SPRING-SUMMER 2024

Penn Surgery Society NEWS

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@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.

Message from the Chair

Chairs

The phrase to kill two birds with one stone originated from Greek Mythology. Daedalus performed this to obtain feathers to make wings so that he and his son Icarus could escape and fly out of the Labyrinth on Crete, where they had been imprisoned. A few months ago, we had a dinner for the 11 faculty who have recently received endowed professorships in the department.

An endowed chair is the highest honor that the department can bestow upon an individual. The first endowed chairs were created by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 176 for the four major schools of philosophy (Stoicism, Platonism, Aristotelianism, and Epicureanism). Apparently, the next endowed professorships appeared in 1502 at Oxford and Cambridge, in the field of divinity. The first endowed chair in the United States was established in 1721, when the London merchant Thomas Hollis funded the Hollis Professorship of Divinity at Harvard.

Marcus Aurelius

There are 291 endowed professorships in the Perelman School of Medicine. The John Rhea Barton Professorship is the first endowed chair at our medical school *and* the first endowed chair in surgery in the country. Dr. Barton graduated from Penn Med in 1818 and was an orthopedic surgeon at Pennsylvania Hospital. Incredibly, his father was a Pennsylvania lawyer who designed the Great Seal of the United States with Charles Thomson. The "Barton fracture" is a specific wrist injury. In 1877, his widow, Susan R. Barton, donated $50,000. The professorship has been restricted to the chair of the department, and 15 have held it so far.

Great Seal of the United States

Strangely, the previous Endowed Chairs' dinner of Penn Surgery was held on my first day in 2017 at the Philadelphia Club. It was for 4 recipients. At that point, there were 16 chairs in the department. Through a combination of fundraising and splitting chairs (which was not entirely embraced by some) that had accumulated a large corpus, our department now has 31 professorships, with a few others in progress. Chairs that have been split are designated as "II." Other departments have now actually adopted a similar policy of splitting chairs that have reached two times the minimum amount required for a new chair.

So who was honored at the recent dinner, which was held at the Merion Cricket Club? In reverse alphabetical order, **Charles Vollmer**, an expert pancreas surgeon, Chief of the Gastrointestinal Surgery, and former President of the American Hepatopancreatobiliary Association, received the Barbara Seneca Dempsey/William Maul Measey Chair. **Wilson Szeto** is our new Chief of Cardiac Surgery, Secretary of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, as well as a member of the Penn Academy of Master Clinicians. He is now the Julian Johnson II Professor. **Ariana Smith**, the Chief of Urology at Pennsylvania Hospital and a skilled clinical researcher, has the honor of being the Alan Wein II Professor. **Ali Naji** has held the William J. White Chair since 1990, but now is the Jonathan Rhoads II Professor. He is the highest NIH-funded surgeon in the nation. **James Markmann**, the new Vice President of Transplantation Services and Vice Chair of Transplantation in the department and a highly funded researcher, became the William Maul Measey II Chair. **John Kucharczuk**, who has been at Penn for 35 years and former division chief for 11 years, was awarded the Carole and Stuart Potter Professorship in BRCA Clinical Care. **Giorgos Karakousis**, the new chief of the Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery Division and one of the busiest melanoma surgeons in the country, now holds the Dehellenbranth II Professorship. **Lola Fayanju**, Chief of the newly created Division of Breast

John Rhea Barton

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From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

Funny how Penn surgical history keeps surfacing in unexpected ways. I never pay attention to reruns of old TV shows, but several weeks ago during late-night insomnia, I began to watch an episode of MASH, starring Alan Alda as Hawkeye Pierce. As I sampled other channels, one was showing a movie that I liked: Guys and Dolls, starring Marlon Brando as the gambler, Sky Masterson. By coincidence I remembered that in the original Broadway musical, Sky Masterson was played by another Alda—Robert, who was the father of Alan Alda. In the TV episode I watched, the two Aldas appear together but are not related. Robert Alda plays a senior surgeon who happens to be visiting Hawkeye's MASH unit as a consultant. The juxtaposition briefly distracted me but as the plot of the TV show unfurled, I was hooked: a helicopter flies in with a wounded soldier whose femoral artery has been blown apart. His leg is ischemic and Hawkeye tells him that it must be amputated.

Actors Alan Alda and Robert Alda on MASH

The visiting consultant interrupts with the suggestion that the leg could be saved by a vascular bypass. But there is a catch to this solution; at the time of the Korean War (1950-1953), vascular reconstructive surgery was banned because in earlier wars it almost always failed, causing complications, usually amputation, and sometimes death. Thus Army regulations mandated that damaged arteries be simply ligated. In over 50% of cases this led to amputation, but by averting further complications it saved lives.

Hawkeye's vascular operation

As a vascular surgeon, I was familiar with this historical background and understood Hawkeye's dilemma as he considered whether to risk court-martial by performing a forbidden operation that might save the soldier's leg. Of course he eventually decided to do it, but since vascular bypass was a procedure at the time quite new, even at civilian hospitals, Hawkeye had never done or seen one. Lucky for him the consultant happened to be there and, played by his father, was a vascular surgeon able to coach him in a successful operation that saved the soldier's leg.

As it so happens, the story of the forbidden operation, though embellished for TV, is neither contrived nor far-fetched, but instead is quite close to reality. To learn how this relates to Penn surgery, read on.

Surgeons as well as fans of TV's MASH have wondered whether there was a real-life Hawkeye and if so, who it was. In fact the prototype is a combination of several real surgeons. One was Richard Hornberger (pen name Richard Hooker) a MASH surgeon who wrote the bestselling novel on which the movie and the TV series are based. He claimed to have patterned the Hawkeye character after himself. Also frequently nominated as the model for Hawkeye is HUP trainee John Howard, who I believe is a better fit.

John Howard was born and raised on a farm in Alabama. After college at the University of North Carolina, he graduated from Penn's medical school and completed a surgical residency at HUP, finishing in 1950 only days before the start of the Korean War. I knew John Howard slightly but my brother Hal, two years behind him in the HUP residency, was his close friend. He recalled him as funny, deceptively productive, and attracted to practical jokes. In 1951, after one year as a faculty member at Baylor, he was drafted and sent to Korea.

John Howard

The doctors' draft of 1950 might have called up experienced trauma surgeons seasoned by service in recent World War ll. But instead it tapped only brand new graduates of medical school. In Korea they were ill-prepared and often overwhelmed by the huge number of casualties and the severity of their wounds. Given the circumstances, they performed magnificently, but having been forced reluctantly into service, they were chafed by Army regulations, uniforms, protocol, and policies. The success of the book, movie, and 11-year run of the TV program depended on their refusal to conform. The result was a surprisingly effective mixture of the cruelty of war with the camaraderie, zany antics, and hell-raising used by the young surgeons to protest the interruption of their lives.

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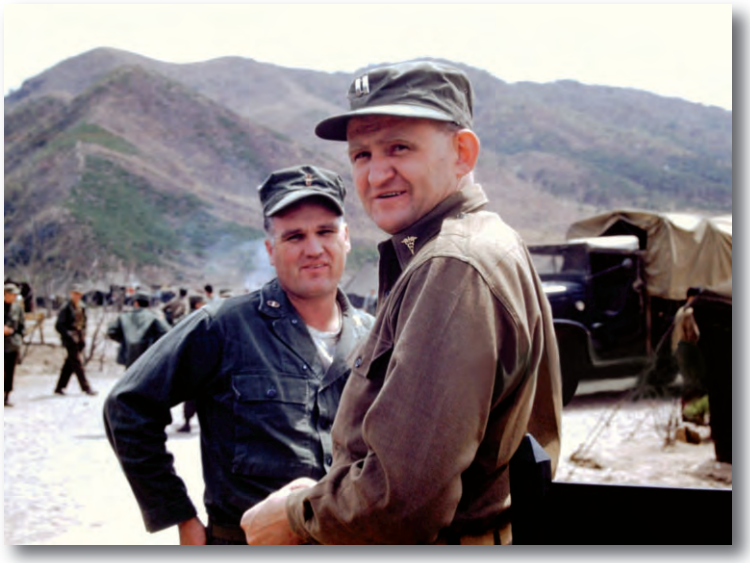
From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

Assigned to the 4077 MASH unit, Howard found that he was one of the few doctors who had finished his residency, and one of only two board-certified American Army surgeons in Korea. He was given two assignments: (1) to organize and direct the Army's research unit in Korea and (2) to set up and operate renal dialysis for soldiers whose severe injuries were complicated by acute renal failure. If they could be kept alive with brief dialysis, this condition was usually reversible.



