



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@pennterms.upenn.edu.

Message from the Chair



Chitchat

Given that ChatGPT has become the latest rave, I decided to have a (one-sided) conversation with it. I started with some basics:

- **How old are you?** *As an AI language model, I don't have a physical form or a concept of age like humans do.*
- **Where do you live?** *I am a digital program running on computer servers.*
- **How many languages do you speak?** *I'm generally most effective in English.*
- **Would you win on Jeopardy?** *I can certainly provide answers to a wide variety of questions.*

I then gravitated to the important questions. Of course, the topic was Penn Surgery.

- **Which is the oldest department of surgery in the U.S.?** *Massachusetts General Hospital founded in 1821. Well, that was disappointing. Strike one.*
- **Which is the first hospital in the United States?** *Pennsylvania Hospital.*
- **Who invented TPN?** *Stan Dudrick.*
- **What is the Agnew Clinic?** *A famous painting depicting...*

- **Which is the best department of surgery in the U.S.?** *Mayo Clinic. Strike two.*
- **Who is the best surgeon at Penn Medicine?** *Luckily, it had no answer.*
- **Who are the busiest aortic and endocrine surgeons in the country?** *Whew, no answer again.*
- **How do you perform a Whipple?** *There was a lengthy superficial outline of the technical steps, which included the statement that only sometimes a pancreaticojejunostomy is performed. Strike three.*

Lastly, Philly.

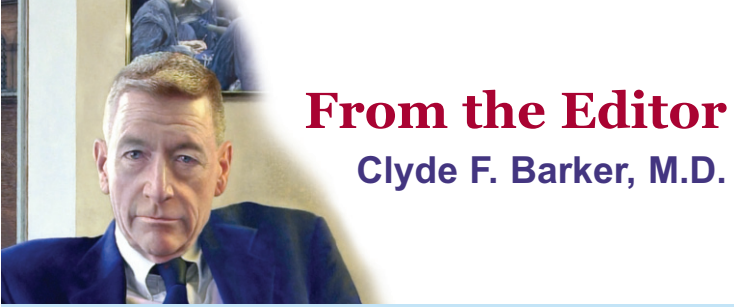
- **Who will be the next mayor?** *As an AI, I do not have access to real-time information or the ability to predict future events. My knowledge is based on information available up to September 2021.*
- **Will the Sixers win the series (asked on 5/11/23)?** *Similar answer. I don't have the ability to predict the outcome of future events like sports playoffs.*
- **Pat's or Geno's?** *It is subjective and can vary depending on personal preferences.*

Overall, the answers were bland and surprisingly verbose. In fact, most answers were needlessly several paragraphs long, and often contained disclaimers. The answers listed above were highly edited, and some were wrong.

While Chat (1.0) is imperfect, I've a feeling that we're not in the 21st century anymore. Like the Scarecrow, Chat does not have a brain, yet it can think faster than a brain. Analogous to the Tinman needing oil to move, Chat depends entirely on data input, making it subject to the biases of its programmers. Of course, a Wicked Witch (or a lazy high school student) could use Chat in nefarious ways. Perhaps the biggest problem is that like the Lion, Chat lacks a heart, so its reasoning is devoid of emotion. Thus, it can never truly be human. For now, however, we should play along with the mystique of Chat, lest we expose the Wizard behind the curtain. My Chat experience? "It wasn't a dream," like Dorothy exclaimed. Luckily, though, there's no place like Penn, there's no place like Penn...

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From the Editor

Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

After a favorable review Dr. DeMatteo has been appointed to a second 6 year term as Chairman of the Department of Surgery. The reappointment follows a review process that included an extensive self-study, followed by an internal committee review, and a site visit by three of Surgery's national leaders.

The review affirmed the reputation of the Department of Surgery as one of the very best. Building upon its long tradition of excellence in patient care, research, and education, the department has continued to evolve and expand under Dr. DeMatteo's leadership. The department's outstanding faculty has grown in size and expertise across all missions.

Strong nationally recognized programs distinguish all areas of the department's academic and clinical missions. The review highlighted the department's exceptional delivery of clinical care, citing prompt and efficient surgical services and strengths in the effective use of telemedicine. At the same time, the department maintains a robust educational system, training some of the most talented medical students, residents, and fellows in the country.

Numerous clinical, research, and educational initiatives launched during Dr. DeMatteo's first term have positioned the department for future growth and expanded impact.

Dr. DeMatteo's academic accomplishments compare favorably with those of the department's greatest chairmen such as Ravdin and Rhoads. He has achieved this while faced with challenges not encountered by other leaders. During a worldwide viral epidemic and a virtual quarantine, he maintained and advanced the Department's first-class performance in clinical activity, education and research.

