

UNC SURGERY



WINTER 2019

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UNC DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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Timothy M. Farrell, MD
Jin Ra, MD
Jen Jen Yeh, MD
Hong Jin Kim, MD

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Education
Quality and Safety
Research
Strategy & Outreach

Division Chiefs

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Bruce A. Cairns, MD
John S. Ikonomidis, MD, PhD
Alessandro Fichera, MD
Anthony G. Charles, MD, MPH
Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD
Lynn A. Damitz, MD
Hong Jin Kim, MD
Mark Farber, MD

Abdominal Transplant Surgery
NC Jaycee Burn Center Surgery
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Gastrointestinal Surgery
General & Acute Care Surgery
Pediatric Surgery
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Surgical Oncology
Vascular Surgery

Directors

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David W. Ollila, MD

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Mentorship Program

Residency Program Directors

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Michael O. Meyers, MD
Jeyhan S. Wood, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery
General Surgery
Plastic Surgery

Fellowship Program Directors

David A. Gerber, MD
Timothy M. Farrell, MD

Bruce A. Cairns, MD
Elizabeth Dreesen, MD
David W. Ollila, MD
Mark Farber, MD

Abdominal Transplant Surgery
*Adv. Minimally Invasive
and Bariatric Surgery*
Burn Surgery
Critical Care Surgery
Complex General Surgical Oncology
Vascular Surgery

Associate Chair for Administration

Joellen Buckio, MHA

Public Communications Specialists

Sheerah Coe

On the cover: Rebecca Maine, MD, and Joanna Grudziak, MD,
Photo credit: Max Englund/UNC Health Care

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we have reached the midway point in our academic year, I am pleased to report many exciting updates in the UNC Department of Surgery. Earlier this month, the Department of Surgery represented itself with distinction at the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress (ASC) in Houston, Texas. I am extremely proud to say that UNC made the list of top 10 institutions with the highest scoring abstracts. Overall, our Department had 30 invited talks, oral, and quick shot presentations delivered by faculty, residents, fellows and medical students at the ASC. We are extremely proud of Dr. Kristalyn Gallagher and Dr. Apoorve Nayyar for their work entitled, "A National Survey of Sexual Harassment Among Surgeons." For this work, they were awarded the 2019 AAS Best Overall Abstract Award and the 2019 AAS Outstanding Resident Research Award for outcomes research. This is truly a remarkable achievement given that 1700 abstracts were submitted to the meeting. As part of the award, Dr. Gallagher will represent the AAS at the Surgical Research Society of Australia's 56th Annual Scientific Congress in November 2019. In addition to this work which was presented at the Clinical Outcomes Plenary session, Dr. Mia Klein's research scored extremely high and was selected for presentation in the Basic Science Plenary as well as the resident quick shot competition. Only 1% of all accepted abstracts are presented in the plenary sessions. Other notable events included Dr. Anthony Charles serving as a panelist and delivering a talk in the Global Surgery session in which he debated if global surgery is a form of colonialism, and I delivered a talk in the Hot Topic Session on Clinical Trials. We also had four faculty and three residents attend the grantsmanship course.

Clinically, the department continues to show increases in clinical productivity, as our wRVU are up 7% compared to the same time last year. This is remarkable given the shut downs that occurred for the hurricanes, the snow day, and the OWASA water problem. In January, the new Perioperative Performance Dashboard was introduced to assist in providing insights into surgical efficiency in the operating room. In addition, the Committee of Peri-Operative Leaders continues to brainstorm solutions to the issues we face as we work to share OR block time to maximum efficiency. We are expanding our services throughout North Carolina by increasing our collaborations with UNC Rex, opening a clinic in Panther Creek at the end of 2019, and a starting a walk-in

General & Acute Care clinic within the next month or two.

As a department, we are making great strides to promote advances in surgical care through innovation and research, and I am very pleased to note that our department was recently awarded over 4 million dollars in NIH awards. We also had several faculty receive additional awards both at the institutional and national level and can boast 30 publications in top-tier journals for this quarter. These advances help us towards our goal of being a multidisciplinary, collaborative, and leading Department of Surgery.

I am very pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the department: Dr. Jin Ra, Associate Professor, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery and Dr. Adam Akerman, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Ra will also be serving as our Vice Chair of Quality and Safety, Director of the SICU and comes to us from the University of Florida, Jacksonville. Dr. Akerman has been promoted from his role as a research associate in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Research lab here at UNC, where he is a co-investigator of an NIH R01.

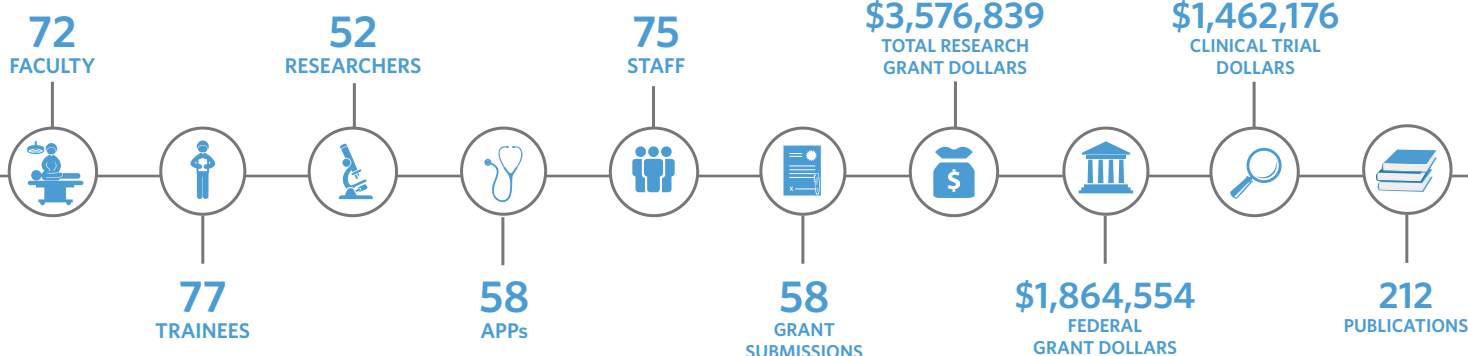
Finally, we are excited to report that the first phase of the 4th floor renovation is now complete! The new lobby is open and staff have begun to move into offices. The next phase of construction will involve the GI surgery staff renovations with an anticipated start date of late April, followed by renovation of the educational area.

