



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 clyde.barker@penmedicine.upenn.edu.



Ron DeMatteo, MD
John Rhea Barton
Professor and Chair,
Department of Surgery

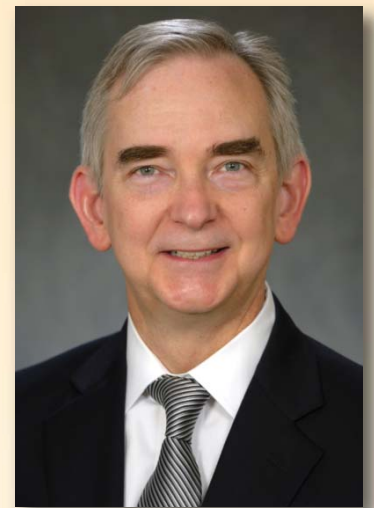
Message from the Chair

Reinventing Oneself

Yet another detrimental aspect of the current global situation is that we cannot properly recognize and celebrate achievements and landmarks of life, such as (resident) graduations and weddings. Add now the clinical retirement of Steven Raper, M.D., J.D., M.A. (Hon), which occurred quietly this past June, after 27 years on faculty at Penn.

Dr. Raper was born in Bloomington, Illinois. He trained in surgery at UCSF (behind Flake but ahead of Fraker) and had his first faculty appointment at Michigan. He was the Chief of Surgery at the VA for Penn patients (the even SSNs back then) from 1993-7 and then for all VA patients until 2000.

Luckily, our paths crossed in 1993. For some reason I could not settle on a laboratory and Dr. Mullen was threatening to cancel my research years when Hansell Stedman told me that there is this surgeon named Raper coming from Michigan as part of the Jim Wilson lab. At the time, Bill Kelley was the CEO and Dean and had the foresight to invest heavily in the burgeoning field of gene therapy, bringing Jim Wilson with him from Michigan. So without really knowing any details, I phoned Dr. Raper and asked if I could join his lab. After a long pause, he responded that he guessed it would be all right. We met for the first time on Thursday July 1, 1993 at 7am in the HUP cafeteria – his first day at Penn and my first day of research. He started by going over the details of needed revisions for a manuscript he had submitted to the journal Regulatory Peptides. Then he got to the gene therapy part. The potential ability to insert a chosen gene into any cell of a living organism held tremendous promise, since the technology could be used for many diseases. He had a bay in the Wilson lab, which occupied the entire 2nd floor of the original Wistar building. The lab was him and me. Eventually, a technician was hired. I soon learned that despite his reticent nature, Dr. Raper was an avid drummer. In the lab, he reveled in listening to Nirvana’s album In Utero, which came out that September and went quintuple platinum.



Fast forward several years to 1999, when he was granted tenure. There were some turbulent times in gene therapy, which led Dr. Raper in other directions. He started focusing on operations for morbid obesity, and subsequently became known for redo obesity surgery. He filled in as the Chief of Surgery at Presbyterian from 2008-09. His interest in informed consent led him to obtain a J.D. from Penn Law School in 2012. He has been the departmental Vice Chair for Quality and Risk Management for the last decade and fortunately, he will serve another 18 months in that role. He has been a key leader over the past

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From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

Despite my requests, I don't get many letters from readers. I was particularly pleased to get this message from Mike Fitts, son of Bill Fitts, Jonathan Rhoads' successor as Professor and Chairman of our department. I first knew Mike when I was a resident. During his parents' vacations, Dode and I stayed with their children. For 14 years, Mike was Dean of Penn's Law School and since 2014 he has been President of Tulane University.

Mike's thoughtful comments stimulated me to think about the purpose of the Newsletter. Ten years ago when Jeff Drebin and Jim Mullen asked me to work up a newsletter, the intent was only to keep the graduating residents in touch with the department. Since I am a history buff, stories crept in about things that happened so long ago that recent members of our society would otherwise never know about them. Examples of these forgotten surgeons and stories that have been recalled in the newsletter include: 1) Julian Johnson, a pioneer of thoracic surgery so tough that most residents hated him; 2) Bernie Fisher, a HUP resident who by inventing randomized trials totally changed the treatment of breast cancer; 3) Jim Hardy, HUP chief resident 1951, who performed the world's first heart transplant and first lung transplant; and 4) John Gibbon, the Penn faculty member who while working in the Harrison Department labs was the first to successfully perform cardiopulmonary bypass in animals.

Other stories have yet to appear in the newsletter: 1) the Penn surgery professor who was the first to use x-rays in diagnosis and treatment of fractures; 2) J. William White, the surgery chairman who provoked and participated in Philadelphia's last formal pistol duel; and 3) William Martin, the surgery chairman who over an illicit love affair was shot by an enraged husband, the director of the hospital.

There are too many forgotten leaders and stories to include in a column in a quarterly newsletter. Dr. DeMatteo has suggested that they should be gathered into a book on the history of the department. I may try to do this if I live long enough. But the overriding theme of such a history should be how this collection of colorful and gifted HUP eccentrics combined their personalities, visions and research (clinical and basic) to form a great academic department. Mike Fitts has expressed better than Stan Dudrick or I could how the culture of the department and its obsession with its linear heritage (who trained us and who we are training) has been an essential ingredient.

August 22, 2020 (Letter from Mike Fitts)

Dear Clyde,

I suspect you get lots of praise about the Penn Surgical Society Newsletter, but not from someone like me: a lawyer without any medical training. I happened to start reading the newsletters a number of years ago to see what happened to people my father talked about or whom I knew at Penn. It is an excellent description of the coming and goings of the department. But what I have found most interesting has been what it reveals about how one nurtures academic excellence.

Great departments create a culture of excellence. As your description of Stan Dudrick's lecture revealed, surgeons are obsessed with who they trained and who trained them. This linear heritage strikes me as central to nurturing that culture. I once invited the great Jazz musicians of New Orleans over to my house (when you are president of Tulane they tend to accept the invitation) and asked them what led to New Orleans being the center of the most important advancement in American music. The answer: each musician sees their role as creating the next generation of musicians. Everyone around the table traced their heritage ultimately back to Louis Armstrong. (Think I.S. Ravidin! - though I know Rhoads and you may exceed that benchmark.)

At Penn you can see the constant reference to who trained with whom-- and who was their most important mentor. Creating such a culture is central to the quality of an institution.

The other aspect of the newsletter I love are the stories about what made this or that surgeon great. Your recent history of the first Penn vascular surgeon is a classic-- a brilliant, pathbreaking, individual, but ultimately done in by his psychological demons. Similarly, the debate over whether Rhoads or Dudrick should get credit for hyperalimentation was funny, and illuminating. Two very different personalities who clicked. In every case you are always focused on the specific contributions of the surgeon to the field, and the ways their personality, and the people around them, furthered or hindered that quest.

