



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.



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

Message from the Chairman Of Dolphins and Penn

One of the first things I noticed when I returned to Penn was that in committee meetings every PowerPoint presentation ends with a slide containing just a large Penn shield (Figure 1). Undoubtedly, it is one of the more attractive shields in existence. I suppose that the slide is really an indicator that the speaker has finished. It seems to be a surrogate for “The End” or “Have a nice day.” Occasionally, it signifies that one has actually survived the presentation.

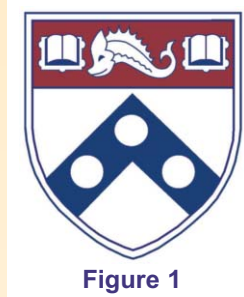


Figure 1

What puzzled me was the presence of a dolphin in the shield. There are no dolphins in Philadelphia. Not even at the Philadelphia Zoo. There are some river dolphins in the world, but I am pretty sure they don't exist in the Schuylkill. That would make the closest dolphin off the coast of southern New Jersey in the Atlantic Ocean. But the Gulf Stream is about 80 miles further out.

As is typical, some quick Google searches revealed the answer. Benjamin Franklin had a dolphin in his family's coat of arms (Figure 2). Mystery solved. I should have known. We are in Philadelphia. At Penn. So why did he have a dolphin? Apparently, dolphins were commonly included in coats of arms because of their intelligence and representation of divine safety. Why Franklin's dolphin looks a bit mischievous and even diabolical is uncertain. For the Penn shield, the dolphin was clearly toned down and fittingly a smile was restored. A slightly less photogenic dolphin resides at the entrance to HUP (Figure 3). None of the dolphins actually resemble the bottlenose variety, but there are dozens of extant dolphin species.



Figure 2

As far as the rest of the shield goes, the 3 filled in circles were derived from the coat of arms of William Penn (Figure 4). It is not clear what the circles represent, but for the purposes of Penn Medicine, we can extrapolate to our three core missions. The open tomes at the top signify education. The official shade of red is Pantone 201 while blue is 288. The Penn shield was officially adopted circa 1932 and will be enduring.

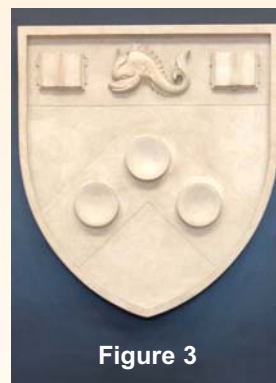


Figure 3



Figure 4

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

Cited in this issue are an unusually large number of awards and honors won by Society members; in fact, so many that there was hardly room to include them. Two especially got my attention, partly because the awardees are my friends, Dan Dempsey and Jon Morris; but also because the awards themselves are quite interesting, the Strittmatter Award and the Dripps Prize. Awards may acquire prestige for several reasons: 1) they are worth a lot of money, like the Breakthrough Award for \$3.5 million and the Nobel prize for \$ 1.2 million; 2) they are endowed by or named for someone famous such as the Starzl award for transplantation or the Vince Lombardi trophy of the NFL; 3) the eminence of past winners. In others the vintage of the prize itself has made it traditional (like the Academy Awards, dating from 1929, the Heisman Trophy started in 1935, the Pulitzer Prize, since 1917 or the 288-year-old Copley award of the Royal Society).

The prestige of the Strittmatter Award does not depend on the size of the stipend or the fame of its donor, a Philadelphia surgeon prominent a century ago, now forgotten except for the prize. But with regard to its age of 96 years and the distinction of its previous winners this award measures up very well. A later Newsletter will cover its presentation to Dan Dempsey that will take place during the annual meeting of the County Medical Society at the Philadelphia Country Club on June 29. Penn Surgery Society members are encouraged to attend. It should be a fun evening.

Awards recognizing exceptional physicians and authorities in the field are a surprisingly rare and recent phenomenon, unless the award is really for a specific scientific finding. In fact, Wikipedia lists only 129 prizes which it labels "Medicine Awards". Including the Nobel Prize, (started in 1901) but usually given to a basic scientist rather than a physician, only 9 of the 129 are older than the Strittmatter. All of these 9 are for specific areas (e. g. tropical medicine) or a specific scientific contribution. None are of American origin. Thus awards for eminent physicians advancing the broad field of medicine through practice, teaching and leadership, the Strittmatter is one of only a few and may be the oldest. Since 1923 this award has been given annually by the Philadelphia County Medical Society "to the physician who



Isidore Strittmatter



Dan Dempsey

has demonstrated the most valuable contributions to the healing art, surgical or medical". Awardees include a Nobel laureate (Baruch Blumberg), two Lasker award winners (Robert Austrian and John Gibbon) and generations of eminent Philadelphia doctor-role models like, W.W. Keen, I.S. Ravdin, Jonathan Rhoads, Chevalier Jackson, Robert Ivy, Francis Wood and Dan Dempsey.

