



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

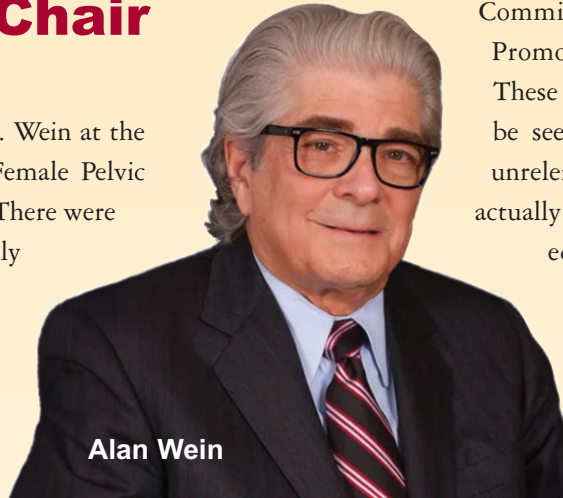
## Message from the Chair

### 22%

Recently, there was a celebration dinner for Dr. Wein at the annual meeting of the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU). There were some bizarre anecdotes and reference to his daily breakfasts with residents, soup consumption at lunch, soap operas, and other tidbits. Numerous prior residents attested to his mentorship during (and after) their training. In fact, these trainees just established the SUFU Alan J. Wein Mentorship Award. I learned some other facts.

For instance, he came from a (very) tiny town in West Virginia and played tennis at Princeton. He investigated hypothalamic control of sexual behavior in female rats for his college thesis. Surprisingly, after completing residency he almost went into private practice in Arizona?! Due to extraordinary fundraising by his wife Noele, we were able to announce at the dinner that there will now be two Alan J. Wein endowed chairs in our department.

Dr. Wein was Chief of the Division of Urology at Penn 1979-2016 and Program Director 1975-2021. He meticulously led the departmental



Alan Wein

Committee on Appointments and Promotions (COAP) 2001-2023. These durations of service will never be seen again. Of course, given his unrelenting work ethic, he is not actually completely retired as he started a part time job at the University of Miami, which is closer to his home.

Dr. Wein is an icon in the field of Urology. He built an exceptional division. With over 500

papers, his H-index is 82, one of the highest in the department. His major focus has been lower urinary tract physiology and pharmacology, which had been largely undefined. The main urology textbook now includes his name (Campbell-Walsh-Wein). If you want to see some of the other 35 books, come by my office. He's complex but some insights can be gained from

his recent mini autobiography in the Canadian Journal of Urology (PMID 32544041).

Interestingly, Dr. Barker has pointed out that Dr. Wein was essential in the early days of kidney transplantation at Penn.

He has won numerous awards – Cum Laude (Princeton), Alpha Omega Alpha (Penn), honorary degrees, national society awards including the Keyes Medal from the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, and the Penn Robert Dunning

Dripps Memorial Teaching Award and Distinguished Graduate Award. He is a member of the American Surgical Association and was President of the International Society for Men's Health.

Dr. Wein started his surgical internship at Penn in 1966 after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He became an Assistant Professor in our department in 1974. Therefore, he has been associated with Penn Surgery (established in 1765) for 22% of its existence.





**From the Editor**  
**Clyde F. Barker, MD**

As I wrote this column, the American Surgical Association (ASA) was preparing to hold its annual April meeting in Washington DC. Founded in 1880 by Samuel D. Gross of Jefferson, this senior society is considered surgery’s most prestigious. Papers selected for presentation at its meeting are automatically accepted for publication in surgery’s most important journal, the Annals of Surgery. They often become the most influential ones of the time. Reviewing them tracks the trends, advances and setbacks of the field as Mark Ravitch did while spending four years writing a detailed history of the Association’s first 100 years (1880-1980). His book brings to life the presentation, discussion, illustrations and critique of every important paper presented at the Association meetings. In addition it contains what happened in the business and committee meetings. Also included are portraits with brief, insightful biographical sketches of the surgical giants who were in attendance. Nowhere else can you find such a compendium. It’s like having a front row seat while modern surgery developed. This two-volume, 1,800 page masterpiece belongs in the library of every student of medical history. Amazon has it for \$144.



