



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

SUMMER 2018

The Penn Surgery Society News is published quarterly for its members, colleagues and friends of the Department of Surgery. For submissions, inquiries or comments, please contact clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu.



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

Message from the Chairman

Long before there was JLo, ARod, and JLaw, there was JoMo. Jon Morris MD attended St. Joseph's University locally and then completed medical school at Georgetown. He arrived at HUP in 1990 from Case Western. He joined the "B" service as the junior partner of Dr. Rosato, and was one of the early adopters of laparoscopic surgery. After a sojourn at Abington around the turn of the century, he returned home (Penn).

JoMo is a one-man Broadway show as he can play multiple different roles – surgeon, educator, comic, legal consultant, Professionalism Committee co-Chair, Grand Rounds organizer, graduation emcee, top squash player (by his report), slightly below average basketball player (by my report), basketball referee, father, and husband. He can be serious, or not, depending on the circumstance.



JoMo with this years Graduating Chief Residents Matt Hornick, Ann Gaffey, Jane Keating, Danielle Spragan, Becky Hoffman and Lea Lowenfeld

While he is a great surgeon, he has been unusually devoted to education. In this regard, he was trained by Jim Mullen (and the tug of war continues to this day). He previously directed medical student and housestaff education in Surgery. He led the General Surgery Program for 14 years and has recently been succeeded by Cary Aarons, although JoMo continues as the Vice Chair of Education. Remarkably, Dr. Morris chairs a 2 hour Department of Surgical Education Committee every week! And the agenda is packed. A few years ago, he was the President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery nationally. In 2014, he was appointed the inaugural Ernest F. Rosato-William Maul Measey Professor of Surgical Education.

JoMo has won more awards than Katharine Hepburn (the leader in Academy Awards at 4). Dr. Morris received 6 Surgery Faculty Teaching Awards and 2 Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Awards. The medical students have also lauded him with 2 teaching awards and 3 Penn Pearls, and he won the prestigious Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Teaching, as well as a Special Dean's Award. The students inducted him into Alpha Omega Alpha. The medical students figured out his value, which is why he has been the Associate Dean for Student Affairs since 2004 and is now also the inaugural Director of the Center for Student Life at the Perelman School of Medicine. His dean letters flow like a Mozart symphony.

Perhaps JoMo's greatest achievement, though, has been as a major contributor to the mojo of our Department.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chairman	1
From the Editor	2
Resident Research	3-4
Becky Hoffman	4
Awards	5
Post Fellowship Appointments	5
Graduating Chiefs	6-7
New Residents	8
Career Paths	8
Alumni News	9 & 12
Catching Up	10-11



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

Featured in this issue are annual awards given during the residents' graduation dinner. During the event I was asked why we name teaching awards for William Inouye and the resident of the year award for Keith Reemtsma. Since their names are unfamiliar to the present generation a brief explanation follows.

Bill Inouye grew up in Sacramento, California. At the onset of World War II in 1941 the unsubstantiated threat to national security led to the imprisonment of Bill and his family with other Americans of Japanese descent at a camp at Tula Lake, California. In 1944 the Inouyes were allowed to move to Philadelphia where for the rest of the war they managed a hostel that served as a halfway house helping to relocate and aid more than 1,000 Japanese Americans from other parts of the U.S.

Relocation to Philadelphia allowed Bill to attend college at Swathmore, graduating in 1944. His plans to attend medical school were delayed by the economic losses suffered by his family during their imprisonment. For the next 5 years Bill worked in an asbestos factory. Then having saved enough money he entered Penn medical school graduating AOA in 1953. While a medical student working in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research and with nephrologist Bill Bluemle Inouye invented the first coil hemodialysis machine. He made it from screening material and tubing enclosed in a Presto pressure cooker to provide a closed system that allowed for ultrafiltration by using negative pressure. Bill first described his dialyzer in the 1953 Surgical Forum. It was used in 9 patients, probably HUP's earliest successful hemodialyses. During this time Willem Kolff visited Penn and was shown Bill's dialysis machine. Soon after Kolff revealed a similar model, failing to credit Inouye for the design. Years later Kolff belatedly acknowledged Bill's contribution but earlier many others had recognized its seminal importance. Inouye received the National Kidney Foundation's Dialysis Pioneer Award for designing the forerunner of the twin coil artificial kidney. His prototype is now exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution.



