



Penn Surgery Society NEWS

WINTER 2018

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

Message from the Chairman

The **Colossus of Rhodes** was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Representing the sun god Helios, it commemorated a military victory against Cyprus. It stood 108 feet tall and was completed in 280 B.C., after 12 years of construction.

In the prior site of the Penn Hotel, directly across the street from HUP and nestled next to the Archaeology Museum, a \$1.5 billion new hospital is being constructed. “The Pavilion” will be 17 stories tall and two football fields long. It will contain 1.5 million square feet, three times the area of the Philadelphia Art Museum. There will be 47 operating rooms over three floors. Each of the 500 patient rooms will be private and have the capability for intensive care monitoring. Remarkably, there will be 14 miles of walls, 33 elevators, and 3,200 computer devices. The design and planning process for the Pavilion has been orchestrated by PennFirst, an integrated team consisting of the global healthcare design firm HDR, the international architect Foster+Partners, and the innovative engineering design capabilities of BR+A, as well as the construction management expertise of L.F. Driscoll and Balfour Beatty. The hospital will open in 2021.

This is really a once in a career opportunity to witness and participate in the creation of such a structure. As you can see in the photo, the foundation has been laid and several cranes are being used to erect the steel beams. Note the banner of the Super Bowl Champions (!), which is going to stay up for a while. An artist’s rendering of the completed hospital (ocean liner) is shown. It is hard to imagine the magnitude of impact The Pavilion will have on patient care and education, but it is likely to be colossal.



Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD, FACS
John Rhea Barton Professor and
Chairman of Department of Surgery



Architectural Rendering of ‘New Pavilion’



‘New Pavilion’ Hospital taking shape, construction as of February 2018

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

On December 7, 2017 a reception was held to celebrate the installation of Pat Reilly as the first C. William Schwab Professor. It was also a chance to formally recognize this as the department's newest endowed chair and thank those who made it possible, especially Doctors Jack and Pina Templeton, John and Clara Haas and their family as well as many patients, colleagues, trainees and friends of Dr. Schwab and Dr. Reilly.

Dean Jameson and CEO Ralph Mueller emphasized how appropriate it is for the Department to have a professorship in trauma surgery since our history of leadership in this field dates back to the Revolutionary War. In comments I was asked to make I first advised discretion in praise of our country's earliest leaders in the trauma field. The first 2 surgeons general appointed by George Washington were our medical school's founders John Morgan and William Shippen. But they both made such a mess of the job that they were soon fired. I couldn't resist commenting that even today presidential appointments are tricky. Fortunately the Department's subsequent record in the field of trauma care is a source of pride.

In the Civil War the surgeons general on both sides were Penn educated as were the largest number of army doctors- 800 of the North's and 500 of the South's. During World War I future Penn surgery department chairs Edward Martin and Eldridge Eliason in turn commanded the Penn military hospital in France. World War II's largest military hospital the 20th General Hospital in India was commanded by I.S. Ravdin. Among the wounded cared for there were the legendary Merrill's Marauders and the Supreme Allied Commander Louis Montbatten The superb record of this hospital resulted in Ravdin's promotion to the rank of general (See Fall 2013 newsletter). In M*A*S*H units of the Korean War two of the doctors with a valid claim to being the prototype of Hawkeye Pierce were Penn alumni, John Howard and Keith Reemtsma.

Former Penn surgery chairmen Jonathan Rhoads and Bill Fitts were important leaders in the trauma field. Both were founders

of the American Association for Trauma Surgery. Fitts became president of this association and longtime editor of the Journal of Trauma. He was an enthusiastic teacher of the principles of trauma surgery, in spite of being handicapped, because in his time HUP had no trauma service and few trauma patients. One of Fitts' trainees, trauma surgeon Carter Nance quipped that HUP had a Quaker style trauma program, i.e. there wasn't any trauma.

Penn's trauma program is really only 20 years old, dating to its founding by Bill Schwab. Before that at HUP there was not much interest in trauma care. It was almost as if there was an unstated policy to minimize trauma admissions. The Hospital's administrators would have been content with this since many trauma victims were uninsured and most of the surgeons were happy not to be bothered with emergency admissions in the middle of the night.