A different kind of award is the Robert D. Dripps prize for teaching which Jon Morris will receive from Penn Medicine this fall. There are hundreds of more or less local awards like this one given by universities to students, faculty members or alumni. For doctors even most of these tend to be of quite recent origin. Of the 23 annual awards that Penn Medicine has labeled its *Awards of Excellence* most began no earlier than 1996. Penn surgeons have won their share of these. Over the years the Alfred Stengel Health System Award has been won by Drs. Mullen, Schwab and Acker. The I.S. Ravdin Master Clinician Award (for some reason not given since 2014) in previous years went to Drs. Kaiser, Ernest Rosato and Scott Levin. The Lewis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist Award has gone to Drs. Acker, Fraker, Drebin, Shaked, Riley and Williams. The Luigi Mastroianni Clinical Innovator Award has been won by Drs. Fairman, Joe Woo and Singhal. In 6 awards for research, surgery has not done so well; Ali Naji has been the only winner. Interestingly the only award for mentoring, the Arthur Asbury Prize, has never gone to a surgeon, although in my opinion mentoring is more crucial in surgery than in any other aspect of medicine.

Eleven awards have been given annually for teaching. Penn surgeons honored in this category were Drs. Bill Fitts, Frank and Ernie Rosato, Leonard Miller, Alden Harken, Allen Bar, Jon Morris, Rachel Kelz, and Alan Wein. Another teaching award, the Lindback, began earlier than the other Penn Medicine *Awards of Excellence*. It was started in 1961 by the independent Lindback Foundation for teaching, not just at Penn but throughout the greater Delaware Valley and at all kinds of schools.

The oldest of these awards specific to Penn Medicine for teaching or other contributions is the Robert D. Dripps award which was started in 1984. This is the one I find most interesting, not because of its vintage, but because of my admiration for the man it's named for. Penn Surgery Society members should know something about Bob Dripps. For 22 years he was a prominent member of our department of surgery and he was something special. A graduate of Princeton (where he played tennis) and of Penn's School of Medicine Dripps interned at HUP. Then while

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From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

he was research fellow in the department of pharmacology I.S. Ravdin (always a remarkable talent scout) recruited him and sent him for a 6-month residency in anesthesia to the University of Wisconsin, at the time the only university program in that field. On his return Ravdin appointed him as Penn's first Chief of Anesthesia. Dripps soon became a full professor (but of surgery not anesthesia) and not a department chair until 1965, since until then Anesthesia was actually a division of the Department of Surgery. Deeply committed to research, Dripps approached every case as an investigation and opportunity to study human physiology. The resultant influential publications were listed as coming from the Harrison Department of Surgical Research. As he directed Penn Anesthesia over the next 30 years, Dripps became the field's most respected leader. The residency program he started trained more academic anesthesiologists than any other, at the time more than 15% of the anesthesiologists in US medical schools. His textbook with Jim Eckinhoff and Leroy Vandam was the Bible for anesthesia through many editions. Medical students revered him as a teacher, twice dedicating their yearbook to him. Surgeons greatly respected Dripps as a founder of academic anesthesia. In addition they enjoyed his company as a favorite colleague. Evidence of this



Robert Dripps

was his election to membership and then the presidency of one of Surgery's most prestigious and exclusive national society's, the Halsted Society.

As an intern I got to know Bob Dripps during a month's rotation on anesthesia. Although he was the chief, he was also a hands on clinical anesthesiologist and teacher. I have an uncomfortably vivid memory of his coaching me as I administered open drop ether to a coughing and struggling child during a tonsillectomy. In spite of a difference in age, because of our mutual interest in tennis, we became and remained

friends even after Dripps retired from the chair of anesthesia to become Vice President of the University for Health Affairs, a job that put him in charge of HUP as well as the schools of medicine, nursing, dentistry and veterinary medicine. When I got the opportunity to do HUP's first kidney transplant, I asked Bob to give the anesthesia, which he did.

In 1973 Bob confided to me that he was having angina when he played tennis, but that he hated to stop. A few months later at age 62 he dropped died on the tennis court.

Jon Morris, another great teacher, will receive the Dripps Award this fall. He should be very proud.

