Welcome to the second issue of the Department of Surgery Newsletter! It has been just over a year since I assumed the role as Chair of the Department of Surgery. A lot has occurred this past year, and most notably, we just graduated residents from the general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery programs, and fellows from plastic surgery, vascular surgery, burn, critical care, minimally invasive surgery, surgical oncology, and transplant programs. Graduation marks the completion of one chapter of training and at the same time, the beginning of an entirely new chapter that is full of promise and possibilities. To our graduates, always remember that you have friends and supporters at UNC. You are now members of The Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society. The Society provides, among other things: “(1) an opportunity to renew the strong friendships with colleagues formed during residency training years; (2) a worthwhile educational opportunity and a readily available forum for former residents; (3) an opportunity to meet current members of the training program and the house staff of previous years; and (4) an appropriate way to honor Dr. Nathan Womack.” We hope to see you at future Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society meetings, the next of which will be June 15, 2018.

Summer also brings the beginning of the new academic year. In addition to the new intern class we highlighted in the Spring 2017 Newsletter, we have five new faculty members starting in our Department:

- Ugwuji Maduekwe, MD – Division of Surgical Oncology
- Arielle Perez, MD – Division of General and Acute Care Surgery
- Lauren Raff, MD – Division of General and Acute Care Surgery
- Rebecca Maine, MD – Division of General and Acute Care Surgery
- Rabia Nizamani, MD – Division of Burn Surgery

Please see the New Faculty section of this Newsletter for their biographies and join me in welcoming them to our Department!
The new Surgical Tower is proceeding as planned. Many surgeons in our Department serve on various committees and have been actively contributing to the design and needs of the building. The various groups will continue to meet monthly to stay on track with the timeline.

Both UNC FP and the Department of Surgery had a banner year. For the Department of Surgery, our clinical volume is up, our research portfolio has grown, and our contributions to education remain very strong and are growing with increased representation in the School of Medicine. We have offered our patients new programs such as suprasternal TAVR and autologous islet cell transplantation. The DOS Simulation Center has evolved from a cardiothoracic endeavor to a multidisciplinary and interdepartmental training activity. The strategic planning process is moving along as planned. In the coming 1-2 months, each Division will be presented with data on strategic opportunities. The Department will also receive additional support for outreach, process improvement, and development planning. Plans for expansion outside of the Medical Center are on track with Panther Creek.

I look forward to this coming 2017-2018 academic year. I am excited to announce that many nationally and internationally accomplished surgeons and surgeon scientists will be visiting professors at UNC during this academic year. These individuals include:

- Andrea Hayes Jordon, MD – University of Texas
- Lawrence Gottlieb, MD – University of Chicago
- David Rogers, MD – University of Alabama at Birmingham (Resident as Teachers Day)
- William Schecter, MD – University of California, San Francisco
- David Geller, MD – University of Pittsburgh
- Monica Morrow, MD – Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Kamal Itani, MD – Boston University & Boston VAMC
- Mary Hawn, MD – Stanford University
- Robert Cerfolio, MD – New York University
- Matthew Eagleton, MD & Sunita Srivastava, MD – Cleveland Clinic
- Clifford Ko, MD – University of California Los Angeles (Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting)

We have so much to celebrate in our Department as faculty, advanced practice providers, staff, and trainees continue to provide outstanding service for patients of the UNC Medical Center through clinical care, innovation, discovery science, and educating the next generation of physicians and investigators.

Melina R. Kibbe, MD  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
Zack D. Owens Distinguished Professor of Surgery
UNC Plastic Surgeons Meet with Congressional Leaders on Capitol Hill

Faculty and residents from the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery represented the Department at the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) Inaugural Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC on June 27-29, 2017. These physicians joined 81 of their colleagues from 25 states at the Summit, where they learned more about the issues that impact the specialty and advocated on behalf of their patients.

With the looming debate over health care reform in the US Senate, the Summit was very timely. During the meetings with congressional leaders and their representatives, plastic surgeons shared their experience, knowledge and ideas to inform Congress before they craft and vote on public policy matters affecting the care our patients receive and the practice of medicine.

