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## SUMMER NEWSLETTER DATES: May, June, and July of 2020

## UNC DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

### Chair
Melina Kibbe, MD

### Vice Chairs
- **Clinical Affairs**
  - David A. Gerber, MD
  - Timothy M. Farrell, MD
  - Jin Ra, MD
  - Jen Jen Yeh, MD
  - Hong Jin Kim, MD

- **Education**
  - Hong Jin Kim, MD

- **Quality and Safety**
  - Jen Jen Yeh, MD

- **Research**
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- **Strategy & Outreach**
  - David A. Gerber, MD

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  - David A. Gerber, MD

- **NC Jaycee Burn Center Surgery**
  - Booker T. King, MD

- **Cardiothoracic Surgery**
  - John S. Ikonomidis, MD, PhD

- **Gastrointestinal Surgery**
  - Jose G. Guillen, MD, MPH, MBA

- **General & Acute Care Surgery**
  - Anthony G. Charles, MD, MPH

- **Pediatric Surgery**
  - Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD

- **Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery**
  - Lynn A. Damitz, MD

- **Surgical Oncology**
  - Hong Jin Kim, MD

- **Vascular Surgery**
  - Mark Farber, MD

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- **Mentorship Program**
  - David W. Ollila, MD

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- **General Surgery**
  - Michael O. Meyers, MD

- **Plastic Surgery**
  - Jeyhan S. Wood, MD

- **Vascular Surgery**
  - Ezequiel Parodi, MD

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- **Adv. Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery**
  - Timothy M. Farrell, MD

- **Burn Surgery**
  - Felicia Williams, MD

- **Critical Care Surgery**
  - Jin Ra, MD

- **Complex General Surgical Oncology**
  - David W. Ollila, MD

- **Vascular Surgery**
  - Ezequiel Parodi, MD

### Associate Chair for Administration
Joellen Buckio, MHA

### Public Communications Specialist
Sheerah Coe

On the cover: George Floyd nine minutes of silence June 9th event. Photo by Sheerah Coe.

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“Healthcare Hero,” by the Denver-based artist Austin Zucchini-Fowler. Photo credit Austin Zucchini-Fowler
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

by the numbers

*Research + Publication data from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

75 FACULTY
53 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS
89 TRAINEES
224 PUBLICATIONS
78 STAFF
$801,924 CLINICAL TRIAL DOLLARS
$4,177,445 FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS
72 GRANT SUBMISSIONS
$4,938,977 TOTAL RESEARCH GRANT DOLLARS
On October 7, it will be my honor to give the annual State of the Department Address. This tradition is a yearly benchmark and celebration of our collective success, a review that will help keep us on track toward our ultimate goal of becoming the nation’s leading public Department of Surgery. Yet even as I prepare for this address, knowing the scope of our many achievements, what cannot escape me is how drastically the pandemic has altered our surgical services, research, and education initiatives. What gives me pause is the realization that the context of the landscape has changed our paradigm and so we, too, must change the way we engage in the world – a daunting but exciting proposition.

Clinically, our surgeons have risen to the challenge to provide the highest quality care to the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. Surgical activity has been critical to supporting the UNC Medical Center during the time of COVID. Even though our caseload is back to pre-pandemic levels, we are still dealing with the direct impact this crisis has had on our healthcare system. We have increased our outreach efforts to reassure patients about workplace safety and are changing how we connect, conducting virtual visits whenever possible. Our workforce is adapting to rotating schedules and remote meetings to expand capacity, and everyone is learning new skills to cover the gaps. New protocols are evolving alongside our clinical practices to accommodate new guidelines. Despite all of this flux and uncertainty, we continue to provide outstanding service, as evidenced by our recent Gold Excellence in Life Support (ELSO) Award for our Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program.

Unfortunately, research has slowed in our labs. New social distancing rules have limited access to human participants and animal subjects, delaying some studies, suspending others. Clinical trials also face participation challenges. Data collection has been slow and challenging if personnel are not readily available. Given the rush of resources to develop a vaccine worldwide, less funding is available for other projects. Still, our department continues to boast success in innovative and groundbreaking research such as Dr. Tom Egan’s new NIH R21 award to explore novel ultrasound approaches for localizing pulmonary nodules during thoracic surgery. Ironically, with the travel ban, I have noticed an uptick in manuscript submissions and long-distance collaborations for many of our faculty, fellows, and residents. However, for those who have children, the task of homeschooling and childcare has created challenges never before encountered. We are grateful for the efforts of Dr. Shannelle Campbell, who is leading a task force to provide critical resources to members of the Department of Surgery on how to manage these childcare needs.

