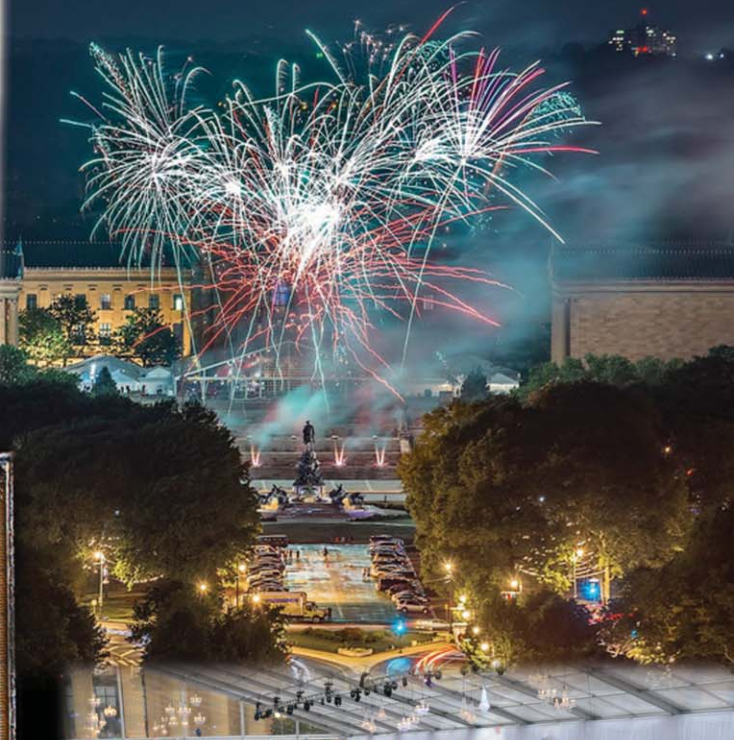


SUMMER 2015

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@uphs.upenn.edu.





From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

The year 2015 marked the semiquincentennial of Penn’s medical school. A number of receptions, lectures, and other celebratory events during the year climaxed in a gala dinner, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It was attended by 1200 alumni, faculty, students, dignitaries, and friends. A few of the highlights of the event are depicted on the Newsletter’s front page, including its venue (a gigantic tent), bagpipers, glee club concert, entertainment by Harry Connick, Jr. and his band, dancing, and finally a giant fireworks display.

As wonderful as the event was, perhaps of more lasting importance in commemoration of this 250th anniversary is the publication of a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated history of the school. The cover of the book *To Spread the Light of Knowledge*, is included in the collage on the Newsletter’s front page. The book was written by Carol Perloff. She is the widow of Leonard Perloff, HUP Chief Resident in 1971. Len was a HUP vascular and transplant surgeon from 1974 until his untimely death while jogging in 1993.



For those interested in the history of our school and its role in the development of U.S. Medicine, the book is well worth having. Arrangements can be made for its purchase by calling (267) 350-4680. Most of the description that follows is borrowed from the foreword of the book.

This handsome volume is illustrated with archival documents, paintings and photographs, many never previously compiled. Succinct essays chronicle the evolution of the School from its beginning as a few lectures given in borrowed space to the extensive curriculum, research and multidisciplinary practice of today’s giant health system. The book tracks the canon of thera-

pies offered from the 18th century’s handful of primitive and sometimes harmful procedures such as blood letting to today’s robotic surgery and gene therapy. It tells how the School played a substantial role in the development of American medicine from its humble beginnings through its maturation as it caught up with and then overtook the European Medicine that spawned it. As the history unfolds gripping stories emerge: Philadelphia’s last pistol duel fought by a future surgery department chairman; discovery of how the kidney makes urine and other research findings of two dozen Penn scientists who won Lasker Awards or Nobel Prizes; how during World War II a Penn medical student invented SCUBA and skipped classes to train frogmen in its use and accompany them on combat missions.

In the early American colonies there were no medical schools. Anyone could call himself a doctor and practice medicine. The Penn story begins in London where two young Philadelphians (John Morgan and William Shippen) study anatomy and then obtain MD degrees at the University of Edinburgh. With the encouragement of Benjamin Franklin and his physician friend John Fothergill, they plan to join forces on their return to Philadelphia and start America’s first medical school. But when Morgan returns, he carefully avoids Shippen and independently presents to the trustees of the College of Philadelphia his plan for an ideal medical school as part of the University. He envisions entrance requirements in science and humanities, a full set of professorships and departments (Medicine, Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany, Materia Medica), hospital based clinical teaching and even research.

His detailed plan purposely omits Shippen’s specialty, Surgery, which he disparages as being “unintellectual and repugnant”. The trustees eagerly endorsed Morgan’s ambitious plan and appointed him as Professor of Medicine. Shippen interpreted the plan as a betrayal. Although Shippen was belatedly appointed to a professorship of Anatomy and Surgery, a bitter lifelong enmity had been touched off.

Despite a lifelong feud between its two founders, the school was off to a successful start and in 1768 awarded the first degrees. Young Americans were eager to enroll and over the next 4 decades, the School awarded 718 medical degrees. This was more than the 476 awarded by the College.

