

UNC SURGERY



FALL 2018

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Critical Care Surgery
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Joellen Buckio, MHA

Public Communications Specialists

Sheerah Coe
Ted Hobgood

On the cover: Dr. Mahesh Sharma with CT patient
Georgia Mae Braddy, see story pg 31.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The UNC Department of Surgery continued to execute our vision and mission as we began a new academic year. On September 12, 2018 it was with great pleasure that I delivered the annual State of the Department Address. Below are some of the highlights...

With regard to research, I am pleased to report that we submitted over 60 grant applications during this past academic year with nearly \$3 million in new research awards. Annually, the Department receives \$2.5 million in direct and nearly \$1 million in indirect funding from federal research grants, and has a total annual research budget of nearly \$4.5 million. We demonstrated groundbreaking clinical innovation with nearly \$2.5 million in clinical trial dollars and three US patents issued. This past year, our Department published over 220 peer-reviewed articles, many in high-impact journals with broad national and international audiences. UNC Surgery faculty served as book editors, journal editors, associate journal editors, and are recognized leaders in many national and international societies, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, and the Southern Surgical Association, to name a few.

Our faculty and trainees continue to contribute to a robust learning environment, receiving departmental, institutional and national awards touting their exceptional teaching skills. From UNC medical students and residents for the past two years we have received the Best Application Phase Course for Hospital, Interventional and Surgical Care and Outstanding Service Awards for Thoracic Surgery. Two of our residents received the Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition, our residents have received national awards from Alpha Omega Alpha, Association for Academic Surgery, and the American College of Surgeons.

Clinically, our practices have grown to serve more people of North Carolina, as we develop substantial outreach programs to target rural areas and launch new national programs to expand patient services. In Transplant, we developed the pancreatic islet cell transplantation

program, one of only ten in the country. In Pediatric Surgery, we expanded our hypothermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) program. In Surgery Oncology, we established a robotic pancreatic surgery program. These new programs join an impressive lineup of existing nationally ranked programs. We are communicating our patient stories through social media and are increasing our faculty interviews and special interest news to share our accomplishments to the community.

I am pleased to report that the Department of Surgery had an extremely strong showing at the 2018 ACS Clinical Congress in Boston, Massachusetts this October (pg 4). Overall, it was a meeting full of innovative ideas and I was very proud of the contribution that the UNC Department of Surgery made to the ACS Clinical Congress.

Since our last newsletter, we are very excited to welcome new faculty members to the Department of Surgery including Pablo Serrano, MD, and Kent Rossman, PhD (pg 15).

Lastly, please join me in celebrating the recent promotions of Anthony Charles (Professor with Tenure), Liz Dreesen (Professor), Daryhl Johnson (Associate Professor), Howard Kashefsky (Associate Professor), Rob Maile (Associate Professor), Tim Sadiq (Associate Professor), and Alex Toledo (Professor) (pg 12-13).

Sincerely,



Melina R. Kibbe, MD, FACS, FAHA

Colin G. Thomas Jr. Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery
Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

72
FACULTY



55
RESEARCHERS



77
STAFF



77
TRAINEES



57
APPs



\$4,443,339
TOTAL RESEARCH
GRANT DOLLARS



\$2,397,306
CLINICAL TRIAL
DOLLARS



60
GRANT
SUBMISSIONS



\$2,515,923
FEDERAL
GRANT DOLLARS



220
PUBLICATIONS





Dr. Gita Mody during the convocation ceremony.



Dr. Pascarella & Family before his induction into the American College of Surgeons.



Induction of new Fellows. Photo credit: ACS



American College of Surgeons Convocation Ceremony

UNC Surgery at the 2018 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

October 21-25, Boston, MA

The ACS Clinical Congress featured outstanding education and training opportunities at the premier annual surgical meeting for surgeons, surgery residents, medical students, and members of surgical teams.

The Department had 21 research presentations on the program as oral, quick-shot or E-posters, covering a wide range of topics such as breast reconstruction, burn injuries, hernias, trauma care in sub-Saharan Africa, novel therapies for vascular treatments, colorectal surgery, and gastrointestinal cancer. In addition, we had faculty delivering invited talks and serving as panel discussants to large national audiences. Some highlights included Anthony Charles, MD who spoke to a packed house on "Getting involved in Global Surgery at Any Level: How? Where? Why?" and Arielle Perez, MD whose exceptional talk focused on umbilical hernia repair. Dr. Marco Patti, MD taught a surgical skills workshop entitled "Foregut Surgery: Achalasia, Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease and Obesity", while Melina Kibbe, MD presented on 5 different topics, including a collaboration with Joellen Buckio, "Developing & Implementing a Department of Surgery Strategy Program."

The Departments of Surgery of North Carolina held a joint cocktail reception at the Seaport Hotel. The hosts included UNC, Atrium Health, East Carolina University, Duke University, New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Wake Forest University. To see more photos from ACS check out the [Facebook album](#).

Dr. Cynthia Downard, Pediatric Surgeon from the University of Louisville and Dr. Andrea Hayes-Jordan at the Convocation.

ORAL

Hussein Kassam, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Systemic Delivery of a Novel Fractalkine Binding Peptide Amphiphile Nanofiber to Target Injured Vasculature

Laura Purcell, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
In-Hospital Delays to Surgical Intervention is Associated with Increased Mortality for Emergent General Surgery Conditions at a Tertiary Hospital in Malawi

Jared Gallaher, MD, Former General Surgery Resident
Diurnal Variation in Trauma Mortality in a Resource-Poor Tertiary Trauma Center in Sub-Saharan Africa

Francisco Schlottmann, MD, Former Fellow
Disparities in Stage at Diagnosis among Screening and Non-Screening Mandated Gastrointestinal Cancers

Arielle Perez, MD, Division of General and Acute Care
Nationwide Analysis of Laparoscopic vs. Open Inguinal Hernia Repair

E-POSTERS

Corey Kalbaugh, PhD, Division of Vascular Surgery
Smoking Intensity and Major Adverse Limb Events Following Infrainguinal Bypass for Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease

Stephanie Lumpkin, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Standardizing Discharge Plans for Colorectal Surgery Patients to Reduce Readmissions: Can One Plan Target Everyone?

Stephanie Lumpkin, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Patient Perceptions of Healthcare Utilization After Colorectal Surgery

Laura Purcell, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Racial and Sex Differences in End of Life Decision Making in Critically Ill Surgical Patients

Tali Yohann, MD, General Surgery Resident
Risk Factors for Inpatient Mortality among Fall Patients in sub-Saharan Africa

Joanna Grudziak, MD, General Surgery Resident
Sex Disparities in Access to Surgical Care in Sub-Saharan Africa

Apoorve Nayyar, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Disparities in the Utilization of Post-Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction

Apoorve Nayyar, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Increased Travel Distance Reduces Proportion of Patients Receiving Standard of Care Treatment for Breast Cancer

Laquanda Knowlin, MD, Former Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Alcohol Intoxication and Burn Injury Outcomes: A Propensity Score Analysis

Colleen Bartley, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Predictors of Withdrawal of Life Support after Burn Injury

QUICK SHOT

Luigi Pascarella, MD, Division of Vascular Surgery
Effect of Obesity on Patient Outcomes After Aortobifemoral Bypass in the Treatment of Aortoiliac Occlusive Disease

Joanna Grudziak, MD, General Surgery Resident, PGY5
Characteristics and 3-Month Outcomes of Children with Hydrocephalus Treated with Ventriculo-Peritoneal Shunts in Malawi

Wesley Stepp, MD, Research Fellow
A Blood Immune Suppression Index (BISI) Based on IL10/IL12 and ARG1/NOS2 Ratios is Predictive of Immune Dysfunction and Respiratory Failure After Burn Injury

Apoorve Nayyar, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Temporal Trends in Immediate Post-Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction

Apoorve Nayyar, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Regional Variations in Use of Post-Mastectomy Breast Reconstruction for Breast Cancer Patients

David Overby, MD, Hillsborough Hospital
Risk Factors for Hernia Recurrence in Women of Child-Bearing Age



Dr. Anthony Charles during his invited talk.



