



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

SUMMER 2016

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.



Graduation of 2016 Chief Residents

Annual Dinner, June 18 at The Top of the Tower

2016 Award Recipients



Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"

◆ Brett L. Ecker, MD



Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award

◆ Olugbenga T. Okusanya, MD



William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award

◆ Rebecca L. Hoffman, MD



Jonathan E. Rhoads Resident Research Award

◆ David D. Aufhauser, Jr., MD



William Y. Inouye Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Robert E. Roses, MD



Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award

◆ Avi Shaked, MD, PhD



Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award

◆ Edmund K. Bartlett, MD



Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award

◆ Heather Wachtel, MD



Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Robert E. Roses, MD



Surgical Mentorship Award

◆ Douglas L. Fraker, MD



From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

I suppose it is a human foible to speculate when one's contemporaries excel that they must be the "finest generation". Certainly I have always believed and often claimed that the cadre of HUP residents who trained during the 12 years that Jonathan Rhoads was department chairman were the best ever and that their accomplishments would remain unmatched by future residents.

Decades later I still admire the academic record of my fellow residents of that earlier time and the glory they reflected on their chief. Arguing for superiority of this cohort is that 11 of them (almost 15%) became chairmen of university departments of surgery. Furthermore I was never sure that those who became chairman were the best of them. Others of this bunch distinguished themselves as hospital or division chiefs, presidents of national societies, chairs of specialty boards and winners of all sorts of academic prizes and awards. Despite my undiminished loyalty and admiration for those aging stars my attendance at two recent departmental functions make me doubt that the reputation for preeminence of the Rhoads residents can hold up.

The first of these events was the graduation exercise of HUP's 2016 chief residents. Indeed I was blown away by the litany of their accomplishments. It was pointed out that this was the first class of residents that Dr. Drebin as chairman has been responsible for from the time of their selection as interns all the way through their entire residency. He has good reason to be very proud of them. (see pages 6-7)

The second event was a surgery grand rounds in July at which six of our junior residents summarized results of their two years of research. Doug Fraker as the department's vice chair for research introduced each of them with justifiable pride. His brief sum-

mary of their work is on page 3. Their presentations were impressive. I was also surprised and pleased that some of them chose to eschew what seems to be a current trend for young surgeons to bypass the opportunity to try their hand at research in basic science, opting instead for degrees in public health and epidemiology or activity in clinical outcomes research. Of course this trend is not a local phenomenon. Jim Markmann in his recent Mackie

HUP Chief Residents During Dr. Rhoads' Chairmanship

*Became University Surgery Department Chairs

1959-60 Davis, Arnold V. O. Dexheimer, Frank R. Gyorgy, Tilbert R. M. Muir, William R. Orr, Jack T. *Wolferth, Charles C., Jr.	1960-61 Akin, John M., Jr. Hood, Frederick R., Jr. Inouye, William Y. Light, Harry G. Patterson, Lewis T. Smart, Charles R.	1961-62 Danielson, Gordon K. Johnson, LeRoy L. Kessler, Frederick B. Nightingale, David S. Timmis, Hilary H.
1962-63 Barnes, Anne U. Berggren, Ronald B. *Crichlow, Robert W. Heisterkamp, Charles A. *Jannetta, Peter J. Nelson, Harry M., Jr.	1963-64 *Barker, Clyde F. Hardesty, William H. Mac Vaugh, Horace III *Miller, Leonard D. Myint, Maung Kyaw	1964-65 Hartzell, George W. Johnson, Charles J. Spagna, Paschal M. Talman, E. Armistead
1965-66 Hamilton, Ralph W. Nance, F. Carter Reis, Robert L. *Rosato, Francis E.	1966-67 *Dudrick, Stanley J. *Jones, Rayford S. Kaplan, Edwin L. Noto, Joseph A. Weiner, Leonard J.	1967-68 Boruchow, Irwin B. *Currier, P. William Neiby, C. Paul Rosato, Ernest F. Tyers, G. Frank O. Vibul, Santi
1968-69 Berkowitz, Henry B. *Copeland, Edward M., III Hanson, Victor A. Knecht, James W. Park, C. Dick Pierce, William S.	1969-70 Diaco, Joseph F. Lundy, Barbara S. Noble, Raymond Reber, Howard A. Saik, Richard P.	1970-71 Appel, Sidney D. Attkiss, Michael J. Finnegan, James O. Noone, R. Barrett Perloff, Leonard J. Seltzer, Murray H. Staroscik, Rudolf N. Wilmore, Douglas W.