Jon Morris to Receive 2019 Robert D. Dripps Award

For Jon Morris to receive an award for teaching is hardly a surprise. Since his arrival at HUP in 1990, Jon has made student and house staff education a focus of his activity. While also maintaining an active practice of general surgery and authoring over 100 scholarly articles in the surgical literature his performance as a teacher has resulted in his compiling a list of awards and prizes that is probably unequaled.

For the Department of Surgery, Jon has served in many educational roles including Director of Medical Student Education (1993-1998), Director of Housestaff Education (1999-2001, 2003-present) and Program Director of the Surgery Residency. For the School of Medicine, he was Associate Dean for Clinical Education (1997-2001) and since 2004 has been Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

In the Department of Surgery Jon has received the faculty teaching award 7 times. At the School of Medicine, he has twice received the medical students' award for teaching, the Penn Pearls award for outstanding clinical teaching 3 times, the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for teaching and a special Dean's Award in recognition of outstanding



service to the medical students. In addition, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical honor society as a faculty member.

Nationally Jon is certainly one of the most recognized surgical educators. He was President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery from 2014-2015. He is a member of the American Surgical Association. In 2014 he became the inaugural Ernest F. Rosato – William Mull Measey Professor of Surgical Education. In 2018 Jon stepped down as Program Director of the Penn General Surgery Residency, a position he had held for 14 years. He was succeeded by Cary Aarons but remains the Department's Vice Chair of Education, overseeing the Division of Surgical Education. In January 2018 Jon was appointed as the first Director of the Center for Student Life at the Perelman School of Medicine. This fall at the school's annual awards ceremony Jon Morris will receive the Robert D. Dripps award. **3**

Mark Faries 2019 Julius Mackie Distinguished Graduate of the Year

Mark Faries is the Department's 2019 Graduate of the Year. He obtained his BA degree from Haverford College where he wrote his thesis on medical history. After graduating from Cornell University Medical College as the top surgical student in the class of 1995, he returned to Philadelphia for internship and residency at HUP. He was honored with the 2002 Leonard Perloff Chief Resident's Award which is chosen by the HUP residents as the "chief resident contributing most to their education". As a research fellow in Brian Czerniecki's laboratory he studied dendritic cell function and cancer vaccines.



After residency he was for two years a fellow in surgical oncology at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica California. Since then he has remained on the faculty at the John Wayne Cancer Center where his research has focused on melanoma and other malignancies. He has directed multiple clinical trials and pioneered work with sentinel node biopsy and minimally invasive inguinal lymph node dissection.

At John Wayne Cancer Center Mark is Professor of Surgery,

head of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Co-director of the Melanoma Program of the Angeles Clinic and Research Institute. He is also Surgical Director of Experimental Therapeutics and a member of the Samuel Orchin Cancer Center of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He has also been Director of the Donald Morton Melanoma Research Program and Director of the Surgery Oncology Fellowship.

His research has been funded by multiple industrial sources and the NIH. He is at present the PI on an R01 grant for a selective lymphadenectomy trial. He has served as a guest lecturer or visiting professor at 94 institutions and authored 150 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He has served on the AJCC melanoma staging committee and the Editorial Board of the Annals of Surgical Oncology, the NASCO/SSO Guidelines Committee for both surgical treatment and systemic therapy for melanoma and the European Society for Medical Oncology Melanoma Consensus Committee. He has also served on multiple NIH study sections and committees.

Alumni News

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

◆ **Kim Olthoff**, Donald Guthrie Professor and Chief of the Division of Transplantation, has been elected to a 6 year term as a Director of the American Board of Surgery. In this important position she joins Jo Buyske who is Executive Director of the Board.



◆ **Mallory Irons** (PGY3 in the Integrated Cardiac Surgery program) is the winner of the prestigious Nina Star Brownwald Research Fellowship Award from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation. The \$60,000 award will support her work in assessing the impact of anoxia on brain development in a fetal sheep model. As President of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation Dr. Joseph Bavaria, Brooke Roberts Professor of Surgery, announced the award.



◆ **Frank Spitz** has been elected President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, succeeding Niels Martin in this position. Frank is Professor of Surgery, Head of General Surgery and Vice Chief of



the Department of Surgery at Cooper University School of Rowan University in Camden. Before moving to Camden in 2009 Frank was Associate Professor of Surgery at Penn having been for 12 years on the HUP faculty, Division of Oncology and Endocrine Surgery. **Niels Martin** whom Frank succeeds as President is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Penn and Section Chief of Surgical Critical Care. The Philadelphia Academy of Surgery is the oldest continuous meeting surgical society in the United States, founded in 1879 by Samuel D. Gross a year before Dr. Gross founded the American Surgical Association.