Bill Inouye's machine, the first coil dialyzer as exhibited in the Smithsonian Institution

After finishing the HUP surgical residency in 1961 Bill was appointed to the faculty. He developed a large practice conducted mainly at Jeanes Hospital, which at that time was a popular site of HUP resident rotations. Although outstanding both in research and as a clinician it was as an educator that Bill Inouye was at his best. He became chief of the Penn service at Philadelphia General Hospital and at HUP chief of the residents' ward teaching service. He was considered the Department's best teacher by the residents and also by the medical students who dedicated their yearbook to him.

In 1982 Bill developed a pleural effusion. This proved to be from mesothelioma which seems certainly to have stemmed from

his exposure to asbestos while he was working to earn money for medical school. As his disease progressed, despite considerable pain he continued to make regular teaching rounds with the residents until a few months before his death. At the same time he devoted himself to raising money for the residents' fund. He contacted

every former HUP resident urging contributions. Many gave generously. For years this and Bill's large personal contribution provided the support for residents' travel to meetings. Bill also endowed two teaching awards, one for a resident and one for a faculty member to be chosen by the residents. Until his death in 1985 the residents refused to designate anyone but Bill for the faculty award.

Rather than expressing bitterness over the ironic cause of his illness Bill dwelled on the satisfaction he had found as a teacher. Shortly after he died I received a note from him, obviously written in anticipation of his impending death. In it he said *"By the time you receive this note I will have passed on to wherever one goes on the great adventure. Life foreshortened by asbestos problems has denied some of the anticipated joys and luxuries of an extended postretirement phase... However I feel it has been my privilege to pursue the active life of the teaching surgeon working with residents who seem to grow younger each year, to watch them develop and share with them the ever expanding knowledge of our profession. With my best wishes to you, William Y Inouye.*

Naming the resident of the year award after Keith Reemtsma requires a little more explanation since Keith had no particular relationship to our department or its residency.

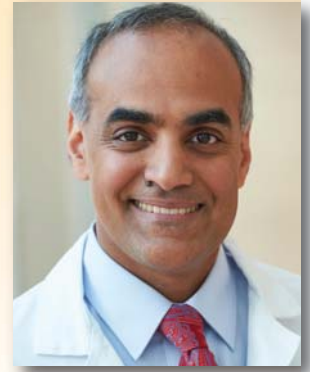
During an informal conversation in 1998 Columbia's surgery

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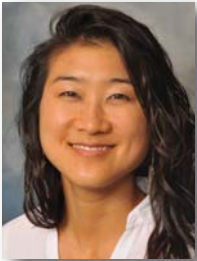
Resident Research Presentations

Contributed by Sunil Singhal

On Thursday, July 12, 2018, seven residents finishing laboratory rotations gave presentations during grand rounds to the faculty, residents, and medical students. It was an outstanding and diverse group of presentations. Together, this group co-authored 74 papers since starting their residency. Their presentations are summarized below.



Dr. Jennifer Chung - *“Getting off the Bench and into the Game: Steps to Achieving Clinical Translation of Extracellular Vesicle Therapy for Myocardial Ischemia”*



Jenn worked in the laboratory of Dr. Pavan Atluri in the Division of Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Atluri has pioneered much of the work of delivering proangiogenic factors with extracellular vesicles (EV) to ischemic myocardium. Based on convincing data that myocardial ischemia alters cell metabolism and function, and that cardiac cells are exposed to a wide range of evolving inflammatory and paracrine effects after myocardial infarction (MI), Dr. Chung hypothesized that the local microenvironment affects EV uptake and may affect the delivery of particles promoting angiogenesis. Her work found minimal immunogenicity of EVs and preclinical feasibility of this approach. Furthermore, her lab work studied and found that the optimum timing for delivery of the EV therapy post MI was four days because it maximized the therapeutic effect on left ventricular function.

Dr. Brett Ecker - *“Age-Related Changes in Tumoral Angiogenesis Drive Melanoma Metastasis and Response to Targeted Therapy”*



Brett worked in the laboratory of Ashani Weeraratna, PhD, Professor and Co-Program Leader of the Immunology, Microenvironment & Metastasis Program at the Wistar Institute. And he focused his research on studying how melanoma metastasizes due to changes in genes in the non-canonical Wnt signaling pathway. His fundamental hypothesis was that age-related increases in angiogenesis promote hematogenous tumor dissemination, leading to inferior clinical outcomes. His work culminated in a finding that the protein sFRP2 is highly upregulated in the aged microenvironment, and its expression correlates with likelihood of tumor dissemination due to the increase of age-specific proangiogenic factors.

