



# Penn Surgery Society NEWS

Summer 2011

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 [Mary.Hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Mary.Hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu).

## Message from the Chairman

The Department of Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania completed the 2011 academic/fiscal year on June 30. By all measures this has been a remarkable year. Among the remarkable aspects is the name change noted above. In recognition of the generosity of Ruth and Raymond Perelman in making an unrestricted gift of \$225 million dollars to the School of Medicine - the largest single gift to an American medical school- the name of the School of Medicine has been changed to the Perelman School of Medicine. In the future I expect that "Perelman" will be recognized as a brief way to identify the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine the same way that "Wharton" identifies the University of Pennsylvania Business School. Regardless of its new name, I have no doubt that the Department of Surgery will continue to be at the forefront of clinical care, research and educational activities in the Perelman School of Medicine.

Some other highlights of the year just past: External funding for research activities within the Department of Surgery, enhanced by Federal ARRA funding, exceeded 20 million dollars - a record. We are particularly proud of several of our Assistant Professors, including Dr. Sims (Trauma), Dr. Levine (Transplant) and Dr. Singhal (Thoracic) who received their first NIH awards this year. I meet with the Assistant Professors each month and this talented group is certainly continuing the Penn Surgery traditions of excellence both in clinical surgery and in scholarly activities. We also continue to benefit from the academic work and well funded research of more senior faculty, with particular recognition of the Transplant, Cardiovascular and Endocrine and Oncology Divisions, which are our largest recipients of research funding.



*Jeffrey Drebin*

The faculty of the Department of Surgery continued to increase their clinical activities, as evidenced by the increase in case numbers by more than 4% compared with the prior year. It is noteworthy that this growth in Surgery has occurred despite a fiscal environment that has seen an overall reduction in hospital admissions and procedures locally and throughout the nation. The activity in complex surgical procedures, including cardiac surgery, major cancer resections, vascular procedures, transplantation, and microvascular reconstructive procedures have shown some of the largest increases. As a result of this increased surgical activity, along with continued effort at cost-containment, the Department finished another year ahead of budget. We also contributed substantially to the outstanding fiscal performance of the University of Pennsylvania Health System/Penn Medicine.

Finally, as outlined elsewhere in this newsletter, we have bid farewell to a superb group of graduating Chief Residents and Fellows, while welcoming a new group of talented trainees to the Department. While memories of our own period of training may fade with time, few of us have forgotten the mixture of excitement and trepidation felt as we started out as new surgical interns. We are confident that our new trainees like those of generations before will excel and will find that their Penn Surgery training serves as a superb foundation for their surgical careers.

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## From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

The traditional annual chairman's message on the front page is especially important as we begin the new 2012 academic year. These are challenging times for health care systems. Thus, it is particularly satisfying that Dr. Drebin can report that Penn Medicine and especially the Department of Surgery continue to excel, sustaining not only healthy clinical missions but also a focus on research and academic accomplishment.

For Penn Medicine, 2011's strong fiscal performance and the recent opening of the 531,000 sq. foot, 8 story Translational Research Building are especially impressive. For Surgery, there were major achievements such as surpassing the Department's budget, the construction of a new Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit and opening 4 Ravdin Building operating rooms (see Spring Newsletter for details). Equal evidence of the Department's robust progress is this year's unusually large cadre of faculty recruits (Drs. Aarons, Allen, Alturi, Fisher, Lin, Paulson and Vollmer (see page 7). Especially pleasing is the return to HUP of former Temple Chairman Dan Dempsey to head the GI Division (see the profile of his distinguished career in the spring issue).

On page 3 is an ongoing request for your support of a professorship in Ernest Rosato's name. I am glad to report that Ernie is doing well, is back in the office, regularly attending conferences and welcoming communications from his friends and trainees here and elsewhere. A Rosato Chair would be the

Department's 12th, possibly more than the number of endowed chairs in any other U. S. surgical department. Half of these were funded entirely or largely by contributions made by our faculty members or their families. Endowed chairs are the lifeblood of academic programs since their purpose is to support the non clinical activities of our faculty.