Captain John Howard (right) and Lieutenant Al Petty at the 8063rd MASH, South Korea, May 1952.

Like TV's Hawkeye, John Howard was reluctant to ligate rather than repair or bypass damaged arteries, yet he was deterred by the threat of court-martial if he ignored Army regulations and attempted arterial reconstruction. Unlike his TV counterpart, he needed no coaching by a fictitious consultant, having learned to do vascular suturing at HUP from Julian Johnson and at Baylor from Mike DeBakey. But at first, the results of his vascular operations were disappointing. What seemed to him like perfectly constructed vascular anastomoses often thrombosed, leading to amputation in 73% of 50 cases. He concluded that arteries were injured by clamping with ordinary hemostats, making them prone to this fate. But non-crushing clamps were not available in Korea. In these early days of vascular surgery, they were scarce even in the US. Howard's requests for them were confronted by Army red tape and ignored. To deal with this impasse, Howard, although only a captain, took the matter into his own hands. Just as TV's brash Hawkeye might have done, he wrote the manufacturer of non-crushing Potts clamps, threatening that the Army would break their patent for the clamps unless a supply of them was immediately delivered. This promptly brought him seven Potts clamps, one for each of Korea's MASH units. Another problem was the absence of experienced vascular surgeons to use them. So Howard called together two young surgeons from each of Korea's seven MASH units and gave them a one-day course in vascular surgery. Although most of his students had only a year or two of surgical training, they learned fast and the amputation rate after vascular repair fell from a previous 73% to 7% in 58 cases reported by Howard.

Howard also succeeded in his other assignment, though it wasn't easy in those early days of dialysis. Even in the medical centers of Philadelphia and New York, only a few patients had been dialyzed. He invented and built his own artificial kidneys out of sausage casing. They worked and the mortality of soldiers with acute renal failure fell from 90% to 10%. For these accomplishments, Howard was awarded the Order of Merit by President Eisenhower.

In a later MASH episode, Hawkeye again emulates John Howard by building an artificial kidney from sausage casing. In another, he finds available vascular clamps unsuitable and has a non-crushing clamp built by a local silversmith. In these pioneering medical endeavors, as well as in numerous zany adventures, Hawkeye's favorite accomplice was another MASH surgeon, Trapper John, who in real life was John Lyday, John Howard's contemporary in the HUP residency. More about him later.

As if John Howard's success in Korea was not enough, he crowded in other important accomplishments before dying at age 92. His post-Korean civilian career began with two years on Mike DeBakey's faculty at Baylor. He was then briefly chairman of surgery at Emory and for five years chairman of surgery at Hahnemann. Finely he settled for 30 years as a productive and distinguished professor at Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. From Korea, he brought to the US lessons learned about trauma care and systems. He set up one of the country's first trauma centers, and in 1968 founded the American Society of Trauma and became one of its early presidents. From 1962-1973 he chaired the National Research Council's committee on emergency medical services. This established nationwide emergency medicine communications (Dial 911) and standardized training for paramedics and other EMS personnel.

From Howard's training at HUP under Ravdin, he had developed an interest and expertise in the pancreas. At a time when the Whipple procedure had few long-term survivors, and even the operation carried a 25% mortality rate, Howard reported 41 consecutive pancreatic resections without an operative death. His book on the pancreas became a classic through multiple editions, the last few with HUP resident, Howard Reber. Among Howard's 400 publications and 12 books were a three-volume analysis of trauma and its treatment in Korea, his classic text on the pancreas, and a definitive biography of surgical legend, Alan O. Whipple.

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From the Editor (continued from page 3)

John Lyday, HUP resident and the model for Trapper John

Actor Wayne Rogers MASH Trapper John

As interesting as John Howard's story is that of John Lyday, who was a year behind Howard in the HUP residency. MASH author Richard Hooker used him as the model for MASH surgeon Trapper John. In the book, Trapper was a Dartmouth quarterback and a uniquely adept thoracic surgeon. In the movie (played by Elliott Gould) and TV versions, he was an all-around clown, Hawkeye's closest and craziest companion. His irreplaceably sunny disposition was used to offset the darker humor and cynicism of Hawkeye.

Considering the history of young John Lyday, the real life Trapper John, it's hard to imagine that he was perpetually sunny. During World War II, Lyday enlisted and was a highly decorated gunner who flew 32 dangerous missions over Europe in a B-24 bomber. After that war, he had barely time enough for Penn medical school and HUP internship before he was plucked out of HUP's residency and thrust into another crucible in Korea. There he was probably one of Howard's students learning vascular surgery, and then, with the MASH author Hooker, ignored Army regulations to perform forbidden vascular procedures. After the war, he finished his HUP training and, passing up an invitation to join Penn's faculty, returned to his native North Carolina where he became chief of surgery at the large Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

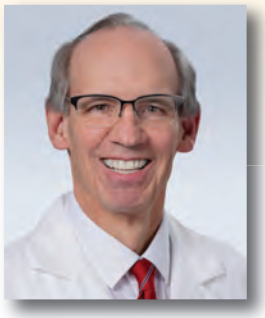
The 2nd Annual Ali Naji, MD, PhD Resident Research Day

Contributed by Scott Damrauer, MD, and Sunil Singhal, MD

May 8-9, 2024, marked the 2nd Annual Ali Naji, MD, PhD, Resident Research Day for the Department of Surgery. Named in honor of our internationally renowned transplant surgeon and immunologist, Dr. Ali Naji, we celebrated surgical research being performed by the faculty, residents, and medical students.

This year's conference started with a Plenary lecture by James Markman, MD, PhD, followed by oral abstracts and posters presented by a diverse group of Department members, including medical and graduate students, residents and fellows, and advanced practice providers. The research covered a range of topics including basic science, clinical research, imaging, education, quality improvement, and equity, highlighting the vibrancy and breadth of research occurring within the Department of Surgery. The following day we heard from the second year research residents during Grand Rounds, as they presented their findings and accomplishments from their time in the lab before returning to clinical duties.

James Markmann, MD, PhD, Plenary Speaker
Vice Chair, Transplant Services, Penn Medicine
"The Quest for Transplantation Tolerance"



James F. Markmann MD, PhD rejoined Penn in December of 2023 as the VP Transplant Institute and VC Transplant in the Department of Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He specializes in liver, kidney, pancreas, and islet transplantation. Dr. Markmann completed his MD, PhD in Immunology, and surgical residency training at The University of Pennsylvania under Chairman Clyde F. Barker, after which he did a Transplant Surgery Fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles to specialize in liver transplantation. He is active in numerous societies, editorial boards and organizations and is Past President of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association and will become President Elect for the American Society of Transplant Surgeons in June of 2024. His research interests include immune tolerance by regulatory B cells, ex vivo organ perfusion, stem cell derived islet cell transplantation, immune tolerance, and xenotransplantation. He has published over 450 scientific papers over the last 30 years and has held continuous NIH funding for over 20 years.