1971-72

Agnes, Robert F.
Allen, Terry R.
Coller, John A.
Friedman, Jerald N.
Long, James M., III
*Lynch, Dennis J.
Nicholas, Gary G.
Silberman, Howard

Dr. Drebin's 2016 Chief Residents

Bartlett, Edmund K.
Caskey, Robert C.
Lee, Kathreen P.
MacArthur, John W.
Okusanya, Olugbenga T.
Ramdon, Andre R.
Wachtel, Heather

lecture (see the Spring issue of the Newsletter) told us that at MGH none of the recent surgical residents have chosen to spend their research time in basic science.

The achievement and quality of HUP's 2016 graduating chief residents and the research of the junior residents make me wish I could be around in 10 to 15 years to watch their accomplishments as they mature and determine whether they will surpass those of Dr. Rhoads' HUP residents of the 1960s. As a representative of that earlier group I hate to admit it but my bet is on Dr. Drebin's residents.

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Resident Research Presentations at Grand Rounds

Contributed by Doug Fraker

On Thursday, July 14, the six residents who just came out of the laboratory gave presentations during Grand Rounds to the faculty and residents and medical students. It was an outstanding and diverse group of presentations described below.



Dr. Ann Gaffey spent two years in the laboratory of Dr. Pavan



Atluri of the Cardiac Surgery faculty. Her primary work involved using endothelial progenitor cells to improve revascularization for heart disease in a rat myocardial ischemia model. She injected endothelial cells with or without hydrogels to show improvement and efficiency of engraftment.

Dr. Jane Keating spent two years in the laboratory of Dr. Sunil



Singhal of the Division of Thoracic Surgery. She presented her work in Dr. Singhal's lab using infrared optical imaging during real time surgical resection. Her project focused on looking at the margins of mediastinal thymomas and how intraoperative imaging can lead to more complete resection.

Dr. Rebecca Hoffman spent three years obtaining a Master's



of Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and working on a variety of diverse topics related to surgical education, outcomes in patient centered research and quality of patient safety. She discussed early discharge and re-admission for colorectal cancer patients. She also described surveys regarding the best and worst traits of clinical surgeons. Her mentor was Dr. Rachel Kelz.

Dr. Lea Lowenfeld spent two years in the laboratory of Dr.



Brian Czerniecki. She worked on dendritic cell vaccine based therapy for early breast cancer. She showed data indicating that self-specific vaccines to anti-HER2neu improved regional nodal response and lead to greater or complete pathologic response in patients with early breast cancer.

Dr. Matthew Hornick spent two years working with Dr. Alan



Flake at CHOP. He gave a presentation on physiologic extra-uterine support of extremely premature infants. He developed a model of artificial support using prematurely delivered fetal sheep. He presented results using a variety of cannulation flow techniques to maintain circulation in this model to replicate the uterine environment.

Dr. Danielle Spragan worked with the Gorman laboratory



group. She presented two aspects of her work on mitral valve heart disease in large animals raised to simulate mitral valve regurgitation after myocardial infarction. She also presented a separate clinical study on severe left ventricular hypertrophy in patients undergoing aortic valve replacement.

Dr. Fairman Installed as President of Society for Vascular Surgery

In June Ronald Fairman, Penn Chief of Vascular Surgery, was installed as President of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) at the organization’s 2016 annual meeting.

As president of the 5,400-member organization, Dr. Fairman will chair a board of directors of more than two dozen vascular surgery leaders, and oversee four governing councils, 26 committees and 400 volunteer members. In addition, he will lead the efforts of more than 20 full-time SVS employees in the society’s Chicago and Washington, D.C. offices.



Dr. Fairman moderating a panel on vascular disease

Dr. Fairman’s research has been pivotal to key clinical trials and life-saving improvements in vascular stent technology. In 2015, he was inducted as a member of the Academy of Master Clinicians, Penn Medicine’s highest clinical honor. He was recently elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society, an unusual distinction for a surgeon.

