

UNC SURGERY

SPRING 2020



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SPRING NEWSLETTER DATES: February,
March and April of 2020

UNC DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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

Luigi Pascarella, MD
David W. Ollila, MD

Medical Student Clerkship
Mentorship Program

Residency Program Directors

Benjamin E. Haithcock, MD
Michael O. Meyers, MD
Jeyhan S. Wood, MD
Jason Crowner, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery
General Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Vascular Surgery

Fellowship Program Directors

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

Felicia Williams, MD
Jin Ra, MD
David W. Ollila, MD
Jason Crowner, 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 Specialist

Sheerah Coe

On the cover: Photo from UNC Surgery Graduation 2020.

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by the numbers

**Research + Publication data is for calendar year 2019*



76

FACULTY

52

APPS



85

TRAINEES

224

PUBLICATIONS

79

STAFF

\$1,285,771

CLINICAL TRIAL DOLLARS

\$4,208,433

FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS

53

RESEARCHERS



77

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

\$4,454,787

TOTAL RESEARCH GRANT DOLLARS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Clinical surgery in the time of COVID-19 has been unlike anything we have ever experienced before. Despite the overwhelming challenges, I am proud of how everyone in the department undertook a tremendous effort to prepare the UNC Medical Center for patients, employing extra safety and security measures to assure social distancing and limiting the impact of the virus within our communities. To support patients with the coronavirus, our department hosted a blood drive thanks to the efforts of Dr. Jo Grudziak and Joellen Buckio. Joellen also arranged for the donation of much-needed iPads to the ICUs to provide a valuable interface for patients to video conference with family members. Fortunately, our number of COVID-19 positive patients has remained low compared to many other health care systems. To that end, now that PPE is more readily available and given that we have reached a steady state, we have begun to ramp-up our clinical practices to provide the full range of quality healthcare services to our citizens. Even so, we proceed carefully. As Governor Cooper said on May 5, "COVID-19 is still a serious threat to our state, and Phase 1 is designed to be a limited easing of restrictions that can boost parts of our economy while keeping important safety rules in place. This is a careful and deliberate first step, guided by the data, and North Carolinians still must use caution while this virus is circulating."

Therefore, given our current situation, it is with great sadness and reluctance we made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society Research Day and Graduation Celebration. Like other institutions across the country, we are figuring out how to best recognize and celebrate our graduates. For instance, this month we celebrated the North Carolina School of Medicine Class of 2020 Graduation via Zoom and YouTube broadcasts. Surgery will host an online event to celebrate our graduates and wish them well in the next phase of their journeys (details of event forthcoming). We will begin this year's graduation by featuring the personal stories and professional achievements of our own resident and fellow graduates in this newsletter.

On March 20, we held a virtual UNC Match Day online through video announcements and an interactive website. I was delighted to see that interest in surgery continues to increase among our medical students. This year we matched 15 individuals (General Surgery categorical + preliminary, and 1 Thoracic), representing 9.6% of our total graduating class, and up from 7.9% last year! In addition, all four of our ACGME residency training programs matched extremely well, attracting

competitive candidates across the board: General Surgery matched 7 PGY1 positions and 8 preliminary PGY1 positions. Plastic Surgery matched 2 into their categorical PGY1 positions. Cardiothoracic Surgery and our Vascular Surgery Integrated Program each matched 1 into their categorical PGY1 positions.

To further the good news, our faculty and trainees continue to earn national honors and awards. Dr. Xavier Baldwin (PGY3) received a prestigious American College of Surgeons Resident Research Fellowship Award with Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner as mentor. Dr. Anthony Charles is now a member of the American Surgical Association. The following individuals were inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society: Drs. Luigi Pascarella, Arielle Perez, Monica Grova (Surg Onc Fellow) and Manuel Sanchez-Casalongue (PGY4). Our Clerkship Director Dr. Luigi Pascarella, received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Dr. Andrea Hayes-Jordan is now President of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. Dr. Don Nakayama is Treasurer of the American College of Surgeons and the Editor-in-Chief of *American Surgeon Journal*. Dr. William Marston has been elected President-Elect for the Southern Association of Vascular Surgery and Vice President for the American Venous Forum. Lastly, our faculty continue to win awards as outstanding educators at UNC. Most recently, Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner received an Application/Individualization Phase Clinical Preceptor Excellence in Teaching Award (for faculty at UNC Hospitals); Dr. Jason Long received an Educational Mentor/Advisor Award; and, Dr. Luigi Pascarella received the highly coveted Craver Professor Award.

Overall, we have done well adapting to the early conditions of COVID-19. I have no doubt that we shall overcome future challenges so that we can continue to provide excellent service to the people of North Carolina and beyond.

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

CELEBRATING OUR 2020

RESIDENTS

KATIE COOLS, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: It's hard to choose just one memory, but meeting my husband as interns, getting married, and having our daughter during residency has been the best time of my life.

After graduation plans: Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN.

MUBINA ISANI, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: The night I was taken back emergently to the OR for post-tonsillectomy hemorrhage during third year of residency. I was terrified. My parents lived far away and were en-route to the hospital, at least 12 hours away. What comforted me most during that time was my co-residents rushed to my side.

After graduation plans: Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at DuPont Children's Hospital.

STEPHEN MAHONEY, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: Taking a gun shot wound to the abdomen to the operating room 23 hours and 45 minutes into my call shift.

Pearl of wisdom: Always listen to the patient. Don't get discouraged by feeling you're not good enough along the way. It's a 5 year program and it's the final product that matters.

After graduation plans: Colon and Rectal Fellowship, St. Joseph Mercy in Ann Arbor, MI.

JOSHUA PREISS, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: is intern year as a whole. Bonding with my new class while having a range of new experiences and responsibilities. It's an exciting and rewarding time that accelerates your growth as a surgeon.

After graduation plans: Cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at University of Washington in Seattle.

SARA SCARLET, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: Though being in the OR or the trauma bay can be exhilarating, it's my relationship with my patients that provide me with a sense of purpose as a surgeon. Over the past seven years, I have learned so much from the people I have cared for. They have taught me how to cope, how to grieve, how to re-build after tragedy, and how to do it all gracefully.