This changed in 1987 when Dean Edward Stemmler became aware that other Philadelphia hospitals were seeking accreditation as trauma centers. Stemmler, not liking the idea of HUP being left out of anything approached me as the chairman of surgery and strongly suggested that I establish a trauma center. I have to admit that my enthusiasm for the idea was lukewarm. But since Stemmler agreed that the institution and not the Department of Surgery would cover any financial losses I set out to follow his



Pat Reilly, Ralph Mueller and Bill Schwab

instructions. At first it didn't seem that it should be difficult. Larry Stephenson one of our department's cardiac surgeons was a colonel in the Army reserves so I appointed him as the trauma chief. I was annoyed to learn that for accreditation by the State and the American College of Surgeons there were some additional requirements. For example the center's surgeons must have ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) accreditation. None of us had it so a bunch of us went to Washington and took a 2 day course to be certified. Filling out the application to be recognized as a Center was another time-consuming nuisance but we got it done and submitted it, assuming we would be approved. After all we were the University of Pennsylvania.

During a site visit we were then evaluated by a team of trauma experts and to my embarrassment abruptly turned down. In retrospect this was entirely appropriate. Our faculty members had neither the experience or interest to qualify as trauma surgeons. Then it got tough. I realized that I needed as a leader someone with

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From the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

experience and expertise in this field. It wasn't easy to find someone like that, especially if you only looked at candidates from Harvard, Penn, Hopkins and other predominantly research focused institutions where like at ours there wasn't much interest in trauma. I interviewed a few candidates but none seemed right. Then Larry Stephenson (our Army reserve colonel) suggested Bill Schwab, a young surgeon who was at Cooper Hospital in Camden. He had directed trauma programs there and at Norfolk General Hospital. Although he had faculty appointments at the medical schools associated with these hospitals his CV was missing the awards, prizes and elite society memberships I was accustomed to scrutinize in faculty candidates. There was one award I should have paid attention to- Esquire magazine's designation of Bill Schwab as "One of the Best of the New Generation, Men and Women Under 40 Who Are Changing America." Although skeptical I invited him for an interview.

In less than 5 minutes I knew that Bill Schwab was our man. His energy, knowledge, experience, confidence and leadership qualities were obvious. After a few minutes more he took me to the roof of the Ravdin Building to show me where the helicopters would land. I hadn't known we were going to have helicopters but he had already named them PennSTAR.

The rest is history, summarized here only briefly. Bill Schwab quickly got HUP accredited as a trauma center and before long built his trauma program into the best in the US and probably the world. But what about those academic credentials, those trappings I was so narrowly focused on. How has he measured up to Penn standards in that respect? Well...hummm...after coming to Penn it looks like he has surpassed us all.

Bill Schwab easily got elected to membership in surgery's elite societies including the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He has been awarded honorary fellowships of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. He has won the highest awards of the surgical societies of the Netherlands, Sweden, and the European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery and of the Association of Trauma and Military Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Bill has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Trauma, the Archives of Surgery, Surgery, the Annals of Internal Medicine and the New England Journal of Medicine. He has been awarded an honorary degree from his alma mater Ithaca College where he has also chaired the Board of Trustees. He has been President of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the International Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He has trained dozens of the world's trauma surgeons many of whom have started

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J. Larry Jameson and Pat Reilly



Ronald P. DeMatteo



C. William Schwab



Reilly Family

From the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

their own trauma programs. He has been visiting professor at over a hundred universities and medical centers and given the most prestigious named lectures in his field. He has published 250 peer reviewed papers. The Institute of Medicine has sought his help in addressing problems with firearm injury and control.

More importantly though, how about Bill's professional accomplishments? Starting with a 1993 landmark paper in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Dr. Schwab and his faculty have been responsible for a surgical paradigm shift. Borrowing a term from Bill's Navy background they called it "damage control". Patients with severe penetrating abdominal injury were operated upon promptly without a delay for resuscitation as had traditionally been advocated. The initial laparotomy was limited to rapid control of bleeding and contamination and expeditious temporary closure. This was followed by transfer to the ICU for resuscitation to restore normal physiology. Later the stabilized patient was returned to the OR for anatomic reconstruction and definitive abdominal closure. After Bill and his team demonstrated that this strategy saved lives it was widely adopted by military and civilian trauma surgeons. In addition for selected patients whose physiology is severely compromised by non trauma conditions it can be useful and is not uncommonly employed.

By pioneering with his faculty colleagues the concept of "damage control", a term now part of the surgical lexicon, Bill Schwab has changed the world of surgery, not just trauma surgery and not

just in America (like Esquire magazine predicted for him) but the world of surgery.

It is entirely fitting that one of Bill's most accomplished trainees is the first C. William Schwab Professor. Since finishing his HUP trauma Fellowship in 1995 Pat Riley has remained on the Penn faculty, rising to full professor in 2009. From 1997 to 2015 he directed the HUP ICU and surgical critical care fellowship. From 2002 to 2006 he directed the trauma program. Since 2011 he has been Chief of the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. In these positions he has contributed importantly to the further evolution of critical care and damage control.