The School’s faculty became the country’s most eminent doctors. But for a century and a half after its founding, neither Penn nor medical schools subsequently established by other universities, looked anything like the one envisioned by Morgan. None had the resources or commitment to follow through on Morgan’s

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ambitious plan. At Penn, entrance requirements were not enforced. The two years of study leading to a degree consisted of 4 months of lectures given in the first year and the same lectures repeated during the second year. A limited experience with patients at Pennsylvania Hospital was no improvement over the apprenticeships of earlier times. Later, other medical schools sprang up independent of universities or colleges, mostly with disastrous results. Most of these were proprietary schools lacking faculties or facilities for teaching. Since no accreditation body or process existed, these diploma mills proliferated. In Philadelphia alone there were 50.

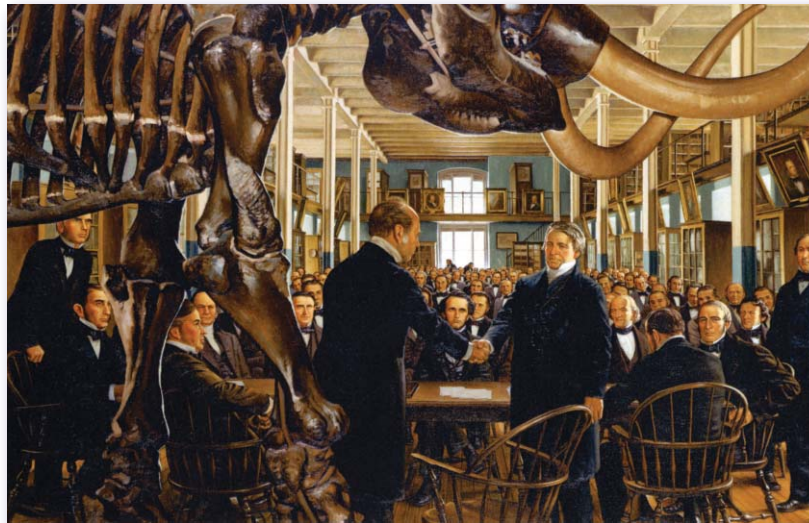
By the 1840s, medical education in the U.S. was in a sorry state. The first concerted effort at improving and standardizing U.S. medical education was made in 1847 at the founding meeting of the American Medical Association held in Philadelphia and led by Penn faculty including its first president, Professor of Medicine, Nathaniel Chapman. However fulfilling the AMA's recommendations for elevated standards for admission and graduation would take another century. Even at Penn, faculty members resisted them anticipating a loss of autonomy and a decline in student enrollment and tuition fees.

The first effective steps toward fulfilling Morgan's dream were made a century after the School's founding by William Pepper, Jr., probably the most important figure in the school's history. In the early 1870s though only a junior faculty member, Pepper was the strongest and most effective advocate for establishing a site for patient based instruction by building HUP, the nation's first teaching hospital to be owned and controlled by a university. Through funds contributed by himself, his wealthy family and friends, he accomplished this in 1874 over the opposition of the University Provost who wanted the money instead to build University buildings. Pepper became the unofficial head of the new hospital. Then over strong opposition from entrenched senior faculty, he transformed the School's curriculum by extending it from 2 to 3 years and staffing HUP with young clinical professors to do bedside teaching. This put an end to the era of training by apprenticeships. Later while Pepper served both as Chief of Medicine and University Provost, he extended the curriculum to 4 years and endowed at HUP the country's first laboratory for clinical testing

and research, naming it for his father, who like his son and grandson were Penn Professors of Medicine.

The story of Penn Medicine goes far beyond the mere chronology of eventual improvements in curriculum. This book tells it by recalling those individuals who left a lasting imprint. In his 1889 commencement address, William Osler said "The great possession of any university is its great names," citing Morgan, Shippen, Rush, Wistar, Physick and Barton. This book reviews their contributions and those of later heroes: Agnew, Pepper, Richards, Ravdin, Stemmler, Kelley, Wood, Rhoads, Rubenstein, Earley and many others.

Early in the 20th century the School's basic scientists had signed on to a salaried "full time" system allowing them time to devote themselves to teaching and research just as Morgan had advocated for the faculty of his model school. Perhaps the great-



**Penn leaders at the founding meeting of the AMA:
the first attempt to standardize medical education in the U.S.**

est of Penn's many distinguished basic scientists was Alfred Newton Richards, the versatile investigator who was Chairman of Pharmacology. He was one of the true giants of 20th century medicine. His Lasker Award winning research by ingenious micropuncture techniques defined the mechanism by which the kidney produces urine thereby setting the stage for later advances such as diuretics and dialysis.

During World War II, President Roosevelt called him to Washington to head the Committee on Medical Research. Among its many tasks, Richards' team developed penicillin from a laboratory curiosity to a practical therapeutic agent mass produced in time for it to save the lives of many wounded soldiers. Subsequently Richards guided the School for a decade while also serving the University as its Vice President for Medical Affairs and the National Academy of Sciences as its president.

On the clinical side the School's faculty remained deeply rooted in private practice. Their teaching was mainly by lectures. In the first decade of the 20th century the Dean Charles Harrison Frazier and his uncle, University Provost Charles Custis Harrison attempted a "reform" by replacing senior professors with young research oriented faculty and proposing a full time system. Overwhelming resistance by the entrenched professors resulted in resignation of the Dean and Provost and failure of the movement.

