



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.

Jeffrey Drebin to Leave the University of Pennsylvania for Appointment as Chair of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering

On December 1 we were saddened to receive the following message from the Chairman.

It is with mixed emotions that I write to notify our faculty, residents and staff that I will be leaving Penn sometime after the new year to assume the position of Chair of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. This has been a tough decision – while Memorial is a great place, I will be leaving so many good friends, colleagues and co-workers that I haven't made this decision lightly. I have given it a great deal of thought for the past few weeks, and at the end of the day, the opportunity to focus my efforts and to lead the Department of Surgery at what I believe is the premier Cancer Center in America was perfectly aligned with my own professional and academic goals. While I will miss Penn, I look forward to new challenges and opportunities in New York.

I think Penn is among the top Departments of Surgery in the country and the opportunity to serve over the past eight years as the John Rhea Barton Professor and Chair has been a tremendous honor. I will leave a Department that has grown substantially in terms of its clinical and



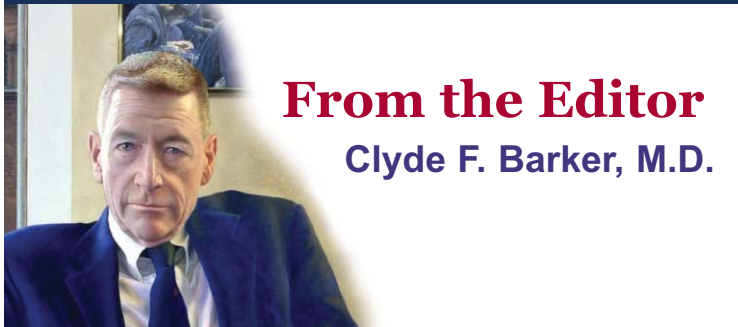
academic profile and that is truly excelling at each of its missions – our clinical divisions are outstanding, our research programs are doing great science and successfully competing for extramural grants, and our educational programs for medical students, residents, and fellows are among the best in the country. I am particularly proud of our junior faculty who are building terrific careers as successful academic surgeons. We also have a superb administrative team led by Deb Rose, which will continue to facilitate the Department's success. While it is hard for me to leave, I know the best days for the Department of Surgery at Penn are still ahead.

A search committee will be organized by the Dean's office to select the next Department Chair, and an Interim Chair will be appointed to serve after my departure and prior to the selection of the next chair – these details are still in evolution. I want to thank each of you for helping make my nearly thirteen years at Penn a real pleasure and wish all members of the Department further happiness and success.

We wish Jeff all the best for success in his new position. He will be sorely missed. He has done a marvelous job in leading our department. He leaves it at a time of great strength and success. This should make it possible to recruit a worthy successor.

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

On February 6, 2017 there was a reception in honor of our departing Chairman. (See photos below and on pages 4-5) Speaking were CEO Ralph Muller, Dean Larry Jameson and Dr. Drebin's scientific mentor, Mark Greene. I had the honor of speaking for the department. Below is something like what I said.

America's first surgery professor was a Penn surgeon. The John Rhea Barton professorship held by Jeff Drebin was first given to our school's icon D. Hayes Agnew. Therefore in reviewing the performance of a surgical chairman we need to use historical perspective.

So how does Jeff Drebin measure up as compared to his professional forebears? My experience at Penn goes back far enough that I can compare him with 6 former Department Chairmen including I.S. Ravdin and Jonathan Rhoads. So what are the benchmarks? How do we measure performance of a surgical chairman?

For starters how good is he as a surgeon? Perhaps only in surgery is the reputation of someone who has reached the administrative level of department chairman still rated and sometimes largely remembered for his skill in the performance of his clinical specialty. In this case some would disparage the specialty as a craft. Others might call it an art.

Anyway just how good was Jeff in the operating room? I'm not about to dredge up stories of how Ravdin and Rhoads were ranked as technical surgeons and are still remembered in this way by their surviving trainees. But I can tell you that on this scale Jeff Drebin measures up very well. He is a master surgeon.

A 2nd criterion – How does he rate as a researcher, as a physician scientist? Sadly and perhaps especially true of surgeons this may be a dying breed. In fact some say it is already extinct. Too bad! Yet for the rare surgical chairs who have real scientific credentials it is perhaps this more than anything else that allows them in faculty meetings or over cocktails to assume a comfortable position as a true peer of their fellow chairs of more research intensive departments. Jeff Drebin is one who can. He does have the credentials of a true surgeon scientist. He even has a PhD, a distinction held by only one other Penn Surgical Chairman and this 146 years ago.

