



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@penmedicine.upenn.edu.



Ron DeMatteo speaking at the reception for Jim Mullen

Message from the Chair

Last week we honored Dr. Jim Mullen for his contributions over the nearly half century that he has been a faculty member in our department. Of course, he spent a lot of that time roasting others, so now it was our turn. Under a pandemic friendly tent, appropriately next to the new Pavilion, several speakers recounted their experiences with the icon of Penn Surgery.

I met Dr. Mullen in January 1989 as a residency applicant. He, along with Dr. Barker and Leonard Miller, convinced me to come to Penn for residency. At that point, Dr. Mullen had already been on faculty 14 years. He was the close advisor to Dr. Barker, and in fact every chair since. Dr. Mullen is beyond multi-dimensional - baseball player, surgeon, nutrition researcher, creator of Penn Home Infusion, Program Director, Periop Director, Surgery Vice Chair of Administration, gardener, and safari aficionado. He was the acting Chair of Surgery twice (affectionately known as Reign of Terror I and II). More recently, he became a hospital administrator and Pavilion master organizer.



Dr. Mullen connects the dots faster than anyone I know. He has perfected the art of asking an open-ended question that results in you telling him more than you intended. I have never actually been in quicksand, but I have experienced what it feels like. With time, I learned not to respond to his zingers, realizing that they were just a trap. The loyalty to him from those around him is notable. While some did not agree with him on various decisions, they nevertheless always respected him. Eventually, he became the con-

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From the Chair *(continued from page 1)*

science of the department. With a few grunts, he could accomplish more than most people do in an entire day. In reality, though, he is a teddy bear trapped inside the body of a lion.

About 3 years ago, I mentioned to Dr. Mullen that we should paint his portrait. He responded, “Nah that’s just for chairs.” To be clear, it was a “Nah,” not a no. A few months later I broached the subject again. This time, using his advanced reverse psychology skills, it was an adamant “No!” This went on for a few months, at which point I told him that I didn’t need his permission. Once he realized the inevitability of it, he went into Mullen mode – micro-manager. There was more planning for the unveiling last week than for most weddings.

There is always a lot of gossip about a portrait. Does it look like him? Are the eyes right? What about the smile? We have eliminated all banter by taking a high-resolution photograph. It actually looks like him, because it is him. We created a wallet-sized memento, adapted to his favorite pastime, with statistics on the flip side. Dr. Mullen has already picked out the Pavilion floor for the portrait, and even the particular wall. I wish Kevin Mahoney good luck in settling the matter. Regardless



Baseball card honoring Jim Mullen, including statistics.

James MULLEN	
Years on Faculty	46
Batting Average	1.000
Home Runs	0
Strikeouts	0
RBIs	Many
Arguments with Umpires	Innumerable
Surgical Libraries Built	1
Hospitals Built	1
Home Infusion Services Built	1
ORs Managed	41 ORs - 12 Endoscopy
Reigns of Terror	2

Penn Medicine

of the portrait’s location, Dr. Mullen’s footprint on Penn Surgery will be enduring.





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

Dr. DeMatteo's column and the baseball card are in keeping with the spirit of the portrait presentation, which was to be in the nature of a roast, as Dr. Mullen had wished. But for the record, it seems appropriate to list a few of Jim's contributions to HUP and the Department of Surgery which he has served so well over the last 4 ½ decades. Few can remember Jim during the distant past when he was known only as a promising young clinical surgeon and basic science investigator in Rhoads' and Dudrick's nutrition field. Jim's contributions to that field were crucial: to design and implement HUP's nutrition support and home infusion services. They transformed TPN from an experimental trick in puppies to treatment that was actually available to large numbers of patients both in the hospital and at home. In addition, the list should include his dominant role in founding and directing the simulation center, the continuing education program, his performance as chief of surgery at the VA hospital and twice as acting department chairman. Most people now know him for his decades as man-



ager of HUP's 41 ORs, many of which he arranged to have built.

But of the many responsibilities of an academic surgery department, the most important, the one on which its legacy is based, is its training of future generations of surgeons, that is the education of its residents. It is no exaggeration to say that Jim has been the department's most important surgical educator of the last half-century. Unlike some of Jim's other accomplishments, there is a metric for his performance in this area. A teacher's success can only be judged years later by the record of his or her students. During the decades that Jim too modestly lists himself as director of the residency program (1976 to 1998), HUP had 110 chief surgical residents. Thirty-six of them attained the rank of full professor in university departments of surgery and sixteen of them have become chairs of university medical school departments. Many others lead divisions and other important positions. They must have been the greatest generation.

During those two decades, Jim was the glue that held together the residency and to a large extent the department of surgery. This was no easy time. In the U.S., surgical residency training was in the midst of a change from the traditional Halsted pyramidal system, with its unwritten duty hours of 24/ 7, to one that was determined by the limitation of working hours to 80 per week. Some of us, probably including Jim, still wonder how an expert surgeon (continued on page 4)



From the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

could be trained with so few hours. But Jim and his successors, including Jon Morris, have done it.

