



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](mailto:clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu).

## Ronald P. DeMatteo Named John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman of Department of Surgery

In July 2017 Dr. Ronald P. DeMatteo (HUP chief resident 1997) will become John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. DeMatteo is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and of Cornell University Medical College. During his general surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania he won the Jonathan E. Rhoads research award of the Department of Surgery, the Leonard J. Perloff chief resident teaching award and the British Journal of Surgery award for the outstanding surgical resident at HUP. While a resident he spent 4 years in basic research studying molecular biology, virology, immunology and transplantation working with Jim Wilson, Steve Raper, Jim Markmann and Clyde Barker. After completing a two-year surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and a research fellowship there under Murray Brennan he was appointed in 1999 to the faculty at Memorial.

Since 2006 he has been head of the Division of General Surgical Oncology at Memorial and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery. He has also held appointments as Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and as a member of the Sloan Kettering Institute's Immunology Program. Since 2012 he has represented Memorial Sloan-Kettering as Associate Dean at Weill Cornell.

Dr. DeMatteo's large clinical practice at Memorial is focused on the care of patients with hepatic, biliary and pancreatic diseases and also on abdominal sarcoma. He serves on several Guideline Committees of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Dr. DeMatteo is very active in both basic and clinical research. His laboratory research has been continuously funded by NIH since 2001. He currently leads R01 and T 32 grants and is the faculty co-mentor of a K-12 grant. He has mentored more than 35 laboratory fellows. Many of whom have since obtained



NIH grants. He is a member of the Cancer Immunopathology and Immunotherapy Study Section of the NIH. Many of his 351 peer-reviewed publications have appeared in journals such as *Nature Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Lancet Oncology*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and *Annals of Surgery*. He is a member of the

editorial board of the *Annals of Surgery*.

In clinical research Dr DeMatteo has been the principal investigator of 3 national trials of adjuvant therapy with imatinib (Gleevec) following resection of gastrointestinal stromal tumors. One trial led to FDA approval and changed the standard of care worldwide. He is, co-leader of the Memorial Sloan Kettering's clinical research program which is supported by a P30 center grant.

Dr. DeMatteo has devoted much effort to surgical education. From 2006 to 2013 he directed Memorial Sloan-Kettering's Surgical Oncology Fellowship. He has mentored more than 100 clinical fellows in career development, research and job acquisition. Many of his fellows have assumed leadership positions in academic institutions. For Cornell students he established a third-year surgery clerkship at Memorial.

Dr. DeMatteo is the recipient of many honors and awards. He was the inaugural recipient of the Leslie H. Baumgart Chair in Surgical Oncology. He has been elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation, a rare honor for a surgeon. He is a member of the American Surgical Association, the Society of Clinical Surgery, The Surgical Biology Club I, the James IV Surgical Association and the International Surgical Group.



**From the Editor**  
**Clyde F. Barker, M.D.**

As Ron DeMatteo becomes chairman of Penn Surgery it seems appropriate to depict his predecessors. (see opposite page) Future issues of the newsletter may provide opportunities to review some of the interesting or amusing aspects of their careers. Dr. DeMatteo is the 19th chairman of our department but only the 15th John Rhea Barton Professor. In 1877 a \$50,000 gift from the widow of Philadelphia surgeon John Rhea Barton funded this oldest of U.S. endowed surgery chairs. This allowed the Department's 5th chairman D. Hayes Agnew to become the first John Rhea Barton Professor. Since then it has been traditional for the department chairman to have the John Rhea Barton Chair.

Opening in 1874 the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) was the Nation's first hospital to be owned and operated by a university. It was specifically designated for teaching. Before that the first 4 department leaders (Shippen, Physick, Gibson and Smith) practiced and taught at other hospitals, mainly Pennsylvania Hospital and the Almshouse (later known as Blockley and Philadelphia General Hospital).

The first 3 chairmen were trained in England because at the time adequate training programs were not available in America.

Two later chairman trained at universities other than Penn (Kaiser at UCLA and Drebin at Hopkins). The other 14 chairs trained at Penn although until Dr. Ravdin took over surgical training varied in length and quality. In 1945 Ravdin established a *bonafide* residency at HUP, modeled largely after the one at Johns Hopkins where in 1889 Halsted had initiated the first U.S. surgical residency. Like Halsted Ravdin's stated purpose was to train residents who would become teachers and leaders. Since then at least 36 HUP residents have become department chairs in U.S. universities. Many others have been division chiefs and important teachers at academic or community hospitals.