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Research Day (continued from page 4)

The following residents presented their research findings.

Amanda L. Bader, MD

"Surgical Decision Making in Pancreatic Cancer"

Amanda worked with Dr. Charles Vollmer, Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal (GI) Surgery, while pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology, with her research supported by a T32 grant in Surgical Oncology. Her investigative efforts span surgical oncology, endocrine surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, and bariatric surgery, with mentorship from distinguished faculty across the divisions of GI Surgery, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, and Gastroenterology. During her lab tenure, Amanda advanced to a leadership role in medical student education, co-founding "The Cutting Edge," a website dedicated to the creation and distribution of study content for medical students during their surgery clerkship, in addition to establishing a lecture series to enhance clerkship students' test-taking skills. She also served as a Fellow at the Penn Center for Cancer Care Innovation, leading the development and pilot of a prehabilitation program for surgical oncology patients. Concurrently, she became the Editor-in-Chief of the Penn Evidence-Based Literature Review (PEBLR) and will continue this role as she transitions back to clinical residency.

Emna Bakillah, MD

"Leveraging Health Policy to Improve Surgical Care in Immigrant Populations"

Emna worked in the Center for Surgery and Health Economics under the mentorship of Dr. Rachel Kelz. Her research focused on achieving evidence based surgical health equity for historically marginalized groups, including immigrant populations and those with limited English proficiency. Her work emphasizes the use of mixed-methods approaches and community engagement. Using observational study designs and randomized clinical trials, she identified and tested the efficacy of interventions such as telemedicine and professional navigation in improving access to elective general surgery in socially vulnerable populations.

Emna obtained a Master of Science in Health Policy Research degree and was an associate fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute. These experiences complimented her research interests by allowing her to complete rigorous scientific studies through a health policy lens. Her takeaway publications included a difference-in-difference analysis studying the impact of mandated language services on surgical health outcomes for patients with limited English proficiency. This study led to the opportunity to brief the Office for Civil Rights and offer clinical insights for federal policymaking.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Emna provided clinical support as a lead general surgery resident for the Center for Surgical Health, an organization aimed to improve surgical access and care for vulnerable patients by providing navigation and education services.

Jack DePaolo, MD, PhD

"Improving Genetic Understanding of Thoracic Aortic Disease to Enhance Risk Prediction"

Jack worked in the laboratory of Dr. Scott Damrauer in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy. His work primarily focused on exploring the genetic risk factors of thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissection (TAAD) using an array of methods in genetic epidemiology, and the application of these techniques to anticipate individual level risk in the Penn Medicine Biobank (PMBB). His projects included generating a polygenic risk score for ascending aortic diameter that he applied to PMBB participants to predict individuals at risk of thoracic aortic dilation. Subsequently, he performed a multi-trait genome-wide association study of aortic diameter and TAAD to identify novel risk genetic variants associated with thoracic aortic dissection. From these data he generated a polygenic risk score for dissection and was able to show substantial predictive model improvement when that polygenic risk score was integrated as a model covariate. During his research he also received a postdoctoral fellowship grant from the American Heart Association, a Travel Award to AHA's Vascular Discovery, and won the C. Walton Lillehei Resident Research Forum Award at the American Association for Thoracic Surgeons.

William R. Johnston, MD

"In utero Gene Editing to Address Recessive Congenital Skin Disease"

Will worked in the laboratory of Dr. William Peranteau in the Center for Fetal Research at CHOP. His work focused primarily on in utero gene therapy of congenital skin diseases with a particular focus on recessive epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB). Such patients develop severe blistering disease and aggressive cutaneous malignancies. Current clinical trials for RDEB rely on treating blisters after they have already formed once the epidermis has separated and the basal stem cells are accessible. While such therapies may improve healing of specific wounds and limit recurrent

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Research Day (continued from page 5)

blistering, they do not prevent the lesion from forming in the first place. In utero gene editing overcomes these limits by targeting mutations early in organogenesis when stem cells are readily available and before pathology has occurred. Will demonstrated early gestational intra-amniotic injection is the optimal time to target fetal skin stem cells with lipid nanoparticles (LNPs). He then developed a mouse model of RDEB with a deletion mutation in an exon that is commonly mutated in human RDEB patients. He developed an exon-skipping adenine base editing approach to exclude the disease-causing mutation and performed early gestational intra-amniotic injection of the therapy into the RDEB mice, which achieved low levels of gene editing of the skin and mild improvement of the RDEB phenotype. This proof-of-concept study offers hope for genetic diseases of the skin with limited postnatal therapies.

Katharine F. Michel, MD, MSHP

"Comparison of Apixaban versus Enoxaparin for VTE Prevention after Radical Cystectomy: The CARE Trial"

Kara is a Urology resident who dedicated her research year to designing and serving as the principal investigator on a randomized clinical trial:

Comparison of Apixaban versus Enoxaparin for VTE Prevention after Radical Cystectomy (the CARE trial). The trial is designed to compare patient adherence and satisfaction between these blood thinners when they are used as VTE prophylaxis at home after cystectomy through post operative day 30. Kara is fortunate to have the support of both her attending mentor Dr. Trinity Bivalacqua as well as additional funding support through a resident research award from the American Urological Association Care Foundation. The CARE trial is currently enrolling cystectomies at Penn with expansion to two additional academic institutions underway.

Kara is also interested in healthcare systems and policy. She completed the Healthcare Leadership in Quality and Safety tract for residents during her research year. Her capstone project was a QI initiative aimed at decreasing operating room turnover time at Presbyterian Hospital, which successfully decreased average OR turnover time by 21%. Her next healthcare systems project will be a pilot that introduces price estimates and price comparisons for patients undergoing elective Urologic surgeries. She is a member of the HUP Cedar Surgery Quality Improvement Group and is also serving as Vice Chair for the American Urological Association's Policy and Advocacy Resident Work Group.

Ariel Nehemiah, MD, MS

"Using Physical Activity to Manage Bowel Dysfunction in Survivors of Rectal Cancer"

Ariel worked with Dr. Robert Krouse in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery and Dr. Erica Pettke in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Her research focused on colorectal cancer survivorship and health equity in surgery. She successfully led a pilot study that tested the feasibility of a virtual health coaching intervention to mitigate bowel dysfunction in survivors of rectal cancer. That project was supported by a McCabe Foundation and T32 training grant, earned her an NIH loan repayment grant, and is the focus of an upcoming R01 grant submission. She also used qualitative data from this project to develop a rectal cancer surgery education packet for patients that is currently in use in Penn's colon and rectal surgery clinics.

Ariel's health equity research focus centers on health literacy and its implications in surgical patients. She is leading a study funded by The Clayman Foundation that examines the relationship between health literacy, patient-reported understanding, and trust in colon and rectal surgery. Since limited health literacy is associated with poor surgical outcomes, the findings of this study will inform the development of interventions targeting patients with limited health literacy to provide the necessary education and support to improve surgical care delivery to them and reduce their risk of complications.

Jesse Passman, MD, MPH

"Electronic Health Record-Based Nudges to Enhance Screening Rates for Primary Aldosteronism"

Primary aldosteronism (PA) is the most common cause of secondary hypertension, yet screening rates remain startlingly low at just 1.5% without our institution.