It was also a period of turbulence in the leadership of the department, resulting from turnover in deans and the birth of CPUP. For a while, the average tenure of HUP's surgical chairman seemed to be no more than two or three years. How was it possible with these uncertainties that HUP would continue to be one of the most sought-after and respected training programs in the country? How did Jim do it? Did it help that he built a library for the residents, introduced them to digital information technology and provided them with cell phones? Sure.

Or was it really the force of his personality, strict discipline, tough guy rules and micromanagement? Maybe? As noted by Dr. DeMatteo, his style as program director and acting chairman was lampooned as the reign of terror. But I don't believe that was it. Jim can be demanding, even gruff and inflexible. But two overriding characteristics poke holes in that façade. They are the warmth and loyalty Jim has for the department and his limitless ambition for the residents.

A decade ago, Jim was chosen for one of our institutions most coveted awards. About 200 people showed up for the celebration in his honor, many of them former HUP residents who had traveled from other parts of the country to be with Jim on this happy occasion. A number of them asked to speak. Their remarks were recorded. So let's let the residents tell us how they thought Jim accomplished his unique record. Why was he so successful as director of this program?

These are a few of the comments made by the residents.

1. Believes that both surgery and life are contact sports.
2. A larger-than-life mentor with inimitable style.
3. An organizational genius.
4. Can speak to different people (especially residents) at all levels in their own language.
5. Willingness to be unpopular in pursuit of what he believes is right.
6. Unshakable loyalty for the department and its goals and limitless ambition for its trainees.
7. Master of nonlinear planning that allows him to dominate from behind the scene. Like a chessmaster, he is always two or three moves ahead of everyone else.
8. The glue that holds the department's educational program together.
9. A rare ability to serve effectively under six different department chairs.

And perhaps the most important and the hardest to emulate:

10. Ability to inspire the same passion for scholarship, leadership and mentorship that has driven him.

These residents' remarks were all very close to target. Each of them got a piece of it. But explanation of the Mullen phenomenon is more complicated. It remains elusive. I suggest that would-be leaders could benefit by studying it.

Penn surgery and HUP are in Jim's debt. His legacy will survive for a long time.



4 Dr. Mullen and his family (l to r) son-in-law, Tom, daughter Jessica, son James, grandson Connor and wife Karen

Resident Research Presentations

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

On July 15, 2021, the General Surgery and Cardiothoracic residents who completed their research presented their findings during Grand Rounds. Below is a summary of their findings.

Dr. Kevin Eddinger - "Mapping Aortic Aneurysm Growth using Image Processing and Machine Learning"



Dr. Eddinger worked in the laboratory of Dr. Benjamin Jackson in the Division of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Jackson's lab focuses on computational models of aortic aneurysms, including finite element analysis models and image analysis techniques. In addition to Dr. Jackson, Kevin worked closely with Dr. Jordan Stoecker, a fellow

surgery resident, and Dr. Alison Pouch, a PhD researcher in the school of Bioengineering. During his time in the lab, Kevin helped to develop software pipelines for automated creation of local deformation maps of aortic aneurysms. Additionally, he applied computer vision techniques and machine learning to automate the segmentation of the aortic outer walls, allowing for creation of high-fidelity 3D aneurysm models.

Dr. Ian Folkert - "Intratumoral Hemorrhage Inhibits Bach1 to Induce Ednrb-Expressing Iron-Rich Macrophages That Promote Tumor Growth"

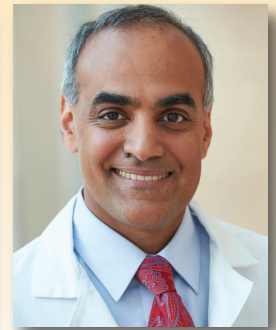


Dr. Folkert worked in the lab of Malay Halder, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. His research focused on investigating the effect of intratumoral hemorrhage on anti-tumor immune responses in humans and mice. He found that in addition to promoting a suppressive tumor microenvironment, hemorrhage led to the

expansion of a population of iron-rich macrophages that express the endothelin B receptor. These macrophages promote tumor growth through a number of mechanisms, including angiogene-



Dr. Rachel Kelz



Dr. Sunil Singhal

sis, and their development is driven by heme-dependent degradation of the transcription factor Bach1. Dr. Folkert completed a PhD while in the laboratory.

Dr. Matt Goldshore - "An experience centered at the intersection of social epidemiology, health equity and pediatric surgery"



During his professional development years, Dr. Goldshore worked with Dr. Niels Martin in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery to complete a one-year American Board of Surgery approved fellowship in pediatric surgical critical care; Dr. Holly Hedrick in the Division of Pediatric General, Thoracic and

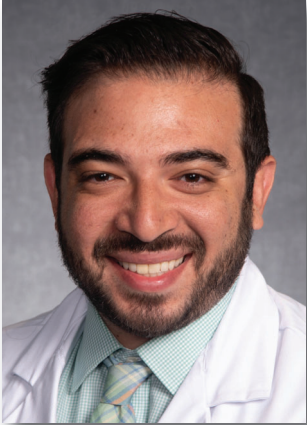
Fetal Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) on the Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) Frontier Program; and, Dr. Jon Morris in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery in the Center for Surgical Health (CSH).