Dr. Arielle Perez giving her talk on inguinal hernias.



Dr. Don Nakayama during his invited talk. Photo credit: ACS



The women of UNC Surgery at the AWS dinner.



Drs. Marco Patti and Thomas Caranasos at the NC Reception.



Drs. Stephanie Lumpkin, Kathleen Marulanda, Joanna Grudziak, and Wesley Stepp at the UNC dinner.



Joellen Buckio volunteered at the ACS to feed the homeless. #surgeyives



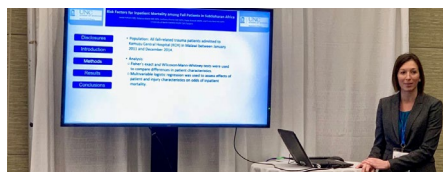
Drs. David Gerber and Bruce Cairns at the UNC dinner.



Dr. Melina Kibbe giving one of her invited talks.



Panel session on umbilical hernias featuring Dr. Arielle Perez.



Dr. Avital Yohann during her oral presentation.

UNC Surgery at the 2018 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

October 21-25, Boston, MA

Our Faculty, Residents and Fellows did an amazing job representing UNC Surgery. Thank you for your dedicated & tireless work.



Postdoctoral Research Fellows in Kibbe's Lab, Drs. Emily Newton, Alexandra Mercel, Kathleen Marulanda, and Mia Klein.



Dr. Marco Patti teaching a post-graduate course.

The New Surgical Tower at the UNC Medical Center - What you Need to Know

In late October, site preparations began for the construction of the new UNC Medical Center Surgical Tower. Surgical practice has come a long way since UNC Medical opened in 1952. This new tower will be the largest building on the UNC Medical campus and includes state of the art technology to provide surgeons and patients with the best level of care. Positioning the new tower in front of the N.C. Memorial brings a new look to the face of the Manning Drive entrance. Surgical procedures can be stressful, but this new building will change the experience for the patients and families in North Carolina and beyond.

The features of this new tower include:

333,555 sq. ft.

7 levels

24 operating rooms

56 private Pre & Post OP rooms

Family waiting areas on each level

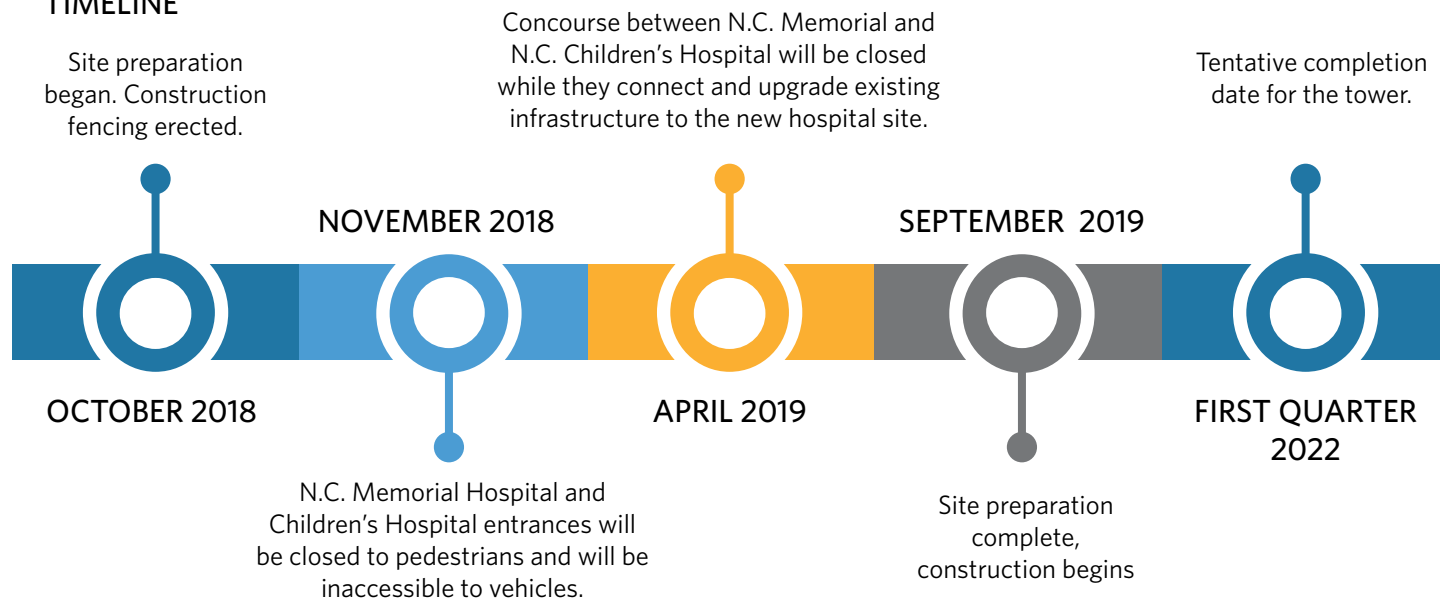
Ceiling heights in ORs will be raised from 11 ft. to 22 ft.

