



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@uphs.upenn.edu.



Message from the Chairman

Like many parts of the country, Philadelphia is recovering from a particularly tough winter. With exceptionally cold weather, the second highest snowfall on record, and a record 16 distinct storms with at least 3" of snowfall each, the winter of 2014 was certainly memorable. To the great credit of our faculty and staff, the clinical operations of the Department of Surgery were entirely unscathed. In all weathers, our patients came for outpatient visits or operative procedures and were greeted by the normal cadre of dedicated surgeons and staff. While it was a bit tough to hear radio announcements (on multiple occasions) in which the University declared a snow emergency and asked all faculty and staff to stay home except for health system faculty and staff, who were expected to report to work as usual, the performance of members of the Department of Surgery was unwavering and our faculty and staff deserve major kudos for stepping up in tough circumstances.

The winter of 2014 has also been tough on the Department in terms of faculty departures. This past January we lost both Joe Woo, M.D. and Ed Woo, M.D. from the Divisions of Cardiac and Vascular Surgery, respectively. Long-standing fixtures of the Department, we have benefited from the presence of at least one of the Woo brothers continuously for over 20 years. While we are saddened by their departures, we are very proud that each has moved on to a major academic position – Joe as Chair of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at Stanford and Ed as Chief of Vascular Surgery at Washington Hospital Center and Georgetown University. They join the large numbers of Penn-trained surgeons in leadership positions around the country and we wish them both continued success.

The cyclical nature of the seasons and of the process of resident and faculty advancement draws a natural parallel. Successful Departments must be able to “weather the storm” of faculty departures, as well as challenges in the research funding environment, and external changes in the health care industry, not least the growing impact of the Accountable Care Act. We are fortunate in having a remarkable pool of faculty talent at all levels, from young assistant professors to division chiefs, and expect to continue to thrive despite present and future challenges, the way Penn Surgery has for over 200 years. I am certain that our Penn Surgery Society Alumni will similarly continue to distinguish themselves at sites around the country and around the world.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	2
Howard A. Reber, MD	3
5,000 Kidney Transplant	4
Academic Surgical Congress	6
Donato D. LaRossa, MD	8
John M. Akin, MD	9
Alumni News	10
Recent and Upcoming Events	11



From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

It is good news that our Chairman Jeff Drebin has been elected President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. (See p. 10) I believe it is important that he is willing to undertake this important role despite the many other demands on his time.

Dr. Drebin's election is in keeping with tradition. Forty percent of the Academy's 75 past presidents have been Penn surgeons either by training and/or by faculty positions at Penn and its hospitals (Pennsylvania, Presbyterian or Graduate). A few notable examples are D. Hayes Agnew (the Academy's second and longest serving president (1884-89), I.S. Ravdin, Jonathan Rhoads, Julian Johnson, Brooke Roberts, Charles Frazier, Eldridge Eliason, Dan Dempsey and most recently Jeff Carpenter.

Members of the Academy proudly assert that it is the oldest organization of its kind in the U.S. Philadelphians seem to have an obsession with having the oldest of everything. Documentation of this can be tricky since citizens of other venerable cities make conflicting claims. There is little argument that Philadelphia has the country's oldest learned society (the American Philosophical Society founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743) and that it has the oldest medical school, founded in 1765 at the College of Philadelphia, (later named the University of Pennsylvania). But despite the frequent boast that Pennsylvania Hospital (founded in 1751) is the oldest hospital it was not the oldest one in North America. Hospital Hotel Dieu 1639 in Quebec and Hospital de Jesus Nazareno (1524) in Mexico City are considerably older. Even New York's Bellevue founded in 1736 as a "public hospital" rather than a "general hospital" like Pennsylvania Hospital, could dispute the latter's claim.

With regard to claims for the oldest medical or surgical societies, there is competition and or confusion over definitions. The New Jersey Medical Society (founded in 1765) and New England Medical Society (1781) are both older than Philadelphia's contender, the College of Physicians (1787). The New York Medical and Surgical Society is 43 years older than the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, which was founded in April 1879. The New York Surgical Society founded October of 1879, is only 6 months younger than our Academy

2 of Surgery.