For the newsletter to fully attain its goal it needs to provide news not only of changes at Penn but also information on accomplishments of Penn alumni elsewhere. As of the last probably incomplete count more than 30 Penn residency graduates now head their own departments or divisions in other University Systems and Community Centers. Their accomplishments would surely be of interest to our readers, but despite Mary Hamburg's requests, communications from our alumni remain infrequent. Examples of recent news worthy items which have come to my attention almost by chance rather than by your communications to Mary are the appointments of Sloane Guy (CT Division Chief at Temple), David Deaton (Vascular Division Chief at Georgetown) and Chuck Bridges (Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Carolinas Healthcare System, Charlotte, North Carolina) (see page 6).

Also welcome is news of non academic accomplishments of our alumni. Below is a rare example of such a communication that recently came to me. "Dear Clyde, Had a wonderful time with Jim Markmann at the MGH Transplant Golf Tournament. The highlight was Jim's 1st hole tee off. He made a hole in one-right into the windshield of a minivan parked in the club lot. Best regards, Andy Fox".

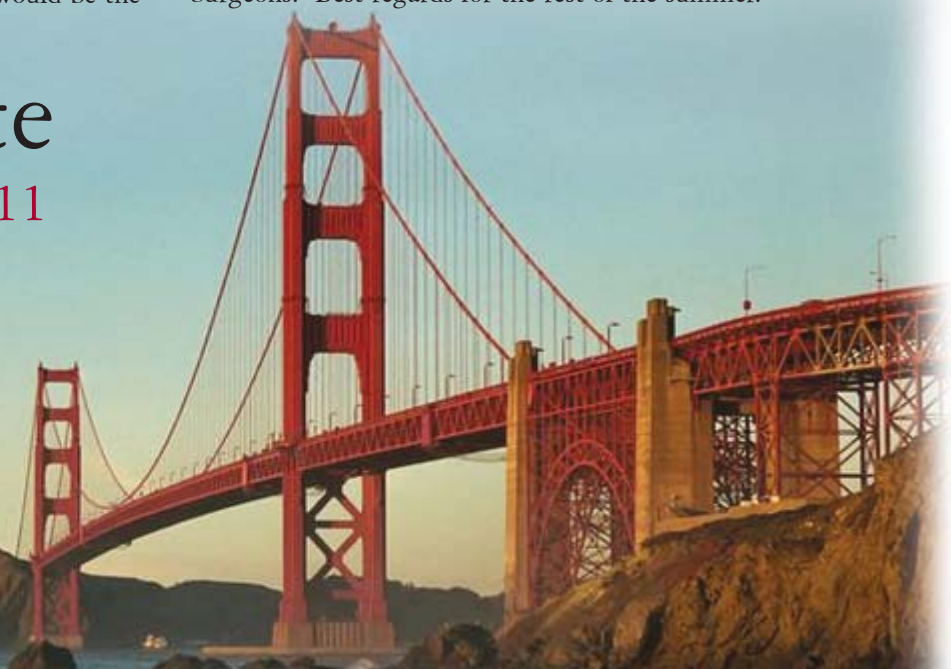
I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco at our annual reception during the Congress of the American College of Surgeons. Best regards for the rest of the summer.

# Save the Date

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Penn Surgery Society Reception  
at the 97th Annual Clinical Congress  
of the American College of Surgeons

San Francisco, California



## New Division Chief

### Patrick M. Reilly, M.D.

On July 1, Dr. Patrick M. Reilly became Chief of the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery. He succeeds Dr. C. William Schwab who has led the Division since he founded it in 1987. Dr. Schwab will remain active in the Department refocusing his energies from administration to research and patient care.

