SPRING 2021

UNC

No.

GI SURGERY

DUNC

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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SPRING NEWSLETTER DATES: February, March and April of 2021

UNC DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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Strategy & Outreach

Abdominal Transplant Surgery Vascular Surgery

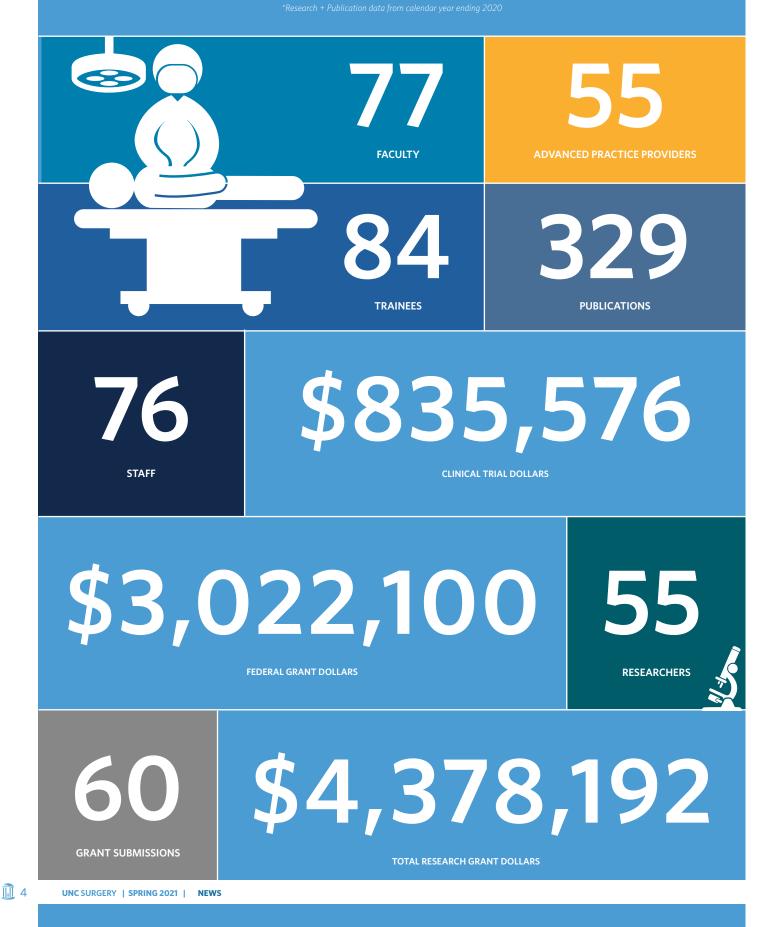
Medical Student Clerkship

THIS IS YOUR SHOT TO PROTECT LOVED ONES



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

by the numbers



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

UNC Health has administered 356,325 vaccine shots! Even so, more people need to be vaccinated for us to return to normal. Having said that, I am happy to report that while we continue to conduct most of our business online, bit by bit we are slowly getting back to hosting small group meetings with vaccinated individuals. However, until we get back to functioning in full capacity to allow for larger gatherings, we celebrate another season of seminal events virtually.

Match Day (March 19) - This year we had 16 medical students match into our specialties, representing 10% of our total graduating class! Of special note, 14 of the 16 were female. Congratulations also to all of our new trainees who matched in our ACGME residency programs—General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Cardiothoracic, and Vascular.

Graduation Day (June 11) - Yes, we are hosting another Zoom graduation event this year, but please stay tuned for details. While we enjoy our virtual gathering, I look forward to the time when we can again celebrate in person. Read about our graduating fellows and residents in this issue.

The other day, I was reviewing our Strategic Plan to determine if we are on track to be the nation's leading public academic department of surgery. Where do we stand after we published the Strategic Plan in 2018? How are we doing with our goals in clinical care, research and education? From my assessment, we are on track, and even ahead in a few areas. Let me share a few notes.

In the past five years, the Department of Surgery has seen a consistent 6-8% growth with wRVU clinical productivity and our number of faculty has grown from 57 to 77, a 35% increase. We have enhanced our existing national marquis programs and added new clinical programs. For our new UNC Chronic Pancreatitis and Autologous Islet Cell Transplant Program, we are delighted to report that Dr. Chirag Desai and his surgical team performed the program's 50th case, which makes UNC one of the most significant centers in the country! Additionally, our faculty continue to provide award-winning service, as evidenced by recently named UNC Healthcare Champions Dr. David Gerber and Dr. Ben Haithcock. We also honor Dr. Mark Koruda, a retiring clinician-educator powerhouse who devoted his career to Carolina and leaves behind an established legacy of excellence. We also welcome back Dr. Ross Ungerleider, professor of cardiothoracic surgery.