(continued on page 5)

Alumni News (continued from page 4)

◆ **Ari Brooks**, Professor of Clinical Surgery and Director of the Integrated Breast Center at Pennsylvania Hospital, is the 2019 recipient of the Jamie Brooke Lieberman Remembrance Award of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Ari Brooks' work in breast cancer has been funded by the Komen Foundation since 2002.



◆ **Peter Abt** and **Rachel Kelz** were elected members of the American Surgical Association.



◆ **Ian Folkert** (PGY-4 General Surgery Resident and PhD candidate) has won an American College of Surgeons Research Fellowship. These competitive awards provide \$30,000 in support of the fellow's research for each of two years.



◆ **Caleb Kovell**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Urology, is the recipient of the American Urological Association's prestigious *Residents and Fellows Teaching Award*. The winner of This national award is selected annually from applicants nominated by urology trainees. Dr. Kovell is Director of Urology's student clerkship and Associate Program Director of the Urology residency. He has established a program for treating complex urethral injuries during an annual trip to India.



◆ *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked **Penn Surgery** as 4th of U.S. Surgical Programs.

◆ At a military ceremony at Presbyterian Hospital on April 24th **Jeremy Cannon** was promoted to Air Force Colonel. Dr. Cannon is Associate Professor in the Trauma Division. At least two other Penn surgeons have been colonels, I.S. Ravdin (later General Ravdin) and Larry Stephenson.

◆ **Madalyn Neuwirth** is the recipient of a Penn Pearls Teaching Award. These prestigious awards are chosen by the medical students.



◆ **Lewis Kaplan** is President Elect of the Society for Critical Care Medicine. He is Professor of Surgery at HUP and the VA Medical Center and section Chief of Surgical Critical Care.



◆ **Carrie Sims** Associate Professor in the Trauma Division has been inducted to the PSOM Gold Humanism Honor Society.



Alumni News *(continued from page 5)*

◆ **Gabi Tortorello** who will begin her HUP surgical internship in July, is the recipient of this year's Spencer Morris Prize, the most prestigious award of the School of Medicine. Annually the top ten medical students in the graduating class based on their grades are invited for an oral examination by faculty. Gabi was the unanimous winner. Gabi also won the Freddie Stark Award in gross anatomy and the I.S. Ravdin Prize in surgical studies.



◆ Bill Soloway received a heart transplant at HUP in June 2015. Last summer, he competed in the Transplant Olympics in Salt Lake City, winning four medals. He presented the medals to his surgeons, **Pavan Atluri**, Associate Professor, and **Carlo Bartoli**, Chief Resident, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery.



Deaths

◆ **Ralph Hamilton**, died at age 85 on April 23, 2019. Ralph graduated from Penn Medical School in 1959, interned at HUP, was HUP chief resident in 1963. After training in plastic surgery at HUP under Henry Royster he joined the plastic division's faculty, rising to full professor in 1974 and becoming Associate Chief of the Division in 1980. He was an important associate of Bugs Lehr in the research to preserve organs by freezing. During his 29 years on the faculty in addition to expertise in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery he became the Department's most experienced head and neck cancer surgeon. He retired in 1996. He is survived by Gail his wife of 60 years, his sister, three daughters and a eight grandchildren.



◆ **Hilary H. Timmis** (HUP Chief Resident 1962) died May 24, 2018. A native of Michigan, Hilary graduated from medical school at Wayne State University. He came to Philadelphia for internship and residency at HUP, first under I.S. Ravdin and then finishing under Jonathan Rhoads. As a resident he worked with Bill Blakemore in design of prosthetic heart valves as well as in other studies. After residency he was recruited by James Hardy to the University of Mississippi. During the 1960s and 70s Hilary was a prominent member of



Hardy's reports of the world's first human heart and lung transplants. He also published extensively with Hardy on pioneering work in congenital heart surgery, operations for aortic aneurysms and the development of cardiac pacemakers. Later Hilary moved back to his native Michigan where until his retirement in 2000 he practiced cardiac surgery at the large academically active Heart and Vascular Center of Beaumont Hospital, Royal York Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Ann, 7 children, 29 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

◆ **Edward Armistead Talman** (HUP Chief Resident 1966) died October 31, 2018. After graduating from medical school at the University of Virginia and internship in Boston he served two years as captain in the U.S. Army Medical Core. Then, after completing his surgical residency under Jonathan Rhoads, Armistead returned to his native city Richmond, Virginia where he practiced surgery until his retirement. He was Chief of Surgery at Johnston Willis Hospital in Richmond, a member of the Southern Surgical Association, President of the Virginia Surgical Society and the Eastern Surgical Society. He was Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Margaret Williams Talman, his daughter Elizabeth, three step-children and three grandchildren.