Dr. Reilly, a key member of the Division since 1993 is a very worthy successor to Dr. Schwab. He obtained his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame and his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in 1987. During his residency in General Surgery at the Medical Center of Delaware he spent two years as a research fellow in the Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins University. From 1993 to 1995 he was a Fellow in the Division of Trauma and Critical Care of the Department of Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1995 he has been a faculty member in the Department rising to the rank of Full Professor in 2009. Since 2006 Dr. Reilly has been Vice Chief of the Division assuming progressively increasing responsibility for the divisional programs at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1998 he has been Clinical Director of the Rhoads Surgical ICU. In addition he has been a key figure in the development and maintenance of the Division's Trauma Network which supports clinical care and administration activities of two regional trauma centers, the Reading Hospital and the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Reilly is a superb teacher. He has served as the Division's director of student education and since 1997 has been the Program Director of the Division's highly regarded Trauma and Critical Care Fellowship. The Fellowship has graduated more than 80 physicians and surgeons many of whom lead trauma centers, critical care units, and emergency surgery programs through-

out the world. Dr. Reilly has won the Trauma Fellows Outstanding Teaching Award seven times during his tenure at HUP. He is a widely sought lecturer, locally and nationally.

Dr. Reilly has also been active in research. In his early years on the faculty he focused on transplant organ procurement substantially increasing the number of organ donors at HUP from fatally injured trauma patients. He reviewed his work in this field in a highly cited World Journal of Surgery paper. On various other trauma and critical care topics he has published more than 100 papers in the most highly respected journals in his field. His current research is focused on trauma systems and ICU design. In 2003, he was elected to membership in the Society of University Surgeons.

Dr. Reilly has acquired a superb national reputation as one of the most respected emerging leaders in the field. He has been the recording Secretary and Program Chairman of the Eastern Association of the Surgery of Trauma and in 2009 was elected President of that important Association. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation, serves at the chairman of the Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma, and recently was appointed to the Executive Committee of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

Dr. Reilly takes over the Division at a time when under Dr. Schwab's leadership with Dr. Reilly's support this Division has become possibly the largest in the country caring for over 10,000 patients a year.



## Endowed Professorship Campaign

During the past 50 years, Ernie Rosato has served the Department under seven chairmen. From 1988-2004, he was Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, establishing it as one of the top programs in the United States. In addition to his leadership of the Division, Ernie has been recognized as the Department's most valued teacher. He is a master surgeon whose practice has been the largest in Philadelphia.

During his long tenure on the faculty, Ernie has trained generations of surgical leaders. It is most appropriate to establish an endowed professorship in his name not only to honor Ernie, but for generations to give the Department a powerful tool to attract or retain leading surgeons to build on Ernie's legacy.

We hope you will partner with us in this planned effort to perpetuate Ernie's contributions.



# Career Path of Chief Residents



## J. Raymond Fitzpatrick

Cardiac Surgery Residency  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



## John Frederick

Thoracic Surgery Residency  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



## Danielle Hari

Surgical Oncology Fellowship  
John Wayne Cancer Institute and  
Cedars Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California



## Benjamin Herdrich

Vascular Surgery Residency  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



## Demetri Merianos

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship  
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles



## Hooman Noorchashm

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts



## Bilal Shafi

Cardiac Surgery Residency  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



## David Stitelman

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



The Annual Chief Residents' Dinner,  
June 18th at The Franklin Institute.

