



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



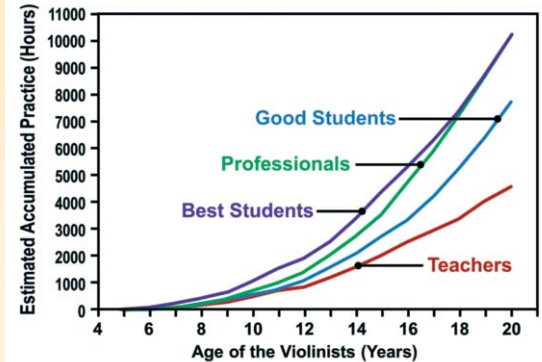
**Ron DeMatteo, MD**  
John Rhea Barton  
Professor and Chairman  
of Department of Surgery

## Message from the Chairman

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As another academic year nears conclusion, our attention once again turns to our graduating residents. While they are highly trained, their education is far from over. In his 2008 book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, Malcolm Gladwell popularized the “10,000-hour Rule.” The idea is that it takes 10,000 hours to become an expert in performing something. The “Rule” was actually developed by the Swedish psychologist Anders Ericsson, who studied violin students of varying skill. The students were asked to estimate the amount they had practiced per week since starting in music. Ericsson found that by the age of 20, the best students had trained for 10,000 hours (Figure). He concluded that large amounts of practice are needed to attain expert status.

There is not, however, uniform agreement regarding the Rule. In a meta-analysis of 88 publications investigating the influence of practice on skill level, McNamara and colleagues (PMID 24986855) concluded that deliberate practice accounted for only 26% of the difference among individuals in how they performed in games, 21% in music, and 18% in sports. Thus, other factors appear to be critical.



Accumulated amount of practice alone, based on estimates of weekly practice, as a function of age for professionals, best students, good students, and music teachers. Modified from Ericsson KA, Krampe RT, Tesch-Römer C. The role of deliberate practice in the acquisition of expert performance. *Psychological Review* 1993. 100:363-406

Unfortunately, Drs. Ericsson and McNamara and Mr. Gladwell did not consider surgery. Using the example of general surgery, trainees dedicate 80 hours per week for 45 weeks a year, times 5 years. This equals 18,000 hours. Granted, much of this time is not spent actually operating, but the medical components of surgery (e.g., diagnosis, critical care, and patient management) are essential to becoming an expert. Many graduates of general surgery residency subsequently pursue fellowship specialization. A typical fellowship of 2 years adds another 7,200 hours (80 hours x 45 weeks x 2 years).

Even at their initial faculty appointment, few would actually be considered as an expert. In fact, the learning curve continues to have a steep slope for another few years. After 5 years on faculty, there are still nuances in management and surgical technique that must be learned. By 10 years on staff, the surgeon is likely to be an “expert.” Assuming 60 hours/week for 45 weeks per year, this would be another 27,000 hours as a faculty member.

Altogether then, the cumulative time from starting internship to becoming an expert in Surgery is 52,200 hours over nearly 20 years. Perhaps Mr. Gladwell intentionally ignored Surgery, because it breaks the “Rule”.

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## From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

Marshall Orloff's memoir is on page 9. He was the last survivor of I.S. Ravdin's HUP Chief Residents. His recent death prompted me to review the careers of his fellow residents. Because our archives of this era are sketchy I was lucky to find the names of the 30 who survived the pyramid to become chief residents at HUP during Ravdin's 14 years as chairman. They were the first generation at Penn to graduate from a real surgical residency. Earlier HUP residents were trained pretty much by preceptorship. In his oral history Ravdin told the story of his residency's genesis. In 1932 38-year-old Ravdin accompanied Penn surgery chairman Charles Frazier to provide support for his chief during a visit to Johns Hopkins, where Frazier sought treatment for prostate cancer by the famous urologist Hugh Young. After barely surviving a bloody operation Frazier returned to Philadelphia with persistent urinary incontinence. Ravdin had used his time in Baltimore to study the Hopkins surgical residency. He returned to Philadelphia with the determination to install one like it at HUP.

In 1890 William Halsted became chief of surgery at the new Johns Hopkins Hospital. Because the staff reporting to him were also new Halsted encountered little opposition to installing a surgical residency based on his own priorities. In a classic publication he revealed its essential elements: a geographic full-time department totally controlled by a single professor- himself; over many years graded responsibility of residents to their independence; mandatory research experience of the residents; a specific intent to produce professors and teachers by emphasizing resident education rather than faculty practice and income.

Within a short time, Halsted's system began to produce results. In his 33 years as chairman his residency graduated only 17 chief residents. Seven became department chairmen and 11 started their own residency programs. Of his 55 assistant residents 20 became professors. Other universities took note of Halsted's residency system and began to copy it. Characteristically Penn did not. A contingent of Penn faculty was sent to Hopkins to evaluate Halsted's residency. They decided not to copy it, preferring to stick with the traditional Penn system. As Osler said nowhere is there more resistance to change than at the University of Pennsylvania. The traditional Penn residency system was continued. In it each of the Department's several autonomous professors selected and controlled his own separate

residents. The emphasis was on faculty practice not on resident education. There was no mandated research experience. There was no intent to produce professors and none were produced.