Pat has been especially recognized for his gifts as a mentor. He has won eight separate teaching awards from Penn medical students, residents and fellows. Two of his many other honors are the Lewis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist Award in 2012 and in 2013 the Academy of Master Clinicians, our institution's highest clinical award. Pat has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers as well as 60 editorials, reviews and chapters.

Pat is a major leader in the field of trauma and critical care. He is a member of surgery's elite professional societies including the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He has been president of the Eastern Association for Surgery of Trauma and in 2017 became the Recording Secretary and Program Chair of the American Association for Surgery of Trauma.

Gordon Danielson (1931-2017)

Gordon Danielson (HUP chief resident 1961-1962) after a distinguished career died on October 2, 2017 at age 85.

Gordon was one of I.S. Ravdin's last residents and one of Jonathan Rhoads' first. He was also probably the first to have a post residency fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at HUP under Julian Johnson. He was then a visiting fellow at the Karolinska in Stockholm Sweden before returning to the HUP faculty for 2 years as Julian Johnson's associate. After obtaining a prestigious Markle Scholarship he then moved to the University of Kentucky to succeed Frank Spencer as chief of cardiac surgery when Spencer left Kentucky to become surgery chairman at NYU. In 1967 Gordon was recruited to the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Medical School where he became Professor and Chairman of Cardiovascular and Thoracic surgery. At Mayo Gordon pioneered coronary artery surgery. On June 24, 1968 he performed the Mayo Clinic's first coronary artery bypass procedure and over the next 3 years 91 more. He was the recipient of many awards and author of some 800 publications before retiring in 2002.



The photograph of Gordon, his wife Sondra with Marshall Orloff was taken during Dr. Rhoads' 80th birthday symposium at which Gordon spoke on his extensive experience in surgery for congenital heart diseases.

He is survived by his wife Sondra, 7 children and 6 grandchildren.

Dan Dempsey Elected Member of the Academy of Master Clinicians

The Academy of Master Clinicians was established in 2013 to recognize Penn doctors who exemplify the highest standards of clinical excellence, humanism and professionalism. Election to the Academy is the highest clinical honor to be bestowed on a Penn physician. Dan Dempsey is the seventh member of our department to be elected. The others are Kim Olthoff, Ron Fairman, Pat Reilly, Najjia Mahmoud, Dahlia Sataloff, Tom Guzzo and Stephen Kovach.

Criteria for this special recognition are achievements in patient care, innovation and development of new programs, career mentoring and promoting a culture of excellence. These attributes might almost have been written with Dan Dempsey in mind.

Dan Dempsey has had a remarkable and varied career. In high school he was captain of the football team and valedictorian. At Princeton, speculating that he might decide to be a college professor he majored in the classics. After changing his career plans in 1979 he obtained an M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine. While a resident at HUP he conducted research on nutrition with Jim Mullen, twice won the surgical scholar award and was elected to AOA. After a year on the Penn surgical faculty he moved to Temple, enticed by the opportunity to conduct research in GI physiology with Wally Ritchie, a leading investigator in that field as well as surgery chairman. At Temple Dan soon became Chief of G.I. and General Surgery, directed the general surgery residency program and in 1998 was appointed full professor.

While collecting multiple awards for teaching and for clinical excellence, he also served as President of the Medical Staff and the Medical Faculty Senate.

In 1999 he was persuaded to return to Penn for an appointment as Professor and Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. A year later Temple upped the ante and got him back as Chairman of its Department of Surgery, a position he held with distinction for 11 years. During that time he also studied for an MBA degree and was valedictorian of his class. In 2011 he chose to return to Penn as Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery and Assistant Director of Perioperative Services.

Dan belongs to all of the professional societies in his fields of special interest, nutrition, GI and oncologic surgery. He has also been elected to Surgery's elite academic societies including the Society of University Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, Societe Internationale de Chirurgie, the Halsted Society, the Southern Surgical Association, and the Surgical Biology club 3. He has held many leadership positions including the presidencies of



Dan and Barbara Dempsey

the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the Philadelphia County Medical Society, the Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and the Association of Surgical Education Foundation. He has been a Governor of the American College of Surgeons, Treasurer of the Philadelphia College of Physicians and for 10 years was the secretary and only officer of the Ravdin-Rhoads Surgical Society which was the precursor of the Penn Surgery Society.

Dan has authored over 100 peer-reviewed papers and 40 chapters. He has been on the editorial boards of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Current Surgery, Laperoendoscopic and Advanced Surgical Techniques and was Coeditor of the Yearbook of Gastroenterology.