## 2011 Award Recipients

### Penn Center of Excellence

◆ Ahmed Jawad, MD

### William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award

◆ Dustin Bermudez, MD

### William Y. Inouye Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Ernest F. Rosato, MD

### Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award

◆ Demetri Merianos, MD

### Resident's Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Benjamin M. Braslow, MD

### Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Award

◆ J. Raymond Fitzpatrick, III, MD

### Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award

◆ William Hiesinger, MD

### Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award

◆ Nina M. Bowens, MD

### Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award

◆ Robert T. Lewis, MD

# Welcome

## New Residents

### General Surgery Program



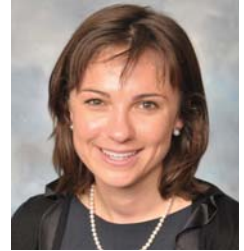
*David Aufhauser*  
Penn



*Harveen Bergquist*  
Penn



*Danielle Brown*  
Penn



*Ann Gaffey*  
Georgetown



*Matthew Hornick*  
Yale



*Jane Keating*  
Emory



*Lea Lowenfeld*  
Penn

### Urology Program



*Mark Hockenberry*  
Penn



*Kirk Jackson*  
Baylor

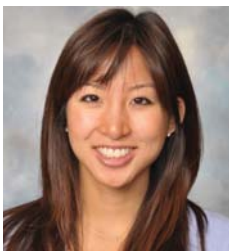


*Abdo Kabarriti*  
Mount Sinai



*Lisa Parrillo*  
Eastern Virginia

### Plastic Surgery Program



*Catherine Chang*  
Columbia



*Lin Lin Gao*  
Harvard

### Cardiac Direct Program



*Andrew Goldstone*  
Mount Sinai

# Alumni News

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery  
email your news to Mary Hamburg  
mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu

◆ At the University of Massachusetts 2011 commencement ceremony, **Kenneth Brayman, M.D.** was named recipient of their Distinguished Graduate Award. Ken was a graduate of HUP's General Surgery Residency program in June of 1981, as well as a former faculty member. He is currently the Director of Transplant Services for the University of Virginia Health System, as well as Chief of the Transplant Division and Director of the Renal, Pancreas and Islet Transplant Programs at UVA.



◆ **Charles Bridges, M.D.** was appointed Chair, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery Department at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 1st, 2011. Dr. Bridges completed his general surgery training at HUP in 1991 and subsequent CT surgery training in 1993. He became a member of the Department of Surgery's faculty in 1996 and was appointed Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital in 2001.



◆ **David H. Deaton, M.D.** was recently appointed Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Georgetown University Hospital. David completed HUP's general surgery training program in 1992. He has been a member of Georgetown's faculty since 2003.



◆ **Kristoffel Dumon, M.D.** Assistant Professor of Surgery in HUP's Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery has been named Interim Chief of Surgery at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Philadelphia effective July 1st, 2011.



◆ **Lee Goldstein, M.D.** was recently elected to membership in to the Association for Academic Surgery and is scheduled to become a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the fall meeting.



Lee completed his general surgery residency at HUP in 2007 and is currently Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Vascular Division at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

◆ **T. Sloane Guy, M.D.** joined Temple University School of Medicine as Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Temple University Hospital in June 2011. Sloane is a graduate of HUP's general surgery residency program and cardiothoracic residency program.



◆ **Kenric Murayama, M.D.**, Chief of the Department of Surgery at the Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and member of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery has been named Associate Program Director of HUP's General Surgery Residency Program.



◆ **Christopher Skelly, M.D.** has been appointed Chief of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Dr. Skelly completed his vascular surgery residency at HUP in June of 2005. He has been a faculty member of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago since July of 2005.



## Deaths

◆ **Frederick Hood, Jr., M.D.** died at the age of 83 on February 27, 2011. After completing his general surgery residency at HUP in the late 1950's, Dr. Hood began his practice of surgery in Oklahoma and then moved to Anchorage, Alaska. He retired in the late 1990's.

◆ **Harry Grim Light, M.D.** died on February 13, 2011. He was 81 years old. Following completion of his general surgery residency in the late 1950s at HUP, Dr. Light began a practice in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania which lasted over 30 years. He was on the medical staff at St. Luke's Hospital.

## New Faces on the Faculty

◆ **Cary B. Aarons, M.D.**, joined the faculty on July 1st in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. He comes to Philadelphia after completing his colorectal surgery training in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Aarons received his under-graduate degree from Harvard University and his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. He completed his general surgery training at Boston University Medical Center.