After graduation plans: General Surgery Critical Care Fellowship at UNC in Chapel Hill, NC.

LEE STRATTON, MD



General Surgery

Favorite memory: The first time I was scrubbed in for a case and realized "maybe I can actually do this myself."

Pearl of wisdom: The tunnel is long, but it does eventually end. Asking for help along the way is also not a sign of weakness.

After graduation plans: Endocrine surgery fellowship at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL.

ASHISH PULIKAL, MD

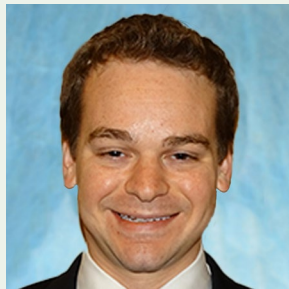


Cardiothoracic Surgery

Favorite memory: The camaraderie with the intern class that you start residency with.

After graduation plans: Back to Indianapolis, Indiana. I'll be working at a private hospital system in the city with a focus on minimally invasive thoracic surgery incorporating VATS and robotics for lung and esophageal cancer.

RAFI FREDMAN, MD

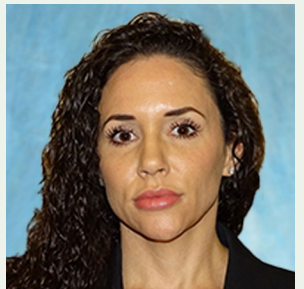


Plastic Surgery

Favorite memory: Faced with a very difficult reconstruction at midnight, I went to the plastic surgery library to find a solution. I found in an old textbook a flap that we had never done before. We studied the anatomy and technique, went into the OR and spent the night successfully reconstructing the defect with that flap.

After graduation plans: Opening a plastic surgery private practice in St. Louis, MO.

KIMBERLY JONES, MD



Plastic Surgery

Favorite memory: Having my babies at UNC during my residency.

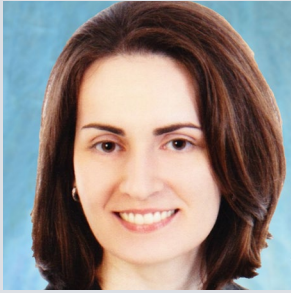
Pearl of wisdom: Hard work pays off and always do what's best for the patient.

After graduation plans: Joining Amelia Aesthetics in Raleigh NC.

SURGEON GRADUATES

FELLOWS

SANJA SLJIVIC, MD



Burn Surgery

Favorite memory: Taking care of a young girl, who was admitted with 60% TBSA scald burns. She recovered and became everyone's favorite little patient on the unit!

Pearl of wisdom: You will be surrounded by great residents and great attendings! There may be tough days ahead, but everyone around you is willing to help you and guide you.

JOANNA GRUDZIAK, MD



Critical Care

Favorite memory: Some that stand out: My year in Malawi; dancing to Pharrell's "Happy" in the OR; pager pranks; the intern work room; the employee gym at 3am; every case with MJK; ECMO cannulations to 80s music; hugs from ICU nurses; camaraderie and companionship.

After graduation plans: trauma/critical care/acute care surgeon at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City

THOMAS HARRELL, MD



Critical Care

Favorite memory: Taking care of critically ill patients in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

Pearl of wisdom: Study hard before every procedure you participate in, and take notes after on every pearl you learn that wasn't in the reading.

After graduation plans: Trauma/Critical Care Surgeon- Cape Fear Valley Health.

IVY HASKINS, MD



Minimally Invasive Surgery

Favorite memory: The times when I was able to bond with Dr. Farrell and the PGY4 and PGY1 residents on the service during team time. Being able to connect with the team outside of the operating room was a refreshing and welcomed part of my day.

After graduation plans: University of Nebraska Medical Center as a staff surgeon in the Division of GI Surgery; Omaha, NE

MONICA GROVA, MD

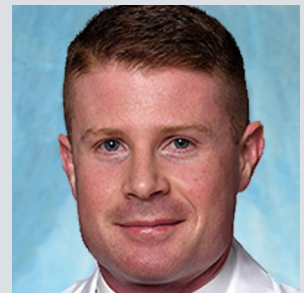


Surgical Oncology

Favorite memories: When Dr. Ollila took the fellows ax throwing. Also Zoom happy hour during quarantine with Julie and the other fellows.

After graduation plans: Surgical Oncologist with Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group at Mills-Peninsula Medical Center in Burlingame, CA

RYAN MEEHAN, MD



Vascular Surgery

Favorite memory: Three Parkland surgeons doing an aortic case.

Pearl of wisdom: Never break rule #1 in surgery.

After graduation plans: Vascular Surgeon REX Vascular Specialists- Raleigh, NC.

DUKE PFITZINGER, MD



Vascular Surgery

Favorite memory: I would say my favorite memory while at UNC isn't a specific event rather than events over time and seeing teams pulling together during a time of uncertainty and unknown for a common goal of patient care and excellence. The collaborative efforts of all involved is what medicine is all about.

After graduation plans: Vascular Surgeon Private Practice- Naples, FL.

Memories by Sara Scarlet

The mother with whom I bathed her toddler, dressed her in her favorite outfit, made up her curls before we terminally decannulated her from ECMO. In a moment of such pain, she exuded more grace than I thought imaginable. She thanked each one of us. She hung beautiful pictures of her daughter around her PICU room so that we could see how full of life she once was. Her strength was incredible.

One of the interns and I took an elderly patient who had been admitted to the hospital for over a hundred days on a field trip around the hospital, including a trip up to the helipad, so that she could get some fresh air. Seeing the look on her face as we pointed out far away buildings along the skyline was priceless.

I took care of a newborn with congenital diaphragmatic hernia as a PGY-3. For weeks, she was too sick and fragile to be held. When we whisked her from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, to initiate ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, I was one of the first people to hold her during her short life, something her parents so desperately wished to do. Later on, as she recovered, the NICU insisted her parents could not hold her while she had a chest tube in place. After much persuasion, and my bedside presence, her mom was able to hold her for the first time, despite the chest tube. After that, her parents jokingly referred to me as "Aunt Sara." I was honored.