As a former dean and now university president, I spend my life trying to assess talent and create an academic culture. I grew up listening to my father and grandfather, dean of Wharton and head of NBER, discuss these issues. Though I doubt this is why you decided to write the newsletter, it serves as a wonderful case study in how to pursue personal and institutional excellence. You should feel very good about your work.

All the best, Mike (Michael A. Fitts)

Harvey Sugerman (1938-2020)

Harvey Sugerman, HUP chief resident 1972-73, died on August 9, 2020. Harvey was one of Jonathan Rhoads' most accomplished and distinguished residents. For two years of his residency he was a postdoctoral fellow in the shock trauma unit that was directed by Leonard Miller.

Born in Pittsburgh, Harvey was in 1959 a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Johns Hopkins University. In 1966 he graduated from Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine with Alpha Omega Alpha honors. After a year of medical internship at HUP he switched to surgery, finishing his residency in 1973, a few months after Bill Fitts had become chairman. Harvey then had a 28 year faculty career at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Included in his variety of roles were Vice Chairman of Education and Research, Chief of General and Trauma Surgery, and Interim Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1999 to 2001. His academic accomplishments were vast and included 98 visiting professorships, more than 230 publications, 59 chapters and 20 books. He became President of the Western Trauma Association and the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. He was also founder and editor of the *Journal of Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*.

Harvey's surgical interests were catholic including surgery for inflammatory bowel disease, laparoscopic G.I. surgery, pancreatic surgery, trauma surgery and critical care. His basic research interests focused on the effect of intra-abdominal pressure on other systems in the body and its relation to hypertension and preeclampsia.

Harvey was a crucially important pioneer of weight loss surgery. He provided evidence that gastric bypass was the most effective option making it one of the most common operations performed by general surgeons. He also showed that it is an effective treatment for type II diabetes. He brought international exposure to the procedure and to VCU when he and several of his patients were profiled as part of a year-long National Geographic project on obesity.

In eulogizing Harvey, Walter Poires said, "Harvey never got the credit for all of his accomplishments because he was such a curmudgeon. Opinionated but almost always right, he didn't much care what you thought unless you added an idea. What counted was the truth and the facts. That probably kept him from becoming the chair at Richmond, but it led to his being one of our premier scientists and politicians. We confronted the folks at Medicare together to get them to agree to fund bariatric surgery.



I confronted the storm of refusals and was ready to retreat. Not Harvey, he just kept punching and eventually they caved. That led to the approval by the private carriers, a victory he never proclaimed and most folks were unaware of. It was a crucial advance. Even when confronted by a tragic accident that left him paralyzed, Harvey refused to break. And finally who but Harvey could give such an eloquent address that none of us will ever forget."

Dr. Poires refers to Harvey's 2018 Edward Mason lecture of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Given from a wheelchair two years after his devastating accident, he recalled the unhappy experiences of his childhood, professional and emotional setbacks in his early career and how as a self-confessed curmudgeon, he leveraged his stubborn persona to overcome them. He laid bare his odyssey through Jefferson as a lab technician and medical student, his residency where as a research fellow he was the first at HUP to evaluate PEEP and to pass the first Swan Ganz catheter in patients with shock, the Army experience in Germany that matured his surgical skills, his disillusionment with academic life leading to a trial of community practice and then his exceptional career as a department leader at MCV.

Not left out but instead described unemotionally and even with humor are his fall from a second story window in his house that rendered him paraplegic. Included are the struggles that took him and his wife halfway across the country to find optimal rehabilitation. Ironically this was progressing substantially before his untimely death.

Harvey loved skiing, traveling and photographing the world, 18-year-old Scotch, and spending time with his wife Betsy, friends, four children and nine grandchildren. Harvey had a relentless drive in the pursuit of scientific truth and made a lasting impact by challenging prevailing dogma. He inspired countless students and fellow surgeons and loved to share the stories he gathered throughout his long and remarkable life. He is survived by his wife Betsy, sister Marilyn Letterman and children Catherine, Andy, David and Elizabeth.

Harvey's lecture is available on YouTube. I highly recommend it not only to those interested in the evolution of bariatric surgery, but as a model for how to overcome adversity through persistence and how to build a spectacular career in clinical investigation. Perhaps it should be required viewing for the young members of our society.

Howard Snyder III, 1943-2020

Pioneer in Pediatric Urology

Contributed by Mory Ziegler, MD

Children of the world as well as the community of medical care providers have lost a very special friend and advocate of excellence with the death of CHOP's pioneering pediatric surgeon and urologist, Howard Snyder III. Dr. Snyder died June 4, 2020, from complications of COVID-19 while being cared for at the Beaumont Retirement Community in Bryn Mawr. A devout family person, Dr. Snyder is survived by Mimi, his wife of 46 years, three children - Dr. Emily, Curtis, and Jonathan, 10 grandchildren and his brother Sam.

The "color" in the story of this fascinating individual was the reflection of a most exciting and unconventional life. He was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The make-up of "his story" begins with the revelation that Dr. Snyder's grandfather, an army general, was the personal physician of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This provided an opportunity for the Snyder family to frequent the White House, especially at holiday times when excitement was at its peak. Dr. Snyder subsequently graduated from the St. Andrew's School in Delaware, Princeton University, and Harvard Medical School. His surgical and urologic training were obtained in Boston, largely at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital. This fulfilled the training requirements of both pediatric urology and pediatric surgery, enabling him to be board certified in each specialty.

Several unusual experiences enriched the story of Howard's life. First, he was a member of the U.S. Army from which he eventually retired at the rank of Colonel. Second, he traveled the world, frequently as a visiting professor and lecturer. At other times he served as an OR assistant enabling the correction of newborn congenital anomalies previously thought to be an untreatable challenges especially in an unfavorable international setting. This involved multiple trips to India and Turkey. No less famous **4** was another journey that threatened his life. As a 21 year-old

Princeton student he traveled with classmates to the South American jungle of Ecuador to deliver immunizations and medications. When nearing its destination, the plane came apart and crashed in the jungle, killing 10 passengers. Howard walked out of the jungle to obtain help for his wounded companions, an act of unbelievable bravery and courage.