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



*Research + Publication data is for calendar year 2018



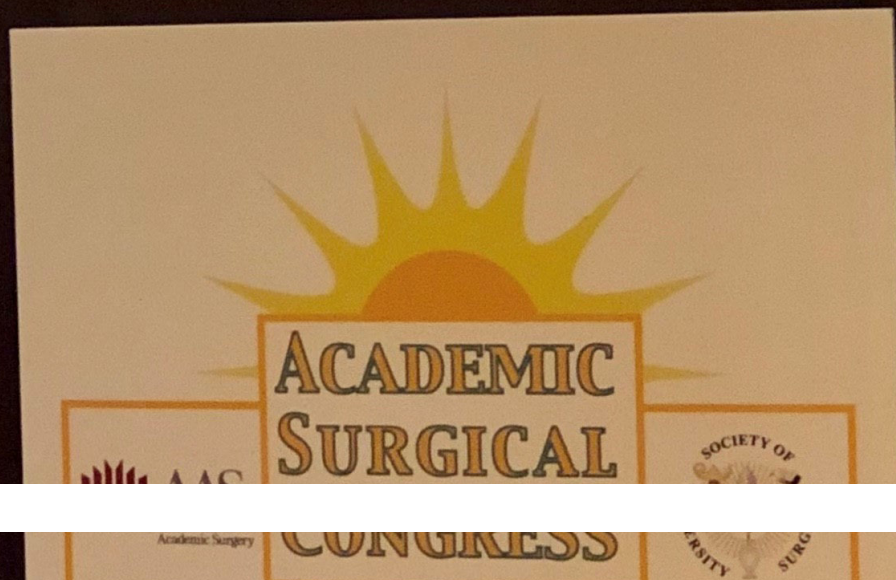
The UNC Surgery Team



Tissue Factor-Targeted Peptide Amphiphile as an Injectable Therapy for Hemorrhage.

The concept of the project is to deliver nanofibers intravenously targeted to tissue factor to slow or stop bleeding until the point of definitive care is reached. The work Dr. Klein presented at the Academic Surgical Congress represents the first phase in which targeting to tissue factor is confirmed. The next phase of the project will involve incorporating a therapeutic with the nanofiber.

Dr. Mia Klein



UNC Surgery at the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress

February 5 - 8, 2019 Houston, TX



Dr. Laura Purcell

PLENARY

Apoorve Nayyar, MBBS, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
A National Survey of Sexual Harassment Among Surgeons

Mia Klein, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Tissue Factor-Targeted Peptide Amphiphile as an Injectable Therapy for Hemorrhage

QUICK SHOT

Apoorve Nayyar, MBBS, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
A National Survey of Sexual Harassment Among Surgeons, and Survival Outcomes of Early-Stage Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer in the Elderly

Chelsea Hutchinson, MD, General Surgery Resident
Exploring the Surgical Needs of the Incarcerated Population

Colleen Bartley, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Amputation Following Burn Injury

Daniel Kindell, MD, General Surgery Resident
Hospital 30-day Mortality Rates are Influenced by Social Determinants Of Health

Jennifer Kincaid, Medical Student
The Epidemiology of Mass-Casualty Incident Patients Presenting to a Malawian Tertiary Hospital, and Mortality Related to Mass-Casualty Incidents at a Malawian Tertiary Hospital

Jadi Jihane, Medical Student
Evaluation of Growth Outcomes in Pediatric Cerebral Palsy Patients with Gastrostomy Tubes

Kenisha Atwell, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
The Epidemiologic Characteristics and Outcomes of Intentional Burn Injuries at a Regional Burn Center

Laura Purcell, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Nationwide Trends in Laparoscopic Synchronous Resection of Colon Cancer with Liver Metastasis, and Mortality Following Trauma Exploratory Laparotomy in Sub-Saharan Africa

Marco Di Corpo, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Treatments Modalities for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in the US: Trends and Survival Outcomes

Mia Klein, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Fellowship or Family? A comparison of residency leave policies with the Family and Medical Leave Act, and Tissue Factor-Targeted Peptide Amphiphile as an Injectable Therapy for Hemorrhage

Michael Phillips, MD, Division of Pediatric Surgery
Do Negative Pressure Incisional Wound VACs Decrease Surgical Site Infections in Pediatric Surgery?

Paul Alvarez, Medical Student
Characteristics and Complications of G-Tube Placement Among Surgical and Non-Surgical Services

Stephen Mahoney, MD, General Surgery Resident
Extent of Lymphadenectomy is Not Associated with Improved Survival in Esophageal Cancer

Trista Reid, MD, Division of General and Acute Care
The Feasibility of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) in Burn and Inhalation Injury Patients

On February 5, 2019 the Academic Surgical Congress kicked off its 14th year. UNC Surgery faculty gave major talks at the event. Melina Kibbe, MD, presented on "Institutional and Department Support for Clinical Trials" and Anthony Charles, MD, was on a panel discussing "Global Surgery Pro - A Pathway to Bilateral Academic Success Vs Global Surgery Con - The Bold New Face of Colonialism." Some of our faculty were also moderators for Quickshot and Oral Sessions including Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD, and Nick Tsihlis, PhD.

UNC Surgery received some well deserved accolades at the conference. Senior author Kristalyn Gallagher, DO, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow Apoorve Nayyar, MBBS, won three awards at the event. They won 2019 AAS Best Overall Abstract Award, 2019 AAS Outstanding Resident Research Award - Outcomes, and Society of Asian Academic Surgeons best ASC Abstract Award for their collaboration on the project entitled, "A National Survey of Sexual Harassment Among Surgeons." They collaborated with several institutions and other authors including Kandace McGuire at VCU, Lillian Erdahl at University of Iowa, Thomas Varghese at University of Utah, David Ollila at UNC, Paula Strassle at UNC, Sara Scarlet at UNC, and Heather Logghe at Thomas Jefferson University. The awardee for the AAS Best Overall Abstract is invited to be the faculty AAS delegate at the Surgical Research Society of Australia's 56th Annual Scientific Congress which will be held in November 2019 in Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Gallagher will be presenting their findings at that international meeting.