I’ll mention just a few of the advances and setbacks of the years described in the book:

- At the 1895 meeting, J. William White reported his results with castration as treatment of benign prostate hypertrophy. 47 years later at the 1942 meeting, the same procedure was used successfully for prostate cancer, leading to Charles Huggins’ Nobel Prize.
- At the 1939 meeting, Bob Gross described the first ligation of the patent ductus arteriosus. Gross did the operation despite being forbidden by his chief to attempt it because it was deemed experimental and too dangerous. Instead it was the success of this procedure that kicked off the development of vascular and heart surgery. The ASA awarded Gross the Medallion for Scientific Achievement, the ASA’s highest honor.
- At the 1941 meeting, what could have been the start of endovascular surgery was reported by I.S. Ravdin. He

extracted a saddle embolus from the aortic bifurcation by improvising the insertion of a vein stripper through the femoral artery. Not until forty years later would Ron Fairman and others follow up this spectacular case report and firmly establish the field.

- At the 1955 meeting steps in the evolution of open heart surgery were recalled. It was accomplished first by John Lewis using hypothermia; then by Walt Lillehei by cross-circulation with a parent acting as the oxygenator for a child’s open-heart operation; and finally in 1953 by John Gibbon using his heart-lung machine.
- Parenteral nutrition, explored many years ago by I.S. Ravdin and his associates, and eventually accomplished by Rhoads, Dudrick and associates in 1966.
- The evolution of transplantation was first discussed at the 1954 meeting by reviewing Joe Murray’s Nobel Prize-winning series of kidney transplants in twins; then at the 1964 meeting, lung transplantation, briefly successful by former HUP resident Jim Hardy and its eventual long-term success by Penn surgeon Joel Cooper while he was in Toronto. Also at the 1964 meeting, Tom Starzl’s early fatalities with liver transplantation, before his eventual success in 1967.
- At the 1969 meeting, the evolution of chemotherapy for breast cancer by Bernard Fisher’s clinical trials that led to what we now call evidence-based medicine.

On the negative side, the American Surgical Association has sometimes chosen to ignore scientific evidence. Ravitch recounts the Association’s disgraceful opposition to antiseptic surgery which continued until 1883 at the ASA meetings, a decade and a half after Lister’s 1867 demonstration had induced widespread use of his methods in Europe.

A similarly unfortunate example is that of the ASA’s 19th and 20th century chauvinism. An extended debate over whether to allow women to attend the Association’s annual banquet dominated the business meetings for several years. When Ravdin was president in 1959, he was a cautious advocate for their attendance but again and again, the council voted against it. Finally, in 1962 Ravdin invited his friend President Eisenhower to give the after-dinner talk. When Eisenhower realized that the women were being excluded from his audience, he refused to talk until they were invited in, promptly and permanently settling the controversy. Perhaps this shows that



**Olga Jonasson**  
**elected to ASA in 1978**

(continued on page 3)



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

surgeons will eventually do the right thing, but sometimes it takes a long time. Not until twenty years after Ravdin's presidency was Olga Jonasson elected as the first woman member of the ASA. This year, sixteen women surgeons were elected to membership and of the last eight presidents, three have been women. Thus some progress has been made but there is still work to do.

Almost from the beginning, Penn surgeons have played a major role in the American Surgical Association. For the first few years, Jefferson-centric Gross included as members only surgeons from his own institution. D. Hayes Agnew was elected two years later, and by 1887 became president of the Association. All of the subsequent Penn surgery chairmen have presented their most important work at the Association's meetings. Four Penn faculty surgeons have been ASA presidents (Agnew, Ravdin, Rhoads, and I), as have three additional former HUP residents (James Hardy,

Jim Thompson, and Scott Jones).

Continued prominence of Penn in the ASA seems secure. At the meeting in April four from Penn surgeons were elected to membership: Todd Bauer, Giorgos Karakousis, Harold (Bo) Lovvorn and Ross Milner.

At the same meeting, Penn surgeons authored or contributed to four of the forty presentations: Heather Wachtel working with Doug Fraker on RNA markers for parathyroid disease; former HUP resident Omaid Velazquez on gene therapy for vascular regeneration; and Paige Porrett, former HUP resident and Ty Dunn, former Penn faculty, are co-authors of other papers. Note that all four are women.