In 1946 when Ravdin became chairman he got rid of HUP faculty surgeons other than those he had trained as residents or had commanded in India as a general in charge of World War II's 20th General Hospital. Now he had the unchallenged power to make big changes. As he had planned to do since his visit to Hopkins 14 years before he reincarnated at HUP the Halsted style residency with all of its essential elements: a single all-powerful professor- himself; graded responsibility of residents to independence; mandatory research and an intent to produce professors. Just as it had in Baltimore it worked. Of the 30 who survived Ravdin's pyramid to become chief residents at HUP, 8 became university department chairmen. Of 70 others who had part of their training under Ravdin many became university division chiefs or heads of surgery at community hospitals.

Many of his early residents had served under Ravdin in the 20th General Hospital. Others had followed General Patton as he chased the retreating Germans across Europe. After the war Ravdin's requirement that his residents perform research encouraged them to explore fields that were new and become pioneers of cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, pediatric surgery, transplantation and cancer chemotherapy. Profiled here are Ravdin's HUP chief residents. Maybe they were the greatest generation.

**William T. Fitts Jr. (1947)** Bill Fitts graduated as first in his



class from Penn Medical School. After his internship at HUP he went with Ravdin to the 20th General Hospital where his work ethic and administrative skills made him his chief's favorite. Later as a Penn Professor he became prominent nationally, especially in the trauma field. Many predicted that he would

become chairman when Ravdin retired in 1960 but this was precluded by Fitts' illnesses including a bleeding duodenal ulcer and several episodes of clinical depression. In 1972 Fitts eventually became Penn's surgery chairman by succeeding Jonathan Rhoads.

**C. Everett Koop (1947)** was the most famous of the group. As a resident Koop with Jonathan Rhoads managed the wartime skeleton Ravdin service at HUP while Ravdin was in India. Thus although Koop's chief residency was under



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

Ravdin much of his training was under Rhoads. Ravdin appointed 30-year-old Koop as Chief of Pediatric Surgery at CHOP. He soon became the nation's foremost pediatric surgeon. Because of his well-publicized evangelistic and pro-life opinions, Koop was controversial as President Reagan's nominee for surgeon general. But Koop's outstanding performance in this role made him so famous that he became known as "America's Doctor".

**Charles K. Kirby (1947)** A graduate of Cornell medical school, Kirby's excellent performance at the 20th General Hospital led to his appointment as a HUP resident and then as Julian Johnson's faculty understudy in cardiothoracic surgery. A gifted researcher and writer, he probably had more to do than Johnson with designing and building HUP's first heart-lung machine and in co-authoring with Johnson the chest surgery textbook that became the field's standard. At age 49 Kirby died suddenly from a massive coronary occlusion. We residents were convinced that Johnson's seemingly abusive dominance was responsible for Charlie's nervous mannerisms and perhaps for shortening his life. Frank Rosato and I did not know that Charlie had an identical twin. Sitting together at his funeral we were startled when his twin brother walked in. Charlie's twin, a University of Washington internist not subjected to Johnson's sarcasm, lived comfortably another three decades.

**Cletus Schwegman (1948)** After medical school and internship at Cincinnati Clete was assigned to the 20th General Hospital where he worked with Robert Groff in neurosurgery, becoming particularly experienced and expert in hand surgery. As a HUP professor he became the "go to" abdominal surgeon. His academic productivity may have been greater if he had spent less time as Secretary of the American Board of Surgery. There he was the terror of examinees. Actually his generous personality caused him to fail fewer than other examiners. Around HUP Clete had a swashbuckling image that was enhanced by his good looks, dapper wardrobe and banter with the ladies. He took pride in extensively prepared lectures, that he memorized and delivered in his impressively deep speaking voice. Ironically at age 50 a laryngectomy for cancer reduced this to a whisper during the two remaining decades of his life.

**James D. Hardy (1949)** After graduating from medical school at Penn he became a medical resident. During his army service in WWII he switched to surgery. Outstanding in research and a prolific author, known to his friends as the "boy wonder", he published the first of his 23 books

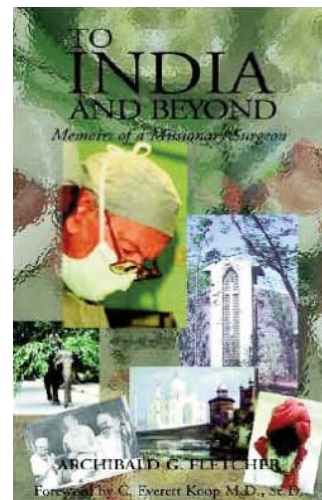


while still a resident. He became the inaugural chairman of surgery at the University of Mississippi where he performed the world's first human heart and lung transplants. Despite Hardy's extensive preparation and research in animals neither of these human recipients survived very long. But Hardy came closer than any other Ravdin resident to equaling his chief in honors and leadership positions of national surgical organizations, e.g. the presidencies of the American Surgical Association, the American College of Surgeons and the Society of University Surgeons.