At the time of Ron Fairman’s recent installation as President of the SVS his colleague Grace Wang in an editorial for the journal *Vascular Specialist* commented on Ron’s leadership style. She related it to the analysis of leadership traits put forth by Kouzes and Posner in their famous 1987 book which they based on 75,000 interviews of successful leaders. This highly cited book has sold more than 2 million copies and is now in its 5th edition. In it the authors attribute successful leadership to 5 practices: 1) leading by example; 2) appealing to the shared goals of others; 3) courage to challenge the status quo; 4) enabling others to succeed by delegating power and authority; 5) celebrating key accomplishments of the team.

In her article Grace contends that it is because Ron embodies these 5 elements of leadership style that he and his team (Jeff Carpenter, Mike Golden, Joe Bavaria, Rich Baum, Omaid Velasquez and Ed Woo) were able within a few short years of his arrival to build Penn’s vascular program into one of the most acclaimed in the country.

It is obvious from the current US presidential campaign that not all prominent individuals possess these leadership instincts. It is satisfying that the Vascular Society has recognized that Ron does.



Ron Fairman accepts the President’s gavel from outgoing president Dr. Bruce A. Perler

Long active as an SVS leader, Dr. Fairman has served on the executive committee, the board of directors, and various councils and committees. During his three years as program chair for the Annual Meeting, abstract submissions and attendance increased substantially.



Dr. Fairman’s annual reception at SVS meeting for HUP vascular fellows and guests: Julia Glaser, Kathleen Lamb, Ron Fairman, Yana Etkin, Ben Jackson and Holly Graves

Welcome

New Residents

General Surgery Program



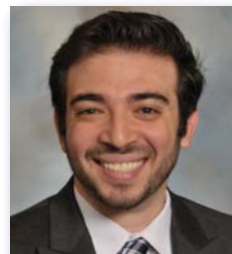
Adrienne Bruce
Georgetown



Kevin Eddinger
Penn



Matthew Goldshore
George Washington



Andrew Hanna
Univ. of Maryland



Catie Lancaster
Emory



Ciaran O'Brien
Columbia



Jordan Stoecker
Case Western Reserve

Plastic Surgery Program



Andrew Bauder
Penn



Tomi Familusi
Albert Einstein



Michael Tecce
Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine



Mark Helmers
Johns Hopkins



Mallory Irons
Penn

Thoracic Surgery Integrated Program

Urology Program



Karl Godlewski
Rush Medical College



Matthew Heavner
Wake Forest



Aseem Malhotra
Temple



Kinnari Patel
Jefferson



Nathan Belkin
Harvard

Vascular Direct Program

Accomplishments and Career Plans of the 2016 Graduating Penn Chief Surgical Residents

Edmund K. Bartlett, MD



Ned graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University in 2004 with an AB in Molecular Biology. He received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2009. While in medical school, he received a Cancer Research Training Award to spend an additional year pursuing surgical oncology research at the National Cancer Institute. After completing medical school he remained at the University of Pennsylvania for his residency in general surgery. During his research time, Ned worked in the laboratory of Dr. Giorgos Karakousis pursuing clinical and translational studies predominately related to melanoma. This led to numerous presentations at national meetings and authorship of over 30 publications. During residency he and his wife Pilar welcomed two sons, James and Jack, into their family. They will be moving to New York for Ned's fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Robert C. Caskey, MD, MSc



Robert graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in 2003 with a BS in Biology. He then completed medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. During medical school he received a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship which allowed him to obtain a masters degree in The Biology and Control of Disease Vectors from the prestigious London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. After graduating from medical school in 2008, he began his General Surgery residency at the University of Mississippi. In 2012, Robert transferred to the University of Pennsylvania for the remainder of his General Surgery training. During residency, he spent three years in the laboratories of Dr. Kenneth Liechty and Dr. Alan Flake and presented his work at many national meetings. He and his wife, Ann, have been blessed with three children during residency, Caoimhe, Aisling, and Thomas. Robert and his family are very happy to be staying in Philadelphia next year while he completes additional training at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kathreen P. Lee, MD

Kay graduated from Harvard University in 1997 with an AB



in Biology. She then joined Teach for America and taught high school science and math in Houston, Texas for five years and then another three years in Boston and Maryland. She then decided that while high school students are fun to teach, high school science curricula is not earth shatteringly interesting, and a mid-career change led her to attend Boston University School of Medicine. After graduating in 2009, she started her general surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She spent two years in the lab of Dr. Brian Czerniecki investigating different tumor markers as potential new targets for dendritic cell vaccine therapy for breast cancer patients. During residency, Kay and her partner Dr. Rebecca Batiste have become moms to sons Jacob (3) and Benjamin (0.6). She will continue her training as a colorectal surgery fellow at Stony Brook University Hospital in New York.