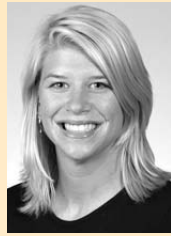
◆ **Steven R. Allen, M.D.**, became an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Traumatology, SCC and Emergency Care on July 1st. Dr. Allen completed his general surgical training at the University of Cincinnati in June of 2008.

During his surgical residency, he completed a 3 year research fellowship. He subsequently completed a fellowship in Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He is board certified in Surgery and Surgical Critical Care.

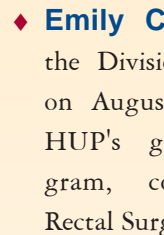
◆ **Pavan Atluri, M.D.**, joined the faculty of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center as an Assistant Professor of Surgery on July 1, 2011. Pavan completed his general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery training at the University of Pennsylvania.



◆ **Carla S. Fisher, M.D.**, joined the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery on August 1st. Carla completed her general surgery residency training at the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed a surgical fellowship in Breast Oncology at Washington University in July 2011.



◆ **Ines C. Lin, M.D.**, joined the Division of Plastic Surgery on August 1st as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Ines, a graduate of the Penn integrated general/plastic surgery program, completed a fellowship in Hand Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in July 2011.



◆ **Emily Carter Paulson, M.D.**, joined the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery on August 15th. Carter, a graduate of HUP's general surgery residency program, completed Penn's Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship in June 2011.



◆ **Charles M. Vollmer, M.D.**, joined the division of Gastrointestinal Surgery on July 1st. Dr. Vollmer, an Associate Professor of Surgery will be the Director of Pancreatic Surgery as well as the Co-Chief of Upper Gastrointestinal Oncology at the Abramson Cancer Center. Dr. Vollmer received his General Surgery training at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital program at the Washington University of St. Louis. He then completed a fellowship in Hepatobiliary and Solid Organ Transplantation Surgery at the University of Toronto in 2001. Dr. Vollmer has been a faculty member at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston since 2003.

## Joan Kane to Retire

For many years Joan Kane has been a familiar sight to the faculty, residents, fellows and staff of the Department of Surgery. Though most of us know Joan in the role of Dr. Rosato's administrative assistant (aka right hand), she has also worked in this role for several of the department's other important leaders.

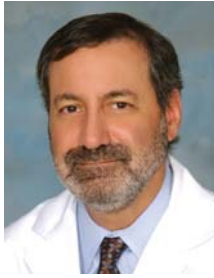
Joan started her years at HUP in 1960 working as a secretary for Dr. Jonathan Rhoads. A few years later, when Dr. Rhoads' was succeeded as chairman by Bill Fitts she became his secretary on Dr. Rhoads recommendation. Joan recalls it was a wonderful match and she worked with Dr. Fitts until his death in 1980. Since that time Joan has felt honored to work alongside Dr. Rosato - the position she has held the longest in her 50 plus years in the department of surgery.

Joan will be retiring in October - we all wish her the best!



# Vascular Surgery Reception June 16

Again a strong PENN presence was noted at the Annual Society of Vascular Surgery meeting in Chicago (June 15th - 18th). Ron Fairman was again program chairman of the meeting. Several Penn faculty and alumni moderated sessions and presented papers. Once more - as they had done last year - Penn vascular alumni gathered for a reception on Thursday night - a very successful and enjoyable evening was had by all!





# Alumni History

## Julius A. Mackie, Jr. (1927-2003)

After a 10 year hiatus in 2009 the Department resumed its tradition of the annual Distinguished Graduate Award. Most appropriately the award is now named for Julius Mackie.

"Jack" Mackie was a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. While he was a surgical resident at HUP his fellow residents recognized that he was unusually gifted and efficient. Dr. Ravdin, the chairman, also recognized this and promoted him to chief resident after only 3 years. After two years as Chief of Surgery at Ft. Hood Army Hospital in Texas he returned to the Penn faculty for the rest of his life.