After completion of his Boston training, Dr. Snyder in 1980 joined the faculty at Penn and the Division of Pediatric Urology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia under the new leadership of Dr. John Duckett. Together, the Duckett/Snyder team first demonstrated a new level of pediatric urologic skills for routine as well as complex urologic problems of children. A second initiative was the development of a pediatric urologic fellowship at CHOP which was complimentary to the pediatric

surgical training program led by C. Everett Koop. His crucial importance to these accomplishments was recognized by establishment of CHOP's Howard Snyder endowed chair in pediatric urology. This further augmented a deep cross-specialty service for patients stricken with complex problems such as cloacal exstrophy. Even in Boston such anomalies were deemed to be non-correctable and their victims certain to die and therefor not supported. The treatment paradigm that evolved at CHOP became opposite to this. Whether by single or staged approach, aggressive surgical repair strategies were successfully developed by this cross-specialty team of which Dr. Snyder was such a critical component.

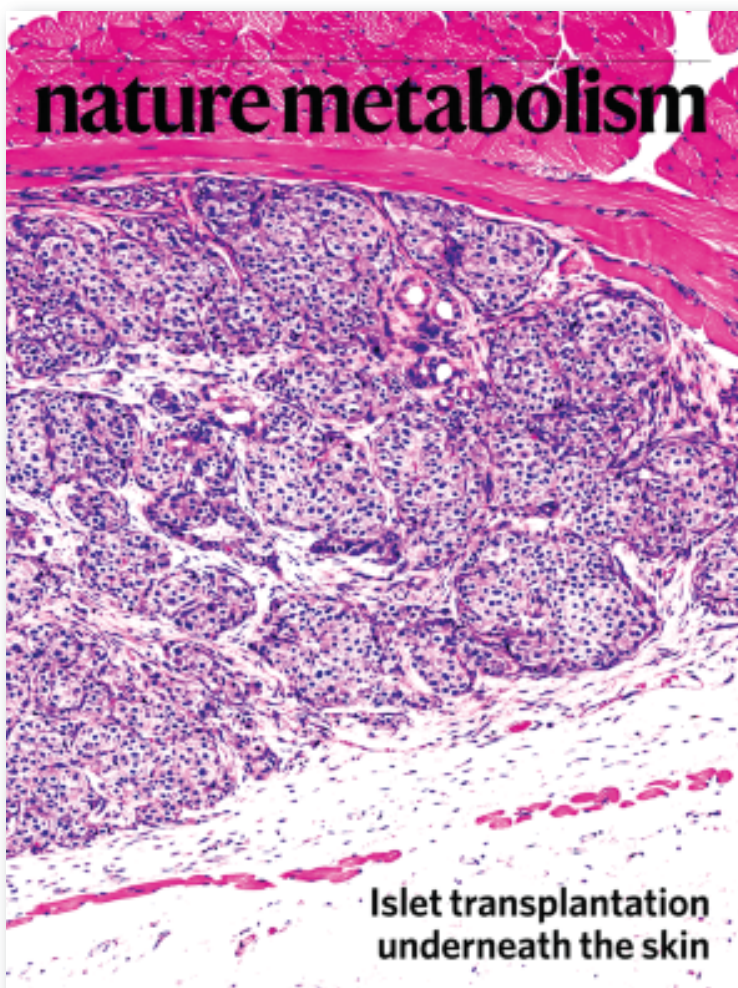
Whether as a skilled urologist and pediatric surgeon, whether as a gifted story teller and Princeton scholar, or whether as a devoted husband and father, Howard Snyder was special. He will be remembered and honored for the above content. But he was revered for his deeply thoughtful inner core and his deep friendships. Howard Snyder was a special human.



Ali Naji's Landmark Paper is Illustrated on the Cover of *Nature Metabolism*

A major barrier to successful transplantation of pancreatic islets has been the need for a better transplant site. Until now the standard transplant method has been to infuse isolated islets to the portal vein so they would lodge in the liver and release insulin there. This invasive and potentially dangerous procedure also provokes an intrahepatic inflammatory reaction that damages the transplanted islets.

With this landmark paper Dr. Naji and his associates have demonstrated that islets can be successfully transplanted by simple injection to the subcutaneous space. This has promise for widespread use of this method for treatment of diabetes. It could be the invitation for clinical trials.



**Nature Metabolism Journal Cover
Volume 2 Issue 10 - October 2020**

Islet Transplantation in the Subcutaneous Space Achieves Long-term Euglycaemia in Preclinical Models of Type 1 Diabetes

Ming Yu, Divyansh Agarwal, Laxminarayana Korutla, Catherine L. May, Wei Wang, Negin Noorchashm Griffith, Bernhard J. Hering, Klaus H. Kaestner, Omaida C. Velazquez, James F. Markmann, Prashanth Vallabhajosyula, Chengyang Liu, Ali Naji

The intrahepatic milieu is inhospitable to intraportal islet allografts, limiting their applicability for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Although the subcutaneous space represents an alternate, safe and easily accessible site for pancreatic islet transplantation, lack of neovascularization and the resulting hypoxic cell death have largely limited the longevity of graft survival and function and pose a barrier to the widespread adoption of islet transplantation in the clinic. Here we report the successful subcutaneous transplantation of pancreatic islets admixed with a device-free islet viability matrix, resulting in long-term euglycaemia in diverse immune-competent and immuno-incompetent animal models. We validate sustained normoglycaemia afforded by our transplantation methodology using murine, porcine and human pancreatic islets, and also demonstrate its efficacy in a non-human primate model of syngeneic islet transplantation. Transplantation of the islet-islet viability matrix mixture in the subcutaneous space represents a simple, safe and reproducible method, paving the way for a new therapeutic paradigm for type 1 diabetes.

2020 Surgical Forum Abstracts

Initiated in 1947, the Surgical Forum was the product of the educational genius of Owen Wangenstein, surgery chairman at the University of Minnesota for 37 years. For generations of surgical residents, students and young faculty it was the first opportunity to present their research before a national audience. For many of them this addictive experience was the inspiration to enter academic life. This year, presentations were virtual because of the pandemic. In spite of this, Penn was remarkably well represented. Titles and authors of their papers are listed below.