Third and perhaps the only criterion that has lasting importance, the only one by which the surgical chair can hope to impact the future is as a teacher, educator, mentor and role model. Unlike the other criteria this one can actually be measured. It's metrics are the accomplishments of his residents and fellows. Do they pursue an academic life? How many are themselves teachers or physician scientists? To assess this I looked up the career paths of Jeff's residents and compared them with those of the legendary I.S. Ravdin and Jonathan Rhoads, those past HUP surgical residents of what we often call the golden era of our training program.

Somewhat to my surprise I found that less than half of Dr. Ravdin's and Dr. Rhoads' residents chose an academic career or achieved university appointments. Compared with this almost 75% of Dr. Drebin's trainees appear headed for university careers.

Another factor is how the surgical chairman ranks on the national scene. The reputation of a surgical department or at least it's image rests to a considerable degree on the Chairman's recognition nationally and internationally. Again Jeff has done us proud. He is a Director of the American Board of Surgery and an officer or president of the most prestigious surgical societies. And he is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Finally how is Jeff viewed by his colleagues and in what kind of shape does he leave his department? Unlike some surgical geheimrats of the distant past Jeff is never intimidating or ruthless. Instead the effectiveness of his leadership style depends on his even temper, his approachability and warm support of faculty and residents. He and Linda have even restored a tradition employed by I.S. Ravdin and others of welcoming faculty and residents into their home on holidays and special occasions.

Jeff Drebin leaves a department that is happy, strong and confident of it's future. He measures up very well with the best of his professional forebears. Small wonder that we are going to miss him. This will be a very hard act to follow.



Speakers: Ralph Muller, Larry Jameson, Jeff Drebin, Clyde Barker, and Mark Greene

Jeffrey Drebin to Depart

Also on December 1, 2016 this message was sent from Medical Center Administration.

We are writing to let you know that Jeff Drebin has been named the next chair of surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) - a position he will assume early next year. While we are extremely proud of Dr. Drebin being selected for this prestigious position at MSKCC, there is no question that his presence here will be sorely missed. Jeff has conveyed to each of us the difficulty he had in making this decision, but ultimately the opportunity to focus his career on cancer became the right choice for him.

Dr. Drebin has been an outstanding leader and mentor at Penn Medicine. He came to Penn in 2004 as Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery and was named Chair of the Department in 2009. Since that time, Jeff has built a nationally leading department with responsibility for a diverse range of programs and services spanning 11 divisions, including advanced patient care, basic and clinical research and the surgical education program. The Department is consistently recognized for its outstanding performance led by excellent faculty, and to Jeff's personal credit - for its strong group of residents and junior faculty who will become tomorrow's leaders in academic medicine.

Dr. Drebin's research has put him in the vanguard of the latest therapies for cancer with innovative research projects investigating new ways to treat pancreatic cancer. Further, his research has contributed significantly to the understanding of the genetic origins of cancer. He is currently the co-Principal Investigators on a clinical and translational "dream team" award from the Stand Up to Cancer Foundation for innovative studies in pancreatic cancer which joins Penn faculty with investigators at MSKCC to advance knowledge and improve patient care.

We will, of course, begin a national search for a new chair of surgery shortly with the knowledge that Jeff has set a very high bar indeed for his successor. Jeff is an outstanding leader, clinician, scientist and a valued colleague, and we will plan appropriate celebrations of his many accomplishments at Penn Medicine. Please join us in offering him heartiest congratulations on his new position.

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD

Ralph W. Muller

Peter D. Quinn, DMD, MD

In October 2013 our Jeff Drebin was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (subsequently renamed National Academy of Medicine). This is one of the nation's highest honors in Medicine and one that very few surgeons achieve. Reproduced here is the announcement of this honor by the IOM.



Linda and Jeff Drebin

“Jeffrey A. Drebin, M.D., PhD., is chair of the Department of Surgery at Penn Medicine, and John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Drebin continued his surgical training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Drebin's research has contributed significantly to the understanding of the genetic origins of cancer. His classic work with monoclonal antibodies directed against the HER2/neu protein provided the scientific foundation for the evolution of targeted therapeutics for cancer and led to the development of the first generation of targeted monoclonal antibody drugs for the treatment of breast cancer. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense and the Burroughs-Welch Fund. He is currently the co-Principal Investigator on a \$22 million dollar clinical and translational "dream team" award from the Stand Up to Cancer Foundation for innovative studies in pancreas cancer. His many clinical interests include pancreatic cancer, acute and chronic pancreatitis, the use of new technologies to manage liver tumors, disorders of the bile ducts and management of gallbladder disease. Dr. Drebin has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research papers, book chapters and reviews and is co-inventor on two patents related to the treatment of cancer with monoclonal antibodies. He has served on the Board of Scientific Advisors of the National Cancer Institute.