Our department's academic tradition of teaching has been supported by availability of non practiced generated funds which could be devoted to research and teaching. These funds were first secured by Dr. Ravdin in 1935 with a \$2.24 million dollar bequest from George Lieb Harrison. This has since grown to make our department one of the best endowed in the U.S. Additional support of academic activity has been provided by the department's 16 endowed chairs (John Rhea Barton, J. William White, Jonathan Rhoads, Rhoads-Harrington, Donald Guthrie I, Donald Guthrie II, Eldridge Eliason, Julian Johnson, William Maul Measey, Measey Research, Brooke Roberts, Clyde Barker, DeHellebranth, Ernest Rosato, J.W. Schwab and Henry



Royster). Seven of the professorships have been funded by the William Maul Measey Foundation.

Dr. DeMatteo is a worthy successor to the long line of Penn surgery chiefs. He is an genuine example of a rare "species" that many say is extinct - the triple threat. In addition to a large clinical practice he has a basic research program that has been funded over the last decade by \$17 million. He is perhaps even more unusual in regard to his commitment to surgical education. As leader of Memorial's surgical oncology fellowship he has helped young surgeons develop their clinical and research interests and obtain leadership positions. As director of Memorial's translational research program he has mentored more than 30 laboratory fellows and technicians. His guidance of young faculty in obtaining grants has led to an increase in the department's number of NIH grants from one to ten.

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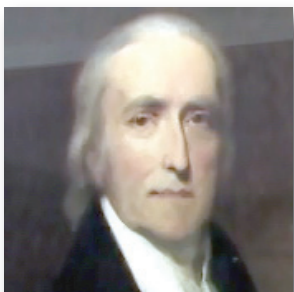
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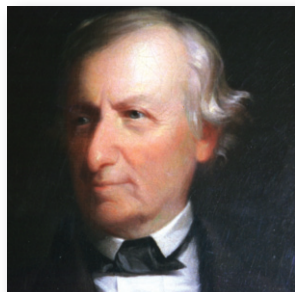
**Penn Chiefs of Surgery 1765-2017**