Mia Klein, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, won the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) Resident/Fellow Presentation Award for her presentation at the ASC titled "Tissue Factor-Targeted Peptide Amphiphile as an Injectable Therapy for Hemorrhage." For this, she is going to represent the SUS at the 54th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in March 2019!

ORAL

Hussein Kassam, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Targeted Spatiotemporal Delivery of Peptide Amphiphile to the Vasculature

Xavier Baldwin, MD, General Surgery Resident
Postoperative Length of Stay Following Colorectal Surgery Impact Readmissions

Laura Purcell, MD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
The Efficacy of Trauma Transfers in a Resource Poor Setting

Jadi Jihane, Medical Student
Predicted End-Stage Renal Disease Risk in Living Kidney Donors at an Academic Medical Center

Peter Marcinkowski, MD, General Surgery Resident
Perspectives and Priorities of Surgery Residency Applicants in Choosing a Training Program



(Left to Right) Drs. Kathleen Marulanda, Nick Tsihlis, Mia Klein, Emily Newton, Laura Purcell, Melina Kibbe, Rebecca Maine and Trista Reid



Dr. Anthony Charles during his Panel Discussion



Drs. Alexandra Mercel and Emily Newton



Drs. Krystalyn Gallagher and Michael Phillips



(Left to Right) Drs. Melina Kibbe, Emily Newton, Alexandra Mercel, Laura Boitano, Kathleen Marulanda, and Mia Klein



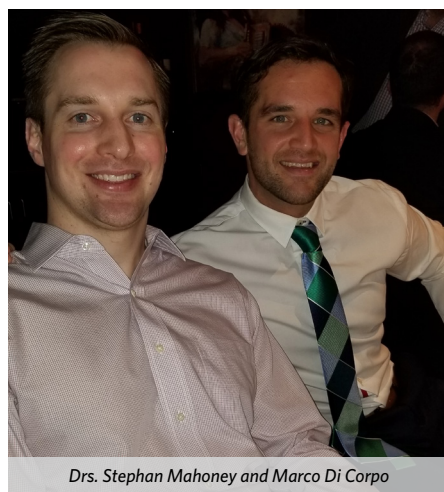
Dr. Hussein Kassam



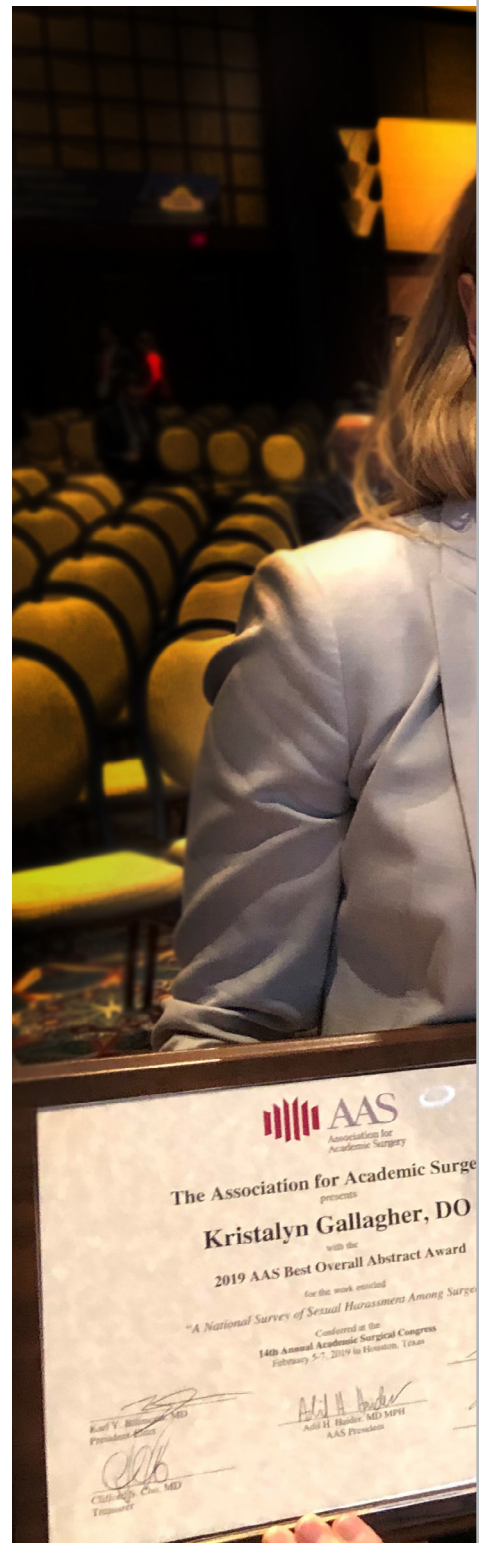
Drs. Rebecca Maine, Anthony Charles and Trista Reid



Dr. Xavier Baldwin



Drs. Stephan Mahoney and Marco Di Corpo



UNC Surgery at the 2019 Academic Surgical Congress

February 5 - 8, 2019 Houston, TX

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



(Left to Right) Drs. Stephanie Downs-Canner, Kristalyn Gallagher, Kathleen Marulanda, and Laura Purcell at the UNC Dinner.



A National Survey of Sexual Harassment Among Surgeons.

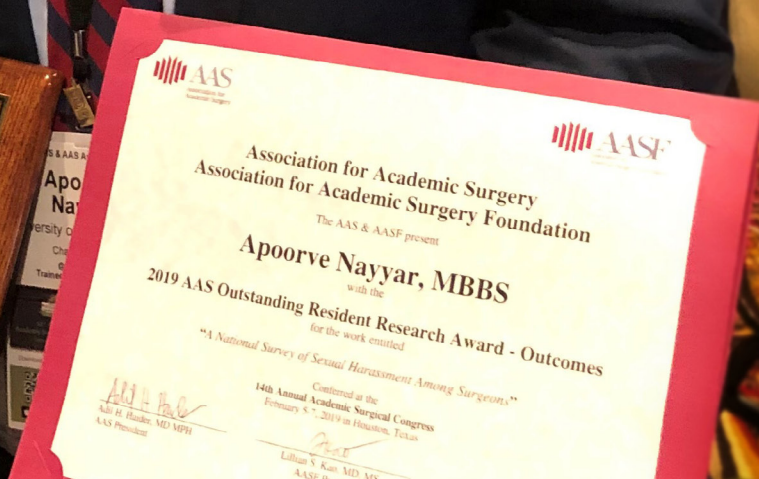
Emerging data suggests that experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace is a common occurrence for women across all professions, which can be harmful personally and professionally. While studies have reported the incidence of sexual harassment in medicine, no previous study had examined the nature or scope of sexual harassment experienced by surgeons.