As the State Advocacy Vice Chair of the ASPS Legislative Advocacy Committee, Lynn Damitz, MD (Plastics) led the group of North Carolinians on Capitol Hill who met with Senators, Representatives, and their staff to discuss the Better Reconciliation Act of 2017—the Senate’s plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. This also included a discussion on Ambulatory Surgery Center payment parity, medical liability reform, repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, and increased federal funding for graduate medical education. Collectively, ASPS members met with 101 congressional offices to advocate for these important policy issues.

The Summit included a keynote congressional address by Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (R-Louisiana), who spoke about the challenges of passing health care reform and the goals of his replacement plan with Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine). Mara Liasson, NPR National Political Correspondent, headlined the event and provided insight into the Trump administration and its relationship with both parties in Congress.

There was a very timely panel discussion on “The Affordable Care Act—The Future of Repeal and Replace.” It was moderated by Erin Mershon, Health Policy Reporter for STAT News and included panelists Ashley Palmer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Health Care Reform, US Department of Health and Human Services and Charlene MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland). These three collectively discussed the challenges of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, while also highlighting some of the regulatory changes planned by Representative Price through DHHS.

“MACRA: Navigating the Unknown” included two presentations with recommendations on how plastic surgeons can prepare for the new Quality Payment Program. The Summit also featured a discussion on the illegal importation of drugs and compounding in office based settings by Michael Barnes, Esq., Chairman of the Center for Lawful Access and Abuse Deterrence, who previously served as confidential counsel in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Overall, the faculty and residents from the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery played an integral role in bringing a voice to plastic surgeons in the state and the patients for whom we all care during their valuable time on Capitol Hill.
Department of Surgery Hosts 2nd Annual Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting

The Department of Surgery hosted its 2nd Annual Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting on Friday, June 16 2017. This event brought together over 75 faculty members, alumni, residents, and medical students in the Department to highlight the diversity of clinical and basic sciences research.

The Department welcomed Adil Haider, MD, MPH, FACS as our Nathan A. Womack Distinguished Visiting Professor.

The day began with Dr. Haider’s lunch with the residents. This was an interactive discussion about career development for the young surgeon and the six steps for success. Dr. Haider gave the residents a variety of tips and examples of how to become independent investigators in the future.

Participants viewed poster presentations from over 50 residents and medical students across the Department’s nine divisions. Seven posters of distinction were recognized for their outstanding work and judged by Dr. Haider. The poster presentations, which took place in the lobby of the Neuroscience and NC Cancer Hospital, were followed by several oral presentations later in the day.

For the keynote address, Dr. Haider gave a very timely presentation on “Healthcare Outcomes: Should What You Look Like or Who You Love Matter?” As one of the foremost experts on healthcare inequities in the United States, Dr. Haider is credited with uncovering racial disparities after traumatic injury.

The day concluded with the Nathan A. Womack Reception and Research Awards ceremony at the Carolina Inn. At this reception, several outstanding residents and medical students were recognized for their research accomplishments.

Noel McDevitt, MD (Alumni), also presented Melina Kibbe, MD (Chair) with a translation of Pare’s Ten Books of Surgery. See more highlights from the 2nd Annual Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting on the following page.

Dr. Haider is an active trauma and critical care surgeon, prolific researcher, and the Kessler Director for the Center for Surgery and Public Health (CSPH), a joint initiative of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
Best Oral Presentation
Benjamin Schmidt, MD
A novel genetically engineered mouse model of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

Best Poster Presentation (Basic Science)
Mansi Shah, MD
Treatment with inhaled IL10 decreases the development of pulmonary arterial hypertension in Slit3 knockout mice with congenital diaphragmatic hernia

Best Poster Presentation (Clinical Science)
Joshua Preiss, MD
Is epiphrenic diverticulectomy necessary at the time of heller myotomy?

Pictures from the 2nd Annual Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting

Photos Courtesy of Brian Strickland Photography
IN THE LOOP

Research

Thank you to all of the residents, faculty, staff, and alumni who participated in the 2nd annual Research Day and Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Meeting this year. It was a huge success! A recap of this year’s event can be found in the featured news section.