6 Hardy's important department. He co-authored many of

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Alumni News *(continued from page 6)*

Promotions

(effective July 1, 2019)

◆ Peter Abt, MD

Division of Transplant Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



◆ Julia Tchou, MD, PhD, FACS

Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Academic Clinician track



◆ Christian Bermudez, MD

Division of Cardiovascular Surgery
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



◆ Aron Wahrman, MD, MBA, MHCDS, FACS

Division of Plastic Surgery -
Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
of Surgery in the Clinical track



◆ Joshua Bleier, MD

Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Academic Clinician track



◆ Grace Wang, MD, FACS

Division of Vascular Surgery -
Promoted to Associate Professor
in the Clinician Educator track



◆ Niels Martin, MD

Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical
Care and Emergency Surgery -
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



New Faculty

◆ **Marisa Cevasco, MD** was appointed
Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division
of Cardiovascular Surgery effective July 1.

MD - Vanderbilt University School of
Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee, MPH -
Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts,
General Surgery Residency, Brigham and Women's
Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, Fellowship -
Mechanical Circulatory Support, Heart Transplant &
Minimally Invasive Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery,
Columbia University Medical Center/ New York Presbyterian
Hospital, New York.



◆ Robert Roses, MD

Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Jason P. Van Batavia, MD** was appointed
Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division
of Pediatric Surgery.

MD - Columbia University College of
Physicians and Surgeons, New York,
Residency - Urology, Columbia University Medical Center/
New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York, Fellowship -
Pediatric Urology, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



◆ Jesse Taylor, MD

Division of Plastic Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



Catching Up With . . . *Joe Shrager*

Contributed by Jon Morris

Joe Shrager graduated in 1984 from Amherst College, Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude. He obtained his medical degree from Harvard in 1988 and trained in General Surgery at HUP (1988-1995), including a two year Research Fellowship in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research. Joe took his thoracic surgery training at the Massachusetts General



Joe in 1995

Hospital (1995-1997). He was recruited back to Penn in 1998 as Assistant Professor, became Associate Professor in 2004 and Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery in 2001. He was recruited to Stanford in 2008. Currently, Joe is Professor of Thoracic Surgery and Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center.

A Conversation with Joe

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

Joe: *Maybe not a highlight, but a great story nonetheless: A patient of Jeff Carpenter (who was, as we did back then, waiting as an inpatient for his elective AAA repair) coded on Silverstein 12 in the middle of the night when I was the senior resident (PGY 4, I think) covering the house. I ran up to the floor, where he was hypotensive, non-mentating, with a distended belly. I opened his left chest with one of those cheap, plastic 11-blades and occluded his thoracic aorta with my hand. He promptly woke up, and we rolled to the OR with my hand in his chest. Jeff fixed him and he survived.*

At M and M that week, Dr. Barker, in his typical, totally objective, non-accusatory way, said, "I've never seen a patient with a ruptured triple A in sufficient extremis to actually require his chest to be opened on the floor." My pride in having "saved" this patient suddenly waned considerably! And I had thought I was going to be congratulated and celebrated...

Other highlights were the old ward service where my chief, Joe Bavaria, and I were allowed by Leonard Miller to freely operate together on remarkably complex cases; the VA, where I did the first VATS procedure ever done at Penn with Jim Luketich (again, with nary an attending nearby – Luk is now the most famous VATS esophageal surgeon in the world); seeing what real science looked like in the lab with Hansel Stedman; Clyde's Christmas parties (particularly the infamous "Christmas Videos"); meeting my wife Dottie at the "Irish Pub" and "rounding" on her during her shifts on the pedi cardiac stepdown floor at CHOP.

I think we were trained in an era that is, for a variety of reasons, unfortunately unretrievable. The amount of autonomy that we were given as residents is really a struggle to achieve today (though we try really hard to do it at Stanford). It was a golden era during which to train.

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Joe: *Drs. Barker and Ron Fairman, for modeling how to maintain equanimity, balance, and total integrity at all times (I have never*

managed to do it as well as they both do).

JOMO (and Bill Schwab) for modeling how to just plain have fun as a surgeon and build teams (I have adopted JOMO's "you're the greatest" moniker for use among my teammates here at Stanford).

