



# Penn Surgery Society NEWS

SUMMER 2019

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](mailto:clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu).



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

## Message from the Chairman

The 2019 fiscal year recently ended and it appears to have been the most successful one ever for the Penn Health System. Financial performance was extraordinary, the observed to expected mortality index was remarkably low, and the new Pavilion has risen from the ruins of the Penn Hotel.

But what is the real meaning of success? Many famous (successful) people have defined what it means to them. Churchill called it “Going from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” Meanwhile, Edison said it was “1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.” Steve Jobs noted that “If you really look closely, most overnight successes took a long time.” Michael Jordan pointed out that “I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” These aphorisms emphasize toil and resiliency, and are reminiscent of “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” All of these sayings were actually predated by the ancient Chinese proverb “Failure is the mother of success.” Appropriately, our administration constantly reminds us that Penn was on a financial cliff at the turn of this century.

Another aspect of success is that it is intertwined with emotions, particularly satisfaction. Albert Schweitzer emphasized that “Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success.” Dale Carnegie took it further with “Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get.”

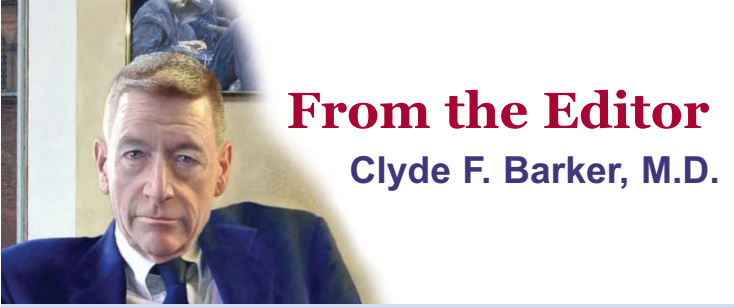
Success in medicine, and in particular surgery, also varies by individual. Is it serving others, completing difficult operations, educating ourselves and our trainees, or all of the above? You decide. Likewise, success in research could be a major publication, or is it the fortitude to weather the negative data before making a discovery? Is the journey more satisfying than the ultimate achievement? By all means, success is obtaining a grant, especially given the current NIH paylines, but perhaps more accurately it is renewing one.

Several have tried to identify the elements of success. Penn Professor Angela Duckworth, in her book “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance,” claims that grit is the key ingredient, with talent being subordinate. The importance of grit has always been obvious to surgeons. As a surrogate of grit, our department has often followed the “Altemeier Rule” to select residents based on prior achievement in sports or the arts. Additionally, Forbes magazine identified conscientiousness, voracious reading, and adversity as other essential components of success.

Our society is preoccupied with achieving success (e.g., the American Dream or the first Super Bowl championship), presumably to avoid the opposite result. According to Vince Lombardi, “Winning isn’t everything, but wanting to win is.” This explains our frequency of wishing others “Good luck (i.e., Good success).” The new fiscal year for Penn began on July 1. Here’s to continued success.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chairman	1
From the Editor	2-3
Resident Research	4-5
Award Recipients	6
Post-Fellow Career Paths	6
Fellow Career Paths	7
Chief Graduates	8-10
Dan Dempsey	11
New Residents	12
Alumni News	13
Catching-Up	14-15



## From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

Steven Fishman (HUP chief resident 1992) became Chairman of Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital in July 2019. This position is usually considered the top one in pediatric surgery, a view based in part on *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking of Boston Children's as the Country's best pediatric hospital. This is arguable because CHOP has sometimes been ranked first and Boston Children's second, but in either case Steve deserves our strongest congratulations for this prestigious appointment.

An interesting story is how six surgeons became the leaders of these two hospitals, interacted and figured prominently in the history and evolution of pediatric and cardiovascular surgery. Four of these surgeons have a strong Penn connection. In 1946, when I.S. Ravdin returned to HUP from World War II, one of his first actions as Chairman was to appoint one of his residents, C. Everett Koop, as Chief of Surgery at CHOP. Koop was just finishing his HUP residency, but had virtually no training or experience in children's surgery. To compensate for this inconvenience, Ravdin sent him to Boston Children's Hospital for a short course in pediatric surgery with the founders of the field, William Ladd and Robert Gross.

At the time pediatric surgery as a specialty was quite new, in the U.S. only 20 years old. Legend has it that in this country it began as the result of a tragic explosion. On December 6, 1917 a French munitions ship full of wartime explosives collided with a Swedish ship in Canada's Halifax harbor. This set off an explosion that was said to be the world's most powerful one prior to the first atom bomb in 1945. Two thousand people were killed and 9000 others injured. Thousands more were left homeless. From Boston a Red Cross relief train came, carrying enough equipment to set up a 500 bed hospital and led by a young Harvard trained surgeon, William Ladd. The experience of caring for 500 injured and burned children so moved Ladd that he decided to devote himself full time to the care of children. Moving his practice to Boston Children's Hospital as a junior attending, he studied, acquired clinical experience, chronicled and wrote about surgical maladies of children such as malrotation, pyloric stenosis, cleft palate, biliary atresia, etc. He became such an authority in the field that in 1927 he was appointed as Chief of Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital and since then he has been considered the father of pediatric surgery. He also started the country's first formal training program in pediatric

surgery. One of his residents, Robert Gross, was particularly accomplished and seemed to be Ladd's obvious heir apparent. Gross' interests were not limited to the general pediatric surgery he learned from Ladd. He was especially interested in congenital cardiac abnormalities which for 2 years he studied in the department of pathology. With animal experiments and dissection of human cadavers he developed a plan for ligation of the patent ductus arteriosus. In 1938 he told Ladd that he believed he was prepared to do this operation, the first in a human patient. However Ladd was convinced that this was too dangerous and explicitly forbade Gross to attempt it. Disregarding his chief, Gross chose the opportunity of Ladd's absence on a European vacation and scheduled the operation. He then performed it successfully on a 7-year-old girl. When Ladd returned he was furious that Gross had defied his order. According to Alden Harken (later a Gross resident) Ladd fired Gross, banishing him from Boston Children's Hospital for 6 weeks. Ladd never forgave Gross for this transgression even though the operation Gross had done was credited as opening the new field of cardiac surgery, or in 1945 when Gross was further acclaimed for performing the first successful operation for coarctation of the aorta.