Early in his career Jack showed promise in laboratory research. As a medical student he was awarded the Mary Ellis Bell Award for research. As a resident and young attending he studied gastrointestinal physiology in animal models of peptic ulcer disease as well as the surgical treatment of hypertension. Later his major contributions were in the clinical practice of surgery and in teaching. He maintained a broad interest and expertise in general surgery throughout his career. But because of an early interest, he became a cancer specialist in the era before the era of "super-specialists." He developed a practice focused on breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancers and cancer of the pancreas. Most of his publications were on those topics, many of them coauthored with Jonathan Rhoads with whom he collaborated in practice for many years.

From 1970-80 as the Education Officer of the Department Jack was in charge of the teaching of surgery to medical students and surgical residents. Both before and after this he was considered by generations of surgical residents to be one of their most important mentors. In 1987, the HUP residents designated him as their most valuable teacher.

Dr. Mackie was prominent in medical and surgical circles both locally and beyond. From 1972-88 he was an Associate Editor of the Journal of Trauma. He was a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the Eastern Surgical Society, the American College of Surgeons and the International College of Surgery. He was also elected to membership in the Southern Surgical Association (a rare honor for a Northerner). Perhaps his favorite society was an exclusive group of Philadelphia's leading physicians, the "Medical Club". Most others of this small group limited to 13 members were chiefs of surgery or medicine, hospital directors or university provosts and presidents. Sir William Osler and several generations of the Pepper family were once members. A tribute to the respect in which Dr. Mackie was held by these important col-

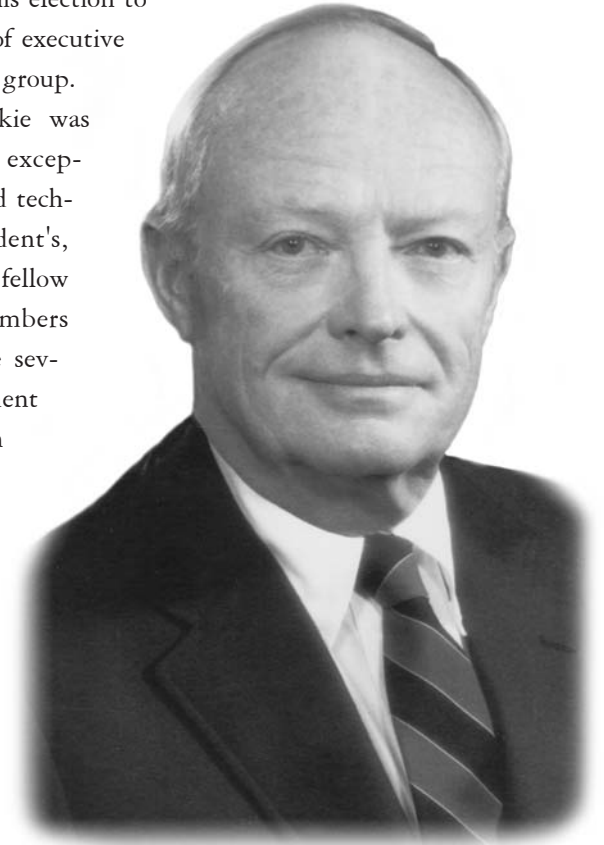
leagues was his election to the position of executive officer of this group.

Dr. Mackie was considered exceptionally gifted technically. Student's, residents and fellow faculty members including the several department chairmen during his faculty career) sought his advice on clinical problems and asked for his help in difficult operations.

For over a half a century, through the tenures of 6 successive chairmen Jack was a mainstay of the Department, a supportive and steadying influence. In a sense he was the Department's unsung hero. Before, during and after Dr. Rhoads was the chairman he owed much of his success to Jack. Without Jack he could never have managed his huge clinical practice while traveling incessantly and devoting much of his time to local and national leadership activities.