COX-Prostaglandin Pathway Inhibition May Augment the Effects of Immunotherapy in Breast Cancer

Divyansh Agarwal, PhD, Jose Ramon Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD, John Scholler, PhD, Julia C Tchou, MD, FACS

Obesity and Prognosis in Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Laura Burkbauer, BA, Macy Goldbach, BS, Kelly C Allison, PhD, Julia C Tchou, MD, FACS

The Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Access and Outcome of Colorectal Operations

Ezra Saul Brooks, BA, Jason Kay Chong Tong, MD, Catherine Walker Lancaster, MD, Christopher Wirtalla, BA, Giorgos Constantine Karakousis, MD, FACS, Nicole Marie Saur, MD, FACS, Cary Barrington Aarons, MD, FACS, Najjia N Mahmoud, MD, FACS, Rachel R Kelz, MD, FACS

Adrenal Metastasectomy for Lung Cancer: A Multi-Institutional Survival Analysis

Lauren N. Krumeich, MD, Robert Edward Roses, MD, FACS, Lindsay Kuo, MD, MBA, Matthew Alexander Nehs, MD, FACS, Douglas Leon Fraker, MD, FACS, Benjamin Christopher James, MD, FACS, Tracy S Wang, MD, FACS, Carmen Cecilia Solorzano, MD, FACS, Carrie Cunningham Lubitz, MD, FACS, Heather Wachtel, MD, FACS

Correlation Between Center-Level Outcomes in Emergency and Elective General Surgery

Justin Hatchimonji, MD, MBE, Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP, Phillip Dowzicky, MD, MSHP, Dane Scantling, DO, MPH, Daniel Holena, MD, FACS

Mesh: A Four-Letter Word When Performing Abdominal Surgery in Prior Hernia Repair Patients?

Arturo J Rios-Dias, MD, Jessica R Cunning, MD, MBA, Robyn B Broach, PhD, Omar Elfanagely, MD, Jesse Yenchih Hsu, PhD, Cheryl K Zogg, MSHP, MHS, Joseph M Serletti, MD, FACS, Rachel R Kelz, MD, FACS, Jon Benjamin Morris, MD, FACS, John Patrick Fischer, MD, FACS

The Effect of Specialization on Inpatient Practice Patterns in General Surgery and Selected Subspecialties

Catherine W Lancaster, MD, Christopher Wirtalla, BA, Jason K Tong, MD, Ezra S Brooks, BA, Rachel R Kelz, MD, MBA, FACS

The Financial Toll of Trauma Care: Assessing Variation of Charges for Trauma Team Activation Across Adult US Trauma Centers

Cody Lendon Mullens, MPH, K Conley Coleman, DO, Andrea Pettit, BS, Nathan Richmond, BS, Lowell Parascandola, BS, C William Schwab, MD, FACS, Daniel Jon Grabo, MD, FACS

The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Surgeon Selection among Colorectal Surgery Patients

Jason KC Tong, MD, Ezra S Brooks, BA, Catherine W Lancaster, MD, Christopher Wirtalla, BA, Cary B Aarons, MD, FACS, Nicole M Saur, MD, FACS, Najjia Mahmoud, MD, FACS, Giorgos C Karakousis, MD, FACS, Rachel R Kelz, MD, FACS

Ionizable Lipid Nanoparticle Platforms for in Utero Drug Delivery

Meghana Kashyap, MD, Rachel S Riley, PhD, Margaret Billingsley, PhD Candidate, Brandon M. White, BS, MS, Zoya P Butt, MBBS, Michael J Mitchell, PhD, William H Peranteau, MD, FACS

Does Local Anesthesia Status Affect Operative Outcomes and Hospital Cost in Craniosynostosis Repair? A Nationwide Analysis

Giap H Vu, BA, Laura S Humphries, MD, Carrie E Zimmerman, BS, Christopher Kalmar, MD, Scott P Bartlett, MD, Jordan W Swanson, MD, Jesse Taylor, MD

Surgical Forum *(continued from page 6)*

Impact of Local Anesthesia on Operative Outcomes and Hospital Cost in Orthognathic Surgery: A Nationwide Analysis

Giap H Vu, BA, Laura S Humphries, MD, Carrie E Zimmerman, BS, Christopher Kalmar, MD, Scott P Bartlett, MD, Jordan W Swanson, MD, Jesse Taylor, MD

Opportunity Cost of Internal Promotions in Academic Plastic Surgery: Are Women Given a Fair Shot?

Natalie M Plana, MD, Kira L Smith, BS, Ines C Lin, MD, FACS

The True Story Behind Isolated Hand or Digit Traumatic Amputations: 1-Year Evaluation of Traumatic Amputation Treatment Course and Success of Replantation

Arturo J Rios-Diaz, MD, Said Charbel Azoury, MD, Jessica R Cuning, MD, MBA, Robyn B Broach, PhD, John Patrick Fischer, MD, FACS, Ines C Lin, MD, FACS, L Scott Levin, MD, FACS, Benjamin B Chang, MD

Rethinking General Surgery Training: Not the Breadth but the Setting

Catherine W Lancaster, MD, Christopher Wirtalla, BA, Jason K Tong, MD, Ezra S Brooks, BA, Rachel R Kelz, MD, MBA, FACS

The Flipped Operating Room: Establishing Best Practices in Surgical Education Using Resident-Initiated, Inquiry Based Preoperative Briefing

Jennifer H Fieber, MD, Phillip Dowzicky, MD, MSHP, Cary B Aarons, MD, FACS, Hilary A Sanfey, MB, BCh, FACS, Rachel R Kelz, MD, MSCE, MBA, FACS

Imatinib Activates Gamma Delta T (γδT) Cells in Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)

Mark Etherington, MD, Andrew Hanna, MD, Mengyuan Liu, MD, Benjamin Medina, MD, Kevin Do, BS, Lillian Levin, BS, Ferdinando Rossi, PhD, Ronald DeMatteo, MD, FACS

Is "Take the Volume Pledge" Worth the Travel Burden for Major Abdominal Operations for Cancer?

Yun Song, MD, Adrienne Shannon, MD, Seth Concors, MD, Robert Roses, MD, FACS, Douglas Fraker, MD, FACS, Rachel Kelz, MD, MBA, MSCE, FACS, Giorgos Karakousis, MD, FACS

Postoperative Outcomes and Practice Patterns in Extremity Sarcoma Management by Surgeon Specialty over Time: A National Cohort Study

Adrienne B Shannon, MD, Yun Song, MD, Robert E Roses, MD, Douglas L Fraker, MD, Rachel Kelz, MD, MSCE, MBA, John T Miura, MD, Ronald P DeMatteo, MD, FACS, Giorgos Karakousis, MD, FACS

Single-Cell Sequencing of the Immune Infiltrate of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)

Andrew Hanna, MD, Mark Etherington, MD, Lillian Levin, BS, Kevin Do, BS, Ferdinando Rossi, PhD, Ronald DeMatteo, MD, FACS

Beyond Morbidity and Mortality: Patient-Reported Outcomes in Trauma

Justin Hatchimonji, MD, MBE, Kristen Chreiman, MSN, RN, CCRN, TCRN, Jordan Stoecker, MD, Patrick M Reilly, MD, FACS, FCCP, Brian P Smith, MD, FACS, Daniel N Holena, MD, FACS, Mark John Seaman, MD, FACS

Deletion of Forkhead Box O Transcription Factors in Liver Improves Insulin Sensitivity after Trauma and Hemorrhage