Too late for this issue, the highlight of the meeting was the selection of a past Penn Chairman, Jeffery Drebin as president-elect. He will take office a year from now which we will cover fully in this newsletter, including his introduction and presidential address.

## Joe Bavaria Departs Penn

It is with a mix of emotions that we share the news of the departure of our esteemed colleague and friend, Dr. Joseph Bavaria, from the University of Pennsylvania. Joe has decided to explore new opportunities in his illustrious career.

Joe's journey has been remarkable. He obtained his B.S. in chemical engineering from Tulane in 1978 and his M.D. from Tulane in 1983. Joining Penn in 1983, he completed his general surgery training at HUP in 1990, followed by cardiothoracic surgery training here in 1992. He then became Assistant Professor of Surgery progressing to Associate Professor in 1998 and in 2004, was appointed the Brooke Roberts-William Maul Measey Professor of Surgery.

Over the past 30 years, Joe's innovation has left an indelible mark on the field of aortic surgery. He is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of endovascular stent grafting of the thoracic aorta (TEVAR). His leadership in national trials and partnerships with industry have made the endovascular approach to complex aortic disease a standard of care. Joe has been instrumental in the development of clinical trials that catapulted the TAVR procedure into an essential aspect of aortic stenosis treatment. His early research on neuroprotection during circulatory arrest significantly enhanced the safety of open complex aortic arch surgery.

Joe brought to Penn a mindset of innovation and advancement in patient care, emphasizing the importance of clinical trials. He was a leader in numerous multicenter, randomized, prospective trials, authored over 500 peer-reviewed papers and



secured millions of dollars in clinical trial funding for the University. As one of the most sought after national and international speakers in cardiac surgery, Joe held multiple leadership positions, including his impactful term as President of the Society of Thoracic Surgery from 2016-2017.

Throughout his career, Joe has been a dedicated teacher. In addition to instructing core residents in our cardiothoracic residency, Joe established the most successful postgraduate program, training young aortic surgeons who have gone on to lead their own programs.

Dr. Bavaria will join Jefferson Health and Sidney Kimmel Medical College where he will serve as Vice Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Director of the Thoracic Aortic Surgery Program, Co-Director of the Transcatheter Valve Program and Founder and Co-Director of the Aorta Center.

Having performed more than 9,000 open heart procedures in his career, Dr. Bavaria is an expert in treating thoracic aortic aneurysms and repairing and replacing aortic valves. In addition to his presidency of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), he has been president of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation, board member of the Heart Valve Society, and executive committee and a member of the European Association of CardioThoracic Surgery.

Joe's bold and technically proficient surgical approach has resulted in one of the largest practices not only in our region but in the entire country. His personality is inimitable and as our friend and partner, we will miss him dearly. Please join us in extending our heartfelt wishes for success in his new pursuits.

Michael Acker **3**

# Nimesh Desai Appointed Director of the Penn Aorta Center

Dr. Nimesh Desai, MD, PhD, has been named Director of the Penn Aorta Center. This appointment represents a well-deserved recognition of Dr. Desai's exceptional contributions to the field of aortic surgery and his remarkable achievements throughout an illustrious career.

Dr. Desai's extensive experience and expertise in aortic surgery, encompassing both open and endovascular techniques, combined with his dedication to advancing the field, make him the ideal choice for this pivotal role. Dr. Desai graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Ottawa and earned his MD at the University of Western Ontario in 2000.

In 2008, he completed his PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Toronto. Subsequently, he did his residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Toronto under the mentorship of Tyrone David. In 2008, Dr. Desai joined Penn Medicine for a fellowship in advanced aortic surgery under the guidance of Joe Bavaria. In 2009, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, where he focused on complex aortic diseases. He quickly emerged as a leader in the field and assumed the role of Co-Director of the Penn Aorta Center, a translational center of excellence focused on clinical care, research, and education.

Collaborating closely with Joe Bavaria, Dr. Desai co-led the strategic expansion of the Aorta Center while delivering high-



quality outcomes. Dr. Desai is renowned for his exceptional surgical skills and has cultivated an extensive referral network, both locally and in the broader region. He boldly tackles the most challenging cases and achieves successful outcomes. Furthermore, Dr. Desai is a dedicated academic surgeon contributing significantly to the field, particularly in the realm of open and endovascular advancements for treating complex aortic diseases. He is not only a proficient open-heart surgeon but also a pioneering endovascular surgeon, leading innovations in the development of novel endovascular stenting branch grafts for the ascending aorta and arch.