Matt's scholarship is centered at the intersection between social epidemiology/health equity and pediatric surgical critical care. Under the guidance of Dr. Martin, Matt was able to spend 6-months of his surgical critical care fellowship rotating as a provider in the CHOP Pediatric, Neonatal/Infant and Cardiac Intensive Care Units. He used this clinical experience as well as previous training in social epidemiology to inform his work for Dr. Hedrick where studied the impact of delivery in the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment on outcomes for children with CDH exposed to ECMO during their birth hospitalization. Given Matt's passion for social epidemiology, the social determinants of surgical health and improving surgical equity for all, Matt worked with Dr. Morris to build CSH, an academic-community partnership housed in the Department of Surgery at Penn Medicine whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for vulnerable Philadelphians with surgical diseases.

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Resident Research *(continued from page 5)*

Dr. Andrew Hanna - *“The Little Cell That Could: Using Single Cell Sequencing Technology to Uncover Mechanisms in of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in the Tumor Microenvironment”*



Dr. Hanna worked in the basic science laboratory of Dr. Ronald DeMatteo, MD FACS, John Rhea Barton Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery. With some previous experience in and a passion for bioinformatics, Andrew’s efforts focused on utilizing and developing bioinformatic approaches to single-cell RNA sequencing, an approach that has, until recently, been underutilized within the domain of tumor immunology. Using various computational methods, he found that within the mouse model of gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) there existed a rare subset of T cells, $\gamma\delta$ T cells, which have been previously thought to possess anti-tumoral abilities within the tumor microenvironment in other cancer types. In GIST, these specialized cells displayed various anti-tumoral signatures, with a specific activated subset of $\gamma\delta$ T cells further potentiated with the treatment of GIST with imatinib. This is one of the first demonstrations of the anti-tumoral abilities of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in a tumor microenvironment and will help lay the groundwork for potential investigations into cell-based therapies utilizing $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

Dr. Mark Helmers - *“Mesenchymal Stem Cell-Derived Extracellular Vesicle Hydrogel Therapy for Treatment of Myocardial Infarction”*



Dr. Helmers worked in the laboratory of Dr. Pavan Atluri in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. Previous work in Dr. Atluri’s lab has demonstrated that extracellular vesicles (EVs) derived from epithelial progenitor cells delivered in a hydrogel prevent adverse remodeling and improve function after myocardial infarction (MI). In his first year in lab, Mark showed that EVs derived from mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) delivered in a hydrogel also improve cardiac function following MI in a rat model. In his second year, Mark worked to develop a porcine model of MI and began preclinical testing of MSC hydrogel therapy. In addition to his translational science work, Mark

also performed several clinical projects assessing optimal patient selection for minimally invasive mitral valve surgery and studying outcomes of heart transplantation. Through the course of these clinical projects mentored 7 medical and premedical students.

Dr. Mallory Hunt - *“Fetal Hypoxemia and Neurodevelopment: A Fetal Sheep Model of Congenital Heart Disease”*



During my research time, Dr. Hunt was a research fellow in the Flake lab at CHOP, utilizing a fetal sheep model to study the effects of chronic hypoxemia. This animal model served as a model of the level of hypoxemia experienced by fetuses with congenital heart disease in utero; but also mimics other conditions such as intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR) and placental insufficiency. Although her research timeline was impacted by the COVID pandemic and resulting laboratory shutdowns, they were still quite productive during the last two years, completing over 50 experimental animals and controls. At present, they are working on processing our tissue and beginning the early stages of slide preparation and analysis. Our primary organ of interest is the brain, in order to identify any histopathologic changes that result from intrauterine hypoxemia and whether these may be related to neurodevelopmental delay observed in children with CHD. In parallel analyses, they are also studying various other organ systems, including the effect on the metabolome, cardiovascular development, GI tract development, and hepatic development.

Dr. Catherine Mavroudis - *“Research Years in the Center for Surgery and Health Economics”*



Dr. Mavroudis worked with Dr. Rachel Kelz, performing health services research. She investigated the relationship between health system structure and value—cost and quality—for surgical patients, recognizing that the heterogeneity of health systems in the United States may provide insights into the optimal structuring of such systems for surgical patients. She also

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Resident Research *(continued from page 6)*

conducted a multi-center study to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the surgical workforce. This study demonstrated a difference in the experience of the pandemic between housestaff and faculty, and between male and female surgeons, providing insights into ways in which healthcare leadership could best support its workforce.