During his first six years as chairman, he dealt with circumstances that have changed the world, the school and social priorities. To succeed, he has needed to make changes in the Department greater than those necessary for any earlier department chair.

He has participated in planning the new, 504-bed university hospital, replacing the 139-year-old home of HUP, the nation's first teaching hospital. He has been responsible for the surgical staffing of the new hospital, three newly-acquired hospitals and many new outpatient facilities, some situated in their own large buildings. These additions necessitated a striking increase in the size of the faculty. To accomplish this, he has recruited more than **2** forty-four junior and mid-level faculty, many of them minori-

ties and half of them women. He has also needed to manage turnover of the Department's senior leaders, including Drs. Mullen, Fairman, Dempsey, Wein and Raper.

Dr. DeMatteo's additional changes include establishing new administrative and leadership positions while paying careful attention to the importance of youth, diversity and fairness in this process. Examples include:

- Establishment of the new position of Executive Vice Chair of the department with Rachel Kelz as the inaugural chair.
- Establishment of the new position of Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion with Niels Martin as the inaugural chair.
- Formation of a division of breast surgery with as chief Oluwadamilola Fayanju, the first Black surgeon to lead one of the department's divisions.
- Appointment of Cary Aarons and then Ken Lee as successors of Jon Morris after his fourteen years as Director of the General Surgery residency program.
- Appointment of Sunil Singhal as Vice Chief for Translational Research.
- Identifying division chiefs through national searches, previously uncommon for the Department.
 - a. Recruiting Darren Schneider from Cornell to succeed Ron Fairman, who retired after nineteen years as Chief of the Vascular Division.
 - b. Appointing Charles Vollmer to succeed Dan Dempsey, who retired after ten years as Chief of GI Surgery.
 - c. Establishment of a search for a successor to Pat Reilly after his twelve years as Chief of the Trauma Division.
 - d. Once a national search identifies his successor, Douglas Fraker will step down after twenty-seven years as Chief of the Surgical Oncology Division.
 - e. Initiating a search for Abraham Shaked's successor as Director of the Transplant Institute.
 - f. Establishment of a search for a successor to Dahlia Sataloff after her ten years as Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital.
- Increased transparency by including all division chiefs in the Department's executive committee.
- Increasing diversity in the residencies and the faculty.
- Growth of the Department's endowment by 50%.
- Appointments to eleven new endowed professorships.
- Advancing Penn to #4 nationally in NIH funding.

The valuable feedback provided during the review will help Dr. DeMatteo as he continues to enhance the Department of Surgery's record of excellence in all missions.

Annual Jonathan E. Rhoads Gold Medal Prize

Since 1996 an annual award has been given in Dr. Rhoads name for “Distinguished Service to Medicine”. The award is sponsored by the American Philosophical Society (APS), the Philadelphia College of Physicians and our Department of Surgery. It has gone to a U.S. Senator, Nobel, Pulitzer and Lasker Prize winners. This year’s prize was awarded at the home of the APS to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman.



Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó

Katalin Karikó grew up in Kisújszállás, Hungary, in a small house that had no running water, refrigerator or TV. She got her PhD at Szeged University. In 1985, with her husband and 2-year-old daughter, she immigrated to the U.S. by selling their car and hiding the money in a teddy bear. After a post doc at Temple in 1989, she joined Penn’s neurosurgery faculty while it was a division of our department. I had nothing to do with her appointment or research but at their Rhoads Prize ceremony, she told me that she remembered me as her “first boss”.

At Penn in 1990, she got her first grant, proposing to establish mRNA-based gene therapy. In 1997, grant rejections temporarily stalled her academic progress but she met and began to work with Dr. Weissman. Her persistence focused on chemical modifications of mRNA to render it non-immunogenic. This led to the groundbreaking work that resulted in the COVID-19 vaccines. More than 100 prestigious prizes have come to Dr. Karikó including the Lasker award.

Currently Dr. Karikó is senior vice president at BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals. Her 2 time Olympic champion daughter got her start in rowing at Abington High School.



Ron DeMatteo, Ron Fairman, Annie Westcott, Drew Weissman and Katalin Karikó

Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, is a physician and researcher at Penn, best known for his contributions to RNA biology and the COVID-19 vaccines. He and his collaborator Katalin Karikó, invented the modified mRNA technology used in Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna’s vaccines to prevent COVID-19.

He received his BA and MA from Brandeis University, and his MD and PhD degrees at Boston University. Afterward, Dr. Weissman did a residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, followed by a fellowship at NIH, under the supervision of Anthony Fauci.