INCOMING RESIDENTS 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR



Lucas Stone, MD
Oregon Health & Science University
General Surgery Residency



Benjamin Brown, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Jessica Biagiotti, MD
West Virginia University
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Jordan Taylor, MD
Virginia Tech
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



William DeBrock, MD
Indiana University
Plastic Surgery Residency



Chase Cox, MD
University of Alabama
General Surgery Residency



Soha Bazayr, MD
Mashhad University of
Medical Science
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Iran



Conner Haase, MD
University of Miami
General Surgery Residency



Stephen Rauli, MD | PGY 1
Boston University
School of Medicine
Vascular Surgery Residency



Danielle O'Hara, MD
Renaissance School of Medicine at
Stony Brook University
CT Surgery Residency



Julia Button, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Hanaan Salamah, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency



Sasha McEwan, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency



Mustafa Abid, MD
Wake Forest University
General Surgery Residency



Christopher "Topher" McCauley, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency



Princeton Carter, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



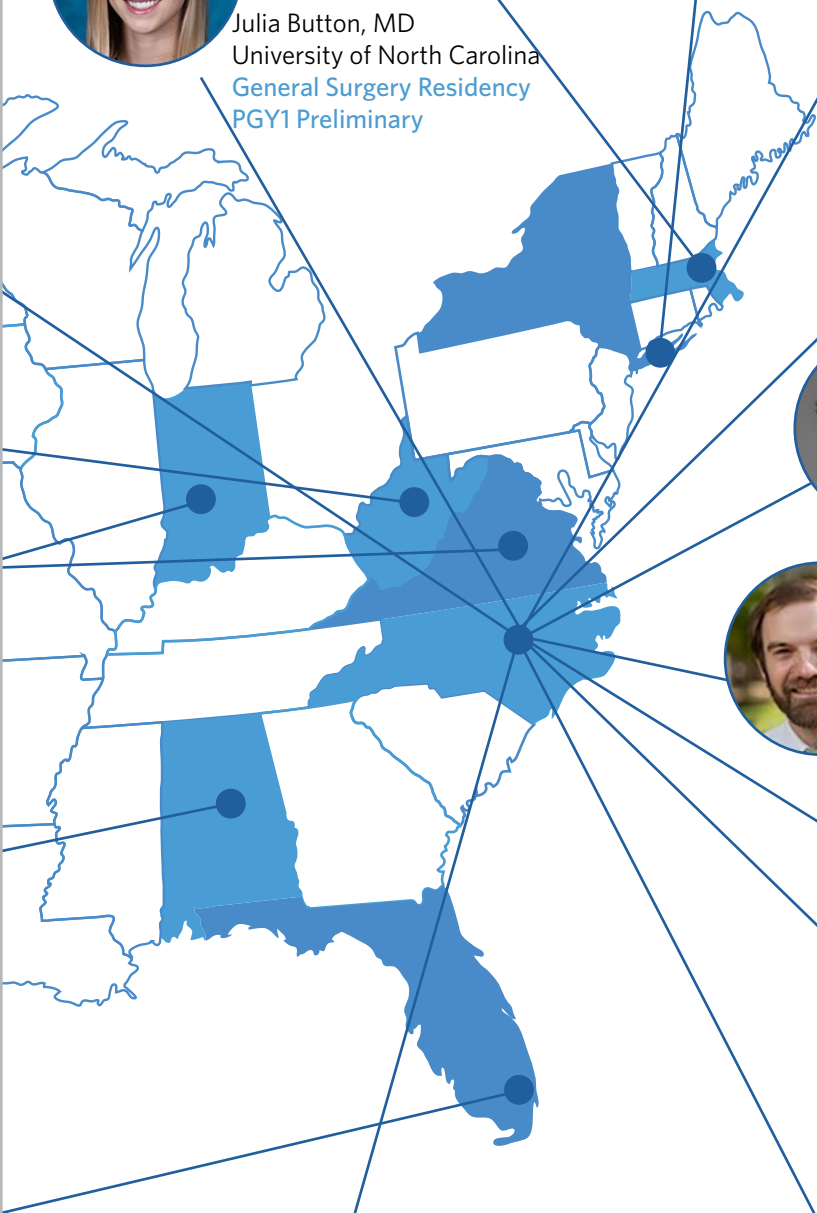
Tyler Glass, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary



Henry Stiepel, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary

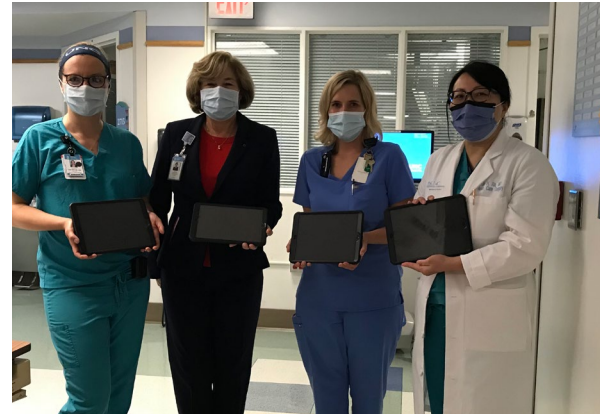


Sabrina Mangat, MD
University of North Carolina
General Surgery Residency
PGY1 Preliminary





OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE



By David Gerber, George F. Sheldon, MD
*Distinguished Professor of Surgery & Vice Chair
of Clinical Affairs*

The COVID-19 pandemic approached like a Cat-4 Hurricane. In mere days faculty and staff in the Department of Surgery adjusted their schedules and went into preparation mode as we were unsure of what the ensuing days and weeks would bring to North Carolina and UNC Health. On the clinical front we watched as hospitals in NYC, Detroit and Washington were overrun with patients requiring critical care support. For our providers this meant that we needed to change our day-to-day practice and adopt a new mission.