**William Shippen, Jr.**  
1765 - 1805



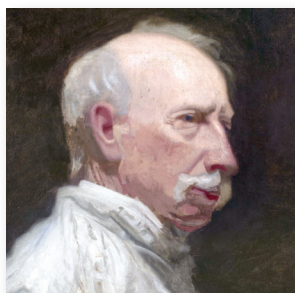
**Philip Syng Physick**  
1805 - 1818



**William Gibson**  
1819 - 1855



**Henry Hollingsworth Smith**  
1855 - 1871



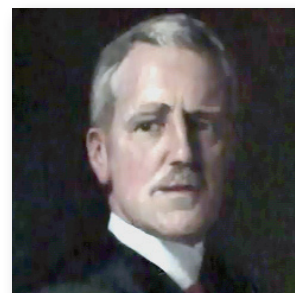
**D. Hayes Agnew**  
1871 - 1889



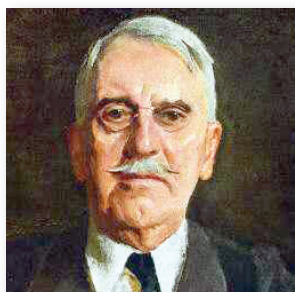
**John Ashurst, Jr.**  
1889 - 1900



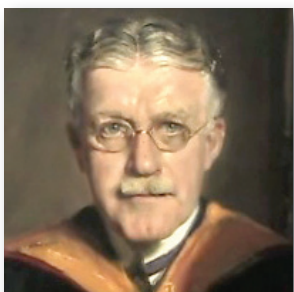
**J. William White**  
1900 - 1910



**Edward Martin**  
1910 - 1918



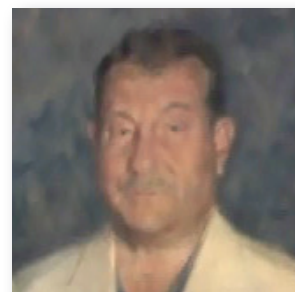
**John B. Deaver**  
1918 - 1922



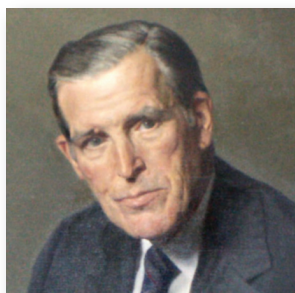
**Charles H. Frazier**  
1922 - 1936



**Eldridge L. Eliason**  
1936 - 1945



**I. S. Ravdin**  
1945 - 1960



**Jonathan E. Rhoads**  
1960 - 1972



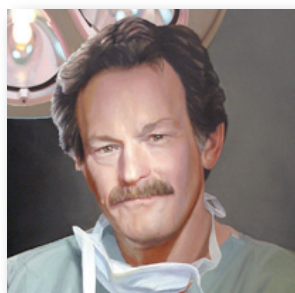
**William T. Fitts**  
1972 - 1978



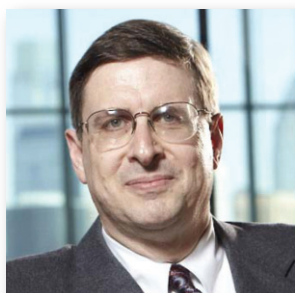
**Leonard D. Miller**  
1978 - 1983



**Clyde F. Barker**  
1983 - 2001



**Larry R. Kaiser**  
2001 - 2009



**Jeffrey A. Drebin**  
2009 - 2017



**Ronald P. DeMatteo**  
2017

# A Fond Farewell from Jeff Drebin

This will be my last contribution to the Penn Surgery Alumni Newsletter. As was announced in our last issue, I have left Penn to assume the position of Chair of the Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. This was a difficult decision for me as it meant leaving a great position in a superb department. It was particularly difficult to leave so many friends and colleagues with whom I had the privilege of working at Penn. However, at the end of the day, the opportunity to lead the premier cancer surgery program in the Nation aligned perfectly with my own clinical and academic interests and also represented a chance to take on a new set of challenges. After leading the Department of Surgery at Penn for the past eight years I felt ready for such a change.

I leave a department that has become bigger and I believe better during my tenure as the John Rhea Barton Professor and Chair. The clinical faculty has expanded substantially, with substantial programs across all surgical disciplines at HUP, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and Pennsylvania Hospital, and evolving Departmental faculty activity at Penn Chester County Hospital and the Virtua Health System. With over 140 faculty members the Department has continued to be the dominant surgical program in the region. Continued clinical excellence and improved quality and patient safety metrics have paralleled this growth. This faculty expansion also occurred despite the loss of approximately a dozen highly successful mid-career and senior faculty to division chief and departmental chair positions at other academic centers. We have certainly continued to live up to the Penn Department of Surgery's reputation for training surgical leaders.

The Department has also expanded its' academic activities over the past eight years, with a substantial increase in extramurally funded research. In the most recent Blue Ridge rankings, the Department of Surgery at Penn ranked #1 among Departments of Surgery in NIH funding – and this without counting our faculty members who have Cancer Center or Pediatric Surgery NIH funding, which many of our competitor departments are able to **4** do. The research success of the Department has been the

result of success of faculty from multiple divisions and I am particularly proud of the group of relatively junior faculty, at the assistant and early associate professor level, who have been able to build independent research programs. Our educational programs are also among the nations' best, training outstanding residents and fellows in our clinical programs.

I leave the Department on solid financial and administrative ground as well. Having finished ahead of budget in each of my eight years as Chair, the Department holds substantial financial reserves. In addition we have carefully stewarded one of the largest endowments of any Department of Surgery in the nation in support of our academic mission. A superb administrative team led by Deb Rose maintains our faculty and staff operations at our core hospitals and numerous community sites.

The next John Rhea Barton Professor will be Dr. Ron DeMatteo – who is

leaving Memorial Sloan Kettering, where he has been Chief of General Surgical Oncology, to return to Penn, where he did his general surgery training. Ron is an excellent technical surgeon, a terrific surgeon-scientist, and has had a track record of mentoring young faculty as they evolve their own academic careers – I know he will be a superb Chairman for the Department of Surgery at Penn. It is ironic that we have essentially swapped institutions; I think each of us will go forward with excitement about our respective new opportunities.

In closing I want to thank all Penn Surgery Alumni for their friendship and will look forward to seeing the Department and its' Alumni go on to even greater accomplishments. I also want to specifically thank Dr. Clyde Barker for his friendship and for his many contributions to the success of the Department during my period as Chair, not least of which has been serving as Editor of the Newsletter. I know having him down the hall will be a great resource for Dr. DeMatteo as he assumes the John Rhea Barton Professorship.

Wishing all of you continued happiness and success,




At the 2017 meeting of the American Surgical Association



## Stanley J. Dudrick Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

On February 18, 2017, The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) presented the Society's first president, Stanley J. Dudrick, MD, with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Dudrick (HUP Chief Resident 1967) is widely recognized and respected throughout the scientific, and clinical world for his innovative research in the development of the specialized central venous feeding technique known as total parenteral nutrition (TPN). Dr. Dudrick's pioneering research began while he was a HUP resident working with Jonathan Rhoads and Harry Vars. Heralded as one of the top three surgical advances during the past century TPN is estimated to have saved the lives of over 10 million children and benefitted countless critically ill adults by providing a system for delivering life sustaining nutrition.