As a result of their antagonism when Ladd retired in 1945 he did his best to block Gross' appointment as his successor. According to Koop as quoted in Ziegler's oral history of him, Ladd bitterly criticized Gross as an incompetent surgeon, a dishonest researcher and even on moral and religious grounds.

The antagonism of Ladd and Gross was at its height in 1946 when Koop showed up at Boston Children's as a fellow. It delayed Gross' appointment as Chief of Surgery and poisoned the atmosphere. This unpleasantness resulted in Gross' frequent absence from the hospital and was probably the reason Koop shortened his fellowship there from the planned 12 months to only 8. Nevertheless in 1947 the widely acclaimed Gross was appointed Chief of Surgery at Boston Children's. Recognized as the founder of cardiovascular surgery, he became one of the world's most praised and honored surgeons.

During his brief fellowship in Boston, Koop watched Robert Gross operate, but he said even more important were his discussions with the recently retired William Ladd on the art of caring for children. Koop then returned to Philadelphia where at CHOP he soon became a major figure in pediatric surgery.

In 1967 when Robert Gross retired as Boston Children's chief surgeon Harvard appointed as his successor Judah Folkman, then only 34 years old, brilliant but known mainly for his research on angiogenesis. During Folkman's surgical training at MGH he had little exposure to the surgery of children. To prepare him for his new position he came to Philadelphia for a 6

(continued on page 3)

## From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

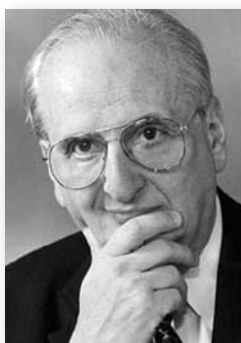
month fellowship at CHOP with C. Everett Koop, who by then was considered to be the Country's leading pediatric surgeon. Fourteen years later Folkman retired from surgery to devote himself to research full-time. He was succeeded by Hardy Hendren (no Penn connection). When Hendren retired in 1998, he was succeeded by Mory Ziegler, who was trained in General Surgery at HUP and by Koop at CHOP. Ziegler had been recruited from his position as chief at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital. He was followed by Robert C. Shamberger (no Penn connection) who was chief from 2004-2019. Now completing the circle, Steve Fishman, another HUP trained surgeon, has become Chief of Surgery at Boston Children's.

Steven J. Fishman, has been Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Stuart and Jane Weitzman Family Chair in Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital where he was also Vice-Chair of Surgery for Clinical Operations.

He obtained BS and MD degrees at Northwestern University. As a HUP general surgery resident Steve was president of the housestaff and won the Inouye Teaching Award, the Rhoads Research Award and the Resident Scholar Award. After residency he completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital in 1994. He has remained at Boston Children's for his entire career. Although always active in the practice and teaching of the broad spectrum of pediatric surgery, he has a particular clinical and research focus in vascular malformations. In 1999 he became Co-Director of the Vascular Anomalies Center at Boston Children's Hospital. Annually this center's multidisciplinary group evaluates about 1700 patients with hemangiomas, rare vascular tumors and vascular malformations of all types. Steve originated and continues to maintain an international registry of hepatic hemangiomas. He is Past-President of the International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies.

Dr. Fishman has authored over 200 scientific publications and chapters as well as two books including a comprehensive reference work on vascular anomalies. He has a particular interest in vascular abnormalities of the viscera. These anomalies are extremely rare but Steve's international referral practice allows him to recognize patterns in their clinical presentation and opportunities for treatment. Dr. Fishman has extensive experience with resecting, debulking and reconstructing vascular malformations and associ-

### A tragic explosion that inspired the founding of Pediatric Surgery



**Judah Folkman**  
MGH Resident  
CHOP Fellow with Koop 1967  
BCH Chief 1967-1981



**C. Everett Koop**  
HUP Chief Resident 1946  
Fellow at BCH with Ladd and Gross  
CHOP Chief 1946-1981  
Mentor of Folkman at CHOP  
US Surgeon General 1982-1989

### Founders of Children's Surgery First Surgery Chiefs at Boston's Children's Hospital (BCH) Mentors of C. Evertt Koop at BCH



**William E. Ladd**  
BCH Chief 1927-1945



**Robert Gross**  
BCH Chief 1947-1967



**Moritz Ziegler**  
HUP Chief Resident 1974, CHOP Fellow 1975-1977  
BCH Chief 1998-2004



**Steven J. Fishman**  
HUP Chief Resident 1992  
BCH Fellow 1992-1994  
BCH Chief 2019-

ated overgrown tissues of the torso, genitalia, neck and extremities. He has also studied the role of dynamic contrast lymphangiography of the thoracic duct which has led to the use of novel treatments and reconstruction of thoracic duct anomalies.

In recent years, Steve has assumed a host of administrative leadership roles at Boston Children's. Since 2015 he has been the President of the Physicians' Organization and Senior Vice-President for Access and Business Services. He has also served on the hospital's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee among many other strategic and operational responsibilities.

Penn Surgery is proud to have selected Steve as the Department's 2018 Distinguished Graduate before Harvard selected him as Chief of Surgery at Boston's Children's Hospital.



# Resident Research Presentations

Contributed by Rachel Kelz, MD, MBA and Sunil Singhal, MD

On July 11, 2019, the six General Surgery residents who completed two years in the laboratory presented their findings during Grand Rounds to a full house of faculty and trainees. Below is a summary of their findings.



Rachel Kelz



Sunil Singhal

## Dr. Seth Concors - *“Epigenetic Influences on Liver Injury: Insights into Ischemia Reperfusion and Drug-Mediated Hepatic Injury”*



Dr. Concors worked in the laboratory of Dr. Matthew Levine in the Division of Transplant Surgery. He sought to examine the role of epigenetics in various forms of liver injury, through the modification of histone deacetylase activity. Based on convincing data that showed protection from renal injury after HDAC inhibition, he sought to apply these techniques to the significant, and unaddressed, problem of warm hepatic ischemic injury. Utilizing a murine model of hepatic ischemia reperfusion injury, he demonstrated that inhibition of HDAC6 activity provided profound protection. Thereafter, he sought to determine whether this protective mechanism was isolated to liver ischemia or could be applied to additional forms of liver injury, such as acetaminophen toxicity. Ultimately, he demonstrated that inhibition of HDAC6 provided near complete protection from and survival after acetaminophen toxicity, far superior to the standard-of-care therapy.