(continued on page 4)

From the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

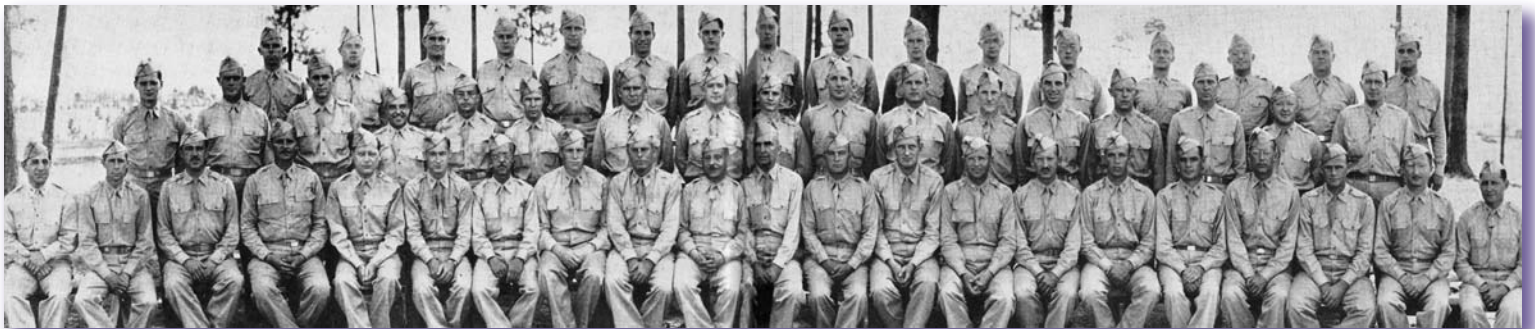
For another 50 years, HUP's best known faculty members, while occupying major administrative and teaching positions, also managed large private practices independently of the school and in many cases at private hospitals rather than HUP. In Surgery, several senior professors, being at odds with each other, recruited their own personal fellows very much as they had under the old apprenticeship system.

An important step toward an integrated multidisciplinary faculty took place during World War II. Seventy-three Penn doctors and 150 nurses with 600 enlisted men traveled to India to establish the 20th General Hospital. Its assignment was to provide support for the impending invasion and control of Japanese held northern Burma so that a road could be built to supply the Chinese over land, instead of by dangerous and expensive flights over the Himalayas. From out of the jungle, this team carved a 2,000 bed hospital (the war's largest). In three years, it cared for 75,000 patients and functioned so superbly that its leader, HUP surgery professor I. S. Ravdin was promoted to General. Serving under General Ravdin's charismatic leadership were most of the young future leaders of Penn Medicine including the future Dean

plan, one of the first of its kind in the School. Medicine and several other departments also moved in this direction.

In the turbulent period of the 1960s and 70s, Dean Alfred Gellhorn, Medicine Chairman Arnold Relman and University Provost Curtis Reitz, all favored a School-wide group practice model. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Dean Edward Stemmler mandated that a group practice model include all clinical departments. Thus was born CPUP (the Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania). For 10 years the Clinical Chairs and their executive committee controlled this powerful entity. Although they were a collegial group, each Chair had his own priorities, possibly a factor causing HUP to begin losing money. The trustees then centralized authority by appointing a single leader to have control of the School, the Clinical Practices, HUP and the Health System. William Kelley, Arthur Rubenstein and now Larry Jameson have held this position.

The last two and a half decades have been some of the most eventful in the School's history. From the turbulence of this era has emerged Penn Medicine, a giant health system with a world class clinical and research faculty, sound financial status and an



Staff of World War II 20th General Hospital (almost all were HUP doctors)

of the medical school, future HUP chairs of Medicine, ENT, Ophthalmology, Neurosurgery, Plastic Surgery, GI medicine, Cardiology and Research Medicine. The 20th General Hospital was the forerunner, perhaps the genesis of the integrated faculty that was eventually to come. After the war, General Ravdin was appointed Chairman of Surgery and then University Vice President for Health Affairs. In many respects HUP and the School of Medicine continued to work collaboratively with Ravdin still calling the shots much as he had done as the commander of the 20th General Hospital.

Importantly, as Ravdin returned from the war and was appointed surgery department Chairman, he remembered the fragmented dysfunctional private practice model of the pre-war faculty and compared it with the success of the 20th General Hospital's integrated and collaborative structure. In his department Ravdin installed a geographic full time faculty practice

unprecedented building program. Under "Curriculum 2000" students are educated in a way exceeding John Morgan's lofty dreams. Basic and clinical science, professionalism and humanism are taught in small groups and integrated throughout all 4 years. Flexibility is provided for them to take advantage of the University's many opportunities including dual degrees, community service and global experiences. This curriculum is responsible for attracting the Nation's best students.

The opening of the Henry Jordan Medical Education Center with its connections to the Perelman Outpatient Center for Advanced Medicine and the Smilow Center for Translational Research, now integrates the School's clinical and research facilities in an optimal way. As it reaches its 250th anniversary, Dean Larry Jameson is positioned to lead the School to a higher level than its founders could ever have imagined.

Brian Czerniecki Receives First American Society of Breast Surgeons/Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award

Brian Czerniecki, MD, PhD, recently received the 2015 ASBrS/Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award. The award was presented on May 2 at the Society's 16th Annual Meeting in Orlando. Dr. Richard Levin, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, presented the award along with Drs. Sheldon Feldman and Terry Sarantou of the selection committee.

Dr. Czerniecki, the first ASBrS member to receive the award, is the Rhodes-Harrington Professor in Surgical Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania and the co-director of the Rena Rowan Breast Center. His research interests focus on dendritic cell biology and interactions with T cells. He has developed dendritic cell vaccines for the treatment of cancer and is involved with several clinical trials for treating patients with early breast cancer with dendritic cell vaccines.