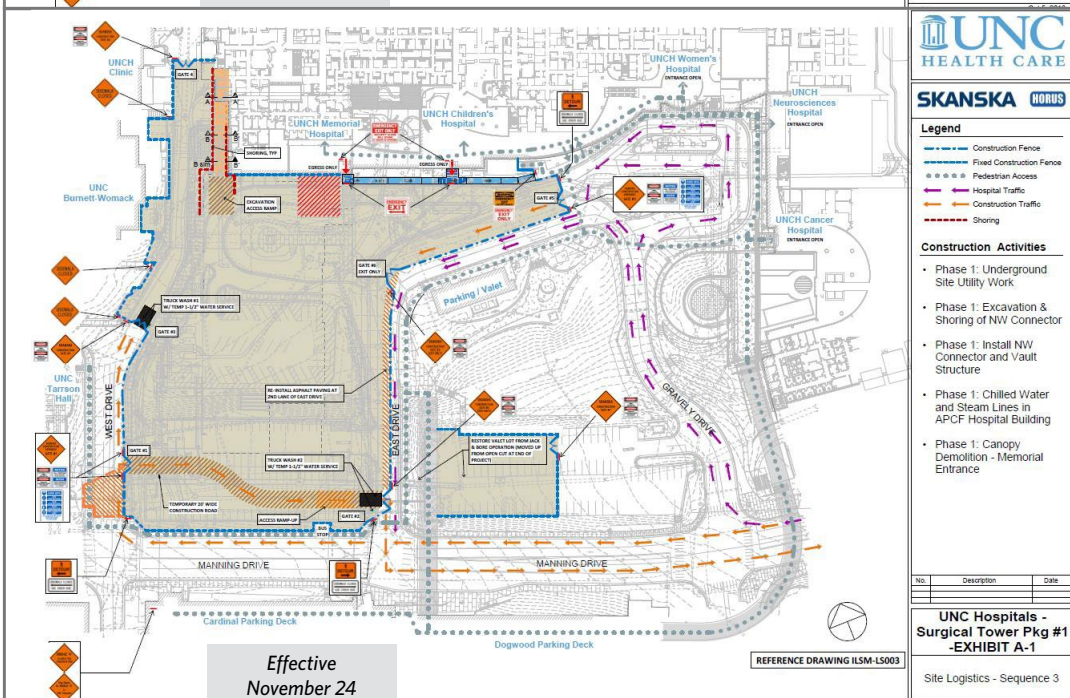
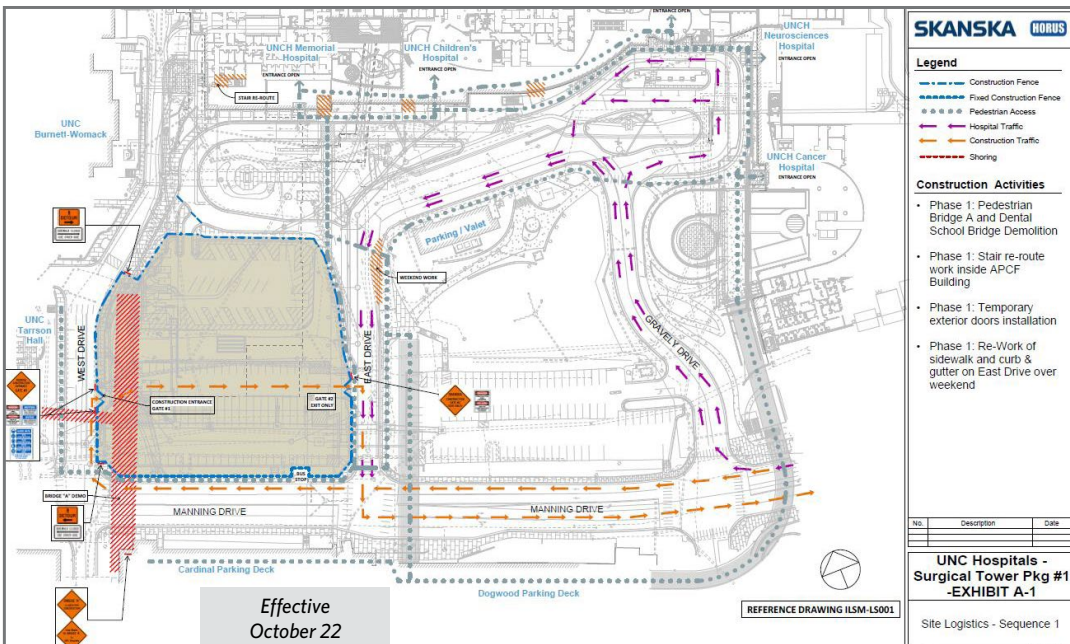
For more information [click here](#).

Challenges will arise when a project of this scale is undertaken, most notably closure of hospital entrances, rerouting of patient and shuttle drop off locations. Construction fencing will also close off some areas of the hospital which will force our faculty and staff to take alternate routes between Burnett-Womack and the hospital.

- Site preparations began October 22, construction fencing was erected to mark off the perimeter of the construction zone.
- In late November (on or about Nov. 26), vehicular traffic in front of the hospital will be rerouted. When this happens, both Memorial Hospital and NC Children's Hospital entrances will be closed. The Children's entrance will be closed for approximately 12 months while the Memorial entrance will remain closed for the duration of the project.
- The 'Kiss and Go Lane' has been relocated. All employees being dropped-off or picked-up should do so in Jackson Circle - the traffic circle between the Jackson Parking Deck and the POB.
- Parking spaces in the CG parking lot in front of Memorial Hospital have been relocated.
- Handicapped parking in front of Memorial Hospital will be moved to the Dogwood Deck.
- To assist patients and guests with mobility issues, including those parking in the newly relocated handicapped spots, golf cart service between the parking decks and the Cancer Hospital has been enhanced.

TIMELINE





GETTING TO THE HOSPITAL FROM BURNETT-WOMACK

- Start at the freight elevators in the back of Burnett-Womack
- Go down to the first floor, exit elevators to the right
- Go to the end of the hall and through the last door on the left
- Go through the next door you see, which will take you into the first floor of memorial hospital
- Go all the way down the hall, past the mail room which will be on your right
- At the end of the hall take a right
- Again go to the end of that hallway, take a right and then immediate left and you will start to see signs for the hospital
- Walk down the hallway and take the next right. You'll see the Chapel on your right, go past it.
- Down the escalators and you will be in the main entranceway of memorial hospital.
- When the main entrance and walkway are closed you can come down the escalator and around to the back hallways to get around.





SHELDON RESIDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The fifth annual Sheldon Resident Research Symposium took place on October 10, a day long event showcasing resident research across all GME departments. It was organized by UNC Surgery residents Chelsea Hutchinson and Staci Aubry. The day kicked off with the keynote presentation by Richard M. Wardrop III, MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

The Keynote address was titled "Making it All Fit! Integrating Work, Life, Scholarship and Thriving." Dr. Wardrop touched on self-care noting that physicians cannot serve from an empty vessel. He discussed creating clarity of

purpose, value and vision and shared his thoughts on work life balance, which he referred to as Work Life Integration. He also suggested downloading a gratitude mobile application called 'Three Good Things' that he recommended everyone use daily for mental wellness.

He finished his presentation with a word of advice for the audience, "Be gentle with yourself. Often times we are the most critical person of ourselves, which is our own distorted view. You are here. You are in training. Deal with things one day at a time. Hope is not lost on a day to day basis."

The day-long event also included Resident

Basic Science presentations by Drs. Mia Klein, Joshua Shapiro, and William Teeter, as well as Resident Clinical Science presentations by Drs. Jessica Friedman, Thomas Blount, and Pauline Filippou. Mia Klein, MD, UNC Surgery Research Fellow won Best Basic Science Presentation.

The day continued on with a Panel Q&A Session, Poster Presentations and a new event called Story Slam. Seven doctors from across the UNC School of Medicine took part in telling personal stories, no technology, no PowerPoint presentations, no written speeches to read from. It was just the doctors, a few scribbled notes, and their memories of events.

STORY SLAM



Sara Scarlet
General Surgery Resident
Story Slam Participant

The lead that I'm wearing feels like it weighs 500 pounds. I'm the junior in house today and I'm standing in the E.R. next to an empty stretcher. As junior, I am the person that you look up at if you come to the emergency room

after a traumatic injury and this terrifies me.

I'm standing in the trauma bay because ten minutes ago I got a page that went like this, '55 year-old man, self-inflicted stab wounds to the neck and wrists, vital signs stable, E.T.A. 10 minutes.'