Although these chronologic nuances aren't very important, professional societies have exerted a positive impact on the development of American Medicine. The American Medical Association (best known in recent decades for its controversial political positions), is the best example. It had a crucially beneficial influence on U.S. medical education. In the early American colonies there were no medical schools. Anyone could call himself a doctor and practice medicine regardless of lack of education or experience. With the support and encouragement of Benjamin Franklin, the first American medical schools were founded. The first ones were at universities e.g. the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania) in 1765, Kings College (Columbia) in 1767 and Harvard in 1782. Later, other schools sprang up that were independent of universities or colleges, mostly with disastrous results. Most of these were proprietary schools lacking adequate faculties or facilities for clinical teaching. Since no accreditation body or process existed, these diploma mills proliferated so that by the 1840's, medical education in the US was in chaos.

The first concerted effort at improving and standardizing U.S. medical education was made in 1847 at the founding meeting of the American Medical Association. This was the first national medical convention. It was organized by a New York physician, Nathan Smith Davis, but Philadelphia physicians played a prominent role. This meeting was held in Philadelphia at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Proposed at the AMA's founding meeting were elevated standards for medical school admission and graduation and for licensing of physicians. However, enactment of these recommendations would take almost another century. Even at university schools, faculty members opposed them, anticipating loss of autonomy, decline in previously unregulated student enrollment and the tuition fees that were collected by the faculty. S.W. Gross and W.W. Keen were among the Philadelphia surgeons who, as AMA presidents, led continuing efforts at reform.

Eventually the AMA induced the Carnegie Foundation to sponsor a comprehensive survey of U.S. medical schools. The resultant Flexner Report of 1910 exposed their abuses and caused many of the worst schools to close. Standards first proposed at the founding meeting of the AMA in 1847 were not fully enforced until 1942 when a joint committee of the AMA and the Association of American Medical Colleges was empowered to accredit medical schools.

In the evolution of medical specialties, other societies have been important. The Philadelphia Academy of Surgery

(continued on page 11)

Distinguished Graduate Award

Howard A. Reber, MD

Howard Reber HUP Chief Resident 1969-1970, is the Department's 2014 Distinguished Graduate Awardee. He is now Professor of Surgery at UCLA. On May 15th, he will deliver the Julius A Mackie Lecture.

Dr. Howard A. Reber is a native Philadelphian. He is a graduate of Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed his surgical residency at HUP in 1970. During residency as an NIH fellow, he began his research on the pancreas under the direction of Jonathan Rhoads and Frank Brooks (Chief of the GI Section in the Department of Medicine). After 2 years in the US Air Force, he joined the surgical faculty at the University of California San Francisco in 1972. There he was mentored by Larry Way in further study of the pancreas. In 1978, he moved to the University of Missouri, as Chief of Surgery at the Truman Veterans Administration Medical Center.

In 1986, he moved to UCLA as Chief of Surgery at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Medical Center and became the Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery at UCLA in 1997. His other administrative activities there have included serving as Department Vice Chairman, Chief of the Division of General Surgery, Director of Education, and Co-Director of the Surgical Residency Training Program. In recent years, he has devoted a significant portion of his administrative time to faculty mentoring, appointments and promotions; he recently completed a term as the Chair of the Council on Academic Personnel for the entire UCLA campus. His current position is Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Director of the Center for Pancreatic Diseases at UCLA.

Dr. Reber has had important international leadership roles in surgery. He is a member of all major learned surgical societies, including the American Surgical Association, Society of Clinical Surgery, Society of University Surgeons, American Gastroenterological Association, Society of Surgical Oncology, and the Halsted Society. He has served as the President and for 20 years, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Pancreatic Association. He was elected as Vice President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and was a member of its Board of Trustees.



Dr. Reber has established a world renowned surgical practice focused on pancreatic diseases. Clearly recognized as one of the top five pancreatic surgeons in the world, he has been a named lecturer at many prestigious institutions throughout North America, Asia, and Europe. He was awarded the Vay W. Liang and Frisca Go Award for Lifetime Achievement in Pancreatology, was the Awardee of the Pancreas Club in 2012, and has won multiple teaching awards at UCLA.

Dr. Reber has conducted pioneering research in the study of benign and malignant pancreatic diseases. As a young investigator, he performed basic physiologic studies regarding the role of the pancreatic ductal epithelium in pancreatic electrolyte secretion. He then became interested in acute pancreatitis and developed a concept that became known as the pancreatic duct mucosal barrier. This work established that a variety of substances could increase ductal permeability and cause acute pancreatitis. He next took up the study of chronic pancreatitis, developing the hypothesis that the gland became severely ischemic in this disease and that this ischemia was responsible for the characteristic severe pain. Over the past decade, he has focused his work on pancreatic cancer. He has developed and directs a multifaceted translational research program at UCLA. His research has been continuously supported for over 40 years by grants from NIH, the VA Administration and the NCI. He is the author of more than 350 scientific manuscripts, over 100 book chapters and is the editor of eight books. He serves on the editorial board of six medical journals.