Dr. Desai's academic achievements are underscored by his impressive portfolio of over 300 peer-reviewed publications. His leadership in clinical trials and his appointment as the Principal Investigator for the NHLBI-sponsored Cardiac Surgical Network reaffirm his commitment to pushing the boundaries of aortic surgery and enhancing patient care.

Under Dr. Desai's leadership, we can anticipate remarkable developments at the Penn Aorta Center. His visionary approach will undoubtedly propel the center to even greater heights. Please join me in extending congratulations to Dr. Desai on this well-deserved appointment.

Michael Acker

## Kara Lehman Manager of Surgery Education

Kara Lehman will assume the position of Manager of the Division of Surgery Education. She will be responsible for oversight and management of education programs for medical students, residents and fellows as well as for continuing medical education and non-surgical educational staff. Graduate medical education includes 20 training programs, 17 Program Directors and 171 trainees. Kara will collaborate closely with the Perelman School of Medicine, the Graduate Medical Education Office and external regulatory bodies such as the Accreditation Council for



Graduate Medical Education and a wide range of certifying specialty Boards.

Kara is a 2017 graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Psychology and Social Sciences. After working at Wellspring Clubhouse, St. Lukes as Administrative Coordinator and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Employment Supervisor, Kara came to Penn Surgery in 2022 as the Program Coordinator for General Surgery until just over a year later she was recruited to the University of Colorado as the Program Coordinator for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for both the Integrated and Independent Residency Programs.

We are thrilled to bring Kara back to Penn Surgery.

# Ben Braslow Elected to the Academy of Master Clinicians



Congratulations to Benjamin Braslow for being appointed to the Penn Academy of Master Clinicians. Membership in this academy is intended to identify faculty members who exemplify Penn's highest standards of clinical excellence, humanism and professionalism. They are expected to serve as role models and ambassadors in these fields for young faculty, residents and students.

Those elected from surgery are Giorgos Karakousis, Peter Abt, Joshua Bleier, Michael Nance, Najia Mahmoud, Pat Reilly, Ronald Fairman, Tom Guzzo, Dahlia Sataloff, Stephen Kovach, Dan Dempsey, Wilson Szeto and Ben Chan.



## Noel Williams Honorary Fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Professor Noel Williams has been awarded a Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), recognizing outstanding achievement in surgery and other areas.

Professor Williams is the Rhoads-Harrington Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania where he has served as the Medical Director of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery for Penn Medicine for over 20 years, leading one of the largest academic programs in the US.

Following in his father's and two uncles' footsteps, Professor Williams graduated from RCSI in 1981. After internship at the Richmond Hospital and pre-fellowship surgical training in Dublin, he moved to the University of Pennsylvania and the Wistar Institute as a Harrison Department Research Fellow.

He then completed registrar, senior registrar, and lecturer posts in Ireland before returning to the HUP in 1994 as Chief Resident. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1997. He rapidly rose through the ranks to Professor of Surgery in the GI Division and was named the Rhoads-Harrington Professor of Surgery in 2017.



**Laura Viani, President RCSI and Noel Williams**

At Penn, Professor Williams specializes in minimally invasive surgery, and to date has performed more than 6,500 bariatric procedures. In addition, he serves as the director of robotic surgery, surgical simulation and the Comprehensive American College of Surgeons Accredited Education Institute. As Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency program he has successfully placed more than 125 international graduates into surgical internships throughout the US, many

of whom are graduates of Irish medical schools, including RCSI.

In congratulating Noel Williams, Professor Laura Viani, President of RCSI, said "We are proud to award Honorary Fellowship to Professor Noel Williams. Across his career, he has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, to progress, and to nurturing the next generation of surgeons."

"His many patients have benefitted from his expertise, but so too have countless medical students and trainee surgeons who have gone on to practice in health systems across the world. Professor Williams is a most worthy recipient of this Honorary Fellowship."