As the pandemic has taken many of our regular in-person activities off the schedule, we continue to learn creative ways to provide quality education, slowly mastering the art of distance learning and understanding the importance of lighting and clean backgrounds, as well as establishing a charismatic camera presence. Recently, we hosted communication experts to build up our relational and team skills virtually, hosting sessions such as “Telling Stories for Greater Connection” with Jeffrey Polish, PhD, consultant and executive director of The Monti, and “It’s All in the Delivery” with Anthony Orsini, DO, physician and president of The Orsini Way. These speakers have provided valuable tools and tips to increase our effectiveness as educators and surgeons, as well as train the next generation of surgical health care professionals and scientists. Our trainees are pioneers in this new way of learning and I am extremely proud of the way they are navigating this new world.

I am also very pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the department: Dr. Shrunjay Patel, Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery and Dr. Randal Zhou, Assistant Professor of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Dr. Patel brings advanced foot and ankle care with a focus in diabetes research. Dr. Zhou will specialize in bariatric and hernia surgery with a focus on robotic surgery; his research interests include quality improvement and health outcomes. We are delighted to have these excellent surgeons join our team.

Lastly, we are excited to report that our state-of-the-art educational conference and meeting center on the 4th floor of Burnett-Womack is nearly complete! This final phase of renovation will integrate us with the future Surgical Tower and maximize our learning opportunities by providing plenty of teaching space and advanced technology. In the spirit of the times, please be sure to schedule a virtual tour when it opens!

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
Congratulations to the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program at UNC Medical Center. It has received the Gold level Award for Excellence in Life Support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization.

The ELSO Excellence in Life Support Award recognizes those centers worldwide that distinguish themselves by having processes, procedures, and systems in place that promote excellence and exceptional care.

ELSO’s goal is to recognize and honor programs that reach the highest level of performance, innovation, and quality. The ECMO program at UNC Medical Center achieved this honor by demonstrating excellence in patient care by using the highest quality measures, evidence-based processes, training, education, collaboration, and communication that contribute to a healing environment for families, patients, and staff.

The ELSO Award signifies to patients and families a commitment to exceptional patient care. It also demonstrates to the health care community an assurance of high-quality standards, specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, and advanced education of all staff members.

“The UNC ECMO Program is a team of physicians, surgeons, respiratory therapists, registered nurses, and perfusionists dedicated to providing ECMO support for infants, children, and adults experiencing acute cardiorespiratory failure. ECMO allows time for the patient’s lungs or heart to heal over a period of time by using a heart-lung machine to oxygenate the blood outside the body.”

- Anne Anderson, BSN, RN, Pediatric ECMO Coordinator

“We are honored to be the recipient of such a prestigious award regarding the critical care services and life support equipment and training provided to our patients,” said Anthony Charles, MD, MPH, Director of the UNC ECMO Program. “The Gold Excellence in Life Support Award recognizes those centers that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to evidence-based processes and quality measures, staff training, and continuing education, patient satisfaction and ongoing clinical care. The ECMO Center accomplishments reflect the dedication to advancing health care that we continuously strive to achieve at UNC.”

ECMO PROGRAM WINS GOLD

On May 25th, 2020, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during an arrest. The video footage shows arresting officers kneeling on his neck, effectively cutting off his airways. His death has sparked the current Black Lives Matter movement, setting into motion protests and calls for equality.

On June 9th UNC Surgery held a memorial, nine minutes of silence in honor of George Floyd. The event was organized by Ivy Haskins, MD, a former minimally invasive GI fellow. The department felt that it was vital that we join in the display of solidarity seen on health care campuses across the country. Doctors, nurses, residents, fellows, and staff bowed their heads in silence, taking a moment from the chaos around them to join together. They knelt outside the front of UNC-Chapel Hill hospital, a line of health care workers, all masked due to COVID-19, all gathered together to show their support. The silence spoke, we hear you, and we kneel beside one another in this fight against racism.