The first focus area involved readiness of our ECMO, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, team since it was likely that with the first admissions to the MICU our ECMO providers would be called to provide support. While our medical intensivist colleagues were creating the initial critical

care COVID-19 teams the Department of Surgery initiated a similar exercise, creating critical care teams that could provide support in the COVID-19 unit based on our experiences with patients and acute lung injury. Knowing that this would strain our ability to deliver care for non-COVID-19 related surgical conditions we upended our workflow and clinical assignments and created smaller "strikeforce" teams that would alternate shifts across our surgical services. This allowed us to simultaneously care for the patients who needed surgical interventions, provide support for both the COVID-19 unit and the Emergency Dept while also creating recharge periods for the involved providers.

It became apparent that our approach to direct patient care was dramatically altered for the foreseeable future because of the highly contagious features of the virus. To enhance patient communications with their family members we distributed iPads across several of the surgical intensive care

units and acute care areas. Being in the hospital is already a stressful experience; being there alone increases that stress to an extreme level. The iPads allowed us to create portals of communication between patients, families and providers.

A blood drive was launched by the Department of Surgery so that we would be prepared for a potential drain on our supply. As March turned into April we realized that this pandemic would be a marathon rather than a sprint. We began developing processes to provide care to our patients in an environment that was safe for them, safe for the healthcare team and could be done with minimal disruption.

Volunteers stepped forward for all of these non-traditional assignments and while the inpatient activity was not as severe as initially feared, we were able to meet the needs of the people who needed us the most - the patients who were admitted to UNC Hospitals.

From top left: Patient Mr. George, 78 years old, getting happy birthday wishes from his family while in the surgical oncology wing. Middle: Nurse holding up an iPad for a patient to talk with their family. Far right: Presentation of the iPads to Dr. Jin Ra, the SICU Director for patients to use to communicate with their friends and family while isolated in the hospital due to Covid-19 visitor restrictions. Bottom: Drs. Joanna Grudziak, Critical Care Fellow, and Trista Reid, Assistant Professor in the Division of General & Acute Care Surgery performing ECMO on a COVID-19 patient.



SURGERY BLOOD DRIVE

The Surgery blood drive was the brainchild of Joanna Grudziak, MD, Critical Care Fellow. She contacted Joellen Buckio, Administrative Chair, to see if the department could pull together a blood drive to allow hospital staff, faculty and residents donate blood but stay close to the hospital. Many emails later, UNC Surgery held a 3-day blood drive and collected over 119 units of blood for the American Red Cross.



From top left: Volunteer giving blood. Top right: Ian Kratzke, PGY 3 General Surgery Resident after giving blood. Bottom left: Emily Newton getting prepped to donate blood. Bottom right: Benjamin Haithcock, Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, having his pre-check before allowing to give blood.

THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

By Luigi Pascarella, Associate Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and the UNC Surgery Clerkship Director

The 2020 Main Residency Match was the largest in the NRMP History, with 40,084 applicants submitting program choices for 37,256 positions. Surgical specialties filled more than 95% of the available categorical positions.

The UNC cohort of students, applying to surgical specialties, has been steadily increasing over the last five years. In the current academic year, a total of 31 UNC students (Class 2020: 156) matched into surgical specialties with three students into our categorical General Surgery Residency Program.



The process of applying and matching into a medical residency is complex. Several factors, including board exam scores, medical school performance, publications, and interviews, are taken into account for each successful applicant.

While the increased number of students applying to surgery may be related to national trends, it is crucial not to underscore the importance of mentorship in guiding student career choices.

Over the last years, the faculty of our Department of Surgery has been extremely instrumental in creating a learning environment that has fostered a progressive increase of students choosing general surgery and surgical specialties as a career.

These students have been assisted in finding their vocation since the earliest years in the medical school with a multitude of research projects, novel educational strategies, and by a select core of surgery faculty, highly dedicated to the education of learners and

promotion of our specialties. Our faculty has been essential in driving the aspirations of these students by being approachable, advising, being available when needed, and leading by example in the daily activities in and out of the hospital.

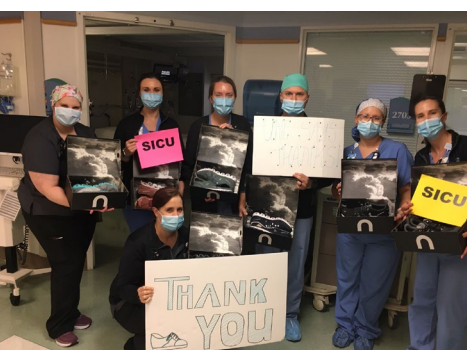
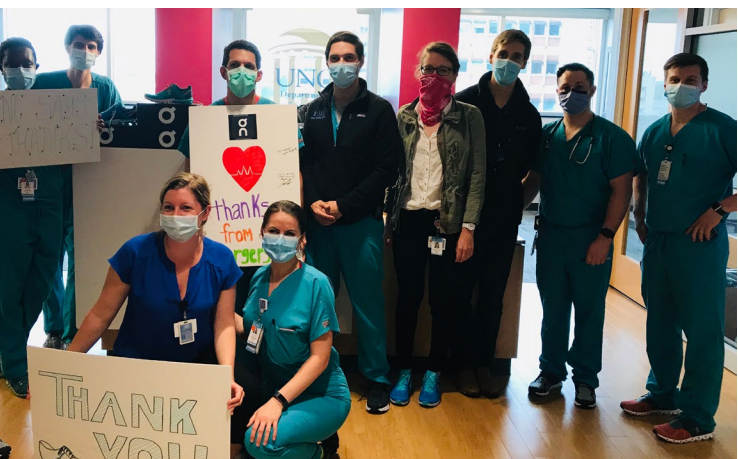
It is my opinion that we have all demonstrated to our learners that the surgery lifestyle is possible and highly doable and, while sometimes hard, however, most of the time full of rewards.

One of the COVID-19 Pandemic ramifications was the pause of the clinical activities of our medical students. This had been a tough decision to make. The first week of June, the first contingent of 4th-year medical students returned to our wards and our operative rooms, eager to learn but mostly to contribute to the care of the people of our state.

We welcome the 2022 Class of students to our Department!