Dr. Grace Lee - *“Surgery, Transplant, and Ethics”*

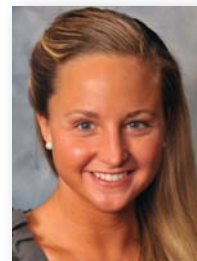


Grace worked with Scott D. Halpern, MD, PhD, in the Departments of Medicine and Medical Ethics and Health Policy. She provided an interesting discussion surrounding four patient cases that highlighted: outcomes as fiduciary duty and autonomy versus maleficence, adopting innovation and shared decision-making. Ultimately, the discussion centered around improving our informed consent process, particularly when there are complex clinical situations in which the patients usually lack complete understanding of the ramifications of their decisions. The discussion of transplanting Hepatitis C infected organs to non-Hep C patients was particularly thought provoking.

Dr. Andrew Newton - *“Intraoperative Near-Infrared Imaging for Pancreatic Cancer”*



Andrew worked in the laboratory of Dr. Sunil Singhal in the Division of Thoracic Surgery. He developed a heterotopic murine model of pancreatic cancer and demonstrated that second window near-infrared imaging of nanoparticles can be utilized to fluoresce tumors. His follow up hypothesis was that intraoperative NIR imaging with second window indocyanine green (ICG) can improve tumor visualization and margin assessment for pancreatic neoplasms. He subsequently conducted a pilot study in 20 patients using the technique developed in this laboratory investigations. He found the efficacy of this approach was most useful for distal pancreatectomy, specifically by identifying margins and disease extent.



Dr. Avery Rossidis - *“Curing Disease Before Birth: In Utero Genome Editing for the Treatment of Hereditary Tyrosinemia”*

Avery worked in the laboratory of Dr. William Peranteau in Pediatric Surgery at

(continued on page 4)

Resident Research *(continued from page 3)*

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She studied the therapeutic efficacy of in utero genome editing of the genes leading to hereditary tyrosinemia. After establishing a colony of homozygous mutant mice, she injected homozygous fetuses intravenously via the vitelline vein at gestational day 16 with either an adenovirus carrying a therapeutic base editor or a vector carrying an unguided base editor to serve as a control. Her preclinical studies showed an impressive improvement in tyrosine metabolism with serum levels matching normal mice. In fact, 90% of the animals survived to 3 months of age, markedly different than the diseased mice.

Dr. Catherine Sharoky - *“Let the Data Be Your Guide: Application of Observational Study Designs”*



Catherine worked with Dr. Rachel Kelz in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery. Her work described three observational study designs. First, she showed that the outcomes of hospitalized patients who underwent surgery remote from their admission resulted in longer postoperative stays and higher risks of complications and death. Second, she performed a large database study to show that female and male surgeons with

similar characteristics who treat similar patients in the inpatient setting at the same hospital have equivalent outcomes. Third, dementia does not impact the relationship between treatment type and inpatient mortality for patients with emergency general surgery conditions.

Dr. Andrew Sinnamon - *“Prediction and Detection of Melanoma Lymph Node Metastases Using Predictive Modeling and Novel Imaging Techniques”*



Andrew worked with Dr. Giorgos Karakousis in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery. He presented two studies. First, his lab work led to a four-point score to risk stratify patients for likelihood of lymph node disease. An important corollary was that high risk patients may warrant more intensive surveillance of the nodal basin. Second, his lab work centered around utilizing photoacoustic tomography for detecting metastatic cancer cells in lymph nodes. He demonstrated this approach is superior to conventional approaches in preclinical models for distinguishing normal versus cancerous lymph nodes.

From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

chairman Keith Reemtsma surprised me with the spontaneous offer to endow an annual award for our department, specifying that he would like it to go to our “top resident”. Although Keith and I were close friends because of our mutual interest in pancreatic islet transplantation I was puzzled with the offer since Keith had not been a HUP resident. He cited his loyalty to Penn but this seemed to stem from his 1949 graduation from Penn medical school not the HUP residency. Whatever the reason because Keith was such a major figure in American surgery I believed the recipients would be quite pleased with the honor.

During Keith’s surgical training at Columbia there was one additional Penn association. His closest mentor was my brother Harold Barker a Columbia faculty surgeon who was HUP trained. After residency in 1958 Keith became a faculty member at Tulane. There he performed a series of chimpanzee to human kidney transplants, still the **4** most successful xenografts ever done. One survived for 9

months. In 1966 Keith was appointed surgery chairman at the University of Utah and then in 1971 chairman at Columbia where he started programs in kidney and heart transplantation. His heart transplant program became the country’s largest.