NINE MINUTES OF SILENCE
LIVING BREATHING PROOF

A cadre of older patients with cystic fibrosis have defied the life expectancy associated with their illness. They’re inspiring and educating others about surviving with the disease long-term.

On July 29, 2020, nature.com published a story written by Roxanne Khamsi about Howell Graham, who received a lung transplant at UNC Hospitals, and is now the longest-surviving lung transplant patient in the United States.

Today, at age 58, Howell Graham works as a real-estate appraiser and has been married to his wife for nearly 30 years. Graham is one of a group of individuals with cystic fibrosis who have defied the predictions of doctors and survived for decades with the disease.

In 1990, Howell Graham was the first cystic fibrosis patient to receive a lung transplant at UNC Hospitals. At that time, Graham was 28. His cystic fibrosis had progressed to the point that it was difficult to walk across a room. He knew he couldn’t go on living that way.

His surgeon, Thomas Egan, MD, MSc, is a Professor of Surgery in the UNC Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He is a world-renowned surgeon and lung transplantation researcher.

At the time of Graham’s surgery, cystic fibrosis patients were not considered good candidates for lung transplant. But a new technique for performing a double lung transplant had been developed. Egan determined that Graham was a good candidate.

All these years later, Graham, of Wilmington, still vividly remembers the moment he heard that a set of donor lungs might be available.

“Dr. Egan told me he was flying out to look at some lungs and I had all of these questions for him like ‘What if your plane is delayed?’ or ‘What if there’s a traffic jam?’”

“He looked at me and said ‘Howell, it’s like Greyhound, leave the driving to us.’”

Not a day goes by that Graham isn’t thankful for the gift he received in 1990. And he’s made it his mission to spread the word about the importance of organ donation. He knows he likely wouldn’t be here without it.

“This portion of my life has been the best by far,” he said. You can read more about Graham’s personal journey or watch his video, Grateful for every breath.

You can read the full nature.com article.

GERBER AWARDED MEDAL

David A. Gerber, MD, George F. Sheldon, MD Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Chief of Abdominal Transplant Surgery at UNC Surgery was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by the United States Secretary of Defense. Congratulations to Dr. Gerber on this well-deserved honor.

“I am deeply moved and somewhat speechless to receive this tremendous honor,” says Dr. Gerber. “I have had the fortune of serving in the U.S. Air Force for almost 30 years and the last decade has been incredibly rewarding as I was assigned
to the Uniformed Services University and Walter Reed National Medical Center. In this position, I was able to work closely with leadership in their Department of Surgery and provide a perspective that they have felt was valuable to their mission. Receiving the Defense Meritorious Service Medal has led me to a moment of introspection and reflection and leaves me humbled by those with whom I have worked.”

David Gerber served as Colonel in the United States Air Force and has distinguished himself by meritorious service as General and Transplant Surgeon, Department of Surgery, Uniformed Services University (USU), from March 2009 to April 2020.

His letter of recommendation for the award details Dr. Gerber’s extensive support and assistance to the USU and to Department of Defense (DoD) members. This includes providing critical Renal Transplant Surgery to members of the DoD as well as contributing directly to the success and growth of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Transplant Program.

As an invaluable member of the Department of Surgery, Colonel Gerber taught multiple Advanced Trauma Life Support courses to matriculating military medical students, advanced degree nursing students, and other military medical professionals which prepared them with the skills needed to save lives on the battlefield. To say he made an impact in the lives of others would be an understatement.

The distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Gerber culminated a distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Air Force Reserves, and the Department of Defense.

Read the full article detailing Dr. Gerber’s dedication as Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve, as a transplant surgeon, and as an educator.
UNC CHILDREN’S HEART CENTER

Summer 2020 update on how far our program has come and how we continue to improve our service to the children and families of North Carolina.

Clinical Excellence
The resurgence of the congenital heart program has been fostered by the multidisciplinary team members who are the pillars of UNC Children’s Heart Center. The program is rapidly becoming one of the premier pediatric cardiac surgery programs in the region. Since June of 2018, outcomes for all tiers of surgical complexity including STAT 5 cases (most complex) have been the best in our program’s history with an overall mortality of 2.4%. As we benchmark our results against the aggregate data of the Society for Thoracic Surgeon’s Congenital Heart Surgery Database, our outcomes are better than the national average.* Since January 2020, our survival rate has continued to improve with over 98% of children surviving to hospital discharge despite taking on high risk lesions such as hypoplastic left heart syndrome, pulmonary atresia with multiple aortopulmonary collaterals (MAPCAs), and neonatal surgery in premature and low birth-weight babies.