My mind is moving one hundred miles an hour. I'm thinking of my training in ATLS, advanced trauma and life support, and I'm thinking of my A.B.C.'s: airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure. Will I need blood? Who will I need to call and how will I know if I need to go to the operating room?

The patient arrives. Several EMS and clinicians listen as the person at the head of the bed gives the sad story. The man was home alone, he had slashed his wrists and his neck and he walked down to the woods. He laid down on the forest floor and waited to die. But he didn't. Somebody found him first, they called 911 and they brought him to us. And here he was.

We moved the patient on to the stretcher and we quickly began our

resuscitation, our evaluation and I worked through my primary survey. He was breathing okay. His breath sounds were equal. His femoral pulses were strong. He was warm. His heart rate and blood pressure were normal. And as my team and I looked around, we knew he would be okay. We also knew that he needed to go to the operating room. So we worked on mobilizing our team, bringing him upstairs, and planning for the OR.

And right as we were about to wheel back to OR 9, I walked up to the bedside; I wanted to let the patient know that he'd be going back soon. When I walked up to the stretcher, I realized that I hadn't looked at his face the entire time.

When I walked up to him, what he said to me made me terribly surprised. He looked up at me and said, "donate my organs." Shocked. I wasn't certain what he was saying, so I asked him to repeat himself. Again he said to me, "donate my organs." I was crestfallen in this moment because I realized that no one had explained to him that he would be okay.

As I walked away I wondered why we didn't explain. Sometimes it seems obvious. Sometimes we have no time at all. But we're also not trained. Nowhere in ATLS does it tell you how to tell a patient that they have a disability, how to talk to their family that he might be dying.

Nowhere in the ABC's is this information present. And so sometimes we don't do it. We are excellent at responding to the physical wounds of trauma. We know how to save a life, but what about acknowledging the human experience of it, isn't that important too?

I walked to the scrub sink, washed my hands and told myself I would never let that happen again.

Newly Appointed Chief of General & Acute Care Surgery, Anthony Charles, MD, to Lead Global Surgery at UNC

Trauma surgeon and new Division Chief Anthony Charles, MD, MPH, has been named the Director of Global Surgery for the UNC Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases.

Original article featured in Vital Signs September 13, 2018



“Dr. Charles has distinguished himself as an outstanding educator, researcher, and clinician”

-Melina Kibbe, MD

“Joining UNC has been a great opportunity to advance my work in global surgery due to the strength of the collaboration with the Malawi Surgical Initiative with the UNC Project-Malawi and the local surgeons in Lilongwe,” says Mody. “Together, they are making great strides in education, capacity building and research in low-resourced settings. I look forward to joining Dr. Charles’ team.”

Jared Gallaher, MD, MPH, spent two years as a research fellow in Malawi and plans on joining the UNC Department of Surgery upon completing a surgery fellowship in Oregon.

“When I started my training at UNC, I was immediately enthusiastic about Dr. Charles’ vision for a partnership-centered approach to global surgery,” says Gallaher. “Working with Dr. Charles and the Malawi Surgical Initiative gave me the opportunity to help improve surgical care in Malawi through multiple approaches including education, research, public health and system development.”

While the bulk of global surgery initiatives are centered in Malawi, Charles says future efforts may focus on the UNC Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases’ sites in Asia, where the need for surgeons in rural areas is great.

Written by Morag MacLachlan.

“I have met few people in my life with Anthony’s energy and commitment,” says Myron Cohen, MD, director of the UNC Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases. “We are so lucky to have his leadership of our Global Surgery Program.”

Charles is the new Chief of the Division of General and Acute Care Surgery and Director of the Adult Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program or ECMO. In 2009, he launched the Malawi Surgical Initiative (MSI), a training program based at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe that prepares Malawian clinicians for a career in surgery. The MSI has increased the number of Malawian surgeons in the country from 14 to 25.

“We now have more surgeons than operating rooms,” Charles says. “And our trained surgeons are now trainers, holding leadership roles within the surgery department at Kamuzu Central Hospital. This would not have been possible if they had been trained abroad. To solve local problems, you need to be in Malawi day-to-day.”

The Malawi Surgical Initiative is a collaborative effort between UNC, Haukland University in Norway, Kamuzu Central Hospital and the Malawi College of Medicine. Charles says the training runs smoothly because of institutional and departmental support as well as a commitment from surgical partners in UNC’s Departments of Radiology, Pathology and Anesthesiology. The training is accredited by the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. Malawian trainees can specialize in several surgical areas including general surgery, pediatrics and orthopedics.

Charles says the need for surgeons in Malawi is great due to the high percentage of traffic accidents and abdominal surgeries, like appendicitis. The program not only attracts Malawian trainees, but also American-trained surgeons who are passionate about global health. Rebecca Maine, MD, MPH, and Gita Mody, MD, MPH, joined the UNC Department of Surgery within the past year because of the opportunity to work abroad.

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS FACULTY

Edward Bahnson, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, was elected to the Council of the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine to serve from 2018-2022. The Council is the governing body of the Society.



Raghid Bitar, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, Chatham location, was elected to serve on the UNC Faculty Physicians Board.



Anthony G. Charles, MD, MPH

Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was appointed as the new Chief of the Division of General and Acute Care Surgery. He was also appointed as the inaugural Surgical Director of the Institute of Global Health.



Jason Crowner, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, was elected into inaugural Academy of Educator's (AOE) Council.

Elizabeth Dreesen, MD

Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was appointed as the new Associate Chief Medical Officer for UNC Medical Center.



Kristalyn Gallagher, DO

Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, was appointed Section Chief of Breast Surgery and Surgical Director of the Breast Care Program.



PROMOTIONS



Anthony G. Charles, MD, MPH

Chief, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was promoted to Professor of Surgery.



Elizabeth Dreesen, MD

Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was promoted to Professor of Surgery.



Daryhl Johnson, MD

Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS FACULTY

Samuel Jones, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Burn Surgery, UNC Greensboro College of Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.



Loree Kalliainen, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was inducted into the Presidential Council of Alumnae, Michigan Technological University, September, 2018.



Rebecca Maine, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was appointed as the new Co-Director of the Malawi Surgical Initiative.



Luigi Pascarella, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, assumed the role of Clerkship Director for UNC Surgery.



Arielle Perez, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was appointed as Director of the UNC Hernia Center.



Lauren Raff, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, assumed the role as Associate Clerkship Director and has been named Associate Adult Trauma Medical Director.



Howard Kashefsky, MD

Division of Vascular Surgery, was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.



Robert Maile, PhD

Division of Burn Surgery, was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.



Timothy Sadiq, MD

Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.



Alexander Toledo, MD

Division of Abdominal Transplant Surgery, was promoted to Professor of Surgery.

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

Staci Aubry, MD

General Surgery Resident, received an award from UNC Hospitals, the Robert C. Cafalo, MD, PhD, House Officer Excellence Award.



Mia Klein, MD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, General Surgery Resident, Kibbe Lab, won Best Basic Science Presentation at the Sheldon Resident Research Symposium.



Meredith Kugar, MD

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Resident, received the Class of 2000 Kaiser Permanent Excellence in Teaching Award (SURGERY). These awards are nominated and voted on by the MS4 class.