# Wilson Szeto Appointed Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery

Dr. Szeto attended the University of Virginia and subsequently received his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia, where he was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha. In 1996, he started his General Surgery residency at Penn, during which he won a Penn Pearl and the Leonard Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award. He remained here for Cardiothoracic Surgery residency and an Endovascular/Aortic Surgery fellowship. Then, Dr. Szeto joined our faculty in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery in 2006 as an Assistant Professor and rose to the rank of Professor in 2016. Since 2015, he has been the Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. He was appointed Vice Chief of Clinical Operations and Quality in the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery in 2017. He became the Julian Johnson II Endowed Professor in Surgery in 2022.



endovascular aortic stent graft technology. His clinical trial research continues with ongoing studies in catheter-based therapies for mitral and tricuspid disease, as well as serving as the National Principal Investigator in the PERSERVERE trial for the hybrid surgical treatment of acute DeBakey type I aortic dissection. In the area of endovascular treatment of aortic arch pathology, Dr. Szeto is the National Principal Investigator on an Early Feasibility Study with the Relay Dual Branch aortic arch endograft. His commitment to research has resulted in over 300 peer reviewed publications. He has given over 50 invited lectures in the last 5 years. Nationally, Dr. Szeto is extensively involved with professional societies in the field of cardiovascular disease. Currently, he is the Secretary of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). He is also a member of the American Surgical Association. He has served as the Deputy Editor of the Annals of Thoracic Surgery. Notably, he received the STS-TSRA Socrates Award for Thoracic Surgery Residency Education.

Dr. Szeto is an international leader in cardiovascular surgery, with a focus on the surgical treatment of thoracic aortic disease and valvular heart disease. His research includes the development of innovative catheter-based and endovascular therapies in these areas. He has been a National Principal Investigator, site Principal Investigator, and Co-PI on multiple transformative clinical trials, including the PARTNER trials on transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), as well as other trials in

The search committee led by Sunil Singhal did a superlative job and conducted the search expeditiously. As before, we are of course grateful to Dr. Acker for leading the Division since 2003 and making it one of the best in the nation.

Overall, Dr. Szeto is an outstanding surgeon, leader, clinical trial researcher, and educator.

Ronald DeMatteo

## Rachel R. Kelz, 2023 Recipient, FOCUS Award for the Advancement of Women in Medicine

The FOCUS Award for the Advancement of Women in Medicine recognizes a faculty member at PSOM whose outstanding efforts and achievements have promoted the career success, leadership and overall quality of life for Penn women in academic medicine.

Congratulations to Rachel R. Kelz, MD, MSCE, MBA, FACS, William Maul Measey Professor of Surgery for her demonstrated track record of advancing women and gender equity in academic medicine.

Dr. Kelz is an extraordinary mentor, educator and role model who has done more for the advancement of women in surgery at the University of Pennsylvania than any other single individual. A graduate of the Yale School of Medicine, Dr. Kelz completed her general surgery training here at Penn. She joined the surgery faculty at a time when fewer than 10% of faculty members were female. A talented educator, she quickly took



on multiple leadership roles, serving as first the Medical Student Clerkship Director, and then the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education for the Department of Surgery. Her extraordinary mentoring and sponsorship of surgical trainees was formalized when she took on the role of Associate Program

Director for General Surgery in 2013, a role she filled with passion and dedication until ascending to the newly created role of Executive Vice Chair this past year. Beyond her formal roles as an educator and mentor, Dr. Kelz has worked tirelessly to support the advancement of women in surgery. A founding member of the Penn Women in Surgery Group, she has both promoted and supported female faculty, surgical trainees and undergraduate medical trainees. By sponsoring mentees at both the local and national level, she has helped advance careers in research and in professional societies.

# Lori Pray Appointed COO of PM&R

Lori Pray has left the Surgery Department to join Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) as their Chief Operating Officer. Lori has been a fixture in the Department of Surgery for over 22 years. In 2001 Lori was the Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer. She then became the Director of Surgery Education where she assisted with the implementation of the inpatient APP model when the work hour rules changed. In 2012 when Lori became the Practice Administrator at Penn Presbyterian offices, she was responsible for moving surgery clinics to Presbyterian. In 2016 Lori became the Director of Division Administration for Colon and Rectal Surgery, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, and Gastrointestinal Surgery. In the past two years Lori has had the responsibility for the establishment of the new division of Breast Surgery.