In 2000 Keith died from liver cancer ironically not amenable

to transplantation. I never completely understood the motivation for his generous gift to our department but he seemed quite pleased with the association. Until his illness prevented it Keith and his wife Judy came from New York to be at our graduation dinners for the presentation of the Reemtsma award.



Keith and Judy Reemtsma

Matt Hornick and other winners of the Reemtsma award might be interested to know that Keith who served in a Korean War M*A*S*H unit always asserted that

he was the prototype on which TV’s Hawkeye was based. The humor, charisma and warmth of this larger than life figure convinced his many friends that the claim must be valid.

2018 Award Recipients



William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award

◆ Andrew D. Newton, MD



William Y. Inouye Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Matt L. Kirkland, MD



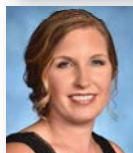
Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award

◆ Ann C. Gaffey, MD, MTR



Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Jon B. Morris, MD



Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award

◆ Rebecca L. Hoffman, MD, MSCE



Jonathan E. Rhoads Resident Research Award

◆ Brett L. Ecker, MD



Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award

◆ Michael A. Acker, MD



Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award

◆ Matthew A. Hornick, MD



Surgical Mentorship Award

◆ Matthew H. Levine, MD, PhD



Donald C. Liu Humanism Hero in Surgery Award

◆ Jennifer J. Chung, MD



Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"

◆ Phillip M. Dowzicky, MD



Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"

◆ Brett L. Ecker, MD



Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"

◆ Ian W. Folkert, MD



Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"

◆ Richard J. Straker, III, MD

Post Fellowship Appointments - 2016 General Surgery Chiefs

- ◆ **Edmund (Ned) K. Bartlett, MD** (*Fellowship Surgery Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*)
Assistant Attending, Gastric and Mixed Tumor Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ **Robert C. Caskey, MD, MSc**
(*Fellow, Penn Simulation Center*)
Surgery Staff, Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA in Philadelphia
- ◆ **Kathreen P. Lee, MD**
(*Fellowship Colon & Rectal Surgery, Stony Brook University*)
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgery
Stony Brook University Hospital
- ◆ **John W. MacArthur, MD, MTR**
(*Fellowship Cardiac Surgery, Stanford Hospital*)
Clinical Instructor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Stanford Hospital
- ◆ **Olugbenga T. Okusanya, MD**
(*Fellowship Thoracic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh*)
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Dept. of Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- ◆ **Andre R. Ramdon, MBBS**
(*Fellowship Vascular Surgery, Albany University*)
Surgery Staff
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA in Philadelphia
- ◆ **Heather Wachtel, MD**
(*Fellowship Endocrine Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital*)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Accomplishments and Career Plans of the 2018 Graduating HUP Chief Surgical Residents

As Contributed by the Residents

Dr. Ann C. Gaffey grew up in Medford, Massachusetts. She attended Wellesley College graduating with honors and *Cum Laude* with a dual major in Chemistry and Religion. She then attended Georgetown University School of Medicine. While there, she developed her love of surgery and was awarded both the Georgetown Clinical Society Award and the James A. Cahill Award for Outstanding Surgical Student.



She was thrilled to match at the University of Pennsylvania for her surgical training. During the course of her residency, Ann completed a post-doctoral research fellowship focused on a novel treatment of ischemic tissue through cellular delivery under the mentorship of Dr. Pavan Atluri. For her work she was awarded the Nina Starr Braunwald Research Fellowship by the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. Additionally, she earned her Master's Degree in Translational Research from the University of Pennsylvania.

Following residency, Ann will spend a year as a research fellow under the guidance of Dr. Pavan Atluri. She will then complete her training with a Fellowship in Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rebecca (Gaugler) Hoffman

grew up in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, and moved to the Philadelphia area in 2001 to attend Haverford College where she majored in Chemistry and captained the varsity women's soccer team. After college, Becky worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She then matriculated to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (now the Perelman School of Medicine) for her undergraduate medical training. While there, she was Vice President of the Agnew Surgical Society, the nation's oldest student run medical student society. She performed research under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Drebin, and was awarded the I.S. Ravdin Prize by the Department of Surgery.

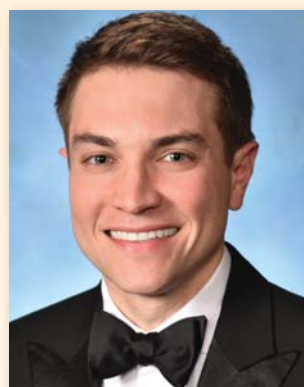


She was lucky enough to match at the University of Pennsylvania for her surgical residency, and has spent not 7, but

8, wonderful years of training there. During the course of her residency, Becky completed a post-doctoral research fellowship focused on patient outcomes, quality/patient safety and education under the awesome mentorship of Dr. Rachel Kelz. She earned her Masters of Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology, and certificates in Healthcare Leadership in Quality and Medical Education, all from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a recipient of the Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award and a two-time recipient of the William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award. She serves as the Vice Chair of the Resident and Associate Society of the American College of Surgeons and will ascend to Chair in October 2018.