**Archibald Fletcher (1949)** has been completely forgotten at HUP. But from this collection of impressive careers his was possibly the most striking. Born in Taegu Korea where his father had established a missionary hospital Arch came to the US and graduated from Princeton and Columbia medical school. During the war he served in Europe with Patton's 3rd Army. Then as a HUP resident he studied blood substitutes with doctors Rhoads and Hardy. After a year as an exchange resident in Montreal and HUP chief residency he was sent by the Presbyterian Church to India where he helped found one of that country's major medical schools, Miraj Medical College. There he became Chairman of Surgery and also Director of the school's teaching hospital. From his autobiography, *To India and Beyond*, I learned more about his distinguished career. After visiting UCLA for two months he designed and constructed a heart-lung machine and successfully performed the first open-heart operations in India. In 1977 he returned to the US to teach surgery at the University of Washington. Spiritual wanderlust soon lured him back to missionary work in Kathmandu, Nepal, Cameroon and India.

**John Howard (1950)** After completing his HUP residency he spent a short period at Baylor with Mike DeBakey. John then briefly became Chairman of Surgery at Emory. During the Korean War he directed the Army surgical research team (MASH) also establishing there a renal

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**John "Hawkeye" Howard and I.S. Ravdin in Korea**

## From the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

dialysis unit. For these accomplishments President Eisenhower awarded him the Legion of Merit. He then returned to Philadelphia as Chairman of Surgery at Hahnemann (1958-63). In 1973 he followed Bill Blakemore to the Medical College of Ohio where John was a leading professor of surgery for 30 years. He was a renowned expert in pancreatic surgery, writing with Howard Reber (HUP chief resident 1970) the classic text on the pancreas which has remained the standard in the field.

**James Walker (1950)** During residency and for several years on the faculty Walker was active in research with Dr. Rhoads. He won a prestigious Markle scholarship.

**William Dyson (1950)** After internship "Dutch" Dyson served on a destroyer carrying out anti-submarine warfare. After residency he was chief of surgery at Hazelton Hospital (1950-65). HUP residents were assigned to help him there with his huge practice. This became a much sought after resident rotation. In 1965 Dyson developed an interest in psychiatry and returned to HUP where he completed a residency in that field and became a member of the psychiatry faculty. He directed HUP's first lithium therapy program for patients with bipolar disease. Also at HUP he carried out a sizable practice in general surgery.

**Brooke Roberts (1951)** As a Penn student Brooke won the School's Spencer Morris prize as the top student in medicine. After HUP residency and several years as Dr. Ravdin's understudy and clinical assistant, Ravdin placed him in charge of vascular surgery. At first this field was nothing more than treatment of varicose veins, but as arterial surgery developed Brooke became one of its important pioneers. With his medical colleagues he was the first to describe and analyze the hemodynamic cause of subclavian steal syndrome. With his interventional radiology colleagues he started one of the first programs in balloon catheter dilatation of stenotic artery lesions. His was one of the Country's first vascular fellowships. During Len Miller's illness and absence Brooke served as the Department's acting chairman. At this crucial time, he managed the contentious transition of the John Rhea Barton Associates from a private practice partnership to a university department.

**Nicholas Gimbel (1951)** During residency and several years on the HUP faculty Gimbel was an active researcher in burn therapy. He then moved to Wayne State where he became professor of surgery.

**Harold Barker (1952)** During WWII my brother Hal served with the Army in England, Belgium and Germany, sharing this experience with Jim Hardy and Archibald Fletcher. Returning to Penn he worked for a year as a research fellow in the  
**4** Department of Pharmacology. After surgical residency and

one year on the HUP faculty, he moved to New York as director of Columbia's new surgical metabolic unit and ICU. His research there was funded by NIH for a consecutive 22 years. He also developed a large practice of general surgery and was very active in Columbia's teaching program. Becoming Clinical Professor of Surgery in 1968, he was also Presbyterian Hospital's Director of Medical Affairs in charge of developing new clinical programs.

**William Blakemore (1951)** After residency he was he was a fellow with Clarence Crafoord at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm from 1953-54. Returning to HUP he brought the Seldinger equipment for catheterizing blood vessels. With Buam and Nusbaum he was the first to identify and treat bleeding lesions in the GI tract by selective catheterization of mesenteric vessels. After 8 years on the HUP faculty he was appointed in 1962 as Chairman of Surgery at Penn's Graduate School of Medicine and Chief of Surgery at Graduate Hospital. In 1972 he moved to Toledo where he served for 10 years as Surgery Chairman at the Medical College of Ohio.

**William Hagan (1952)** Shortly after residency he was killed in an automobile accident.

**Robert Ravdin (1953)** After graduation from Penn Medical School, I.S. Ravdin's son interned at Columbia before residency at HUP and appointment to the HUP faculty. Much of his time was devoted to managing his father's practice, but he was also active in research. With internist Sylvan Eisman he developed and headed HUP's first cancer chemotherapy program, contributing many of the early patients to Bernard Fisher's National Surgery Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Registry. He was promoted to full professor in 1970 and 2 years later died from a massive coronary occlusion at age 49. Bob Ravdin was an especially admired mentor and beloved friend of surgical residents. They raised the funding for an annual lecture in his name.

**William DeMuth Jr. (1953)** After residency he was for 18 years chief of surgery at Carlisle hospital. Then in 1971 he was appointed Professor of Surgery at the newly founded Penn State Medical School at Hershey. He also served as chief of surgical services at the 376 Station Hospital in Japan. An expert in trauma, he studied the relationship between muscle velocity of rifles and tissue damage. From 1977 to 1983 he was Assistant Dean for Continuing Education at Penn State.