SOFT LANDINGS

An international running shoe company donates 330 shoes to the NC Jaycee Burn Center, SICU and Surgery residents



On Running, a Swiss-based footwear company, donated over 330 shoes to the NC Jaycee Burn Center, all surgery resident trainees and the staff in the Surgery Intensive Care Unit (SICU). This company specializes in making shoes as comfortable as a training shoe and as fast as a racing flat. It is the perfect footwear design to run long distances or to walk fast down long hospital corridors.

Stacy Chick, NC/SC sales representative for On Running, knew her neighbor Dr. Rabia Nizamani worked at the NC Jaycee Burn Center. She was aware that doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, chaplains, and many others are ready to help promote healing of a dangerous injury. It is not an easy or glamorous job, but this is a dedicated group of individuals and Stacy had the ability to help them, especially now.

Stacy brought the shoe donation idea up with Dr. Nizamani, who then contacted Joellen Buckio, associate chair of administration in surgery, and with the help of Surgery staff, the project took off. For the first event, Anita Fields, program manager at NC Jaycee Burn Center coordinated the partnership with the Chapel Hill Fire Department. Together, they handed out 150 pairs of shoes to members of the NC Jaycee Burn Center in appreciation for their devotion to the patients they serve. For the second event, surgery coordinated

the donation of another 180 pairs of On Running shoes to the Department's trainees and the SICU staff. Dozens of trainees turned out to help transport and organize the boxes, then distribute shoes to colleagues.

Our healthcare employees continue to do their part in helping keep the citizens of North Carolina safe and healthy. This global pandemic has added additional strain to the work they do every day. Despite all of the challenges that this pandemic brings, these thoughtful donations from Stacy and On Running go a long way to support our workforce by adding a new spring in their step and a soft landing for their feet.

“Thank you for your generous gift! You made a difference! We are extremely grateful!”

-UNC Health Team

MISSION TRIP 2020

In the first week of February Jeyhan Wood, MD, Pediatric Plastic Surgeon and Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Program Director along with Anna Pavlov, PGY 5 plastic surgery resident, traveled to Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. They traveled to the area on a mission trip with Medical Aid For Children Of Latin America (MACLA Inc). They joined the mission to help children and adults in an underserved part of the world.

This year 44 volunteers, including eight surgeons, eight anesthesiologists, and four residents were able to better the lives of 99 patients. The majority of cases were on children under the age of 15 years. The cases included cleft lip, cleft palate, rhinoplasties, burn scar contracture release and ear reconstruction. Dr. Wood and her team focused on the congenital ear anomalies and did an ear reconstruction using the patient's rib cartilage.

This mission has a huge impact not just on the children but on the doctors willing to volunteer their time and skill. "Being a part of MACLA has been a life-changing experience," says Dr. Wood. "Returning to the same place each year has allowed me to develop meaningful relationships with these families and patients. I get to see children who were born without an ear now have a normal appearance, which impacts their self-confidence. It's priceless."



A RESIDENT & A REASON



INSPIRING STORIES FOR FUTURE LEADERS IN PLASTIC SURGERY

LIMITLESS is a docuseries featuring inspiring stories from women plastic surgeons who broke the glass ceiling and rose to prominence within their field as society presidents. Each woman tells her own story of resilience and fortitude, with invaluable advice for future women leaders in plastic surgery. Presented by Allergan, in cooperation with the ASPS Women Plastic Surgeons Forum, LIMITLESS was coproduced by the series' visionary, Shuting Zhong, MD.

Plastic surgery resident Shuting Zhong was

once told, "Women shouldn't be surgeons." Not only did she become a surgeon, she envisioned spotlighting the achievements of women surgeons in leadership through a series of interviews. With the support of her mentor, Lynn Damitz, MD, FACS, and in partnership with Allergan, the vision is now a reality.

Dr. Zhong presented "LIMITLESS" at the ASPS Women Plastic Surgeons Retreat in Nashville February 6-9. For more information and to check out the video series [click here](#).



HIGHLIGHTS, HONORS & GRANTS FACULTY



Edward Bahnson, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, research project "Effect of Acute Ozone Exposure on Restenosis Rates after Vascular Interventions," submitted for the 2020-2021 Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility (CEHS) Pilot Projects Program, has been approved for funding: \$30,000.



Anthony Charles, MD, MPH

Professor and Chief, Division of General & Acute Care Surgery, elected a Fellow of the American Surgical Association.

Stephanie Downs-Canner MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, received the Application/Individualization Phase Clinical Preceptor Excellence in Teaching Award from the UNC School of Medicine Academy of Educators.



Jason Long, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, received Educational Mentor/Advisor Award from the UNC School of Medicine Academy of Educators.



William Marston, MD

Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, elected to the President-Elect position for the Southern Association of Vascular Surgery & elected to the position of Vice President for the American Venous Forum.



Katharine McGinigle, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, named Medical Director of the Carolinas Region of the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative.

Luigi Pascarella, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society, received the Craver Medical Student Teaching Award from the UNC School of Medicine Academy of Educators, and received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.



Arielle Perez, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of General & Acute Care Surgery, inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.



Lauren Raff, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, received an IHQI Grant to Improve Teamwork and Communication with her project titled, "Building High-Performance Team Dynamics for Rapid Responses: A Model for Sustainable Process Change and Improved Patient Outcomes."



Karyn Stitzenberg, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, became a member of Health Equity Committee, American Society of Clinical Oncology and Symposium Program Committee, American Society of Clinical Oncology Gastrointestinal Symposium; and was appointed Vice Chair of Colorectal Disease Site Work Group, Society of Surgical Oncology.

HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS RESIDENTS, FELLOWS, & RESEARCHERS



Staci Aubry, MD

Resident, General Surgery PGY4, nominated by UNC Health as a Friend of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU).

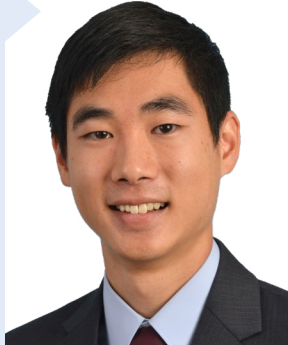


Xavier Baldwin, MD

Resident, General Surgery, awarded a Resident Research Scholarship from the American College of Surgeons. 7/1/2020-6/30/2022. \$30,000 per year; \$60,000 total.