We have worked hard to increase our research and academic productivity. If we review the data of metrics from 2016 to 2021, we can see that total research grant dollars have increased 7-fold, federal research dollars by 8-fold and clinical trial dollars by 1.6fold. Our NIH Blue Ridge Ranking is currently at #38 (\$3.4M). Research grant submissions have also increased 2.6-fold, and our faculty now includes 10 federally funded investigators with 2 additional surgeon scientists on internal K awards. Our faculty also support research through competitive campus awards. For instance, Dr. Stephanie Downs-Canner just received another Lineberger Development Award to support her breast cancer research.

In the past five years, we have also increased the national presence of our department through faculty securing positions of national leadership. What is extremely notable is that our department now has 4 faculty who serve on the Board of Governors with the American College of Surgeons. Only two other institutions in the United States have similar representation (Vanderbilt and UCSF). Thus, UNC ties for the greatest number of representatives on this prestigious board! We also boast 2 faculty editors, 4 associate editors, and 2 assistant editors of reputable surgery journals, and our faculty serve on a total of 31 editorial boards nationwide. Recently, Dr. David Gerber was elected to the Board of Directors for United Network of Organ Sharing.

Additionally, a record number of students now pursue surgery as a career choice. Over the past five years, much work has been put into our clerkship program, adding a popular Bootcamp, creating feedback loops with leadership, implementing "Ask the Resident" card, and department-wide training sessions about our learning environment. Moreover, the innovations continue. Dr. Luigi Pascarella just launched a video series for instructing medical students and faculty on how to work better together. We also have focused growth in our residency programs, expanding our positions, creating a robust educational programming for surgery faculty and trainees, including training in national teaching courses, Career Corner and education-themed grand rounds and conferences. Finally, we established teaching awards based on evaluation data and scores to honor quality faculty and resident educators.

Overall, in review, I am thrilled to see the progress in our department during the past 5 years. If we continue to focus on our mission 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, I am sure we will eventually succeed in our goal to become the nation's leading public academic department of surgery.

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 2021

RESIDENTS

Message from Dr. Meyers

I always have mixed emotions when we reach the end of the academic year. It's so exciting to see everyone complete their training and move on the next steps in their personal and professional lives. But it's sad to say goodbye because we've gotten to know all of you so well and we will miss you. I am honored to have gotten a chance to know all of you not only professionally but also as people in ways that not everyone has the opportunity and it's a privilege to have been part of that. I wish the best for everyone as you take the next steps in your careers and thank you for all of your time and effort on behalf of UNC, the Department of Surgery and me personally.



Favorite memory: Having the opportunity to celebrate at my wedding with all my co-chief residents.

Pearl of wisdom: Make good friends with your fellow interns- they will support you through the hard times during residency.

After graduation plans: Two-year Surgical Critical Care/Trauma fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC



Favorite memory: Operating with my favorite PGY-2s

Pearl of wisdom: Halfsies halfsies Advice to incoming residents: Always do what is best for the patients

After graduation plans: Having my 2nd child (a son) in late June; Surgical Care/Trauma Fellowship at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL



Favorite memory: I loved end of the year graduation events, great time for everyone to get together, remember all of the fun times throughout the year and just enjoy each other's company.

Pearl of wisdom: Trust in myself but know that everyone will still be here to support me and always available to talk if I have any questions After graduation plans: General surgeon with the US Navy in Okinawa, Japan



Favorite memory: So many memories come to mind! But I will always remember the camaraderie with my co-chiefs, particularly the long discussions about patient care and surgical techniques, and the mutual support to become better physicians

After graduation plans: Advanced GI/MIS fellowship with UNC Surgery in Chapel Hill



Favorite memory: During my chief year having the opportunity to take junior residents through cases in the OR. It's amazing to see how far we have all come during residency. Also making coordinated dance videos with Brittney Williams during the pandemic - we met our intern year and she has been my rock and best friend and residency wouldn't have been survivable without her. After graduation plans: Surgical Critical Care/ Trauma Fellowship, at the University of Michigan



Favorite memory: When residency finally ended.