The Weissman team is currently at work on a pan-coronavirus vaccine to stop the next coronavirus epidemic, a universal flu vaccine, and a vaccine to prevent herpes. They are also working to develop cancer therapy with mRNA technology.



Dr. DeMatteo moderating a discussion with the prize winners.

Giorgos Karakousis Elected to the Academy of Master Clinicians

The Selection Committee chose 11 outstanding individuals from numerous departments and entities across Penn Medicine. It was initiated a decade ago in 2013. So far there are 99 members. Those from surgery are Peter Abt, Joshua Bleier, Michael Nance, Najia Mahmoud, Pat Reilly, Ronald Fairman, Tom Guzzo, Dahlia Sataloff, Stephen Kovach, Dan Dempsey, Wilson Szeto, Ben Chang and this year, Giorgos Karakousis. 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.



Giorgos Karakousis and Ron DeMatteo

Transplant Institute Leadership Transition

Abraham Shaked, MD, PhD, will be stepping down as Director of the Penn Transplant Institute (PTI) and transitioning into a role focused on continuing his contributions to cutting-edge research and clinical care. His transition will be effective June 30, 2023.



The PTI’s tremendous success is a direct result of the dedication, skill, leadership, and compassion of Dr. Shaked, who has served as the Director of the PTI since 2005, and was the longtime Chief of Transplantation Surgery during a time of exciting growth and advancement for the program. Today, the PTI provides lifesaving and life-changing care through more than 530 transplants each year. The Institute’s enviable record of patient care and research “firsts” achieved during Dr. Shaked’s tenure has made his team a national leader and model.

His leadership has greatly expanded transplantation at Penn Medicine and created fruitful partnerships with collaborators including Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Gift of Life. Since his arrival at Penn Medicine in 1995, Dr. Shaked

has revolutionized liver transplantation within the health system, including performing the region’s first adult-to-child living donor and adult-to-adult living donor liver transplants. A leader of his peers across the nation, he has also served as President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

With Dr. Shaked’s guidance, the exceptionally talented transplant team has set new standards for what is possible in the field and given thousands of patients a second chance at life. He has propelled ground-breaking, NIH-funded research, including a recent study in *Nature Medicine* which helps continue our pursuit of the best post-transplant outcomes by identifying those at high risk of developing diabetes after receiving a new liver, which may lead to new treatment strategies.

A national search has been launched for a new leader to carry on Dr. Shaked’s impressive legacy and help define the future of the field.

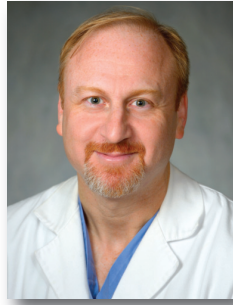
We look forward to Dr. Shaked’s ongoing contributions in this next chapter of his career at Penn Medicine. Please join us in thanking him for his impactful leadership.

Joshua Bleier Appointed Chair at PAH

Dr. DeMatteo has announced that Joshua Bleier MD will be the next Chair of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital (PAH), effective July 1, 2023. He succeeds Dr. Dahlia Sataloff who has been an outstanding leader at PAH for the past 10 years.

Dr. Bleier received both his BA and MD/AOA at Penn. He trained in General Surgery at Cornell and completed a Colorectal Fellowship at the University of Minnesota. He was appointed to the Penn Surgery faculty in 2008 and was promoted to Professor in 2019.

Since 2018 Dr. Bleier has been the Vice Chair of Surgery at PAH. He was also the President of the Medical Staff (2021-2023).



In 2022, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Program Directors in Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Bleier is an Associate Editor of Diseases of the Colon & Rectum and the Section Editor for Social Media and Community Engagement.

Dr. Bleier was inducted into the Penn Academy of Master Clinicians in 2020 and has been recognized as a Philadelphia Magazine's Top Doctor for the last 10 years. He has been the Program Director of Penn's Colorectal Fellowship since 2014.

Cary Aarons Appointed Leadership Role at Columbia

Cary B. Aarons, MD will be leaving Penn Medicine at the end of this academic year to take on leadership positions at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Aarons will become their next Director of the General Surgery Residency and the Vice Chair of Education.



Dr. Aarons was recruited to Penn in 2011 from Drexel University after completing his fellowship training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. In addition to his busy colorectal surgical practice, Dr. Aarons has contributed meaningfully to the missions of the Department of Surgery. As the director of our remarkable General Surgery training program, he championed an innovative holistic recruitment methodology that has greatly enhanced the diversity of our trainees while further promoting our culture of excellence at

Penn Surgery. Dr. Aarons is also recognized nationally as a leader in surgical education, serving on many national committees that thoughtfully advance the training and learning environment of medical students and residents.