## Dr. Phillip Dowzicky - *“An Assessment of Patient, Caregiver, and Clinician Perspectives on the Post-Discharge Phase of Care.”*



Dr. Dowzicky worked in the Center for Surgery and Health Economics with Dr. Rachel Kelz. His work focused on improving the post-discharge phase of care for multiple surgical populations. He led a multi-disciplinary quality-improvement team whose task was to reduce surgical readmissions as part of a larger health-system initiative. Their efforts informed the development of a hospital-wide symptom management service designed to treat patients at risk for readmission in an outpatient setting. His master’s thesis was a hypothesis-generating qualitative exploration of the perspectives of surgical oncology stakeholders (patients, informal caregivers, and clinicians) in the immediate post-discharge space.

4 This analysis identified key differences among groups strati-

fied by role and race that likely impact treatment perception. His discussion suggested several areas where the surgical community could trial interventions to improve care for oncologic patients based on these results. Phillip also worked in the Penn Center for Healthcare Improvement & Patient Safety with Dr. Jen Myers, and obtained a Masters in Health Policy Research.

## Dr. Jennifer Fieber - *“Defining Best Practices in Surgical Education”*



Dr. Fieber worked in the Center for Surgery and Health Economics with Dr. Rachel Kelz. Her work was centered on the identification and implementation of best practices in Surgical Education. First, she showed that a higher degree of perceived trainee autonomy may be associated with improved patient outcomes through analysis of a prospective multi-institutional study. Then, as trainee autonomy was shown to be associated with early surgeon-trainee case discussion, Dr. Fieber led a pilot interventional study designed to examine the feasibility, and reception of resident-initiated preoperative briefings within the General Surgery Residency Program. This project served as the foundation for Dr. Fieber’s Association for Surgical Education Surgical Education Research Fellowship.

## Dr. Victoria Gershuni - *“Microbiota-mediated Effects of Dietary Fiber on Small Bowel Bile Acid Signaling and Enterohepatic Circulation in Mice: Characterizing diet and bacteria-derived metabolites across multiple compartments.”*



Dr. Gershuni worked in the laboratory of Dr. Gary Wu (Division of Gastroenterology). She focused her efforts on the relationship between nutrition/diet, the microbiome, and gut-derived metabolites, and how their interaction impacts host physiology and metabolism. After

(continued on page 5)

## Resident Research *(continued from page 4)*

designing multiple experimental diets that manipulated fat and fiber content, Victoria developed a new mouse model to evaluate compartment-specific changes in enterohepatic circulation that occur in response to microbiota-dependent processing of dietary substrate. Her fundamental hypothesis was that there are intestinal region-dependent microbial and metabolite changes occurring in the small intestine that do not reach the feces, but may be reflected in portal and systemic plasma, likely leading to a significant impact on host metabolism. Her research identified that diet-dependent induction of fermentation and bile acid biotransformation within the small intestinal lumen is potentially able to mitigate the detrimental impact of purified diets on hepatic steatosis via an FXR and TGR-5 mediated pathway.

Additionally, Dr. Gershuni completed a Fellowship in Clinical Nutrition through the Nestle Nutrition Institute and is board-eligible for the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists. Victoria also obtained a Masters of Science in Translational Research (MTR) during her research years.

**Dr. Liza Sonnenberg** - *"Innovative strategies to increase the organ supply in transplant."*



Dr. Sonnenberg worked with Dr. Peter Reese in the Division of Nephrology, and Dr. Peter Abt in the Division of Transplantation. Overall, she is interested in using clinical research, policy changes and an understanding of systems-level factors to increase the organ supply to address the organ shortage crisis. Her lab work examined whether higher volume kidney transplant programs have better three-year outcomes for higher risk kidney transplants. Secondly, she examined the variation in deceased donor types, specifically the percentage of donation after cardiac death

donors, across donor service areas in the US. She found a wide variation in the percentage of donation after cardiac death donors (ranging from 0% to 32% of deceased donors) and proposed policy changes that might address the disparity. Lastly, she investigated the one-year graft function and overall all-cause graft survival for recipients of kidneys from donors with acute kidney injury compared to donors with optimal kidney function using a nationally representative database. Importantly, she found clinically insignificant differences in the one-year graft function and all-cause graft survival, which may open up another pool of potential kidney donors. During her lab years, she was enrolled in the National Clinical Scholar Program and obtained a Masters in Health Policy Research.

**Dr. Robert Swendiman** - *"Defining the Role of Angioembolization in Pediatric Blunt Solid Organ Injury"*



Dr. Swendiman worked with Dr. Michael L. Nance in the Division of General, Thoracic, and Fetal Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. While utilization of angioembolization has been demonstrated to decrease rates of operative intervention in adults with high grade solid organ injuries, its role in pediatric trauma is less clear. Children have lower failure rates of non-operative management than adults in these cases. Using the National Trauma Data Bank, Robert found no additional benefit of angioembolization for children with either isolated injury or polytrauma. Patients were matched based on injury and demographic characteristics, and no differences were observed in splenic salvage in either cohort. During the lab years, Dr. Swendiman obtained a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology.