Larry Kaiser, for his surgical aggressiveness and sheer fearlessness during complex operations ("No problem, we'll just cut out a piece of that PA bifurcation and sew it up – piece of cake – clamp there.").

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

Joe: *Scott Kripke – cool, collected, and hilarious. Joe Bavaria – enthusiastic, a blast to operate with, the energy level of the "Eveready bunny."*

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

Joe: *Joe Woo, who is now my boss! (Some now call the Department of CT Surgery at Stanford "Penn West"). For his technical facility, total dedication and drive, raw intelligence.*

Steve McClane. A class act. Don't think I've even thought of Steve since residency until I sat down to answer this question.

Mike Lanuti. For his total honesty and unprepossessing, forthright nature.

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

Joe: *I'm proud to have built, at Stanford, a great thoracic surgery program; and in particular, a "thoracic track" CT Surgery residency training program that is now certainly considered among the top 5 in the country. The residents do just about every case as primary surgeon, and we have a reputation for treating our trainees with respect, I think. On interview day, I tell the applicants, "East coast (continued on page 9)*

Catching Up With (continued from page 8)

volume without east coast pain.” I’m really proud of our graduates.

I feel very lucky to have been able to maintain (at times, just barely!) a funded research lab throughout my career, and to have made some decent contributions to the field of respiratory muscle biology. We’ll be starting an NIH-funded clinical trial soon which will begin to test a drug (based on pathways we delineated) which we hope will someday be given to every patient who goes on mechanical ventilation to preserve their diaphragm muscle fibers and there by reduce the incidence of prolonged ventilator dependence.

The greatest accomplishments, though, come by winning the daily surgical challenges we all encounter. We are VERY lucky, as compared to people in just about any other field, to be able to use truly hard-earned skills to do things that not just anyone else could do, and in applying these skills to make huge impacts in other people’s lives. You just can’t find that kind of satisfaction anywhere else.

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Joe: *I grew up in the Philly ‘burbs so miss a ton of friends who I now see only rarely. I miss the Eagles fans and the way love-of-Eagles cuts across all racial and class boundaries in Philly. I frequently tell people, who don’t understand a real sports town, how amazing it is that the whole mood of the city on fall Mondays depends on how the Eagles did on Sunday.*

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

Joe: *I see most of the many guys who have gone into CT Surgery regularly at our national meetings. I obviously see Joe Woo almost every day as our offices are about 50 feet apart. Mark Berry is also one of my partners in the Division of Thoracic Surgery, and Will Heisinger is a cardiac surgery faculty member here. Hansel Stedman and I talk from time to time and wish we could get together for a ski trip.*

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

Joe: *I do the full range of general thoracic surgery, with a focus on lung and mediastinal work. I run the Division of Thoracic surgery at Stanford and maintain a research lab as well as doing a lot of clinical research with students and residents. It’s a fun, diverse set of activities.*

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

Joe: *I kind of gave up squash when my son (and best partner) injured his hip and had to stop playing. I still love to ski and mountain bike (prefer downhill to up!), and we’re lucky to have a place up at Squaw Valley in the Sierra Nevada mountains for these. Amazingly, no major injuries to date. Still love music and get out the blues harp from time to time. I love wine for its combination appeal to the intellect and the taste buds, and we frequently include a wine region in any travelling plans.*

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Joe: *I have a fantastic wife, Dottie, who is in the traditional mode of “holding down the house”. She takes a ton of classes at Stanford and has done some creative writing. My kids are all great human beings, thanks to Dottie. Two of the three are in college (one in computer science who will design the robots that one day put us out of work, and one getting a music industry degree, but who really wants to do the “music” without the “industry”), and the third starts at Stanford in the fall. Maybe the youngest, Chloë, will turn out to be a doctor, but I’m trying to maintain my silence...*



**Joe with wife Dottie, Camille (22 yo),
Chloe (18 yo), Nate (24 yo)**

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

Joe: *“The Art of Fielding”. A beautifully written, baseball-related novel. I like books with some sport or music connection. I spent most of the past year reading rock’n’ roll autobiographies – eg, Bruce, Joni Mitchell, Keith Richards, Jeff Tweedy. Bruce’s is, of course, the best.*

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

Joe: *Sorry, I’m all out of breath.*

Wall of Fame

Contributed by Daniel Dempsey

HUP CHIEF SURGICAL RESIDENTS 2002-2003

The second HUP chief surgical resident class to finish training during Larry Kaiser's tenure as chairman "graduated" in 2003. They all started residency at HUP during Clyde Barker's chairmanship. All six surgeons remain in academic surgery. Three practice in the cardiothoracic realm, two are vascular surgeons, and one does colorectal surgery. One of the group is still at Penn on the faculty. While these distinguished surgeons were finishing up their general surgery residency, the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Jersey Nets in the NBA finals, and the New Jersey Devils beat the Anaheim Mighty Ducks to win the Stanley Cup. Also, the Human Genome Project was completed.