Kathleen Marulanda, MD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, General Surgery Resident, Kibbe and McLean Labs, secured a position in the UNC-Duke Collaborative Clinical Pharmacology National Institutes of Health T32 Postdoctoral Training Program for her research project.



Roberto Mota, MD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Bahnson Lab, received a Burroughs Wellcome Fund 2018 Collaborative Research Grant in the amount of \$14,000.



Erica Peters, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UNC Center for Nanomedicine, Kibbe Lab, was selected as an inaugural Early Career Editorial Advisory Board member for the American Chemical Society (ACS) Journal of Biomaterials Science and Engineering. She was also named a "Rising Woman Star in Biomedical Research" by MIT and Johns Hopkins University.



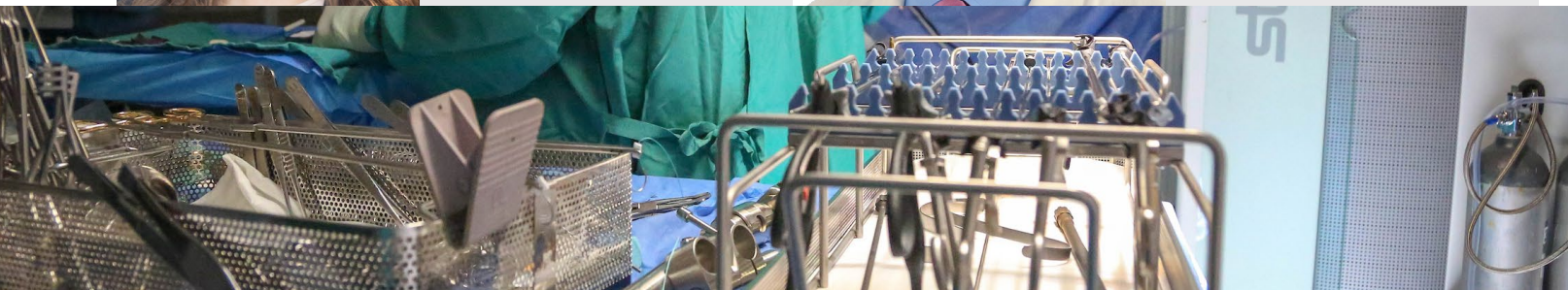
Laura Purcell, MD

General Surgery Resident, was selected as an Office of International Activities (OIA) Global Health Scholar.



Hadley Wilson, MD,

Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident, received an award from UNC Hospitals, the Robert C. Cafalo, MD, PhD, House Officer Excellence Award.



NEW FACULTY



Stephen Heisler, DPM, MHSA
Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

Stephen Heisler, MD, completed his Bachelor of Science in Biology at California University of Pennsylvania in 2011. He attended Barry University, where he received his Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine in 2015 and was honored with both the Dr. Brian Segal Memorial Award and the Dr. John Steinberg Diabetic Limb Salvage Award. He continued on to obtain a Masters of Health Service Administration degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2017. To read more about Dr. Heisler [check out his introduction online interview.](#)



Gita Mody, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Gita (pronounced Geetha) Mody, MD received her degree in molecular biology and computer science from Vanderbilt University in 2002. Upon graduation, she entered Washington University School of Medicine, graduating in 2007. She completed her general surgery residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital along with a research fellowship in Global Health Equity. She completed her cardiothoracic surgery residency in 2016 and then assumed a faculty position at the same institution. To read more about Dr. Mody [check out her introduction online interview.](#)



Michael Phillips, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Michael Phillips, MD received his BS in Microbiology from Brigham Young University in 2005. He attended the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he graduated with honors in research in 2009, then matriculated to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill where he completed his general surgery residency and a T32 research fellowship in 2016. Most recently, Dr. Phillips completed a two-year pediatric surgery fellowship at the Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE. To read more about Dr. Phillips [check out his introduction online interview.](#)



Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD, graduated *cum laude* from Williams College in 2005. She matriculated to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. After graduating medical school, she stayed at Pittsburgh for her general surgery residency where she continued to receive accolades including an NIH T32 research fellowship. Following residency, Dr. Downs-Canner completed a fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. To read more about Dr. Downs-Canner [check out her introduction online interview.](#)



Pablo Serrano, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Abdominal Transplant

Pablo Serrano, MD, graduated from Universidad Anahuac Estado de Mexico in 2005. He went on to complete his general surgery residency at the Hospital Central Sur de Alta Especialidad, PEMEX, in Mexico City in 2011. He completed a fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery in 2014 from Medstar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington DC. He was a Clinical Fellow with UNC Surgery before accepting a faculty position with the Department.



Kent Rossman, PhD
Assistant Professor, Division of Abdominal Transplant

Kent Rossman, PhD, graduated from the State University of New York with a B.S. in Biochemistry & Biophysics. He went on to get his Ph.D. in Biochemistry & Biophysics from UNC. Most recently he was an adjunct associate professor at UNC in the Department of Pharmacology. He is a UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center member and in 2014 he was the University Cancer Research Fund Innovation Award Winner. He was recently awarded an NIH/NCI research grant through 2022.

NEW HEALTHCARE STAFF



Jessica Cooper, RN, MSN
Physicians Assistant
Pediatric Surgery

Jessica received her B.S. and M.S.N. in Nursing from the University of Connecticut before becoming a certified pediatric nurse practitioner in May 2009. Most recently she served as an advanced practice provider in pediatric surgery for the trauma program for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.



Jamie Hollowell
Physicians Assistant
Burn Intensive Care Unit

Jamie received her B.S. in Biology from UNC Chapel Hill and her M.S.N. in Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from Vanderbilt University. Most recently she was at Duke Hospital as a Critical Care Nurse Practitioner developing a novel role as a resource and supplemental role to extend neuro ICU care, and served as a clinical instructor for the ABSN program.



Julie Kahn
Nurse Practitioner
Gastrointestinal Surgery

Julie has been with UNC HealthCare since 2012 circulating and scrubbing surgical cases in pediatric and adult operating rooms. Before coming to UNC she was at Wake Med in Raleigh as well as Camp LeJeune. Julie graduated with an Associates in Nursing from Coastal Carolina Community college in Jacksonville, NC.



Brian Shanahan, MPAS PA-C
Physician Assistant
General & Acute Care Surgery

Brian received his B.S. in Biology from Marywood University in 2016 and went on to complete his M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies in 2018 from the same institution. His research interests include Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis and Rheumatic Heart Disease.

AWARDS



Anita Fields, RN
Program Manager Aftercare
NC Jaycee Burn Center

Anita was awarded the Alan Breslau Award at the The 30th Annual Phoenix World Burn Congress held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 2018. It is the highest distinction the Phoenix Society can bestow on an individual.

Anita has been working and supporting the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center for over 25 years with her talents and advocacy for the burn patients treated at UNC.

Under her leadership, the Burn Center has established and grown the Aftercare programs to be the best in the nation. Anita has been recognized as one of the Top 100 nurses in North Carolina and has received numerous awards for her outstanding patient care.



Sara Sievers
Nurse Practitioner
General & Acute Care Surgery

Sara is a registered nurse trained to handle both elective and emergent surgical intervention in the circulating and scrubbing role. She received her B.S. in Nursing in 2016 from Gardner-Webb University and most recently served as a registered nurse at Duke Raleigh Hospital. She is passionate about providing personal care for the preoperative patient.