In recognition of your hard work and needs, we welcome Charley Gaber, MPH and PhD candidate in Epidemiology that will work with Paula Strassle, MSPH to help with your database projects.

Medical Students

I want to thank all faculty members and residents for their continued contribution to undergraduate surgical education. The medical student experience on the general surgery and surgical sub specialty services has improved significantly over the past year and this has largely been attributed to faculty and resident engagement and investment in teaching from the bedside, clinic, and the operating theater. Starting with acknowledgement of all the medical students on the respective services, getting to the students and their unique journeys prior to and through medical school, to testing their surgical knowledge and improving their ability to work in a team. We must continue on this track to recruit the best and brightest to our specialty.

Program Director’s Corner

The general surgery program continues to thrive and welcomed a diverse group of interns from across the country this July. As part of our orientation, we held a ‘bootcamp’ to foster interns getting to know each other and to begin working as a team. This included activities where working together to achieve a common goal is the objective; for example, everyone climbing to the top of a 40 foot wall!

Among the many ongoing projects in the program, we continue to use technology to improve education. One of these efforts is a smart-phone based system for feedback to residents about operative performance. This tool allows trainees to get real-time assessment, track performance over time, and obtain information about performance relative to their peers. Learn more about the SIMPL Walk Through program here.

Anthony G. Charles MD, MPH
Director, Medical Student Clerkship

Michael O. Meyers, MD
General Surgery Residency Program Director
Education

Last quarter, we hosted Alice Chuang, MD, MEd, as our Grand Rounds Speaker. She presented a talk on “The science of human learning: instructional design that maximizes retention and application.” We are looking forward to hosting David A. Rogers, MD, MHPE as our Resident as Teacher guest on September 15, 2017. Be sure to mark your calendars.

The Educators Research Group has gained momentum. Everyone is invited to this forum, which is intended to foster collaboration between groups looking to study any aspect of surgical education. These meetings will occur the third Friday of each month at noon.

With the new interns settling in, the Education Committee and resident representatives are working diligently to foster wellness among our trainees and to ensure the quality of the learning and work environment.

Residents

After our grand rounds on the “Secrets to success during your research years: achieve great things with a great mentor,” Rebecca Brown and I have gotten a lot of questions about our research, and realized that there is not an easy way to find out about the amazing projects other residents are doing. So I wanted to crowd-source you, dear readers, and ask: What do you think is the most effective and easiest way of spreading this information? The following are some suggestions I came up with:

- Research Club: This would be an email listserv with occasional meetings to feature people’s research and it will give you a chance to ask questions. This will be optional and open to those who are interested.
- Resident research website on the departmental site, highlighting achievements
- Grand rounds series featuring research residents

Please email me at joanna.grudziak@unchealth.unc.edu and let me know if you have any other suggestions. I look forward to your feedback!

Advanced Practice Providers

The Department has a steadily growing group of Advance Practice Providers (APP) including both Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. These clinicians, educated at the graduate level, are an integral part of the surgical team providing patient evaluation, diagnosis, and management in a multitude of settings including acute and intensive care, the operating room, and outpatient clinics.

Continuity of care and quality improvement is central to APP practice. In addition to patient care, our APPs participate in the mission to teach, providing education for students in NP, PA, and MD programs as well as our resident physicians. With the addition of two new hires this quarter, the Department of Surgery is now home to 46 APPs.

Timothy Farrell MD
Vice Chair of Education

Renee E. Edkins, DNP, MA, NP-C
Advance Practice Providers (APP)
David Gerber, MD (Transplant) is the new Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Gerber currently serves as Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and Medical Director of the UNC Healthcare Center for Transplant Care / UNC Hospitals Jason Ray Transplant Clinic. Dr. Gerber is a renowned transplant surgeon and accomplished researcher who has been engaged in basic science research focusing on stem cell biology and tissue engineering in the field of regenerative medicine.

HJ Kim, MD (Surg Onc) is the new Vice Chair of Strategy and Outreach for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Kim currently serves as Chief of Surgery Oncology and the Clinical Director of the Tissue Procurement Core Facility for the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Kim is an accomplished surgeon and researcher who is engaged in basic science research focusing on chemoresistance and tumor microenvironment in the field of metabolomics.