**William C. Steinback (1953)** After residency practiced at Bryn Mawr Hospital where he was Chief of Surgery (1962-78) and Professor of Surgery at Jefferson.

**James Donald (1948), Evan C. Reese and Charles F. Rogers (1954)** appear in our archives only as names. If society members know more I would appreciate hearing from them.

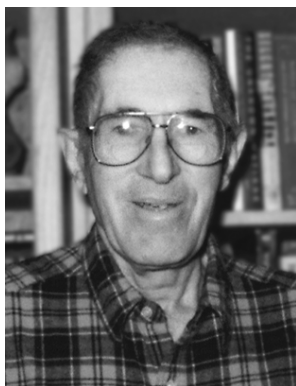
**Julius Mackie (1955)** Jack Mackie was the Department's education officer from 1970 to 1980. He was an exceptionally gifted clinical surgeon. Even after he was a full professor much of his time was devoted helping Jonathan Rhoads conduct his huge practice, both in and out of the operating room. Without Jack, Dr. Rhoads could never have managed this along with his extensive travel and local and national leadership activities. In pre and post-operative care Jack was obsessively thorough, sometimes to the impatience of his residents. Jack's patients never complained about it. An example was Jack's discovery on late night rounds of a tension pneumothorax that had developed in his colleague Clete Schwegman. Earlier that day Clete had been operated on by another surgeon. Jack promptly stuck a needle in Clete's chest saving his life.

**Henry Moss (1955)** practiced at Albert Einstein and was Professor of Surgery at Temple. He also became President of the New York Academy of Science.

**Theodore Shohl (1956)** practiced in Los Angeles and in Anchorage Alaska.

**William Muir (1956)** practiced in Long Branch, NJ.

**Gerald Peskin (1957)** For 10 years on the HUP faculty Jerry was one of the most active in research and also the favorite mentor of the residents. In 1967 he was recruited as Professor of Surgery at the University of Chicago and Chief of Surgery at Michael Reese Hospital. In 1971 he moved to California where he was Chief of Surgery at the San Diego Veterans Administration Hospital and professor at the University of California San Diego. From 1984 to 92, he was Chief of Surgery at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven and Clinical Professor of Surgery at Yale. In 1972 he moved back to California as Professor of Surgery at the University of California Davis. There he was the teaching mainstay of Claude Organ's and then Alden Harken's surgical residency program at the University of California San Francisco East Bay. In each of the institutions where he served he was valued as the resident's friend and most valuable mentor.



**Robert DeLong (1957)** No information in the archives.

**Marshall Orloff (1958)** was the last survivor of Ravdin's chief residents. See memoir on page 9.

**James H. Robinson (1959)** Jim was HUP's first African American intern and Ravdin's first African American resident. After residency he accepted an appointment as Clinical Professor of Surgery at Jefferson where he was also Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

**Donald Rochlin (1959)** After residency Rochlin was appointed to the faculty at UCLA where he developed an active practice and research program in oncology. He was one of the first to perform perfusion of isolated extremities with chemotherapeutic agents for treatment of metastatic melanoma. Unfortunately, he died an early death from lymphoma.

**James C. Thompson (1959)** was Ravdin's most colorful resident and one of the most distinguished. He was not offered a HUP faculty position, perhaps because his exuberant personality was not an easy fit with conservative senior faculty.



Instead Jim accepted a position at Pennsylvania Hospital. There isolated and very much on his own he developed a NIH funded lab studying G.I. physiology. After 3 years he moved to UCLA's Harbor General Hospital where his friend Marshall Orloff was chief. When Orloff moved to UCSD as chairman four years later, Thompson became chief at Harbor General and professor at UCLA. In 1970 Jim was appointed Chairman of Surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, a job he kept for 25 years. There his studies of G.I. hormones and physiology maintained NIH funding continuously for 41 years. He trained 130 research fellows from the U.S. and 18 foreign countries. Of his 256 visiting professorships 70 were abroad. Among his honors were the presidencies of the American Surgical Association, and the American College of Surgeons and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society of University Surgeons.

But most would agree that it was Jim's personality, style and sheer panache that set him apart. Marshall Orloff characterized him as outrageous, funny, bombastic, eloquent, sometimes inoffensively vulgar, charming, engaging and never dull. Mark Ravitch in his history of the American Surgical Association added iconoclastic. I think Dr. Ravdin enjoyed Jim because Ravdin also had a quirky sense of humor. He would have seen Jim as a kindred spirit. Jim claimed that during his residency Dr. Ravdin fired him at least 8 or 10 times (but always reappointed him within minutes). A dimension quite unusual for a surgeon was his interest and knowledge of nonmedical topics including literature, art and music. Because of this he valued his membership in the American Philosophical Society above almost any other of his many honors. Although he was a proud Texan by birth, childhood and 25 years as chairman in Galveston, Thompson always said that his most important memories and loyalties were generated by his 9 years at the University of Pennsylvania. Many of Dr. Ravdin's residents felt that same way. Jim epitomized the camaraderie that began with the Ravdin residents and which I believe persists at Penn. **5**

