



## Abdominal Transplant Division Takes Steps Towards AMR Definition



*Dr. Tomasz Kozlowski and Family  
Summer summit at the Dolomites*

The Division of Abdominal Transplantation at UNC has made a significant contribution to establishing criteria for the pathology description of antibody mediated rejection (AMR) of liver allograft. This area of pathology has not been well defined for decades. A new report published in the American Journal of Transplantation from the Banff Working Group, a prestigious international assembly of pathologists that periodically revises definitions of allografts pathology now defines AMR. Prior work listed by **Dr. Tomasz Kozlowski (Abdominal Transplant)**, who was also part of the Banff Working Group, was incorporated into the Banff criteria for AMR diagnosis in liver transplantation.

Sinusoidal C4d deposits in liver allografts indicate an antibody-mediated response: diagnostic considerations in the evaluation of liver allografts. **Kozlowski T**, Andreoni K, Schmitz J, Hayashi PH, Nickleit V. Liver Transpl. 2012 Jun;18(6):641-58. doi: 10.1002/lt.23403.

Liver allograft antibody-mediated rejection with demonstration of sinusoidal C4d staining and circulating donor-specific antibodies. **Kozlowski T**, Rubinas T, Nickleit V, Woosley J, Schmitz J, Collins D, Hayashi P, Passannante A, Andreoni K. Liver Transpl. 2011 Apr;17(4):357-68.

### Welcome New Residents!

Want to know what projects faculty are working on? Check out the Mentors and Descriptions page <http://www.med.unc.edu/surgery/education/resident-research-opportunities/mentors-and-descriptions> or contact Dr. Yeh.

## Deadlines ending SOON! Submit your abstracts NOW!

- Deadline **August 9** for Southeastern Surgical Congress abstract submissions: <http://goldstarabstracts.com/index.phtml?c=SESC2017&t=abssubmit>
- Deadline **August 22** for the Academic Surgical Congress – Submission site open <http://academicsurgicalcongress.org>

## Fall Deadlines

- **September 27** ASCO GI – open to submissions starting August 3 <http://gicasymp.org/>
- August/September Society of Surgical Oncology <http://www.surgonc.org/>
- **October 24** Surgical Education Week <https://surgicaleducation.com/annual-meeting-information>
- American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association <http://www.ahpba.org>
- Society of Critical Care Medicine <http://www.sccm.org/>
- American Burn Association <http://www.ameriburn.org/>
- Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery <http://symposium.scvs.org/Abstracts-Submission/>

## Apply For Grants

- Association Of Women Surgeons Foundation/Ethicon Fellowship. Deadline **August 9**. This \$27,500 grant, with no topic restrictions, will be awarded to one qualified and approved applicant. <https://www.womensurgeons.org/about-us/aws-foundation-awards/>
- The American Heart Association is requesting applications for a [Strategically Focused Obesity Research Network](#). The Office of Research Development and the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations would like to support the team development for this proposal. An initial planning meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2016 10:00am-12:00pm in Bynum Hall 336.

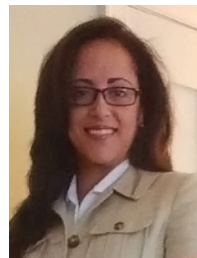
## Highlights

Congratulations to **Dr. Anthony Charles (General and Acute Care)** for just being elected President-Elect of the North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

**Dr. Thomas Caranasos (Cardiothoracic)** was named Director of Adult Cardiac Surgery at UNC in June.

**Dr. Thomas Egan (Cardiothoracic)** was invited to participate in a symposium and roundtable discussion on Capitol Hill in Washington on June 29, 2016. The symposium, "Emerging Technologies in Organ Preservation," follows the June 13 White House Organ Summit and is intended to shape national policy and priorities surrounding innovations that can help end the organ shortage, and increase access to lung transplantation.

**Dr. Egan** gave an oral presentation and two poster presentations at the 59th Annual Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference in Aspen, CO.



*Debbie Sanabria*

## Need help with grant budgets and routing?

<http://www.med.unc.edu/fbo/files/grants/request-study-support>

Contact Debbie Sanabria in Pre-Award services as soon as you think you are applying for a grant for help with your budget and grant submission routing. External grants **must** be routed and submitted **one week** ahead of the due date!