Frank W. Bowen III MD grew up in Philadelphia and as a high school student worked in the Neonatal Research Lab at Pennsylvania Hospital, something he continued to do during 4 years of college at Penn, helping to design systems to monitor premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome and bronchopulmonary dysplasia. He graduated cum laude from Penn in 1991, majoring biochemistry. Frank then went to Penn Medical School where he excelled. He took a research year with Dr. Helen Quill in pathology, where he demonstrated that tolerant T cells can't express the CD40 ligand involved with B cell activation. He had excellent letters of recommendation from Drs. Barker, Brayman and Quill, and matched at HUP when he finished med school in 1996. Frank excelled both clinically, and in the lab with Hank Edmunds, where he studied myocardial remodeling in acute MI. After general surgery, Frank stayed at HUP for a 2 year CT fellowship, and then remained an extra year for specialized aortic and endovascular training. Presently, Frank is Associate Professor of Surgery at Cooper University Health Care in Camden NJ, where he is the Director of Thoracic Surgical Oncology and Thoracic Aortic Surgery, as well as the Associate Director of the Cooper Aortic Center. He is an expert in minimally invasive cardiothoracic surgery and a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.



Derek R. Brinster MD grew up in Philadelphia and spent quite a few years around Penn. As a high school student and Penn undergrad he worked in the research lab of his father, a well-known veterinarian research scientist at Penn Vet. He also had time in high school to excel at competitive



10 swimming, serving as team captain and achieving national

ranking. Derek graduated cum laude as a history major from Penn, and then matriculated at Penn medical school where he did very well and continued to have time for both clinical and laboratory research projects. Both Clyde Barker and Ernie Rosato wrote exceptionally strong letters of recommendation in support of his surgical residency application. Happily, Derek matched at HUP in 1996 as a member of a very strong intern class (Bowen, Penn; Geha, Case Western; Krupnick, Michigan; Szeto, VCU; Ed Woo, Penn). Derek excelled as a HUP surgical resident. He spent 2 years in the lab with Garrett Fitzgerald and Tim Gardner, returning to finish his general surgery training in 2003. He then spent 3 years as a cardiothoracic fellow at Brigham and Woman's Hospital during which time he also did a 3-month preceptorship in endovascular surgery at Arizona Heart Institute. He returned to Penn for another 3-month preceptorship in aortic surgery. Derek is currently the Director of the Aortic Surgery Program at Lenox Hill Hospital, and he is the Director of the Complex Aortic Disease Program for the Northwell Health System. Prior to this, he was Professor of Surgery and Director of the Thoracic Aortic Surgery Program at VCU. Derek is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Samantha Hendren MD, MPH was born in Williamsburg, Virginia. She graduated from high school in Orlando, Florida where she was valedictorian in a class of 450, and a National Merit Finalist. She went to college at Rice in Houston, graduating cum laude with a double major in biology and political science. In college she performed in 20 theatrical productions as a member of the Rice Players. Sam went to med school at Yale and graduated in 1996 as a Farr Scholar and member of AOA. She began her surgical residency at Duke in 1996, but for personal reasons reapplied and was accepted at HUP, restarting her internship in 1997. Samantha was highly recommended as "one of our best" by Dr Cahow at Yale, and Dr. Andersen at Duke who was obviously sorry to lose her. Clearly very capable, Samantha was moved up a year when a spot opened in the residency class of 2003. While at Penn, Sam spent 2 years in Doug Fraker's lab. She received the Inouye teaching award in 2000 and 2001, and the Miller award in 2003. In her chief resident evaluation, John Rombeau described Sam as doing a "superb job", exhibiting "outstanding patient care and technical skills". Not surprisingly she matched in Toronto at one of the premier colorectal fellowship programs. Currently Dr Hendren is Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the quality of colorectal cancer care, quality of life in cancer survivors, and healthcare disparities.