Perhaps reflecting his early consideration of a career as a college professor Dan maintains a broad field of interests ranging from history, literature, music and the classics to civic affairs. As a surgeon he is known not only for his skill and extensive experience but for an unusually scholarly approach. This fits well with the stated principles of the Academy of Master Clinicians

Wall of Fame

Contributed by Daniel Dempsey

The five HUP chief surgical residents who finished the program in 1985 were the second group to finish during Dr. Clyde Barker's tenure as chairman of the department, and they all started the surgical internship under Dr. Leonard Miller. All five are still clinically active though not all in surgery.

Dr. Stephen T. Bartlett went to high school in Newark,



Stephen Bartlett
1985

Delaware where he was student council president. He graduated cum laude with a B.A. in chemistry from Johns Hopkins in 1975. In college when he wasn't studying he was playing racquetball, and the tuba. Steve then went to medical school at the University of Chicago and decided on a career in surgery. After interviewing at many surgical programs he decided he wanted to be a surgical

resident at Penn, due in no small part to the influence of his mentor at Chicago Dr. Ed Kaplan, a well-known endocrine surgeon and himself a product of the Penn surgical residency. When Steve started at HUP in 1979 as a surgical intern (first rotation was CT), it didn't take long for him to distinguish himself as a star. Within 6 months there was a letter in his file from Dr. Francis Wood, the revered chairman of medicine at Penn saying that during the post-operative care of one of Dr. Wood's patients, Steve "impressed me very much with his brains, his thoughtfulness, his human qualities and his effectiveness as a house officer". Dr Brooke Roberts described him as "one of the best interns I have seen in a long time." Not surprisingly, Steve was chosen to star in a nationally televised documentary about surgical training, narrated by Tom Brokaw, filmed at HUP, and aired in 1980 ("To Be a Doctor"). He went into the lab with Drs. Barker and Naji and Silvers, producing several important papers including a first author publication in the Journal of Experimental Medicine and two first author studies in Transplantation Proceedings. Steve finished at HUP in 1985 (last rotation was ward service). Dr. Ernie Rosato wrote in his evaluation that year "excellent surgeon and physician". He then did a vascular fellowship at Northwestern with Bergen and Yao, and then was hired as junior faculty by Blaisdell at UC Davis in Sacramento to do vascular surgery and kidney transplants with Dick Ward. After several years Steve moved to the University of Maryland to head the transplant division which he built into an international transplant powerhouse. He became acting chairman of surgery at Maryland in 2003 and after a national search was named chairman in 2004. He

6 is the Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery. In



2018 Steve stepped down as chairman of surgery to become the Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the U. Maryland Health System. He is a member of the American Surgical Association and has been president of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association. He still plays lots of racquetball, but I think he has given up the tuba.

John L. Ricci went to high school in Scarsdale, New York and to college at Lehigh, graduating magna cum laude with a B.S. in 1975. He went to medical school at NYU and when he decided on surgery, he looked carefully at Penn partly on the advice of the chairman at NYU, Dr. Frank Spencer, who wrote John an outstanding letter of recommendation. John came to HUP in 1979 as a



John Ricci
1985

surgical intern (first rotation was ER) and it is clear from his evaluations that he was uniformly highly regarded by the faculty as "hard working, trustworthy, and clinically capable". John went into Mory Ziegler's lab where he did research on protective mechanisms for intestinal ischemia, and malnutrition related immunosuppression. As a senior resident, John was outstanding and he decided on a career in surgical oncology. In evaluations from his chief year 1985 (last rotation Rosato service), Dr. John Rombeau wrote "outstanding overall performance. Excellent clinical judgment"; and Dr. Ernie Rosato wrote "John did exceptionally well". On the strength of his clinical performance John secured a surgical oncology fellowship position at MSKCC and upon completion in 1987 accepted a faculty position at North Shore University Hospital, a Cornell affiliate. He was appointed chief of surgical oncology there in 1991, and maintains an active practice of surgical oncology in the New York City/Long Island region today.