Anna E Garcia Whitlock, MD, Matthew Gavin, BA, Carrie A Sims, MD, PhD, FACS, Paul M Titchenell, PhD

Failure to Rescue in Trauma: Center-Level Differences and Opportunity for Improvement in the Most Common Complication

Dane Scantling, Do, MPH, Justin Hatchimonji, MD, Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSCE, Aria Xiong, MS, Wei Yang, PhD, Jason Christie, MD, Patrick M Reilly, MD, FACS, FCCP, Daniel N Holena, MD, FACS

Police Transport for Penetrating Trauma

Eric Winter, BS, Allyson Hynes, MD, Kaitlyn Shultz, BS, Jane Keating, MD, Daniel N Holena, MD, FACS, Neil R Malhotra, MD, Jeremy W Cannon, MD, FACS

Propensity Score Matched Analysis of 1-Year Outcomes of Transcarotid Artery Revascularization with Dynamic Flow Reversal vs Carotid Endarterectomy in the Transcarotid Artery Revascularization Surveillance Project

Hanaa Dakour-Aridi, MD, Vikram S Kashyap, MD, FACS, Jens Eldrup-Jorgensen, MD, FACS, Grace J Wang, MD, Raghunandan L Motaganahalli, MBBS, FACS, Brian Nolan, MD, FACS, Mahmoud Malas, MD, MHS, FACS

NIH T32 Training Program in Surgical Oncology Research

The Department of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine has established a T32 Training Program in Surgical Oncology Research that is funded by the National Cancer Institute. Dr. DeMatteo is the principle investigator of this grant. The program supports surgical residents who will conduct two years of full-time research in basic, translational, or clinical (e.g. health services research, disparities, and clinical tri-

als) research focusing on cancer-related topics. The trainee will work directly with an NIH-funded mentor of their choosing at the University of Pennsylvania. The program includes a robust educational component. There are multiple opportunities to obtain a Master's degree, such as in health policy research, epidemiology, biostatistics, or translational research. A two-year commitment is mandatory.

Alumni News

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery email your news to Clyde Barker clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu

◆ **Ronald DeMatteo, MD** was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the nation's highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. The citation accompanying his election noted that he served as principal investigator on three national trials for the adjuvant drug imatinib for gastrointestinal stromal tumor, the most common human sarcoma. His work led to imatinib's approval for adjuvant use by the FDA and established the standard-of-care for GIST, combining surgery and imatinib. DeMatteo is also being recognized for his work to define the immune response to GIST and its modulation by targeted therapy.



◆ **Daniel Dempsey, MD** was elected to membership in the American College of Surgeons' Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. This is a new society established by the college in 2018. The Academy identifies individuals who have excelled as educators throughout their careers. The Academy's mission is to play a leadership role in advancing the science and practice of education across all surgical specialties. It recognizes and promotes education as perhaps the most important activity for an academic surgeon.



◆ **Brendan Keating, PhD** has been awarded two NIH Grants, a U01 (MHC & KIR Sequencing and Association Analyses in the iGeneTRAI_N Studies) and an R01 (MHC & KIR Sequencing and Association Analyses in the iGeneTRAI_N Studies).



◆ **Gabriel Arguelles (MS2)**, in **Pavan Atluri's** lab, was awarded the top student scholarship application by the American Heart Association.



◆ **Paige Porrett, MD, PhD** (HUP Chief Resident 2010, Assistant Professor of Surgery 2013-2020) While at HUP she performed the first two uterus transplants in this part of the country, both resulting in normal babies. She has been appointed Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and will lead the first uterus transplant program in the Southeast and the fourth such program in the United States.



◆ **Ian S. Soriano, MD**, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, has been accepted as a Center for Global Health Associate Scholar.



◆ **Niels Martin, MD** has been appointed as the Vice Chair of Inclusion and Diversity for the Department of Surgery. He will have departmental oversight of faculty composition, trainee recruitment, medical student education, and staff relations. In addition he will represent the department, in its numerous initiatives underway, such as unconscious bias training.



Alumni News *(continued from page 8)*

- ◆ **John Fischer, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery, was elected to serve a second 3-year term on the Board of Directors for the Americas Hernia Society.



- ◆ **Liza Wu, MD**, Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery, has been appointed the Vice Chair of Clinical Operations in the Department of Surgery.



- ◆ **Marisa Cevasco, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, was one of ten faculty appointed to the newly formed Undergraduate Medical Education Committee.



- ◆ **Charles M. Vollmer, MD**, Professor of Surgery, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Director of Pancreatic Surgery, was elected Treasurer-Elect of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association.



- ◆ **Greg Kennedy, MD**, surgical resident (PGY3) in Sunil Singhal's lab, was awarded an F32 grant.



- ◆ **Greg Tasian, MD, MSc, MSCE**, Associate Professor of Urology in Surgery, was awarded a P20 grant in the Center for Machine Learning in Urology.



- ◆ **Scott Damrauer, MD**, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, was chosen as the recipient of the 2020 ACS Jacobsen Promising Investigator Award.



- ◆ **Elinore Kaufman, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery, was accepted for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality K-12 program.



(continued on page 10)

Scott Levin Elected Chair of ACS Board of Regents

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS has been elected Chairman of the American College of Surgeons' Board of Regents. Dr. Levin is the Paul B. Magnuson Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Professor of Surgery (Plastic Surgery) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He also is Director of the Penn Musculoskeletal and Rheumatology Service Line. A leading clinical and basic science researcher in the fields of hand and microsurgery, Dr. Levin is also director of Penn's highly regarded hand transplant program in which he works with Dr. Ben Chang.

Chairmanship of the College's Board of Regents is one of the most important and powerful positions in American surgery. In his role as Chair Dr. Levin will work closely with the ACS Executive Director, David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS, and will chair



the Regents' Finance and Executive Committees. The College's Board of Regents formulates policy and ultimately is responsible for managing the affairs of the College. The Board's diversity and variety of experiences and interests among its members enable the Regents to represent views related to myriad issues in contemporary surgery.

A Fellow of the College since 1996, Dr. Levin has previously held other leadership roles with ACS. He served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents (2019-2020), Chair of the Advisory Council for Orthopaedic Surgery (2008-2012), and as Specialty Governor for the American Society of Surgery for the Hand (2006-2009). In 2018, he was an admitted member of the inaugural class to the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators.

Alumni News *(continued from page 9)*

New Faculty

◆ **Robert R. Redfield, III, MD** (HUP chief resident 2013) was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Transplant Surgery.
 MD - University of Maryland School of Medicine; General Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Fellow, Abdominal Transplant Surgery, Department of Transplant Surgery, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.