John W. MacArthur, MD, MTR



JW graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University in 2004 with a BS in Biological Sciences, and stayed in New York City for medical school, where he attended Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. After earning his medical degree in 2008, he moved to Philadelphia to start residency in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. During that time, he began working with his mentor, Dr. Y. Joseph Woo. He became a postdoctoral fellow in the Woo Cardiovascular Research Laboratory studying mechanisms of angiogenesis and investigating the biomechanical inefficiencies of ventricular myocytes post myocardial infarction. While a member of the lab, he authored or co-authored 30 peer reviewed publications, won the Vivien Thomas Young Investigator Award from the American Heart Association, was the recipient of the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in General Surgery, was a visiting scholar at Stanford University and earned a Masters of Translational Research degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Upon completion of training in general surgery, JW will be starting the next stage of his career as a cardiac surgery fellow under his mentor Dr. Woo, at Stanford Hospital and Clinics in Palo Alto, California. This journey could not have been possible without the love and support he received from his friends and family, for which the presence in his life he feels tremendously grateful.

Olugbenga T. Okusanya, MD



Gbenga graduated with honors in Biology and a certificate in Neurobiology in 2005 from Harvard University. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine where he served as president of the Agnew Surgical Society. He received his medical degree in 2009 and began his General Surgery training at the University of Pennsylvania. After three years of clinical training, he spent two years in the lab of Dr. Sunil Singhal while also serving as the Resident Executive Council chair. His research focus was the use of targeted fluorescent dyes for intra-operative thoracic tumor imaging. With this work he competed in and won first place in the 2014 American Association for Thoracic Surgery C. Walton Lillehei Resident Forum. He also presented papers at several national meetings and authored more than a dozen manuscripts. The medical students have recognized his teaching and mentorship by inducting him into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and awarding him Penn Pearl Teaching Awards in 2012 and 2016. He has also won the American College of Surgeons Leadership Scholarship, the William Y. Inouye Resident Award and the Gordon P. Buzby Surgical Leadership Award. He will be moving to Pittsburgh with his wife, Dr. Marisa Moreta, and his son, Quinton, to begin a fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. He would like to thank his wife and family for their untiring support over the last 11 years at Penn.

Andre R. Ramdon, MBBS

Andre graduated with distinction from the University of the West Indies in 2004 with a MBBS. He also received the prestigious award of being named "Best Pre-Clinical Student." He then



spent the next two years in his home country of Jamaica where he completed a surgical internship. In 2011, he embarked on his dream of studying General Surgery in the United States at the University of Pennsylvania. After two years as a preliminary General Surgery Resident he was awarded a categorical residency position.

During his 5 years of residency at Penn he authored a number of abstracts and book chapters. Next year he will be a fellow in Vascular Surgery at Albany University.

Heather Wachtel, MD



Heather graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 2003 with a BA in History of Medicine and Molecular Biology. She conducted immunology research for two years at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, prior to attending the Yale University School of Medicine.

Following completion of her MD degree, she began her general surgery residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 2009. During her research years, she joined the laboratory of Dr. Douglas Fraker, authoring numerous publications on endocrine and oncologic surgical topics, and presenting papers at many national meetings, including the American Surgical Association. She was awarded the Paul LoGerfo Clinical Research Award at the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons meeting in 2014. After completing her HUP surgical residency Dr. Wachtel will be moving to Boston with her husband, Greg, and daughter, Ava, for fellowship in Endocrine Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Post Fellowship Appointments - 2014 General Surgery Chiefs

◆ Myron Allukian, III, MD, MA

Assistant Professor in Pediatric Surgery
University of Texas - Houston

◆ Nina M. Bowens, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Vascular/Endovascular
Harbor - UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California

◆ Holly L. Graves, MD

Vascular Surgeon, Kennedy Hospital
Stratford, New Jersey

◆ William Hiesinger, MD

Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery
Stanford University

◆ Caroline E. Reinke, MD, MSPH

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Acute Care Surgery
Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

◆ Eduardo Rodriguez, MD

Vascular Surgeon, Memorial Health System
Hollywood, Florida

Career Paths of 2016 HUP Fellowship Graduates

Lucy De La Cruz (Breast Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Director of Research and Academic Development, Margaret W. Niedland Breast Center, Jupiter Medical Center, Jupiter, Florida