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Wall of Fame *(continued from page 10)*

Daniel Kreisel, MD, PhD moved from Romania to Germany with his family at age 2. His father was a surgeon, and as a boy Dan frequently accompanied him on rounds. This sparked an early interest in the specialty. Dan attended “gymnasium” in Frankfurt, and then he was admitted to the Goethe University School of Medicine in Frankfurt. Convinced that the best medical school education was in the US, Dan transferred to Mt Sinai School of Medicine, receiving his MD in 1996. He graduated AOA, winning the Arthur Ausfes Prize in Surgery. Presciently, Dr. Ausfes in his letter of recommendation to Dr. Barker stated that Dan was “destined to have an outstanding career in academic surgery”, also pointing out that “rarely does one see a school record as outstanding”. Indeed, when he came to HUP in 1996 as a surgical intern, Dan had already first authored several peer reviewed publications. He entered the lab with Dr. Bruce Rosengard, obtaining his PhD in immunology during his residency, and still finished in 7 years. He won the Rhoads research award in 2002. John Rombeau summed it up in his chief resident evaluation of Dan: “one of the best surgical residents ever at Penn”. After finishing general surgery at Penn, Dan moved to Washington University for his CT fellowship, and he has been there ever since. Still young, Dan has had a distinguished academic career focusing on lung transplantation both in the clinic and in the laboratory. He has numerous NIH grants and is one of the few surgeons to have been elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He is also a member of the American Surgical Association. Dan is Professor of Surgery, and Professor of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University School of Medicine where he directs the Lung Transplant program.

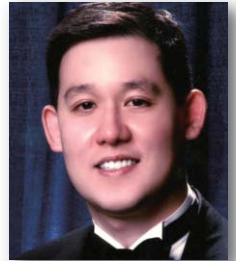


Wilson Y. Szeto MD was born in Hong Kong and went to college at the University of Virginia where he majored in biology, graduating in 1992. He then attended medical school at VCU where he was elected to AOA in his junior year. While a medical student he worked in a neurosurgery lab and coauthored a peer reviewed publication on the control of cerebral blood flow. Wilson’s letters of recommendation for surgical residency from Andy Wechsler, Harry Bear, and Shelton Horsley were extremely strong. The surgical chairman Wechsler described Wilson as the “top applicant from his class, the kind of student who comes along once every several years”. Wilson matched at HUP and was an outstanding surgical



resident. In 2000 he won a Thoracic Surgery Foundation Award and spent 2 years in the lab with Bruce Rosengard. This was obviously a productive experience since Wilson coauthored many publications and abstracts while in the lab. In 2003 he won both a “Penn Pearls” teaching award from the medical students and the Perloff Teaching Award from the surgical residents. When he finished general surgery in 2003, Wilson did a 2 year CT fellowship followed by another year as an aortic/endovascular fellowship, all at HUP. In 2006, Wilson joined the faculty at Penn where he is currently Professor of Surgery and Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. He is also surgical director of transcatheter cardio-aortic therapies and vice chief of clinical operations and quality in the division of cardiothoracic surgery.

Edward Y. Woo MD was born in Rutherford, New Jersey. He went to college at Penn, majoring in biology and graduating magna cum laude. He stayed at Penn for medical school where he excelled, receiving the I.S. Ravdin Prize in 1996 as the top graduating student in surgery. The selection committee most certainly got that correct, since all of Ed’s letters of recommendation for residency (from Clyde Barker, Ernie Rosato, Len Miller) put him at, or very near, the top of the graduating medical school class of 1996. During college and medical school, Ed worked in the lab with Peter Nowell who described the Philadelphia Chromosome. Dr Nowell described Ed as one of the best young people he had seen in over 40 years of research work. As predicted, Ed was an outstanding surgical resident at HUP. He was awarded the Thoracic Surgery Foundation Fellowship award in 1999 and the Surgical Scholar Award in 2001. He spent 2 years in the lab with Larry Kaiser and Carl June investigating T cells in solid tumors. As a senior resident, Ed became intensely interested in vascular surgery, and he applied for the HUP fellowship. His letters of recommendation for vascular fellowship programs from Drs. Barker, Fairman, Kaiser, and June must be some of the best letters ever written for an applicant. Of course Ed continued to excel as a vascular fellow and joined the faculty at Penn. He developed a large complex vascular practice, publishing widely and participating in important clinical trials. In 2014 Ed was recruited to Georgetown where he is Professor of Surgery and chairman of the Department of Vascular Surgery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and director of the MedStar Regional Vascular Program.





Penn Surgery

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

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AOA Induction Ceremony



**Jon Morris (AOA Counselor and Associate Dean for Student Affairs), Katherine McDermott (MS4), Jesse Passman (MS4), Julie Clanahan (MS4), Lauren Krumeich (PGY4), Gabriella Tortorello (MS4), Cary Aarons (General Surgery Program Director).
Not pictured, Ian Berger (MS4)**

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