From left to right: Sunil Singhal, Robert Swendiman, Ron DeMatteo, Victoria Gershuni, Liza Sonnenberg, Seth Concors, Phillip Dowzicky, Jenn Fieber, Clyde Barker and Rachel Kelz

# 2019 Award Recipients



**William Y. Inouye**  
Resident Teaching Award

◆ Robert A. Swendiman, MD, MPP



**William Y. Inouye**  
Faculty Teaching Award

◆ M. Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD



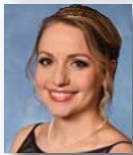
**Leonard D. Miller**  
Teaching Award

◆ Elijah W. Riddle, MD



**Ernest F. Rosato**  
Faculty Teaching Award

◆ Robert E. Roses, MD



**Leonard J. Perloff**  
Chief Resident Teaching Award

◆ Madalyn G. Neuwirth, MD



**Jonathan E. Rhoads**  
Resident Research Award

◆ Victoria M. Gershuni, MD, MSGM, MTR



**Gordon Buzby**  
Surgical Leadership Award

◆ Najjia N. Mahmoud, MD



**Keith Reemtsma**  
Surgical Resident of the Year Award

◆ Madalyn G. Neuwirth, MD



**Surgical Mentorship Award**

◆ Daniel T. Dempsey, MD



**Donald C. Liu**  
Humanism Hero in Surgery Award

◆ Matthew Goldshore, MD, PhD, MPH



**Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"**

◆ Feredun S. Azari, MD



**Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award and "Top Gun"**

◆ Seth J. Concors, 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

## Post Fellowship Appointments - 2017 General Surgery Chiefs

- ◆ **Matt Boelig, MD** (*Fellowship, Pediatric Surgery, CHOP*)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Sidney Kimmel Medical College - Thomas Jefferson University  
Attending Pediatric Surgeon at AI duPont Hospital for Children and Cooper University Hospital
- ◆ **Jeff Cohen, MD** (*Fellowship, Cardiac Surgery, Stanford University*)  
Cardiac Surgery Faculty  
Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC
- ◆ **Jash Datta, MD** (*Fellowship, Surgical Oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Dewitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
Affiliate Member, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Miami, Florida

- ◆ **Reilly Hobbs, MD** (*Fellowship Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Michigan*)  
Completing Congenital Heart Surgery Fellowship  
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital (University of Michigan).
- ◆ **Arjun Jeganathan, MD** (*Fellowship Colon & Rectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic*)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Colon & Rectal Surgery  
Penn State Health Milton Hershey Medical Center
- ◆ **Lindsay Kuo, MD** (*Fellowship, Endocrine Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital*)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Endocrine Surgery  
Temple University



# Career Paths of 2019 HUP Fellowship Graduates

## **Roland Assi, MD** (Thoracic Surgery)

Fellowship - Aortic Surgery  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

## **Carlo Bartoli, MD, PhD** (Thoracic Surgery)

Fellowship - Pediatric Heart Surgery  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

## **Stacy Henderson, MD** (Microsurgery - Plastic Surgery)

Private Practice, New Orleans, Louisiana

## **Daniel Jafari, MD, MPH** (Traumatology, Surgical Critical

Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Northwell Health - North Shore University Hospital  
Manhasset, New York

## **Imtiaz Khan, MD** (Cardiac Surgery)

Private Practice, Lafayette, Louisiana

## **Adam Laytin, MD** (Traumatology, Surgical Critical

Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

## **Christopher McGreevy, MD** (Breast Surgery)

Saint Barnabas Medical Center  
Livingston, New Jersey

## **Matthew Mino, MD** (Microsurgery - Plastic Surgery)

Private Practice, Fort Worth, Texas

## **Joseph Fernandez Moure, MD, MS** (Traumatology,

Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Trauma and Critical Care  
Duke University Hospital, Durham, North Carolina

## **Daniel Newton, MD** (Vascular Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, Virginia

## **Erik Olson, MD** (Traumatology, Surgical Critical

Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Returning to Active Duty with the Navy  
Naval Medical Center San Diego, California

## **Virginia Parks, DPM** (Lower Extremity - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

## **Merisa Piper, MD** (Microsurgery - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
University of California - San Francisco

## **Mohammed Shahait, MD** (Robotics - Urology)

Clemenceau Medical Center  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## **John Stranix, MD** (Microsurgery - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

## **JaBaris Swain, MD** (Thoracic Surgery)

Fellowship - Cardiopulmonary Transplantation  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

## **Lily Tung, MD** (Traumatology, Surgical Critical

Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Faculty, Vancouver General Hospital  
Vancouver, Canada

## **Michael Vella, MD** (Traumatology, Surgical Critical

Care and Emergency Surgery)  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
University of Rochester, New York

## **Matthew Whealon, MD** (Colon and Rectal Surgery)

Colon and Rectal Surgeon  
Cal Med Physicians and Surgeons, Southern California

## **Robin Yang, MD** (Craniofacial Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

## **Kai Zhao, MD** (Transplant Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

# Accomplishments and Career Plans of the 2019 Graduating HUP Chief Surgical Residents

*As Contributed by the Residents*

**Dr. David D. Aufhauser, Jr.** grew up in Washington, DC. He attended Stanford University where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with dual majors in History and Biological Sciences. After college, he matriculated at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine where he was a Gamble Scholar, was inducted to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society, and was awarded the I.S. Ravdin Prize by the Department of Surgery.



After medical school, David continued his training as a surgical resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his clinical activities, David spent 3 years as a research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Matthew Levine investigating epigenetic and hormonal influences on ischemia-reperfusion injury during organ transplantation. David has authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented at multiple national meetings. In recognition of his research achievements, David was awarded the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award for surgical investigation.

David's proudest achievements are his marriage to his wife Hilary and the birth of his daughter Alice (16 months). He is grateful for their extraordinary support throughout residency. David, Hilary and Alice will move to Madison, Wisconsin this summer, where David will pursue a fellowship in Transplant Surgery at the University of Wisconsin.

## **Dr. Elizabeth (Mollo) Bailey**

was born and raised in suburban Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Prior to starting medical school, she completed two years teaching kindergarten and first grade with Teach For America in Las Vegas, Nevada simultaneously completing a Masters of Education from UNLV. She then matriculated to the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. During her time at Penn Med, Beth found her passion for surgery and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and awarded the I.S. Ravdin Prize by the Department of Surgery.



Beth was thrilled to have the opportunity to stay at the University of Pennsylvania for her general surgery training. During the course of her residency, she completed a fellowship with the Center for Healthcare Improvement and Patient Safety and earned a Masters in Health Policy Research. She was elected Co-Chair of the Housestaff and APP Quality Council and ran a hospital-wide initiative to improve the outside hospital patient transfer system. Her work was recognized by the health system, earning her the Patient Safety Innovator award. Additionally, under the fantastic mentorship of Dr. Rachel Kelz, she received two grants to conduct education, patient outcomes, and policy research. She has authored several peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and has presented her work at national meetings.