Heart Transplant Survival

UNC Children’s | Expected Survival | UNOS
---|---|---
100 | 96.5 | 92.9

Our heart failure program continues to thrive. In the last year, we have supported several children with a ventricular assist device or “artificial heart” as they awaited heart transplantation. This is the first time since the inception of the Heart Failure Program at UNC that children have been able to wait for an organ while in the comfort of their homes. We are on pace to have the highest number of pediatric heart transplants in our recent past having performed six orthotopic cardiac transplants during this time which is more transplants than over the preceding five-year period. Despite this uptick, we maintain a 100% survival rate and graft survival at 1-year as compared to our expected survival of 85% and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) national survival rate of 93%.

Team Expansion
A highly interdependent team is critical to the success of our mission. As such, we have expanded our faculty and staff within the Heart Center including an additional board-certified congenital heart surgeon, Dr. Sandeep Sainathan. Dr. Sainathan joined us in May 2020 from LeBonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN, a recognized center of excellence for congenital cardiac care. In addition, we have onboarded two advanced practice providers for the program. Jessica Floriano, MSN, RN, CPNP AC/PC, FNP-C joined in this summer from Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, OH to serve as our cardiothoracic surgery advanced nurse practitioner. Lunise Benjamin, DNP, NP-C, joined us from UNC Cardiology as our doctoral-level advanced practice provider in charge of spearheading our newly formed UNC Adult Congenital Heart Center. We are currently in the process of moving toward being one of a select number of centers accredited for Adult Congenital Heart Disease. Our pediatric ECMO team continues to expand. In 2018, we established a dedicated group of pediatric specialists including Anne Anderson, BSN, RN the first Clinical Lead ECMO Specialist at UNC and four practitioners including Wesley Searcy, RN BSN, (UNC), Chris Schisler, RCP, RRT-NPS, (UNC), Joy Cole-Sperry, RN, (The University of Texas-Houston/Memorial Hermann Children’s Hospital), and Jennifer Scott, RN, (Emory University-Children’s Hospital of Atlanta). In addition, we have established a new Section of Pediatric Cardiovascular Perfusion and hired UNC’s first Chief of Pediatric Perfusion, Monica C. Olsen MHA/ED, CCP, FPP. Monica comes to us from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia-The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine to work alongside our excellent perfusion team.

Surgical Outreach
Our team has been “traveling the state” virtually and establishing new relationships with providers around North Carolina and the southeast. UNC is quickly becoming a regional referral center for complex cardiac surgery including procedures such as the pulmonary autograft or “Ross” procedure. Read about Bill Wild’s Story.

Left to right: JP DaSilva, MD and Mahesh Sharma, MD.
In his Grand Rounds session on August 8, 2020 Jeffrey Polish, PhD, discussed the topic of “Telling Stories for Greater Connection (…and better research talks).”

Jeffrey is the founder and CEO of The Monti, an organization that helps people learn how to tell stories, specifically how to tell their personal stories. He teaches Story Telling and Health at Duke University and his national business clients include Boeing, Microsoft, and Juniper Networks.

He began his talk by asking “What do you want to achieve by giving your talk?” Answers he received included: 1. Clearly and concisely present my work; 2. Come off as competent and professional; 3. Impress the Division Chief; 4. Turn people on to my research. He points out that three of the four answers have nothing to do with the audience, with the listener, with the relationship between speaker and listener. He believes that #4 is actually the most important answer, “When we are giving a talk we need to think about who we are talking to and how we are engaging with them.”

“Your research talk is an opportunity to engage your listener from the very first minute, to make your work relatable in a way that a paper never could, and be impactful. When we stand and deliver our story we have an opportunity to inspire people by our human presence. The best research presentations I’ve ever seen answered the question of ‘why you’ve dedicated your life to studying xyz.’” He explains that the story provides context for the listener/reader to feel the significance of the work. We are emotional creatures who want to connect and we are intellectual, meaning we can learn from the talks and presentations but we need to be turned on by them, pulled in, and inspired.