An anonymous, electronic survey was distributed via a web-based platform to members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), and through targeted social media platforms.

1,126 individuals responded to the survey and 981 completed the survey, of which 74% identified as women, a response rate of 18% among US women surgeons. 25% identified as men, which represents 1% of male surgeons in the US. Overall, women were found to be four times more likely to experience sexual harassment compared to men. Trainees were twice as likely to experience harassment compared to faculty or practicing physicians. Experience of sexual harassment did not vary by race. Only 16% of those that experienced harassment reported these incidents to any institutional authority. Among those that reported over half (53%) said NO ACTION was taken based on their reporting. The greatest barrier to reporting was fear of negative consequences including negative impact to career.

This study highlights the urgent need to improve reporting mechanisms and implement system changes to reduce the incidence of sexual harassment in surgery.

Kristalyn Gallagher, DO and Apoorve Nayyar, MBBS, after accepting their awards.



PANTHER CREEK OFFICE

The new Panther Creek Medical Office Building located in West Cary, on the corner of NC55 & McCrimmon Parkway, is currently under construction. The design is completed and they have broken ground on the new building with a tentative occupation date of December 2019.

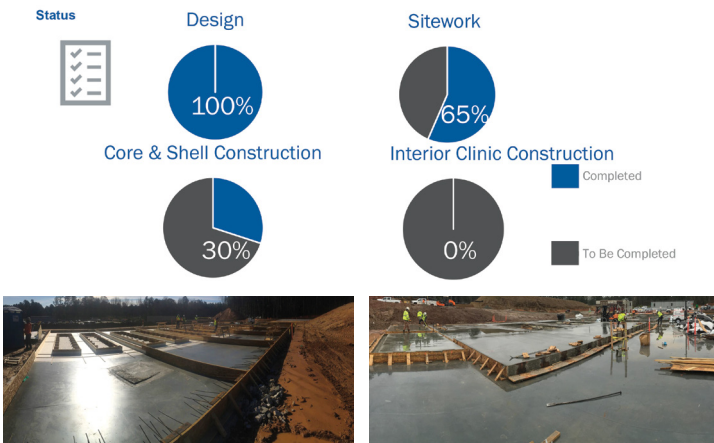
The medical building is the first partnering of UNC REX Surgical and UNC

Surgery to care for surgical patients in the triangle. This is a joint venture between the two entities with input ranging from equipment, clinical collaboration and building design.

Our UNC Surgery divisions that will have clinical presence in the new space include CT, General, GI, Plastic and Reconstructive, Surgical Oncology, and Vascular. REX will also have digestive health and cardiology in

the facility.

The building itself is also a first for UNC. At approximately 99K square feet, the new design will include a two door system. Patients will enter through a door at the front of the room while medical staff will enter through a door on the opposite wall. It's designed to minimize patient wait times and to allow for a centralized office space for healthcare teams.



NEW DEPARTMENT LOBBY

The first phase of the 4rd floor renovation for UNC Surgery is complete. The new lobby has been beautifully updated and is ready to welcome visitors.

The renovation included a makeover for the lobby, maximization of the layout to include additional offices and a new 8 person conference room boasting a state of the art smart board. Staff began the transition into the space in early February and will finish in late March with the final stage, relocation of the HR

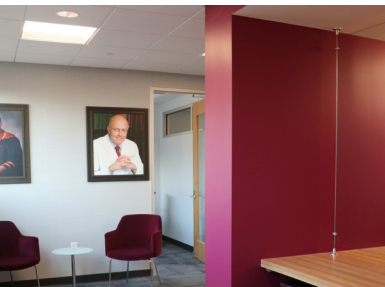
team into Dr. Kibbe's previous office suite on the 3rd floor.

The next phase of construction will include education and Gastrointestinal surgery staff renovations to complete the right side of the floor. The project is ready to go out for bid with an expected start date some time in late April. No date yet on when those renovations will be completed.

* Move expected in late March

New Office Locations

Melina Kibbe, MD*	4041
Joellen Buckio	4042
Elizabeth Gorsuch*	4043
Kat Wallace*	4044
Julie Crimmins	4045
Paul Clement	4046
Ann Zhang	4047
Grace Chen	4048
Conference Room	4002
Shannon Reavis	4003
Jessica Phillips	#TBD
Sheerah Coe	#TBD



Dr. Farber, New Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery: Impacting the Face of Vascular Surgery

Vascular surgeon and Professor of Surgery, Mark Farber, MD, is working to enhance patient care, help lead the division as one of the premier vascular centers in the country, and advance the treatment of complex and simple aortic disease.



With over 20 years of experience at UNC, Dr. Mark Farber was named the new Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery in November 2018. He is only the fourth surgeon to lead the division, starting with George Johnson, MD, in 1969. Blair Keagy, MD took the reins in 1991 and most recently William Marston, MD, held the position for past 10 years.

"The UNC division of vascular surgery is one of the premier vascular units in the country providing comprehensive personalized care across the spectrum of vascular diseases to the citizens of North Carolina and the surrounding region," says William Marston, MD, Professor and Chief Emeritus Division of Vascular Surgery

Dr. Farber was chosen as the new chief, not only because of his vast experience at UNC but because of his passion for surgery, research and the belief that patients come first. Dr. Farber graduated from Cornell University in 1986 with a degree in engineering. He continued on to earn his medical degree from Tulane University in 1991 before completing his

general surgery residency training at the University of North Carolina in 1996. He then continued his training at UNC in the Vascular Surgery Fellowship program from 1996-1998, after which he accepted an Assistant Professor faculty position with UNC Surgery.

"I took on the chief role because there's a legacy of excellent vascular care at UNC Surgery," says Dr. Farber, "and I feel I am the best qualified to help continue that legacy. Dr. Marston did a great a job running the division, so we don't need to change things, but instead steer the group and keep up with an aging population with vascular disease."