One of Dr. Czerniecki's patients in a letter to the selection committee described his dedication, saying in part, "My first encounter with Dr. C. was an email that I sent to him inquiring about his research. Although he did not know me, he answered in six short minutes! Because he cared enough to respond to a very worried newly diagnosed breast cancer patient at 10pm in the evening, I knew at once that this was a very special surgeon, researcher and person. Dr. C.'s surgical technique was flawless and the vaccine trial process was very smooth. What impressed me most of all was that he truly cared about my emotional security and went to great lengths to assure me about the whole process. Because of his standard of emotional care for patients, he inspired



me to model his behavior, in my work as a patient advocate working with cancer patients. Now I make it a point to respond immediately to patients expressing anxiety. This sensitivity makes a tremendous difference for patients."

Another letter supporting his nomination described Dr. Czerniecki as "not only a world-renowned oncology surgeon and scientist, but he has created a community of patients, caregivers, volunteers, and fellow cancer experts who all have the same shared vision: Setting an end to this terrible disease, giving the best care a patient deserves, involving patients, their families and caregivers in the treatment process, and collaborating in finding ways to share information and knowledge among them and other fellow doctors and scientists."

A fellow researcher further described the merits of this year's winner, saying, "I have met few physicians who excel at patient care as well as research (both basic and clinical), and none who have achieved such results, while consistently earning the affection and loyalty of their patients and trainees." The Gold Foundation's humanism awards for practicing doctors, which are awarded through specialty societies, were established to identify and honor practicing physicians, such as Dr. Czerniecki, who best demonstrate the ideals of compassionate and respectful care for a patient's physical and emotional well-being.

Penn Surgical Society Members Made a Strong Showing at the 2015 Meeting of the American Surgical Association

Elected to membership were Brian Czerniecki, HB Kim, Daniel Kreisel, Scott Levin, John Odorico, Charles Vollmer.

Papers from our department were authored by: Gregory T. Kennedy, Olugbenga T. Okusanya, Daniel F. Heitjan, Charuhas Deshpande, Leslie A. Litzky, Jane J. Keating, Steven M. Albelda, Shuming Nie, Philip S. Low, Jeffrey A. Drebin, Sunil Singhal - **Intraoperative Molecular Imaging Provides Rapid and Accurate Diagnosis of Primary Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma.**

Kim M. Olthoff, Abby Smith, Michael Abecassis, Talia Baker, Carl Berg, Charlotte Beil, Jean Emond, Gregory Everson, Chris Freise, Brenda Gillespie, Benjamin Samstein, Abraham

Shaked - **Defining Long-term Outcomes with Living Donor Liver Transplantation in North America.**

John P. Fischer, Justin P. Fox, Liza C. Wu, Suhail K. Kanchwala, Joshua Fosnot, Stephen J. Kovach, Joseph M. Serletti - **A Longitudinal Assessment of Outcomes, Cost and Healthcare Resource Utilization Following Immediate Breast Reconstruction-Comparing Implant and Autologous Reconstruction.**

Jeff Drebin served on the Program Committee and Selection Committee for the Flance-Karl Award. Ron DeMatteo and Marty Sellers were co-authors of other papers. John Daly served as Vice President.

Welcome

New Residents

General Surgery Program



Kendall Brooks
University of Virginia



Mark Etherington
Penn



Anna Garcia
Vanderbilt



Justin Hatchimonji
Penn



Paul Hernandez
Penn



Lauren Krumeich
Yale



Yun Song
Harvard

Plastic Surgery Program



Duncan Mackay
Penn



James Paliga
Duke



Sameer Shakir
Univ. of Pittsburgh



Michael Ibrahim
Imperial College
London



Malini Daniel
Stanford

Thoracic Surgery Integrated Program

Urology Program



Athena Christakos
Rutgers



Katherine Fischer
State Univ. New York
Downstate



Lior Hirsch
Jefferson



Cara Wright
Eastern Virginia



Anand Parikh
Drexel

Vascular Direct Program

2015 Award Recipients

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award

- ◆ Jashodeep Datta, MD
- ◆ Brett L. Ecker, MD

William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award

- ◆ Rebecca L. Hoffman, MD

William Y. Inouye Faculty Teaching Award

- ◆ Venkat Kalapatapu, MD

Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award

- ◆ Ian W. Folkert, MD

Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Award

- ◆ Robert E. Roses, MD

Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award

- ◆ Eric K. Shang, MD

Jonathan E. Rhoads Resident Research Award

- ◆ Jashodeep Datta, MD

Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award

- ◆ Lindsay E. Kuo, MD

Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award

- ◆ Jeremy R. McGarvey, MD

Surgical Mentorship Award

- ◆ Brian J. Czerniecki, MD, PhD

Career Paths of 2015 HUP Fellowship Graduates

Abhishek Chatterjee, MD, PhD (Breast Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery and Surgical Oncology
Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Karen Kim, MD (Cardiac Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Benjamin Katz, MD (Robotic Surgery)
Urologist - Kasier Permanente, Denver, Colorado

Jeremy Herrmann, MD (Thoracic Surgery)
Congenital Cardiac Surgery Fellow
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gaurav Gupta, MD (Transplant Surgery)
Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery
Apollo Hospitals, Consultant
Chennai, Tennessee

Beth Hochman, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Columbia University Medical Center
New York, New York

Joshua Marks, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Noelle Saillant, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Acute Care Surgeon, Surgical ICU
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Zoe Maher, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Temple University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Yana Etkin, MD (Vascular Surgery)
Attending Vascular Surgeon
North Shore-LIJ Health System
Great Neck, New York

David Nation, MD (Vascular Surgery)
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon
Austin, Texas

Career Paths of the 2015 Graduating Penn Chief Surgical Residents

Jessica A. Cintolo-Gonzalez, MD



Dr. Cintolo-Gonzalez graduated from Tufts University in 2003 with a B.S. in Biology and Community Health. She then received a Fulbright scholarship to study the Spanish National Health System and spent the next year in Madrid researching the historical and political factors affecting the Spanish transition to universal healthcare.