Dr. Ciaran O'Brien - *"Exploring the Mechanisms of HDAC6 Inhibitor Mediated Protection from Hepatic Ischemia"*



Dr. O'Brien worked in the lab of Matthew Levine, MD PhD in the division of transplant surgery. The focus of the Levine lab is on the effects of histone-deacetylase inhibitors and estrogen on ischemia reperfusion injury in renal, hepatic and hindlimb ischemia. Key projects that Dr. O'Brien was able to work on included: delineating the connection between HDAC2 deletion and endothelin in renal ischemia; examining the role of the Estrogen receptor beta in estrogen mediated protection from renal ischemia; and investigating the mechanisms of Tubastatin A mediated protection from hepatic ischemia and acetaminophen toxicity. In particular, Dr. O'Brien focused on Tubastatin A's markedly beneficial effect in liver ischemia, and was able to show that its effects are maintained in immune compromised models, and that while inhibition of the catalytic site of HDAC6 with Tubastatin A is beneficial, inhibition of the ubiquitin binding domain of TubA reversed that benefit. These results will help guide further investigation into the role of HDAC6 in liver ischemia, and hopefully lead to therapies to alleviate liver ischemia.

Dr. Adrienne Shannon - *"An Internally Validated Prognostic Risk-Score Model for Disease-Specific Survival in Clinical Stage I and II Merkel Cell Carcinoma"*



Dr. Shannon worked with Drs. Giorgos Karakousis and John Miura in the Division of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery. Her work centered on outcomes research and spanned a breadth of oncologic diagnoses, including gastrointestinal and skin cancers. She presented

two studies investigating oncologic outcomes among Merkel cell carcinoma patients accrued from six cancer centers. First, her lab work examined patterns and predictors of recurrence among Merkel cell carcinoma patients. She noted that male gender, truncal or head/neck location of the primary tumor, and tumor size ≥ 14 mm was predictive of all-site disease recurrence. Second, she presented an internally validated risk-score model with the goal to augment the current staging system in prognostication for Merkel cell carcinoma patients. Her risk-score model, based on age, male gender, trunk or head/neck tumor location, microsatellites, and regional nodal involvement, risk stratifies patients into low- and high-risk based on disease-specific survival, noting that disease-specific survival may be a superior metric for assessing patient survival, and demonstrates that prognosis may be less favorable among early stage patients with high-risk features.

Dr. Jordan Stoecker - *"Image-Derived Geometric Characteristics Predict Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Growth in a Machine Learning Model"*



Jordan worked with Drs. Ben Jackson and Grace Wang in the Division of Vascular Surgery. His initial work focused on the application of medical image analysis, specifically deformation modeling, to aortic aneurysms and the feasibility of this technology for disease surveillance. Subsequently, he was able to combine deformation results with image analysis techniques to pilot a machine learning model to predict the magnitude and location of future aneurysm using patient demographics and aneurysm characteristics. Notably, aneurysm geometric parameters heavily influenced predictive accuracy, indicating the importance of these in addition to patient demographics for future models. Additional lab work focused on correlation of deformation results with finite element analysis, development of models to predict complications after endovascular aneurysm repair, and the association of socioeconomic factors with peripheral artery disease onset and progression.

Accomplishments and Career Plans of the 2021 Graduating HUP Chief Surgical Residents

As Contributed by the Residents

Dr. Seth J. Concors was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Seth took a brief sojourn from the Philadelphia area to head to New York for Undergraduate and Medical School at New York University. While at NYU undergraduate he earned a degree in Psychology with highest honors. While at NYU School of Medicine, he quickly discovered a love for surgery and the operating room. Upon graduation, Seth was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. Always knowing he wanted to head home to Philadelphia, his first exposure to Penn was through a visiting sub-internship on the transplantation service with Ian Folkert as his night intern. Seth has vivid memories of Dr. Folkert recruiting him to come to Penn, neglecting to mention he would become Seth's junior resident in due time. After meeting with JoMo during his visiting rotation, Seth knew this was the program for him. Seth was thrilled to match at Penn, where he has been rewarded with years of complex technical training and clinical mentorship. With strong mentorship by Drs. Roses and Fraker and the entire EOS division, as well as an extremely rewarding research time with Dr. Matthew Levine, Seth decided to pursue a fellowship in surgical oncology. Almost as valuable as his research experiences, Seth was thrilled to experience an Eagles Super Bowl win while living in Philadelphia. Following residency, Seth will continue his training at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Seth is extremely thankful to have trained at The University of Pennsylvania, not only for the opportunity to become an excellent Penn surgeon, but for the relationships he has built with his passionate, dedicated, hard-core, and brilliant co-residents.



Dr. Phillip Michael Dowzicky was born in Bucks County and spent most of his childhood in southeastern Pennsylvania. Phillip is the oldest of four children and maintains that his siblings are one of the best parts of his life. He was most likely to be found in a swimming pool growing up, either head down grinding out another long-distance set or in his backyard helping teach a six-year-old how to rotary breath during freestyle. Phillip attended



Johns Hopkins University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering, but he didn't discover his love for medicine until he shadowed the cardiac surgery team at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a junior. After a brief detour researching pediatric neuromuscular disorders, Phillip returned to Philadelphia to attend medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. He enjoyed much of his undergraduate medical training, but it was the general surgery chief residents whom he found most impressive and ultimately decided he wanted to emulate. Phillip was ecstatic to open the Penn envelope on match day and can't say enough about how fortunate he has felt to be here ever since. His residency experience has reinforced his intrinsic desire to care for those acutely and critically ill and thanks to the mentorship of Dr. Rachel Kelz, he has become passionate about re-engineering healthcare delivery systems such that they make "sense" for patients, families, and providers. While Phillip knew that he would obtain superb technical training, he didn't realize that so many of his most cherished life events would also occur during residency. The Philadelphia Eagles won the super bowl, he met and convinced his lifelong partner Vanessa Stubbs to marry him, and he is expecting the first new family addition this fall! Please don't ask him to rank order these events as they were/are all uniquely wonderful. Phillip will begin his Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship here at Penn this summer and is excited to have the opportunity to continue to work with all the students, residents, and faculty that he has come to know so well.

