefs and Philosophy"



- ◆ **Laura Kruper, M.D.** has been named the Director of the Cooper Finkel Women's Health Center and Head of the Breast Surgery Service at City of Hope Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. Laura finished her general surgery residency at HUP in 2007 and went on to complete a Breast Oncology fellowship at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in 2008.



- ◆ **Babak Sarani M.D.** has accepted the position of Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery and Associate Professor of Surgery at George Washington University School of Medicine effective November 1, 2011. Dr. Sarani has been a faculty member of HUP's Division of Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care since 2005. He has held a number of administrative roles ranging from the Medical Director of the Surgical Rapid Response Team to Director of the Office of Life Support Education. In addition, he has won numerous teaching awards during his time at Penn and published extensively on a number of trauma and surgical critical care topics.



- ◆ **Abraham Shaked, M.D.** has received PENN's Louis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist award. This award recognizes a clinical specialist physician who blends biomedical science and recent advances in clinical research and insight to provide cutting edge services to patients and colleagues, and applies clinical knowledge innovatively and creatively, while contributing to the Health System's excellent care.



- ◆ **Sunil Singhal, M.D.,** Sunil Singhal, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Division of Thoracic Surgery was awarded the American Surgical Association's Foundation Fellowship. This award which provides \$150,000 over two years was for a translational research project to use nanotechnology intraoperatively to locate and guide in real-time the surgical resection of lung cancers and mediastinal lymph nodes in order to guarantee negative margins, complete lymph node clearance and detection of residual satellite nodules. Additionally, Sunil is the PI for PENN on a \$7 million Transformative Research Project Award from the NIH. PENN will be working with other research teams at Emory University and Georgia Tech.



## William T. Fitts, Jr. (continued from page 5)

“... with the exception of those wounded by enemy action, we are failing to provide adequate care for our injured... Treatment of trauma in this country is unique in that existing competence is more poorly applied than in the treatment of any other disease...” More bluntly, he once stated that a person had a better chance of surviving injury in the rice paddies of Vietnam than on the streets of West Philadelphia

He criticized the fragmentation of trauma care and stressed the need for a team approach, regionalized trauma centers, specialized training in trauma and critical care, shock and trauma research and a dedicated critical care service. His influence helped in eventually bringing these things to pass.

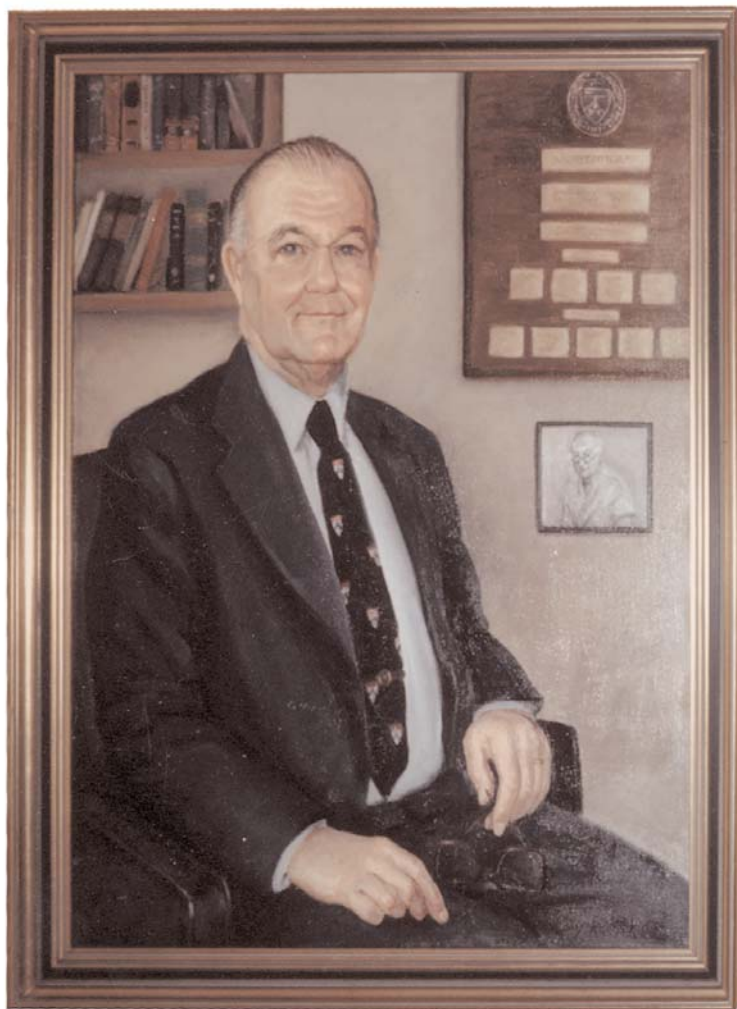
With Dr. Oscar Hampton, Dr. Fitts wrote the four chapters on fractures in each of the four editions of Lippincott's Textbook of Surgery. He and Dr. Hampton also published a monograph on the open reduction of fractures. He also published 150 scientific papers, which had a substantial impact on surgical practice not only in trauma but also on the treatment of breast cancer and inflammatory and malignant disease of the gastrointestinal tract, areas in which Dr. Fitts possessed a wealth of surgical experience.