Most importantly, during her time in Philadelphia, Beth met and married her wonderful husband Robert Bailey, another Penn trainee. They have since survived two surgical residencies (Rob is a neurosurgeon) and have had two beautiful daughters, Siena (4 years) and Lila (2 months).

Following residency, she will be moving to Pittsburgh to pursue a fellowship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

## **Dr. Carol W. Chen**

was born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan and moved to Florence, South Carolina at the age of 5. She received her BS in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi Honor Societies. She attended medical school at Washington University in St. Louis and completed her residency in general surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. During residency, she studied myocardial remodeling and modulation of cardiac function using exosomes after ischemic insults in rat and mice models under the mentorship of Dr. Pavan Atluri. She was awarded the Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award in recognition of her research. In addition, she received a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. During residency, Carol met and married Greg Hahn, and they welcomed their first child, Cade, last month. After completing her general surgery residency, Carol will be moving with her family to Palo Alto, California to pursue a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University.



**Dr. Douglas R. Murken** hails from Port Matilda, Pennsylvania. He received his BS in Chemistry from the Schreyer Honor's College at the Pennsylvania State University where he was Student Marshal for the Eberly College of Science. After college, he attended the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and earned the Dr. Richard Behan Prize for Outstanding Performance in Surgery. It was during his fourth year at Pitt Med that Penn Surgery graduates Dr. Jim Luketich and Dr. Dave Bartlett guided him towards Penn for his residency in General Surgery. Douglas was fortunate enough to couples match at Penn along with his now-wife Fanny who completed her training in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. During his residency at the University of Pennsylvania, Douglas completed a post-doctoral research fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. Matthew Levine. During this time he helped to design, secure IRB and FDA approval for, and obtain a University Research Foundation grant to fund a randomized clinical trial in kidney transplantation. In addition, he has authored several peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters. More importantly, it was during residency that Douglas and Fanny were married, welcomed their two children to their family, son Henri and daughter Audrey, and, thanks to a sound real estate investment made by his parents, Geoffrey and Marylu, were able to recharge in Cape May, New Jersey when needed. Douglas is tremendously grateful for the support of family, friends, co-residents and mentors during his training. He cannot imagine having trained anywhere but Penn, so much so that he will return for his Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship next year.



**Dr. Madalyn (Peters) Neuwirth** was born in Bloomington, Indiana and grew up in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Madalyn graduated Summa Cum Laude from Loyola University in Maryland, and she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She then attended Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College) where she was treasurer of the Gibbon Surgical Society. She was elected to both the Alpha Omega



Alpha and the Gold Humanism honor societies, and she was awarded the Philip R. Ripepi Prize in General Surgery and the Philip J. Wolfson Memorial Prize for Leadership upon graduation. Maddy was honored to match into the General Surgery program at the University of Pennsylvania where she began clinical research in Surgical Oncology with Dr. Giorgos Karakousis during her junior training years. During this time, she also met and got married to her husband, Alex Neuwirth (now a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Orthopaedic Surgery program). She continued under the mentorship of Dr. Karakousis during her two-year post-doctoral research fellowship during which she helped design and develop a translational study using photo-acoustic ultrasound imaging to detect micro-metastatic melanoma to the lymphatic system in a cutaneous melanoma mouse model. She has authored over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, reviews and book chapters, and has presented her research at national conferences numerous times. She was elected to serve as Vice President of the Graduate Medical Education's Housestaff Governing Council during her second research year. Her commitment to education was recognized during her Chief year as she was nominated by the medical students to receive the Penn Pearls Award for excellence in clinical teaching. Maddy and Alex also celebrated the birth of their two daughters during residency: Charlotte (3 years) and Claire (6 months) and have shared in the joy of parenting these two amazing girls. Following graduation, the family (along with their beloved Great Dane, Leo) will be moving to New York City where Alex will start as Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center and Maddy will begin her fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

## **Dr. Elijah W. Riddle**

Dr. Elijah W. Riddle was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He grew up in nearby Trussville, Alabama as the second of six children of Hal and Joy Riddle. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology where he graduated with highest honors with a BS in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Spanish. He then matriculated to Washington University in St. Louis for medical school. He was awarded a Robert Carter Medical School Prize and inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He began his residency at Penn in 2012. While at Penn, he developed interests in



(continued on page 10)