She returned to the United States and attended the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the Gold Humanism in Medicine honor society, and received the Arthur Aufses Sr. Prize in Surgery. She began her general surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 2008. After her third year of training, she joined the research laboratory of Dr. Brian J. Czerniecki and engaged in preclinical work to develop a dendritic cell-based cancer vaccine targeting BRAF mutant melanoma. Her work during this research time led to presentations at national meetings and several publications. During her time in the lab, she also received the William Y. Inouye Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Surgical Resident. She will be moving to Boston with her husband, Johnny, to pursue fellowship training in surgical oncology at the Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care Program.

Meera Gupta, MD, MSCE



Dr. Gupta graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2004 with a BS in Neuroscience and minor in Applied Developmental Psychology. She received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 2008 and continued at Penn for her general surgery training. During her research years, Meera earned a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics and completed the Healthcare Leadership in Quality Residency Training Track from the University of Pennsylvania. Mentored by Dr. Matthew H. Levine and Dr. Peter L. Abt, she presented at several national meetings and published in many journals. As a result, Meera was awarded the Outstanding Resident Research Award from the Association of Academic Surgeons and the Junior Investigator Award from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Meera will continue her training next year as a transplant surgery fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah J. Mathew, MD



Dr. Mathew graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College in 2003 with a B.A. in History and a minor in Biochemistry. She then received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. In 2008 she began her general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. She spent two years in the lab of Dr. Brian Czerniecki researching targets for breast cancer immunotherapy. Sarah decided to pursue a career in Trauma and Critical Care and will be starting her fellowship this year at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jeremy R. McGarvey, MD



Dr. McGarvey graduated with highest honors from Lehigh University in 2004 with a BS in Behavioral Neuroscience and subsequently attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Following completion of his medical degree in 2008, he began his general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. During his time as a post-doctoral research fellow, he worked in cardiovascular research in the laboratory of Drs. Robert and Joseph Gorman, where he evaluated novel imaging techniques and therapeutics to characterize and treat valvular and ischemic heart disease. In addition to authoring or co-authoring over 20 peer-reviewed publications throughout residency, he was awarded the C. Walton Lillehei Young Investigator Award at the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery in 2014 for his work on cardiac MRI and mitral valve repair. Dr. McGarvey will stay in the Philadelphia-area next year with his wife, Dr. Vivian Hsu, to continue his training as a cardiovascular surgery fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.



The Annual Chief Residents' Dinner, June 20 at The National Constitution Center

Eric K. Shang, MD



Dr. Shang graduated from Swarthmore College with majors in Mathematics and Economics. He then attended medical school at the University of Maryland where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. After completing his medical degree in 2008, he started his general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. After his third year of clinical training, Eric spent two years performing biomechanical stress analysis of aortic aneurysms under the guidance of Dr. Benjamin Jackson. This work has led to publications in the Journal of Vascular Surgery and Circulation, as well as presentations at several national meetings. He was the recipient of the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in 2013. Upon completing his general surgery training, he will move with his wife, Krista, and sons Theodore and Frederick, to Cleveland, Ohio for a vascular surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic.

Jesse D. Vrecenak, MD



Dr. Vrecenak attended Yale University as an undergraduate, receiving her BS with honors in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry in 2003. She received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 2007. While a fourth year medical student, she began to work in Dr. Alan Flake's laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where her research focused on fetal cell and gene therapy. Following her third year of General Surgery training, she was privileged to return for three years of research under Dr. Flake's guidance, supported by a resident research grant from the American College of Surgeons. During this time, she focused primarily on in utero hematopoietic cell transplantation and developed a preclinical model that will serve as the basis for an upcoming clinical trial. Based upon this work, she was the recipient of a Measey Fetal Research Fellowship and an American College of Surgeons Excellence in Research Award. During her residency, Jesse and her husband Charles have become parents to sons Tobin (4) and Arik (2 mos), and have been very fortunate to have the support of their parents in caring for their growing family. She will continue her training as a Pediatric Surgery fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

2015 Julius Mackie Distinguished Graduate Awardee; Newly Appointed Chair of the Department of Surgery University of Miami

Omaida Velazquez was born in Cuba. At the age of 10 she fled to the United States with her family. She spoke no English, but learned quickly enough to be valedictorian of her high school class. In college, at the Stevens Institute of Technology, she received the award as the top student in chemistry. At UMDNJ Medical School, she was a Junior AOA, valedictorian, and won 15 awards. During residency at HUP, she ranked at the top. For her studies of gene transfer to cells of the GI tract, while in John Rombeau's laboratory she won the Department's 1997 Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award and the Harry Vars Award of the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.