Dr. Reber has been a mentor for a long list of trainees. His laboratory has hosted young surgical scientists from around the world. More than 40 investigators have worked under his direction and have benefited from his approach to scientific discovery. Moreover, he has trained dozens of surgical residents in gastrointestinal and pancreatic surgical techniques. Residents uniformly agree that the rotation with Dr. Reber in the chief year is the most enjoyable of the residency and identify the time with him in the operating room as the pinnacle of their surgical training.

Dr. Reber is an exceptional physician, revered by patients and highly respected by his peers.

HUP's 5,000th Kidney Transplant

Members, friends and patients of Penn's Transplantation Institute recently gathered to celebrate HUP's 5,000th kidney transplant and reminisce about the steps that have led to HUP's transplant program becoming one of the largest and most successful in the country. It began in February 1966, with the first transplant. Twenty year old Howard Mehl received a kidney from his brother Joe. At the time, Howard had no other options since his renal failure was terminal and there were no openings for chronic dialysis using Philadelphia's only artificial kidney. Remarkably, 48 years



Photo of HUP's First Kidney Transplant (February 10, 1966)

later, Howard's transplanted kidney is still functioning normally, one of about 10 in the world that have lasted as long. At the celebration, Howard and Joe were in attendance, both in robust good health.



48 years later Howard and Joe Mehl, HUP's first kidney recipient and donor with Dr. and Mrs. Barker

Dr. Barker who was yet to have an appointment as a faculty surgeon, chose for his assistants at the operation Brooke Roberts, Scott Jones (HUP chief resident that year and later University of Virginia Surgery Chairman) and Tom Demeester (Hopkins surgery resident, spending a research year at Penn in the genetics department and later Chairman of Surgery at the University of Southern California). At the time of the operation, Dr. Barker was a research fellow in the Department of Genetics, which was chaired by Rupert Billingham, one of the world's best known transplantation biologists. It was Billingham who convinced Dr. Rhoads and the nephrologists that Dr. Barker should be allowed to start a transplant program, although at the time, this field was considered experi-



Paige Porrett, who performed HUP's 5,000th transplant with Karen and Kevin Tickner the recipient and donor



Roy Bloom presenting the plaque for the 5,000th transplant to transplant team members:
 Left to Right - Bob Weinrieb, Ali Naji, Meera Ragoopath, Elizabeth Spina, Brandy Gottleib, Allyson Semple, Terry Holland, Nicole Platt, Rita Perry, Peter Reese, Paige Porrett, Cindy Gardiner, Carolyn Mylowe, Sheriann Broxton, Matt Levine, Sharon Wright, Malek Kamoun



Diane Corrigan (HUP's CFO) and Jeff Drebin (Chief of Surgery)

mental and high risk.

Many HUP faculty surgeons have since contributed as the program progressed toward the 5,000th milestone: Leonard Perloff, Mory Ziegler, Ali Naji, Don Dafoe, Ed Alfrey, Ken Brayman, Jim Markmann, Amy Friedman, Marty Sellers, Peter Abt, Matt Levine and Paige Porrett (who performed the 5,000th transplant). Four of HUP's transplant fellows have become university department chairs and dozens of others, division chiefs at other centers.

HUP's multi-organ program now performs about 400 transplants per year. HUP's liver transplant program began in the 1980's but did not take off until the arrival of Drs. Shaked and Olthoff in 1995. At the time of the 5,000th kidney celebration, more than 2,200 liver transplants had been performed. In 1987, Hank Edmunds began the heart transplant program. Under the subsequent leadership of Dr. Acker and his faculty, it has now performed more than 1,000 transplants. Lung transplantation began with Larry Kaiser's arrival in 2001. Subsequently led by Drs. Bavaria, Pochettino and Szeto, this program has now performed over 850 transplants. Of



Ali Naji Director of Kidney/ Pancreas Transplantation



Abraham Shaked Director of the Penn Transplant Institute



Denny DuPont (Manager of Transplant Outreach and Communications) and Garry Scheib (COO of UPHS)



Diane Jakobowski Administrator of the Penn Transplant Institute

note, while at the University of Toronto in 1983, now Penn surgeon Joel Cooper performed the world's first lung transplant. In addition, HUP has excellent programs in pancreas and isolated pancreatic islets. Ali Naji's islet transplant program is one of the country's most successful. Dr. Shaked's Penn Transplant Institute has been selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as one of 15 high performing transplant centers in the U.S.