Nicholas A. Tepe was born in Wilmington, Delaware and went to Harvard College, graduating magna cum laude in 1976 with a B.A. in biology. He was a varsity fencer (sabre) for 3 years at Harvard. Nick graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1980

Wall of Fame *(continued from page 6)*

where he was elected to membership in the Hare Honor Medical Society. The new chairman of surgery at Jefferson, Dr. Francis Rosato (a Penn surgical trainee and former surgical faculty member) recommended HUP strongly to Nick, and also recommended Nick strongly to HUP. Dr. Rosato's letter of recommendation in support of Nick's residency application is outstanding, and uncharacteristically long, no doubt an indication of Frank Rosato's high regard for this outstanding medical student, Nick Tepe. Perhaps Frank was influenced by his brother Ernie with whom Nick did a rotation at HUP as a senior medical student. Ernie's summary of Nick's surgical subinternship performance: "excellent in every respect". Nick started at HUP in 1980 on the ward service, and it was quickly recognized that both Drs. Rosato were right. It is important to note that during this time, the surgical program at HUP was still pyramidal. When the faculty found themselves with more people they wanted to finish than they had slots for, some residents were asked to accelerate (e.g. finish in 5 years without a lab rotation), while others were offered lab rotations of varying length (1 year, 1.5 years, 2 years being the most common options). Set on a career in CT surgery, Nick recognized that he had a long enough road ahead of him, so when offered, he chose the 5-year option. He clearly did not suffer from this shorter track. Most of his evaluations during his chief year 1985 (last rotation was Jeanes/Fox Chase) echo Gordon Buzby who wrote "tops—best chief at the VA in years". Immediately upon completion of his surgical residency Nick did a two year CT fellowship at Penn under Dr. Hank Edmunds. Nick has a busy practice in Royal Oak, Michigan, where he has been a go-to cardiothoracic surgeon in the Beaumont Hospital System for years. He is also a faculty member at the recently formed Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine.

Michael H. Torosian was born in Philadelphia and graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in biochemistry from Princeton University in 1974. He graduated from Penn Medical School in 1978 and later that year started his surgical internship at HUP (first rotation was the VA). From 1981 to 1983, Mike was in the lab with Dr. Gordon Buzby where he did some very interesting experiments



Nicholas Tepe
1985



Michael Torosian
1985

delineating the effect of various parenteral nutrients on tumor growth and sensitivity to chemotherapy. For his work in the lab, Michael was awarded the Harry Vars Research Award by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition at the national meeting in 1983, and the Jonathan Rhoads Research Award by the Penn Department of Surgery in 1984. Other Penn Surgery graduates who subsequently won the national Vars award include Mark Koruda, Andrew Fox, Scott Helton, and Omaid Velazquez. When Michael finished the surgical residency in 1985 (last rotation was the Rhoads service), he went to MSKCC for fellowship training in surgical oncology, and then returned to join the Penn faculty in 1986 as assistant professor of surgery in the soon to be formed division of surgical oncology. In 1985 Michael was named to the residents' honor roll in the school of medicine for excellence in teaching, and in 1992 he was awarded the outstanding teaching award by the Penn Med School class of 1992. Michael was promoted to associate professor of surgery in 1993. He subsequently left Penn, but still sees patients in the Philadelphia area.

Frederick J. Villars was born in Boston, Massachusetts and graduated Belmont High School as valedictorian in 1969. He then spent a few years on undergraduate education. Fred graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1973 with a B.A. in classics. While there he played flute in the Harvard Band. The next year he studied abroad (classics and philosophy) at the University of Freiburg (Germany), and then he returned to Boston and matriculated at MIT, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1976 with a B.S. in biology. In 1980 Fred graduated from Harvard Medical School. His letters of recommendation for surgical residency, all outstanding, were written by the then "who's who" of Boston surgery: Drs. Hardy Hendron (then chief of pediatric surgery at MGH), Richard Wilson (then chief of surgical oncology at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital), John Mannick (then chair of surgery at the Brigham), and Francis D. Moore. Needless to say, Fred came highly recommended, and when he got to HUP in 1980 (first rotation Jeanes/Fox Chase), he did not disappoint. After 5 years he finished general surgery training at HUP in 1985. That year, Dr. Rhoads described Fred as "very efficient, well organized, a fine operator, and a real credit to the residency program". He then spent a year at CHOP with Dr. Bill Norwood, following which he completed the CT fellowship at HUP under Dr. Edmunds in 1988. Fred had a successful cardiac surgery career in Philadelphia. He then retrained and now is a practicing psychiatrist in the city.



Frederick Villars
1985

Catching Up With . . . *Jack Yu*

Contributed by Jon Morris

Jack Yu is a 1979 graduate of the Indiana State University with a major in Chemistry, after which his post-graduate training odyssey at Penn would begin. He is a graduate of the School of Dentistry in 1982, the Graduate School of Education (Masters of Science) in 1984, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1985. Jack took his General Surgical Training at Penn under Clyde Barker from 1985 - 1991 during which he participated in research in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research from 1988 - 1989. After completing his general surgical training, Jack was accepted into the Penn Plastic Surgical Fellowship (1991 - 1993) and the Craniofacial Fellowship (1993 - 1994), both under the



Jack in 1991

tutelage of Linton Whitaker. Jack was recruited to the Medical College of Georgia in 1994 as an Assistant Professor and rapidly rose through the ranks to become Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery (1996 - present), Associate Professor (1998 - 2003), Residency Program Director (2001 - 2008), Chief of the Section of Plastic Surgery (2001 - 2016), Full Professor (2003 - present), the Milton B. Hatcher Chair in Surgery (2005 - present), and an appointment in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery as Professor (2007 - present). Jack is currently the Director of the Craniofacial Center at Children's Hospital of Georgia, a position he has held since 1996.