Following residency, and vascular fellowship at HUP, she served as a faculty member in Penn's Vascular Division, for 8 years. During that time, she turned her research attention to endothelial cell biology, angiogenesis, vasculogenesis, wound healing, and atherosclerosis. Initially she was mentored by Meenhard Heryln at the Wistar Institute, and then established her own independent lab. For her work in this field, she received the von Liebig Foundation Award for Excellence in Vascular Surgical Research (2001), and the University of Pennsylvania Center of Excellence Faculty Scholar Award (2002).

In 2007, Omaid moved to the University of Miami, as Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery. She established an accredited vascular surgery fellowship, and a preclinical vascular research team of 15 members. She directs a highly successful, basic research program, supported by NIH R01 grants. Her Sponsored Clinical Trials, focus on novel treatments for lower extremity arterial occlusive disease, diabetes-related wound healing defects, and atherosclerosis related occlusive and aneurysm diseases.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Velazquez has made seminal contributions in the area of angiogenesis, vasculogenesis, and wound healing. Among her highly significant research findings are (1) the survival and differentiation of human microvascular endothelial cells into capillaries depends on their direct cell-cell contact with dermal fibroblasts; (2) the signals mediating this fibroblast-endothelial cross talk are dependent on a synergistic cell-matrix-cell interaction which is made possible by Vascular Endothelial
10 Growth Hormone and the Integrin V 3, and further ampli-

fied via N-Ras and PI3-K intracellular signaling cascades.

In addition, Dr. Velazquez has shown that growing capillaries, in vitro, using fibroblasts embedded in type I collagen, has potential value as a vascularized substrate for covering wounds. She also began to study another key cell that participates in post-natal angiogenesis, the bone marrow-derived endothelial progenitor cell (EPC). She found that the recruitment of EPC's to hypoxic, ischemic cutaneous wounds is severely impaired, this being correlated with delayed wound healing. Recognition of the clinical importance of this work, led to her being awarded the Joel J. Roslyn Research Award from the Association of Academic Surgeons.

More recently, Dr. Velazquez reported (in *Stem Cells* and *Journal of Clinical Investigation*) that endothelial progenitor cells from the adult bone marrow can be released into the circulation by a non-physiologic hyperoxia-stimulus that triggers an increase in bone marrow nitric oxide (NO). She showed that the diabetic impairments in NO mediated mobilization and homing of EPC's to cutaneous wounds, can be reversed by hypoxia and Stromal Derived Growth Factor 1alpha. These findings are of potential importance in treatment of peripheral vascular disease, and the chronic wounds of diabetics.

At a recent meeting of the Society of University Surgeons, Omaid gave a featured lecture: "The Glass Ceiling: Does it Still Exist for Women and Minorities in Academic Surgery?" While unfortunately some remnants of this ceiling may indeed persist, it has hardly been a hindrance to Omaid's progress. By all the traditional indices, she is one of the most accomplished academic surgeons of her generation. She has been a member of an NIH study section. She has published more than 100 peer reviewed articles. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. She has been cited in *Who's Who in the World*.

Among the 25 distinguished professional societies Omaid lists are the American College of Surgeons, the Society of University Surgeons, and the Society for Vascular Surgery. Most impressively of all, she has been elected as a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation ("The Young Turks"). Very few surgeons have ever become members of this prestigious society.

At Miami, Omaid has served as Executive Dean of Research, Research Education on Innovative Medicine. In July 2015 she was appointed Chair of the Miami University Department of Surgery. No wonder! Congratulations Omaid!

Alumni News

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

New Faces

◆ **Christian Bermudez, MD**, has joined the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. He obtained his MD and residencies in general, cardiothoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Chile in Santiago, Chile. He had further fellowship training in cardiac surgery at the Mayo Clinic and in cardiothoracic transplantation and ventricular support at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh since 2006 and from 2013-2015 was Chief of Cardiothoracic Transplantation at Pittsburgh. His research and clinical interests are in thoracic transplantation ECMO and ventricular support devices. In these fields he has published 88 peer reviewed papers.



◆ **Jeremy Cannon, MD, SM, FACS** has joined the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery. Dr. Cannon recently completed his military service in the US Air Force as the Chief of Trauma & Critical Care at San Antonio Military Medical Center, the Department of Defense's only Level I trauma center.



Dr. Cannon is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, received his MD from Harvard Medical School, and completed his General Surgery Residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA. During a 2-year research fellowship at Children's Hospital Boston, he also earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. He completed a Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at the Children's Hospital Boston and is board certified in surgery and surgical critical care.

Dr. Cannon served as a combat surgeon in Iraq in 2007 and in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010-2011. In 2011, he was awarded the Paul W. Myers Award as the top medical officer in the US Air Force.

From 2012-2015 he was Chief of Trauma and Critical Care of the San Antonio Military Medical Center, Co-Director of the Surgery ICU of Brooke Army Hospital and Associate Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, San Antonio, Texas.

His bibliography contains 24 peer reviewed publications plus numerous reviews and chapters.

◆ **John P. Fischer, MD**, has joined the Division of Plastic and Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Fischer completed his undergraduate studies at Hamilton College and medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York and completed his general surgery and plastic surgery training at Penn. Dr. Fischer has appointments at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn-Presbyterian Medical Center, and Pennsylvania Hospital. His practice focuses on both reconstructive and cosmetic surgery with a special interest in abdominal wall and hernia repair, breast reconstruction, and aesthetic surgery of the trunk and breasts.