Bob Grossman Former Long Term Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation



Roy Bloom (Medical Director of Kidney Transplantation) addressing the group: left to right - Paige Porrett, Ali Naji, Diane Jakobowski, Al Black, Diane Corrigan, Denise DuPont, Abraham Shaked, Dode and Clyde Barker, Garry Scheib, Karen and Kevin Tickner

Academic Surgical Congress 2014

At the recent Academic Surgical Congress, Penn Surgery Society members did themselves proud. Their 22 contributions to the scientific program are listed here. It should be noted that **Rachel Kelz** in addition to co-authoring many of them, spoke on Obamacare, moderated one session on endocrine clinical trials and with **Doug Fraker** debated whether robotic surgery is the future or hype. Rachel has also served on the AAS's Executive Council and the Issues Committee. Robert Canter was appointed to join her in 2015 as co-chair of this committee.



Penn Associate Professor Rachel Kelz speaking on Obamacare

Julia Tchou moderated a session on Oncology/Breast. **Ned Bartlett** (HUP PGY3 resident) was awarded the prize for the program's best oral presentation for his paper on occurrences following early discharge after colorectal surgery.

Jashodeep Datta (HUP PGY3 resident) won the highly competitive research fellowship award of the Association of Academic Surgery. With Brian Czerniecki, he is working on developing a novel immunotherapeutic approach to mutated BRAF in melanoma.



Datta

At a "Hot Topics" session moderated by **Bob Canter**, **Mike Rotondo** spoke on the impact of "RVUonomics" on academic careers.

Sunil Singhal, **Steve Allen** and **Peter Abt** serve on the AAS's Program Committee.

This was the 9th meeting of the Academic Surgical Congress which has become an important annual gathering of academic surgeons. It combines the programs of the Society of University Surgeons and the Association of Academic Surgeons. The older Society of University Surgeons was founded in 1938 with the intent of bringing together a limited membership of young university professors. The younger Association of Academic Surgeons was founded in 1967 as an inclusive society of junior surgeons aspiring to academic careers. By the late 1990's, the SUS's membership and annual meeting had focused predominately on pure science and

molecular biology. This was threatening to change it from an exclusive organization to an extinct one (see Keith Lillemoe's classic and prophetic Presidential Address of 1998 (SOS - SUS ?). Lillemoe asserted that the content of SUS programs, most of which could be understood only by basic scientists, was an important factor in the dwindling attendance at this Society's meetings. He pointed out that since the SUS was actually a society of surgeons, the membership and the scientific programs should not entirely exclude clinicians and clinical papers. The AAS meetings, with their balance of clinical and scientific papers, were attracting a larger attendance. Thus, it was a positive move when the two societies merged

their scientific programs. Since then, attendance at the annual meeting of the joint societies has steadily increased. More than 1300 surgeons attended this year's Congress.

The Academic Surgical Congress has become a logical venue for Penn Surgical Society members to present their work and also to gather socially. In the last few years, Dr. Drebin has hosted a dinner meeting for our Society members, reminiscent of the old Ravdin-Rhoads Society dinners at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons. This year while Dr. Drebin was snowbound in Philadelphia, Doug Fraker hosted this well attended reception and dinner, pictured below.



Eric Shang, PGY4 resident, described a model he and Ben Jackson use for predicting growth of aortic aneurysms



Some of the attendees at the Penn society dinner; Robert Caskey, Heather Wachtel, Rebecca Hoffman, Eric Shang, Ned Bartlett, Lindsay Kuo, Caroline Reinke and Douglas Fraker (who hosted the dinner)

Presentations from PENN Surgery ASC

Rescue Pyloroplasty for Refractory Delayed Gastric Emptying Following Esophagectomy - J. Datta, N. N. Williams, D. T. Dempsey, J. B. Morris

Predictors of Mortality in Patients Undergoing Palliative Bypass for Pancreatic Malignancy - E. K. Bartlett, H. Wachtel, G. C. Karakousis, D. L. Fraker, J. A. Drebin, R. R. Kelz, R. E. Roses