In any story you need to use a three-act story structure. You create a narrative arc with a beginning, which is the why, that provides context, conflict, establishes what’s at stake, and motivation. This is where the listener finds themselves.

In the middle, the what, is where the action or info of the story lies. It culminates in the one great finding, the climax, and is typically the longest part of the story.

The final part of the story is of course the ending, the meaning, where change is measured. “We have taken the field of research to a new place.” We are finding the meaning of the story; moment of reflection occurs here as well as future directions.

A great communicator is a person who is engaging, relatable and impactful, who thinks about their audience before they get up on a stage to give their talk. Someone who cares about their audience, interacts with them in some way, lets us know what motivates him or her, makes us care and is authentic. Have you ever given a talk that connects with your audience as Jeff suggests?

---

In August, we were thrilled to host Professor Jose Pedro DaSilva, as a Visiting Surgeon. Dr. DaSilva, originally from São Paulo, Brazil, pioneered a procedure to treat Ebstein’s Anomaly of the tricuspid valve. Professor DaSilva delivered a lecture at UNC entitled “Ebstein’s Anomaly: The Clinical Impact of the Cone Technique.” Additionally, Dr. Sharma, assisted by Dr. DaSilva, performed UNC’s first “Cone Procedure” for Ebstein’s anomaly of the tricuspid valve.

This summer, UNC Health signed an agreement with Novant Health and New Hanover Regional Medical Center to expand the existing medical education and pediatric specialty services in Southeastern North Carolina.

Our Heart Center team continues to expand its footprint to provide quaternary care for the children around the state.

Research
In order to maintain our tripartite mission as academic surgeons, we are in early stages of the establishment of a Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgical Laboratory at UNC. In collaboration with faculty from NC State School of Biomedical Engineering, we are testing the use of robotic fabric for cavopulmonary assistance in the Fontan circulation of single ventricle physiology.

Our clinical research efforts are directed at pediatric mechanical circulatory support options and using large databases such as KIDS HCUP to investigate questions such as the optimal timing of the superior cavopulmonary shunt (SCVPA) (Bidirectional Glenn operation/ Hemi-Fontan) particularly after a stage 1 single ventricle palliation (Norwood procedure).
HIGHLIGHTS & HONORS FACULTY

Thomas Egan, MD
Professor of Surgery, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, along with Garrett Friedman, MD from Mike O’Callaghan Federal Medical Center in Las Vegas, NV, published “Management of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer. A Multidisciplinary Approach”

José Guillem, MD
Chief and Professor, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, along with Garrett Friedman, MD from Mike O’Callaghan Federal Medical Center in Las Vegas, NV, published “Management of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer. A Multidisciplinary Approach”

Philip Spanheimer, MD
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, won Junior Faculty Award from the Society of University Surgeons

David Gerber, MD
Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Division of Abdominal Transplant, awarded Defense Meritorious Service Medal by the United States Secretary of Defense

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD
Professor and Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, was elected to American Pediatric Surgical Association Board of Directors

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Jeyhan Wood, MD
Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery was promoted to Associate Professor
Robert Maile, PhD

Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Burn Surgery, and Co-Director of The DELTA Translational Recharge Center has received $500,000 of funding, through the N.C. Policy Collaboratory at UNC-Chapel Hill, to reinforce its COVID-19 research support and analysis infrastructure.

This initiative is currently supporting multiple COVID-19 studies, and comprises: 1) participant enrolment and clinical specimen collection via the Clinical Research Unit space in the Adams School of Dentistry, 2) BSL2+ housed clinical specimen processing for multiple IRB approved COVID-19 research studies, 3) using SOPs approved by EHS/IBC for processing of blood, saliva, lung fluids, nasal fluid, urine, stool, 4) analysis of inactivated samples for immunological, proteomic and metabolomic outcomes, and 5) biobanking of excess COVID-19 clinical specimen materials.

Born from a collaboration between the Adams Schools of Dentistry and the School of Medicine, the focus of the DELTA Translational Recharge Center is on kickstarting clinically-relevant research projects, aiding investigators in Discovery and Elucidation, Logistics, Translation and Application. Read the full press release.