Lori received her B.A. in Communications from Rutgers University and her M.B.A from Temple University.



During her time at Penn, she received the Department of Surgery Council of Chiefs Service Excellence Award (2003) and the Patient Advocacy Award by Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (2013). She has also been a member of the Association of Academic Surgical Administrators since 2018 and a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives since 2021.

## Meredith Breen to Undertake Lori's Role

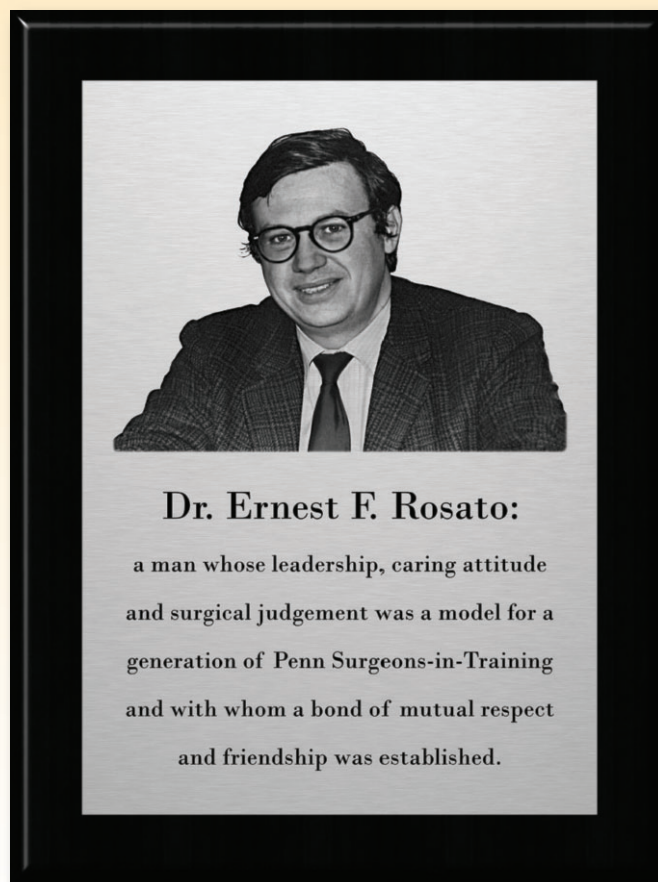
Meredith Breen will succeed Lori as Director of Division Administration for Colon and Rectal Surgery, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery and GI Surgery.

Meredith has a long history with Penn Medicine beginning her career as a Medical Records Scanner in 2007 and working her way up to her most recent position as the Director of Operations for the Neurosurgery Department. She is a life-long Philadelphian who initially graduated from Drexel and then obtained a Masters in Health Administration from St. Joseph's University.



# Plaque Honoring Dr. Ernest F. Rosato

A plaque honoring Ernest F. Rosato was hung at the entrance to the Rosato Surgical Resident Lounge.

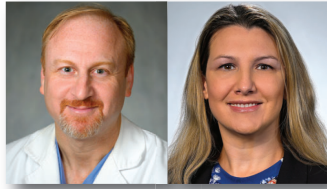




# Alumni News

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

- ◆ **Josh Bleier, MD** and **Maria Altieri, MD, MS** were selected for the Longitudinal Experience to Appreciate Patient Perspectives (LEAPP) program of Penn Medicine Academy.



- ◆ Congratulations to **Feredun Azari, MD** and **Richard Straker, MD** for being honored with the 2024 Penn Pearls Teaching Award honoring outstanding clinical educators, nominated by medical students.



- ◆ **Michael Ibrahim, MD, PhD** was selected by the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Foundation to receive a year of funding as a Gardner AATS Foundation Surgical Investigator.



- ◆ Congratulations to **Kristen Chreiman, MSN, RN, CCRN, TCRN**, Trauma Program Manager, being elected Secretary for the Society of Trauma Nurses for 2024-2025.



- ◆ **Lola Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS** was selected as Secretary for the Surgical Outcomes Club. The Surgical Outcomes Club is a consortium of surgeons and scientists interested in advancing health services and outcomes research in surgery.