She has authored over 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts and several book chapters, has been an invited lecturer both locally and nationally, and has presented her research on numerous occasions at national meetings. Her greatest accomplishments, however, are her nearly 11 year marriage to her husband Jeremy and the birth of their children, Noah (3) and Lily (5 months). Following residency, they will all travel to Missouri where Becky will pursue a fellowship in Colon & Rectal Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Matthew Hornick was born in New York City and grew up in Westchester County, New York. He graduated from University of California, Berkeley with degrees in Neurobiology and Psychology. After college he migrated back East to attend Yale University School of Medicine. Early on at Yale he started dating his classmate Terri Huynh, and in 2011 they couples-matched at Penn (Terri in Obstetrics & Gynecology). As residency unfolded, Matt set his sights on becoming a pediatric surgeon. During his research years, Matt (a) got married to Terri and (b) joined Dr. Alan Flake's laboratory at CHOP, where he helped design an "artificial placenta" system capable of supporting premature lambs on pumpless ECMO for several weeks. In recognition of his research, Matt received the Sheikh Zayed Institute Award for Innovation in Pediatric Surgery at the American Pediatric Surgical Association annual meeting and the Excellence in Research Award at the American College of Surgeons Scientific Forum. Last summer Matt and Terri welcomed their first son James, now 10 months old and truly a joy. Matt is incredibly grateful for the support of family, friends, and mentors and colleagues throughout residency, and feels blessed to have trained at Penn. In August he will begin Pediatric Surgery fellowship at CHOP.



Dr. Jane Keating was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She then lived in several places growing up, including Des Moines, Iowa, Moorestown, New Jersey, and West Hartford, Connecticut. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a major in Neuroscience from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where she captained the varsity women's rowing team and worked as an EMT.

She loved Atlanta so much that she decided to stay at Emory for medical school, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. During her general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania, she completed a post-doctoral research fellowship in intraoperative imaging under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Singhal. She has authored over 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts and as presented her research on numerous occasions at national and international meetings.

Most importantly, she was recently married to her wonderful wife, Kelly Bird, on May 19th at Christ Church in Philadelphia. She has two talented step-children Jacques (12) and Oona (16). Additionally, Jane and Kelly are eagerly awaiting the addition of an infant to their family through adoption.

Following residency, she will stay at the University of Pennsylvania to pursue a fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care.

Dr. Lea Lowenfeld was born and raised in New York, New York. She received her BA in Philosophy from Cornell University where she graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and was inducted into the *Phi Beta Kappa* honor society. She received her medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and continued her surgery training at the University of Pennsylvania. After completing three years of general surgery clinical training, she was awarded the Henle Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship to study cancer immunotherapy under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Brian Czerniecki. Her research investigated immune and clinical responses to anti-HER2 dendritic cell vaccination in breast cancer, identified unique peptide targets for use in cancer vaccination, and developed a novel protocol for peptide specific T-cell expansion in



vitro. She authored several peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and two biomedical patents. During her research years, she also served as the chair of the Resident Executive Council. After completing her general surgery residency, Lea will move to Los Angeles to pursue a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at USC. Come visit!

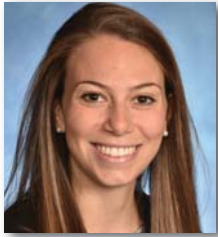
Dr. Danielle (Brown) Spragan

graduated from Stanford University in 2003 with a BA in Psychology. Originally intending to become a clinical psychologist, Dr. Spragan spent an additional year in Palo Alto, California working with a child clinical psychologist at a nearby special education school. Dr. Spragan subsequently discovered a love for medicine and moved to Philadelphia to complete at Post-Baccalaureate Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She was accepted Early Decision at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 2007. While at Penn Med, Dr. Spragan served as the President of the Agnew Surgical Society, the nation's oldest student run medical student society, and was also awarded an NHLBI research grant where she worked with Dr. Jeffrey Drebin. She was fortunate to match in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 2011. During her career as a Penn general surgery resident, Dr. Spragan worked with Drs. Joseph Bavaria and Nimesh Desai on a variety of clinical projects in cardiac surgery. Following graduation, Dr. Spragan will remain at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for a fellowship in cardiac critical care, to be followed by a career in academic cardiac surgery. Dr. Spragan is most fortunate to have the continued love and support from her amazing family. She is happily married to Don Spragan, Jr. and is mother to their 2 wonderful children, Isaac Spragan (4 years old) and Dominic Spragan (3 years old).