“I have never encountered a more caring person; this is a much deserved award.”

- Joellen Buckio, MHA, Associate Chair for Administration

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Paula Anderson
Social/Clinical Research Specialist
Burn Surgery

Paula started at UNC's Department of Surgery in July 2018. She graduated with a B.A. in History and Women's Studies and a Masters in Sociology from the University of Washington, Madison. She has been a Social/Clinical Researcher in the UNC system since 1993.



Grace Chen
Research Administrator
UNC Surgery

Grace Chen graduated from Nankai University in China with a B.A. in Economics. She started her career with UNC in 2005 and was most recently the Contracts and Grants Manager in the school of Nursing at UNC Chapel Hill. Grace has extensive experience with research administration, pre- and post-award needs.



Sherry Cook
Administrative Specialist
Pediatric Surgery

Sherry grew up in Berlin, MD. She lived in San Diego for 22 years and she moved back 10 years ago. In Maryland she worked as a surgical coordinator with an orthopedic surgical department for 8 years. She recently became a certified professional coder and moved to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter who resides in Winston Salem.



Julie Crimmins
Director of Clinical Operations
Administrative Office

Julie has been with UNC HealthCare System for over 11 years. She worked in Revenue Cycle in several roles including as the professional billing lead for the Epic implementation. Before joining UNC HealthCare, Julie spent 15 years in the insurance industry. She's a proud graduate of Villanova University and the University of Notre Dame.



Neal Murty
Clinical Simulation Manager
Simulation Center

Neal joins UNC Surgery with 21 years' experience as a surgical technologist, 16 years in cardiothoracic and vascular sciences. Most recently he was managing the Robotics and Simulation Center at EC Heart Institute at ECU. He returns to UNC, where he had originally served as the Manager of the Simulation Center.



Nianyi Ann Zhang
Research Administrator
UNC Surgery

Ann graduated from East China University of Science and Technology with a B.S., and an M.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology. She completed her Ph.D. from Boston University. Ann began her career in research as an administrator in 2011 at Harvard Medical School before becoming a Grant Proposal Administrator in 2015 at NC State.

PROMOTIONS



Paul Clement
Financial Operations Manager
UNC Surgery

Paul was recently promoted to Financial Operations Manager. He has been with the department since 2007 first as division manager

of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and then as the lead accountant for grants and clinical trial management.

Paul relocated to North Carolina from upstate New York in 2005 and enjoys spending time with his 3-year-old son, Everett, traveling, photography, and following the NY Giants and Mets.

INCOMING RESIDENTS 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR



Anastasiya Shchatsko, MD
Belarussian State Medical University
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Belarus



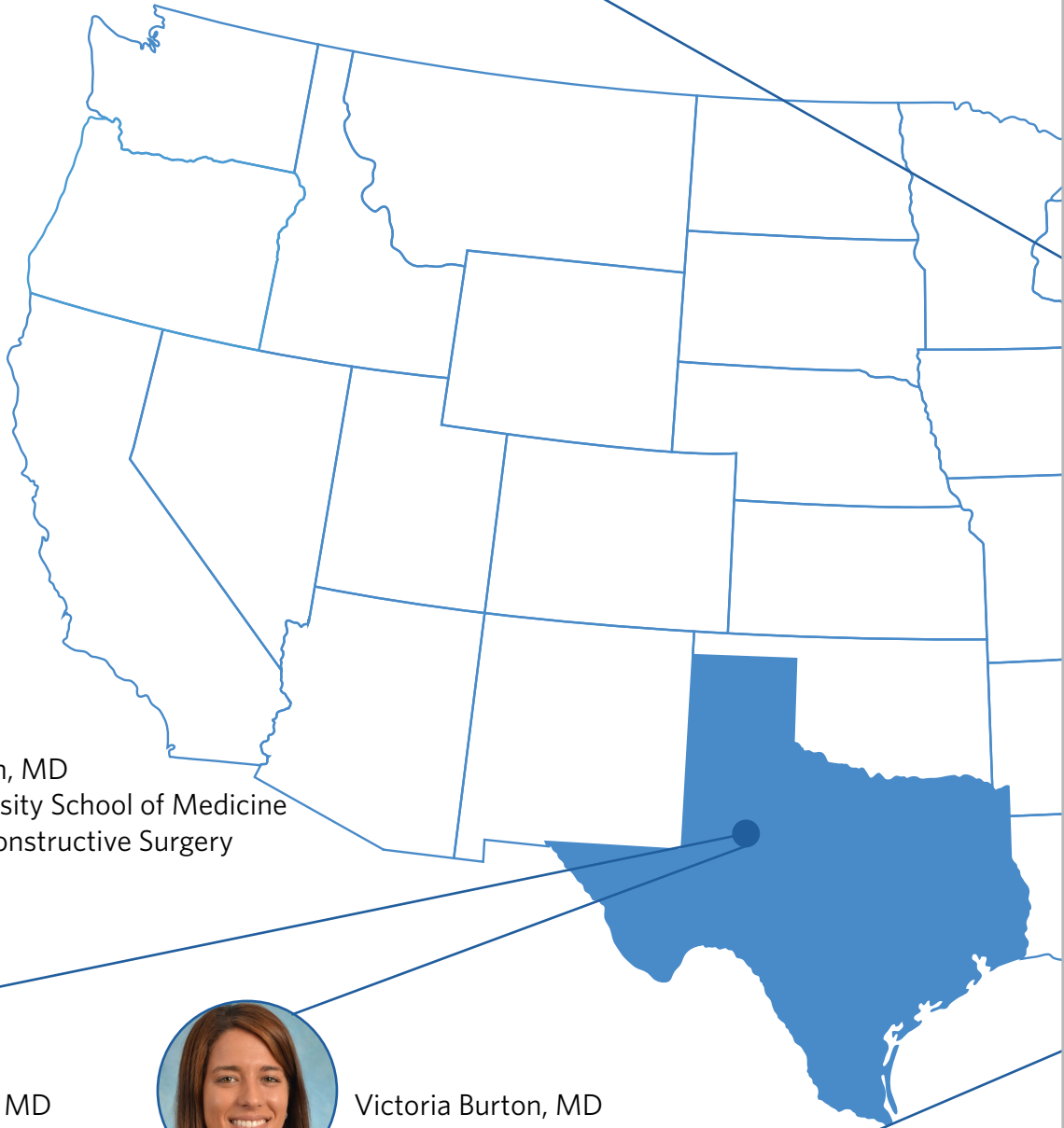
Aruba



Kamran Khan, MD
Xavier University School of Medicine
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Daniel Kindell, MD
University of Toledo
General Surgery Residency



Dean Homen, MD
Texas Tech University
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Victoria Burton, MD
Texas Tech University
General Surgery Residency



Laura Morales, MD
Florida State University
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Kevin Chen, MD
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
General Surgery Residency



John Espey, MD
Albany Medical College
Cardiothoracic Residency



Kathleen Iles, MD
State University of New York
General Surgery Residency



Idorenyin Ndem, MD
University of Virginia
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Venki Ramakrishnan, MD
Virginia Tech
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Malcolm Jefferson, MD
UNC Chapel Hill
General Surgery Residency



Joshua Harford, MD
UNC Chapel Hill
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Tyler Warmack, MD
UNC Chapel Hill
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Kathryn Atkins, MD
University of Central Florida
General Surgery Residency

PUBLICATIONS | ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANT

Desai CS, Vonderau JS, McCall R, Khan KM, Baron TH. Pancreatic cystosis in patients with cystic fibrosis: A qualitative systematic review. *Pancreatol*. 2018 Oct;18(7):700-704. Epub 2018 Aug 17. Review. PubMed PMID: 30139657.