- ◆ **Omaida Velazquez, MD** was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) for pioneering research that identified E-selectin as a membrane-bound adhesion molecule that induces pro-angiogenesis and healing. Previously only soluble factors had been considered therapeutic candidates. Her groundbreaking work ushered a paradigm-shifting platform to reverse tissue damage caused by arterial occlusion or diabetes.



- ◆ **Maria Altieri, MD** was selected by the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract as the recipient of the 2024 Karen and Josef E. Fischer International Traveling Fellowship Award for Surgeons in Academic Practice.



- ◆ **Paige Porrett, MD, PhD** Associate Professor and Vera Hauptfeld-Dolejssek Endowed Professor in Transplant Immunology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham was appointed president-elect of the International Society of Uterus Transplantation (ISUTx). Porrett will serve in the role for two years, before assuming the role of president. In 2023 Dr. Porrett was instrumental in bringing the ISUTx 4th International Congress to Birmingham.



- ◆ **Scott Damrauer, MD** and **William H. Peranteau, MD** were elected to the 2024 American Society for Clinical Investigation joining one of the nation's oldest and most respected medical honor societies. These physician-scientists are among 100 active members across 50 institutions representing all medical specialties.



- ◆ **Emily Partridge, MD, PhD, MHS** and **Daniel Hashimoto, MD, MTR** won the prestigious American Surgical Association Fellowship Research Award that supports and encourages gifted young surgeons who choose careers in investigation and academic surgery.



- ◆ **C. William Schwab, MD** has been selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Lifetime Military Contribution Award from the American College of Surgeons. The award recognizes distinguished contributions to the advancement of military surgical care.





## Alumni News *(continued from page 8)*

### New Surgery Faculty

◆ **Mauer Biscotti III, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. MD - Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; General Surgery, Residency, Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital, New York; Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Cardiopulmonary Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support Fellowship, Columbia University, New York.



◆ **Cassandra A. Ligh, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery at CHOP, Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Oral Surgery. MD - Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina; Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.



◆ **James F. Markmann, MD, PhD** was appointed Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery. MD - University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia; PhD, Immunology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia; General Surgery Residency, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Transplantation Surgery Fellowship, Dumont - UCLA Transplant Center, Los Angeles, California.



◆ **Christine McCarty, MD** appointed Penn Medicine Clinician, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at Chester County Hospital. MD - Medical College of Pennsylvania (Drexel University College of Medicine); General Surgery Residency, Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



**Latesha Colbert-Mack and Ken Lee**

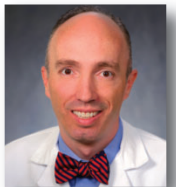
**Latesha Colbert-Mack, DNP, ACNP-BC** is the inaugural winner of the Penn Surgery 2023 Patti Abbott APP Award which is awarded to the Surgical Advanced Practice Provider whose clinical teaching and mentorship has been most instrumental in enriching the learning environment and development of the general surgery residents. The award is named after **Patti Abbott, MHS, PA-C**, who held numerous APP positions in her long tenure with the Department before her retirement. She helped countless students, residents, fellows, APPs, nurses and new attendings learn the nuances of CT Surgery. In addition to teaching important clinical lessons, Patti took time to get to know each member of the team and genuinely cared about their training and wellbeing. Patti's leadership, knowledge and professionalism left a lasting impact on all those lucky enough to have worked with her.



◆ **Giorgos Karakousis, MD** was elected to Fellowship at the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the oldest continuously meeting surgical society in the United States.



◆ **Jeremy Cannon, MD** was awarded *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* Reviewer of the Year for 2023! Dr. Cannon's dedication, expertise, and invaluable contributions have significantly enhanced the quality and impact of our journal.



### Departed Faculty

◆ **Jay L. Bloch, MD** Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology in Surgery has retired after 8 years in the Division of Urology.