Welcome New Residents

Categorical General Surgery Program



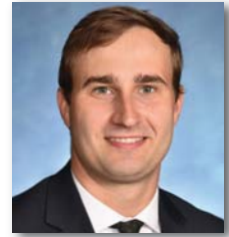
Sara Ginzberg
Penn



Valerie Luks
Yale



Ariel Nehemiah
Howard



John Riley
Penn



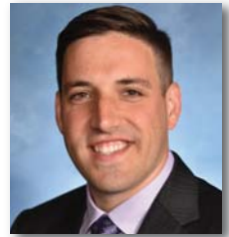
Sanford Roberts
Penn



Claire Rosen
Univ. of Maryland



Cimarron Sharon
Penn

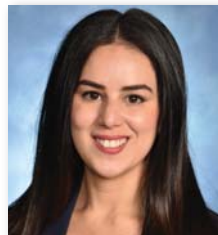


Alex Warshauer
Penn

Plastic Surgery Program



Dan Mazzaferro
Drexel



Natalie Plana
NYU



Ari Wes
Penn



Amit Iyengar
Univ. of California



John Kelly
Emory

Thoracic Integrated Program

Urology Program



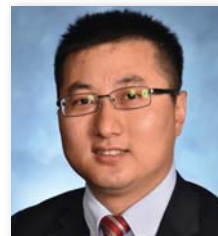
Esther Nivasch
Penn



Ankur Shah
Albany



Kiran Sury
State Univ. of NY



Leilei Xia
Anhui Medical Univ.

Vascular Program



Ziad Al Adas
American Univ. of Beirut Lebanon

Preliminary General Surgery Program



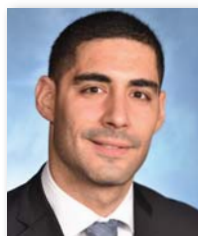
Kent Amoo-Achampong
Penn



Jack DePaolo
Louisiana St. Univ.



Anna Fox
Univ. College Dublin



Andreas Giannakou
Univ. of Athens



Andreas Habertheuer
Univ. of Vienna



Luis Pina
Univ. of Rio de Janeiro



Sam Yellin
Univ. of Limerick

Alumni News

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

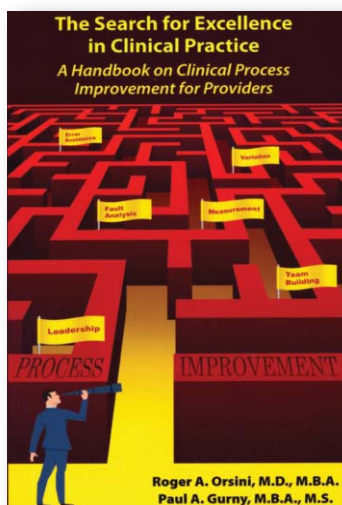
- ◆ **Ari Brooks, MD**, director of the Integrated Breast Center at PAH, received the 2018 Humanitarian Award from the Melanoma Research Foundation for his commitment to and reputation for exemplary patient care and treatment.



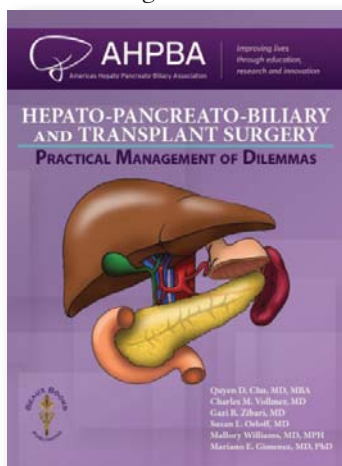
- ◆ **Rebecca Hoffman, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 2018) has been selected the 2018 Hilary Snafey Outstanding Resident Award recipient from the Association of Woman surgeons which recognizes surgical trainees who demonstrate potential as future leaders in Surgery. The award will be presented at the ACS Clinical Congress on October 22 in Boston.