◆ **R. Caleb Kovell, MD**, returned to Penn after completed a fellowship in Genitourinary Reconstruction & Prosthetics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He joins the division of Urology as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. He obtained his MD at Penn and his Residency at HUP.



◆ **Susanna M. Nazarian, MD, PhD**, has joined the Division of Transplantation. She obtained her MD and PhD at Johns Hopkins where she also completed her residency in general surgery and fellowship in abdominal transplantation. From 2013 until now, she was Assistant Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has published 17 peer reviewed papers.



As an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina, she was Phi Beta Kappa and a three time All American in Track and Field and Cross Country. She was named among the 50 Athletes of All Time in the history of Atlantic Coast Conference Track and Field.

◆ **Pat Reilly**, who has been the faculty advisor for the Residents Educational Conference for more than a decade will step down from this position at the end of this academic year. **Rob**



Roses has enthusiastically agreed to take charge of this most important educational program for our General Surgical Residents.

Alumni News *(continued from page 11)*

◆ **Lindsay Kuo, MD** is one of 3 residents nationwide to receive the Leadership Scholarship Award of the RAS-ACS (Resident and Associates Society of the American College of Surgeons). The award will fund her attendance at the ACS Clinical Congress.



◆ **Jon Morris, MD** to receive the Edward C. Bradley, S.J., M.D. '51 Medical Alumni Award. The award recognizes St. Joseph's University alumni in the field of medicine who have made lasting impacts on their profession. Dr. Morris is only the eighth to be named winner of this prestigious award.



◆ **Zoe Maher, MD**, Fellow in the Trauma Division, has received a Penn Pearls Teaching Award. This is the only School of Medicine teaching honor that is determined and awarded exclusively by the students.



◆ **Rachel Kelz, MD, MSCE**, has stepped down as the faculty advisor for the Agnew Surgical Society. **Steve Allen, MD** assumed this role on May 1. Steve will also continue as the Clerkship Associate Director, along with Josh Bleier who serves as the current Clerkship Director.



◆ **Francis X. DeLone, Jr.** finished his HUP Plastic Surgery residency in 1984 and then had training in hand surgery at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary in England. For many years he has been Chief of Plastic Surgery at Riddle Hospital. In July 2014 he was named Chief of Surgery at Riddle Hospital.



◆ At the annual meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery, **Dr. Ronald Fairman** was elected to the office of president elect. Long a leader of the society Dr. Fairman has served on the executive committee and the board of directors. During his 3 years as program chair for the annual meeting both the number of abstracts submitted and meeting attendance have substantially increased. His 12 term as president will begin in 2016.



Promotions

◆ **Thane A. Blinman, MD, FAAP**
Pediatric Surgery -
Promoted to Associate Professor in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Stephanie M. Fuller, MD, MS**
Pediatric Surgery -
Promoted to Associate Professor in the Academic Clinician track



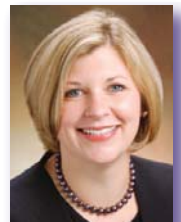
◆ **J. William Gaynor, MD**
Pediatric Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery in the Academic Clinician track



◆ **Venkat Kalapatapu, MD, FACS**
Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Promoted to Associate Professor in the Academic Clinician track



◆ **Julie S. Moldenhauer, MD, FACOG**
Pediatric Surgery -
Promoted to Associate Professor in the Academic Clinician track



◆ **Ariana L. Smith, MD**
Urology -
Promoted to Associate Professor in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Charles M. Vollmer, MD**
Gastrointestinal Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Hazel Holst, MD** former Penn faculty member in the Division of Plastic Surgery died at age 83 on April 9, 2015. She was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and obtained her MD at Women's Medical College where she also completed a residency in general surgery. After a two year fellowship in plastic surgery at HUP, she was appointed to the Penn faculty and HUP staff where she served for many years. She also worked at Philadelphia General Hospital and several other area hospitals. She devoted considerable time to research in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research, often working with Herndon Lehr on cryopreservation of skin and kidney for transplantation.



◆ **Seema Sonnad, PhD** died on May 27, 2015, in Renton, WA. Seema suffered a cardiac arrhythmia while running an ultramarathon. Dr. Sonnad was Associate Professor and Director of Outcomes Research in the Department of Surgery from 2003-2012. During that time she was a catalyst for clinical research in virtually every division of the Department of Surgery, as well as working and publishing with faculty in other Departments and in the Leonard Davis Institute. In 2013 Dr. Sonnad left the full-time faculty to become Director of Health Services Research for Christiana Care's Value Institute. She remained an Adjunct Associate Professor of Surgery at Penn. In her role as Director of Health Services Research at Christiana Care's Value Institute, Seema was able to combine her creativity and training with her desire to apply research findings in real-world settings, while continuing to mentor trainees and junior faculty.



Seema was a dedicated researcher and prolific author. She led and participated in research leading to more than 140 peer-reviewed publications, including work in surgical outcomes, women in academic medicine, technology diffusion, meta-analysis and guidelines implementation.

Seema was an active member of ISPOR and SMDM (serving in recent years as co-director of the national meeting and trustee). She served as a reviewer and advisor for NIH, AHRQ and most recently PCORI.