Since arriving at Penn in 2004 Dr. Drebin's achievements and leadership have been widely recognized by his peers. Especially notable have been his election of President of Society of Clinical Surgery in 2014 and President of the Society of Surgical Oncology in 2015. Jeff is also a Director of the American Board of Surgery and in 2016 became an officer (recorder) of the American Surgical Association.

Jeff Drebin Farewell Reception

Photographs by Daniel Burke



Jeff Drebin and Ralph Muller



Larry Jameson and Jeff Drebin



Harrison, Linda, Jeff and Lizzie

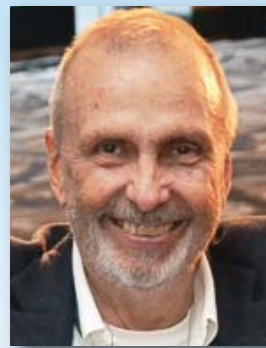


Gerry Rosato, Jim Mullen and Tony Rosato

James Mullen Appointed Interim Chair

On January 11, 2017 we received the following message from medical center administration.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jim Mullen has agreed to serve as interim chair of the department of Surgery, effective March 1, 2017. The department will continue its outstanding work under Dr. Mullen's proven leadership as we embark on a national search to recruit a new chair.



Jim Mullen

Jim brings a deep familiarity and a wealth of experience to this role, having served as the interim chair prior to Dr. Drebin's appointment as chair in 2009, and as a leader in the department for the past three decades. A graduate of both Penn's medical school and its surgical residency program, he joined the faculty in 1975, and in 1978, became vice chairman of the division of Surgery

Education, overseeing all Departmental Education Programs for medical students, house staff and continuing medical education.

He is presently the UPHS Corporate Director of PeriOperative Services and HUP's Associate Executive Director. He is also the Vice Chairman for Administration in the department of Surgery. Jim's career at Penn has been one of ongoing innovation, having served as Chief of Surgery at the VA Medical Center, founder and director of Penn Home Infusion Therapy, and founder and director of the HUP Clinical Nutrition Support Service.

His broad experience and dedication to the Department and his close working relationship with Dr. Drebin will ensure the department's continued success as a clinical, research, and educational leader. Please join us in wishing him well and offering support in his new role.

- J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
- Ralph W. Muller
- Peter D. Quinn, DMD, MD



Mark Greene, Dr. Drebin's PhD Advisor and Scientific Mentor



Jeff Drebin and John Glick



Kevin Mahoney, Carl Petetti, Bill Schwab and Peter Quinn



Michael Parmacik and Mike Acker



David Wernsing, Dan Dempsey and P.J. Brennan



Marie Mattera, Angela Wurster, Anita Rodriguez, Amanda Buckley



Deb Rose and Regina Cunningham

Search Committee for the Department of Surgery

John H. Glick, MD
Committee Chair, Vice President, UPHS

Members

M. Sean Grady, MD
Professor and Chair, Dept of Neurosurgery

L. Scott Levin, MD
Professor and Chair, Dept. of Orthopaedics

Natasha Mirza, MD
Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Kathleen T. Montone, MD
Professor of Pathology and Lab Medicine

Michael S. Parmacik, MD
Professor & Chair, Department of Medicine

Erle S. Robertson, PhD
Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Joseph S. Savino, MD
Professor of Anesthesiology & Critical Care

Garry L. Scheib
Chief Operating Officer, UPHS

Peter D. Quinn, DMD, MD
Vice Dean for Professional Services, School of Medicine

Robert H. Vonderheide, MD, D Phil
Professor of Medicine

Alan Wein Steps Down as Chief of Urology

On December 15, 2016 Dr. Drebin wrote:

