

# UPDATE

from



THE DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY,  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
AT CHAPEL HILL

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3040 BURNETT-WOMACK BUILDING, CB #7065  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7065  
T (919) 966-3381  
F (919) 966-3475

## Dr. Long and Dr. Nelson join faculty

It's Hail and Farewell time! We are welcoming new faculty, staff and a resident to our division this summer and we are saying goodbye to others.

### Jason Long, M.D., M.P.H.,

is joining the division in July as a thoracic surgeon. He earned a B.S. from the University of North Carolina, an M.P.H. from Harvard University, and an M.D. from Wake Forest University. He completed a General Surgery residency at the University of Chicago and finished a Cardiothoracic Surgery residency at the University of Michigan.



### Jennifer S. Nelson, M.D.,

will join the division in August as a pediatric cardiac surgeon. Dr. Nelson earned B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina and finished a General Surgery residency here in 2010. At the University of Michigan, she completed a Cardiothoracic Surgery residency and was an ACGME Fellow in congenital cardiac surgery in 2012-2013.



**Tiffany Bryant** will join Cardiothoracic Surgery as division manager on July 29. She has been a department manager and division manager at Johns Hopkins University. She will work with both the Department of Surgery and with the UNC Center for Heart and Vascular Care.

**Thaniyyah S. Ahmad, M.D., M.P.H.,** is beginning the six-year Cardiothoracic Surgery residency program this summer. She graduated from Duke University and earned an M.D. from Wake Forest University and an M.P.H. from Dartmouth.



**Lindsay Driver** will be a physician's assistant for cardiac surgery beginning in August. Lindsay recently finished PA training at Duke University and earlier graduated from the University of Virginia.

**Nirmal Veeramachaneni, M.D.,** left UNC in June to join the University of Kansas Medical Center as a thoracic surgeon.

**Alzora (Zodi) Benjamin,** nurse practitioner for thoracic surgery, has a new job as nurse practitioner for the Cardiovascular Thoracic (CVT) critical-care

service in the ICU at UNC Hospitals.

**Hayden Pappas, M.D.,** who worked as a post-doc in the cardiothoracic surgery simulation lab is beginning an Anesthesiology residency at UNC Hospitals.

**Sruthi Cherkur** will be a research assistant for **Andy Kiser, M.D.,** in 2013-2014.

She graduated from UNC in May and is applying to medical school for next fall.



**Bill Nicotra** (perfusionist) and **Aleida Alvarez** (physician's assistant), left UNC in the spring; Bill is now director of the Perfusion Department at Temple University in Philadelphia.

**Greg Griffin, CCP, LP,** is the new chief of the UNC Hospitals Perfusion Department, replacing Bill Nicotra. Two new perfusionists - **Rhett Kinard** and **Jennifer Roberts** - have joined the department. **Joy Fisher** is the other perfusionist.

We are delighted that **Ben Haithcock, M.D.,** is back at work after recuperating from a serious bicycle accident. A big thanks to everyone who went the extra mile to help during his absence!

- Andy Kiser, M.D.

## Congratulations!

Cardiothoracic Surgery resident **Thurston Bauer, M.D.,** had the highest score among all PGY3 residents taking the TSDA Cardiothoracic In-training exam (100th percentile). Compared to all residents and fellows, his score was in the 93.5 percentile.

**William E. Stansfield, M.D.,** received the Physician Teacher of the Year award from graduating Anesthesiology residents at a dinner on June 22.

**Richard H. Feins, M.D.,** was a 2013 winner of the Distinguished Academic Achievement Award at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Dr. Feins, a national leader in thoracic surgery education and a graduate of the Vermont medical school, got the award May 31.

**Benjamin Haithcock, M.D.,** was honored May 10 as a "Friend of Nursing" at UNC Hospitals in a ceremony marking Nursing Staff Recognition Week. Dr. Haithcock was praised "an exceptional surgeon" who is willing "to collaborate and plan the care of his patients with all members of the interprofessional team."

**Andy Kiser, M.D.,** participated in the 2013 Leadership Academy of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery on May 3 in Minneapolis.

## UPDATE from the UNC DIVISION OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

### Faculty News

In June, **Thomas M. Egan, M.D.**, was interviewed by news reporters from media including NBCNews.com, Politico and The Philadelphia Inquirer in connection with stories about a child whose family sought to override the UNOS lung allocation policy for children under 12. Dr. Egan was chair of the subcommittee that spent five years developing the UNOS lung allocation policy, which took effect in 2005.