Immunosuppression Shifts the Day of Diagnosis for Infectious Post-Operative Occurrences in Patients Undergoing Abdominal Operations - E. M. Sonnenberg, C. E. Reinke, E. K. Bartlett, K. T. Collier, G. C. Karakousis, R. R. Kelz

Resveratrol Rescues Kidney Mitochondrial Function Following Hemorrhagic Shock - H. Wang, Y. Guan, L. Ye, A. L. Widlund, L. B. Becker, J. A. Baur, C. A. Sims

Financial Implications of the Addition of an Acute Care Surgery Service: A Ten Year Experience - B. Braslow, D. Holena, P. Kim, C. Sims, J. L. Pascual, S. Allen, N. Martin, C. Petetti, C. Schwab, P. M. Reilly

Post-Discharge Occurrences Following Colorectal Surgery Happen Early and Dramatically Increase the Rates of Readmission - E. K. Bartlett, R. L. Hoffman, N. N. Mahmoud, G. C. Karakousis, R. R. Kelz

Early Discharge and Readmission Following Colorectal Resection: An Analysis of Data from The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - R. L. Hoffman, E. K. Bartlett, G. C. Karakousis, N. N. Mahmoud, R. R. Kelz

A Quality Profile for U.S. Surgical Residents: Case Participation in the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - R. L. Hoffman, E. K. Bartlett, R. L. Medbery, J. B. Morris, J. V. Sakran, R. R. Kelz

Primary Hyperparathyroidism in Young Patients - H. Wachtel, M. Gupta, E. K. Bartlett, R. R. Kelz, G. C. Karakousis, D. L. Fraker

Patient Satisfaction In Real-Time: Inpatient Experience Informs Providers and Satisfaction Scores - M. Gupta, L. Fleisher, N. Fishman, S. Raper, J. S. Myers, R. R. Kelz

Understanding Goal Orientation Among General Surgery Residents - R. L. Hoffman, C. Hudak-Rosander, J. Datta, J. B. Morris, R. R. Kelz

Comparing the Burden of Fistulas for Proximal and Distal Pancreatic Resections Using the Postoperative Morbidity Index - M. T. McMillan, B. C. Miller, S. W. Behrman, J. D. Christein, M. P. Callery, J. A. Drebin, T. S. Kent, R. S. Lewis, C. M. Vollmer

Hernia Repair in the Cirrhotic Patient: An Analysis of the ACS NSQIP Database - E. K. Bartlett, R. L. Hoffman, G. C. Karakousis, R. E. Roses, D. L. Fraker, J. B. Morris, R. R. Kelz

A NSQIP Analysis of Risk Factors for 30-day Morbidity and Mortality in Patients Undergoing Total Gastrectomy for Gastric Malignancy - E. K. Bartlett, R. E. Roses, D. L. Fraker, R. R. Kelz, G. C. Karakousis

Finite Element Models Provide Superior Prediction of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Growth Compared to Aneurysm Geometric Indices - E. K. Shang, D. P. Nathan, E. Lai, R. C. Gorman, J. H. Gorman, E. Y. Woo, G. J. Wang, R. M. Fairman, C. F. Barker, B. M. Jackson

Wind, Water Wound, Walk - Does the Data Deliver the Dictum? - E. M. Sonnenberg, C. E. Reinke, E. K. Bartlett, K. T. Collier, G. C. Karakousis, D. N. Holena, R. R. Kelz

Parathyroidectomy In Dialysis Patients - L. E. Kuo, H. Wachtel, D. L. Fraker, R. R. Kelz

Reoperative Parathyroidectomy: Who Is At Risk And What Is The Risk? - L. E. Kuo, H. Wachtel, D. L. Fraker, R. R. Kelz

Predictors of 30-day Readmissions Related to the Principal Procedure - C. E. Reinke, R. R. Kelz, J. R. Zubizarreta, L. Mi, F. A. Kyle, O. Even-Shoshan, L. A. Fleisher, J. H. Silber

Noncardiac Surgery (NCS) in Nonpulsatile LVAD Patients: Experience and Outcomes - O. Shaked, V. Salasky, R. Redfield, S. Weiss, M. Acker, D. Dempsey