Dr. Jennifer H. Fieber was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, but headed East for college and has slowly been working her way South on I-95 ever since. She attended Brown University and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Community Health and Bachelors of Science in Biology. Jenn then attended Yale School of Medicine where she discovered her love for surgery. During interviews for residency, Penn stood out for the energetic residents, committed faculty, and busy operative schedule, and she was lucky to be selected as a general surgery resident by Dr. Jon Morris. Over seven years, she has helped perform many complex operations, cared for countless challenging patients, and developed an ongoing interest in surgical education. She has benefitted greatly from Dr. Kelz's mentorship both professionally and personally. Other faculty members that were paramount to her development



as a surgeon included Dr. Wachtel, Dr. Fraker, Dr. Kirkland, Dr. Caskey, Dr. Karakousis, and Dr. Roses. Her biggest accomplishments in residency were marrying her husband, Dr. Aleksey Novikov and having her two beautiful sons, Max and Drew, that have managed to grow and thrive in a two physician household during a pandemic. Jenn will begin her Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at Penn in August 2021 and is excited to have the opportunity to continue working with the general surgery residents and her mentors.

Dr. Victoria M. Gershuni was born and raised by her loving parents, Candi and Gregory, in Palos Verdes Estates, California. From an early age, Victoria knew she wanted to be a surgeon and loved the idea of being able to make a tangible difference in human health – whether it was by manipulating anatomy to solve a physiological problem or making lifestyle changes through diet to alter the metabolic reactions occurring in the body. Victoria graduated from the University of Southern California as a Renaissance Scholar with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and a Master of Science degree in Global Medicine. She then went on to receive her MD from Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, where she received the Louis and Dorothy Kovitz Senior Prize in Surgery. On the residency interview trail, Victoria became enamored with Penn Surgery and has never looked back. During her surgical training, she spent two dedicated years completing her Master of Science in Translational Research in the lab of Dr. Gary Wu (Division of Gastroenterology). Her research focused on the relationship between nutrition, the microbiome, and gut-derived metabolites, and how their interaction impacts host physiology and metabolism. Simultaneously, she was involved in multiple human subject dietary intervention and microbiome studies, and she continues to be an integral part of the Penn Center for Nutritional Science and Medicine (PenNSAM) where she is an Associate Member of the Internal Advisory Committee. Victoria also completed a Fellowship in Clinical Nutrition and is board-eligible for the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists. In recognition of her work in the lab, Victoria was awarded the 2019 Jonathan E. Rhoads Resident Research Award from the Department of Surgery. Among her many accomplishments in the lab, Victoria is most grateful for being set-up by Laura Huth on a



blind date with her amazing husband, Scott Mullin. They married in October 2019 and have recently welcomed their beautiful baby daughter into the world. Following graduation, Victoria and her family will be heading back to St. Louis where she will begin her fellowship in Advanced Gastrointestinal and Minimally Invasive Surgery at Barnes Jewish Hospital/ Washington University in St. Louis. Victoria is incredibly honored to have trained at Penn and will carry on the Penn Surgery tradition of excellence throughout her career.

Dr. Elizabeth Marie Sonnenberg better known as 'Liza,' was born in Falls Church, Virginia. Liza attended the University of Virginia where she majored in Human Biology – not the human anatomy and physiology she'd later love, but an interdisciplinary major which focused on how science and society intersect. She visited the University of Pennsylvania for a medical school interview and knew it was the training place for her. She is thrilled to have called the University of Pennsylvania her home for over a decade. As a medical student, Liza quickly discovered her love of surgery, she was awarded the I.S. Ravdin and Jonathan Rhodes surgical scholarship prizes and inducted into both the Alpha Omega Alpha and the Gold Humanism Honor society. Liza was so happy to match at Penn Surgery because she was struck by the complexities of cases and the dedication and camaradery of the residents and attendings. She quickly took an interest in transplant surgery as the field's current issues echoes her undergraduate studies in how science and society intersect – and, well, the journey for transplant patients is so compelling that she wanted to be a part of it. Determined to use clinical research, policy changes and an understanding of systems-level factors to increase the supply of transplants, she was a National Clinician Scholar, obtained a Master's in Health Policy Research, presented at multiple national and international conferences and published several papers during her lab-time. Liza also found her life partner, Nathan Miller, during her time in Philadelphia. The two married this spring (after postponing their wedding with COVID restrictions). Liza will begin her training as a transplant surgeon at the University of Michigan. She is so thankful for her time at Penn and the wonderful patients, attending and residents that have taught her so much.