# Unveiling of the Jeff Drebin Portrait

On November 18 a reception was held to unveil the portrait of Jeffrey Drebin and to honor him for his superb leadership of the department from 2009-2017. His portrait will hang at HUP in the Maloney Building's Medical Alumni Hall alongside the likenesses of the other seven most recent John Rhea Barton professors (Eliason, Ravdin, Rhoads, Fitts, Miller, Barker and Kaiser). A search for the portraits of earlier chairman would entail a trip all over the medical center and the city beyond. Thomas Eakins' famous portrayal of D. Hayes Agnew in his clinic now hangs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, although a replica of it is located in the original spot in the mezzanine of the John Morgan Building above the old medical school library. William Shippen's portrait is nearby in the Morgan building but his successor Philip Syng Physick's portrait is in HUP's Maloney building lobby. In the Morgan building near the old Dean's office are portraits of Gibson, Smith, White, Martin and a second copy of Physick. Deaver and Frazier are in storage at present but hopefully will eventu-

ally be rehung on the 4th floor of the Stemmler building when construction is finished. Ashurst is not in the Medical Center at all but instead downtown at the College of Physicians. The only common factor in these locations is that they are all in places where they will rarely be seen by most of the Penn students, residents or faculty. Perhaps this is best since these relics of previous centuries would probably seem out of place in the School's ultramodern buildings going up or recently built across Spruce Street.



Ron DeMatteo (above) and Jeff Drebin (below)



Jeff Drebin with the artist Jon Friedman who painted the last three chairman.



Jeff and Linda Drebin



# David Low Changing Roles

David Low recently announced that in 2019 he would stop practicing at HUP. Fortunately for us he is not retiring but will now confine his clinical activities to CHOP. On January 26, 2019 about 200 of David's colleague's friends and family gathered at the College of Physicians to congratulate him, reminisce about his unique career and thank him for his many contributions. Pictured here are those that spoke at the event: Joe Serletti, Linton Whitaker, Dan Dempsey, Maurine Acker, Scott Bartlett and David himself.



Joe Serletti the host praised David for the breath of his expertise in every aspect of plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgery, also noting that David was Penn's first microsurgeon.

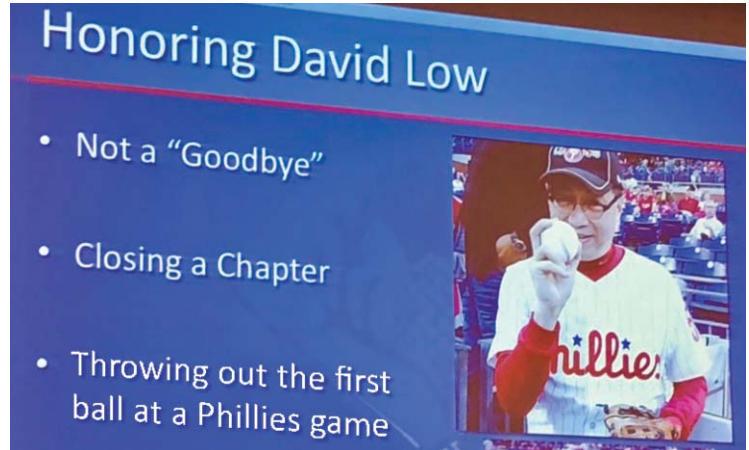
Linton Whitaker recalled persuading David to pass on the opportunity to return to Harvard for his plastic surgery training, but instead to remain here, first as a fellow and then as a faculty member. Linton was also pleased by David's decision to become a practicing surgeon rather than accept an opportunity to succeed Frank Netter as a full-time medical illustrator. David did spend most of a year illustrating the classic cardiac surgery text authored by Edmonds and Norwood. Since then, while practicing surgery he has produced hundreds of superb illustrations for other publications and presentations as well as much admired caricatures of his colleagues and of himself. Linton noted, as did the other speakers that as a resident, fellow and faculty member David has not only excelled in his own assignments and responsibilities but has often volunteered to do the work of others whenever this was needed.

Dan Dempsey, a close contemporary of David's in the residency, praised David for his performance then and for his continuing contributions to general surgery. David is often asked to rescue his colleagues and their patients by salvaging abdominal catastrophes caused by huge ventral hernias, infections of vital structures or disruption caused by other complex procedures.

Maurine Acker spoke, pitch hitting for her husband Mike. She recalled how helpful David and his illustrations had been in teaching her and other ICU nurses.

Scott Bartlett, his faculty colleague, roasted David in an affectionate, subtle and most entertaining fashion. He labeled David as

the opposite of inscrutable and cautioned us to be careful in confidential communications with David because he said facetiously, it is well-known that he cannot keep a secret. Finally, David accompanied himself on a keyboard as he sang his own humorous



**Pictured with David Low are his niece Juliette Fleury, nephew Jackson Behan, sisters Teresa and Chris Low and his Dad Henry BC Low, MD.**

composition thanking his colleagues, staff, family and friends.

The following brief resume is for those readers of the Newsletter who have not had the opportunity to know this icon of multiple surgical disciplines as well as the world of art. David is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. From 1980 to 1989 he was intern, assistant resident and chief resident in general surgery at HUP. From 1989 to 2011 he progressed from assistant professor to full professor of surgery at HUP and CHOP. During those years and since he has been the recipient of 7 major teaching awards. Since 2000 he has been listed every year as a Top Doc by Philadelphia Magazine in the disciplines of microsurgery, cosmetic surgery, reconstructive surgery, vascular malformations, cleft lip and palate. In addition to memberships in all the major plastic surgery societies, he is a member of the Association of Medical Illustrators, the American Academy

# Rachel Kelz Appointed Vice Chair for Clinical Research

Rachel Kelz has been appointed by Dr. DeMatteo as the Department's Vice Chair for Clinical Research.