# Graduating Chiefs *(continued from page 9)*

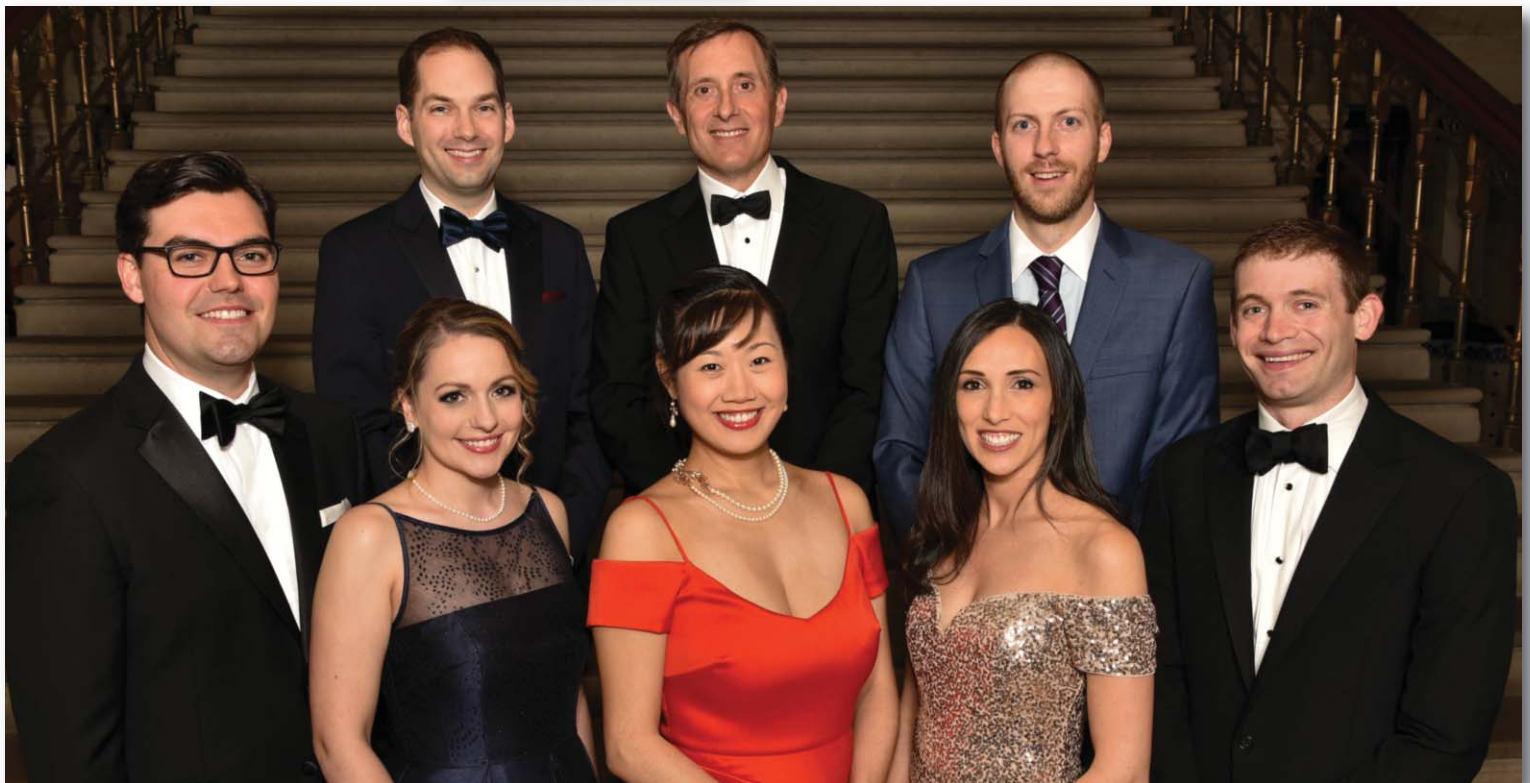
global surgery and surgical education. He traveled twice to Guatemala with surgical teams from Penn and completed the global surgery elective in Botswana with Dr. Georges Azzie. In his research years, he worked in the PedESTAL lab at CHOP with Dr. Thane Blinman, completing projects in surgical technology and education. With the guidance and assistance of many students, co-residents, and faculty, he helped develop the Certificate in Academic Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was also selected by the medical students to be a resident inductee into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment in residency occurred on March 30, 2019, when he married Dr. Grace Lee. After residency, he will work as a general surgeon.

**Dr. Charles C. Vining** was born in Toronto, Canada and has lived several places since then including Montreal, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, St. Lucia, and London, England. He attended McGill University for his undergraduate degree in Science with a Major in Physiology and a Minor in Pharmacology. During his time at



McGill, he was the captain of the Varsity Alpine Ski Team leading the team to its first overall provincial victory in nearly 20 years. It was after being involved in a severe skiing accident that Charles developed a keen interest and passion for surgery. He received his medical degree from the International American University College of Medicine, completed the majority of his clinical rotations in Chicago and in The United Kingdom at The Royal London Hospital and Whipps Cross University Hospital and subsequently graduated top of his class. During his first year of surgical training at the University of Pennsylvania he quickly became passionate about the care of oncology patients. Since that time, he has authored several peer reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and presented his research at national conferences. His greatest accomplishment, however, is his nearly 12-year partnership with his wife Carolina Martinez who he met at McGill University and eloped with in Philadelphia during a day off during his second year. Charles and Carolina were finally able to celebrate their marriage with friends and family last summer in Asturias, Spain.

Charles is incredibly grateful for the support of family, friends, mentors and colleagues throughout residency and feels very blessed to have trained at The University of Pennsylvania. Following residency, he will pursue a fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at the University of Chicago.



**Front Row: Charlie Vining, Maddy Neuwirth, Carol Chen, Beth Bailey and Dave Aufhauser  
Back Row: Elie, Riddle, Ron DeMatteo, Doug Murken.**

# Dan Dempsey Wins Strittmatter Award

On June 29, 2019 Dan Dempsey received the prestigious Strittmatter Award of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. Several hundred of Dan's colleagues, family and friends were in attendance at the Philadelphia Country Club to honor him during a reception and dinner.



**Strittmatter Gold Medal**

This venerable award was profiled in some detail in the last issue of the newsletter. It was first presented in 1923 to America's greatest surgeon of that day, WW Keen. Since then it has been awarded annually to the physician deemed Philadelphia's most deserving by virtue of his or her "advancement of the broad field of medicine through patient care, teaching and leadership". The list of Philadelphia doctor-recipients is impressive. It features Nobel and Lasker award winners and eminent practitioners of all fields of medicine such as Chevalier Jackson, I.S. Ravdin, Jonathan Rhoads, Francis Wood, J. Chalmers DaCosta, Sol Sheery and others.

Dan Dempsey embodies the lofty attainments inscribed on the award's plaque. Dan is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Princeton where he majored in the classics, played football and met his classmate and future wife



**Barbara and Dan Dempsey**

Barbara. At the University of Rochester School of Medicine, he won the class of 1976 prize. As a surgical resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania he twice won the surgical scholar award, was elected to AOA and conducted research in nutrition with Gordon Busby and Jim Mullen. He then passed up an invitation to remain on the Penn faculty, choosing instead to accept the offer of his friend and mentor Wally Ritchie, Surgical Chairman at Temple. There his rapid academic advance was marked by multiple teaching awards, appointments as Chief of G.I. Surgery and Chief of General Surgery; election as Secretary and then President of the Medical Staff and the Medical Faculty Senate. He became full professor of surgery in 1998

In 1999 he left Temple, enticed by Penn's recruitment of him as Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. In 2000 Temple upped the ante to recall him as Chairman of the Department of Surgery, a position he held with distinction for 12 years.