Dr. Aarons has also contributed meaningfully to the Perelman School of Medicine, serving as co-chair of the Committees on Admissions, an Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Director for UIM Affairs, and as a member of the Executive Committee on Admissions. He obtained a Masters in Medical Education as a faculty member and has developed a significant record of scholarship in surgical education—collaborating with many of our faculty and residents as well as educators throughout the country. He has been appropriately recognized with many teaching and mentorship awards during his career at Penn.

Alumni News

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery
email your news to Clyde Barker
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- ◆ Congratulations to **Sara Ginzberg** for winning the 7th Annual Tzarnas Resident Paper Competition at the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery for her presentation "Impact of Adverse Patient Events on Surgeons and Trainees, and Opportunities for Enhancing Recovery". **John Riley** received second place for his presentation "Late-gestation Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Cures Sickle Cell Disease in Mice".



- ◆ **Jash Datta** (HUP Chief Resident 2017), is Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Miami and Associate Director of Translational Research at the Sylvester Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute. He was awarded a Career Development Award from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network for his research in investigating how myeloid-derived suppressor cells govern stromal inflammation and T-cell dysfunction in pancreatic cancer.



Alumni News (continued from page 5)

◆ **Scott Damrauer, MD** received an R01 for the Impact of PCSK9 inhibition on abdominal aortic aneurysm pathobiology and growth.



◆ Barbara Seneca Dempsey/William Maul Measey Chair in Gastrointestinal Surgery was established.



◆ **Elinore Kaufman, MD, MSHP** received grants from Pennsylvania Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant and from Fund for a Safer Future.



◆ **Victoria Gershuni, MD, MTR, MSGM,** received a pilot grant from ITMAT and was awarded CTSA KL2 Mentored Career Development Award.



◆ **Dan Hashimoto, MD, MTR** and **Rachel Kelz, MD** were appointed to a ASA/ACS/ABS Blue Ribbon Panel on Optimizing Surgical Education and Training.



◆ 500K was contributed by Jeff and Anne Nielsen to the Pavilion's Heart and Vascular Simulation Center in honor of **Mike Acker, MD.**



◆ **Tom Guzzo, MD, MPH** secured a 100K contribution from Mike Mann to help split the Wein Professorship. Urology received a Blue Cross Clinical Care Innovation Grant.



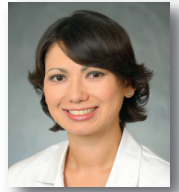
◆ **John Fischer, MD, MPH** was appointed Associate Editor of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.



◆ **Kim Olthoff, MD** is the recipient of the 2023 ASTS Pioneer Award.



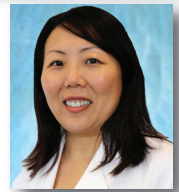
◆ **Heather Wachtel, MD** won a Society of Surgical Oncology Clinical Investigator Award.



◆ **Lindsay Kuo, MD, MBA** received the Temple Women in Medicine and Science Mentorship Award, pictured here with Temple Dean Amy J. Goldberg, MD.



◆ **Jin Hee Ra, MD** has been promoted to Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina.



New Faculty

◆ **Elizabeth Genovese, MD** was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy. MD - University of Pittsburgh, Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

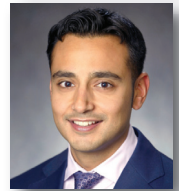


Departed Faculty

◆ **Jenny Shao, MD** was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Director of the Comprehensive Abdominal Wall Program at the University of Michigan.



◆ **Puneet Masson, MD** left to develop and lead a male reproductive team in San Francisco, California.



◆ **Robert Redfield, MD** has been appointed Division Chief of Transplant at UC Irvine.