In addition to his role as chief, Dr. Farber is the Director of the Aortic center as well as the Program Director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship and a Professor of Surgery. The vast majority of his practice involves both endovascular and traditional surgical methods.

He is currently working on a ground breaking project in the fight against aortic

disease. His research project involves custom designed stent grafts to treat aortic aneurysms. These custom devices are at least 5 years away from FDA approval and are available at only 10 other healthcare institutions in the US. In 2012, Dr. Farber began his investigation as both the sponsor and primary investigator and since then, his program has implanted 243 devices with another 57 patients in the cue.

His project is unique because it involves detailed 3D CT scans of an individual's aorta. Dr. Farber then works with engineers at the device company to design a custom graft, so it's individualized for the patient's anatomy. His project is focused on evaluating the impact of these devices on renal function and recent publications indicate that the program provides some of the best outcomes in the country.

"The goal of our trial is to get information back to the company so that as they improve these devices, not only to treat the aneurysm, but ensure they don't cause other problems" says Dr. Farber.

As the new chief, his vision for the division is to continue the legacy left behind by his predecessors. He hopes to continue to add and enhance programs as warranted based on the needs of the North Carolina Community. As the Health Care system changes, he plans to help the Division adapt, grow and continue to excel in providing comprehensive care to patients.

"I cannot think of a better choice to lead the division in its next phase of growth and development than Dr. Farber," says Dr. Marston. "His international reputation for outstanding care in aortic disease management, his prolific research program and his passion for UNC and the division uniquely position him to lead us as the 4th division chief of vascular surgery."

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS FACULTY

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD

Chief, Professor of Surgery, Division Pediatric Surgery, was elected onto the International Pediatric Surgical Oncology Executive Committee, Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery, and elected to the Nominating Committee for the Board of Governors for the American College of Surgeons



Rebecca Maine, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, was awarded a 2019 Junior Faculty Development Award for her project entitled, "Quantifying and identifying Causes of the Three Types of Delay to Trauma Care (seeking care, reaching care and receiving care) in the Central Region of Malawi."



Edward Bahnson, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, was awarded a 2019 Junior Faculty Development Award for his project entitled, "Effect Of Ozone Exposure On Revascularization Outcomes."



Ugwuji Maduekwe, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, was awarded a 2019 Junior Faculty Development Award for her work entitled, "Understanding of Health Disparities in Pancreatic Cancer."

Mark Farber, MD

Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, was appointed the new Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery.

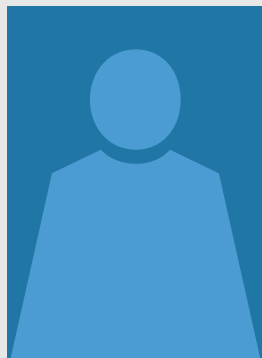


Chirag Desai, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Abdominal Transplant, was named one of the 23 winners of the Triangle Business Journal's 2019 Health Care Heroes.



PROMOTIONS



Sharon Schiro, PhD

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



Luigi Pascarella, MD

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

GRANTS & AWARDS FACULTY

Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, received a UNC Lineberger Developmental Grant for \$50,000 for 1 year for her project entitled, "Inhibition of Th17 into Treg conversion as a novel component of immunotherapy in triple negative breast cancer."



Karyn Stitzenberg, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division Surgical Oncology received a grant from 21st Century Cures Act - Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot for her project entitled, "Scaling Colorectal Cancer Screening Through Outreach, Referral, and Engagement" in the amount of \$535,293 for 1 year.



HONORS

Robert Maile, PhD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Burn Surgery, received an NIH R01 as Multi-PI with Dr. Bruce Cairns for their project entitled, "Damage-Induced Activation of the TLR/mTOR/PPARg Axis Regulates the Immune Response After Burn and Inhalation Injury."



Bruce Cairns, MD

Chief, Professor of Surgery, Division of Burn Surgery, received an NIH R01 as Multi-PI with Dr. Robert Maile for their project entitled, "Damage-Induced Activation of the TLR/mTOR/PPARg Axis Regulates the Immune Response After Burn and Inhalation Injury."



Melina Kibbe, MD

Chair, Department of Surgery and Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, received an NIH R01 award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for her project entitled, "A Novel Endovascular Approach to Remove Atherosclerotic Plaque Lesions in Situ," in the amount of \$2,906,389 from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2022. She also received an additional R01 award as a co-investigator with Andrew Wang, MD, for their project entitled "Basement Membrane Targeted Nanoparticles for Post-Surgical Adhesion Prevention in the amount of \$1,492,820 from February 1, 2019 to November 30, 2022.



DIVISION AWARDS



Burn Surgery

The NC Jaycee Burn Center received a gift of \$150,800 on January 24, 2019 from the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives. They have given almost \$2 million to support the Burn Center, including burn prevention efforts, aftercare, and to Camp Celebrate. Camp Celebrate is a weekend camp for children ages 7-15 who have survived burn injuries.

Left to Right: Dale Lambert, Board member and CEO; Randolph EMC; Kristie Aldridge, Director of Communications Strategy & Marketing; Lindsey Listrom, Communications and Media Relations Manager, both from NC Carolina's Electric Cooperatives; Dr. Bruce Cairns; and Burn Center Board Chair Wes Googe

NEW FACULTY



Adam Akerman, PhD
*Assistant Professor, Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery*

Dr. Akerman graduated from The Citadel with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2007. He then went on to attend the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to earn a master's degree in microbiology and immunology in 2012 and continued on there to receive his doctorate in molecular cellular biology and pathobiology in 2017. His research scholarship in thoracic aortic aneurysms and abdominal aortic dilation at MUSC garnered many institutional accolades, including recipient of the Eric James Award (2016) and Raymond S. Greenberg Presidential Scholar (2017). Most recently, Dr. Akerman was recruited to UNC in 2017 to serve as a research associate in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Laboratory where he is Co-Investigator of a NIH R01 award to examine transmembrane proteolytic induction and thoracic aortic aneurysms.



Jin Ra, MD,
*Associate Professor, Division of
General Surgery*

Dr. Ra graduated in 1996 with a degree in biology and political science from Emory University. She continued on to earn her medical degree in 2002 from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and completed her training at the University of Pennsylvania specializing in surgical critical care. Dr. Ra comes to us from University of Florida, Jacksonville where she was an Associate Professor of Surgery, Medical Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU), Director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, and Associate Chair of Quality. She has been honored with multiple exemplary teacher awards and recognized for her integral role in the care of severe multi-system injured trauma patients. Dr. Ra joins UNC as an Associate Professor, the Director of the SICU, and as the Vice Chair of Quality and Safety for the Department of Surgery.