◆ **Erica Pettke, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery.
 MD - University of Wisconsin; General Surgery Residency - Mount Sinai St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital, New York; Fellow in Colorectal Surgery, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle.



◆ **Jennifer E. Lloyd-Harris, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Clinical Urology in Surgery in the Division of Urology.
 MD - Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; MPH - Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore; Residency in Urology, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison.



◆ **Jenny Shao, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery.
 MD - Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis; Residency in General Surgery, Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC; Fellowship in Advanced GI and MIS Surgery, Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.



◆ **Katsuhide Maeda, MD** was appointed Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support and ECMO and the Surgical Director of Cardiac Lymphatics in the Cardiac Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
 PhD - University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan (Medical Science); General Surgery Residency, Asahi Central Hospital, Chiba, Japan; Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency, University of Tokyo Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; Clinical Fellowship, Fukuoka Children's Hospital, Fukuoka, Japan; Research Fellowship, Division of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford.



◆ **Muhammad Nuri, MD** was appointed an attending surgeon in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
 MBB. (Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery) - The Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan; Residency, General Surgery, West Virginia University Hospital Morgantown, West Virginia; Residency, Thoracic Surgery, Milton S. Hershey Pennsylvania State Medical Center Hershey, Pennsylvania; Clinical Fellowship, Congenital Cardiac Surgery, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta/Emory University Atlanta, Georgia; Post-Doctoral Clinical Fellow, Congenital Cardiac Surgery, Columbia University, New York; Royal College of Surgeons Sponsored International Fellow & Specialist Registrar in Congenital Cardiac Surgery, The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, London, UK.



◆ **David Scaff, DO, MBA** was appointed Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery at Grand View Hospital.
 DO - Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California; MBA - University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee; Residency in General Surgery, St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship - Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



VinUniversity Launches Penn-Affiliated Surgery Residency in Vietnam

One of Penn Surgery's exciting new ventures is the creation of a general surgery residency in Hanoi, Vietnam through a partnership with VinUniversity. VinUniversity celebrated its inaugural class of residents with a virtual "Match Day" via Zoom on September 3. The residents were welcomed by program leadership including Dr. Le Cu Linh, Vice-Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Ryan McAuley, Internal Medicine Program Director, and Dr. Elijah Riddle, General Surgery Program Director.

In June 2018, Penn entered into a formal alliance with the Vingroup to improve health care and to create new undergraduate and graduate medical training programs in Vietnam. The alliance is positioned to extend Penn's global reach through the creation of a new Center of Regional Engagement in Southeast Asia (based in Vietnam). The new Center will focus initially on the establishment of medical and nursing schools within a newly formed private, nonprofit university (VinUniversity) and enhancement of graduate medical education and health care provision within Vietnam's largest private nonprofit health system (Vinmec). Both VinUniversity and Vinmec are components of the Vingroup, Vietnam's largest private company, a business that shares Penn Medicine's commitment to community service through the transformation of health care.

The graduate medical education program will include residencies in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and General Surgery. These programs will be the first in Vietnam to follow rigorous international standards with a goal of attaining ACGME-International accreditation. The inaugural class of residents includes 4 in General Surgery, 5 in Pediatrics, and 10 in Internal Medicine. The General Surgery residents are Mr. Vũ Lương Mộng Ánh from Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Ms. Nguyễn Thị Thế Trinh from Tân Tạo University, as well as Mr. Trần Mạnh Thắng and Mr. Nguyễn Thế Duy, both from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City. The new residents will start their training in Hanoi in mid-October of 2020. The residents from all three programs will complete a combined transitional year, and the General Surgery program will include an additional five years of clinical training. Residents will rotate at the flagship Vinmec Times City International Hospital, a Joint Commission International-accredited facility, and in two large, modern, public hospitals, the Military 108 Hospital and National Children's Hospital.

Within the Penn Department of Surgery, Robert Caskey, 2016 Penn Surgery graduate, has been instrumental in curriculum development, helping to create the outline of the General Surgery



Eli Riddle



Robert Caskey and Jon Morris

program and developing the Simulation curriculum for all three residency programs. Elijah Riddle, 2019 Penn Surgery graduate, will be the General Surgery Program Director, moving full time to Hanoi once international travel resumes to oversee program development and administration and serve as clinical faculty at Vinmec Times City International Hospital. Jon Morris, long-time Penn Surgery Program Director and now Vice Chair of Education, is the senior advisor for the program.

For more information on Penn's work in Vietnam please visit: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/globalhealth/vingroup-penn-alliance/>.

General Surgery Residents



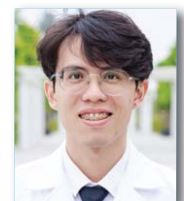
Vũ Lương Mộng Ánh



Nguyễn Thị Thế Trinh



Trần Mạnh Thắng



Nguyễn Thế Duy 11

Catching-up with . . . Bo Lovvorn

Contributed by Jon Morris

Harold "Bo" Lovvorn graduated from Duke University in 1987 with a B.S in Psychology and would attend medical school at The University of Tennessee College of Medicine and take his General Surgical training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, matriculating as an intern in 1993 and completing his Chief Residency in 2000. While at Penn, Bo would take two years as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research and the Childrens Institute for Surgical Science at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 1996-1998. While at Penn, Bo received the Jonathan E. Rhoads Resident Research Award in 1998 and the Leonard J Perloff Resident Teaching



Bo in 2000

Award in 2000. Following two years of Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center and St. Jude's Children Research Hospital at the University of Tennessee, Bo was recruited to the Department of Pediatric Surgery at the Vanderbilt University Children's Hospital as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in 2002. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2015 and Full Professor of Surgery in 2020. Since 2008 he has held the position of Vice Chair of Research and Education. At the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Dr. Lovvorn has been the Medical Director of the Pediatric Trauma Program and the Program Director for the Pediatric Surgery Residency Program since 2018.

A Conversation with Bo

JoMo: What were the highlights of your training at Penn?

Bo:

- Without question the tremendous surgical training and camaraderie among the residents! Work hours be damned! I would do it all over again so long as the exact same people were there! Loved my fellow residents like brothers and sisters!
- Cheese steaks at 02:00 after trauma resuscitations (and all kinds of truck food at lunch...for 7 years)
- Hansell Stedman telling stories on morning rounds about anything...for example, helping his wife, a veterinarian, operate emergently on a dog bit by a car, and on and on...didn't matter the content...absolutely captivating story teller...we on his teams had no concern for the time rounds took...these sage reflections were riveting and full of wisdom and life lessons!
- Delivering a baby as an intern at the Jeanes...on Labor Day...not making that up. It was my second rotation as an intern, Gynecology, which I was excited to have, given my commitment at the time to Pediatric Surgery. I got a page late at night on Labor Day, 1993, that I was needed stat to the L&D unit for an impending delivery. I respectfully asked the nurse why she needed a Surgery resident for a routine delivery, and she said, "Because you're the only qualified doc in house!" Good thing I had a 2-minute brisk walk to the obstetrics unit to remind myself how to deliver a baby! After successfully, delivering the baby, the dad cutting the cord, everybody happy and well, I realized the mom had a grade 3 episiotomy and the placenta remaining to be delivered. As I get the placenta out and begin repairing the episiotomy, in busts the OBGYN. "I'll take over from here, doc!" Phew!
- Presenting 7 straight weeks at M&M as the R4 on Transplant...