Wall of Fame

Contributed by Daniel Dempsey

HUP CHIEF SURGICAL RESIDENTS 2018

In June 2018, six exceptional chief residents (Gaffey, Hoffman, Hornick, Keating, Lowenfeld, Spragan) completed general surgery training at HUP. They are the first group to finish training with Dr. DeMatteo who started as chairman and John Rhea Barton Professor in July 2017, and the last group to finish with program director Dr. Morris who stepped down from that role in July 2018. Thus they are most likely the only group of HUP chief residents to have their certificates signed by both a new chairman and an outgoing PD. While these chief residents were busy operating and taking care of patients in academic year 2018: Federer and Muguruza won the men's and women's title at Wimbledon (7/16/17); hurricane Harvey hit Texas (8/25/17); the New York Times did an expose on Harvey Weinstein (10/5/17); Ronaldo beat out Messi and Neymar to win FIFA's Best Men's Player award (10/23/17); the Astros beat the Dodgers in game seven of the World Series (11/1/17); Matt Lauer was fired from NBC (11/27/17); Jerusalem was recognized by the US as the capital of Israel (12/6/17); the Cleveland Browns finished the season with a "perfect" 0-16 record (12/31/17); the Eagles beat the Patriots to win Super Bowl 52 (2/4/18); The Shape of Water won best picture at the Academy Awards (3/4/18); Notre Dame beat Mississippi State to win the women's NCAA basketball tournament (4/1/18) and Villanova trounced Michigan to win the men's title (4/2/18); Fats Domino (10/24/17) and Tom Wolfe (5/18/18) and Philip Roth (5/22/18) died; the Washington Capitals won their first Stanley Cup (6/7/18); and the Warriors repeated as NBA champions, sweeping 4 straight games from the Cavaliers in the finals (6/8/18). Now let's learn a bit more about these six excellent newly established surgeons.

Ann Catherine Gaffey graduated from Wellesley college in 2006 with a double major in religion and chemistry. In 2011 she graduated from Georgetown Medical School where that year she won both the James A. Cahill Award for the Outstanding Surgical Student and the Georgetown Clinical Society Award. Ann matched at HUP for general surgery and came here directly following graduation from Georgetown. She had a distinguished seven years as a Penn



surgical resident, with consistently outstanding service evaluations. She spent two years in the lab with Dr. Pavan Atluri investigating mechanisms of myocardial regeneration and vasculogenesis, and obtaining a masters in translational research. Between 2014 and 2017 she received multiple research awards from national societies, and through 2018 she had coauthored 26 peer reviewed publications, on 13 of which Ann was first author. Not surprisingly her letters of recommendation for vascular fellowship by Drs. Atluri, Jackson, and Fairman were unusually strong. Happily, Ann remained at Penn for her vascular fellowship. She is currently an assistant professor of surgery in the division of vascular and endovascular surgery at UC San Diego.

Rebecca Lynn Hoffman got her B.S at Haverford College, with a double major in chemistry and biochemistry. At Haverford she was a 4-year starter on the woman's varsity soccer team, serving as co-captain her junior and senior years. She received the award for top scholar athlete at Haverford her freshman and senior years, and the organic chemistry prize her sophomore year. With these outstanding credentials, Becky came to medical school at Penn where she continued her superb record of academics and service. Her letters of recommendation for surgical residency from Drs. Morris, Kucharzuk, and Drebin were all outstanding as was her Dean's letter. She matched at HUP for general surgery and upon graduation from PSOM in 2010 she began her internship at Penn. Throughout her residency training Becky's performance was consistently at the highest level ("outstanding organizational skills and emotional intelligence"; "superb bedside manner and compassion"; "outstanding technique"). During her research years with Dr. Rachel Kelz, she earned an MSCE and through 2018 Becky had coauthored 28 papers including 11 on which she was first author. She did a fellowship in colorectal surgery at Washington University and is now an assistant professor of surgery in the Geisinger Health System, Danville, PA.



Wall of Fame *(continued from page 7)*

Matthew Alan Hornick was born in Riverdale, NY. He went to college at Berkeley where he graduated in 2006 with high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, as a double major in neurobiology and psychology. He then matriculated at Yale Medical School where he continued to excel. At Yale, Matt served as class co-president multiple years, and did the optional “fifth year” during which he did cardiac research, sat on the admissions committee, did an international surgical mission trip, and ran a marathon. He applied for residency in general surgery and matched at HUP in 2011. His letters of recommendation from Drs. Udelsman, Longo, Moss, and Eleftheriades were uniformly exceptional. As a HUP surgical resident did very well (“great judgment and attitude”; “superb chief resident”; “great leader”). While in the lab, Matt worked with the CHOP pediatric surgery team on the “artificial womb”, an extra-uterine system to support the very premature fetal sheep and had numerous publications in high quality journals such as Nature Communications, Journal of Pediatric Surgery and the Journal of Physiology. Not surprisingly, Matt matched in pediatric surgery at CHOP, and upon completion of the fellowship there he accepted a faculty position back at Yale where he is an assistant professor of surgery in the division of pediatric surgery.