- **Egan T**, Blackwell J, Birchard K, **Haithcock B (Cardiothoracic)**, Long J, Gazda S, Casey N, Thys C. Assessment of lungs for transplant recovered from uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death donors (uDCDDs). (Oral)
- **Egan T**, Casey N, Thys C. Medical comorbidities of uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death donors (uDCDDs): Impact on the size of the pulmonary donor pool. (Poster)
- **Egan T**, Requard J. Stakeholders in the process of lung recovery from uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death donors (uDCDDs). (Poster) (Presented June 8, 2016, at 59th Annual Aspen Lung Conference, Aspen, CO)



## Awards



Congratulations to **Dr. Hong Jin Kim (Surgical Oncology)** and **Dr. David Lalush (Biomedical Engineering)** who received a \$50,000

NCTraCs award for their project "Utility of PET-MR in Assessing Response to Neoadjuvant Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of High-Grade Sarcomas". Their project received second place in the Surgery/BME Speed Date Meet Up in June 2015.

**Dr. Thomas Caranasos (Cardiothoracic)** is faculty advisor for a research project by medical student David Tyson, who was awarded a Carolina Medical Student Research Program funding for the summer of 2016. The project is "Basic Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement Simulator." **Dr. Richard Feins (Cardiothoracic Surgery)**, is co-investigator on the project.

**Dr. Jennifer Nelson (Cardiothoracic)** is mentor to Luma Essaid, a UNC medical student who is a recipient of Carolina Medical Student Research Program funding (\$4,000) for summer 2016 to work with Dr. Nelson studying regional variation in cost of care for neonates with hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

**C. Tyler Ellis (PGY6)** was awarded second place for his oral presentation of his work with **Dr. Karyn Stitzenberg (Surgical Oncology)** at the South Carolina and North Carolina Chapters of the American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting.

## New Publications

- Arora S, Misenheimer JA, Jones W, Bahekar A, Caughey M, Ramm CJ, **Caranasos TG (Cardiothoracic)**, Yeung M, Vavalle JP. Transcatheter versus surgical aortic valve replacement in intermediate risk patients: a meta-analysis. *Cardiovasc Diagn Ther* 2016 (June); 6(3):241-9.
- Nelson JS (Cardiothoracic)**, Heider A, Si MS, Ohye RG. Evaluation of explanted CorMatrix intracardiac patches in children with congenital heart disease. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2016. (Epub ahead of print, May 26, 2016)
- Phillips NA, Tannan SC, **Kalliainen LK (Plastic Surgery)**. Understanding and overcoming implicit gender bias in plastic surgery. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2016 Jul 5. [Epub ahead of print]

## Research Resources

### Database Manager



Contact **Paula Strassle, MPH** our database manager BEFORE you start a project involving data collection or setting up a database, e.g. chart reviews. She will help you organize and think about things so that you will be able to analyze it when you are ready. Paula is also in charge of NIS, NSQUIP, SEER databases (<http://www.med.unc.edu/surgery/education/resident-research-opportunities/available-databases>) if you would like to use them or have questions about them. She may also point you to other databases that may help you.

Request Paula's help using <http://www.med.unc.edu/surgery/database-manager-request-form>. Paula should be the point of entry for most of you and will communicate with the Biostats Team to distribute expertise/personnel needs.

Request Paula's help using <http://www.med.unc.edu/surgery/database-manager-request-form>. Paula should be the point of entry for most of you and will communicate with the Biostats Team to distribute expertise/personnel needs.

### New Biostats Team

**Jason Fine, PhD**, Professor of Biostatistics will lead the biostatistics team with the help of his graduate research assistant Daniel Luckett. Request their help using <http://www.med.unc.edu/surgery/contact-forms>.

## Suggestions?

Have you been doing research that you think should be included in this newsletter? Do you have any news from your research team, received any awards, published papers? Any other announcements? Let Jen Jen know at the email below!

Welcome Dr. Kibbe! Happy Summer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jen Jen".

Jen Jen Yeh, MD  
Vice Chair for Research  
[jjyeh@med.unc.edu](mailto:jjyeh@med.unc.edu)