Graduates *(continued from page 9)*

Dr. Robert A. Swendiman was born in Washington DC where he spent his childhood. Robert attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and Political Science. He then worked as an EMT and Starbucks barista prior to attending medical school at the UNC School of Medicine. During his time at UNC, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and obtained a Master of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Robert was honored to join his fellow colleagues here at Penn in the General Surgery program. Prior to residency, Robert was already enamored with the field of pediatric surgery, and thus he spent his research years with Dr. Michael L. Nance studying trauma outcomes after severe pediatric injuries. During these two years, he also obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology. Robert has a passion for teaching, which was recognized in the lab by receiving the William Y. Inouye Resident teaching award, followed by the Penn Pearl Award as a chief resident for excellence in clinical education. Though Robert is proud of his time here at Penn, nothing brings him more joy than his family. Robert and his wife Brenda brought two little monsters into the world during residency: Luke (now age 3) and Lucy (2). The whole family will soon make the move to Salt Lake City, Utah, where Robert will begin his Pediatric Surgery fellowship at Primary Children's Hospital.



Dr. Salman Zaheer's journey of graduating from Penn Surgery was atypical. He was born and raised in Pakistan, where he went to high school, college and eventually graduated from medical school at the age of 23. Salman wanted to be a surgeon even before he enrolled in medical school but he knew that to achieve his dream of becoming an academic surgeon in U.S. he would need something more than just good luck, he would need a miracle. In search of that miracle, during his penultimate year of medical school he applied for summer research fellowship and he was lucky enough to get the opportunity to work in Dr. Fraker's laboratory for 3 months, which was his first introduction to Penn and surgical training in United States. At Penn, Salman found his dream institution and in Dr. Fraker he found a role model, a mentor and a miracle worker who paved the trajectory of his career.



After graduating from medical school he spent a year in Dr. Fraker's laboratory and was academically productive with several national podium presentations and authoring numerous peer reviewed publications.

Salman entered Penn Surgery as preliminary resident and was eventually recruited by Dr. Morris and Dr. Williams to the categorical program. During his time as surgical resident he worked with exceptional surgical residents, phenomenal attending surgeons and outstanding OR staff who all contributed to his education and made him a better surgeon as well as better person.

Salman loves operating and classic rock music. One of the highlights of his chief year was leading a Whipple operation under supervision of Dr. DeMatteo with Beatles and Rolling Stones playing in the background. Despite his love for Whipple procedure, Salman decided to pursue a career in Cardiac surgery and he will begin his fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital on August 2021. Salman is incredibly grateful that he was given the opportunity to train at nation's premiere surgical training program and be a part of Penn Surgery family. He will proudly carry the Penn Surgery tradition of surgical excellence through out his career.



(bottom row L to R) Seth Concors, Jennifer Fieber, Victoria Gershuni, Liza Sonnenberg, Salman Zaheer, (back row) Phillip Dowzicky, Cary Aarons, Ron DeMatteo and Robert Swendiman

Career Paths of 2021 HUP Fellowship Graduates

Seye Adekeye, MD, PhD (Breast Surgery)

Assistant Professor, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Andrew Benjamin, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Medical Center

William ‘Jake’ Brownell, III, DPM, MA

(Lower Extremity - Plastic Surgery)

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

James P. Byrne, MD, PhD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon, Johns Hopkins University

Anna Carlson, MD (Craniofacial Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Michigan State

Alex L. Chang, MD (Transplant Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery

University of Cincinnati

Scott DeRoo, MD (Cardiovascular Surgery Advanced Thoracic Aortic and Endovascular Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Cardiac Surgery

University of Washington

Drew R. Farmer, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery

UT Southwestern, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas

Ann C. Gaffey, MD, MS (Vascular Surgery)

Assistant Professor In-Residence

Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

University of California-San Diego

Christopher D. Graham, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Jacobi

Allyson M. Hynes, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Michael Ibrahim, MA, MBBS, PhD

(Cardiovascular Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Cardiovascular Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Jonathan B. Imran, MD (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Christiana Care Hospital, Newark, Delaware

Matthew T. Joy, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Virginia Tech

Marijan Koprivanac, MD (Cardiovascular Surgery)

Advanced Cardiac Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic

Benjamin A. Kuritzkes, MD (Colon and Rectal Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Columbia University Medical Center

J. Trent Magruder, MD (Cardiovascular Surgery)

Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens, Georgia

Khang Nguyen, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Private Practice, Tucson, Arizona

Hunter Oliver-Allen, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Private Practice, Spokane, Washington

Juan Rendon, MD (Microvascular Surgery - Plastic Surgery)

Private Practice, Los Angeles, California

Dane R. Scantling, DO, MPH (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Boston University Medical Center

Jeffrey Walker, MD (Robotics - Urology)

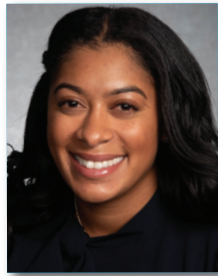
Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Welcome New Residents