Jane Josephine Keating grew up in Connecticut but went to college at Emory where she got a B.S. with a double major in neuroscience and behavioral biology. She graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa. Jane rowed all four years in college on the women’s varsity crew which she captained her junior and senior years. As a sophomore she was MVP. Jane also worked as an EMT and dog trainer. She stayed at Emory for medical school and graduated near the top of her class. Her letters of recommendation for surgical residency from Drs. Larsen, Dodson, and Kirshbom all recommended her “most highly” and the Dean’s letter gave her the “highest recommendation”. Jane matched at HUP for general surgery in 2011 and her evaluations during the residency are uniformly superb (“outstanding all around”; “vast understanding of surgical disease”; “very very competent”; “excellent technical skills and superb clinical judgement”). Jane did her lab rotation **8** with Dr. Singhal and coauthored 12 peer reviewed publica-



tions, half as first author. Upon completion of general surgery training, Jane stayed at HUP for a fellowship in trauma/critical care/acute care surgery. Currently she is Director of Research for the acute care surgery division at Hartford Hospital, and associate program director of the UConn Critical Care Fellowship.

Lea Lowenfeld was born and raised in New York City. She graduated from Cornell in 2007 with a double major in philosophy and cognitive science. She graduated magna cum laude as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She then matriculated at PSOM where she did very well. During medical school she did trauma research with Dr. Carrie Sims, and from 2007-2010 was a defensive lineman (sic) for the Penn Med Flag Football team. Parenthetically, in high school Lea had been captain of the varsity girls softball team her junior and senior years. Also, Lea participated in several serious volunteer relief efforts as a student (Hurricane Katrina, Rwanda, Haiti). Her letters of recommendation for surgical residency from Drs. Low, Drebin, and Murayama were outstanding. Lea matched at HUP for general surgery and started the residency after medical school graduation in 2011. Her evaluations are enviable (“exceptional technical skills”; “great team player”; “reliably identifies problems and offers solutions”; “terrific sense of humor”; “great determination and commitment”). During her research time in Dr. Brian Czerniecki’s lab, Lea also served as “REC chair”. Through 2018 she had coauthored 10 peer reviewed papers in excellent journals. Upon completion of general surgery training, Lea completed a colorectal fellowship at USC. She is currently on the faculty at Cornell where she is assistant professor of surgery in the division of colorectal surgery.



Danielle Denise Spragan was born and raised in southern California. She went to college at Stanford University where she did very well, graduating with a major in psychology. Danielle then entered medical school at Perelman School of Medicine and distinguished herself as an outstanding candidate for surgical residency. During medical school she served as president of the Agnew Surgical Society, and served four years on the med school admissions committee, and did research work in the Bavaria lab. Not surprisingly Danielle matched for general surgery at HUP and started her **(continued on page 9)**



Wall of Fame *(continued from page 8)*

internship in 2011 after graduation from PSOM. Her performance as a surgical resident was exemplary (“outstanding”; “excellent technical skills”; “excellent attention to detail”; “consistently good clinical judgement”). During her lab years, Danielle returned to cardiac research with Drs. Desai, Szeto, and Bavaria. She co-authored several important papers in major peer reviewed cardiothoracic journals (e.g. Annals of Thoracic Surgery; Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery) while still a resident.

Following completion of the HUP general surgery residency Danielle did a year of critical care fellowship at Penn, working closely with the cardiac anesthesia team in the cardiac ICUs. In June she will finish the cardiac surgery fellowship at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York (rated a top five heart hospital by US News) and return to Philadelphia as an attending cardiothoracic surgeon at Lankenau Hospital.

Catching-up with . . . *Andy Resnick*

Contributed by Jon Morris

Andy Resnick is a 1995 graduate of Dartmouth College with Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude honors and matriculated to the Yale University School of Medicine where he was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute/National Institutes of Health Research Scholar (1997-1998). Following graduation in 2000, Andy began his Residency in General Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. During his training at Penn, Dr. Resnick received an M.B.A. from The Wharton School with Honors in 2005 where he was the recipient of the William L. Kissick MD Award to support a rising second year Wharton student with an interest in public policy. As a general surgical resident, Dr. Resnick was the first recipient of the Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award in 2004. Andy was the only recipient of this award to have the explicit approval by Dr. Buzby. After completing his General Surgical Residency, Dr. Resnick was recruited on to the faculty at Penn in the Division of



Andy in 2007

Gastrointestinal Surgery where he would serve as the Executive Director of the Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center and Surgery Chief Quality Officer at HUP and would receive the UPHS Quality and Patient Safety Award three times (2009, 2010 and 2014). He was recruited to the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center as the Surgical Chief Quality Officer (2014 - 2016) and subsequently to the Medical College of Wisconsin as the Chief Medical Officer (2016 - 2019) and ultimately to the Brigham and Woman's Hospital as Senior Vice President, Chief Quality and Safety Officer (2019 - 2022). While at the Brigham Andy would receive three Mass General Brigham Pillars of Excellence Awards for Patient Safety/ Risk Management, Equity and Inclusion and COVID -19 contact tracing. Dr. Resnick currently serves as the Chief Medical and Quality Officer for The Chartis Group and The Greely Company and as an Associate Surgeon at the Brigham and Woman's Hospital and Lecturer at the Harvard Medical School