Kevin Chen, MD

Resident, General Surgery PGY2, was nominated by UNC Health as a Friend of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU).



Monica Grova, MD

Fellow in the Division of Surgical Oncology, inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.



Daniel Kindell, MD

Resident, General Surgery, was nominated by UNC Health as a Friend of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU).



Sophie Maiocchi, PhD

Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Bahnson Lab, selected to receive a Burroughs Wellcome Fund 2020 Collaborative Research Travel Grant for the project entitled: "Encapsulation of thrombolytics with inverse flash nanoprecipitation (iFNP) for their cell-mediated targeted delivery to thrombosis."

FACULTY PROMOTIONS



Kristalyn Gallagher, DO

Division of Surgical Oncology was promoted to Associate Professor.



Jason Long, MD

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery was promoted to Associate Professor.

Manuel Sanchez, MD, PhD

Resident, General Surgery, inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.



NEW FACULTY



Booker T. King, MD
Chief and Professor
Burn Surgery
Started 3/2/2020

Dr. King obtained his BS *magna cum laude* from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at the City College of NY, and his medical degree from NYU School

of Medicine in 1994. He then pursued his general surgery residency at SUNY Buffalo, during which time Dr. King participated in the Army Medical Command Specialized Training Reserve Assistance Program (STRAP). After completing his general surgery residency training in 1999, he transferred from the Reserves to the active-duty ranks as a Captain with his first assignment as a general surgeon at the Moncrief Army Community Hospital at Fort Jackson, SC. From there he was reassigned to Heidelberg, Germany, where he deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

After returning to the US, he completed a trauma/critical care fellowship at the University of Miami in 2007. Once he completed his fellowship, he transferred to the US Army Burn Center at the Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas. In 2013, he assumed the position of Director of the US Army Burn Center at the Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas. He reassigned to Fort Bragg in 2018 as the Trauma Medical Director and Co-Director of Critical Care Services at the Womack Army Medical Center.

Dr. King is a decorated Colonel having served more than 20 years in the Army, earning two Legion of Merit Awards, two Bronze Star Medals, and four Meritorious Service Medals, among multiple other military honors and awards. Check out Dr. King's journey to becoming a doctor in his [Q & A interview](#).



José Guillem, MD, MPH, MBA
Chief and Professor
Gastrointestinal Surgery
Started 4/1/2020

Dr. José Gaston Guillem received his undergraduate degree from NYU in 1978 before earning his medical degree at Yale University in 1983. He completed his general

surgery residency training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, during which time he also pursued a two-year research fellowship and earned a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Yale. After completing a Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at Lahey Clinic Medical Center, he accepted a position at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Since 1991, he has specialized in caring for people with primary and recurrent colon and rectal cancer, early-onset colorectal cancer, and hereditary colorectal cancer. He also is the Director of MSK's Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Family Registry, an important tool for patients, families, and doctors around the world. His academic appointment was at Cornell University, rising through the ranks to professor in 2006.

He has co-authored more than 300 journal articles and book chapters, including the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and the *Annals of Surgery*. He has also lectured extensively, both nationally and internationally. He has served on the editorial boards of ten leading medical journals and has held several leadership positions regionally and nationally.

In 2016, Dr. Guillem enrolled in the Brandeis MBA for Physicians Program to obtain further training in leadership, strategic and operational management, health policy, healthcare technology and information systems. Check out Dr. Guillem's [Q & A interview](#).



Muneera R. Kapadia, MD, MME
Associate Professor
Gastrointestinal Oncology
Started 4/1/2020

Dr. Kapadia received her undergrad degree from MIT in 1998 and completed her medical degree from University of Michigan in 2002. She then completed her general surgery residency training at Northwestern

University during which time she also pursued a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship. After completing her colorectal surgery fellowship at the University of Minnesota she accepted a position at the University of Iowa. In 2014, she earned a master's degree in Medical Education from the University of Iowa. There, she maintained a busy colorectal practice. [Read more.](#)



Sandeep Sainathan, MD
Associate Professor,
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Started 5/4/2020

Dr. Sainathan received his medical degree from the Bangalore Medical College in 2005 with Highest Honors. He then completed his general surgery residency training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine,

followed by a cardiothoracic surgical residency at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Sainathan received additional subspecialty training in cardiopulmonary transplantation and mechanical circulatory support at the University of Pittsburgh and congenital cardiac surgery at Northwestern University. Dr. Sainathan has published extensively early in his career and is currently the principal investigator for a multi-center study.

NEW HEALTHCARE STAFF



Jessica Curcio
Physicians Assistant
Vascular Surgery

Jessica received her Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences in 2000 from SUNY Buffalo in Buffalo, NY. In 2015 she completed her Master in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. Her previous work experience includes being a PA in Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care as well as Vascular and Interventional Radiology in Waterloo, Iowa.



Courtney Holloway, MSN, RN
Registered Nurse
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Courtney received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from East Tennessee State University in 2016. She then went on to get her Masters of Science in Nursing in 2019 from King University in Abingdon, VA. Before coming to UNC, Courtney served as a registered nurse at Ballad Health Johnson City Medical Center in the Cardiovascular Step-down Unit in Tennessee.



Molly Marsh
Physicians Assistant
Burn ICU

Molly received her Bachelors in Public Health from UNC in Chapel Hill in 2009. She went on to complete her Masters in Nutrition from UNC Greensboro in 2011 and her Masters of Medical Science, Physician Associate Program studies at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Before going back for her Masters Molly served as a Clinical Dietitian at Duke University Hospital in Durham.



Kathryn Neece
Nurse Practitioner
Vascular Surgery

Kathryn (Kate) completed her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Hofstra University. She then went on to get her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Notre Dame College Manchester in NH. From 2002 to 2007 she was a Physician Assistant in the Vascular and General Surgery, Wound Care at Wilmington Health Associates in Wilmington.

NEW STAFF



Torie Bonnet
Clinic Manager
General & Acute Care Surgery

Torie received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from SUNY University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY in 2018. She recently joined us from UNC Rex in Raleigh where she was the Clinical Team Lead in their medical oncology program. Before that she was at Duke University Hospital in Durham where she served as a registered nurse in their surgical oncology department.