To address this, our multidisciplinary team developed consensus guidelines for PA screening and management. EHR-based tools were created to automate eligible patient identification through electronic phenotyping. Our team then created two behavioral nudges to prompt primary care-based screening for PA, including an interruptive "Best Practice Alert" (BPA) and passive automated pended orders (APO). In the two-month BPA pilot, a greater proportion of eligible patients were screened in the pilot clinics (13.7%, n=51/371) than the control clinics (1.3%, n=63/4861; $p<0.001$); the APO pilot will begin in the next month. These pilot studies will inform a cluster-randomized controlled trial comparing the effectiveness of these interventions to promote PA screening. (continued on page 7)

Research Day (continued from page 6)

Jeffrey L. Roberson, MD

"Changing the Treatment Paradigm of Pilonidal Sinus Disease through Clinical Trials"

Jeff worked with Dr. Lillias Maguire in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery developing his interest in and experience with designing and executing clinical trials. After performing the first genome wide association study (GWAS) on pilonidal sinus disease which implicated novel genes related to hair biology and androgen receptors, he has designed a double blind randomized controlled trial investigating the use of topical clascoterone in PSD. In creating a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, dermatologists, and pathologists along with acquiring industry support, this bench to bedside study aims to change the management of PSD from purely surgical to medical. An additional clinical trial investigating the metabolomics of older adults undergoing abdominal surgery has completed recruitment. Outside of research, Jeff served as the Resident Executive Council Chair and completed an MBA at Wharton.

Jayne R. Rice, MD

"Difference in Outcomes for Chronic Limb Threatening Ischemia Patients Admitted to Medicine Service Versus Vascular Surgery Service"

Jayne primarily worked with Dr. Elizabeth Genovese and other faculty members in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy. Her year focused on research and quality improvement projects implementing the Penn Advanced Limb Preservation (PALP) program at HUP. Specifically, her research focused on understanding the historic treatment pathway for patients with chronic limb threatening ischemia who were admitted to the medicine service versus the vascular surgery service, comparing their outcomes. Secondly, she was involved in the Healthcare Leadership in Quality track. Her project addressed the problem of patients with tissue loss requiring prolonged hospitalizations for final antibiotic regimens as they wait for final cultures and pathology results after podiatric procedures. In collaboration with infectious disease and pathology providers, they are establishing an admission and disposition antibiotic pathway for this patient population, along with a pathway for patients to transition antibiotic regimens in the outpatient setting as cultures and pathology finalize. Overall, the goal with the PALP program is to expedite and organize care with a multidisciplinary team for this vulnerable patient population. This aligns with Jayne's passion for limb salvage and working a within multidisciplinary team and program striving for limb preservation.

Karissa Tauber, MD

"Improving Access to Global Cardiac Surgery"

Karissa received the Nina Starr Braunwald Award from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation to investigate myocardial mechanisms of load-induced t-tubule remodeling in the mammalian heart under the direction of Dr. Michael Ibrahim. During this time she learned how to generate living myocardial slices from rat ventricles and developed assays to interrogate myocardial function and structure. Then, she learned to apply these techniques to explanted human hearts at the time of transplantation and myectomy, processing over 20 human hearts over her first year in the lab. During her second year she focused exclusively on global cardiac surgery research, first completing a survey of rheumatic heart disease in Nepal. Interested in the many ethical issues raised across global surgery, she applied and received the Cardiothoracic Ethics Forum Scholarship to pursue specialized training in the Ethics of Healthcare and Capitalism at Oxford University. Her capstone project centers upon improving access to outcomes data in global cardiac surgery, and some of the ethical issues therein. She also used her research years to advance her study of foreign languages, to further prepare for a globally-focused career.

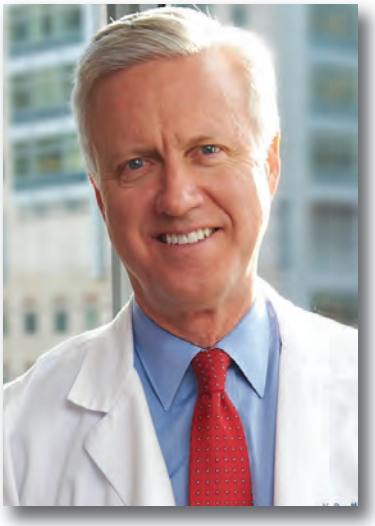
Gabriella N. Tortorello, MD

"Practice Patterns in Melanoma and Breast Cancer"

Gabriella worked with Dr. Giorgos Karakousis and Dr. John Miura in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery. Her research primarily explored care delivery and outcomes for patients with melanoma, sarcoma, and breast cancer. Her work in breast cancer included analyses of national trends in delays to surgical care and in guideline adherence, with a particular focus on the appropriate de-escalation of therapy. She also examined the evolution of practice patterns in response to changing staging and management guidelines in melanoma. In addition, she leveraged national data to investigate survival outcomes associated neoadjuvant immunotherapy in oligometastatic resectable melanoma, and she explored the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for patients with soft tissue sarcoma. During her time in the lab, Gabriella earned a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology.

Scott Adzick is the Recipient of the Robert E. Gross Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research and Achievement

Contributed by N. Scott Adzick, MD



The Robert E. Gross Award - this recognition by APSA is very special for me and here is why. On August 26, 1938, at age 33 years and while the Chief Surgical Resident at Boston Children's Hospital, Dr. Robert Gross performed the first successful operation for patent ductus arteriosus, thereby opening the door to the field of cardiac surgery. Over the next three decades, his innovative contributions overcame a wide array of pediatric surgical problems – thoracic, cardiac, vascular, gastrointestinal, urologic, and oncologic. He was awarded the Albert Lasker Prize - twice. In 1953, he published a single author, exactly 1000 page, classic textbook entitled Surgery of Infancy and Childhood. On the wall of his operating room in Boston Children's hung a sign stating, "IF AN OPERATION IS DIFFICULT, YOU ARE NOT DOING IT PROPERLY". That message still rings true, three score and ten years later. His trainees were his greatest legacy, many of whom went forth to found programs in pediatric surgery nationwide.

I owe much to my mentors – Dr. Hardy Hendren, Dr. Judah Folkman, Dr. C. Everett Koop, and Dr. Michael Harrison. All four trace their pediatric surgery genealogic lineage from Dr. Gross. All four taught me important lessons. For example, Dr. Folkman taught me why research is crucial to overcoming the unsolved problems in pediatric surgery. In his inspiring way, Dr. Folkman said: "As long as there is an unconquered disease, an injury that cannot be repaired, or a method of prevention that remains beyond reach, we have an obligation to conduct research. Research represents HOPE, and for many children and families, HOPE is the best thing we have to offer. We pursue our investigations so that one day, we can offer more than hope, we can offer HEALTH."

CSH Surpassed 1,000th Patient Referral

The Center for Surgical Health (CSH) story began in 2016 when Professor of Surgery, Jon Morris, accompanied by a team of surgery residents and medical students, started a surgical clinic alongside a weekly soup kitchen at St. Agatha-St. James in West Philadelphia. At this clinic, the structural barriers and inability for patients to access essential surgical services highlighted an opportunity for change. The need for a systematic and comprehensive approach to surgical health care access in West Philadelphia and throughout our city led to the creation of CSH in 2020.

Through our interdisciplinary approach, we have been able to provide access to surgical interventions and holistic support services to address the complex needs of our patients. Highly trained patient navigators support patients through every step of the perioperative continuum. CSH aims to improve health outcomes while concurrently mitigating surgical morbidity and decreasing health system costs. From expanding our network of partner clinics to establishing formal academic programming to train the next generation of equity minded surgeons, CSH is impacting lives in our community daily.

CSH recently surpassed our 1000th patient referral. We are deeply grateful for our patients and their trust, our sponsors, community partners, volunteers, and staff for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in advancing our mission. With your support and collaboration, CSH will continue to make progress towards a future where every individual has the skills and opportunities to access high quality surgical care.