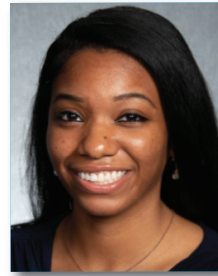
Categorical General Surgery Program



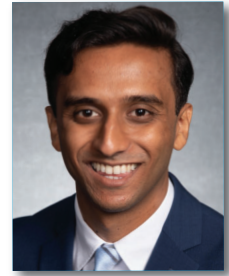
Rachael Acker
Harvard



Karole Collier
University of Buffalo



Elizabeth De Jesus
Tufts University



Saad Farooq
New York University



Joe Kern
University of Chicago



Jack McVey
Case Western University



Natalie Moreno
University of Michigan



Gracia Vargas
University of Michigan

Plastic Surgery Program



Elizabeth Card
Penn



Alexander Wilson
Yale



Carrie Morales
Penn

Thoracic Integrated Program



Michael Catalano
Hofstra/Northwell



Alexandra Sperry
Penn

Urology Program



Amanda Jones
Penn



Madhumita Parmer
University of Miami



John Sobieski
Cooper



Andrea Yeguez
Penn

Vascular Program



Domingo Uceda
Indiana University

New Residents *(continued from page 12)*

Preliminary General Surgery Program



Blaire Beers-Mulroy
Royal College of
Surgeons, Ireland



Zoya Butt
Aga Khan



Lisa Coleman
Ohio State University



Samaher Fageiry
University of Oxford



Yazid Ghanem
Royal College of
Surgeons, Ireland



Alexey Gurevich
Slacker School of Medicine
New York State



Sunny Pervaiz
Royal College of
Surgeons, Ireland



Kevin Zhou
Royal College of
Surgeons, Ireland

Post Fellowship Appointments - 2019 General Surgery Chiefs

◆ David Aufhauser, MD

(Fellowship, Transplant Surgery, University of Wisconsin)
Assistant Professor in Surgery, University of Wisconsin
Division of Transplant Surgery

◆ Elizabeth (Mollo) Bailey, MD, MSHP, MEd

*(Fellowship Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)*
One more year of Plastic and Reconstructive Fellowship
2022 - Fellowship in Microsurgery, Cleveland Clinic

◆ Carol Chen, MD

(Fellowship, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Stanford University)
Private Practice, New Bern, North Carolina

◆ Doug Murken, MD

(Fellowship, Colon and Rectal Surgery, HUP)
Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology/Colorectal Services
West Virginia University, Morgantown

◆ Madalyn Neuwirth, MD

*(Fellowship, Surgical Oncology,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)*
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Division of Surgical Oncology

◆ Elijah W. Riddle, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Program Director, General Surgery Residency
Vinmec Times City International Hospital
VinUniversity, Vietnam

◆ Charles Vining, MD

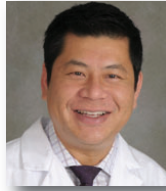
*(Fellowship, Complex General Surgical Oncology,
University of Chicago)*
Assistant Professor in Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
Penn State College of Medicine

Alumni News

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

New Faculty

- ◆ **Shang A. Loh, MD** was appointed Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery, Chief of Vascular Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.



MD - Texas A&M College of Medicine; General Surgery Residency, New York University; Fellowship, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, New York University. Prior to joining Penn he was an Associate Professor of Surgery, Director of the Vascular Surgery Residency at Stony Brook.

- ◆ **Michael E. K. Ibrahim, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery.



MBBS/PhD - Imperial College School of Medicine, London, United Kingdom; General Surgery / Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

- ◆ **Constantine Mavroudis, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division of Pediatric Surgery at CHOP

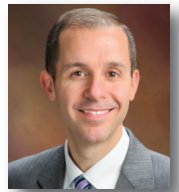


MD - Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, Illinois; General Surgery / Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP); Fellow in Congenital Cardiothoracic Surgery, CHOP.

- ◆ The Committee for Teaching Effort congratulates the 2021 UME and GME Teaching Awards of Distinction recipients: **Ben Braslow, Paris Butler, Marisa Cevasco, Dan Dempsey, Julia Glaser, Sean Harbison, Dan Holena, Venkat Kalapatapu, Giorgos Karakousis, Caleb Kovell, Ali Naji, Taine Pechet, Robert Redfield, Robert Roses, Nicole Saur, Skandan Shanmugan, Sunil Singhal, Alan Wein, Matt Williams and Liza Wu.**

Departures

- ◆ **Christopher E. Mascio, MD** will lead pediatric cardiac services for WVU Medicine Children's, serving as the executive director of the new WVU Medicine Children's Heart Center and division chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery in the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery.



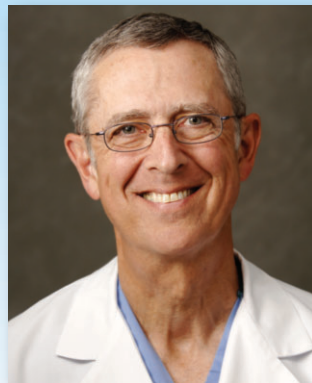
- ◆ **Matt Williams, MD** has accepted a position as Associate Professor of Surgery at Yale University and will be the Surgical Director of Structural Heart Disease.