An article in *EMS World*, an online publication for emergency medical services workers, featured **Dr. Egan's** research on lung transplantation from non-heart-beating donors (people who have died of sudden cardiac arrest outside the hospital) and the cooperation of Wake County Emergency Medical Services in the research. **Link:** [www.emsworld.com/article/10915193/second-lives-for-lungs](http://www.emsworld.com/article/10915193/second-lives-for-lungs)

On July 9, **Michael R. Mill, M.D.**, operated on an 8-year-old Afghan girl, Maryam, who had flown to the United



Maryam

States along with other children from Afghanistan to receive medical treatment in the U.S. under sponsorship of Solace for the Children, a Mooresville, N.C.-based nonprofit. Maryam's care is being covered by the Rita and Eric Bigham Cardiology Special Project Fund, established with the Medical Foundation of North Carolina by the Bighams, of Chapel Hill. Dr. Mill corrected Maryam's coarctation of the aorta (narrowing of the aorta) and closed a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), a fetal blood vessel that normally closes after birth. Maryam was doing well the day after her surgery.

**Read more:** [www.med.unc.edu/ct/Maryam](http://www.med.unc.edu/ct/Maryam)

The Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA) will host the 6th annual TSDA Boot Camp July 24-28, 2013, at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. **Richard H. Feins, M.D.**, is one of the founders and program directors. The boot camp is an intensive course for incoming cardiothoracic surgery residents from across the nation. Simulators are used to give residents experience in basic cardiothoracic operating skills.

**Dr. Feins** has received the Notice of Award for the third year of funding (May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014) for an R18 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Dr. Feins is the principal investigator for the study, which includes UNC and seven other institutions. Researchers are studying whether use of cardiac surgery simulators in training resident physicians can improve patient safety.

## Presentations, abstracts and publications from the division

**Thomas M. Egan, M.D.**, has been invited to give a lecture about lung allocation and ex-vivo lung perfusion at the annual meeting of the Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery, Oct. 16-19, 2013, in Sendai, Japan. He will also give a lecture at the meeting – "Lung transplantation: State of the art."

**Dr. Egan** spoke Feb. 27 at UNC Abdominal Transplant Grand Rounds on "Impact of the Lung Allocation System on Lung Transplant in the U.S."

**Richard H. Feins, M.D.**, spoke about his AHRQ cardiac surgery simulation study at the Joint Council on Thoracic Surgery Education meeting during the American Association for Thoracic Surgery meeting in Minneapolis on May 8.

**Andy Kiser, M.D.**, presented an abstract, "Evaluation of integrated bipolar and unipolar epicardial ablation," June 13 at the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (in Prague, Czech Republic. He moderated a session on "Imaging and facilitating technology for cardiac surgery."

**Dr. Kiser** also spoke April 16 on "Hybrid Maze: The future of atrial fibrillation surgery?" at Cardiovascular Conference/Grand Rounds at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

**James L. Cox, M.D.**, who developed the Cox-Maze Procedure, had been scheduled to speak at UNC April 30-May 1, 2013, but was unable to travel at that time. We hope to reschedule his visit.

**Brett C. Sheridan, M.D.**, spoke at the UNC Department of Medicine Grand Rounds on May 30. He was on a panel with Rick Stouffer, M.D., and John Buse, M.D., discussing "Stent versus CABG in patients with diabetes mellitus."

**Dr. Sheridan** also spoke on "Left ventricular assist device therapy" at the 10th Annual Symposium of the North Carolina Chapter of the International Transplant Nurses Society at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on June 7.

**Joseph M, Kiser AC.** Two chapters: Adult Cardiac Surgery/Cardiac Trauma; Adult Cardiac Surgery/

Management of the Porcelain Aorta. In: *TRSA Clinical Scenarios in Cardiothoracic Surgery*, Nguyen TC, Loo G, Macke RA, LaPar DJ, **Nelson JC**, eds. Chicago: Thoracic Surgery Residents Association, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, April 22, 2013. <http://www.tsranet.org/resources/tsra-clinical-scenarios/>

Akhter SA, Ewald GA, Walsh MN, **Sheridan BC**, Kallel F, Farrar DJ, Dean DA. Preliminary driveline infection results from the multicenter Silicone-Skin-Interface (SSI) Registry. (Abstract) ASAIO conference, June 14, Chicago.

Lent GS, Kumar N; **Sheridan BC**, chief editor. Emergency bedside thoracotomy. eMedicine from WebMD/Medscape Reference. Available at: <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/82584-overview>

#### Suggestions? News to share?

Email Margaret Alford Cloud at [mcloud@med.unc.edu](mailto:mcloud@med.unc.edu)