# Catching-up with . . . Paul Foley

Contributed by Jon Morris

Paul Foley is a 1998 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Villanova University (Bachelor of Science) with Phi Beta Kappa. During medical school at Penn he spent a year (2001-2002) as a Research Assistant in the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. Paul graduated from Penn Med in 2002 and took his initial General Surgical training at Columbia University and we were fortunate to recruit him back to Penn in 2004. During his general surgery residency at Penn, Paul spent three years in the laboratory with Jeffrey Drebin (2005-2008), Chaired the Surgical Resident Executive Council (2006-2007), and received the Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award (2005). Dr. Foley remained at Penn



Paul in 2010

for Vascular Surgical Fellowship (2010-2012) and subsequently accepted an appointment in the Division of Vascular Surgery at Medstar-Washington Hospital Center only to again be recruited back to Penn in 2014 as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. During this time at Penn, Paul was the Site Director for the Vascular medical student rotation and in 2020 was inducted into the Penn Med Chapter of AOA as a Faculty Member. This same year, he was recruited to Doylestown Hospital where he currently is practicing Vascular Surgery and serves as Co-Director of the Non-Invasive Vascular Lab and the Site Educator for the Penn Cardiothoracic Integrated Residency.

## A Conversation with Paul

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

**Paul:** *I have great memories of my training at Penn. Being surrounded by high caliber surgeons, anesthesiologists and medical specialists created a training environment that is second to none. I miss working at Penn almost every day.*

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

**Paul:** *Jon Morris for providing autonomy in the OR as a junior resident and guiding me through the unique challenges of the REC chair position.*

*Ernest Rosato for creating an operative experience as a chief resident that helped me develop into a confident surgeon.*

*Ron Fairman for being a consistent example of professionalism and a caring physician.*

*Joe Bavaria for his skill and thoughtful approach to complex aortic cases. 'Vision, strategy, tactics and execution in that order or you have CHAOS!'*

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

**Paul:** *JJ Karmacharya was someone I looked up to as a junior resident. He had great technical skill, enthusiasm and leadership ability. He also had a great sense of humor and was unflappable in the OR. I still pass on his trick for sewing in a JP drain to surgical residents.*

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

**Paul:** *Will Hiesinger - we worked on the emergency surgery service together in its infancy. Will was tireless, smart and always maintained his sense of humor.*

*John Frederick - calm under pressure, smart, hardworking and an all-around nice person.*

*Salman Zabeer - I met him when he was a medical student trying to find his way into the system. He was outstanding as a student and even better as a resident.*

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

**Paul:** *I'm just happy that I've been able to find a job that gives me a nice balance between clinical surgery, teaching and spending time with my family.*

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

**Paul:** *I miss the feel of the city and the energy of working in the university environment. I also really miss the food. My wife and I loved being able to eat at so many different restaurants in the city whenever we wanted.*



## Catching-up with . . . (continued from page 10)

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

**Paul:** *I stay in touch with Ben Jackson and Will Hiesinger. It's always nice to read this section of the newsletter and see what people are up to. I'm really impressed by how successful the Penn surgery community is.*

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

**Paul:** *I'm currently employed by Doylestown Hospital, a community hospital about an hour north of Philadelphia. My practice is head-to-toe vascular surgery with a nice mix of both endovascular and open cases. I am also very happy that I've been able to stay actively involved in medical education with both medical students and surgery residents. It's not something I expected when I took this job but it's very rewarding. Teaching the students and residents has been the best part of my job.*

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

**Paul:** *My wife and I love to travel and we try to do as much as possible throughout the year. I make a lot of pizza at home and have become a bonsai enthusiast.*

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

**Paul:** *My wife Dana is a nurse practitioner and yoga instructor. This past fall she ran an incredibly successful campaign for school board director in the Central Bucks School District of Bucks County and was elected in November. My daughter Olive is 16 and enjoys music and drawing. My son Jack is 12 and is a diehard Philadelphia sports fan. My stepdaughter Isabella is also 12 and loves everything to do with Taylor Swift. I'm so proud of all of them.*

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

**Paul:** *Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari. The book is a fascinating examination of our species and how we arrived where we are today. At the same time it's troubling to read about where we might be headed.*



**Foley Family: Dana, Isabella, Olive, Jack and Paul**

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

**Paul:** *I feel very fortunate to have been able to train at Penn and learn from the best. After leaving, I fully recognize how special a place it is.*

### Erratum

Faculty that have been presidents of national societies

Bruce Malkowicz

The Society of Pelvic Surgeons



# Penn Surgery

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**PENN SURGERY SOCIETY**

**WINTER 2024**

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