JAMA Surgery journal recently received a record high impact factor and is now ranked as the number 2 surgery journal in the world. Melina Kibbe, MD (Chair) is the journal’s editor-in-chief. Dr. Kibbe spoke on sex bias and biomedical and clinical research at the University of California, Davis Research Day, the John F. Jr and Carolyn Bookout Research Symposium at Houston Methodist, and for the Keynote Address for the Harvard Surgery Research Day at Harvard Medical School. She also spoke about basic science research in the VA system at the Society for Vascular Surgery Meeting. Additionally, Dr. Kibbe gave a lecture on “How to handle difficult conversations and manage difficult people” at the American College of Surgeons Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC.

Sean McLean, MD (Ped Surg) was promoted to Associate Professor in the Division of Pediatric Surgery.

Jason Crowner, MD (Vascular) will serve as an Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program.

Thomas M. Egan, MD (CT) served as a member of the NIH Study Section ZRG1 SBIB-Q 02: BTSS and SAT member conflict grant proposal review in June. Dr. Egan was also invited speaker at the General Thoracic Surgery Biology Club at the American Association for Thoracic Surgery in Boston in April and at the Transplant Educational Conference at UNC in June where he spoke on “Lessons learned from a clinical trial to transplant lungs from sudden death victims.”

Michael Mill, MD (CT), and Thomas Caranasos, MD (CT), mentored Jenny Bui and Hanaan Salamah on their surgical simulation summer research projects. Richard Feins, MD (CT) and Dr. Caranasos are mentors for Hadley H. Wilson, MD (CT3).

Hadley Wilson, MD (CT3) was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. The Society recognizes and advocates for excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine.

Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN (Burn) has been re-elected as Vice President of the American Nurses Association. Dr. Grant has more than 30 years of nursing and leadership experience and is an internationally recognized burn-care and fire-safety expert. He currently serves as the burn outreach coordinator for the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center.
Cindy Wu, MD (Plastics) presented her research on strategic marketing, crowdsourcing, and conjoint analysis, as part of the Economics of Aging Workshop hosted by the Kenan-Flagler Business School and the Frank H. Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise.

Elizabeth Dreessen MD (Trauma) and Sara Scarlet, MD (PGY4) are working with the American Medical Association's Journal of Ethics to develop a monthly issue of the journal entitled "Acting fast, thinking slow: the ethics of trauma surgery" which will be published May 2018.

Joellen Buckio, MHA (Staff) presented a talk entitled "Recruiting and retaining talent: tips from the trenches" as part of a panel discussion for the 2017 Group on Business Affairs, Group on Institutional Planning and Group on Information Resources Joint Spring Meeting.

Jana Ross, MA (Staff) is the new Manager for Professional Affairs. In this position, she will contribute to the Department’s overall strategic personnel and educational planning, specifically focusing on change management and improvement of those functions.

UNC Colorectal Surgery Joins the National Research Network Aimed at Improving the Surgical Care of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. This partnership, led by Nicole Chaumont, MD (GI) will prospectively conduct multi-center collaborative clinical research that will allow us to answer clinical questions that are important to both clinicians and patients, here at UNC and beyond.

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) project’s pancreatic cancer team, a nationwide effort funded by the NIH, composed of dozens of researchers from major institutions across the country and internationally, performed an integrated multi-platform genomic analysis of pancreatic cancer that this work shows a complex molecular landscape of pancreatic cancer. The mRNA and integrated analysis team was led by Jen Jen Yeh, MD’s (Surg Onc) group. The work was published in the August issue of the journal Cancer Cell.
Anthony G. Charles MD, MPH (Trauma), Charles Beckman and the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) team won the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) Award for Excellence in Life Support. This award recognizes ECMO programs worldwide that distinguish themselves by having processes, procedures and systems in place that promote excellence and exceptional care.

Chelsea Hutchinson, MD (PGY4) received a course and travel scholarship award from the American College of Surgeons’ (ACS) 2017 Resident Leadership Scholarship Contest. She attended the Residents as Teachers and Leaders Course in April at the ACS Headquarters in Chicago, IL.