- ◆ **Daniel N. Holena, MD, MSCE, FACS** accepted a leadership position at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Director of Research in the Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.



Dr. Allen Bar, Clinical Professor of Surgery at Penn, retired from surgical practice on June 30, 2021 ending an outstanding career of more than 45 years at Pennsylvania Hospital. During his long career Allen has contributed measurably to the education of hundreds of medical students and residents, and cared compassionately for thousands of general surgery patients. Dr. Bar went to college and medical school at Tufts and did his general surgery residency at Pennsylvania Hospital, historically one of the busiest surgical sites in Philadelphia. After 2 years in the Army, he joined the attending staff at "Pennsy" where he remained in active practice until his



recent retirement.

Dr. Bar has served on all the important academic and hospital committees at PAH, and he has chaired most of them. In 1990 he was acting chairman of surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital, and in 2001 he was elected President of the medical staff for 2 years. Dr. Bar was the site director for Penn Surgery 200 and 300 students for 35 years. He continues to be involved with teaching, and remains on the Pennsylvania Hospital board of directors where he has served since 2008. We wish Dr. Bar and his wife Sheryl a very happy, well deserved retirement, and thank him for all his important contributions to Penn Surgery.

(continued on page 15)

Alumni News *(continued from page 14)*

Promotions

(effective July 1, 2021)

◆ **Jeremy W. Cannon, MD**

Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery
Promoted to Professor of Surgery in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Sunil Singhal, MD**

Division of Thoracic Surgery
Promoted to Professor of Surgery with tenure



◆ **Doraid Jarrar, MD**

Division of Thoracic Surgery
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery in the Academic Clinician track



◆ **Ariana Smith, MD**

Division of Urology
Promoted to Professor of Urology in Surgery in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **William Peranteau, MD**

Division of Pediatric Surgery
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery in the Clinician Educator track



◆ **Arun K. Srinivasan, MD, MRCS**

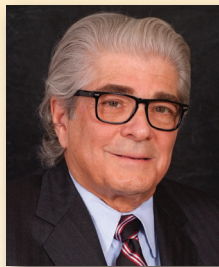
Division of Urology, CHOP
Promoted to Associate Professor of Urology in Surgery in the Clinician Educator track



(continued on page 16)

Graduate Medical Education Transitions

The Department acknowledges the important contributions of former Program Directors including Drs. Matt Williams, Ben Jackson, Stephen Kovach and Alan Wein. Dr. Wein's 42 years of service as Program Director for the Urology Training Program, which must be a record not only at Penn but in the country.



Alan Wein

Effective July 1, 2021, Drs. Marisa Cevasco (Thoracic Surgery), Venkat Kalapatapu (Vascular Surgery), Brett Chatman (Lower Extremity Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) and Caleb Kovell (Urology), assumed leadership positions as program directors overseeing their respective graduate training programs. Penn's graduate surgical training programs are the crown jewel of the Department of Surgery. No longer an off hours task, the role of Program Director has become vitally important and a key career trajectory for surgical educators at Penn. Many thanks to the new and existing Program Directors of our 20 graduate programs as they oversee the training of the next generation of academic surgeons.

Laura Huth's has been promoted to Director of Surgical Education in the Department of Surgery. Laura has been a valued member of the Surgery team since 2010 when she started as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of General Surgery at PPMC. In 2011 Laura joined the Division of Surgery Education as the UME Coordinator and then became the General Surgery Residency Coordinator in 2013. In 2017 Laura assumed overall leadership of the Division. In her new position, Laura will continue to oversee all the administrative functions of the Division of Surgery Education as well as the administrative leadership of the Center for Surgical Health. Laura's passion for Surgery Education was recently recognized by her appointment to the Executive Committee of the Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery. Please join us in congratulating Laura on this well-deserved promotion.



Laura Huth



Penn Surgery

Department of Surgery
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Philadelphia, PA 19104

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In 2022, we are aiming again for 100% participation in Doximity from all Penn providers and Alumni. We hope you will help us reach that goal so that we can showcase **PENN MEDICINE** on a national platform.

CLAIM YOUR PROFILE

To vote in 2022, your Doximity profile must be claimed by November 1, 2021:

- ◆ Confirm your eligibility on Doximity.com
- ◆ See our step-by-step guide
- ◆ Update your profile

Previous Alumni Newsletters - www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/education/penn_surgery_society.html

SUMMER 2021

Alumni News *(continued from page 15)*



Oksana A. Jackson, MD (HUP chief resident, plastic surgery 2007) attending surgeon at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Co-Director of the Cleft Lip and Palate Program, was recipient of an award from the government of Ukraine for her work with Ukrainian cleft palate patients. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC. Pictured here with the Ukraine Ambassador, Oksana Markarova, and her husband Ben Jackson.

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