(l to r) Matthew Goldshore, *Associate Director*, Tara Conlon, *Surgical Support Program Project Manager*, Courtney Chappelle, *CSH-Measey Education Coordinator*, Jon Morris, *Director*, Sophia Pringle, *Patient Coordinator*, Lauren Rossi, *Program Manager*, Carrie Morales, *Associate Director.* Not shown, Mariah Boone, *Project Coordinator*

Heung Bae Kim Honored with the Julius Mackie Distinguished Graduate Award

Dr. Heung Bae Kim, HUP Chief Resident 1999-2000, is the Robert C. Shamberger Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Weitzman Family Chair in Surgical Innovation at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH). He currently serves as the Vice Chair for Clinical Operations in the Department of Surgery, the Director of the Pediatric Transplant Center and Surgical Director of the liver, kidney and intestine transplant programs, Co-Director of the Midaortic Syndrome and Renovascular Hypertension Center and Co-Director of the Surgical Innovations Lab.

Joan Mackie and Heung Bae Kim

Dr. Kim was Born in Korea and immigrated with his family to Philadelphia at 4 years of age. He attended the J.R. Masterman middle school. He graduated from Yale University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine before completing his general surgical training at HUP with two years of research training at CHOP in the laboratory of Dr. Alan Flake. After completing his Pediatric Surgical Fellowship in 2002 at Boston Children's Hospital (BCM) and Liver Transplant Fellowship at the Lahey Clinic in 2004, he assumed the surgical directorship of both the liver and kidney transplant programs and started the only intestine transplant program in New England. Under his leadership, the Pediatric Transplant Center has grown into one of the busiest and most comprehensive pediatric transplant centers in the country.

In 2002, during his pediatric surgery fellowship, Dr. Kim developed a novel intestinal lengthening and tapering procedure known as the Serial Transverse Enteroplasty (STEP) to treat patients with short bowel syndrome. The STEP procedure is now the preferred surgical procedure worldwide for this condition. He has also pioneered innovative approaches to transplantation of small children with anatomic abnormalities and was the first to successfully transplant a partial esophagus as part of a multivisceral transplant. Dr. Kim has also organized one of the most comprehensive multidisciplinary centers in the world dedicated to the treatment of children with midaortic syndrome and renovascular hypertension. This has resulted in the development of two novel methods to treat these children without the need for prosthetic grafts. The first known as Tissue Expander Stimulated Lengthening of Arteries (TESLA) is a procedure in which the normal aorta is lengthened using a tissue expander allowing for aortic replacement without a prosthetic graft. The second known as Mesenteric Artery Growth Improves Circulation (MAGIC) takes advantage of the natural ability of arteries to grow when placed into the correct environment and uses one of these arteries as the actual bypass graft, again avoiding the need for prosthetic graft material in small growing children.

Dr. Kim's early research work was performed under a K08 award with Dr. David Sachs at the Massachusetts General Hospital focused on transplant tolerance induction in miniature swine using in utero stem cell transplantation, an interest that he developed while a research fellow at CHOP. In 2016, he transitioned his research efforts towards formalizing the innovation culture at BCH and created the Surgical Innovation Fellowship aimed at training and developing the next generation of surgical innovators particularly in the medical device space. The fellowship has thus far produced 12 invention disclosures, 6 provisional patents, 5 PCT applications and one USPTO patent.

Dr. Kim has won numerous academic awards, including HUP's Keith Reemstma Surgical Resident of the Year Award, the Rosenkrantz Resident Research Award for the best presentation (STEP Procedure) at the American Academy of Pediatrics Surgical Section, and the Teacher of the Year Award. In 2013, he was the first recipient of the Sheikh Zayed Prize for Pediatric Surgical Innovation at the Pediatric Surgical Innovation Symposium in Washington DC. He has served in several national leadership roles at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) including the Chair of the Pediatric Transplantation Committee, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of New England Donor Services. He has coauthored more than 130 original papers or chapters. His recognition in 2024 as HUP's graduate of the year is long overdue.

Accomplishments and Career Plans of the 2024 Graduating HUP Chief Surgical Residents

The 2024 General Surgery Graduating Chiefs with Ken Lee, Program Director and Ron DeMatteo, Chair, Department of Surgery (front row) Ken Lee, Drew Tieniber, Greg Kennedy, Omar Ramadan, Ron DeMatteo (back row) Ricky Straker, Jason Tong, Alan Herbst and Feredun Azari

As Contributed by the Resident

Dr. Feredun S. Azari was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he quickly learned that sometimes life throws you more curveballs than a poorly placed surgical suture. His timing was so impeccable—being born just three months before the collapse of the USSR—it's almost as if he had a sixth sense that Ronald Reagan was about to tell Gorbachev to "tear down this wall." Growing up amidst the political turmoil in post-Soviet Azerbaijan, his early years were anything but boring—more like a real-life game of Operation, but with higher stakes.

In search of calmer waters (and frostier winters), Feredun and his father relocated to Canada during his teenage years. There, he traded in the chaos for maple syrup, hockey, and Mounties. If you think Canadian winters are cold, try surviving political upheaval without a Tim Hortons double-double.

In Canada, Feredun once had dreams of joining the Royal Canadian Air Force and even got accepted to the Royal Military College. However, flying reconnaissance planes for polar bears and maple syrup smugglers wasn't quite his thing. With over ten years of martial arts experience, he even considered becoming an MMA fighter. But after breaking a couple of ribs, he decided he'd rather fix them than break them. Talk about a change of heart—and bones!

Feredun then took his talents south of the border, where he attended George Mason University in Virginia. He majored in Physical Chemistry with a focus on discovering water molecules

(continued on page 11)

Graduates *(continued from page 10)*

on Jupiter and its moons. Spoiler alert: he found his true love for human anatomy instead. This led him to the University of Virginia for medical school, where he discovered his true calling in thoracic surgery. Mostly because it sounded cool and involved a lot of cutting-edge technology (pun absolutely intended).

Feredun was over the moon (and Jupiter) when he matched at Penn for his residency. Early during his training, he rekindled his passion for thoracic surgery and joined Dr. Sunil Singhal's lab. There, he learned skills in basic and translational science, as well as clinical trials. He attributes his growth as a surgeon, scientist, and a person to his mentor and friend Dr. Singhal, who has guided Feredun every step of the way.

During residency, Feredun also developed a deep-rooted passion for medical student education and mentorship. While at Penn, he developed a clerkship course for students to ace their SHELF exams. The course is now being used in other medical schools with the aim of making every medical student fall in love with surgery—a Herculean task, indeed, but someone's got to do it.

During his time at Penn, Feredun married his wife Jalia and recently welcomed their baby daughter Zara into the Penn Surgery family. Talk about multi-tasking—he's been breaking hearts and bones in the OR and melting hearts at home. After graduation, Feredun will be heading to Cleveland to pursue a thoracic surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He is incredibly grateful for the support of all the faculty, his co-residents, friends, family, and wife (his biggest support and soulmate—keeping his heart warm even in the coldest Cleveland winters).

Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky to Rosalea Herbst and David Herbst Sr., **Dr. D. Alan Herbst Jr.** spent his formative years amidst the bucolic landscapes of rural Kentucky, tending to the family's cattle and tobacco crops. He pursued higher education alongside his three siblings at the University of Kentucky, where he earned a dual degree in History and Psychology. While preparing for law school, a transformative epiphany led him to the field of medicine. By a twist of fate, he found himself in Philadelphia, where he completed a post-baccalaureate program and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. During this time, Dr. Herbst played a pivotal role in establishing the Agnew Surgical Clinic with Dr. Morris, which later evolved into the renowned Center for Surgical Health. His clerkships revealed a natural affinity for the operating room, and he was drawn to Penn Surgery by the camaraderie and expertise of its residents and faculty. Over the course of his junior years, he discovered his true passion for cardiothoracic surgery, while also finding love in the form of Dr. Ragini Gupta, an anesthesia resident working in the ICU, who is now his wife. Dr. Herbst's time in Dr. Pavan Atluri's lab brought forth many opportunities for personal and professional growth, including his first trip to Europe and the acquisition of a private pilot's license.