Dr. Dudrick was one of 35 dedicated healthcare professionals that founded ASPEN in 1975 with the organizational goal of providing optimal nutrition to people under all conditions at all times.

Charlene Compher, PhD, ASPEN's President said "Dr. Dudrick's pioneering spirit, novel research, and dedication to advancing optimal care have inspired many others to enter the field of nutrition. His mentorship is legendary but most importantly his work has benefited millions of patients over the years. ASPEN owes a great deal of appreciation to Dr. Dudrick for having the foresight to launch an organization that advocates for an interdisciplinary approach to nutritional support therapy. This award celebrates not only his impact on patient outcomes all over the world, but also the enormous contribution he has made to our organization."

In honor of Dr. Dudrick's achievements and his passion



Dr. Dudrick is toasted by family and the audience.



Presenting the award to Dr. Dudrick are ASPEN President Charlene Compher and Ezra Steiger (HUP chief resident 1973)

for supporting new talent in the field, ASPEN has also created the annual Stanley Dudrick Research Scholar Award, recognizing and supporting an early to mid-career ASPEN member/investigator who demonstrates exceptional research productivity and potential.

Dr. Dudrick is Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Surgery and Director of the Training Program in Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital, Yale University's affiliate in Waterbury, Connecticut. He is also Professor of Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine.

Current Contents credits Dr. Dudrick with more than 2,500 scientific reference citations. He has served on more than 15 editorial boards of scientific journals and professional publications; has received more than 120 honors and awards; and has authored several books, including the American College of Surgeons' Manual of Surgical Nutrition.

Dr. Dudrick is now Professor of Surgery at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, a community based medical school founded in 2008 and located in several sites in Northeast and North Central Pennsylvania.

# 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award

## Kenneth L. Brayman, MD, PhD, FACS

Kenneth L. Brayman (HUP chief resident 1989) is Professor of Surgery, Medicine and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He is also the Nabi Professor of Transplantation at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Brayman grew up in Massachusetts and attended college at the University of Massachusetts obtaining his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* in 1977, majoring in Biochemistry. Dr. Brayman attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he was elected AOA and received his medical degree in 1981. Following medical school, Dr. Brayman completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. During that period, spent 3 years in the research laboratory of Clyde Barker and Ali Najj studying autoimmunity and beta cell replacement strategies for type 1 diabetes. He received the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in 1987. Ken also took postdoctoral training in the Pathology Graduate Group at Penn and received his PhD in 1989.

Following general surgery training, Dr. Brayman spent 3 years at the University of Minnesota as a transplant surgery fellow and Instructor of Surgery at the Minneapolis VA hospital. He returned to the University of Pennsylvania in 1992 as an Assistant and subsequently Associate Professor of Surgery, Medicine and Pediatrics. He was a member of the Transplantation Division working closely with Drs. Barker and Najj and subsequently with Drs. Shaked and Olthoff. During that period, he directed the pancreas transplant program at HUP and the renal transplant program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

In 2002, Dr. Brayman was recruited to the University of Virginia as director of the renal, pancreas and islet transplant programs. In 2009 he became Division Chief of Transplantation and Director of the Charles O. Strickler Transplant Center of the University of Virginia Health System.

Dr. Brayman served as President of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Alumni Association from 2002 to 2004 and **6** in 2011, was recognized by the University of Massachusetts



with a distinguished alumni award for his contributions to diabetes research and transplantation surgery. Throughout his residency, fellowship and faculty experience, Dr. Brayman has remained committed to medical student, resident and fellow education with a keen interest in advancing the education of the academic surgeon. His current research interests include islet transplantation, bioengineering and 3D bioprinting, transplant immunosuppression and tolerance induction, xenotransplantation, regenerative medicine and stem cell/gene therapy. He is responsible for developing and establishing the Islet Isolation GMP Facility at UVA, and has overseen the allo- and auto-transplantation of islets in more than 40 recipients.

Dr. Brayman has been the recipient of numerous fellowship and grants from the American Philosophical Society, the American College of Surgeons, the National Institutes of Health, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and numerous industrial companies.

His bibliography includes 213 peer reviewed papers, 46 book chapters and reviews and 275 abstracts.

He has been a visiting professor or invited distinguished lecturer at 259 universities, hospitals and societies and has mentored 34 doctoral and post doctoral students.

Dr. Brayman is a member of many distinguished professional societies including: American Diabetes Association, American Society of Gene Therapy, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Surgical Association, Association for Academic Surgery, International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association, Societe' Internationale De Chirurgie, Society of University Surgeons, Southern Surgical Association and The Cell Transplant Society.