I was not alone in observing that Jack had the skills and qualities that would have led to greater national, research and academic prominence if he had devoted less time to his own and Dr. Rhoads' clinical practice. But for whatever reason, national office and self aggrandizement were never a focus for Jack. His real interests and greatest satisfaction came from patient care and teaching. At these activities he was a master.

In pre and post operative patient care Jack was obsessive, some thought to a fault. Many HUP residents were at first impatient and annoyed by Jack's attention to the details of patient care.



## Julius A. Mackie (continued from page 9)

After making complete rounds with the residents he would often double back to satisfy himself that a sump drain was working or that a nasogastric tube was properly positioned. A fruitful example of Jack's obsessive attention to detail was recalled by his fellow HUP faculty surgeon, Clete Schwegman. Dr. Schwegman vividly recalled how Dr. Mackie had saved his life after Clete had undergone surgery in for a malignancy of a vocal cord. Though Jack had not performed the surgery, he feared that Clete might need more careful observation than was being provided. Late at night Jack went to Clete's bedside to check up on him. He found that Clete, who was receiving oxygen, was blown up like a balloon because of an oxygen leak that threatened to cause a fatal tension pneumothorax. "Jack stuck a needle in my chest and deflated me, saving my life," said Dr. Schwegman.

Patients never complained of Jack's redundant attention. Many of his residents eventually acknowledged that their own habits in pre and post op care followed Jack's pattern. Ted Copeland in his Presidential addresses to the American College of Surgeons paid tribute to Jack for this aspect of his teaching.

Emulating Jack's performance in the operating room was harder. Most of us recognize that the technical aspects of operative surgery are a craft that can be learned by most individuals-given the proper environment and enough effort. Occasionally one sees, for want of a better term, a "born surgeon" whose skills surpass those of his mentors and colleagues. Jack Mackie was one of those few.

Jack also worked hard at teaching residents to operate. During the 1960's only Jack and one other HUP attending (Jerry Peskin) allowed the residents to operate on their patients (under appropriately careful supervision). The others usually performed

### Past Distinguished Graduate Awardees

- ◆ 1991 James D. Hardy
- ◆ 1992 James C. Thompson
- ◆ 1994 Edward M. Copeland, III
- ◆ 1995 R. Scott Jones
- ◆ 1996 Stanley J. Dudrick
- ◆ 1997 C. Everett Koop
- ◆ 1998 Moritz M. Ziegler
- ◆ 2009 Stephen T. Bartlett
- ◆ 2010 Danny O. Jacobs
- ◆ 2011 W. Roy Smythe

the entire operation themselves, presumably with the assumption that watching them was the optimal learning experience for the residents. Because of Jack's efforts some of his skill rubbed off on even the less gifted.

Students, residents and fellow faculty members (including a number of future department chairmen) sought Jack's advice and help in difficult operations or to take care of themselves or their families. A notable and most appropriate example was that even after Jack had retired from active practice, Dr. Rhoads called on him for care during his final illness.

Jack was lucky that during his own final illness (and for many years before) he had the love and support of his wife Joan. The Department is grateful for Joan's generosity in endowing the Annual Mackie Distinguished Graduate Award and Lecture as well as for making it possible for a conference room in his name.

## Research Update

Department of Surgery investigators received awards of more than \$15 million in research funding for the fiscal year ending June 30. This funding, in an extremely difficult economic environment, illustrates the strength of our faculty in the development of innovative and important research programs contributing to the advancement of medicine.

Our investigators received new NIH grant funding of nearly \$3 million during this time period. The largest NIH grant award went to Robert Gorman, M.D. (Cardiac) totaling nearly \$700,000. The top NIH grant awards by Division went to

Cardiac, Transplant and GI. In the past 12 months three of our Assistant Professors Drs. Levine (Transplant), Sims (Trauma) and Singhal (Thoracic) were notified that they would be receiving their first NIH awards showing the strength of our junior faculty in contributing to future research initiatives within the Department.