Dr. Kelz graduated with honors from Union College and Yale University School of Medicine. After HUP residency she joined the Penn faculty in 2004. She earned a Masters Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Perelman School of Medicine and an Executive Masters Degree in Business Administration from the Wharton School. She was promoted to full professor in 2018.

In clinical practice she specializes in thyroid and parathyroid surgery. Her research has been focused on innovations in education, surgical outcomes and health care disparities. Recently she has been recognized as a bridge investigator for her work uniting education with quality and safety. Her pioneering work on the integration of education and outcomes research has been funded by multiple organizations, including the NIH. Dr. Kelz is a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute and Director of the Department's Center for Surgery and Health Economics.

Rachel has made extensive contributions to the Department's education programs. She was the Clerkship Director of the



Medical Student 200 Surgery Course and Director of Undergraduate Medical Education (2008-2015). Since 2013, she has been Associate Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. She has mentored innumerable residents and faculty. For her outstanding contributions to teaching, she was awarded the Christian R. & Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award.

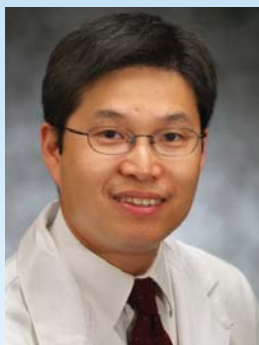
Her leadership roles are numerous. She has served on the Executive Council of the Association for Academic Surgery. She is the Secretary of the Society of Clinical Surgery, a member of the Executive Council of the Society of University Surgeons, Chair of the Program Committee of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and a Section Editor of the journal *Surgery*. In 2009 she received the Department's Gordon Buzby Award for Administrative Leadership.

Rachel will oversee the clinical research operations. She will work to improve the quality of clinical research, increase extramural funding, mentor trainees and advise faculty. She will establish a central research core in the Department and serve as the liaison for clinical research throughout the Health System and the University.

## Wilson Szeto Elected to Membership in the Academy of Master Clinicians

In 2018 ten clinicians from Penn Medicine departments were elected to the Academy of Master Clinicians. From Surgery Wilson Szeto, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, was elected. Wilson has also been Surgical Director of Transcatheter Cardio-Aortic Therapy and Vice Chief of Clinical Operations and Quality for the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery.

Wilson is an AOA graduate of the Medical College of Virginia. He was HUP chief resident (1999) and CT fellow (2003-2005). Since then he has been on the Penn faculty and was promoted to full professor in 2016. His areas of expertise include thoracic aortic surgery, complex valvular heart surgery, valve-sparing aortic root replacement and minimally invasive mitral valve repair. Dr. Szeto is also expert in transcatheter **8** heart valve replacement and repair and endovascular stent



grafting of thoracic aortic lesions.

The Academy of Master Clinicians was launched in 2013 to recognize 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 known for developing and implementing innovative programs. They have focused on professionalism, career mentoring of medical students, promoting and enhancing a culture of clinical excellence, promoting wellness, reducing burnout and overcoming barriers to exceptional patient care.

Surgeon members elected to the Academy in previous years are Najjia Mahmoud, Pat Reilly, Ron Fairman, Tom Guzzo, Dahlia Sataloff, Stephen Kovach and Dan Dempsey.



# Alumni News

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

- ◆ We are always pleased to receive career updates from alumni such as this from **Garry Ruben** (HUP Chief Resident 1983). *I just finished reading this month's edition of the Penn Surgery newsletter as I do every time it arrives in my office, Though I am sure that it seems that I have fallen off of the face of the earth I really appreciate being able to keep up with the past and present at Penn. My years there were certainly the most formative and wonderful I have had. Reading your articles including the last one about Dr. Lehr and the references to Dr. Fitts and Dr. Rhoads bring back incredible memories.*



*I am very involved in the surgical teaching program at George Washington University. I serve as the Site Director at Holy Cross, their major teaching affiliate and as such am responsible for the residents', medical students' and PA students' education when they are with us. I am still doing both general and vascular surgery and in that sense I have been very fortunate. No plans for retirement anytime soon.*

*I look forward to reading more of your columns and just wanted to let you know they are appreciated.*

*Sincerely, Garry Ruben, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, The George Washington University School of Medicine.*

- ◆ **Scott Damrauer** has won the prestigious Young Physician Scientist Award of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). He will receive the award and speak at the AAP/ASCI/APSA joint meeting April 6.