NEW HEALTHCARE STAFF



Brian Morris
*Physicians Assistant
CVT Intensive Care Unit*

Brian started at UNC Health Care in November of 2018. He received his B.S. in Biology from Eastern Michigan University in 2015. He went on to get his Master of Health Sciences from Duke University's Physician Assistant Program in August 2018. He is a Marine Corps veteran and prior to becoming a physician assistant he worked as a firefighter and paramedic in Michigan for 12 years.



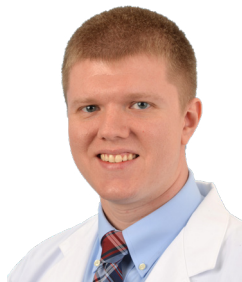
Thomas Gudzik
*Physicians Assistant
CVT Intensive Care Unit*

Thomas graduated with a Master's of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Lincoln Memorial University in August 2018. Prior to enrollment in PA school he obtained 2 bachelor's degrees, the first in biology from Stony Brook University in 2011 and the second from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2016 shortly before beginning his physician assistant career.



Grace Bowser
*Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Burn Intensive Care Unit*

Grace joins the Burn ICU as an Advanced Practice Provider. Originally from Charlottesville, VA, she attended the University of Georgia and graduated in 2014 with a BS in Dietetics. She went on to pursue nursing at Vanderbilt University, obtaining her MSN as an AG-ACNP with a further sub-specialization in critical care. Outside of work she enjoys running, boxing, riding horses and hiking with her dog, Ollie.



Jacob Holcomb
*Physician Assistant
CVT Intensive Care Unit*

Jacob received B.S. degrees in Biomedical and Textile Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2010 and his Master of Health Sciences from Duke University Physician Assistant Program in 2018. Jacob has 8 years of Paramedic experience in critical care and EMS systems. His medical interests are in the physics related to abnormal physiology and the utilization of technology in healthcare.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Melissa Makhoul
HR Consultant
UNC Surgery

Melissa began her HR Career four years ago, specializing in Employee Relations, Benefits Administration and Recruiting. She earned her B.A. degree, summa cum laude, in Literature and the Humanities from UNC, Greensboro. Melissa grew up in Los Angeles, but moved to NC in 2010, residing in Mebane with her husband and 4 pets. She enjoys spending her time baking cakes to comfort her husband every time the Panthers and NC State lose one of their games, which makes for a lot of cakes.



Shermeka Arrington
Administrative Specialist
Burn Surgery

Tarheel born and bred, Shermeka is just a small town girl adjusting to life in the city (Durham). Most recently she was an Administrative Specialist for the Kidney Transplant program and a Health Unit Coordinator for UNC Hospitals. She has been happily married to her husband, Eric, for almost 7 years now and they have a fur baby, a 4 year old Shih Tzu, named Gizmo. She's enjoyed 18 years of service with UNC Healthcare and looks forward to a bright future with the Burn Surgery Division.



Bobbie Lloyd
Project Coordinator
GI Surgery

Bobbie has spent 17 years in management, with 11 of those years at UNC Hospital. Most recently she was the Administrative Support Supervisor at the UNCH Multispecialty Surgery Clinics. She is married with 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Bobbie is artistic and creative, which has served her well in her management career. She's looking forward to this new chapter in her career as the GI project coordinator for the Department of Surgery.



Veronica Pham
Project Coordinator
Surgical Oncology

Veronica Pham has 8 years of experience as a program coordinator in the National Toxicology Program for IT and toxicology research with a focus on efficiency and continuous quality improvement deliverables while being a part of government technical proposal teams. She is currently getting her MPH at Gillings School of Public Health and is working in Surgical Oncology as a project coordinator. She enjoys activities ranging from rock climbing to baking and reading.

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS STAFF

PROMOTIONS



Jessica Phillips
Business Analyst
UNC Surgery

Jessica was recently promoted from Reimbursement Analyst to Business Analyst for the Department. In this new role, Jessica is working beyond basic clinical activity and expanding her role to budget, OR and operational analysis. She has extensive knowledge in billing and coding having worked for ECU Physicians in Greenville, NC. Jessica is working on a Masters degree in Business Analytics having completed her undergraduate work at ECU in Health Services Management.



Joellen Buckio
Associate Chair for Administration
UNC Surgery

Joellen was recently elected to a two-year term as Membership Chair for the Association of Academic Surgical Administrators. AASA consists of over 285 members from across the country working primarily in Academic Departments of Surgery. Partnering with the American College of Surgeons, AASA works to advance the professional management of the clinical, educational and research missions in academic surgery.

PUBLICATIONS | ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANT

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PUBLICATIONS | BURN

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Adams PS, Vargas D, Baust T, Saenz L, Koh W, Blasiole B, Callahan PM, Phadke AS, Nguyen KN, Domnina Y, **Sharma M**, Kellum JA, Sanchez-de-Toledo J. Associations of Perioperative Renal Oximetry Via Near-Infrared Spectroscopy, Urinary Biomarkers, and Postoperative Acute Kidney Injury in Infants After Congenital Heart Surgery: Should Creatinine Continue to Be the Gold Standard? *Pediatr Crit Care Med*. 2019 Jan;20(1):27-37. PubMed PMID: 30395106; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6322941.

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Dr. Mahesh Sharma in the operating room.

PUBLICATIONS | GENERAL & ACUTE CARE

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PUBLICATIONS | SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

Louie RJ, Perez MC, Jajja MR, Sun J, Collichio F, Delman KA, Lowe M, Sarnaik AA, Zager JS, **Ollila DW**. Real World Outcomes of Talimogene Laherparepvec Therapy: A Multi-Institutional Experience. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2019 Jan 8. pii: S1072-7515(19)30024-9. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30690076.