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Squires JH, Alcamo AM, Horvat C, **Sharma MS**. Contrast-Enhanced Ultrasonography During Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation. *J Ultrasound Med*. 2018 Jul 29. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30058295.

Lopez-Magallon AJ, Saenz L, Lara Gutierrez J, Florez CX, Althouse AD, **Sharma MS**, Duran A, Salazar L, Munoz R. Telemedicine in Pediatric Critical Care: A Retrospective Study in an International Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program. *Telemed J E Health*. 2018 Jul;24(7):489-496. Epub 2017 Dec 18. PubMed PMID: 29252119.

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PUBLICATIONS | PLASTICS

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PUBLICATIONS | GASTROINTESTINAL

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Fichera A. Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer: Is It Time for a Paradigm Change? *JAMA Surg.* 2018 Aug 1;153(8):e181620. Epub 2018 Aug 15. PubMed PMID: 29874379.

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Dr. Jason Long in the operating room.

PUBLICATIONS | PEDIATRIC

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PUBLICATIONS | VASCULAR

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RESEARCH

RESEARCH TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Introduction to Statistics and Strategies for Data Analysis

NC TraCS is offering a 1-week course entitled "Introduction to Study Design and Strategies for Data Analysis." This course is intended as an introduction to statistical terms, methodologies and analysis strategies most commonly used in clinical/translational research. The goal of this course is to help participants with understanding the necessary vocabulary and fundamental concepts they can use to communicate with biostatisticians. Register for this training [here](#). TBD for 2019

Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) Training

REDCap, is a secure web application that can be used to build and manage case report forms, surveys and other data capture mechanisms for clinical research. NC TraCS offers training classes to assist researchers in getting started with building REDCap data collection forms for their research projects. For more information about REDCap or to sign-up for future trainings, please visit the [website](#).

Introduction to EMERSE

EMERSE (Electronic Medical Record Search Engine) allows users to search free text (unstructured) clinical notes from the electronic health record. This training will cover what EMERSE is, how it works, and how to use it appropriately. For more information about EMERSE or to sign-up for future trainings, please visit the [website](#).

Internal K Program Interest Meeting

Internal K career development award programs at UNC include the TraCS KL2, the BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health) and Oncology K programs. The informational session will describe each program and provide details about the upcoming application cycle.

November 16 from 2:00 - 2:30pm in TraCS Room 219

[More info.](#)

RESEARCH RESOURCES

[Carolina Data Warehouse for Health](#) (CDW-H) is a central data repository containing clinical, research, and administrative data sourced from the UNC Health Care System. The CDW-H team hosts office hours twice per month (the first Wednesday and third Thursday). This is a chance for anyone with questions about datasets, i2b2, or additional CDW "stuff" to speak with an analyst; no appointment necessary.

Next Dates: November 7th and 15th; December 5th and 20th; January 17th; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Brinkhous-Bullitt 218

[SPIN Plus](#) is a comprehensive funding opportunities database that gives UNC researchers access to over 40,000 funding opportunities from more than 10,000 federal and non-federal sponsors. Additional information about SPIN is available [here](#).

RESEARCH SUPPORT

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

Nianyi Ann Zhang, PhD and Grace Chen, BA, our new Research Administrators, provide support for all areas of proposal development including clinical trials and will be your main contacts for all things relating to pre-award research. Please contact Ann and Grace as soon as you think about applying for a grant. They will help you with developing your budget, compiling the appropriate documentation for your proposal, routing your grant for submission and coordinating with the Office of Clinical Trials, the sponsor, and administration. Please remember external grants must be routed and submitted to the university 7-days before the due date!

To request grant submission assistance, please complete the [online service request form](#).

To request clinical trial contract submission, please complete the [online service request form](#).

DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Paula Strassle, MSPH and Charley Gaber, MPH are our Database Managers. They provide assistance for data collection, 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 in charge of the NIS, NSQUIP, and SEER [databases](#) and can also point you to other databases that may be of assistance. Please contact them BEFORE you start any project involving data. To request their assistance, please complete the [online service request form](#).

BIostatISTICS

The Department of Surgery is collaborating with the **North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute (NC TraCS)** to provide biostatistical consultations and support to our faculty members and residents. Biostatistics support can be requested through the [NC TraCS website](#). If you are using a database, creating a database or have questions as to whether you need a biostatistician, please continue to contact Paula Strassle and Charley Gaber through the [online service request form](#).

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2019

Meeting Date: October 27-31, 2019

Location: San Francisco, CA

Abstract Deadline: March 2019

More information [available here](#)

The American Surgical Association (ASA) 139th Annual Meeting 2019

Meeting Date: April 11-13, 2019

Location: Fairmont Dallas, Dallas, TX

Abstract Deadline: November 19, 2018

More information available [here](#).

The American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS) 20th Annual Meeting 2019

Meeting Date: April 30 – May 5, 2019

Location: Dallas, TX

Abstract Deadline: November 7, 2018

More information available [here](#).

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting

Meeting Date: June 1-5, 2019

Location: Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH

Abstract Deadline: November 27, 2018

More information available [here](#).

2019 Annual Meeting of American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery

Meeting Date: September 18-21, 2019

Location: Sheraton Dallas, Dallas, TX

Abstract Deadline: Opens January 1, 2019

More information available [here](#)

2019 Digestive Disease Week (DDW)

Meeting Date: May 18-21, 2019

Location: San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA

Abstract Deadline: December 1, 2018

More information available [here](#).

2019 Academy Health's Annual Research Meeting (ARM)

Meeting Date: June 2-4, 2019

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

Abstract Deadline: Mid-January 2019

More information available [here](#).

2019 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Meeting Date: May 31-June 4, 2019

Location: Chicago, IL

Abstract Deadline: February 12, 2019

More information available [here](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY

American College of Surgeons (ACS) - Faculty Research Fellowships

Application Deadline: November 15, 2018

Anticipated Award Start Date: July 1, 2019

Award Amount: Up to \$40,000 for up to 2 years

More information available [here](#).

NC TraCS Pilot Awards for Translational Research

Application Deadline: March 26, 2019 is the next deadline for three NC TraCS Pilot award programs:

- [\\$5-50K Translational Research Matched Pilot Grants](#)
- [Drugs, Devices and Diagnostics Development \(4D\) Pilot Grants](#)
- [Translational Science Methods and Process Awards \(TSMAPA\)](#)

For more information about these pilot grant mechanisms please contact [Paul Kerr](#) or nctracs@unc.edu.

FACULTY + TRAINEES

NC TraCS \$2K Grant Awards

Application Deadline(s): November 20, 2018; December 18, 2018; January 15, 2019

Award Amount: \$2,000

More information available [here](#).