- ◆ **Ronald Fairman**, Chief of Vascular Surgery has announced that he will retire at the end of 2019. After HUP chief residency and vascular fellowship (1984-85) Ron chose to focus on community practice at Jeanes Hospital where he became head of vascular surgery and in 1993 Chief of Surgery. His mentorship of HUP residents who rotated at Jeanes Hospital was recognized by the William Y. Inouye Teaching Award in 1994. In 1996 he returned to the full-time HUP faculty. He initiated endovascular surgery at Penn and was the national PI on numerous clinical trials of EVAR and TEVAR. He has trained a multitude of vascular surgeons many of whom are now leaders in the field. He has created one of the country's most highly regarded fellowships in vascular surgery and built a surgical faculty acknowledged to be one of the country's best. Dr. Fairman has been recognized by numerous honors. In 2008 he became the inaugural recipient of the Clyde F. Barker/William Maul Measey Professorship in Surgery and received the Luigi Mastroianni Clinical Innovator Award. He was inducted into the Penn Medicine Academy of Master Clinicians in 2014. He is a member of the American Surgical Association, the Halsted Society and in 2016 was President of the Society for Vascular Surgery. He is one of only a handful of surgeons ever to be elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society.



## In Memoriam: Marshall Orloff

Marshall Orloff (HUP Chief Resident 1958) Died November 6, 2018 at age 91. He received his BS, MS and MD degrees from the University of Illinois. He was valedictorian of each class. After internship at UC San Francisco, Orloff completed his residency in general and thoracic surgery at HUP, interrupted by two years for service in Germany with the U.S. Army (1953-55). Orloff then spent three years as Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado before moving to Los Angeles as Chief of Surgery at Harbor General and professor at UCLA. Four years later he became the founding Chairman of Surgery at the University of California San Diego's new school of medicine. He served in this role for the next 16 years and continued at UCSD as a researcher and educator until his recent death. His research interests were portal hypertension, cancer immunology, obesity and diabetes. He was President of the Society of University



Surgeons in 1971 and in 2015 was named by the Society of University Surgeons as its lifetime achievement awardee. His research was continuously funded by NIH for 48, years, perhaps a record, during which time he published over 450 scholarly articles, had 40 different editorial appointments and was visiting professor at 90 universities. He became best known for his advocacy of emergency portacaval shunts for patients bleeding from esophageal varices. This was controversial because his results were considerably better than those of others with this procedure and superior to other forms of therapy. His careful and well documented follow-up of his patients was featured in multiple programs of the American Surgical Association. He attributed his superior results to meticulous follow-up and to his success in persuading his patients not to drink alcohol. Those who knew Marshall would not dispute this.

FESTSCHRIFT TO HONOR

Moritz M. Ziegler, MD, FAAP

On November 2, 2018 Moritz “Mory” Ziegler (HUP chief resident 1974 and CHOP resident 1975-1977) was honored by his trainees and pediatric surgery colleagues with a Festschrift.

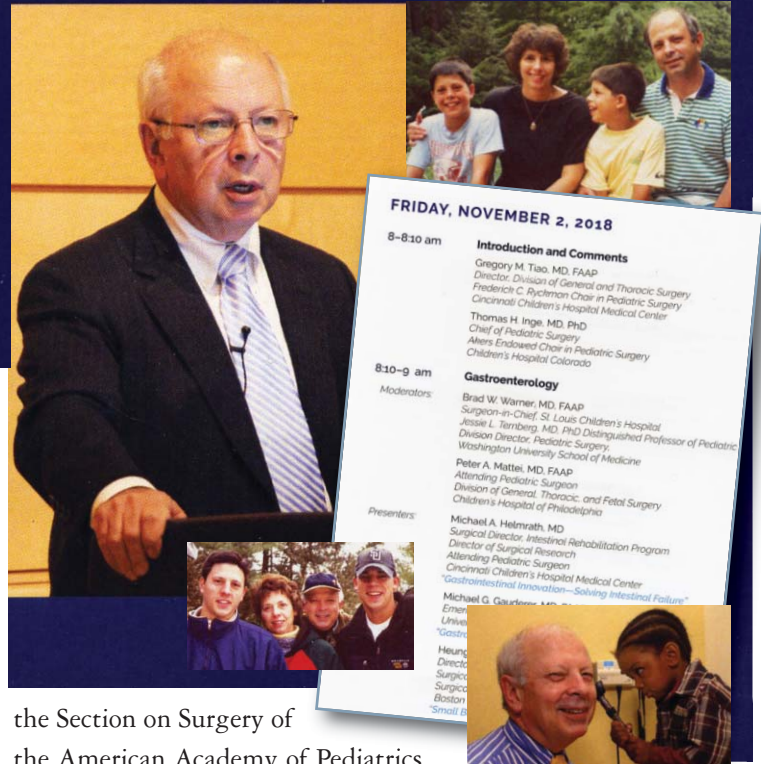
Mory is a graduate of Capital University in Ohio where as a varsity baseball player and member of the glee club, he was an example of “Altemeier’s Rule” that athletes and musicians make the best residents. After medical school at Michigan he came to HUP as an intern. During residency Mory was one of HUP’s first research and clinical transplantation fellows. With Craig Reckard he performed and reported the first successful pancreatic islet transplant experiments. After residency and a year of research at Fox Chase with immunologist Richard Prehn, he trained in pediatric surgery under C. Everett Koop at CHOP. For the next 12 years he remained a faculty member at Penn, becoming full professor of surgery in 1988. As a mainstay of the CHOP faculty under Dr. Koop and then Dr. O’Neil, he founded the laboratory of surgical research, the nutrition support service and the transplant program. He also played a central role in the development of transplantation at HUP. After training with Tom Starzl in Pittsburgh Mory, helped start HUP’s liver transplantation program and performed the first liver transplants at CHOP. In addition, for several years he directed HUP’s adult kidney transplant program. In 1989 Mory moved to the University of Cincinnati as Chief of



**Barbara and Mory Ziegler**

Pediatric Surgery. In 1998 he was recruited to Boston Children’s Hospital as Surgeon in Chief. He was also the Robert E. Gross professor at Harvard and chairman of Harvard Medical School’s Surgical Executive Committee. After expanding the faculty size and the research program at Boston Children’s he became Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Colorado (2004-2009). Since then in retirement Mory and his wife Barbara, a former HUP nurse, have lived in Cincinnati.