Our clinical trial portfolio continues to be extensive. Our surgeons are at or near the top three in accruing patients for multi-center clinical trials. Clinical trial activity extends through all of the Divisions. In addition to extramural research funding, the Department continues to support pilot and ongoing research efforts by investigators using income from its endowment.

# Promotions



- ◆ **Benjamin M. Braslow, M.D.**  
Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care  
and Emergency Surgery  
Promoted to Associate Professor  
in the Academic Clinician track



- ◆ **Pasquale Casale, M.D.**  
Pediatric Surgery - Urology  
Promoted to Associate Professor  
in the Clinician Educator track



- ◆ **Doug L. Fraker, M.D.**  
Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery  
Promoted to Jonathan E. Rhoads  
Professor with tenure



- ◆ **Joseph H. Gorman, III, M.D.**  
Cardiovascular Surgery -  
Promoted to Professor with tenure



- ◆ **David W. Low, M.D.**  
Plastic Surgery  
Promoted to Professor  
in the Clinician Educator track



- ◆ **Taine T. V. Pechet, M.D.**  
Thoracic Surgery  
Promoted to Associate Professor  
in the Academic Clinician track



- ◆ **Wilson Y. Szeto, M.D.**  
Cardiovascular Surgery  
Promoted to Associate Professor  
in the Clinician Educator track

## Career Paths of Specialty Graduates

**Brynn Wolff** (Breast)

Pinnacle Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**Pavan Atluri** (Cardiac)

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

**Alexandros Karavas** (Cardiac)

New England Heart Institute  
Catholic Medical Center  
Bedford, New Hampshire

**Danny Ramzy** (Cardiac)

Cedars Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California

**Emily Carter Paulson**

(Colon & Rectal Surgery)  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Philadelphia

**Christopher Derderian** (Craniofacial)

University of Texas Southwestern and  
Children's Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

**Shareef Jandali** (Plastic)

Community Practice  
Trumbull, Connecticut

**James Smartt** (Craniofacial Fellowship)

University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington

**Alexander Au** (Microvascular)

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

**Noel Natoli** (Microvascular)

Long Island Plastic Surgical Group  
New York, New York

**Hani Sbitany** (Microvascular)

University of California  
San Francisco, California

**Matthew Bennis**

(Trauma & Surgical Critical Care)  
University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

**Peter Hammer**

(Trauma & Surgical Critical Care)  
Navy Trauma Training Center  
LAC-USC County Hospital  
Los Angeles, California

**Morgan McMonagle**

(Trauma & Surgical Critical Care)  
St. Mary's Hospital and Imperial College  
London, ENG, UK

**Edgardo Salcedo**

(Trauma & Surgical Care Critical)  
UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, California

**Aaron Eckhauser** (Thoracic Surgery)

Fellowship in Congenital Heart Surgery  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**Alexander Maskin** (Transplant)

University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Arturo Balandra** (Urology)

Community Practice  
Naples, Florida

**Matthew Resnick** (Urology)

(Fellowship - Urology/Oncology/  
Minimally Invasive and Epidemiology)  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

**Laura Stansell** (Urology)

(Fellowship - Pediatric Urology)  
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

**Alexei Wedmid** (Robotic Surgery)

Urology Group of Princeton  
Princeton, New Jersey

**Shawn White** (Urology)

Community Practice, Reading, Pennsylvania

**Melissa Kirkwood** (Vascular)

North Texas Veterans Health Care System  
Dallas, Texas

# Upcoming Events

Penn Surgery Society members are encouraged to attend these events and the receptions following them.

- ◆ It's never too early to mark your calendar for the Penn Surgery Society reception to be held during the **American College of Surgeons**. The date is Tuesday, October 25th. Details coming to the PSS website soon!

For further information on all these events,  
please go to the Penn Surgery Society website at  
<http://surgery.site-ym.com>

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# Penn Surgery

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