This summer, Dr. Herbst will embark on a new chapter, moving to Atlanta with his beloved cat, dog, and wife to commence a cardiothoracic fellowship at Emory University. He deeply appreciates the mentorship he has received during his seven years at Penn, and the invaluable friendships that have enriched his experience.

Dr. Gregory T. Kennedy was born in Boston, Massachusetts and grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He attended Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Following graduation, he won a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to the University of Cambridge, where he received a M.Phil. with First Class Honours in the History of Medicine. Greg moved to Philadelphia in 2013 to attend medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Class of 1944 Scholar. While in medical school, he developed an early interest in Thoracic Surgery under the mentorship of Dr. Sunil Singhal and won the I.S. Ravdin and Jonathan Rhoads prizes for surgical scholarship.

Greg was very grateful to remain at Penn for his residency training, where his interest in Thoracic Surgery continued to grow. He spent two years in Dr. Singhal's lab, having been awarded an NIH F32 Award and the Daland Fellowship in Clinical Investigation to support his research on the intraoperative molecular imaging of thoracic malignancies. He published 40 papers on this topic, including first author papers in Nature Communications, Clinical Cancer Research, Annals of Surgery,

(continued on page 12)

Graduates (continued from page 11)

and JAMA Surgery. His work received the C. Walton Lillehei Award from the AATS, the Excellence in Research Award from the ACS, and the Jonathan Rhoads Resident Research Award from the Penn Department of Surgery.

Greg considers his greatest achievements to be his marriage to his wife, Kanak (a Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellow at CHOP) and the birth of their daughter, Leena (13 months old). Following graduation, Greg, Kanak, and Leena will move to Palo Alto, California, where Greg will pursue a fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at Stanford, and Kanak will start as an Assistant Professor at Stanford's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Greg is incredibly thankful for the teaching and mentorship of the Penn faculty, the camaraderie and dedication of his coresidents, and the unwavering support of his family and friends throughout his residency training. He will proudly carry the Penn tradition of surgical excellence throughout his career.

Dr. Omar Ramadan grew up as a Lebanese American third culture kid in Kobe, Japan with his parents, Imad and Rola, and sister, Dalia. However, Omar chose to leave behind Japan's world-class food, culture, and public transportation to attend college at Emory University in Atlanta, where he double majored in biology and economics. In addition to falling in love with chicken and waffles, he also met his future wife, Julia, in a freshman seminar on health policy and politics.

Omar continued straight through to medical school at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he discovered his passion for surgery, college football, and Alabama barbecue sauce. As a medical student, he served in the leadership for UAB's student-run free clinic and spent a summer working on the surgical service at a community hospital in Beirut, Lebanon. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Societies and was awarded UAB's Leadership and Community Service Award.

Interested in both vascular and thoracic surgery, Omar split the difference and applied into general surgery. He was thrilled to match at PENN, his first choice, so he could finally see for himself what all that Wawa fuss was about (verdict: meh). He quickly realized how lucky he was to have matched alongside an incredible group of talented co-residents and Eddie, which made the long days and longer nights bearable even when times were tough. Enamored by tiny suture and slippery wires, Omar soon settled on a future in vascular surgery. He spent his lab years working under the mentorship of Dr. Grace Wang studying the intersection of health policy and vascular surgery. Omar also worked closely with Dr. Jeff Silber on better defining surgical risk in older patients. Additionally, supported by T32 funding, he earned a Master of Science in Health Policy and completed Penn's Healthcare Leadership in Quality track.

Omar's greatest achievements were undoubtedly in his personal life, however. He married the love of his life, Julia, and welcomed two beautiful children: their son, Zayn (now 2.5 years old), and their daughter, Salma (now 4.5 months old). Along with their main-character-energy dog, Halloumi, Omar and his family will be heading to Boston for his vascular surgery fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is eternally grateful for the phenomenal support that has made all this possible, including from his wife, parents, sister, friends, co-residents, and faculty.

Dr. Richard J. Straker, III was born and grew up in Orlando, Florida. He studied Microbiology with a minor in Business at The Ohio State University, and then moved back to Florida where he completed medical school at the University of Miami. He initially planned to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in gastroenterology, but upon starting his general surgery rotations, he immediately fell in love with the anatomy, physiology, technical aspects, and all-inclusive patient care that a career in surgery affords. During his fourth year of medical school, he was fortunate to be put in contact with Dr. Daniel Dempsey, and subsequently completed a sub-internship with Dr. Dempsey at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. During that rotation, he had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Noel Williams as well. He was blown away by the technical excellence, the uncompromising patient care, and the down-to-earth nature of Dr. Dempsey, Dr. Williams, the rest of the faculty, and all of the residents at PENN. He was privileged to have been offered a spot in the general surgery training

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Graduates *(continued from page 12)*

program. After his first several years of training, he realized tha gastrointestinal surgery, and more specifically colon and rectal surgery, was the correct field for him. During his two years of research, he had the opportunity to work with Dr. Giorgos Karakousis studying soft tissue and GI malignancies. After completion of residency, he will be going Irvine, California, to continue his training in colon and rectal surgery. He is extremely grateful to all of the faculty, his co-residents, the coordinators, and most importantly his family, for teaching and supporting him throughout his training.

Dr. Andrew David Tieniber was born and raised in Moorestown, New Jersey. He attended Boston College where he met his wife, Samantha, and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Philosophy. At Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, he developed a passion for general and oncologic surgery, earning membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Society. He also received the Sasha Malamed Endowed Scholarship Award for his dedication to teaching and scholarship. As a visiting medical student at Penn, Andrew spent an impactful month with Dr. Douglas Fraker on the Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery service, and shortly thereafter he was elated to match at Penn for his residency. Throughout his residency, he refined his clinical and surgical skills under numerous mentors, solidifying his dedication to Surgical Oncology. His research fellowship in Dr. DeMatteo's lab focused on translational therapeutics and cancer immunology, resulting in several basic science publications.

In 2022, Andrew and Samantha welcomed their daughter, Nora. The family will soon move to New York City, where Andrew will begin a Complex General Surgical Oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He is deeply grateful to his accomplished co-residents for their comradery, the Penn faculty for their invaluable teaching, and, above all, his family for their unwavering support and love.

Dr. Jason Tong was born and raised in Queens, New York by his first-generation immigrant parents Hei Kam Tong and Wing Hong Tong. They told him he could be anything he wanted, as long as he was happy and as long as it wasn't being a doctor. He would go on to disappoint them in that regard, and several others. He attended Dartmouth college (which his mother described to his relatives as a little-known school in the middle of nowhere) for his undergraduate education with a focus in human biology and religion. Subsequently, he worked in New York City as a counselor at the Young Adults Institute in several group homes dedicated to helping adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities (notably making minimal wage per his mother). Afterwards, he moved to Philadelphia for his medical school training at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (which some would argue was essentially a state school; some people being Jason's mother) with hopes of one day becoming a pediatric oncologist. Thankfully, he realized the error of his ways one day while rotating at CHOP. His pediatric surgery fellow at the time taught him, "If you find a line of work that is exciting enough to turn down a date with the hottest person you can think of, you've probably found your calling." Thankfully, Jason was not dating his now wife at that time, because he in fact, did turn down dates to pursue a career in surgery. It was shocking to many. Most people never thought Jason would find a date. Eventually as an intern, he met the love of his life, Jennifer Douglas. In his pursuit of this wildly intelligent and attractive female surgeon, Jason thought the best way to show his love was to offer to do vascular sheath pulls for her. After spending countless hours holding pressure on men's groins, Jason eventually won Jen's heart. He also lost feeling in his right index and middle finger for several weeks. He is now in pursuit of a career in colon and rectal surgery beginning with a fellowship at Cornell (which his mother is dubious of, since she heard the "real" Cornell is somewhere upstate). As he leaves Penn, Jason is forever grateful to his many mentors and supporters who have helped him get to this point, such as Dr. Kelz and Dr. Mahmoud. Among many others, Jason would like to thank Dr. Drebin, Dr. Dempsey, Dr. Fraker, and Dr. Roses for the opportunity to learn from them as their sub-intern many years ago. Their teaching, mentorship, and support were instrumental and formative in his development as a surgeon.