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PUBLICATIONS | VASCULAR

McDermott MM, Polonsky TS, Guralnik JM, Ferrucci L, Tian L, Zhao L, Stein J, Domanchuk K, Criqui MH, Taylor DA, Li L, **Kibbe MR**. Racial Differences in the Effect of Granulocyte Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor on Improved Walking Distance in Peripheral Artery Disease: The PROPEL Randomized Clinical Trial. *J Am Heart Assoc*. 2019 Jan 22;8(2):e011001. PubMed PMID: 30661439.

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RESEARCH

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: March 6th and 21st ; April 3rd and 18th ; 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 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](#).

RESEARCH SUPPORT

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

Nianyi Ann Zhang, PhD and Grace Chen, BA, our 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](#).

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](#).

CLINICAL LIBRARIAN

Rebecca McCall, MLS, is our clinical librarian and liaison from the Health Sciences Library. She provides support for evidence-based practice and research, including focused or comprehensive literature searching, critically appraising evidence, collaborating on systematic reviews, and advice on presenting/publishing results. Rebecca can also provide education on research tools and resources, including searching PubMed and other literature databases, SPIN for finding funding sources, Covidence for systematic reviews, and citation management software.

To request systematic review assistance, please complete the [online request form](#). For any other requests, contact Rebecca at mccall@unc.edu.

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

The Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Research Day

Meeting Date: June 7, 2019

Location: Koury Oral Health Sciences Building, UNC, Chapel Hill

Abstract Deadline: May 7, 2019

More information available [available here](#)

American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2019

Meeting Date: October 27-31, 2019

Location: San Francisco, CA

Abstract Deadline: March 1, 2019

More information available [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: March 1, 2019

More information available [here](#).

NC/SC Chapter ACS 2019

Meeting Date: July 19-21, 2019

Location: Pinehurst, NC

Abstract Deadline: March 14, 2019

More information available [here](#).

131st Annual Meeting Southern Surgical Association 2019

Meeting Date: December 1-4, 2019

Location: Hot Springs, VA

Abstract Deadline: July 1, 2019

More information available [here](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY

American College of Surgeons (ACS) - George H.A. Clowes, Jr., MD, FACS Memorial Research Career Development Award

Application Deadline: August 1, 2019

Award Amount: Up to \$45,000 for up to 5 years

More information available [here](#).

North Carolina Biotechnology Center Flash Grants

Application Deadline: April 3, 2019

Award Amount: Up to \$24,000 for 1 year

More information available [here](#).

UNC Idea Grant

Application Deadline: March 15, 2019

Award Amount: \$10,000 - \$20,000 for up to 1 year

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](#)
- [FastTraCS Funding: Special emphasis on drugs, devices and diagnostics development](#)
- [Translational Science Methods and Process Awards \(TSMAPA\)](#)

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

RESIDENT + TRAINEES

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) -The John M. Templeton, Jr., MD Injury Prevention Research Scholarship

Letter of Intent Deadline: July 2019 - pending announcement

Application Deadline: October, 2019

Anticipated Award Start Date: July 2020

Award Amount: Up to \$10,000 for 1 year

More information available [here](#).

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) - Trauma Research Scholarship

Letter of Intent Deadline: July, 2019 - pending announcement

Application Deadline: October, 2019

Anticipated Award Start Date: July, 2020

Award Amount: Up to \$40,000 for 1 year

More information available [here](#).

Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) - Trainee Research Fellowship Awards

Application Deadline: August, 2019 - pending announcement

Anticipated Award Start Date: July, 2020

Award Amount: Up to \$20,000 for 1 year

More information available [here](#).

Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) - Global Surgery Research Fellowship Award

Application Deadline: August, 2019 - pending announcement

Anticipated Award Start Date: July, 2020

Award Amount: Up to \$20,000 for 1 year

More information available [here](#).

American College of Surgeons (ACS) - Resident Research Scholarships

Application Deadline: September, 2019 - pending announcement

Anticipated Award Start Date: July, 2020

Award Amount: Up to \$30,000 for up to 2 years

More information available [here](#).

BOTH

NC TraCS \$2K Grant Awards

Application Deadline(s): March 19, 2019; April 16, 2019; May 21, 2019, and June 18, 2019

Award Amount: \$2,000

More information available [here](#).



IN THE LOOP - EDUCATION

The next mock oral examinations will occur on March 25, 2019 for PGY 4 and PGY 5 residents. This is an opportunity to experience questions in two topic areas in a realistic test environment. Future mock orals will also occur in the fall.

The mindfulness course for interns is set for all the Tuesdays in April, from 10-11:30am. Thanks to instructors Karen Bluth, PhD and Laura Prochnow-Phillips for working to develop a more surgeon-focused curriculum this year.

The Resident as Teacher course and Faculty retreat with our visiting professor Deb DaRosa, PhD are set for July 12-13, 2019 at the Friday Center. 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 Julie Byerley, MD, our Executive Vice Dean for Education and Chief Education Officer at the UNC School of Medicine, who gave a fabulous session on "Hot Topics in Medical Education" on 1/2/2019.

Sincerely



**Timothy
Farrell, MD**

Vice Chair of Education

HEALTHCARE UPDATES

EPIC@UNC UPDATES

Epic@UNC upgrade coming April 6: New features to improve your experience

On April 6, 2019, Epic@UNC will be upgraded at all locations across UNC Health Care. This upgrade is focused improving the experience of our providers, staff and patients, with a specific focus on the following objectives:

- Maintaining and improving patient safety
- Improving well-being and efficiency
- Increasing patient engagement
- Increasing patient financial transparency
- Enhancing transitions of care/continuity of care

View details about the upgrade at this link. We will share much more information in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please submit any questions using this form.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

New Partnership with Blue Cross NC - Blue Premier
On Tuesday, Jan. 15, UNC Health Care will announce a new partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of

North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) to transform health care across the state, improve care and lower costs for our patients in North Carolina. Blue Premier is a new value-based model of care in which Blue Cross NC and UNC Health Alliance providers are jointly responsible for better health outcomes, exceptional patient experience and lower costs. This is part of our work to make health care more affordable and improve quality. View the full announcement at this Intranet link.

UNC HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ICON

UNC Health Care provider icon is live on find a doctor sites. To distinguish UNC Health Care providers from community and contract providers in our system-wide Find a Doctor tool, a "UNC Health Care Provider" icon has been developed that will accompany all UNC Health Care provider FAD profiles. The icon is a circular image of the Old Well that will display on the results and provider profile pages as well as print-on-demand PDFs. There is a description of the icon via a hover feature within the tool and a key at the bottom of the page. To view visit [UNC Health Care's Find a Doctor site](#).