◆ **Leroy L. Johnson, MD** HUP Chief Resident 1961, died at age 86 on May 5, 2015. Lee was a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. As a resident at HUP, he was rated as one of the best by both faculty and his fellow residents. He spent two years in Jerry Peskin's lab working on portal hypertension. After serving in the Navy, he returned to HUP for training in vascular surgery. He then declined an offer to remain on the faculty, choosing instead to return to the Midwest. He accepted a position with a group practice at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa, where he spent the rest of his career.



◆ **John M. Templeton Jr.** died at age 75 on May 16 2015. He was a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Medical School. After surgical residency at the Medical College of Virginia, he trained at Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia in pediatric surgery under C. Everett Koop. After serving in the Navy, he returned to CHOP where he served on the faculty for 18 years, rising to the rank of professor and becoming Director of the Trauma Program. He was also considered an expert in the separation of conjoined twins. He served as Vice Chairman of the American Trauma Society.



In 1995, he retired from Medicine to succeed his father as head of the John Templeton Foundation. Described as an evangelical Christian, Jack's frequently stated goal was to "reconcile the worlds of science and religion". The Foundation supported with grants averaging one million dollars, studies of "the big questions of human purpose", as well as others in pure science. Jack Templeton was intensely supportive of religious liberty, national security, the welfare of the Nation's warriors, and the plight of the under privileged, especially women. Under his leadership, the Foundation's assets increased from 2.8 million dollars to 3.4 billion dollars. It gave away about 1 billion dollars during that time. The Foundation was especially known for the annual Templeton Prize for "exceptional contributions to affirming life's spiritual contributions." The monetary award for this prize varies, but is always set to exceed the amount for the year's Nobel Prize. It has gone to physicists, philosophers and religious leaders such as Billy Graham and Mother Theresa.

Post Fellowship Appointments of 2013 HUP General Surgery Chief Residents

◆ **Arminder Jassar, MD**

Fellow - Cardiovascular Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

◆ **M. Kenneth Lee, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor in Surgery
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

◆ **Derek Nathan, MD**

Attending Surgeon
Virginia Mason Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

◆ **Robert Redfield, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Transplant Surgery
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin

◆ **Brant Ullery, MD**

Vascular Surgeon
Providence Heart and Vascular Institute
Portland, Oregon

◆ **Niamey Wilson, MD, MSHP**

Co-Director, Breast Center
Saint Francis Medical Center
Comprehensive Women's Health Center-Breast Center
Hartford, CT

Catching Up With . . . *Omaida Velazquez*

Contributed by Jon Morris

Omaida Velazquez is a 1991 graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey as class valedictorian with Alpha Omega Alpha honors, after which she matriculated to PENN to begin internship. During her general surgical residency, Omaida would work in the laboratory of John Rombeau and in recognition of her scientific achievements would receive the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in 1997. Following her general surgical residency and vas-



Omaida in 1998

cular fellowship at HUP, Omaida remained on the PENN faculty in the Division of Vascular Surgery for 8 years before being recruited to lead the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Miami. There she rapidly rose through the academic ranks to become the David Kimmelman Endowed Chair in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery in 2008. Most recently, we have come to learn that Dr. Velazquez has been appointed Chair of Surgery at the University of Miami.

A Conversation with Omaida

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

Omaida: *The lab years and the PGY 6-7 clinical senior yrs (working with John Rombeau and Ernie Rosato).*

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Omaida: *Clyde Barker taught me, by his direct example,*

to value leadership skills and to pursue a career as a triple threat surgeon scientist.

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

Omaida: *Don Liu was my chief when I was a PGY3. He was a courageous, caring, skilled, smart, accomplished surgeon with a balanced view of life. He was a great role model.*

Catching Up With . . . *Omaida Velazquez*

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

Omaida: *There were many junior residents that impressed me greatly. In fact, I can't remember a single junior resident that I felt was not exceedingly strong. Notably, Daniel Kreisel and Alexander Krupnick always impressed me for their excellence in both clinical and academic endeavours.*

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Omaida: *The UPenn family of mentors and colleagues.*

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

Omaida: *Daniel Kreisel, Alexander Krupnick, Joe Woo, Joe Shrager, Ron Fairman, John Rombeau, and many others that I get to see and catch up with at the national meetings.*

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

Omaida: *Mostly focused on open & endovascular aortic aneurysm, carotid, and lower extremity peripheral arterial disease reconstructions (about 75% endovascular & 25% open complex aortic work).*

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

Omaida: *Outside of work, I like to spend quality time with my children and my husband. We enjoy traveling together & fine dining. I also enjoy reading (other than science, my favorite topics are political dystopias and theoretical physics). Since we are in Miami, we also very much enjoy some quality beach time.*

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Omaida: *My husband, Dr. Romulo Cuy, continues to enjoy his work in clinical Pediatric anesthesia.*

Our son, Peter James Cuy is 20 yrs old and a junior at Caltech studying Electrical Engineering. Our daughter, Julia Caridad Cuy, is seven years old, a second grader, loves math and science, and wants to become a doctor one day.

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

Omaida: *"Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions – What If?" by Randall Munroe, an easy, fun, light hearted read, with a scientific twist.*

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

Omaida: *I was inducted to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2009 and Dr. Barker sent me a hand written congratulatory note. I was so touched that I framed his letter and I keep it on display in my office.*



Peter, Julia, Omaida and Romulo Cuy



Penn Surgery

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3400 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

SUMMER 2015



SAVE THE DATE

October 6, 2015
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Penn Surgery Society Reception
Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons
Hilton Chicago, Marquette Room - Chicago, Illinois

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