- ◆ **Roger Orsini, MD** (Plastic Surgery Fellow 1983-1985) has recently published an interesting and readable book helpful in decision making and providing optimal patient care. Since 1985 Roger has been in practice in Easton, Maryland. He was Chief of Surgery at Memorial Hospital in Easton and has been a guest lecturer in the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He also completed a masters degree in Business Administration at Johns Hopkins where he is an adjunct professor. Roger has also served as a volunteer in skin cancer screening clinics and as a member of a four man physician team treating war injuries and congenital malformations in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. His team was featured on 60 Minutes.



- ◆ Also notable is a recently published book by **Charles Vollmer, MD**, Professor of Surgery and Director, Pancreatic Surgery at HUP.



- ◆ **Lindsay Kuo, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 2017) completed her Endocrine Surgery fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and has been appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery, Temple University. At Temple she will head a new section of Endocrine Surgery.

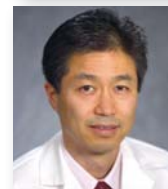


- ◆ Reminder to **SAVE THE DATE** - Tuesday, October 23 - Penn Surgery Society Reception at the Westin Boston Waterfront, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.



Promotions

- ◆ **Thomas F. Kolon, MD**
Urology CHOP -
Promoted to Professor
in the Clinician Educator track
- ◆ **Robert Krouse, MD**
Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery -
Promoted to Professor
with Tenure
- ◆ **Christopher E. Mascio, MD**
Cardiac Surgery CHOP -
Promoted to Associate Professor
in the Academic Clinician track
- ◆ **Yoshikazu Suzuki, MD, MS**
Cardiac Surgery -
Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
in the Clinician Educator track
- ◆ **Prashanth Vallabhajosyula, MD**
Cardiac Surgery
Promoted to Associate Professor
in the Clinician Educator track
- ◆ **Liza C. Wu, MD**
Plastic Surgery -
Promoted to Professor of Surgery
in the Clinician Educator track



Catching Up With . . . Donna Barbot

Contributed by Jon Morris

Donna Barbot is a 1972 graduate of the State University of New York Downstate College of Nursing and subsequently attended the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine, receiving her Medical Degree in 1978. Donna was a member of the HUP general surgical intern class of 1978 and would complete her training at PENN as Chief Resident in 1984. The following year, Donna worked closely with Ernie Rosato as a General Surgery Clinical Research Fellow and was recruited to Thomas Jefferson University as an Instructor in Surgery in 1985. There she would rise through the academic ranks



Donna in 1985

as Assistant Professor (1987), Associate Professor (1993) and Full Professor (2001). Following appointments at Drexel (2004 - 2005) and back to PENN (2006 - 2015) where she served as Chair of the Department of Surgery at Chestnut Hill Hospital from 2010 - 2015. Dr. Barbot is currently on the faculty at the Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine and is the Chair of the Department of Surgery at Jeanes Hospital, a position she has held since 2015. Dr. Barbot has served as the President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (2000 - 2001) and President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery (2001).

A Conversation with Donna

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

Donna: *Working with Drs. Rosato, Dyson, Roberts and Inouye. All incredible teachers and technicians. Also real human beings who cared. Dr. Rboads was at the end of his operating career, but we did a few memorable cases together in my junior years. Mostly I had a philosophical relationship with him. He loved to travel as do I so that is what we talked about. One time we had two hours between the visiting professor case conference and dinner, so Dr. Rboads said "why don't we come over to your place and see your slides from your Nepal trip." I can't believe I didn't snap a picture of Dr. Rboads sitting on the floor leaning on a big pillow and drinking a beer!!! For many years he sent me postcards from foreign places he and Kitty travelled to. He was always available for advice and career support.*

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Donna: *In the OR with Dr. Rosato during a difficult case – "Well it is time for a bold move....don't tell anyone I did this!" It always was the right move and got us out of a fix – I remember and utilize all of those bold moves when needed – making the same statement to the residents. And of course there never is enough relaxation. He was my main mentor and champion during residency and after. The best technical surgeon I have ever seen, teaching constantly. Dr. Inouye was the first one to actually let me do a case – but he prefaced the experience with, "If you put the knife down it is my case." Dr. Inouye also fed everyone post-op a regular diet. He said that only 50% of them will throw up – so 50% get out of the hospital much faster. Amazing how we all have finally caught up to that philosophy! Dr. Inouye came to my bridal shower, with his O2 tank, stating "this was the only bridal shower I have ever been to" – but although not on his bucket list – he was glad that I invited*

him. As he neared death, I and other residents went over to his home every day to do paracentesis, etc to keep him comfortable. During those visits he reminisced about his life and accomplishments – the most important of which were the surgeons that he trained.