Arminder Jassar, MD (Cardiac Surgery)

Cardiac Surgery Faculty, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Ibrahim Sultan, MD (Cardiac Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Earl V. Thompson, IV, MD (Colon and Rectal Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sofya Asfaw, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Surgical Staff, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Ohio

Brian Frank, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Surgical Staff, Geisinger Medical Center, GCMC Trauma Surgery, Scranton, Pennsylvania

Holly L. Graves, MD (Vascular Surgery)

Vascular Surgeon, Kennedy Hospital Stratford, New Jersey

Stephen Hersperger, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Orlando Health System, Orlando, Florida

William Hiesinger, MD

Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Vanessa Nomellini, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Surgical Faculty, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Drew Nunn, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Surgical Faculty Wake Forest Medical Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Jordan Schooler, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Surgical Faculty, Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center Hershey, Pennsylvania

Ksenia Orlova, MD (Vascular Surgery)

Surgical Faculty, Geisinger Health System, GMC Vascular Surgery, Danville, Pennsylvania

Mona Yezdani, MD (Urology)

Brandywine Urology Consultants, Wilmington, Delaware

Alumni News

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery email your news to [Clyde Barker clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Clyde.Barker@uphs.upenn.edu)

- ◆ **Taine V. Pechet, MD** Associate Professor of Surgery (Thoracic Division) has been appointed Chief of Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.



- ◆ **T. Sloane Guy, IV, MD** (HUP chief resident 2002) leads the new robotic cardiac surgery program at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He joins the institutions from Temple University where he served as chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, program director for the thoracic surgery residency, and chief of robotic surgery. Dr. Guy also served as an active-duty Army surgeon for nine years, completing three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with the rank of lieutenant colonel.



- ◆ The late **Peter Jannetta, MD** (HUP chief resident 1963) was head of neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh medical school for nearly 30 years. (See Spring 2016 newsletter). He was chosen to receive Penn Medicine's Distinguished Graduate Award at the time of his Penn Medical School class's 60th reunion next May. Because of his unexpected death his family will receive the award of his behalf.



- ◆ **Verdi J. DiSesa, MD**, former Penn CT Faculty member (1990-1993) was named president and chief executive officer of Temple University Hospital. He has been at Temple since 2011 and will remain chief operating officer of Temple's health system and senior vice dean for clinical affairs in the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.



(continued on page 9)

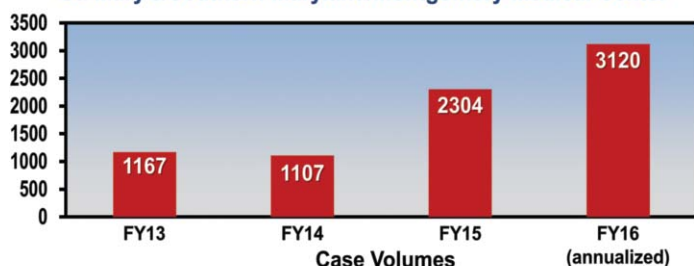
Alumni News *(continued from page 8)*

- ◆ **Ed Woo, MD** (chief resident 2003) writes “It’s hard to believe that 2½ years has passed since I started here in DC. It’s been a fantastic journey and I wanted to thank you and the Penn Department of Surgery as I would not be here today if not for the exceptional training, mentorship and opportunities provided. In the last 2 ½ years I have been in charge of the MedStar hospitals in the DC region and now have been asked to oversee the hospitals in Baltimore as well. I now have 20 vascular surgeons under my leadership”. Ed also sent some slides reflecting the positive impact he has had in increasing the volume of vascular surgery in the 2 ½ years since he arrived at the MedStar hospitals.



MedStar DC Vascular Case Volumes

Washington Hospital Center/Georgetown University Hospital
St. Mary's/Southern Maryland/Montgomery Medical Center



- ◆ **Dan Dempsey, MD** Chief of GI Surgery, is to be installed as President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, on September 24 at the Philadelphia Country Club, 1601 Spring Mill Road, Gladwyne, Pa. Penn Surgery Society members are encouraged to attend. Reception 6:00 pm, dinner and awards program 7:00 pm.



- ◆ **Moritz Ziegler, MD** (HUP chief resident 1974 and active attending surgeon at both HUP and CHOP 1977-1989) has been chosen to receive the 2016 Ladd Gold Medal, the highest award of the Academy of Pediatric Surgery.