**10** In 2017 Mory was awarded the William E. Ladd Medal of



the Section on Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Named for the founder of the field this is the highest award in pediatric surgery. In addition to the Ladd award Mory has had many honors. He has been President of the American Pediatric Surgery Association and of the Section on Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He was secretary and then chairman of the surgical executive committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 1997 he was selected as our own department’s distinguished graduate awardee. He is a member of the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. In addition to 300 peer-reviewed publications, he is the author of the textbook recognized as the standard on operative pediatric surgery.

During Mory’s Festschrift 19 distinguished pediatric surgeons spoke on topics including gastroenterology, neuroblastoma, reform of pediatric surgery training and quality in pediatric surgery. Most of the speakers were chiefs of pediatric surgery at university centers. Seven of them were Mory’s trainees.

During his active career Mory trained 69 individuals, 24 as pediatric surgery residents. Seven of them have become chiefs of pediatric surgery at University Centers: Brad Warner (Washington University), Edward Barksdale (Case Western Reserve), Daniel Von Altman (Cincinnati), Dai Chung (Vanderbilt), Franz Frazier (King’s Daughters), David Whaoff (Minneapolis) and Donald Porter.

Of 45 others trained by Mory as fellows in laboratory research, 7 became department or division chiefs (Irwin Krasa, Charles Howell, H. Naito, Martin Carpah, John Reynolds, Todasha Iwanaka and Christopher Muratore). Thus of Mory’s 69 trainees 14 became department or division chiefs of pediatric surgery, 20.3%. I doubt that others can equal this record.

# Penn Medical School Course Preparation for Internship

In 2015 Steven R. Allen, MD (HUP trauma fellow 2008-2010) and his resident colleagues initiated a course to prepare Penn medical students for internships in surgery or surgical subspecialties. This 2 to 3 week course (officially listed in the Perelman School of Medicine curriculum as 599) has been held annually since then and has been quite popular and effective. In 2014 and 2016 it was directed by Carla Fisher. The 2018 course was co-directed by Amy Cha, MD and Ian S. Soriano, MD, both assistant professors in the GI Division. Twenty Penn students registered for the course. Lectures were held at the Jordan Education Center and simulation sessions at the Penn Simulation Center.

Nine lectures were given by surgical faculty (Drs. Aarons, Vella, Bar, Damrauer, Braslow, Smith, Pascual, Raper, DeMatteo). Four were given by residents and fellows (Drs. Hoffman, Sharoky, Vasquez, Ecker). Two were given by nurse practitioners (Sabat, Schnapf). Four were given by faculty of other departments - Radiology (Drs. Miller, Hilton) and Anesthesia (Drs. Ashburn, Al Ghofaily).

The lectures were chosen based on topics listed on the ACS/APDS/ASE Resident Prep Curriculum including:

- Open skills - Knot tying and suturing exercises and hand-sewn anastomoses on cadavers
- Universal precautions and sterile technique
- Performance of emergency procedures - needle thoracostomy, chest tube placement, emergency basic airways
- Surgical airways
- Bedside procedures - Peripheral and central venous line placement, arterial line placement, management of surgical drains and tubes, utilizing Doppler and ultrasound to facilitate safe placement of intravascular catheters



The participants with the course co-directors Amy Cha and Ian Soriano after the last didactic day.

- Human patient simulator - Management of shock
- Basic laparoscopic skills
- Patient handoff
- Interactive cases - focused on pre- and post-operative patient care with multiple management decision points (6 hours)
- Chest and abdominal radiology for interns
- Operative anatomy - proctored operations in cadavers

Additional modules conducted in interactive didactic sessions included: pain management, sedation and anesthesia techniques, commonly prescribed medications and antibiotics, electrolyte and fluid management, enhanced recovery after surgery, discharge planning, self-directed learning, professionalism in communicating with healthcare team members, informed consent, surgical mentorship.

Again directed by Amy Cha and Ian Soriano, this year's course will be held March 26 - April 5, 2019.



Dr. Becky Hoffman giving a lecture on Handoffs/Signout



Students practicing A-line and peripheral IV placement on arm models at the Penn simulation center.



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**W I N T E R 2 0 1 9**

## **David Low** *(continued from page 7)*

of Pediatrics, the Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery and the Editorial Board of the Annals of Plastic Surgery. He has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and has illustrated 156 others as well as 7 books.

In addition to his many contributions at HUP and CHOP, David has provided free care to underserved patients in countries such as Venezuela and Guatemala. With Oksana Jackson and other CHOP doctors, nurses and volunteers David annually devotes a week or more to this humanitarian service during which he may perform as many as 100 operations such as repair of cleft lips and palates.

David is also an accomplished musician on the piano and cello. His many hobbies include **12** baseball and fly fishing.



**An important hobby, fly fishing.**

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