Rafi Fredman, MD (PGY4) received a scholarship to attend the American Society of Plastic Surgeons Inaugural Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC. During the summit, he joined plastic surgeons from around the country to learn about current changes in healthcare, devise strategies for advancing the specialty in North Carolina and nationally, and met with North Carolina members of Congress to discuss legislative concerns relevant to plastic surgery. Read more about this summit in the Featured News section.

Mia Klein, MD (PGY3) was awarded a spot on the Division of Hematology and Oncology T32 Training Grant. She will be working with previously developed nanofibers that target tissue factor, with the ultimate goal of creating a therapy that binds selectively to the site of injury to halt bleeding in the setting of non-compressible torso hemorrhage.

Wesley Stepp, PhD (MS3) was recently awarded the American Association of Immunologists “Careers in Immunology Research Fellowship” in conjunction with Bruce A. Cairns, MD (Burn) for his work with the Burn Center. His research will focus on peripheral blood biomarkers of immune suppression after trauma.

Mary Shen (MS4), is the recipient of the Association of Women Surgeons’ Patricia Numann Outstanding Medical Student Award. This award supports an outstanding female medical student who is pursuing a career in surgery. Shen is mentored by Michelle Brownstein, MD (Trauma).

2017 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AWARDS

At the end of each academic year, the Department of Surgery and UNC Hospitals recognizes those individuals who have particularly excelled in academic, clinical, administrative and research endeavors. This year awardees include:

Thoracic Surgery won the 2017 Outstanding Service Award. This award is given annually by the Department of Surgery interns to the service that they consider is best at faculty teaching and providing clinical opportunities and technical experience. This is the 13th time that Thoracic Surgery has won the award since it was initiated in 1998.

Billy Oslund, MD (MS4) was the recipient of the George F. Sheldon Leadership Award. This award is given to a graduating medical student that shows the most promise as a future surgical leader.

Bailey Sanders, MD (PGY4) won the Henry C. Fordham Award. This award recognizes a member of the house staff that best exemplifies the qualities of patience, humility, and devotion to medicine.

The Robert E. Cefalo House Staff Award was given to Megan Quintana, MD (Alumni). This award recognizes members of the Hospitals’ house staff for excellent service to patients and families, effective listening and communication skills, demonstration of the highest standards of patient care, and exemplary professional and interpersonal interactions.
The Keith Amos Award was awarded to Karishma Reddy, MD (PGY3). This award is given to a second year resident who demonstrates clinical excellence while on the breast cancer service.

The Eskelund Award, selected by the pediatric nurses, is presented to the surgical residents who best characterize the qualities of team work, compassion, professional conduct, and atraumatic pediatric surgical care. This year’s award recipients are Peter Marcinkowski (PGY2), Bailey Sanders (PGY4), and Megan Quintana (Alumni).

The Herbert J. Proctor Award for Excellence in Surgical Research was created in Dr. Proctor’s honor to provide recognition and support of surgical resident research. The criteria for the award is based on the number of abstracts and manuscripts submitted and the amount of awards/funding received. This year’s awardees were Jared Gallaher (PGY5) and Tyler Ellis (PGY5).

The H. Max Schiebel, MD, Award for Surgical Professionalism was given to Kevin Chang, MD (Alumni). This award recognizes surgical skill and proficiency and the winner is selected by a committee of surgical faculty and staff.

Kristen Sell-Dottin, MD (Alumni), won the 2017 Womack Scholar Award presented by the Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society. This award is presented to an outstanding surgery resident who has served as a senior house officer and has demonstrated excellence in teaching, investigation and patient care, and has exemplified personal attributes and professional commitment that reflects highly on the department and its residency programs. Dr. Sell-Dottin will join the faculty of the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY this summer and will practice adult cardiac surgery.

Melanie Bolick (Staff-Education) received the 2017 Staff Excellence Award. This award is given to a staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty and whose work reflects the values of the Department.

Laura Purcell, MD (PGY3) was awarded the Joseph Messick, MD Memorial Award during her critical care rotation for emulating those qualities which Dr. Messick possessed and stimulated in his colleagues.