I am writing to express my gratitude to Dr. Alan Wein for his many contributions to Penn Medicine and the Department of Surgery and to notify the University community that he has indicated that he will step down as Division Chief of Urology effective January 1, 2017.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. Wein did his residency training in Surgery and Urology at Penn, including a fellowship in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research, and, except for service as a Major in the military from 1972-1974, has spent his entire career here. He became the Acting Chief of Urology in 1979 and officially became Chief in 1981. In 1983 he was promoted to the rank of Professor with tenure. Under his leadership the Division has grown from three full time faculty members to sixteen, practicing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Pennsylvania Hospital and the Philadelphia Veterans Administration Hospital. Including the pediatric section at Children's Hospital, this is one of the largest academic Urology programs in the country and a perennial member of the US News & World Reports "honor roll" programs in Urology. He has developed the Penn Urology Residency Program into one of the largest and most sought after in the country, serving as the Program Director since 1976. The Urology research laboratory, which he started in 1975, was responsible for much of the initial information and clinical relevance of the autonomic receptor content of the lower urinary tract and the bladder response to obstruction. Dr. Wein has been responsible for training over 100 urologists and research fellows, many of whom have themselves gone on to successful academic careers.

Dr. Wein has received numerous professional honors including the Keyes medal in 2012, recognized as the greatest individual citation in the



specialty of Urology. He received an honorary PhD from the University of Patras, Greece in 2005. A Chair was raised in his honor by grateful patients in 2007. An exceptionally accomplished academic surgeon, he has published over 1700 peer reviewed publications, book chapters and editorials and has edited or co-edited 36 books. He has been the Editor-in-Chief of Campbell-Walsh Urology, acknowledged to be the gold standard text in the field, since 2005 and continues to serve on the editorial board of nine journals.

Dr. Wein will maintain his busy clinical practice, continue to serve as the Residency Program Director and to serve as a mentor and role model for his faculty and residents, in addition to pursuing his numerous academic activities.

Among his many additional honors, Dr. Wein is a recipient of the Urodynamics Society Lifetime Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service and Distinguished Contribution Awards of the American Urological Association, and the Ferdinand C. Valentine Award of the New York Academy of Medicine.

In 2010 he was conferred the status of Honorary Professor of the Federal State Institute of Urology by the Russian Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development.

Dr. Wein is recognized for numerous contributions to the physiology of the lower urinary tract, and is widely acknowledged for his simplified and widely used approach for classification, evaluation, and management of lower urinary tract disorders.

Alan Wein was the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Graduate Award of the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Established in 1982, this is the School's highest award.

Thomas Guzzo to Succeed Alan Wein

Dr. Guzzo is a graduate of Temple University School of Medicine. He completed his general surgery internship and urology residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and a fellowship in Urologic Oncology at Johns Hopkins where he also earned a Masters in Public Health. He is extensively trained in the treatment of all aspects of urologic malignancies including open, laparoscopic, endoscopic and robotic.



Ralph W. Muller, Thomas J. Guzzo and J. Larry Jameson

He is a member of the American Urologic Association and the American College of Surgeons. He is actively involved in urologic research having published over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts and five book chapters. Additionally, he has presented multiple clinical research abstracts at both national and international meetings. He was the recipient of the prestigious Prostate

Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award in 2009. Dr. Guzzo was elected to the Penn Medicine Academy of Master Clinicians in 2015.

6 Dr. Guzzo's clinical areas of expertise include the surgical treatment of prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancer.

Alumni News

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

- ◆ **Wilson Y. Szeto, MD** has been appointed Vice Chief for Operations and Quality in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. In this role he will be a member of the division's clinical leadership team and support the division chief, Mike Acker, in developing the annual budget and growth initiatives, as well as helping to recruit faculty, nursing, perfusion and critical care personnel. Dr. Acker indicates that this promotion is a tribute to Dr. Szeto's hard work and especially to the leadership he has demonstrated in the area of quality improvement for the division.



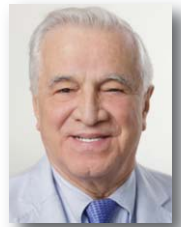
- ◆ **Joseph Friedberg, MD**, (Penn Faculty Surgeon 1996-2001, 2005-2014) has been named the Charles Reid Edwards, MD, Professor of Surgery at the University of Maryland. He is pictured here with **Stephen T. Bartlett, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 1985) Maryland's Surgery Chairman.