A Conversation with Andy

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

Andy: *I knew a few things to be 100% true going into residency at Penn. 1) I would get the best surgical training on the planet; 2) I would have a lot of independence as I matured as a surgeon; 3) I would work hard; and 4) the experience would serve me well for whatever I wanted to do next. These were all true beyond imagination. And I think because of this, the camaraderie was beyond comparison. Working harder than humanly possible, having a great time, and learning so much aren't three things that intersect all the time in life but for sure, they did*

during residency. So, really all of it was a highlight. As a junior resident, the 4s and 5s and fellows were so incredibly important and gave me so many opportunities to learn clinical surgery. The faculty were so amazing and over the years became mentors and friends. The surgery education office was always a home away from home, first with Mary Hamburg and then Lori Pray as program coordinators. And so much more!

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Catching-up with . . . (continued from page 9)

Andy: *I was so lucky to have a handful of mentors who gave me opportunities that are 100% responsible for everything I am today. First, Gordon Buzby. He and I hit it off on day one. He was an amazing surgeon, his patients loved him, and he was fun to work with, always having the back of the resident. And back in the day, working with him was like an exclusive rotation, doing all his cases, running the access service, it was like being a junior chief. We had fun together too... For anyone who takes plugging in an iPhone into an OR audio system for granted... On his rotation, I used to make playlists on what was then innovative music technology by downloading songs copied from Napster into Winamp on those old OR computers without speakers and we would have a great time. When he passed away, I was devastated and my future plans were no longer clear. But I had Jim Mullen and JoMo step in – JoMo was my mentor in surgery education and it was fun doing the REC, writing papers, doing work at the APDS, and much more with him. Jim was my OR and administrative mentor, giving me more opportunities than I could ever count or thank him enough for – joining Periop Exec, working on OR safety projects and operational projects. Jim asked me to write the business plan for the Sim Center, then fund and build it, starting a whole career in and of itself. Larry Kaiser boosted my morale when I needed it most, worked with me on some amazing papers, and hired me onto the faculty. Clinically, of course Dr. Rosato had no comparison and through so many rotations at all levels, he taught me how to operate, get out of trouble, and run a practice. And Jo Buyske was a great mentor and role model who helped me get involved in MIS training and SAGES early on.*

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

Andy: *Well it's awfully hard to argue that any chief (and later, fellow) had more impact on me than Ross Milner. I mean, when you love a chief, work hard for him, and he sets you up with your future wife, that's really treating you pretty well! All the chiefs were amazing, hard-working, and gave junior residents lots of independence. The PGY2 and 3 years were instrumental in working with Chiefs as I got to be much more independent. Those whole classes of chiefs were amazing – Ed Woo, Frank Bowen, Derek Brinster, and Wilson Szeto probably taught me more than anyone and we had so much fun. And although he was a fellow rather than a Chief, I worked with him on a few rotations and Joe Woo had a big impact on my training as well. I couldn't thank everyone enough!*

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

Andy: *This question is unfair! They were all so great and it was fun working with them all – Clay Brinster, Arminder Jassar, Derek Nathan, Niamey Wilson, Rob Redfield, the Major, Ron Parsons, Peter Jenkins, Dustin Bermudez... the list goes on and on. This whole crew was outstanding and I always knew the service was in great hands. When I first started on faculty, I would call on these same folks to help me with some pretty big cases and I always had complete confidence in them.*

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

Andy: *Much of my career has been on the non-clinical side, in various administrative roles. But as Dr. Buzby always reminded me, it always goes back to the patients and I remember every one of them. My first Whipple patient and I had a special relationship. She and her husband would visit me at HUP regularly just to say hi and I loved that I was quoted in her book when she asked if she could delay her surgery, "Ma'am, this isn't hernia surgery". Outside of clinical memories, I've had some fun administrative victories. It has been incredible taking two academic health systems to the top 10 in quality rankings. My best accomplishment was my time in Hershey, when we went from bottom to top in just about every quality ranking in two years.*

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Andy: *I loved Philly. During most of my housestaff years, I lived in a 200+ year rowhouse on Addison Street in the Graduate hospital area. I loved the street, loved the neighborhood, loved the city. I loved going to the local BYO places, the hundreds of great restaurants in the city, the hustle bustle of being close to Rittenhouse and people everywhere. I have family in Bala Cynwyd and miss being close to them.*

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

Andy: *Well I talk to Ross Milner quite a bit (see question 3) I had an amazing group of co-interns and I keep in touch with Lee Goldstein and cross paths with Ben Jackson once in a while. I talk to Josh Pierce pretty frequently – I've known him since medical school and love that he's an old school general surgeon in*

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

Hilo. Once in a while I'll catch up with Pavan Atluri and Giorgos Karakousis. Becky Hoffman invited me to give a talk at the ACS on her panel and it was great seeing her. And of course I stay in touch once in a while with JoMo and Jim Mullen.