- As an intern, I was assigned in early July to give basic science on the first Saturday of August. The topic was an "Update on Surgical Nutrition". I thought to myself, when I was given that topic, what the hell am I going to teach anyone here about nutrition! The place founded TPN! But I forged on, and Drs. Mullen and Rhoads both attended and seemed pleased...I talked a lot about the Dudrick and Rhoads puppies.
- Also as an R4, having back to back kidney-pancreas transplants to do on a Friday night with the awesome Dr. Naji. At the end of the first case in the wee hours of Saturday morning now (case went well in my opinion), Dr. Naji informs me, "Call Clyde for the next one". So I do, and of course Dr. Barker says he will be right there...unprecedented partnership and commitment from our Chair at the time! What a role model!
- Transporting sheep from the CHOP animal facility to the MRI in the stealth of the night for research and having to make certain not one ovine hair remained when we finished the imaging each night.
- Being in the CHOP sterile mouse facility preparing some experiments one morning when I encountered a super kind, beautiful silver-haired lady with a British accent injecting tumor cells into nude mice. From that time forward, Dr. Audrey Evans of neuroblastoma fame would leave an indelible influence on my career to study pediatric embryonal tumors. That early encounter in my research time at CHOP, her mentorship, keen interest, British skepticism, and teaching, was a huge blessing that forged much of my subsequent investigation of Wilms tumor.
- Being the presenter at Saturday Basic Science during a blizzard in March 1996 and only Dr. Rhoads was there before 07:00 when I arrived...I don't recall any other faculty arriving that morning either. Amazing man!

(continued on page 13)

Catching-up with . . . (continued from page 12)

- Receiving a hand-written note of congratulations from Dr. Rboads after a Basic Science presentation as an R4.
- Dr. Rboads' willingness to participate in a video for the Barker Christmas party explaining how reindeer can fly.
- I served as co-Coordinator of Surgery Grand Rounds my chief year, and the Department of Surgery was having attendance problems despite moving the conference from Saturday to Thursday. So I surveyed the faculty on various aspects of Grand Rounds, including the day it should be held. Dr. Rboads replied to me, "Not only do I think Grand Rounds should be held on Saturday morning, I believe surgeons should come in to see their patients on weekends." Up until COVID times, every Saturday morning, assuming I am in town and have patients in the hospital, I make rounds on my patients, with Dr. Rboads in mind.

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Bo:

- Truly every faculty had a major impact on the surgeon I am today.
- Dr. Rosato, of course, sits alone at the top of this list, as is true for just about every HUP resident he trained. Dr. Rosato demanded your very best and did not accept less! After I finished at the HUP, he continued to update me on his patients with whom I developed a close relationship. And I would call him about complex pancreas cases to discuss. Incredible how much he enjoyed the mentoring/teaching after-care!
- Gordon Buzby, Doug Fraker, JoMo (Jon Morris), Dr. Barker, Dr. Rboads, Dr. Leonard Miller, John Rombeau, Dr. Bavaria, Dr. Edmunds, Dr. Schwab, Dr. Kauder, Dr. Mike Rotondo, Dr. Larry Kaiser, Dr. Oltoff, Dr. Buyske, Dr. Fairman, Dr. Carpenter. All just terrific role models and left indelible impressions on my career.
- Scott Adzick had a huge impact on me for sure, as did Louise Schnauffer, Dr. Templeton, Dr. Perry, Dr. Flake and Dr. Cromblehome. Dr. Paul Stockman. Each fueled my passion for Pediatric Surgery. But Dr. Adzick is the most organized surgeon I have ever met and to which I aspire.
- 3 emeritus surgeons in C clinic (Drs. Schwegman, Roberts, and drawing a blank on the other surgeon) – but each of them was terrific to me as an intern in that clinic! And of course Dr. Mackie.
- I can never forget Dr. Len Miller standing behind me while as an intern I excised a fibroadenoma from a young lady's breast. He did not say one word, so I just kept operating. As the case ended, and he went to sign the chart, Dr. Miller said, "Some sink, some swim...looks as if you can swim".

JoMo: When you were a junior resident, which Chief Residents had the greatest impact on you and why?

Bo:

- Hansel Stedman – model surgeon scientist; relaxed most of the time but could elevate his game when warranted. He was committed unwaveringly to junior resident development.
- Omaid Velasquez – she spent much of her R3 year pregnant with their first child, and I was an intern often on her service during that time. I can share many stories about Omaid, but suffice it to say, she was the most detail-oriented resident I worked with then and have tried to emulate in my career (I'm nowhere close to her exactness). One tough and confident surgeon is Dr. Velasquez!
- Gorman twins – 'nuf said – what awesome dudes to hang with, their fund of knowledge, commitment to my education. When operating with either, it just seemed easy and natural – no struggles.
- Pat Reilly – love the man! Exuded confidence in me that brought out my best surgical care on often some complex patients.
- Jim Markmann – we had a lot of fun together in and out of the hospital, which was playing golf. And he played golf like he operates – very deliberately! Terrific friend!
- Mike Nance – New Orleans chill. Outstanding role model on different services.
- Can't leave out Kathy Reilly, Mike's truly better half! She was awesome!
- Roy Smythe – I needed someone who talked like me!
- Don Liu – God bless Don! What an amazing friend, colleague, example. I miss him dearly!
- Mark Mantell – fellow Dukie – we would watch Duke basketball games one March while on Trauma together, running back and forth from the TV to the Resus Bay...bilarious times!
- Noel Williams! Fantastic to operate with and learn nuances of the Whipple and metabolic surgeries. Terrific friend and role model!
- Tom Hamilton and Bill Adamson are obviously really close colleagues and friends now but those relationships were forged then for sure! Two of my best buddies!
- At CHOP, Andre Hebra, Andy Davidoff, Sam Soutter (what a boot) – these three were among my greatest and earliest influences!
- And our class of 2000: Sue, Bob (they finished before us), Niraj (aka, Snoop Dawg), Scott (he and I were yelled at daily by Christian Pizarro – "you killin' these patients!"), HB (dear friend and an idol of mine), Mike, and Louis!