Dr. Fitts was elected to membership in all of the important surgical societies and organizations including the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, the Halsted Society, and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Eastern Surgical Society, the Pan Pacific Surgical Association, the Allen Whipple society and the Southern Surgical Association, for which he had a special fondness.

Few loved the University of Pennsylvania, or served it as well as Bill Fitts. His list of important committee assignments and chairmanships was truly prodigious. From 1972 to 1975 he was John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery. One of his last major undertakings was in connection with the "Campaign for the 80's", to raise \$255 million for the University of Pennsylvania. He headed, at first, the Department's fund raising efforts then the successful drive for the University as a whole. Ironically in the week that it went "over the top" Fitts' death came with unexpected suddenness on June 17, 1980 from mesenteric artery thrombosis. The University had honored him in 1964 with a well-deserved Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. The year before his death, it honored him with an Alumni Merit Award, the highest honor the University can bestow on one of its own. In the same year, Union University, his alma mater, also gave him its Distinguished Service Award.

Despite his manifold contributions to trauma care and research and his reputation as a surgeon with superior judgment and skill, Bill is probably best remembered as a teacher with a

unique impact on those he taught. He had an encyclopedic knowledge, not only of medicine and surgery, but outside his professional field. Perhaps the greatest message he delivered was one that he never needed to put into words - he really did put the patient first. Long after the students forgot the surgical knowledge and wisdom he gave them, they remembered who he was as a person.



Bill had a many-sided, often paradoxical personality. Often garrulous, a yarn-spinner with the best he could be the most silent and reflective of men. Every intern who at the operating table pointed to a tiny bleeder knew how sharply reproachful he could be, yet gentleness and generosity were at the core of him. Some saw him as somewhat rustic and provincial in demeanor, but in truth, he had an intellect of considerable depth and breadth. Books were his primary outside interest, and he would often, typically and methodically, pile up all the books he could find on a subject, anything from big city political bosses to native American dialects, and read them voraciously, one after the other. The most informal and unpretentious of men,

(continued on next page)



# William T. Fitts, Jr. (continued from page 9)

he had an innate sense of propriety and an innate appreciation for style and elegance. A pillar of clinical confidence and determination outwardly, questions of diagnosis and treatment gnawed at him constantly, until he satisfied himself that his course was correct.

Exquisitely sensitive to the physical problems of others, Bill often ignored and always minimized his own. Courageous in his public stands and dogged in his academic principles, his own personal vulnerability from illness united him with patients - he was one doctor who knew how they felt. To his patients he was a legend personified. No problem, surgical or medical, physical or emotional, was too small to merit his attention. Once a patient of his, you were his patient for life. He was really a "horse and buggy" doctor.

Nearly a thousand people from all walks of life attended his Memorial Service at the University Museum on June 30th, 1980. Many of his University faculty colleagues were also patients of his.

One of the speakers was such a patient, a distinguished Professor of Economics. He summed it up best when he said, "Others will esteem Bill as a colleague, teacher, and eminent surgeon. I speak from the other side of the operating table, as the 'patient anonymous' who gives purpose and poignancy to the science of medicine. I am among the untold numbers who live because of Bill's superb skill, tender compassion, and unswerving dedication to his life-assisting mission....I relaxed, confident, for Bill was on my side".



The **William T. Fitts Surgical Education Center** was named after William T. Fitts, Jr., John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1972 through 1975. It was built in 1994 to provide Surgery Residents, Faculty and Students with the means to expand and foster their education.

The facility offers a multitude of textbooks, journals, instructional

videos and a hands-on laparoscopic trainer to broaden the scope of surgical training. The center is located on the 4th floor of the Maloney Building.

The Surgery Education Data Network contains 10 computer workstations. These workstations can be used for anything from on-line training to simple web browsing.