Arya Akhavan, MD

Resident, Plastic Surgery PGY5, elected Vice President of Quality Improvement in the House Staff Council for 2020 - 2021

Stephanie Gray, MD

Resident, General Surgery PGY5, recipient of The Class of 2000 Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. This award honors the residents deemed by the third year class to be the most outstanding in each of the seven core clerkships

Audrey Khoury, MD

Resident, Cardiothoracic Surgery, PGY2, recipient of the The Class of 2000 Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award. This award honors the residents deemed by the third year class to be the most outstanding in each of the seven core clerkships

Ian Kratzke, MD

Resident, General Surgery PGY4, elected Vice President of Well-Being in the House Staff Council for 2020 - 2021

Xavier Baldwin, MD

Research Resident, General Surgery, was accepted onto the Duke-UNC Immunotherapy T32, with Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner acting as his mentor
Shrunjay Patel, DPM  
Assistant Professor  
Vascular Surgery  
Started 7/6/2020

Dr. Patel received his undergraduate degree from Toronto’s York University in 2011 before earning his medical degree at Rosalind Franklin University in 2015. He completed his Reconstructive Foot and Ankle Surgery residency training at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, where he was Chief Resident. He then pursued a fellowship in Reconstructive, Trauma and Limb Salvage Foot and Ankle Surgery at the University of Texas, graduating in 2019. Since that time he has been employed by Carolina Foot and Ankle in Mooresville, North Carolina.

Dr. Patel has presented nationally and internationally on topics related to his specialty, and has published in podiatry journals. He maintains membership in his professional organizations and continues to hone his skills through specialized coursework. He is fluent in Hindi and Gujarati, and proficient in Medical Spanish, Punjabi and Urdu. Read more about Dr. Patel in his interview.

Randal Zhou, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Gastrointestinal Surgery  
Started 8/24/2020

Dr. Zhou graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Biology and a minor in Chemistry in 2010. He received his medical degree from Rush Medical College in 2014. He remained at Rush for his general surgery residency training, which he completed in 2019. He then matriculated to Yale-New Haven Hospital for a fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery.

Dr. Zhou joins our department in the Division of GI Surgery as a bariatrics and hernia surgeon, with particular experience in robotic surgery. Dr. Zhou comes to UNC with experience in clinical outcomes research. He has presented his work at national and regional conferences, and has published in specialty journals. He maintains membership in his professional organizations and is part of a Bariatric Collaboration Society. He will be working closely with Drs. Farrell and Perez, along with all the faculty in the GI Division. Read more about Dr. Zhou in his interview.
RETIRING STAFF

Lynn Farber
Nurse Practitioner
Pediatric Surgery

Division of Pediatric Surgery held a socially distanced celebration honoring the hard work Lynne gave to the Division of Pediatric Surgery and the Department of Surgery in the care of children. Check out her retirement video. Lynne worked as a nurse for 39 years, spending 26 years in the Department of Surgery at UNC, and 22 years in the Division of Pediatric Surgery. She is a national leader in pediatric surgical nursing, and her work in nursing education was recognized by her peers. She was the past president of American Pediatric Surgical Nursing Association, an editorial member of their associated journal, and on their executive board multiple times. She will truly be missed!

Cynthia Newkirk
Administrative Specialist
Burn Surgery

“Cynthia worked closely with many of the clinical professionals in the Jaycee Burn Center and supported the Division Chief. She diligently coordinated various programs such as the AMIT/Medics, Advisory Board and was a liaison for the hospital employees. We appreciate her dedication and professionalism to her work.” - Orna Manison, Administrative Support Supervisor

Carleta Long
Administrative Specialist
Abdominal Transplant Surgery

“Carleta was an integral part of the abdominal transplant program. For a number of years we didn’t have a dedicated clinical support professional for our non-transplant patients. Carleta became the de facto liaison for all of our patients and their families. She did such a good job and provided such empathy that many of the patients would ask to see her when they came to the hospital.” - David Gerber, Chief of Abdominal Transplant

NEW HEALTHCARE STAFF

Ashley Stout
Physician Assistant
Burn Surgery ICU

Ashley received her undergraduate degree from Clemson University, a Bachelor of Sciences in 2016 before earning her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from South University in Savannah Georgia in 2020. Most recently she came to us from Novant Health System - Northern Virginia Surgical Specialties where she did a clinical rotation with the General Surgery Services. Ashley also has clinical rotation experience in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics.