GRAND ROUNDS

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

2/20/2019

Visiting Speaker
Michael Rosen, MD, Professor of Surgery,
Hernia Center Director, Cleveland Clinic
Comprehensive Hernia Center

2/27/2019

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

3/6/2019

Faculty Talk
Gita Mody, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery

3/13/2019

Chief Residents
Thomas Scarritt, MD
and Joanna Grudziak, MD

3/20/2019

UNC Visiting Speaker
Keith Payne, PhD, Professor in
the Department of Psychology and
Neuroscience

3/27/2019

Visiting Speaker
Anne Mosenthal, MD
Professor and Chair of Surgery,
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

4/3/2019

Faculty Meeting
Featuring Dean Wesley Burks, MD

4/10/2019

Faculty Talk
Mahesh Sharma, MD, Associate Professor
of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic
Surgery

4/17/2019

Ethel F. and James A. Valone
Distinguished Visiting Professor
Susan Mackinnon, MD, Professor,
Surgery, Chief, Plastic and Reconstructive
Surgery Washington University School of
Medicine

4/24/2019

Visiting Speaker
Lillian Kao, MD, Professor of Surgery,
Division of Acute Care Surgery
University of Texas

5/1/2019

Chief Residents
Rebecca Brown, MD
and Michael Williford, MD

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 13th Annual UNC Conference on Melanoma and Complex Skin Cancers: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

Hosted by UNC Lineberger &
Greensboro Area Health Education Center
Course Director: David W. Ollila, MD

March 22 | 9am - 4:30pm | Friday Center

Reduced fee for UNC faculty,
fellows and staff. The fee for
residents is waived altogether.

Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Seminar

Hosted by UNC Lineberger, Division of Surgical Oncology
& American Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Support
Surgical Oncology Organizer: Lawrence Kim, MD

March 2 | 8am | Friday Center

Leading Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia physicians will present
the latest medical information about MEN1, MEN2A and 2B.

Seminar is Free | [Register here](#)



Save the Date: June 6-8, 2019

Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society 50th Anniversary Celebration Womack Research Day and Graduation

Thursday, June 6 Welcome Reception, Carolina Inn
Friday, June 7 Womack Research Day, UNC School of Dentistry
Womack Graduation Celebration Dinner, Carolina Inn
Saturday, June 8 50th Anniversary Brunch, Carolina Inn

Event details to follow.

Share your Memories from UNC. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the
Womack Surgical Society by sharing a favorite memory from your training
or faculty experience at UNC. We want to hear about what you valued
most, who had an impact in your career, and what makes UNC Surgery
unique.

The Department of Surgery may share these memories through
communications leading up to and during the June 6-8, 2019, celebration
events. Send comments or contact updates to Shannon Reavis at shannon_reavis@med.unc.edu



COMMUNICATIONS

PATIENT STORIES



Richard Sutphin
The Long Road Back

At 57 years old Richard Sutphin is getting a new opportunity to live again. Plagued with digestion issues his entire life, he was finally diagnosed at the age of 40 with Crohn's disease. A construction worker by trade, Richard had found his way down to.... [Read more.](#)



Eve Van Buren
Clearing the Brain Fog

Fatigue, brain fog, irritability and an overwhelming desire to sleep were constant feelings for Eve Van Buren. Eve had just begun a new job at UNC and was running a successful side business, in addition to being a mom of two children. If that was not enough, she... [Read more.](#)



Anna Crollman
NYC Runway for Cancer

UNC Surgery patient Anna Crollman is a breast cancer survivor and sat with us to tell her cancer story. She opens up about her journey with the disease and how it led her to be an advocate for other young women fighting breast cancer... [Watch patient video](#)



Qing Zhang
Love Creates a Miracle

My flight just landed in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. I had flown across the world to attend a close friend's wedding on Sunday and then present a seminar at Academia Sinica of Taiwan the following Monday. I noticed it was a beautiful afternoon as I started to leave the...[Read more.](#)

FACULTY VIDEOS

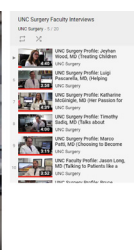
[Watch all videos](#)

Corey Kalbaugh, PhD
Alessandro Fichera, MD
Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD
Chirag Desai, MD
Jeyhan Wood, MD
Luigi Pascarella, MD
Katharine McGinagle, MD
Timothy Sadiq, MD
Marco Patti, MD
Jason Long, MD
John Ikonomidis, MD
Trista Reid, MD
Bruce Cairns, MD
Don Nakayama, MD
Mahesh Sharma, MD
Melina Kibbe, MD
David Overby, MD
Timothy Farrell, MD
Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD
Gita Mody, MD

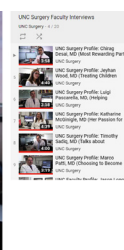
TOP 4 MOST VIEWED



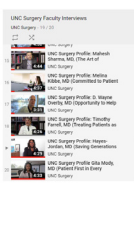
Jeyhan Wood, MD (Treating Children with Cleft Palate & Cleft Lip)



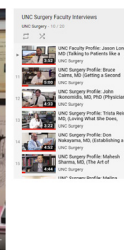
Chirag Desai, MD (Most Rewarding Part of What he Does)



Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD (Saving Generations of Children)



Jason Long, MD (Talking to Patients like a Family Member)



YOUTUBE PATIENT COMMENTS

“Dr. Wood is the greatest!” - Anna Pavlov

“Dr. Sadiq changed my life!! He is fabulous!!!” - Heidi Criswell

“Dr. Desai was my surgeon, the leader of the team while I had my TP/AIT. He's a wonderful doctor. He knows that we know our bodies. I feel like the luckiest patient alive to have met him.” - Joan Roth

“This man (Dr. Pascarella) is a very special person. He performed a pretty big surgery on me a month ago for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. He is simply brilliant. I'm so fortunate to have found him. My entire experience while at UNC Hospital was so impressive in every way - so much that I'm leaving one of your competitors and having UNC Healthcare take over all aspects of my healthcare.” - Scott McMahon



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Surgery

Department of Surgery
Burnett-Womack Bldg CB7050
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

MAKE A GIFT

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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