In-Service Awards are given each year to recognize residents achievements on the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination. This year’s high score awards were given to Stephen Mahoney (PGY3) for a junior level resident and Sara Scarlet (PGY4) for a senior level resident; Lauren Moskal (PGY2), Josh Herb (PGY2), Stephen Mahoney (PGY3), and Sara Scarlet (PGY4) for scoring above the 90th percentile; and Emily Newton (PGY3) and Tyler Ellis (PGY5) for highest percentage increase since the last exam.

The NC Jaycee Burn Center Award is given to a resident rotating on burn services during the academic year who demonstrates excellence in their work performance. This year’s recipient was Benjamin Hechler (OMFS). The John Stackhouse Award is given to a PGY-3 resident rotating on burn services during the academic year who demonstrates excellence in their work performance. This year’s recipient was Bailey Sanders (PGY4). Michael Williford (PGY4) received the Center’s Directors Award.

Laura Purcell, MD (PGY3) was awarded the Joseph Messick, MD Memorial Award during her critical care rotation for emulating those qualities which Dr. Messick possessed and stimulated in his colleagues.
NEW FACULTY

Ugwuji Maduekwe, MS, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

Ugwuji Maduekwe, MS, MD received her BS summa cum laude in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1999. She attended Harvard Medical School where she graduated medical school in 2004, received a Master of Medical Sciences in 2009, completed general surgery residency (2004-2007 and 2009-2011), and a research fellowship from 2007-2009. Following her time at Harvard, Dr. Maduekwe completed a two-year complex general surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Since finishing her training, Dr. Maduekwe held a two-year Clinical Instructor appointment at Harvard (2013-2015) and, most recently, was on staff as a Surgical Oncologist with Baystate Health in Springfield, MA. Dr. Maduekwe joined our Division of Surgical Oncology on August 14, 2017 as an Assistant Professor. Her clinical practice will focus on hepatopancreatobiliary surgery.

Arielle Perez, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery

Arielle Perez, MD, MPH attended the University of Texas HSC at San Antonio where she completed both her MD and MPH in 2011. She completed her general surgery residency at the Maine Medical Center from 2011-2016 and, most recently, completed her fellowship in Advanced Abdominal Wall Reconstruction at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Perez joined our Division of General and Acute Care Surgery on September 1, 2017 as an Assistant Professor. She will lead the UNC Hernia Surgery Center.

Lauren Raff, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery

Lauren Raff, MD is a graduate of UNC School of Medicine, class of 2011. Following her time at UNC, she moved to Birmingham where she trained as a General Surgery Resident, 2011-2016, and a Trauma Surgery and Surgical Critical Care Fellow, 2016-2017. Dr. Raff will join our Division of General and Acute Care Surgery on September 15, 2017 as an Assistant Professor.

Rebecca Maine, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery

Rebecca Maine, MD, MPH attended medical school at the University of California, San Francisco where she graduated with honors in 2009. She continued at UC San Francisco until 2016 as she completed her General Surgery Residency training. During this time, she also earned her MPH from Harvard-Chan School of Public Health. Most recently, Dr. Maine has been with the University of Washington in Seattle as a Trauma and Critical Care Fellow. Dr. Maine will join our Division of General and Acute Care Surgery on October 1, 2017 as an Assistant Professor.

Rabia Nizamani, MD, MS
Assistant Professor, Division of Burn Surgery

Rabia Nizamani, MD, MS attended New York Medical College from 2004 to 2008 where she received her MD. Prior to attending medical school, Dr. Nizamani earned her MS in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University. She completed her general surgery residency at the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, WA from 2008 to 2015; during this time, Dr. Nizamani also completed a one-year research fellowship in Systems Based Practice, also at Virginia Mason Medical Center. Following her time in Seattle, Dr. Nizamani returned to the east coast to continue her training. She spent one year, 2015-2016, at Johns Hopkins as a Burn Surgery Fellow and most recently, 2016-2017, at the University of Virginia Health System as a Fellow in Surgical Critical Care. Dr. Nizamani joined our Division of Burn Surgery on August 14, 2017 as an Assistant Professor. Her work with the NC Jaycee Burn Center will serve to educate and care for the citizens of North Carolina.
NEW STAFF

Adam Akerman, MS (Staff) joined Cardiothoracic Surgery as a Research Associate on July 1, 2017. He will serve as the director for the cardiothoracic surgery research laboratory, overseeing and conducting experiments for John Ikonimidis, MD (CT).