A Conversation with Jack

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

Jack: *Doing research in neonatal tolerance and the year as chief resident*

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Jack: *Dr. Clyde Barker. He taught me how to remain calm when the unexpected happens in the OR and, more importantly, how to ask key questions in surgical research and how to find out the answers. He instilled in me that never-ending curiosity and the drive to seek out the truth.*

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

Jack: *Mike Acker. He tried to talk me out of going into plastic surgery. His lab was close to ours and I found his work on cardiac physiology very cool.*

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

Jack: *The Gorman brothers. They can recite the entire Sabiston. Jim Luketich. He worked hard on both mind and body.*

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

Jack: *I served on the NIH MTE (Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering) study session for about a decade a few years back. I was the president of the American Society of Craniofacial Surgeons in*

2017. I am the current editor of the Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Journal. I have continued to engage and delight in research.

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Jack: *U. Penn, HUP, and CHOP*

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

Jack: *David Low*

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

Jack: *I am the Milford B. Hatcher Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, and Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Georgia. Most of my patients are children with congenital craniofacial conditions such as cleft lip, cleft palate, and craniosynostosis.*

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

Jack: *I enjoy reading, creative writing, watercolor, and getting together with friends. Mathematics, economics, and engineering continue to fascinate me. Borrowing from thermodynamics, economics, control systems engineering, I am trying to write a series of equations that can describe the general behavior of living tissues, calling them the*

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Catching Up With (continued from page 8)

laws of tissue dynamics. I am also having quite a fun time in experimenting with investment. The financial market is the ultimate complex adaptive system, deterministic but not predictable. How to look for the asymmetry to mitigate risk and deploy cash to make it work for you is, and has been my little project for some years.

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Jack: *Our oldest, Megan, a chemistry major from Emory and a graduate from MCG, is now a second year resident in family medicine. She enjoys seeing all kinds of patients and taking care of them in today's healthcare environment. Our son graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a major in economics and is now working in Dallas on wealth management. Jackie, the youngest, just got her MS in nursing. She will be working in the neurosurgery unit at Scottish Rite in Atlanta. My wife, Marian, and I will be celebrating our 30th anniversary in June. She is an avid amateur photographer and we like to travel when time permits.*

JoMo: What is the last movie you saw that you would recommend and why?

Jack: *Book: "Draft #4" by John McPhee. This is a must read for any one doing any expository writing, or wishing to read in a deep and critical manner.*

"Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Noah Harari. Having received it as a Christmas gift, I am half way through this wonderful treatise on how we become the way we are.

"What is Life" by Erwin Schrodinger. A short but impactful book, looking at the biotic process from the perspective of a quantum physicist. Even though first published in 1944, the issues and observations are still relevant as ever. Re-reading a book with the advantage of current understanding brings in a new and delightful dimension, like catching up with an old friend.

Movie: "Wonder" I saw it with my daughter Jackie and she cried throughout the entire movie, pausing only to catch her breath. Every day, I treat children like the boy in the movie. It made me feel warm and tingling all over.

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

Jack: *It was 1991 when I finished my general surgery residency. The time, environment, residents, and attendings were an impressive mix (they are even more impressive now), with long days that stretched into long nights. I worked hard and learned much. We all did. Having the Penn surgical DNA embedded deep within me will always be my proudest and most cherished achievement. I am profoundly grateful to my mentors, many no longer with us, but all are celebrated and fondly remembered.*



The Yu family, from the left: Robert, Jaclyn, Marian, Jack, Megan.

Alumni News

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

Letters to the Editor

I received the following email from Roy Smythe.

Dr. Barker,

It has been a while since I have reached out, but thought I would do so... I noted in the department newsletter that Ron Dematteo is the new Chairman – congratulations. Ron was always a favorite of mine and many others as you know – smart, amiable and dependable.



Things are going well for us here. Meghan, my oldest is a psychologist working in the Philadelphia area, and Durham turned into a model student-athlete. He wrapped up his career at Notre Dame as the starting tight end in December, graduating last May with a degree in Economics and Sociology. If you switch on the NFL Channel Saturday (tomorrow) at 2:30 EST, you will be able to see him playing in the Senior Bowl – the college all-star game for likely draftees. He is number 80 on the North squad. My two younger boys are now 12 and 8, and are both just trying to stay out of trouble from moment to moment at school and home – with variable success.