JoMo: When you were a Chief Resident, which junior residents impressed you the most and why?

- Bo:** These folks, really individually and collectively, supported our many different service teams. All outstanding surgeons! And even better friends! Many of them were treated to Dunkin' Donuts on Sunday mornings. (continued on page 14) **13**

Catching-up with . . . (continued from page 13)

- Ross Milner (GQ!)
- T. Sloane Guy (Beast)
- Eric Lambright (Vandy colleague of mine now – he guides me through some crazy thoracic cases now!)
- Dan Kreisel
- Heidi Yeh
- Subbasis Chatterjee
- Sascha Krupnik
- Rachel Rapaport now Kelz – dang, she blew right by me! Has accomplished truly inspiring work!
- Mike Morowitz!
- Bob Canter
- Mark Berry

JoMo: Tell us what your greatest professional accomplishments have been since graduating Penn.

Bo:

- Having been awarded as PI 4 grants from the NCI and multiple foundation grants, including the American Pediatric Surgical Association Foundation, to study various aspects of Wilms tumor and hepatoblastoma.
- Being the author of the ACGME Program Information Form and principal founder of the Pediatric Surgery Residency at Vanderbilt (approved in 2007).
- I currently serve as Program Director for the Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgery Residency.
- I currently serve as Medical Director of the Vanderbilt Pediatric Trauma Program.
- Having received multiple teaching awards from Surgery residents.
- Having served as Interim Chair of the Department of Pediatric Surgery (2018-19)

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Bo:

Well, Suzanne is a Philly girl, so we get back regularly to the area. I love the history of Philadelphia, especially the colonial period and founding of our great country. Drs. Barker and Rhoads certainly imparted a keen appreciation for surgical history, which I have carried on here at Vanderbilt! In sum, it has to be the history of the city, the Penn institution, and origins of American Surgery emerging right there!

JoMo: Who from your Penn Surgery days do you stay in touch with?

Bo:

- All of the Pediatric Surgeons: HB Kim, Bill Adamson, Tom Hamilton, Mike Nance, Ken Liechty, Mike Morowitz
- Class of 2000: Niraj and Scott, Mike Chang
- Eric Lambright – colleague of mine at Vanderbilt
- Gorman brothers via Christmas cards
- Jim Markmann at a variety of meetings (Southern, Halsted, etc) – still loves talking about golf..
- Love seeing attendees at any of the HUP Surgery meetings, whether the ACS or other forums. Makes me nostalgic seeing everyone...

JoMo: Tell us about your current surgical practice, types of cases you are doing, etc.

Bo:

- Full scope of Pediatric Surgery, really. I haven't met a pediatric case I do not like to perform.
 - Niche probably falls in Pediatric Surgical Oncology, largely because of research.
 - I perform advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery for solid tumors and newborns.
 - I have a keen interest in pediatric hepatobiliary disorders, such as biliary atresia, choledochal cysts, and tumors.
 - Familial pancreatitis and pancreatic tumors of childhood.
 - UC and Crohn disease
 - Trauma
 - ECMO
- I am quite active in research, so very much enjoy investigation, innovation, discovery, and writing.

JoMo: What are your current interests and hobbies outside of medicine?

Bo:

We are an athletic family. Suzanne played field hockey at Duke so we like to play golf together – it gets competitive with some trash talking. The family enjoys water and snow skiing. Fishing. I like beer drinking during COVID. We return regularly to our Alma Mater for football and basketball games. Love our Titans and Preds.

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Bo:

Suzanne and I just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary and dated about 5 years before that, beginning as college sweet hearts. I couldn't and wouldn't be anything without her! She has provided phenomenal support for my entire medical and surgical career! So grateful that she tolerates all of my professional commitment and obligations.

(continued on page 15)

Catching-up with . . . (continued from page 14)

Both of our boys were delivered at the HUP in 1995 and 1997.

Davis is our older son, now 25. After he graduated from Duke, he worked in Charlotte with Teach for America for two years that profoundly transformed his perspective on life. He became keenly motivated to represent and advocate for disadvantaged children and so has matriculated at Notre Dame Law School this fall.

Carter, now 23, also graduated from Duke this past pandemic-stained spring. But he has a resilient attitude, and quickly became employed this past August at the Duke Human Vaccine Institute working in a Pediatric Infectious Disease laboratory evaluating efficacy of the Pfizer and Astra-Zeneca vaccines. We all know how exciting the Pfizer vaccine results have proven and together with the other pharmaceutical companies hopefully will soon put an end to this damn virus. He is applying to medical as I write.

I am immensely blessed!

JoMo: What is the last book you read that you would recommend and why?

Bo: *We have enjoyed watching recently the films/series on the Reformation period in Europe available through Netflix. The Tudors, Spanish Princess, Reign, and Elizabeth have all been captivating as to what the time was like, some sordid of course, but the undertone of religion is powerful. We've also been captivated by the Crown. But other than that, I really do not have much time to watch a movie or read a book.*

JoMo: Tell us anything else about you that would be of interest to the Penn Surgery Society alumni.

Bo: *I recall leaving the hospital onto Spruce Street one really bitter December day of 1992 after my interview at the HUP. Dr. Mullen, among others that day, left me wanting the HUP! I committed right then and there to Penn being my dream residency. Not sure how I matched there but I was ecstatic and elated. Truly, those 7 years at 34th and Spruce were among the very best of my life, and I would do it all over again, so long as the exact same folks were there (of course, I might make some better decisions on a second pass). No question the surgeon I am today was forged and founded through the HUP. I carry that training with me every case and with every manuscript I write and experiment I conduct!*



The Lovvorn Family, Suzanne, Davis, Bo and Carter, at the Winter Classic in Dallas supporting their beloved Predators. Suzanne is letting you know how she feels about her team.



Penn Surgery

Department of Surgery
Attn: Clyde Barker, MD
4 Silverstein/HUP
3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Previous Alumni Newsletters - www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Education/penn_surgery_society.html



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FALL 2020

Message from the Chair *(continued from page 1)*

8 months as a member of the HUP Capacity Management Operations Council.

Dr. Raper has done everything that has been asked of him, and so much more. A lot of his efforts have been behind the scenes, which I think he prefers. He has been an honest and dedicated surgeon, a strong patient advocate, and a mentor to many. His presentations are typically accurate to the word. Throughout the sine wave of life, he always manages a grin. Obviously part of his success is that he has morphed several times – from drummer, to surgeon, to gene therapy researcher, to obesity surgeon, to lawyer, to quality and safety czar. George Bernard Shaw said that “Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” Dr. Raper created a masterpiece.

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