Nicole Jadue Gonzalez, MS (Staff) joined the Division of Vascular Surgery as a Research Assistant on April 3, 2017. She is responsible for overseeing the critical limb ischemia registry and in assisting the Division in all clinical research projects.

Fernando Motta, MD (Staff) joined the Division of Vascular Surgery as a Research Assistant on April 10, 2017. In this position, he is responsible for all clinical research in the field of aortic diseases with Mark A. Farber, MD (Vascular).

Kenisha Atwell, MD (PGY3) was awarded a spot on the Burn Center’s T32 Trauma Training Grant. She will be working with Anthony Charles, MD (Trauma) in outcome related research.

Colleen Bartley, (PGY3) was recently appointed to the Burn Center’s T32 Trauma Training Grant. She will be working on outcomes related research on Stevens - Johnson syndrome.

Xianwen Yi, PhD (Staff) was recently appointed as Research Associate Professor in the Division of Abdominal Transplant Surgery in April 2017. In this role, he will support the David Gerber, MD (Transplant) lab.

Roberto Mota, MD, MS (Postdoc) joined the Bahnson lab, under the Division of Vascular Surgery, in July 2017. His education includes an MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of New Mexico and a Medical Surgeon Degree (2010) from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez.

Ann Chung, MD (Fellow) was hired as the Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow within the Division of GI Surgery. Ann earned her MD at the Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed her general surgery residency at East Carolina University, 2012-2017.

Amy Wilkes, FNP-C (Trauma) recently joined the General and Acute Care Surgery Service as an Advanced Practice Provider. Prior to joining our department as an APP, Amy worked as an RN in the UNC SICU.

Neka Alston, MS (Staff) was hired in August 2017 as an Executive Assistant in the Chair’s office. Prior to joining Surgery, Ms. Alston worked for the UNC School of Medicine Executive offices.

Cynthia Newkirk (Staff) joined the Division of Burn Surgery as an Administrative Coordinator in August 2017. Prior to working in Burn Surgery, Cynthia worked with the UNC Department of Dermatology.

David Gillis, MS (Staff) was hired as a Research Technician in the Division of Vascular Surgery in August 2017. In this role, David will work in the Melina Kibbe, MD (Chair) lab to independently perform standard and moderately complex research procedures.

Casey Herdson, PA (APP) was hired as an APP for the General Surgery work done at our Hillsbough Campus. She completed her Master of Health Sciences at Duke University in August 2015.
Elizabeth Acquista, MD (2012) currently resides in Wilmington, NC and specializes in General Surgery, Surgical Critical Care. Now married with two, happy, healthy babies, Dr. Acquista was recently named Surgical Clerkship Director for UNC students at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center campus.

Rosa E. Cuenca, MD (1992) is the Medical Director for Titus Regional Medical’s Breast and Diagnostic Center and practices surgical oncology in Mount Pleasant, TX. She is the current Vice President of the North Texas Chapter for the ACS and is the Texas Councilor for the Southern Medical Association. This year, Dr. Cuenca will celebrate 28 years of marriage with her husband, Gordon Downie, MD, PhD (UNC Department of Medicine Alumnus).

W. Borden Hooks III, MD (2005) was recently promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor in the UNC Department of Surgery. He is also the new Vice Program Director for the surgical residency training program at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC.


Brent L. Norris, MD (1995) is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Oklahoma. He is also a physician at Orthopaedic and Trauma Services of Oklahoma in Tulsa, OK.

Douglas E. Paull, MD (1990) was recently named Senior Medical Officer/Deputy Director of the Veterans Administration National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) in Ann Arbor, MI. He is also the Director of the Patient Safety Curriculum and Medical Simulation at NCPS. Dr. Paull is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery with the University of Michigan Healthcare System. He currently lives in Dexter, MI with his wife Lisa, has a daughter Sara, and two grandchildren Elena and John.