Career Paths of 2024 HUP Fellowship Graduates

Nicholas Albano, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
St. Luke's

Sterling Braun, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
University of Kansas

Christopher Cappellini, DO (Vascular Surgery)
Private Practice, JFK Medical Center,
Edison, New Jersey

Cecillia Chin, MD (Thoracic Surgery - Cardiac Track)
Aortic Surgery Fellowship
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Sriharsha Gummadi, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ming Hao Guo, MD, MSc, FRCSC (Aortic Surgery)
Attending Cardiac Surgeon
University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, Canada

Diane Haddad, MD, MPH (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

Christopher Howell, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
University of Kentucky

Jeremy Michael Kaswer, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Deacon Lile, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Christiana Hospital, Newark, Delaware

Kathy Marulanda, MD (Vascular Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Pennsylvania State University

Benjamin B. Massenburg, MD (Craniofacial Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
UC, San Diego

Nikia McFadden, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Queens Hospital, Jamaica, New York

Tyler Merceron, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
Private Practice, San Antonio, Texas

Rachel Niehuus, MD, PhD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Edward Percy, MD (Thoracic Surgery - Cardiac Track)
Attending Cardiac Surgeon
Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, Canada

Patricia Martinez Quinones, MD, PhD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Duke University Hospital, Durham, North Carolina

Kishan Thadikonda, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Anthony Tokarski, MD (Robotics - Urology)
Private Practice, MidLantic Urology
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Welcome New Residents

Categorical General Surgery Program

Shawn Ahn
Yale School of Medicine

Rucha Alur
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Hannah Calvelli
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

Julia Gasior
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Macy Goldbach
University of Rocehester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Zachariah Lee
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Eliana Marostica
Harvard Medical School

Vikram Pothuri
Washington University School of Medicine

Henry Seidel
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Plastic Surgery Program

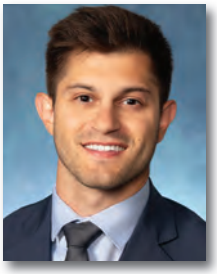
Harrison Davis
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

Pooja Humar
University of Pittsburgh Medical School

Kaamya Varagur
Washington University Saint Louis Medical School

Alan Yang
Harvard Medical School

Thoracic Integrated Program



Halil Beqaj
Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Samuel Kim
University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine

Urology Program

Crystal An
Case Western

Caroline Canning
SUNY Downstate

Mystie Chen
Geisinger

Prasun Sharma
Oakland University

Vascular Surgery Integrated Program

Lindsey Claus
Boston University

Yun Ke Du
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

(continued on page 16)

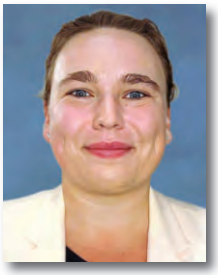
New Residents *(continued from page 15)*

Preliminary General Surgery Program

Carmen de Carvajal Cebrian
Universidad de Navarra
Facultad de Medicina

Nicole Kim
Harvard Medical School

Kevin Horton-Schleicher
Royal College of Surgeons
in Ireland School of Medicine



Margaret McCarthy
Royal College of Surgeons
in Ireland School of Medicine

Artsiom Meliukh
Belarusian State
Medical University

Tessa Muss
Perelman School of Medicine at
the University of Pennsylvania

Resheek Nerella
Rangaraya
Medical College

Jesmin Ram
St. George's University
School of Medicine

Amna Zubia Syeda
Ziauddin Medical College

Angela Tang
University of Virginia
School of Medicine

Post Fellowship Appointments 2022 General Surgery Chiefs

- **Kendall D. Brooks, MD** *(Fellow, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia)*
  Will be completing his fellowship in 2025 then will go into Private Practice, Atlanta, Georgia

- **Mark Etherington, MD** *(Fellow, Surgical Oncology University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)*
  Assistant Professor of Surgery
  Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery
  Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania at PAH
  Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- **Justin S. Hatchimonji, MD** *(Fellow, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)*
  Assistant Professor
  University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

- **Paul T. Hernandez, MD** *(Fellow, Colon and Rectal Surgery Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York)*
  Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
  Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
  Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- **Lauren N. Krumeich, MD** *(Fellow, Endocrine Surgery Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts)*
  Assistant Professor of Endocrine Surgery
  University of Michigan Health
  Ann Arbor, Michigan

- **Yun Song, MD** *(Fellow, Complex General Surgical Oncology MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas)*
  Assistant Professor of Surgery
  Department of Surgical Oncology
  MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

Department of Surgery

D. Hayes Agnew Grand Rounds

Distinguished Lecture Series FY24-25

Penn Medicine

Introducing the inaugural D. Hayes Agnew Grand Rounds Distinguished Lecture Series for FY24-25. This new divisional based Grand Rounds format will bring the entire Department together once a month over the course of the academic year.

Thursday - July 18, 2024

Division of TRAUMATOLOGY, SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE AND EMERGENCY SURGERY

John Paul Pryor Oration

Tracey A. Dechert, MD

Chief, Acute Care and Trauma Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery, Boston University
Boston Medical Center

Thursday - August 15, 2024

Division of CARDIAC SURGERY

Julian Johnson Lectureship

Thoralf M Sundt, MD

Chief, Cardiac Surgery
Edward D. Churchill Professor of Surgery
Harvard Medical School

Thursday - September 5, 2024

Department of SURGERY

State of the Department Address

Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD

Chair, Department of Surgery
John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery
University of Pennsylvania

Thursday - October 24, 2024

Division of COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

Ernest F. Rosato William Maul Measey Endowed Lectureship

Scott Steele, MD, MBA

President, Cleveland Clinic, Main Campus
Rupert B. Turnbull MD Endowed Chair, Colorectal Surgery

Thursday - November 14, 2024

Division of VASCULAR SURGERY AND ENDOVASCULAR THERAPY

Matthew Bown, MB, BCh, PGCert

British Heart Foundation Professor of Vascular Surgery
University of Leicester, United Kingdom

Thursday - December 12, 2024

Division of PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Babak Mehrara, MD

Chief, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Service
Peter G. Cordeiro Endowed Chair, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Thursday - January 23, 2025

Division of BREAST SURGERY

Lisa Newman, MD, MPH

Chief, Breast Surgery
Professor of Surgery
Director, Interdisciplinary Breast Program
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Thursday - February 27, 2025

Division of THORACIC SURGERY

Julian Johnson Lectureship and
Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate Lecture

Alexander Sasha Krupnick, MD

Chief, Thoracic Surgery
Surgical Director, Lung Transplant Program
Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Thursday - March 6, 2025

Division of UROLOGY

Sia Daneshmand, MD

Professor of Urology
Director, Clinical Research
Keck School of Medicine
University of Southern California

Thursday - April 10, 2025

Division of ENDOCRINE AND ONCOLOGIC SURGERY

Robert Ravdin Lectureship and ***D. Hayes Agnew Lecture***

Cristina R. Ferrone, MD

Chair and Professor
Department of Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Thursday - May 15, 2025

Division of TRANSPLANT SURGERY

Julie K. Heimbach, MD

Director, William J von Liebig Transplant Center
Professor of Surgery
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Thursday - June 5, 2025

Division of GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY

Barbara and Daniel Dempsey GI Surgery Research and Education Lecture and ***Gordon P. Buzby Leadership Lecture***

Jean-Nicolas Vauthey, MD

Chief, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Section
Dallas/Fort Worth Living Legend Chair, Cancer Research
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Passing of Ted Copeland March 31, 2024

Edward (Ted) M. Copeland (HUP chief resident, 1968-69) died on March 31, 2024. Like eight other HUP residents, his distinguished career culminated in his presidency of the American College of Surgeons in 2006-2009. In 1994, the Department chose him for its distinguished career award, the third person to be so designated, after James Hardy and James Thompson.