In 2011 Dan was welcomed back to Penn, as HUP's Chief of G.I. Surgery and Assistant Director of Perioperative Services. His many contributions to our department as an administrator and master surgeon are topped only by his selection by the residents as their most important mentor.

Dan's impressive list of 35 professional societies include the American College of Surgeons (member of Board of Governors), the Society of University Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the Southern Surgical Association, the Eastern Surgical Society, the Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the Surgical Biology Club, the Meigs Society, the Surgeons Travel Club and the Halsted Society.



He has published almost 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts. His editorial board memberships include the Yearbook of Gastroenterology, Laparoscopic Advanced Surgical Techniques, the Journal of Gastro-intestinal Surgery and Current Surgery.

Dan has been consistently recognized as a top doctor by Philadelphia Medicine and Castle Connolly.

Dan's collected set of five of Philadelphia Surgery's key leadership positions is unlikely to be equaled by anyone: Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital (the Nation's oldest); President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery; President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society; President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and the Strittmatter Award, which is so well deserved.



**The DeMatteo's and Dempsey's**



# Welcome New Residents

## Categorical General Surgery Program



**Amanda Bader**  
Stony Brook



**Emna Bakillah**  
Drexel



**Jack DePaolo**  
Louisiana State



**William Johnston**  
Washington University



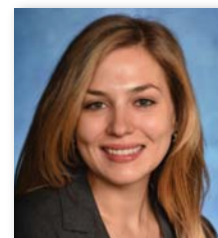
**Jesse Passman**  
Penn



**Jeffrey Roberson**  
George Washington



**Karissa Tauber**  
Dartmouth



**Gabriella Tortorello**  
Penn

## Plastic Surgery Program



**Jason Green**  
Duke



**Niv Milbar**  
John Hopkins



**Yoshi Toyoda**  
Cornell

## Thoracic Integrated Program



**Benjamin Smood**  
Alabama



**Matthew Woods**  
Johns Hopkins

## Urology Program



**Zoe S.W. Gan**  
Univ. of North Carolina



**Victor Otaño-Rivera**  
Ponce Health Sciences University



**Daniel Roberson**  
Drexel



**Colin Sperling**  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan Univ.

## Vascular Program

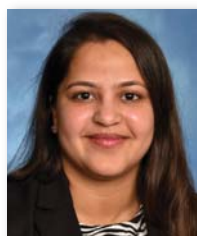


**Gina Biagetti**  
Georgetown

## Preliminary General Surgery Program



**Nikita Bansal**  
Royal College of Surgeons



**Tina Bharani**  
Weill Cornell - Qatar



**Andrew Dennison**  
St. George's Univ.



**Samar Kayfan**  
UT Southwestern



**Samantha Lloy**  
Saint James School of Medicine



**Blair Segsworth**  
St. George's Univ.



**Lauren Shreve**  
Univ. of Calif. - Irvine

# Alumni News

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

- ◆ **Carrie A Sims, MD, PhD** will be leaving Penn Medicine later this academic year to take a leadership position at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. She will be the inaugural Olga Jonasson Professor of Surgery and Division Chief of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn.



Carrie came to Penn after completing her surgical residency (as well as Research and MIS Fellowships) at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was an exceptional fellow in our Trauma and Surgical Critical Care program and we were lucky to recruit her to stay on as faculty in 2006. In addition to being a gifted clinician and educator over the last 13 years, she has been a successful and well funded researcher, including the amazing feat of completing a PhD program while an active clinical faculty member. She has been the Trauma Division's Research Director for many years, mentoring other faculty and several generations of fellows. With the move of the Trauma Program to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Dr. Sims was integral in building from scratch the Penn Acute Research Collaboration (PARC), aimed at helping to build an infrastructure for research that benefits investigators from a number of departments. More recently she has been Chief of Geriatric Acute Care Surgery, attempting to change approaches to an older patient population across the trauma, surgical critical care and emergency general surgery programs. She has been recognized with multiple awards during her career at Penn, including the Jacobson Promising Investigator Award from the American College of Surgeons and the Ephgrave Visiting Professor Award from the Association of Women Surgeons. In addition, in 2019 Dr. Sims was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

While this new position clearly represents a tremendous opportunity for Dr. Sims, at Penn it will leave a significant hole. She will clearly be missed.

- ◆ **T. Sloane Guy, MD, MBA** (HUP chief resident 2002) was recently appointed Professor of Surgery at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital & Director of Minimally Invasive & Robotic Cardiac Surgery.



## New Faculty

- ◆ **Eric M. Jablonka, MD**, was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the division of Plastic Surgery - Virtua effective August 1. MD - University at Buffalo, Residency - General Surgery/Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Combined Program, The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, Fellowship - Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery HUP, Observer - Robotic Breast Reconstruction, Gustave Roussy, Paris, France, Fellowship - Craniomaxillofacial Surgery, Stanford University, Stanford, California.



- ◆ **Emily A. Partridge, MD**, was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division of Pediatric Surgery - CHOP effective August 1. MD/PhD - University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Residency - General Surgery, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Fellowship - Pediatric Surgery, CHOP.



- ◆ **Joseph Napoli, MD** was appointed Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at CHOP effective August 1. MD - Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, Residency - General Surgery and Plastic Surgery, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire, Fellowship - Craniofacial Surgery, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia



- ◆ **John T. Miura, MD**, was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division of Endocrine and Oncology Surgery at HUP effective September 1. MD - Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Residency - General Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Fellowship - Complex General Surgical Oncology, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida.



- ◆ **Jami D. Rothman, MD**, was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in Breast Surgery in the division of Endocrine and Oncology Surgery at HUP effective September 1. MD - University of Buffalo, Residency - General Surgery, University of Buffalo, Fellowship, Breast Surgical Oncology, University of California at San Francisco.