Charles Roberts, MD (1996) was recently appointed Clinical Professor of Surgery by the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, SC.

Have alumni news to share for the quarterly newsletter? Contact neka_alston@med.unc.edu
UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome to the New Academic Year Luncheon
September 9, 2017
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Home of Drs. Melina Kibbe and Marco Patti

Annual “Resident as Teacher” Conference - Leading Teams and Providing Educational Feedback
David A. Rogers, MD, MHPE
UAB School of Medicine
Professor of Surgery, Medical Education and Pediatrics
Friday, September 15, 2017
1:00 -5:00 pm
Old Clinic Auditorium

Grand Rounds
Andrea A. Hayes-Jordan, MD
Director, Pediatric Surgery, Pediatric Surgical Oncology
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
September 20, 2017
7:15-8:15 am
4th Floor Clinic Auditorium

American College of Surgeons - North Carolina Reception
Monday, October 23, 2017
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Diego, CA
* UNC dinner to follow

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

2018 Annual Merit Meeting - Southeastern Surgical Congress

- February 10-13, 2018 (Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina in Tampa, FL)
- Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2017
- More information available here.

Department of Surgery residents at the annual Carolina v. Duke softball game in May 2017.
Grant Opportunities

UNC Lineberger Developmental Funding Program
Deadline(s): September 15, 2017
Amount of Funding: $50,000-$100,000
More information available here.

NC TraCS S2K Grant Awards
Amount of Funding: $2,000
More information available here.

Research Resources

CDW-H Office Hours
The Carolina Data Warehouse for Health (CDW-H) team hosts office hours twice per month (the first Wednesday and third Thursday). No appointment necessary.
Next Dates: September 6 and 21, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Brinkhouse-Bullitt 218

Resident Research

Katherine Cools, MD (PGY 5) is currently a R25 post-doctoral fellow with the UNC Cancer Care Quality Training Program. Her research is focusing on the quality of life in patients with malignant biliary obstruction who are not surgical candidates. She is also earning her Masters of Science in Clinical Research at the Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Sara Scarlet, MD (PGY4) began a surgical ethics fellowship sponsored by the American College of Surgeons at the MacLean Center for Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago in July.

Research Support

Proposal Development

Michelle Collins, MPA, our Research Administrator, provides support for all areas of proposal development and will be your main contact for all things research. Please contact Michelle as soon as you think about applying for a grant. She will help you with developing your budget, compiling the appropriate documentation for your proposal, and routing your grant for submission. Please remember external grants must be routed and submitted 7-days before the due date! Request Michelle’s assistance using the online service request form.

Database Management

Paula Strassle, MSPH and Charley Gaber, MPH are our Database Managers. They provide assistance for data collection and database set-up, and chart reviews. They will help you organize and think about your data so that you will be able to analyze it when you are ready. They are also in charge of the NIS, NSQUIP, and SEER databases. They can also point you to other databases that may be of assistance. Please contact them BEFORE you start any project involving data. Request their assistance using the online service request form.
NEW PUBLICATIONS

CARDIOTHORACIC (CT)


VASCULAR


NEW PUBLICATIONS


SURGICAL ONCOLOGY


**TRAUMA**


Mendoza AE, Wybourn CA, Charles AG (Trauma), Campbell A, Cairns BA (Burn), Knudson MM. Routine computed tomography after recent operative exploration for penetrating trauma: What injuries do we miss? J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2017 May 11.


**BURN**


NEW PUBLICATIONS

PLASTICS


GASTROINTESTINAL (GI)


Rebecchi F, Allaix ME, Patti MG (GI), Schlottmann F (GI-Fellow), Morino M. Gastroesophageal reflux disease and morbid obesity: To sleeve or not to sleeve? World J Gastroenterol. 2017 Apr 7;23(13):2269-2275.


**TRANSPLANT**


This past May, surgeons from UNC and Duke met to discuss issues pertinent to women in surgery.