Holly Meehan
Registered Nurse
Plastic Surgery

Holly graduated from Barton College in 2015 and immediately joined the New Nurse Grad Program at UNC. She started work on 5 Bedtower, an Orthopedic and Trauma floor for almost four years before transferring to an outpatient GI Procedures Clinic for about a year. She loves seeing how resilient the human body can be and missed that so she made the switch to Plastic Surgery!



Jessica Niggebrugge
Aftercare Program Coordinator
Burn Surgery

Jessica attended East Carolina University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy. She has eight years of experience planning summer camps. Her work experience previously included working with kids and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities for four years. The Burn aftercare team is excited to welcome Jessica to the team.



Misty Warnock
Administrative Specialist
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Misty completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program from Richmond Community College in 2016. She's spent over 17 years in the medical field in multiple roles including administrative assistant, front office manager and nursing assistant. Before joining UNC Misty most recently served as a clinical support tech at UNC Medical Center.

PUBLICATIONS | ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANT

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Dr. Arielle Perez, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of General and Acute Care Surgery, performing surgery on a hernia patient alongside a resident and medical student.

IN THE LOOP

EDUCATION

Welcome to Muneera Kapadia, MD, MME, our new Associate Vice Chair of Education. In addition to her skills as a colorectal surgeon, Dr. Kapadia brings Medical Education Masters training that will be an invaluable resource for the Department of Surgery. She has published and recently gave a wonderful Grand Rounds on "Relationship-Centered Practice and Difficult Conversations."



Muneera Kapadia

Due to COVID-19, The **LCME visit** has been postponed until July 20, 2020, and the Medical School has developed a new calendar for the application and individualization phases of the curriculum. Medical students are due to return to the wards and clinics in late June. The surgery block will be temporarily reduced to 4-weeks duration. There is a new MS3 evaluation system. At the end of each rotation, students will select for their evaluation two faculty members with whom they worked extensively.

For the General Surgery residents, **Mock orals** occurred March 16, 2020 for PGY 4s and PGY 5s. Thank you to all the members of the faculty who serve as examiners. The statewide Mock Orals for chief residents is planned for October 2020 at Duke.

The Department of Surgery continues to focus on wellness. We hosted the third annual **Mindfulness Course** for interns across four consecutive weeks in February and March 2020. This course is designed to provide tools to resist burnout and to promote emotional resilience. Thank you to the course

faculty, Dr. Karen Bluth and Laure Prochnow Phillips for leading this important effort.

Our **educational Grand Rounds** series continues. Dr. Greg Dale from Duke presented on January 15, 2020 ("Achieving Excellence in Performance") and Dr. Amy Shaheen is scheduled for June 3, 2020 ("Quality Improvement in an Academic Medical Center: Teaching, Learning, Improving").

Dr. Roy Phitayakorn from Harvard will join us for **Resident as Teacher conference** ("Adult Learning Theories") on 9/29/20. He will also give Grand Rounds ("Emotional Intelligence and Teamwork in Surgery") on 9/30/20.

Our next **faculty retreat** will occur August 29, 2020 in Burnett-Womack. Melinda Abrams will be our visiting speaker and will lead a session on "Leveraging Leadership Strengths. Tools, Practice, Application."

Sincerely,



Timothy
Farrell, MD

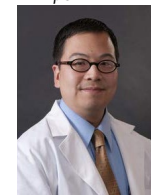
Vice Chair of Education



Karen Bluth, PhD



Laure Prochnow
Phillips



Roy Phitayakorn, MD

NEWS ALUMNI



Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH

Former General Surgery Resident, currently Director of Trauma Pediatric Surgical Quality and Safety Officer Donald Hight Endowed Chair of General Pediatric Surgery, receives 2019 Arthur Ellenberger Award from the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Dr. Campbell's peers at the Connecticut Chapter of the ACS nominated him because of his commitment to advocating on behalf of patients and the surgical profession before state elected officials and policymakers in Connecticut, as well as encouraging other surgeons to engage in ACS and chapter advocacy efforts. The Ellenberger Award was presented to Dr. Campbell on March 5 at the Connecticut Chapter's Advocacy Day in the Connecticut State House.

Established in 2003, the award is named for the late Art Ellenberger, longtime Executive Director of the New Jersey Chapter of the ACS and an expert in state grassroots advocacy. The award is presented periodically to recognize a career of outstanding leadership and distinguished service and commitment to protecting patient access to high-quality surgical care through involvement in the state legislative and regulatory process.

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.

In response to the COVID-19 situation, they will be following the university's lead and adjusting their event scheduling as needed. They have suspended all on-site office hours until further notice. CDW staff are still available to answer research questions: just [request a consult](#) and they will be in touch. Please visit UNC-Chapel Hill's dedicated [coronavirus updates webpage](#) for Carolina's most recent announcements regarding COVID-19.

[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: <https://research.unc.edu/research-development/funding-funding/spin-plus-funding-database/>

RESEARCH TRAININGS AND EVENTS

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 <https://tracs.unc.edu/index.php/services/biomedical-informatics/redcap>.

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 <https://tracs.unc.edu/index.php/services/biomedical-informatics/emerse>.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

Grace Chen, BA, our Research Administrator, and **Annie Skilton, MSLS, CRA**, our Research Program Coordinator, provide support for all areas of proposal development including clinical trials and will be your main contacts (see below for group assignments) for all things relating to pre-award research. 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 notify Grace or Annie as early as possible, but at least 6 weeks before the due date, as external grants must be routed and submitted to the university 7-days before the due date!

Groups assigned to Grace	
Burn	Vascular
Pediatric Surgery	Plastics and Reconstructive
Gastrointestinal Surgery	Chair

Groups assigned to Annie	
Abdominal Transplant	Cardiothoracic
General and Acute Care	Surgical Oncology
Resident Trainees	

To request grant submission assistance or clinical trial contract submission, please complete the [online service request form](#) found under *Research* on the UNC Surgery website. To request clinical trial contract submission, 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](#) found under *Research* on the UNC Surgery website.

DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Paula Strassle, PhD, MSPH, Assistant Professor is our Database Manager. Her team will 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. Still have questions? Check out the [FAQs](#). They are in charge of the NIS, NSQIP, 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](#) found under *Research* on the UNC Surgery website.

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Clinical librarian and liaison from the Health Sciences Library. Provides support for evidence-based practice and research, including

- Focused or comprehensive literature searching
- Critically appraising evidence
- Collaborating on systematic reviews
- Advice on presenting/publishing results
- 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 carlson@unc.edu.

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

2020 Southern Surgical Association

Meeting Date: December 6-9, 2020 Location: Palm Beach, FL
Abstract Deadline: July 31, 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 Academic Surgical Congress

Meeting Date: February 2-4, 2021 Location: Houston, TX
Abstract Deadline: Submissions will open in Summer 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 Southeastern Surgical Congress (SESC)

Meeting Date: February 13-16, 2021 Location: Atlanta, GA
Abstract Deadline: Submissions will open in Summer 2020
More information [available here](#)

2020 American Pancreatic Association (APA)

Meeting Date: October 28-31, 2020 Location: Miami Beach, FL
Abstract Deadline: July 15, 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 East Associate for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST)

Meeting Date: January 12-16, 2021
Location: Lake Buena Vista, FL
Abstract Deadline: July 1, 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 Society of Critical Care Medicine

Meeting Date: January 31 – February 3, 2021
Location: Anaheim, CA
Abstract Deadline: Abstract Submission opens June 1, 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS)

Meeting Date: January 30 – February 2, 2021
Location: Austin, TX
Abstract Deadline: Submission will open in Summer 2020
More information [available here](#)

2021 Southern Association for Vascular Surgery (SCVS)

Meeting Date: January 27-30, 2021
Location: Scottsdale, AZ
Abstract Deadline: September 1, 2020
More information [available here](#)

2020 European Society for Surgical Research (ESSR)

Meeting Date: December 9-11, 2020
Location: Innsbruck, Austria
Abstract Deadline: September 6, 2020
More information [available here](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY

NC TraCS Pilot Awards for Translational Research

Application Deadline: September 22, 2020 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 \(TSMFA\)](#)

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

FACULTY & RESIDENTS

NC TraCS \$2K Grant Awards

Application Deadline(s) 2020: June 16, 2020; July 21, 2020; August 18, 2020; September 15, 2020

Award Amount: \$2,000

More information available [here](#).



GRAND ROUNDS

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

6/10/2020

Faculty Meeting

6/17/2019

Education Awards

Tim Farrell, MD, Professor, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery and Vice Chair of Education

6/24/2020

Faculty Talk

Jose Guillem, MD, MPH, MBA Chief and Professor, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery

7/1/2020

NO GRAND ROUNDS

7/8/2020

NO GRAND ROUNDS

7/15/2020

NO GRAND ROUNDS

7/22/2020

NO GRAND ROUNDS

7/29/2020

Faculty Talk

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD, Chief and Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery

8/5/2020

TBD

8/12/2020

Annual OR Team Event, 7-8am

8/19/2020

Chief Resident / Chief Resident

8/26/2020

Faculty Meeting

8/29/2020

Faculty Retreat

9/2/2020

UNC Visiting Speaker

Neva Howard, MD, MS, Director of Learning Innovations in the Office of Academic Excellence

9/9/2020

Quality Quarterly

Career Corner with **Jonathan Oberlander, Professor and Chair of Social Medicine and Professor of Health Policy & Management**

9/16/2020

STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT



Dr. David Gerber, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Abdominal Transplant, performing surgery alongside Brittney Williams, General Surgery Resident.

COMMUNICATIONS

FACULTY VIDEOS



The Power of Your Faculty Video

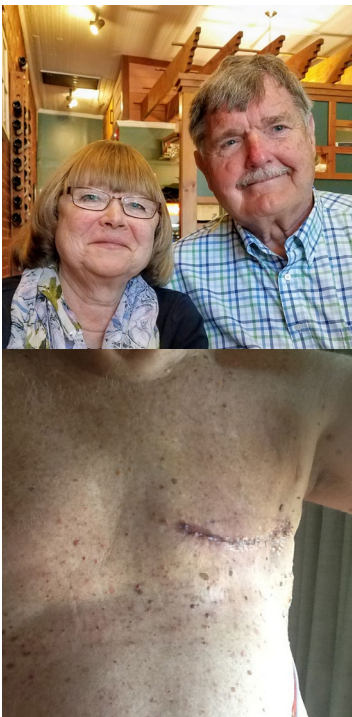
“I saw a patient today in clinic who was billed as a second opinion from Duke. We did our usual breast cancer evaluation and teaching, and at the end of the visit, the patient made it very clear that she is staying at UNC. I thanked her but she continued.....she stated she and her husband had been looking for a new provider on YouTube. Your video is how they chose to come to see me at UNC. Specifically, it was the footage of me with Anna C. in the exam room. The patient today stated she felt like she got just what she was expecting based upon your video. THANK YOU! Anna C. was so happy and so is the patient today!!” - David Ollila, MD

TOP 5 VIDEOS

- Pediatric Surgery - A Guide to Day Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery - Gastroschisis Treatment
- Pediatric Surgery - Omphalocele Treatment
- Camp Celebrate 2018 - For Kids
- UNC Department of Surgery Video

PATIENT STORY

[Male Breast Cancer: John Ozols Story](#)



SOCIAL



Baldwin, MD
Fellowship Winner

14k Impressions
1406 Engagements

FACEBOOK



Charles, MD
Elected Fellow

11k Impressions
628 Engagements

TWITTER



Day of Surgery
Pediatric Video

376 Watch Time
10k Views

YOUTUBE

UNC Surgery @UNCsurgery · May 6

#NationalNursesWeek kicks off today with #NationalNursesDay. Thank you to all of the amazing nurses who tirelessly work to help patients. You are amazing and we appreciate you today and every day. #ThankYouNurses





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 Mary Margaret Carroll, Senior Executive Director of Development at the Medical Foundation of NC, at mary_carroll@med.unc.edu, (919) 843-8443 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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