As the Distinguished Graduate he delivered the annual Julius A. Mackie Award titled: *Successful Surgical Mentorship: Understanding Mentorship and Adapting to Generational Differences to Optimize the Learning Environment in Academic Surgery.*



# Alumni News

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

- ◆ **Paris Butler, MD** was honored by the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) with its 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health award. The award recognizes the next generation of thought leaders in reducing healthcare disparities. Dr. Butler is Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery. He received the award at the NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and Congressional Black Caucus Spring Health Braintrust Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C. on April 25th.



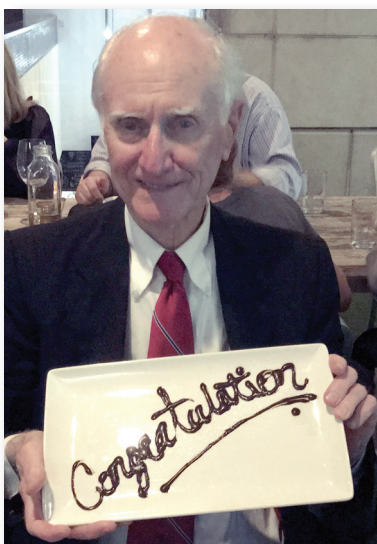
- ◆ **Arminder Jassar** (HUP chief resident 2013) has been appointed to the faculty of Massachusetts General Hospital's Corrigan Minehan Heart Center. He will focus his clinical activities on aortic surgery. He has special interests in endovascular and hybrid approaches to treating complex aortic pathology. He is also a member of the transcatheter aortic valve replacement team at Mass General.



- ◆ **Jo Buyske** and **Joe Woo** were installed as new members of the American Surgical Association.



- ◆ At the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons **Linton Whitaker** received the Clinician of the Year Award.



And **Joseph Serletti** was named the Robert Goldwyn Mentor of the Year by the American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons.

- ◆ **Charles M. Vollmer, Jr.** was named President-Elect of the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. He will assume the presidency of the organization in the 2018-2019 year.



- ◆ **Giogos Karakousis** was elected to membership in the Society of University Surgeons.



- ◆ Congratulations to Department Faculty Members **Sean Harbison**, and **Ben Braslow**, on winning Penn Pearl Awards for their teaching efforts on behalf of Penn Medical Students.



- ◆ The 53rd Annual Meeting of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, January 21–25, 2017. The meeting marked the end of **Joseph Bavaria's** term as President of the STS. During the meeting, Michael Acker and the Penn Medicine Division of Cardiovascular Surgery hosted a reception to honor Dr. Bavaria. Dr. Bavaria's family was there to celebrate along with surgeon colleagues, trainees, nurses, advanced practice providers, and other friends.



**Mary Reinke, Kim Bavaria, Melanie Freas, Stephanie Gatti, Joe Bavaria, Patti Abbott, Ginny Blaskovich (back), Carol Simon, Michelle Gattoni, Sharon Schlereth**

# Alumni News (continued from page 7)

◆ **Carlo Bartoli** (PGY4) received the Benson Wilcox award for the best scientific paper by a resident at the 2017 Society of Thoracic Surgeons meeting in Houtson, Texas. The study entitled, "Clinical and in vitro evidence that LVAD-associated hemolysis contributes to LVAD thrombosis", provides the first mechanistic data for thrombus formation in patients with mechanical circulatory support devices. The project was performed in collaboration with Pavan Atluri, Christian Bermudez and Michael Acker.



**Carlo Bartoli (left) and Mark Iannettoni, MD, the President of the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association**

◆ **Greg Kennedy** Penn senior medical student was awarded the Association for Academic Surgery Medical Student Research Award at the 12th Annual Academic Surgical Congress in February. He also presented a paper: Surgical experience and the practice of pancreatoduodenectomy. Greg will be starting his surgical internship at HUP in June.



◆ At the Academic Surgical Congress **Samuel Montgomery**, Post Baccalaureate Student - Harrison Surgical Scholar, won the award for the Best Research Abstract, titled: "Racial Disparities in Surgical Outcomes of Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease".