As you know, I moved to industry almost 5 years ago now. It was an interesting transition. I do not suffer from the Ben Carson Syndrome (believing that if you are a surgeon, you can do anything – how hard can it be?), and knew there was likely some science to be learned on that side of the fence too. I studied Innovation and Strategy at MIT for two years in the executive program and lo and behold – my assumptions were correct – there were indeed a few things to learn. I spent my first three years as Chief Medical Officer of two privately held healthcare companies – taking a large pay and prestige cut to start. However, I have clawed my way back up such that I was recently named the global Chief Medical Officer for Innovation, Strategy and Partnerships at Philips (perhaps this could be posted in the next newsletter?). I am hoping to leverage this after a couple of years to be positioned as the “enterprise” Chief Medical Officer of some large global company capable of making a meaningful impact on healthcare. I have also worked a lot with investment firms and their growth stage portfolio companies as a consultant in both North America and in the Nordics – focusing on product development and market fit, etc. As it turns out, my decision to move to the corporate sector had little to nothing to do with financial considerations – I would have been better off staying in healthcare proper if that was the motivator. I believed that my best chance to help change the model of care delivery to render it more efficient, effective and equitable was to work from the outside-in. We will see...

*I am still writing a fair bit – have penned things for DISCOVER, Forbes and contribute to the LinkedIn Pulse platform frequently as an invited author. I had a historical fiction piece on Laennec accepted to the Copperfield Review (<http://copperfieldreview.com/?p=2985>), and found **10** out this week I am a finalist in a cinematographic short story competi-*

tion I recently entered (I am attaching that as well if you are interested – “The Angel of Munitions”). I am laboring greatly on a non-fiction book on the past, present and future of healthcare right now with the help of a good agent – working title “The Rise and Fall of the Medical Industrial Complex” and hope to have it out before the snow melts.

I hope the New Year finds you and all of yours looking forward to a healthy and happy year. I would love to stop in and see you soon.

Best regards, Roy

Dr. Barker’s response to Roy’s message . . .

I missed seeing Roy’s son Durham on TV in the Senior bowl. But online with the help of Google and ESPN I watched him catch a pass and score a touchdown for Notre Dame in another game. I think the Eagles could use him.

Durham’s father Roy Smythe (HUP chief resident 1996) played football for Baylor’s 1980 Southwestern Conference champions and played in the Sugar Bowl. Roy’s letter omits mention of his remarkable academic career before his change in direction to industry. As a HUP resident he won the Rhoads research award and numerous teaching awards both from residents and students. Roy also trained in CT surgery at HUP. His research with Larry Kaiser and Steve Albelda was the first to use adenoviral vectors in transfer of genes for treatment of cancer. His paper describing this novel approach in laboratory animals was the basis of one of the world’s first human gene therapy trials for cancer and the world’s first for mesothelioma.

In 1988 Roy joined the faculty of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center where he directed a multidisciplinary research program for mesothelioma. Into 2004 he returned to his medical school, Texas A&M as Chairman of the Department of Surgery. There while conducting a large clinical practice of thoracic surgery he carried out NIH supported research in gene therapy of cancer. He has been a prolific writer on diverse topics resulting in more than 300 scientific peer-reviewed manuscripts as well as the other essays his letter mentions on surgical history, education and healthcare. He has been a governor of the American College of Surgeons, served on several NIH study sections and was elected to membership in many of surgery’s elite professional societies including the Society of University Surgeons, Society for Clinical Surgery, Southern Surgical Association, the Surgical Biology club 2 and the American Surgical Association.

Roy’s outstanding career as an academic surgeon led our department to designate him as it’s Distinguished Graduate in 2011.

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Alumni News *(continued from page 10)*

Letters to the Editor

On December 27, 2017 I received the following email from Fred Kessler

Dear Clyde,

You may not remember me as we didn't have much interaction during my years as a HUP surgery resident (1957-1962). I want you to know I greatly appreciate your guidance of the production of The Penn Surgery Society News.

I don't know if you have contact from "exes" of my vintage, but for me The News has always been welcome. It frequently offers me an opportunity to reflect on those long ago years and on Dr. Ravdin and Dr. Rboads who trained me and who played significant roles in my later life.

After my residency, I did a hand surgery fellowship with Dr. William Littler at The Roosevelt Hospital in NYC. In 1963, I returned to Houston, my hometown, where I practiced until retirement.