Dr. Dyson was just the nicest man ever (nice at HUP was a rarity) and he told stories about the good old days to help us all adjust to the grueling hours and our seemingly thankless and never ending work days. He assured us that things get better. He was very caring to the patients, the residents and everyone. At his funeral a New Orleans Jazz Band celebrated his life.

Dr. Roberts was a true gentleman and scholar, a very kind and caring man. I remember racing after him with his long strides on rounds as an intern. He decided we should all have coffee and chat when we finished rounds one day and he led us to the Surgeons Lounge (also the male locker room) and as he pushed the door open he turned to me and hesitated for a moment and then said – "well you are a surgeon!!" and in we all went. During that chat he told us about how Dr. Ravdin had envisioned the future of specialization of surgery and told each of his "boys" what specialty they should concentrate on and that is how he became a vascular surgeon.

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

Donna: *Clark Hargrove was my chief for 6 months of my intern year. Great leader, teacher and a lot of fun!!! That man new how to operate and party and still does!! Brian Smale – what can I say – quite a character and a good friend. Jimmy Zinns – strong leader, good teacher, great attitude and still a friend*

(continued on page 11)

Catching Up With . . . *Donna Barbot* (continued from page 10)

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

Donna: *Michael Acker, Dan Dempsey, Danny Jacobs, John Francfort, John Ritchie, Jane Kugaczewski, Scott Kripke. Steve Buckman. All fine surgeons, honest, professional – and have a heart!!!*

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

Donna: *Being able to carry on the tradition of training and educating surgeons for my entire career. At Jefferson 1985-2002, at Graduate Hospital/Drexel 2002-2005, at Chestnut Hill Hospital/Penn residents 2006-2010 and Temple residents 2010-2015 and finally at Temple/Jeanes Temple residents 2015-present*

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Donna: *I never left!!!*

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

Donna: *Michael Acker, Clark Hargrove, Jimmy Zinns, Cindy Kavouksorian, John Francfort.*

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

Donna: *Bread and butter cases mostly – but still enjoy a giant re-op extravaganza (ala-Rosato)!! It is always exciting and varied when I take GS call at Temple!! Retiring on December 31, 2018. First trip – February, 2019 – 6 weeks in New Zealand, Tasmania and Australia.*

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

Donna: *Travel, exercise, bird watching, adventuring, photography, reading, cooking and wine.*

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Donna: *I am still married to Bill McGowan. He retired from Urology practice 2 years ago and loves every minute of retirement. It has been fun having a Honey-Do at home!!! Jenna (30) married Sarah in 2016. They both graduated from Mount Holyoke in 2010. They love the area and have remained there. Jenna did her masters in special education and bilingual education and learned she didn't like teaching. She was a paralegal for a few years and now is in banking. Sarah is a librarian at the Amherst library. Most importantly – they are off the books. Willa (26) is still finding herself, but she is smart, beautiful and delightful – so there is hope!!!*

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

Donna: *News of the World, by Paulette Jiles – Historical fiction in post-civil war Texas. This was this month's Ladies Book Club book. Great story about a time zone and social situation I knew nothing about – very well written. We get "Books in the Bag" from the public library about 8/12 months per year and read books recommended by the group members the other months. This has made me read books that I would never have picked up. My favorite book club book of all times is "Cutting for Stone." On my own I like books about serial killers, espionage, murder mysteries and psychological thrillers. I have read all the Jack Reacher books, all the Harry Bosch books, all the FBI agent Prendergast books (by Lincoln & Childs)*

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

Donna: *I am very active in my church – which is very active in interfaith community activities, social justice and anti-gun violence projects. I have gone on many church organized mission trips over the years, including Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Appalachia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Staten Island – hurricane relief, etc. I cook for the Narberth Food bank and the church keeps a garden to supply fresh produce to the food bank. We do construction service projects for the Presbyterian Village and supply books and school supplies for the girls there. My best talent however is cooking and Bill has fun matching my creations with good wines from the cellar. I am probably a better chef than surgeon.*



Donna with her husband Bill McGowan 11



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SUMMER 2018

Alumni News *(continued from page 9)*

- ◆ **Andrew Goldstone, MD, PhD (PGY5)** was presented a annual Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award at the Clinical Research Forum for his project "Mechanical or Biologic Prostheses for Aortic-Valve and Mitral-Valve Replacement". The study was chosen over 75 nominated articles from top tier, peer-reviewed research journals. The study was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. In the photo on the right is Dr. Harry Selker, Chair, Clinical Research Forum, Dr. Andrew Goldstone, Dr. Herbert Pardes, Vice-Chair, Clinical Research Forum.



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