◆ **Cary Aarons** was featured on the cover of *Philadelphia Magazines* annual listing of the City's Top Doctors. Also listed were the following department members:

**Hand Surgery**

- ◆ Ines C. Lin

- ◆ Dahila M. Sataloff
- ◆ Abraham Shaked

**Colon & Rectal Surgery**

- ◆ Cary B, Aarons
- ◆ Joshua J. Bleier
- ◆ Najjia N. Mahmoud

- ◆ Julia C. Tchou

**Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery**

- ◆ Michael A. Acker
- ◆ Joseph E. Bavaria
- ◆ J. William Gaynor
- ◆ W. Clark Hargrove
- ◆ John C. Kucharczuk
- ◆ Taine T.V. Pechet
- ◆ Thomas L. Spray
- ◆ Wilson Y. Szeto

**Pediatric Surgery**

- ◆ N. Scott Adzick
- ◆ Alan W. Flake
- ◆ Holly L. Hedrick
- ◆ Michael L. Nance
- ◆ Thomas R. Kolon

**Plastic Surgery**

- ◆ Scott P. Bartlett
- ◆ Benjamin Chang
- ◆ David W. Low
- ◆ Joseph M. Serletti

**Transplant Surgery**

- ◆ Matthew H. Levine

**Urology**

- ◆ David I. Lee
- ◆ S. Bruce Malkowicz
- ◆ Keith N. Van Arsdalen
- ◆ Alan J. Wein

**Surgery**

- ◆ Ari D. Brooks
- ◆ Daniel T. Dempsey
- ◆ Sean P. Harbison
- ◆ Matt L. Kirkland
- ◆ Kim M. Olthoff

**Vascular Surgery**

- ◆ Ronald M. Fairman
- ◆ Michael A. Golden
- ◆ Benjamin M. Jackson

**Why Is Bob Brady Still In Charge?** by HOLLY OTTERBEIN

Jake Tapper Takes on Trump / Your Get-Rid-of-Anything Guide / 21 Things to Do on Our Rivers

# Philadelphia Top Doctors

Top Doctor Cary B. Aarons, colorectal surgeon

**821** Physicians in 69 Specialties PAGE 99

**How Healthy Are We?** Drinking, smoking, exercise ... our county-by-county ranking

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# Notes on the HUP Surgery “Wall of Fame”

## Contributed by Dan Dempsey

In a previous edition, I talked about the west wall of the 4 Maloney corridor where 194 pictures hang of the most recent HUP chief surgical resident graduates. Shortly we will proudly add another 6 photographs to this “wall of fame”. This makes an even 200 chief residents who finished general surgical training since June 1984 under the most recent 3 chairs of surgery Drs. Barker, Kaiser, and Drebin (with a little help from acting chairman Dr. Mullen both pre and post Dr. Drebin). Next year begins a new chapter on the “wall of fame” with the first group of Dr. DeMatteo chief residents.

But there are a lot of other pictures and plaques on the walls of the two heavily traveled corridors of 4 Maloney. One of the smaller but important plaques was presented to the 10th John Rhea Barton Professor Dr. Bill Fitts by his residents. Dr. Fitts was beloved by his trainees both because of his larger than life personality, and his clinical skill. Though his tenure as chair was brief, 28 HUP surgical residents finished under Dr. Fitts because of the large size of the program. Some of them were already junior department of surgery faculty at Penn when I started my internship in 1979 (Gene Cayten, Jim Mullen, and Moritz Ziegler). Dr Cayten left Penn in the late 1980’s to go to New York Medical College where he continued to have a successful career in general surgery and trauma. He had an MPH degree and wrote some of the first articles on EMS regionalization and trauma systems. He remained a loyal Penn surgical alumnus and was a regular participant in the annual Ravdin Rhoads dinner meeting at the Clinical Congress. Dr. Mullen stayed at Penn and is going strong. He has had a remarkable career in surgery, research, education, and administration. Pretty much everything Jim has run for Penn has been one of the biggest and best in the country: the Penn surgical residency (I bet at least half of those 200 aforementioned residents recall the phone number 662-2089); the Penn nutrition support service; Penn Home Infusion; HUP PeriOperative Services. All this and 200 peer reviewed papers. Many current leaders in American surgery owe a debt of gratitude to Jim Mullen. Dr. Ziegler left Penn to become Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in 1989; then he was recruited to Boston Children’s as Chief of Surgery in 1998; then he was recruited to Denver Children’s Hospital as chief in

2004. This year Mory won the William E. Ladd Medal from the Surgical Section of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, the most important accolade in pediatric surgery, in recognition of his important contributions to the field. Dr. Naji continues his decades long streaks of 1) uninterrupted NIH funding and 2) being one of the busiest U.S. kidney transplanters. He is in the OR 2-3 times per week and continues to teach residents how to care for patients preop, intraop, and postop. Ali has a successful pancreatic islet transplant program, and his large NIH award made Penn Surgery the department with the most NIH funding nationally this year.