# Catching Up With . . . *R. Scott Jones*

**Contributed by Jon Morris**

R. Scott Jones (HUP chief resident 1966-1967) graduated from the University of Texas in 1958 (B.A.) and the University of Texas Medical Branch in 1961 (M.D.) with election to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and then matriculated to the Penn Surgical program. His training at Penn included research in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research and the Department of Physiology. After residency Scott remained at Penn for an additional year as an American Cancer Society Clinical Fellow and then received faculty appointments at the University of California in San Francisco as Assistant Professor of Surgery (1968-1971) and to Duke University Medical Center as Associate Professor (1971-1977) and Professor of Surgery (1977-1981). In



**Scott Jones**

1982 he was recruited to the University of Virginia Health System as the Steven H. Watts Professor and Chairman of Surgery. An appointment he held until 2001, thereafter remaining at UVA as the Steven Watts Professor of Surgery until 2005. He is the past president of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (1984-1985), American College of Surgeons (2001-2002), American Surgical Association (2003-2004), International Society of Surgery, US Chapter (2001-2003), Southern Surgical Association (1992-1993), Society of Surgical Chairmen (1991-1993) and the Halsted Society (1996-1997). He has been a Director of the American Board of Surgery (1984-1990), a member of the Residency Review Committee for Surgery in 1990 and subsequently RRC Chairman (1995-1997).

## *A Conversation with Scott*

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

**Scott:** *Professional collegiality of outstanding fellow residents, clinically skilled faculty, National leadership of faculty, the discipline expected of residents and faculty.*

**JoMo:** Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

**Scott:** *Julian Johnson - technical skills and OR discipline, Jonathan Rhoads - national professional leadership, department management, large practice management, support of residents, Brooke Roberts-enthusiastic teacher Jack Mackie - had more direct interaction with residents than other faculty.*

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

**Scott:** *Clyde Barker - he was chief of one of my ward services and served with great leadership, teaching, and collegiality. He became a great role model then and for the rest of my surgical life to date.*

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

**Scott:** *Doug Wilmore was becoming a TPN leader, Ernie Rosato was becoming a leader, This is difficult because we had so many great residents.*

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

**Scott:** *Continuing in academic surgery with research, teaching, and clinical practice, Serving 20 years as a department chairman,*

*Serving in professional organization leadership positions, Continuing to do clinical research in surgical outcomes, quality improvement, and surgical safety.*

**JoMo:** What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

**Scott:** *HUP.*

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

**Scott:** *Clyde Barker, Ed Kaplan, Stan Dudrick.*

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

**Scott:** *I stopped practicing surgery several years ago.*

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

**Scott:** *I like to travel and since 2010 have spent substantial time in Italy. I enjoy all types of music, have studied music, and played guitar. I have always read books outside of medicine and in the last several months have revisited (or read for the first time) from Homer, Dante, Cervantes, Virgil, Thomas Aquinas, and others.*

**JoMo:** Tell us about your family.

**Scott:** *Carol Benson Jones my high school sweetheart and wife of 51 years died unexpectedly in 2009. Our son, Scott, is a track coach at William and Mary. He was an athlete in college but after getting*

(continued on page 15)

## Catching Up With . . . R. Scott Jones *(continued from page 14)*

*a PhD in Earth Sciences he decided he wanted to be a coach. He remains single. Our daughter, Lynn, obtained a MBA, worked in banking and finance and now manages corporate loans in a major bank. Her husband is a Professor of Sociology at Wintthrop University. They have two sons. Gregory has a PhD in math and is doing research I do not understand. He has a one year old son. Her second son, David, who has a communications degree from Northwestern is doing computer coding. He remains single. Our daughter, Holly, has a MS in dietetics and teaches health and fitness at a community college. She is married to a surgeon and they have 2 sons. Will is the manager of the UVA Tennis team and is single. His younger brother, Michael, is in law school at GW and is single.*

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

**Scott:** *Caravaggio: A Life Sacred and Profane by Andrew Graham-Dixon. I know nothing of art or art history. A friend, a collector and art expert, recommended this book. Caravaggio became famous during the early 17th century. He introduced a unique depiction of light and shadow to the world of art. He lived a violent and conflict ridden life. He lived and worked in Rome, Naples, Malta, and Sicily. He had to leave Rome because he killed a man in a duel. The book is interesting not only for the life of the painter but it provides insights into post reform Rome. I recommend this book to any reader because it is well written about this unique artist and the world in -which he lived.*

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

**Scott:** *I mention this not for interest but for completeness. I remarried in 2012 and that marriage ended in divorce in 2018.*

## Addendum

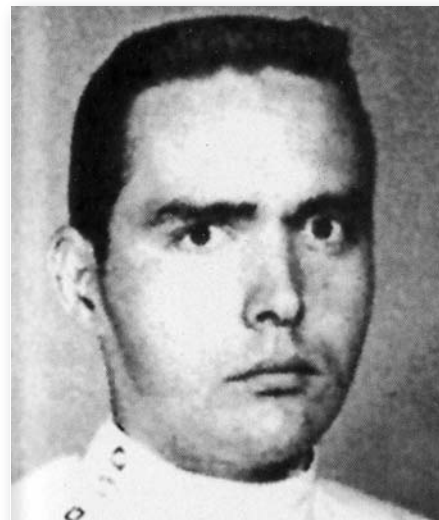
Scott's characteristic modesty prevented him from sending photographs as requested by Jon Morris. These photographs are from the Transactions of the American Surgical Association when Scott was introduced by Keith A. Kelly, MD to give his Presidential Address.



Scott Jones with wife Carol



Scott Jones 2003



Scott Jones as HUP intern





# Penn Surgery

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

**Previous Alumni Newsletters** - [www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Education/penn\\_surgery\\_society.html](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Education/penn_surgery_society.html)

 **Follow Penn Surgery on Twitter @pennsurgery** 



*Save the Date*

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019**

**Penn Surgery Society Reception**  
Hilton San Francisco - Union Square  
6:00-8:00 pm Room: Golden Gate 3

**S U M M E R 2 0 1 9**

**Editor in Chief:**

**Clyde F. Barker, MD**  
Donald Guthrie Professor of Surgery

**Editorial Board:**

**Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD**  
Chairman, Department of Surgery

**Jon B. Morris, MD**  
Vice Chair of Education

**Daniel T. Dempsey, MD**  
Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery

**James L. Mullen, MD**  
Vice Chair of Administration

**Graphic Design:**

Robin Noel