- ◆ **Michael F. Rotondo, MD, FACS**, was named president-elect at the American Association for Surgery of Trauma's annual meeting and will assume the presidency at the organization's 2017 meeting. Dr. Rotondo was one of Bill Schwab's first trauma fellows and then from 1990-1999 was a faculty member in the Division of Trauma. He then moved to the University of Eastern Carolina as head of trauma surgery and subsequently became Chair of the Department of Surgery (2005-2013). Dr. Rotondo is now Chief Executive Officer of the University of Rochester Medical Faculty Group. He is also Vice-Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor of Surgery at the University of Rochester, New York. In addition he is Medical Director of the American College of Surgeon's Trauma Programs, and Past-Chair of the College's Committee on Trauma.



- ◆ At its annual meeting in February 2016 the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Stanley J. Dudrick, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 1967, Faculty Member 1967-1972, Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital 1988-1990).



Stephen Kovach Elected Member of the Academy of Master Clinicians

The Academy of Master Clinicians was launched in 2013 to recognize those Penn Medicine clinicians who exemplify the highest standards of clinical excellence, humanism and professionalism. Election to The Academy of Master Clinicians is the highest clinical honor to be bestowed on a Penn physician. Master Clinicians are recognized for their accomplishments in developing and implementing innovative programs, career mentoring, professionalism, promoting and enhancing a culture of clinical excellence and providing exceptional patient care.

In 2016 the Selection Committee named 13 clinicians from Penn Medicine departments to the Academy of Master Clinicians. From Surgery Stephen J. Kovach, III, MD was chosen. Dr. Kovach is Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania faculty, Dr. Kovach com-



pleted his undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and medical school at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Dr. Kovach completed his general surgery training and basic science research fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center and is Board Certified in General Surgery. Dr. Kovach then completed his plastic surgery training at Duke University Medical Center. He has appointments at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn-Presbyterian Medical Center, Pennsylvania Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. His practice includes both reconstructive and cosmetic surgery with a special interest in reconstructive microsurgery of oncologic and traumatic defects.

Department of Surgery members elected to the Academy in previous years are Ron Fairman, Najjia Mahmoud, Pat Reilly, Dahlia Sataloff and Thomas Guzzo.



Penn Surgery

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PENN SURGERY SOCIETY

WINTER 2017

Ali Naji and Penn Surgery are Tops in NIH Funding of United States Surgical Research

The NIH recently announced funding of a \$12.1 million grant to Penn Surgery with Ali Naji as the PI. This grant elevates our department to first place in NIH funding of United States departments of surgery with total funding of \$19,621,244. Washington University ranks second with \$19,280,840 and Duke third with \$16,546,762. Without Ali's grant Penn surgery would still place a respectable 9th just behind Emory and above a number of other important departments including Johns Hopkins, Stanford and Columbia.

Ali Naji, who has been continuously funded by NIH for over 30 years, now also has the number 1 ranking in the U.S. as an individual surgical investigator with \$13,196,605 of total NIH funds. This is just more than twice that of the second and third ranked surgical investigators, Craig Kent and Tim Eberlein.

Ali's grant will establish the *Human Pancreas Analysis Program* at Penn. The focus will be on procuring, phenotyping and otherwise analyzing pancreatic tissue from individuals with or at risk for type I or type II diabetes or other kinds of pancreatic islet dysfunction characterized by changes in beta cell mass. This unique approach is deemed to have great promise and elucidation of the cause of diabetes and its treatment.

Ali and his coworkers will not only analyze tissue samples but will also share bio banked pancreas and other tissues. Using a sophisticated open access database they will also share their multidimensional data with other investigators throughout the dia-

betes research community.

Other unusual strengths of the program include mapping of an *immune atlas* of the pancreas and cutting edge technology such as single cell analyses by mass cytometry. This will allow the researchers to study diabetes and pancreatic islets with unprecedented resolution.

In addition to his own well-established research in immunologic study and transplantation of islets Ali's role in pancreas procurement and islet isolation will be crucial. As the PI he will also direct 5 other teams of Penn investigators with expertise in: physiological phenotyping of pancreatic islets (led by Doris Stouffer's of the Department of Medicine); immunology and epigenetic's, especially involving T and B cells (led by Michael Batts of Microbiology); molecular profiling of islets (led by Klaus Kastner of Genetics); tissue analyses and bio banking (led by Michael Feldman of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine); bio informatics (led by Jason Moore of Biomedical Informatics).

In addition to the well-established collaborations among the Penn investigators the program will also collaborate with independently funded teams at the University of Florida and Vanderbilt.

Congratulations are due to Ali Naji, Penn Surgery and collaborating investigators for this important new grant.



Ali Naji