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

Andy: *I have a pretty small and focused practice, given how much I'm on the road. But I do some MIS and general surgery cases at the Brigham, mostly gallbladders and hernias and smaller cases, and this keeps me connected to patients and I don't see myself giving that up easily. Most of my career is administrative and has been for a long time. I stayed at Penn for 7 years on faculty and served a number of roles and then took on my first Chief Quality Officer job in Hershey. This was incredibly fun and I loved it there. After a few years and a lot of success in improving all the quality outcomes, ratings, rankings, I took a job as Chief Medical Officer at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. I spend several years there doing similar work, improving quality and setting up a high reliability system and was then recruited to Brigham and Women's Hospital, where I was the SVP and Chief Quality and Safety Officer for the first few years of the pandemic. We were able to improve a lot, despite the pandemic, and I started thinking, maybe after helping a bunch of hospitals improve, I should start a consulting company on the side. It would be fun to help so many organizations and certainly quality and safety were issues everywhere. And then a great company approached me and asked if I'd join them as Chief Medical and Quality Officer and do just that. So this past year, I've used a different side of my brain and have been building a consulting practice in quality, safety and high reliability for Chartis. It's been great fun helping hospitals all over the country!*

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

Andy: *I spend most of my non-working time with my family. They've moved from Philly to Hershey to Milwaukee to Boston so I pretty much owe them everything. I still try to stay in shape and my son and I do that together as well as run 5K's pretty frequently. One nice thing about being back in New England, where I grew up, is that I've taken up skiing again. I had got ten rid of my skies when I left college and never had the time and climate to start skiing again until now. With mountains close by and my son wanting to learn, I started skiing last year and am having a blast.*

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Andy: *My family has been so incredibly supportive of my career! My wife, Lela, is the best wife anyone could ever ask for. She's been happily helping us get settled and re-settled every time we move. I've promised Boston is our last stop so we're all pleased about that. Lela somehow makes it all work – kids are everywhere, going to activities all over the Boston area. Now that I'm consulting, there are some crazy weeks where I'm flying around. Lela is the command center. She also tutors students and is starting to expand into new areas of education. Our daughter Ablena is 13. She had an amazing Bat Mitzvah in May during a covid surge when even the Rabbi couldn't make it. She defines resiliency! She is also the prototypical teenage daughter but still loves her parents and still lets me snuggle with her at night, so who could ask for more. Our son Will is 10. He is an amazing piano player, loves pretty much everything, and is a rising star comedian among other gifted talents.*



Andy, wife Lela, son Will and daughter Ablena

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

Andy: *Lela and I have very little time to ourselves and we've decided that U.S. television has few actual shows anymore so we started watching Britbox, which streams in British shows. It is a guilty pleasure but I'd highly recommend this for anyone wanted a break from reality but one that makes you think a little!*



Penn Surgery

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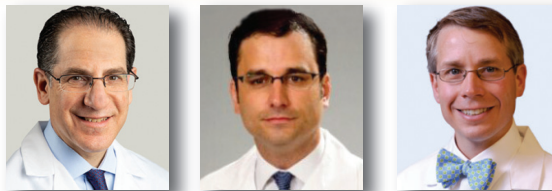
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PENN SURGERY SOCIETY WINTER-SPRING 2023

Alumni News *(continued from page 6)*

- ◆ **Ross Milner, MD**, (HUP Chief Resident 2001) Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, Director, Center for Aortic Diseases, University of Chicago, has recruited **Clay Brinster, MD** (HUP Chief Resident 2012) to be Co-director of the Aortic Center. He will join former division chief **Chris Skelly, MD** (HUP Vascular Fellow 2004-2005).



Ross Milner **Clay Brinster** **Chris Skelly**

- ◆ Congratulations to the 2023 Penn Pearl Awardees. Given by the Perelman School of Medicine for Excellence in Clinical Training. **Ian Folkert, MD, PhD**, **Valerie Luks, MD, MHS**, **Daniel Dempsey, MD** and **Sean Harbison, MD, MEd**.



Ian Folkert **Valerie Luks** **Dan Dempsey** **Sean Harbison**

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