IN THE LOOP - EDUCATION

Mock oral examinations occurred on September 24, 2018. PGY4 and PGY5 residents had the opportunity to experience questions on two topic areas in a realistic test environment. Thank you to Sharletta Hooks for coordinating and to all who participated. In addition, "statewide" mock orals for chief residents occurred on October 5, 2018 at Duke's Trent Semans Center. This was a high fidelity examination which included chief residents and faculty from across North Carolina. Thank you to the Duke staff, and to our PGY5 residents and faculty for a great showing.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Florence postponed the Resident as Teachers course and Faculty Retreat that had been set for September 14-15, 2018. We are rescheduling these events with our visiting professor Deb DaRosa, PhD, July 12-13, 2019. As before, the topic for the residents will be "Teaching and Leading in the OR," and for the faculty "Surgeon as Coach." Please - mark your calendars.

Our educational Grand Rounds series continues. Thanks to Christopher Klipstein, MD who gave a fabulous session on "Teaching in the Clinics" on 8/22/2018.

Our next visitor will be UNC's Vice Dean for Education and Chief Education Officer Julie Byerly, MD, PhD who will speak on "Hot Topics in Education" on 1/2/2019.

Sincerely,



**Timothy
Farrell, MD**

Vice Chair of Education



HEALTHCARE UPDATES

myHR Launches for State Employees December 16 and all Owned Entities Through January 2020

HR is changing how we deliver services to UNC Health Care's owned entities making it quicker and easier for managers and employees to complete work they're already doing today. Beginning December 16, 2018, State employees will experience:

- A new time-keeping system, myTime
- Revisions to the UNC Medical Center General Compensation Policy
- Standard Jobs
- Access to the Customer Service Center (coming January 2019)

The transformation will begin with State employees and

continue to all owned entities through January 2020.

If you manage employees not employed by the State and you are asked questions, please let them know that they will not see any changes at this time. We will send additional information on the transition of all owned entities once State employees fully transition to myHR. [Learn more about myHR](#) or send questions to [myHR](#).

State Employees Combined Campaign starts Oct. 22. The UNC family has a long tradition of giving back to the community. Each year our employees support hundreds of charities through the State Employee Combined Campaign (SECC). This year the SECC kicks off on Monday, Oct. 22, and ends on Friday, Nov. 16. Learn more about how to contribute [here](#).

GRAND ROUNDS

Wednesdays 7:15 am - 8:15 am at the 4th floor Clinic Auditorium

11/14/2018

Chief Residents

**Baily Sanders, MD, and
Chelsea Hutchinson, MD**

11/21/2018

Faculty Meeting

11/28/2018

Interdisciplinary M & M

12/5/2018

No Grand Rounds - Southern Surgical
Association

12/12/2018

Visiting Speaker

Martha and Luther Hodges

Visiting Lecturer

G. Alexander Patterson, MD,
*Professor of Surgery, Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery*

Washington University in St. Louis

12/19/2018

UNC Visiting Speaker

Nigel Mackman, PhD, John Parker
*Distinguished Professor
Department of Medicine*

12/26/2018

No Grand Rounds

1/2/2019

UNC Visiting Speaker

**Julie Byerley, UNC Vice Dean for
Medical Education**

1/9/2019

Faculty Talk

**William Marston, MD, Professor of
Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery**
Results of the Veniti venous stent
clinical trial

1/16/2019

Chief Residents

**Mihaela Rapolti, MD, and
Paul Diegidio, MD**

1/23/2019

Visiting Professor

John W. Stackhouse

Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

David Herndon, MD, Jesse H. Jones
*Distinguished Chair in Burn Surgery,
Professor of Surgery & Pediatrics;
Chief of Staff and Director of Research,
Shriners Hospitals for Children
The University of Texas, Galveston, TX*

1/30/2019

UNC Visiting Speaker

**Peggy McNaull, MD, Associate
Professor of Anesthesiology and
Pediatrics Vice Chair for Patient Safety
& Quality Improvement**

2/6/2019

No Grand Rounds - Academic
Surgical Congress

2/13/2019

Academic Surgical Congress
Presentations

2/20/2019

Visiting Speaker

**Michael Rosen, MD, Hernia Center
Director, Cleveland Clinic**

2/27/2019

Faculty Talk

Anthony Charles, MD, MPH Chief,
*Division of General and Acute Care
Surgery*



PATIENT STORIES



Krystle Hensley
Breast Cancer Survivor

The trip from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Chapel Hill is only about three hours, 148 miles of mostly highway across a landscape of pine trees and old oaks with towns dotting the horizon. It's not a bad ride, but it does get monotonous and draining... [Read more.](#)



Brenda Hensley
Breast Cancer, Parents Perspective

"I feel guilty. As a parent, I feel guilty that I'm healthy and she's not." Brenda Hensley, a 54-year-old elementary school teacher in Jacksonville, North Carolina shares her feelings about what it was like when her daughter, Krystle, was diagnosed with cancer... [Read more.](#)



Aisha Talley
Sweet Sound of Recovery - Burn Patient

It's common to find twenty-seven-year-old Aisha Talley sitting at the organ during church service every Sunday. Her fingers move smoothly and effortlessly across the keys as a melody flows over the congregation. If she's not playing at church, she may be hitting chords... [Read more.](#)



Georgia Mae Braddy
Infant Cardiothoracic & Neurosurgery Patient

A hole inside a heart. A tiny heart. A heart the size of an infant's fist, with a hole the size of a penny. A hole that helped to keep a little girl alive. Georgia Mae Braddy is, without doubt, a fighter. At four months old, she has already undergone three major surgeries... [Read more.](#)

FACULTY VIDEOS

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UNC Surgery Profile: Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD (Her Personal Fight to Cure breast Cancer)
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UNC Surgery Profile: Chirag Desai, MD (Most Rewarding Part of What he Does)
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5

UNC Surgery Profile: Jeyhan Wood, MD (Treating Children with Cleft Palate & Cleft Lip)
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Newly Added:

Luigi Pascarella, MD

Katharine McGinigle, MD

Timothy Sadiq, MD

Marco Patti, MD

Jason Long, MD

Bruce Cairns, MD

IN THE NEWS



Melina Kibbe, MD

WUNC's The State of Things [Listen here](#)
Focus Carolina Interview [Listen Here](#)



Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD

Featured on WRAL [Watch here](#)



Krystal Hensley
UNC Patient

Patient interview featured on WRAL [Watch here](#)



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Surgery

Department of Surgery
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Philanthropy inspires innovation and paves the way for healthier futures for our patients. Gifts to the Department of Surgery advance surgical care in the operating room and the clinic, enable us to pursue bold ideas in the research arena, and provide a rigorous training experience for tomorrow's surgical leaders.

For information about ways to support the UNC Department of Surgery or to make a gift, please contact Shannon Reavis, Director of Development for Surgery, at shannon_reavis@med.unc.edu or 919.843.1172 or visit go.unc.edu/uncsurgery.

MISSION

The Department of Surgery's mission is to provide the highest quality patient care to all people through innovation, world-class research, and training the next generation of surgical health care professionals and scientists.

VISION

To be the nation's leading public academic Department of Surgery.



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