Morbidity after Lymph Node Dissection for Melanoma in Octogenarians: A Review of the NSQIP Database - T. H. Henry, E.K. Bartlett, C. Meise, D. L. Fraker, R. R. Kelz, G. C. Karakousis

Penetrating Injuries In Older Adults: An Urban Trauma Center's Experience - D. Scantling, D. Holena, J. Pascual, P. Kim, C. Schwab, P. Reilly, S. Allen

Remembering Donato D. LaRossa (1941-2014)

*Contributed by Oksana Jackson, MD,
David Low, MD, and Linton Whitaker, MD*

On January 21, 2014, the Department of Surgery lost one of its most popular and highly valued senior faculty members when Don LaRossa died at the age of 72 in his home in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Don was one of plastic surgery's most respected and admired teachers, and a true giant in the field of cleft lip and palate care.

Donato Dominic LaRossa was born on October 28, 1941 in Plainfield, New Jersey. He graduated from Seton Hall University cum laude in 1963, and Georgetown University School of Medicine AOA in 1967. He trained in general surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and was recruited by John Waldhausen to complete his chief residency at Hershey when Waldhausen went from Penn to Hershey as that school's first chairman. Don returned to Penn in 1972 for plastic surgery training under Herndon B. Lehr. After completing his plastic surgery fellowship in 1974, Don LaRossa spent two years in the Army serving as Assistant Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, with the rank of Major. He was recruited back to Penn in 1976.

Don began his faculty career at Penn as Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Presbyterian Medical Center, and also as Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. His early research and clinical work focused on the improvement of microsurgical techniques. He established Penn's first microsurgical teaching laboratory in 1981. Working with Ralph Hamilton, he helped pioneer the clinical application of microsurgical techniques for replantation and microsurgical reconstruction. Don also joined Peter Randall at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), where over the next 33 years, he became widely recognized for his expertise in pediatric plastic surgery, and especially for cleft surgery. He was Director of the Cleft Lip and Palate Program from 1980 to 2007.



Whitaker as Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at CHOP serving in this role until 2007, when he transitioned to Emeritus Professor.

Don LaRossa was best known for his artistry and passion for cleft surgery, as well as his extensive contributions to the field of cleft care. He authored more than 76 papers and 22 book chapters, including 13 on cleft lip and palate. Cumulatively, his publications on cleft lip and palate, represent a substantial contribution to the body of literature on the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions.

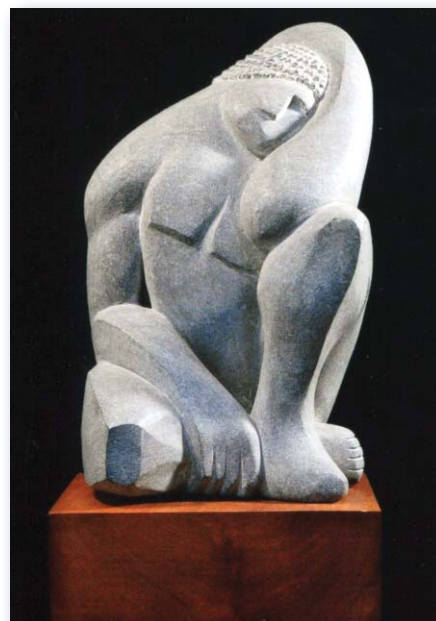
Don also traveled around the world with Operation Smile, Rotoplast and Alliance for Smiles, participating in numerous surgical missions throughout South America, India, China, the Philippines, and the Middle East.

Don LaRossa was a member of over 17 local, national, and international medical societies, and held leadership roles in many of these. In particular, he had a long history of service and leadership within the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA), serving as its President in 2003, as well as on the Executive Council and the Board of the Cleft Palate Foundation. He was the Plastic Surgery Section Editor for the Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal which posthumously awarded him the prestigious Distinguished Service Award to recognize and honor his extensive contributions.

A true gentleman, Don LaRossa was universally respected

and admired by his colleagues, trainees, and patients for his technical skill and clinical acumen, as well as his integrity, his humble demeanor, and his compassion. With endless patience, he taught the nuances of surgical technique to generations of residents and fellows at Penn and CHOP. His career-long dedication to teaching is recognized annually by "The Don LaRossa Teaching Award," chosen by the graduating chief residents for the faculty member who has contributed most to their education.