During those years I founded a hand surgery service at St. Luke's Hospital and at Texas Children's Hospital as well as a fellowship that has now trained 140 hand surgeons. I retired in 2008 as a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine.

I am writing to thank you for maintaining The News which gives contact with what is current in HUP surgery and is often, for me, a stimulus for fond recollections of important years in my life.

Sincerely yours, Fred Kessler, M.D.

◆ **Ali Najj, MD, PhD** to receive the 2018 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology on April 17, 2018. The Starzl Prize was established in 1996 in honor of Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, for outstanding national and international leaders who have made significant contributions to the fields of organ transplantation and immunology.



◆ **Mike Rotondo, MD** (HUP trauma fellow 1990) has been elected president of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. Mike is the sixth Penn surgeon to serve as president of this association. Others were Bill Fitts (HUP chief resident 1945), Carter Nance (HUP chief resident 1965), Bill Curreri (HUP chief resident 1968), Cleon Goodwin (HUP chief resident 1977) and Bill Schwab.



principles of “damage control” in patients severely compromised by penetrating abdominal injuries. For such patients this approach has become the worldwide standard of care. In a subset of the 2977 patients they studied mortality was reduced by damage control from 77% in those treated by the traditional method to 11%. This paper is one of the most influential of the last quarter century, a citation classic that has been cited several thousand times.

In 1998 Mike moved to the University of Eastern Carolina where he built an excellent level I trauma center, rose to the rank of full professor and in 2005 was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery. In 2011 he was commissioned by the United States military to analyze the joint theater trauma system and spent a month in Afghanistan with a small team visiting various facilities and operating on wounded soldiers. The resulting report was heavily referenced in a paper published by the National Academies.

In 2013 Mike returned to his hometown of Rochester New York as CEO of the 1000 physician University of Rochester Medical Faculty Group. At the University of Rochester School of Medicine he is also Vice Dean of Clinical Affairs and Professor of Surgery.

Mike is a member of the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He is President of the Halsted Society and Past President of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He chairs the Committee on Trauma for the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Trauma and the author of more than 250 publications, many of which describe the further evolution of damage control surgery.

◆ **Sunil Singhal MD** has been appointed as the Vice Chair for Translational Research in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Singhal is the William M. Measey Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Thoracic Surgery. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Penn Medical School. He completed his General Surgery training at Hopkins and did a fellowship here in Thoracic Surgery.



His research has focused on intraoperative imaging of cancer and tumor immunology of lung cancer. He has had longstanding collaborations with Evgeniy Eruslanov PhD (Division of Thoracic Surgery) and Steve Albelda MD

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Penn Surgery

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W I N T E R 2 0 1 8

Alumni News *(continued from page 11)*

(Division of Pulmonary Medicine). He is the Director of the Center for Precision Surgery within the Abramson Cancer Center. Currently, Dr. Singhal has three R01s and a Department of Defense grant, and is a project leader on a P01. He has published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation, Cancer Cell, and PNAS. He is one of the few surgeons who has been elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and he recently received the Luigi Mastroianni Clinical Innovator Award at Penn.

He will be responsible for overseeing the translational research portfolio of the department, increasing interactions of surgical investigators with other research programs in the University, and improving the educational program in research for our surgical trainees.

(Contributed by Ron DeMatteo, February 13, 2018)

◆ **Doug Fraker, MD** has returned to Penn. Doug has made extraordinary contributions to Penn Surgery since his arrival in 1995. His expertise and surgical skill are nationally recognized. Remarkably, he has excelled in



12 the entire gamut of operations performed by surgical oncol-

ogists, who usually sub-specialize these days. He has recruited outstanding faculty members to the Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery (EOS) division and has played a major role in recruiting and selecting medical students for the General Surgery residency. His work ethic is widely known, as are his uncanny memory and sharp wit. As he resumes his role as Division Chief, he will leverage his diverse talents in a renewed commitment to academics and leadership.

(Contributed by Ron DeMatteo, February 18, 2018)

◆ **Wendell Britt Whitacre** (HUP General and Plastic Surgery Resident 1956-1962) died at age 90 on October 20, 2017 after a sudden illness. Wendell graduated from Ohio University in 1951 and received his M.D. from the Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1955. Wendell practiced plastic surgery in Tucson from 1962 to 2006. His honors, awards, and professional positions included 2003 Pima County Medical Society Physician of the Year and academic medical positions at the University of Arizona. Wendell was a devout practitioner of physical fitness, even at age 90. He was renowned for his frank remarks. He is survived by his partner of over 30 years, Theresa Cisler, D.O.; his brother, four children and nine grandchildren.