I can’t imagine the Division of Surgical Oncology without Courtney - I think that she starting working with us after graduating from kindergarten. She has been an invaluable resource, a constant force of stability, and she will be sorely missed.”

- HJ Kim, Chief of Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery


Quezada-Diaz FF, Smith JJ, Jimenez-Rodriguez RM, Wasserman Newcomb AB, Duval M, Bachman SL, Mohess D, Dort J, Kapadia MR. Building Rapport and Earning the Surgical Dates: May, June, and July 2020

PUBLICATIONS | CARDIOTHORACIC

PUBLICATIONS | GASTROINTESTINAL

PUBLICATIONS | ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANT

PUBLICATIONS | BURN

PUBLICATIONS | CARDIOVASCULAR


Dates: May, June, and July 2020

**PUBLICATIONS | PEDIATRIC**


**PUBLICATIONS | SURGICAL ONCOLOGY**


**Portelli Tremont JN, Downs-Canner S, Maduekwe U.** Delving


IN THE LOOP

Unfortunately, our August Faculty Retreat has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will reschedule the event in Summer 2021.

The PGY4 and PGY5 General Surgery residents had Mock Orals on March 16, 2020. Thank you to all the members of the faculty who served as examiners. The next Mock Orals will be on September 13, 2020 using a virtual platform. Faculty examiners are still needed. Those interested please RSVP to Crystal Boney.

Our educational Grand Rounds series continues. Dr. Amy Shaheen gave a wonderful Grand Rounds on June 3, 2020 (“Getting Learners Involved in Quality Improvement”).

Dr. Neva Howard spoke on September 2, 2020 (“Adaptive Learning”).

Dr. Roy Phitayakorn from Harvard will be our virtual professor for Resident as Teachers conference (“Adult Learning Theories”) on 9/29/20. He will also give virtual Grand Rounds (“Emotional Intelligence and Teamwork in Surgery”) on 9/30/20.

Our upcoming Career Corner talks are scheduled, as below.

Dr. Jonathan Oberlander – “Impact of the elections on the ACA” (9/9/20)
Dr. Melina Kibbe – “Writing a manuscript” (1/6/21)
Dr. John Ikonomidis – “Time management” (3/20/21)

Finally, congratulations to our Academy of Educators award winners:

Application/Individualization Phase Clinical Preceptor Excellence in Teaching Award
Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD

Educational Mentor/Advisor Award
Jason Long, MD, MPH

Craver Professor Award
Luigi Pascarella, MD

Dr. Annamarie Connolly – “One-minute preceptor” (6/2/21)

Sincerely,

Timothy Farrell, MD
Vice Chair of Education

Muneera Kapadia, MD
Associate Vice Chair of Education
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/finding-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/emers.

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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups assigned to Grace</th>
<th>Groups assigned to Annie</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burn</td>
<td>Abdominal Transplant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vascular</td>
<td>Cardiothoracic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Surgery</td>
<td>General and Acute Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastics and Reconstructive</td>
<td>Surgical Oncology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal Surgery</td>
<td>Resident</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
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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
A 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 rcarlson@unc.edu.
ABSTRACT DEADLINES

American Surgical Association Annual Meeting (ASA) 2021
Meeting Date: April 15-17, 2021
Location: Seattle, WA
Abstract Deadline: November 16, 2020
More information available here

2021 Southeastern Surgical Congress (SESC)
Meeting Date: August 21-24, 2021
Location: Atlanta, GA
Abstract Deadline: Friday, February 19, 2021
More information available here

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2021
Meeting Date: May 20-23, 2021
Location: Phoenix, AZ
Abstract Deadline: October 13, 2020
More information available here

American Society of Breast Surgeons 2021
Meeting Date: April 28-May 2, 2021
Location: Orlando, FL
Abstract Deadline: November 4, 2020
More information available here

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons 2021
Meeting Date: April 24-28, 2021
Location: Las Vegas, NV
Abstract Deadline: September 25, 2020
More information available here

American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons 2021
Meeting Date: April 24-28, 2021
Location: Las Vegas, NV
Abstract Deadline: September 25, 2020
More information available here

American Burn Association 2021
Meeting Date: April 6-9, 2021
Location: Chicago, IL
Abstract Deadline: October 1, 2020
More information available here