Don's artistry extended beyond the operating room to the studio, where he excelled in painting and sculpting. Over the past two decades, he focused on stone



LaRossa soapstone sculpture

carving, and executed many pieces in marble, alabaster, and soapstone. His pieces have appeared in several juried shows, and one is now on display outside the Radnor Memorial Library in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

In 2003, Don lost his wife Virginia of 35 years, and in 2007, his daughter, Wendelyn. In 2010, Don married the second love of his life, Anne Congdon, and together they traveled on cleft missions, patronized the arts, and enjoyed their grandchildren. Don is survived by two daughters, 4 stepchildren, his sister and brother, as well as 17 grandchildren.

Don LaRossa crafted a long and distinguished career at HUP, CHOP and the University of Pennsylvania. He has had an immeasurable influence in the world of plastic surgery and cleft communities as a mentor and as a master clinician. He will be sorely missed. His teachings live on in the practices and accomplishments of his many trainees, and his spirit, in the smiles of the many children worldwide whose lives he touched.



Don LaRossa with plaster sculpture (top) and marble sculpture (bottom)



John M. Akin, Jr. (1928-2013)

John M. Akin Jr. (HUP Chief Resident (1960-61)) died March 1, 2013 at age 84. John was a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He was valedictorian and president of his high school class and a summa cum laude graduate and class president at Birmingham Southern College. Then, like his father, he went to medical school at Penn. After his internship at HUP his HUP surgical residency was interrupted by 2 years in the US Air Force.

John was considered one of the most likable and most capable of a group of outstanding residents. Drs. Ravdin, Rhoads and Blakemore were among those commenting that he was one of the best HUP residents in a decade. Julian Johnson, never given to hyperbole, wrote that in doing a superb job on the thoracic service John had lost 30 pounds.

After residency, John returned to Birmingham where he distinguished himself as a practicing surgeon, teacher and leader of the medical community.

As President of the County Medical Society, he helped set



up "Tel-Med," a public call-in service where people could get taped discussions of their medical conditions. His patients established a medical education scholarship in his name with the Baptist Hospital Foundation. Dr. Akin was clinical professor of surgery at the Medical College of Alabama. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Baptist Health System Surgical Residency program and for 14 years he was its General Surgery Program Director. He was a Diplomat of Southeastern Surgical Congress, President of the Jefferson County Medical Society, Vice President and life Counselor of the Medical

Association of the State of Alabama, President of the Birmingham Academy of Medicine, Vice President of the Birmingham Surgical Society, and President of the Baptist Montclair Medical Center Medical Staff.

John is survived by his wife Delores, of 60 years, his sister Martha, his daughters Sara, Kathleen and Marie, 10 grandchildren and a great grandson.

Alumni News

Appointments/Promotions

◆ **David Lee, MD**, Urology
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery in the Clinician Educator Track at Penn Presbyterian



◆ **Rita Milewski, MD, PhD**
Cardiovascular Surgery
Promoted to Assistant Professor of Surgery at HUP in the Clinician Educator Track



◆ **Jonathan S. Bromberg, MD, PhD**, (HUP Transplant Fellow 1989-1990); Chief of Transplantation Division, University of Maryland has been named Clinical Science Editor of the Journal *Transplantation*



◆ **Vicente H. Gracias, MD**, (HUP Trauma Fellow 1997-1999); Professor of Surgery, Chief of Acute Care Surgery and Director of Trauma Center at Rutgers RWJMS has been appointed interim Dean of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.



◆ **Andrew Resnick, MD, MBA**, (HUP Chief Resident 2006-2007) Assistant Professor of Surgery at HUP, Director, Penn Simulation Center, left Penn to assume the role of Chief Quality Officer at Penn State-Hershey Medical Center.



New Penn Faculty

◆ **Paul Foley, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 2009-2010, HUP Vascular Fellow 2010-2012) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the division of Vascular Surgery.



◆ **Michael Holmes, MBBS, MSc** joined the Division of Transplant as a Research Assistant Professor of Surgery.



Honors

◆ Incoming Philadelphia Academy of Surgery President **Jeffrey Drebin, MD, PhD**, congratulates outgoing President Thomas Bauer for his service, on behalf of the Fellows of the Academy.



◆ **C. William Schwab, MD**, received the John P. Pryor, MD Distinguished Service Award in Military Casualty Care from the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.



In December 2013, Dr. Schwab gave the Olof Norlander Memorial Lecture at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm Sweden.