- ◆ **Ken Brayman, MD, PhD** has been selected as the 2017 Distinguished Graduate Awardee. He will give the Mackie Lecture on May 25, 2017.



New Faces

- ◆ **David Anderson, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery; MD - Medical College of Georgia; Residency - New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Fellowship - Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



- ◆ **Doraid Jarrar, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in Thoracic Surgery; MD - School of Medicine at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany; Research - Brown University; Residency - University of Alabama; Fellowship - Tufts New England Medical Center.



- ◆ **Alexander Au, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Plastic Surgery; MD - University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry; Residency - Yale; Fellowship - Penn, Reconstructive Microsurgery.



- ◆ **Shariq Raza, MD**, Assistant Professor in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery; MBBS - Baqai Medical College, Pakistan; Residency - Temple University Hospital; Fellowship - Massachusetts General Hospital.



- ◆ **Paris Butler, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Plastic Surgery; MD - University of Virginia; Residency - University of Virginia, Postdoctoral Research at Stanford; Fellowship - Penn.



- ◆ **Adam Shiroff, MD**, Assistant Professor in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery; MD - Jefferson Medical College; Residency - Christiana Care Health System; Fellowship - Penn.



Catching Up With . . . Ken Brayman

Contributed by Jon Morris

Ken Brayman is a 1977 Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Massachusetts receiving a BS in Biochemistry, and subsequently matriculated to Penn, receiving his MD with Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Society Honors in 1981. Following medical school, Ken remained at Penn for his general surgical residency at HUP (1981-1989) which included three years in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research (1984-1987). Ken also took postdoctoral training in the Pathology Graduate Group at Penn and received his PhD in 1989. For his superb investigative work, he received the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in 1987. Following his training at Penn, Ken took a Transplantation Fellowship at the



Ken in 1989

University of Minnesota (1989-1991). Ken was recruited back to Penn as an Assistant Professor of Surgery (1992) and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997. In 2002, Ken was recruited to the University of Virginia as a Professor of Surgery and Director of the Renal, Pancreas, and Islet Transplantation Program. Since 2009, he has been the Chief of the Division of Transplantation Surgery and Director of the Charles O. Strickler Transplant Center for the University of Virginia Health System. In 2011, Ken was honored as

a distinguished graduate of The University of Massachusetts recognized for his contributions to Surgery, Transplantation, diabetes research and Cell Therapy. In 2002-2004, Ken was President of the Medical Alumni Society at Penn.

A Conversation with Ken

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

Ken: *It is hard to find one highlight, I loved surgical training and I have incredibly fond memories of my training at HUP and CHOP. Working in the Barker Naji lab and obtaining a PhD during my residency were certainly highlights. Participating in the first pancreas and liver transplants done at HUP as well as the first living donor small intestinal transplant were also important events for me as a surgical resident. As a resident, we took care of very ill patients so another highlight was becoming well versed in caring for very sick general surgery patients.*

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Ken: *I was influenced the most by Drs. Rhoads, Barker, Naji, Miller, Rombeau, Buzby, Mackie, Mullen and Rosato. Each had their own style and pet peeves but combined together, all of the attendings gave us enough free rein such that we cared for their very complicated patients from A to Z in a most comprehensive fashion. I dare say that there is not a general surgery or transplant problem that I have faced in the last 25 years of practice that I was not prepared for based on my residency experiences.*

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

Ken: *I had wonderful Chief residents, many of whom have gone on to Chair Divisions and Departments of Surgery. To name a few . . . Steve Bartlett, Danny Jacobs, Dan Dempsey, Donna Barbot, Ron Fairman, Fred Armenti, Paul Creary, Burt Greenberg, Mike Torosian, Bob Fried, Pat Bailey, Jim Balsbi and Jon Ricci immediately come to mind. These individuals (and all the other Chiefs) were fun to be around, completely committed to excellence in training and as residents working at HUP, we developed life long bonds of friendship after training.*

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

Ken: *This is a tough question because we have had so many excellent residents in the program. Mike Lieberman, Dave Deaton, Steve Fishman, Ed Savage, Marc Schachner, Scott Kripke, Andy Fox, Russ Stahl, Mike Choti, Joe Bavaria, Jim Markmann, Niraj Desai, the Gorman brothers, Hansell Stedman, Jon Odorico, Roy Smythe, Marc Levy, Ron Dematteo, Omaid Velazquez, Jeff Carpenter and Hung Bae Kim were amongst many others. I am somewhat uncomfortable to answer this question for fear of leaving some off the list since they were all so great!*