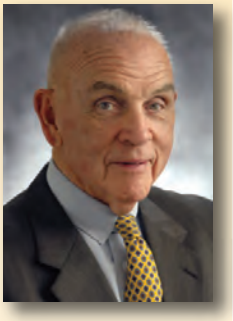
Ted was born in McDonough, Georgia. His most influential early mentor was his uncle, Murray Copeland, a prominent surgical oncologist who was surgical chairman at Georgetown University and president of the American Cancer Society. During WWII, he had served in the CBI theater under General I. S. Ravdin. This relationship led him to urge his nephew Ted to apply for internship and residency at HUP after college at Duke (where he was a track star) and medical school at Cornell. As an intern and resident, Ted was outstanding in a group of his contemporaries that included Ernie Rosato, Ed Kaplan, Bill Pierce, Bill Curreri, Scott Jones and Stan Dudrick, who proved to be his most important mentor. Ted then completed a surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson in Houston before serving for two years as a combat surgeon in Vietnam. He then joined the faculty at MD Anderson and also had an active faculty role at the nearby University of Texas where Stan Dudrick had become the inaugural chairman of surgery. During his ten years in these positions, he became widely known as the first to compile a series of undernourished cancer patients treated to their considerable benefit with TPN.

In 1982, he was recruited to become chair of the department of surgery at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was Edward R. Woodward Professor and Chairman there for twenty-one years, while also holding pivotal roles as director of the University of Florida's Cancer Center and interim dean of the medical school.

Ted was intensely loyal to Penn, and during his presidential address to the Southern Surgical Society, he referred to his many lifelong HUP friends and especially to Jack Mackie as an important mentor who he admired as a role model in patient care and clinical practice.

He was also proud and happy with his faculty position at the University of Florida. In the fall, he reserved Saturday afternoons to attend football games in "The Swamp" and root for the Gators—even if to do this, he might have to abruptly leave a national meeting and travel to Gainesville from another city. My wife and I happened to be visiting him on one such occasion. Ted was proud to present her with a sweatshirt that proclaimed "1996 University of Florida National Champions." In Ted's honor, she wore it for years.

Death of Terry Malloy - May 8, 2024



Terrence "Terry" Reed Malloy, M.D., 89, born May 27, 1934. Terry's youth was spent playing football and lacrosse for Lower Merion High School, and lifeguarding for the Beach Patrol in Stone Harbor. He graduated Tau Beta Pi from Yale University in 1956 and was an All-American athlete in lacrosse and captain of the Ivy League championship team his senior year. He also played football at Yale and fondly recalled teaching teammates to swim so that all would pass the mandatory freshman year swim test. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Skull and Bones. On graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army and served as First Lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne through 1958.

Terry received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his urology residency in 1968. He started practice at Pennsylvania Hospital that year as chief of the section of urology, a post he held until 2012. He was a clinical professor of urology for over 30 years and trained many of today's leaders in the field. Dr. Malloy was an active member of the American Urologic Association, the Society of University Urologists and the Société Internationale D'Urologie. His final curriculum vitae from 2016 reported over 150 publications spanned from stone disease to the management of genitourinary cancers; he was particularly proud of his pioneering work in gender affirming surgery.

Dr. Malloy was a devoted servant leader to Pennsylvania Hospital and its patients and staff. His beloved colleagues at Penn wrote the following about his distinguished career: "During his more than 40 years of service to Pennsylvania Hospital, he built a urologic institution, led the urology residency training program, chaired the Operating Room Committee, and served as President of the Medical Staff. Dr. Malloy was instrumental in bringing innovative urologic surgery such as laser therapy and prosthetic surgery to both Pennsylvania and the region's urologic community. His influential voice was essential in establishing and rallying support for affiliation of the Pennsylvania Hospital urology program with the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Malloy elevated Pennsylvania Hospital to the highest level both regionally and nationally."

Alumni News

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

- **Joe Serletti, MD** was elected Vice President of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons at a recent meeting and won the Clinical Research Achievement Award.

- **Eric Liao, MD** won the Basic Science Research Achievement Award at American Association of Plastic Surgeons meeting.

- **Giorgos Karakousis, MD and John Fischer, MD, MPH** were inducted into the American Surgical Association.

- **Carter Paulson, MD** has been named the new Chair of the General Surgery Surgical Advisory Board at the VA.

- **Suhail Kanchwala, MD** has been named as the Director of Reconstructive Microsurgery within the Division of Plastic Surgery, overseeing all efforts to enhance and optimize microsurgical services within Plastic Surgery across the health system.

- **Jeremy Cannon, MD** was invited you to join the 2024–2025 class of the Bochnowski Family Veteran Fellowship Program at the Hoover Institution at Stanford

- **Joe Woo, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 1999) has been named Vice President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) for the 2024-2025 term. Dr. Woo is the Norman E. Shumway Professor and Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine.

- **Julia Tchou, MD, PhD** will receive the inaugural Peggy Harron Bruder Endowed Chair.

- **Leisha Elmore, MD,** Chief, Breast Surgery, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, received Penn Medicine's Tribune 2024 Women of Achievement Award honored for providing mobile mammogram services and breast health education in the West Philadelphia Community.

- **Lola Fayanju, MD** was appointed to Annals of Surgery Editorial Board.

- **Joshua I.S. Bleier, MD** has been elected member at large for the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and has been selected for the ACGME Colon and Rectal Review Committee.

- **Danny O. Jacobs, MD, MPH** (HUP chief resident 1985-1986); President of Oregon Health Services University. In 2024, he was elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society, one of only a few surgeon members of this society founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743.

New Faculty

- **Ji Lei, MD, MS, MBA** was appointed Research Associate Professor in the Division of Transplant Surgery.
  BM/MD - (BM equivalent to U.S. MD) West China University of Medical Sciences, Chengdu, China; MS - West China University of Medical Sciences (Surgery), Chengdu, China; MBA - York University, Toronto (Strategy & Finance), Ontario, Canada; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Departments of Surgery and Immunology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- **Justin Cotney, PhD** was appointed Associate Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery at CHOP.
  PhD - Emory University, Genetics & Molecular Biology; Postdoctoral Fellow, Molecular Biology, Yale University.

Penn Surgery

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Message from the Chair

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Surgery and a well-funded clinical investigator, was selected by former University President Amy Gutman to be the inaugural Helen O. Dickens Professor. **Nimesh Desai**, a national leader in aortic surgery and accomplished clinical researcher, is the recipient of the newly created Joseph Bavaria-William Maul Measey Professorship. **Scott Damrauer**, a tenured Associate Professor with extensive funding and high impact publications now has the other William Maul Measey II Chair. Lastly, **Benjamin Braslow**, a "go to surgeon" and a member of the Penn Academy of Master Clinicians, became the William J. White Professor.

There were a variety of reasons, such as the pandemic, why the celebratory dinner was delayed and consequently became so large. Next time there won't be so many birds (surgeons).