All workstations are running Windows XP with Intel Pentium IV processors. These pc's are equipped with Digital Flat panels each accessible to a wide range of software programs. One workstation has a scanner installed

for use with Photoshop. Microsoft Internet explorer is the standard for World Wide Web access, along with a Microsoft Outlook Web icon, which will enable you to view your email through the web. In addition each workstation is connected to an HP LaserJet printer, which is capable of handling any file at

17 pages per minute.

The Fitts Education Center is wired for direct access to the hospital Network (HUPNet) which is the standard secure Ethernet Network currently running at 1000 Mbps.

Conference Room space is available and has a dedicated PC and an easy to use laptop connection that will allow a presenter the ability to show their presentations on any or all of the (4) 50" Plasmas. It is hardwired with fiber from the Surgical Theatre allowing multiple live surgical images from the Perelman Center ENDO suites, and the Dulles and Ravdin OR's for viewing in the Fitts Education Center.

The Center also has a Polycom 4000 video codec allows video conferencing to any other system located inside the network over IP. The Education Center also contains a VCR and DVD Player and has the ability to display a Direct TV satellite feed on any or all of the plasma screens.



# In Memory of . . .

◆ **Lloyd Stevens, M.D.** died at age 97, September 25, 2011. Born in 1914 in Philadelphia he graduated from high school at the age of 16; from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933 and in 1937 from Penn Medical School where he was AOA, first in his class and recipient of the Pachard Prize in Clinical Medicine. He served his internship and residency at HUP while Eldridge Eliason was Surgical Chairman finishing his chief residency in 1944. He



was a member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania from 1939 until his retirement as Professor of Clinical Surgery in 1979. He was President of the Medical Staff of Presbyterian Hospital from 1959-1961 and 1970-1973. At Philadelphia General Hospital he was the Chief of a surgical service from 1950-1976. He was Chief of Surgery at Presbyterian Hospital from 1959-1979. He was given the Roth Award for excellence in teaching and practice by the gastroenterology division at Presbyterian Hospital. He was also surgeon to the Philadelphia Eagles from 1945-1949.

**Gerald W. Peskin** died December 16, 2010 at the age of 85. Jerry Peskin was born in Philadelphia in 1925. He graduated from West Philadelphia High School where he was an exceptional athlete. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1944-1946 he obtained his A.B. at Penn and his M.D. (AOA) from Penn Medical School in 1951. He was an intern and then a surgical resident at HUP under I.S. Ravdin finishing as chief resident in 1957. From 1957-1967, he was a faculty member in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Surgery, an actively practicing surgeon at HUP and an important investigator in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research. From 1967-1971 he was Chief of Surgery at Michael Reese Hospital and Professor of Surgery at the University of Chicago. In 1971, he moved to California as Chief of Surgery at the San Diego Veteran's Administration Hospital and Professor of Surgery at the University of California, San Diego. He was Director of the Regional Trauma Center in San Diego from 1979-1981. From 1984-1992 he was Chairman of Surgery at St. Raphael Hospital



in New Haven, Connecticut and Clinical Professor of Surgery at Yale. In 1992, he moved back to California as Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Davis. Until his recent retirement he was also the teaching mainstay of Claude Organ's and then Alden Harken's surgical residency program at the University of California, San Francisco-East Bay. He was also Associate Editor of the Annals of Surgery.

While he was at Penn and throughout his subsequent career, Jerry was a productive laboratory and clinical investigator with a special focus on G.I. physiology. His bibliography eventually reached 175 peer reviewed articles. He was elected to memberships in all of the most important surgical societies including the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association.

## Stay Connected!

....through the PENN SURGERY SOCIETY website  
at [http://surgery.uphs.upenn.edu/!](http://surgery.uphs.upenn.edu/)

Join the hundreds of on-line members already registered and create a profile, connect with alumni and keep up to date on all the current PSS news and upcoming events!

Suggestions for the website?

Items you would like to include in the newsletter?

Please send them along to

Mary Hamburg at [mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu)

# Endowed Professorship Campaign

During the past 50 years, Ernie Rosato has served the Department under seven chairmen. From 1988-2004, he was Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, establishing it as one of the top programs in the United States. In addition to his leadership of



the Division, Ernie has been recognized as the Department's most valued teacher. He is a master surgeon whose practice has been the largest in Philadelphia.

During his long tenure on the faculty, Ernie has trained generations of surgical leaders. It is most appropriate to establish an endowed professorship in his name not only to honor Ernie, but to provide the Department with a powerful tool to attract or retain leading surgeons who can build on Ernie's legacy.

We hope you will partner with us in this planned effort to perpetuate Ernie's contributions.

Please contact Mary Hamburg for further information as to how you can lend your support at [mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu).



## Penn Surgery

Department of Surgery  
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