Many readers of this newsletter will know some of the other



Fitts chief residents. Chuck Butler has had a very successful career in general surgery in New Jersey. Ezra Steiger (see photo on page 5) has spent his entire academic career at the Cleveland Clinic where in 1975 he established the nutrition support team which is now one of the largest in the world. He has been President of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. Harvey Sugerman went to MCV now VCU in Richmond and became one of the world pioneers in bariatric surgery. He was a founding member and president of the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery. He is now editor in chief of the leading bariatric journal SORD. Harvey was also one of the first surgeons to champion the stapled ileoanal pouch anastomosis after proctocolectomy for ulcerative colitis. After training in plastic surgery at HUP, Raleigh White returned to the Scott White clinic in Temple Texas where he has been a leader both in plastic surgery and administration. Howard Kaplan trained in plastic surgery at Penn and continues to practice locally as a longstanding Philly “Top Doc”. Tom Frazier went to MD Anderson for additional training in surgical oncology and returned to Bryn Mawr where he has had a very busy successful practice in general and oncologic surgery, another Top Doc. For the past 20 years Tom has focused his practice on breast surgery and continues to train breast surgery fellows. Bob Rout for many years was the “go to” general surgeon at UF Gainesville where he worked with another Penn trainee, Ted Copeland. Dr. James Thomas has been Professor and Chairman of Surgery at the University of Kansas and President of the Southwestern Surgical Congress. Of the 28 Fitts chief residents

(continued on page 12)

# Catching Up With . . . *Laura Kruper*

*Contributed by Jon Morris*

Laura Kruper is a 1989 Magna Cum Laude graduate from Brown University, receiving a BA in the Arts in Egyptology. From 1990 to 1993 Laura served as Assistant Photo Editor for *Conde Nast Traveler Magazine* in New York City. She would subsequently matriculate to the Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program at Bryn Mawr. Following a year of research at the Wistar Institute, Laura attended Medical School at Penn, where she graduated in 2000 with election to the Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Society. Laura took a surgical internship at Yale University Hospital and then returned to Penn to complete her



Laura in 2007

general surgical training from 2001 to 2006. During this time, Laura earned a Masters of Science Degree from the Center for Clinical Epidemiology in 2005. Following her training at Penn Surgery, Laura pursued a Breast Oncology Fellowship at the John Wayne Cancer Institute from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Kruper was recruited to the faculty at the City of Hope Cancer Center in 2008 and was appointed as Director of the Cooper Finkel Women's Health Center and Chief of the Breast Surgery Service in 2011. Since 2013 she has been Program Director of the Breast Oncology Training Program.

## A Conversation with Laura

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

**Laura:** *Being granted a talk at ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) to present the results of my masters project "Predicting Sentinel Node Metastasis in Stage I/III Cutaneous Melanoma". My presentation followed Dr. Don Morton (a powerhouse in melanoma surgery) — I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to work on this project.*

**JoMo:** Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

**Laura:** *Dr. Fraker! I rotated on his service in medical school and was so inspired that I made my decision to go into surgery. I wanted to be like Dr. Fraker; he performed all types of oncologic surgeries: melanoma, breast cancer, neuroendocrine tumors, liver resections and of course thyroids and parathyroids. He was always cheerful, loved teaching and being in the operating room, had these crazy-busy clinics and could rattle off clinical research findings on almost every area of surgical oncology.*

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

**Laura:** *Sloane Guy: my Chief on Vascular. He worked really hard, expected the same from his team, and respected those who worked hard as well. Wilson Szeto was my Chief on multiple services. He taught me how to run a busy service. Rachel Rappaport-Kelz: even though she was never my Chief, a special shout-out to her for being the trail blazer for the Masters in Clinical Epidemiology program — I was the 2nd surgery resident after Rachel to obtain a masters in this program.*

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

**Laura:** *Carter Paulson. We were at the VA together — battling against bureaucracy to get cases on the OR schedule.*

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

**Laura:** *I've been Chief of the Breast Surgery service and Co-Director of the Breast Oncology Program at City of Hope since 2012. We have 4 breast surgeons here on the main campus (Duarte) and have 3 others at satellites with plans to hire one more. I enjoy program building — which I didn't know much about as a resident. I helped initiate the breast oncology fellowship here (I am the Program Director) which is accredited by the Society of Surgical Oncology. It's great being able to train such smart, talented fellows. Lastly, I became an Associate Professor last year and was asked to speak about disparities in breast cancer care at the American Society of Breast Surgeons last year.*