International Society for Burn Injuries 2021
Meeting Date: June 14-17, 2021
Location: Birmingham, UK
Abstract Deadline: Open in November
More information available here

Association for Surgical Education
Meeting Date: April 27-May 1, 2021
Location: Boston, MA
Abstract Deadline: November 6, 2020
More information available here

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY

Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) 2021 Research Development Grant
Application Deadline: November 2, 2020
• The purpose of this award is to provide the opportunity for Junior faculty (less than 7 years from fellowship training graduation) to perform research during the 2021-2022 academic year.
• The research can be clinical, outcomes, translational, or basic science, but must focus on the liver, pancreas, or biliary system.
For more information: https://www.ahpba.org/awards-grants/research-grant/

NC TraCS Pilot Awards for Translational Research
Application Deadline: September 22, 2020 and March 2021
the next deadlines 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 (TSMPA)
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 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

9/23/2020
Byah Thomason Doxey Sanford Doxey
Visiting Professor Jessica Kandel, MD,
Mary Campau Ryerson Professor of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief, The University of Chicago
Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital Chief,
Section of Pediatric Surgery

9/28/2020
Distinguished Professor of Family Medicine

10/4/2020
Visiting Professor
Roy Phitayakorn, MD, Associate Professor
of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

10/7/2020
STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

10/14/2020
Research - American College of Surgeons
Presentations

10/21/2020
Faculty Meeting with the Executive
Cristy Page, MD, MPH Executive Dean,
UNC School of Medicine; William B. Aycock
Distinguished Professor of Family Medicine

10/28/2020
Chief Resident Presentations: Charles
Schafer and Peter Marcinkowski, UNC
General Surgery Residents

11/4/2020
SHELDON RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM -
Organized by Staci Aubry, UNC General
Surgery Chief Resident

11/11/2020
George Johnson Jr. Distinguished Visiting
Professor Gilbert Upchurch Chair of
the Department of Surgery, University of
Florida, Gainesville, Florida

11/18/2020
Interdisciplinary (Anesthesiology) M & M,
please be aware of the time change for
this meeting.

11/25/2020
NO GRAND ROUNDS
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

12/2/2020
Faculty Meeting

12/9/2020
TBD

12/16/2020
George F. Sheldon Distinguished Visiting
Professor Jayme E. Locke, MD, MPH,
FACS, FAST, Associate Professor of Surgery,
Chief, Division of Transplantation, Mark H.
Deierhoi, MD Endowed Professor

12/23/2020
NO GRAND ROUNDS

12/30/2020
NO GRAND ROUNDS

GENERAL SURGERY
RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Join us to learn more about our program from the
Program Directors, faculty, and residents.

SEPTEMBER 16 5:30PM (EST)
Register at https://bit.ly/2F4AhVb

OCTOBER 5 7PM (EST)
Register at https://bit.ly/2QR6imu

Questions? Email kathie_patterson@med.unc.edu

Michael O. Meyers, MD
Residency Program Director

Trista Reid, MD
Associate Program Director
COMMUNICATIONS

TOP 6 FACULTY PROFILE VIDEOS (May - July 2020)

Adeyemi Ogunleye, MD (No Higher Calling Than Treating Sick Patients)
Views: 128  Avg view duration: 2:03

Melina Kibbe, MD (Committed to Patient Centered Care)
Views: 103  Avg view duration: 1:55

Benjamin Haithcock, MD, (Serving the Great Folks of North Carolina)
Views: 98  Avg view duration: 2:41

Mark A. Farber, MD (On the Forefront of Advancing Medicine)
Views: 98  Avg view duration: 2:30

Andrea Hayes-Jordan, MD (Saving Generations of Children)
Views: 98  Avg view duration: 1:50

Lawrence Kim, MD (Altering the Course of a Disease)
Views: 92  Avg view duration: 2:29

PATIENT STORY

“Something Truly Special”: The Roney Family Story

SOCIAL

13.5k Impressions
3k Engagements

5.6k Impressions
495 Engagements

527 Watch Time (hours)
14.5k Views

@UNC_Surgery doctors, nurses, residents, fellows, and staff kneeled in silence yesterday for 9 min, taking a moment from the chaos around them to join together. The silence spoke, we hear you, we kneel beside one another in this fight against racism. @UNC_Health_Care | @kibbemr
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.