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

Ken: *Since graduating from Penn residency, I finished a great fellowship in Transplantation at the University of Minnesota (1989-1992) and have enjoyed a very active practice in clinical surgery and transplantation for the last 25 years at two top notch institutions, Penn and the University of Virginia. I have received a number of awards from the NIH, the American Diabetes Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons to support my research in transplantation immunobiology, cell therapy and diabetes. At the University of Virginia, we built an islet program and a GMP facility within 18 months of relocating and have done about 35 islet autotransplants in patients with chronic pancreatitis who have undergone total pancreatectomy, a significant single center series. I became a member of the American Surgical Association and the Southern Surgical Association, highly selective organizations of which I am so proud to be a member. The fact that I still have an active research program is quite an accomplishment in the face of my clinical and*

Catching Up With . . . Ken Brayman

administrative responsibilities and I am very proud of my ongoing scientific collaborations in the areas of immunology, cell therapy, bioengineering and investigation of the microbiome.

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Ken: *I miss a lot about Philadelphia, mainly Penn, HUP and CHOP. There is an ethnicity about living in Philadelphia which is really unique and quite great. Naturally, I miss the trucks outside of HUP for those late night cheesesteaks!!*

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

Ken: *I remain in touch with many former residents, Niraj Desai, Jim Markmann, Dan Dempsey, Steve Bartlett, Todd Bauer, Marty Karpeh, Omaid Velazquez, and others.*

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

Ken: *My current practice is in the area of abdominal transplantation and I have a lot of experience in the areas of renal and pancreas transplantation, vascular access and pancreatic surgery. I continue to operate on patients with hyper-parathyroidism and have developed a large practice in caring for patients with polycystic renal diseases and chronic pancreatitis. Our practice in pediatric renal and liver transplantation is robust and growing. I spent 10 years at CHOP and developed significant expertise in caring for children in need of transplantation.*

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

Ken: *I have a lot of interests in history and enjoy travel. I collect books and have amassed quite a collection of books related to transplantation and general surgery. I enjoy fishing and recently went fly fishing on the Colorado River, that was quite a nice experience. I remain a huge sports fan and am a member of Red Sox nation. I still root for the Flyers and the Eagles. For college sports teams, I root for UVa and Alabama!! Roll Tide!! Love Alabama football!*

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Ken: *My wife Kerrie and I have been married for 28 years, we have known each other for almost 50 years since we met in junior high school at ages 13 and 12. We have 4 children, Jonathan age 27 who lives in NYC and works in finance, Jacqueline age 25 lives in Boston and works in real estate, Lawrence age 23 who also lives in Boston and works in accounting and Madeline age 21 who is majoring in marketing and finance.*

JoMo: What is the last book you read that you would recommend and why? (or if you prefer what is the last movie you saw that you would recommend and why?)

Ken: *The last movies I saw were the new Jason Bourne and Star Trek movies. The last book I read was Harvey Cushing –A Life in Surgery by Michael Bliss. Harvey Cushing was one of America's great medical pioneers.....He had endless ambition, drive and energy, an incredible work ethic and an enormous appetite for life and new knowledge. Cushing made complicated procedures an everyday event, much like the transitions we have witnessed in Transplantation over the last 30 years where unusual procedures have now become routine.*

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

Ken: *The strong traditions of Penn Surgery are a privilege to have enjoyed and I feel it is very important that the history of the Department and the camaraderie between residents of different generations be fostered and nurtured. I intend to make it a point to participate as much as possible in Penn Surgical Society activities as I transition to new administrative and clinical paradigms in the future. It is important that we preserve what is great about the Department and that we make sure that our traditions of excellence are honored as would be hoped for and expected by former and present John Rhea Barton Professors of Surgery such as Drs Ravdin, Miller, Rboads and Barker, Kaiser and Drebin.*



Brayman Family: Jonathan, Jacqueline, Ken, Kerrie, Madeline, Lawrence



Penn Surgery

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

SUMMER 2016

SAVE THE DATE

October 18, 2016 - 6:00-8:00 PM

Penn Surgery Society Reception

Marriott Marquis Hotel, 901 Massachusetts Avenue



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