**JoMo:** What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

**Laura:** *Great restaurants, historical sites, and parks - all within walking distance. It's a great walking city.*



## Catching Up With . . . *Laura Kruper*

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

**Laura:** *Danielle Hari: she is Division Chief of Surgical Oncology at Harbor UCLA in LA. Mark Faries: he was at John Wayne Cancer Institute for years. He is joining Cedars Sinai. He is an awesome surgical oncologist (melanoma). I'm fortunate to be able to catch up with a lot of Penn people at the annual Society of Surgical Oncology meeting (Drs. Fraker, Czerniecki, Spitz, sometimes I get to see Julia Tchou!) Love seeing photos of my fellow Penn residents and families on Facebook — keep posting!*

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

**Laura:** *My practice is at an academic cancer center: City of Hope. I only do breast cases (and some ports and Hickmans). I am incredibly busy and feel fortunate to be working at COH. I do a variety of cases, but a lot of nipple-sparing mastectomies; we have awesome plastic and reconstructive surgeons here — we do a lot of combo cases.*

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

**Laura:** *Spending time with my friends, my godson, and my herd of dogs. Since being in LA, I have been practicing meditation for 8 years now.*

**JoMo:** Tell us about your family.

**Laura:** *Piper, Milo and Massimo. Furry, cute, not very well-behaved. My sister, brother-in-law, niece and nephew were just out here visiting. Wish they lived closer!*

**JoMo:** What is the last movie you saw that you would recommend and why?

**Laura:** *Movie: Lala Land. Catches the vibe of LA.*

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

**Laura:** *Just for the current residents: keep yourselves open to possibilities in your career. You might find something you are passionate about which you never expected. Training at Penn opens many doors and prepares you for many different paths.*



↑ Laura with Piper and Milo and a friend's labradoodle

← Laura with Piper, Milo, Massimo and his sister (who was adopted by a friend)

→ Laura holding Massimo, with her godson Owen and his dog Nico





# Penn Surgery

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## PENN SURGERY SOCIETY SPRING 2017

### Wall of Fame *(continued from page 9)*

listed on this plaque, 5 have been elected to membership in the American Surgical Association (Mullen, Sugerman, Thomas, Ziegler, Naji).

During internship (1979-1980) most of my senior residents and fellows were from the Fitts era and are listed on the plaque (see page 9) as assistant residents (Gordon Buzby, Michael Fakhraee, Marc Gertner, Clark Hargrove, Chuck Hobbs, Dave Matthews, Hassan Rastegar, Joe Reichman, Dick Spence, and Jim Zins). Gordon joined the surgical faculty at Penn and had a great career in general surgery and surgical education until lung cancer took him prematurely. Mike finished his plastic surgery fellowship at Penn and has had a great solo career in plastic and reconstructive surgery in Philadelphia where he continues to practice. Marc finished the Penn vascular fellowship under Dr. Brooke Roberts and went to Baltimore to practice general and vascular surgery at Sinai Hospital where he remains one of the busiest surgeons in the region. Following his chief residency, Clark started the Penn vascular fellowship but switched to cardiac and the rest is history. A master surgeon, Clark has been a stalwart of the Penn cardiac surgery program at Presbyterian for the last two decades, and a leading innovator in minimally invasive heart surgery. Despite his busy surgical schedule, he is probably still close to a “scratch” golfer. Chuck Hobbs, who backed up Calvin Hill on the Yale football team, is a very successful general surgeon in Wilmington, Delaware. I thought Chuck epitomized the “3 A’s”. Although if one were playing football or rugby it would be great to have Chuck Hobbs on your team. If one were walking through a **12** dangerous part of town, it might be better to have Dave

Matthews on your team. Dave was a veteran of the US marine corps and though soft spoken, we had the impression that if necessary he could defend the entire surgical team from a hostile attack during morning or evening rounds. Both unflappable and capable inside and outside of the OR, Dave completed plastic surgery and craniofacial training at HUP and has been very successful practicing plastic and reconstructive surgery in Charlotte, North Carolina. Hassan Rastegar went on to cardiac fellowship at Northwestern and has been a perennial “Top Doc” in Boston, where he practices cardiac surgery at Tufts. Joe Reichman stayed on at HUP for plastic surgery training, and has had a distinguished career as a plastic surgeon and administrator in New Jersey. Dick Spence did a vascular fellowship at HUP and then went to Cooper where he pioneered the clinical use of blood substitutes. He was one of the early members of the Association for Surgical Education and served as president of its foundation board for several years. Jim Zins, my very first chief resident during my internship year, did additional training at HUP in plastic and craniofacial surgery and is now Chief of Plastic Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Last year he was visiting professor at HUP. Jim was the perfect HUP chief resident for this new intern. He was also an avid gardener and fan of Crockett’s Victory Garden which aired on a late morning weekend spot on public TV. This ensured that we finished weekend rounds early.

I will discuss some of the other Fitts surgical residents in future editions.

Thanks and see you next time.

Dan Dempsey