◆ **Alan Wein, MD, PhD(hon)**, Founders Professor and Chief of the Division of Urology, has received the 2014 Rodney Appell Continence Care Champion Award from the National Association for Continence.



◆ Penn faculty members **Sunil Singhal, MD and Rachel Kelz, MD, MSCE**, were elected to membership in the prestigious Society of University Surgeons. **Michael Morowitz, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 2004-2005) was also elected. Mike is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh



◆ **Ben Chang, MD**, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery, received a Penn Pearls award from the medical students, one of only four of the school's faculty to be so honored.



Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery
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Recent and Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 24, 2014 - **Agnew Surgical Society Lecture** to be given at HUP by Keith D. Lillemoe, M.D. Surgeon-in-Chief, Massachusetts General Hospital W. Gerald Austen Professor of Surgery Harvard Medical School
"Surgical Decision Making: Good and Bad"
- ◆ May 7, 2014 - **The 2014 John Paul Pryor Memorial PennTRAC Conference**
Keynote Speaker: Tracey A. Dechert, MD located at The Penn Museum Widener Lecture Room
- ◆ May 15, 2014 - **Julius Mackie Distinguished Graduate Lectureship** to be given at HUP by Howard A. Reber, MD, Distinguished Professor and Chief, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Univ. of CA, Los Angeles Director, UCLA Center for Pancreatic Diseases
- ◆ June 5-7, 2014 - **Vascular Annual Meeting** Boston, Massachusetts (reception to be hosted by Ron Fairman for vascular fellows and friends)

(continued on back)

From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

is one of these. Its national impact has been less than that of the AMA or of the American Surgical Association which Gross founded in 1880, one year after the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. However, the Academy's influence in Philadelphia surgery has been profound. For many years it was the centerpiece of academic surgery where the City's leading surgeons came together from their separate schools and hospitals to discuss their best scientific and clinical work. The prestige of membership in the Academy, let alone officership, was substantial.

Scientific programs preserved in the Academy's archives indicate that the City's senior surgeons often presented their own papers. John B Deaver spoke there 10 times between 1885 and 1931, IS Ravdin 29 times between 1926 and 1956 and John Gibbon, 18 times between 1933 and 1960. A few examples of the landmark surgical accomplishments first reported at the Academy's meetings were Charles Bailey's first successful mitral commissurotomy in 1949 and his first successful coronary artery endarterectomy in 1957; John Gibbon's successful cardiopulmonary bypass in cats for 20 minutes in 1939 and in dogs for 2 1/2 hours in 1952; Stan Dudrick's and Jonathan Rhoads' success with parenteral alimentation of puppies in 1966; the first catheterization of visceral arteries in treatment of bleeding ulcers by Morey Nussbaum, Stanley Baum and Bill Blakemore in 1968; percutaneous transluminal angioplasty with a balloon catheter by Ernie Ring and Brooke Roberts in 1979; and total heart replacement by a single intrathoracic pump by Bill Pierce in 1965.

Over the last few decades a plethora of local and national scientific and professional conferences have subsumed the attention of Philadelphia surgeons. Their commitment to attend proliferating surgical specialty societies has also diminished the time allocated to broader programs such as those of the Academy of Surgery. This has sometimes noticeably decreased attendance at the meetings.

Despite this competition for attention, the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery continues to serve an important purpose. The Academy holds dinner meetings eight times each year; six meetings are held at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the seventh is held jointly with the New York Surgical Society. The final meeting of the year is held jointly with the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

The Academy's meetings are among only a few opportunities for Philadelphia surgeons to interact with their peers from sister institutions, and for residents and junior faculty to present their preliminary work and to relate to the City's senior surgeons in a setting that is both academic and informal. Members are encouraged to invite residents to be their guests at the monthly dinner meetings. One meeting is devoted entirely to papers and posters by surgical residents and fellows. Another is the Jonathan Rhoads Annual Oration given by a nationally prominent surgeon selected by the Academy's president.

It continues to be important that Philadelphia's surgical role models and leaders such as Dr. Drebin, take part in and promote such activity. I am confident that Jeff will admirably fulfill this responsibility.



Penn Surgery

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SPRING 2014

Recent Events *(continued from page 11)*

- ♦ **Timothy Gardner and Michael Acker** at the American Heart Association Conference in November 2013. They are discussing the multi-institutional study of mitral valve repair versus replacement. Dr. Acker was the first author of the resultant publication in the New England Journal of Medicine (Jan. 2, 2014).



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