Pearl of wisdom: If you have a second, take a second.

Advice to incoming residents: The curved mayos are THE instrument for lysing adhesions. After graduation plans: Surgical Critical Care/ Trauma Fellowship at The Ohio State University



General Surgery

Favorite memory: Hanging out in the chief room and telling stories about our days to each other.

Pearl of wisdom: Residency is a wild ride, just come in with an open mind and a thirst for knowledge.

After graduation plans: Moving to Atlanta with my two loves (Kait and my dog Bruce) to begin plastic surgery fellowship at Emory University.

SURGEON GRADUATES



Favorite memory: The first time I procured a heart and then implanted it in the recipient. Pearl of Wisdom: Don't bring your work home, when you get home be present with your family (as much as possible).

After graduation plans: Becoming an attending Cardiothoracic surgeon at Novant Forsyth in Winston Salem, NC.



Favorite memory: During my third year, we were consulted late at night on a polytrauma where the patient had a traumatic amputation of the leg. I went on an adventure throughout the hospital late at night, searching for pathology, where they keep amputated body parts, and then carrying it back to the operating room. A rare situation for sure! After graduation plans: Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, MS as the only plastic surgeon and the only female plastic surgeon on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

FELLOWS



Favorite memory: Watching a patient walk out of the hospital that nearly died in the ER. Pearl of wisdom: Keep a healthy balance between your family/friends and training. Soak up as much as you can during your training here because time flies.

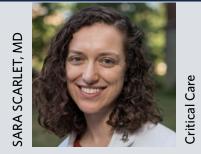
After graduation plans: Assistant Professor at UNC Surgery in the Division of General Surgery.





Favorite memories: The people. From the nurses, to the surgical techs, to the custodial staff, to the residents, I have been so impressed by everyone's positivity and helpfulness. I was treated so warmly from the beginning, that I really felt at home almost immediately after starting.

After graduation plans: Minimally Invasive/ Bariatric surgery job in New York City.



Favorite memory: I had my first baby during fellowship.

Pearl of wisdom: The attendings I admire most continually seek opportunities to grow, as with the M&M process, debriefs, seeking feedback, or critical appraisal of the literature. Critical care is changing all the time, we must change with it! **After graduation pans:** Trauma and acute care surgery attending at The Ohio State



Favorite memory: I have many good memories from our pivot to COVID-safe, backyard fire pit fellowship meetings with my program director Dr. Ollila and co-fellows in the division.

Pearl of wisdom: Operating is fun but the real work takes place in the clinic.

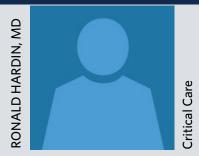
After graduation plans: Becoming an attending at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.



Plastic Surgery

Favorite memory: Finishing my last free flap during my pregnancy! It was a moment of realization of my own surgical abilities and what I was capable of both mentally and physically. I was so thankful to have an amazing team of co-residents, staff, and attendings who supported me the whole way through. Plus I loved operating while having my baby with me in the OR.

After graduation plans: Richmond Aesthetic Surgery doing cosmetic and breast reconstruction.



After graduation plans: Will be returning to active duty with the military.



Favorite memory: Having the opportunity to work with Dr. Farber and becoming a mentor to Colby Ruiz.

Pearl of wisdom: It takes the entire team working together to achieve the best results for patients, and that retroperitoneal is the correct way to fix an aneurysm.

After graduation plans: Working at UNC REX

INCOMING RESIDENTS 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR



Adam Awe, MD University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health General Surgery Residency



Amir Malik, MD Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



Michelle Fenty, MD State University of New York Upstate Medical University General Surgery Residency



David Bartlett, MD Marshall University Joan C Edwards School of Medicine General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



William Luo, MD University of California San Diego School of Medicine General Surgery Residency



Murphy Mostellar, MD University of South Alabama College of Medicine General Surgery Residency



Sonja Samant, MD University of Florida College of Medicine Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery



Devan Patel, MD Florida State University College of Medicine – Ft. Pierce Campus General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary Laura Burkbauer, MD Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania General Surgery Residency





Van Hoang, MD University of Vermont College of Medicine General Surgery Residency

Noah DeAngelo, MD Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine General Surgery Residency Amrita Sukhavasi, MD Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University CT Surgery Residency

> Alec Jost, MD Wake Forest University School of Medicine General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary

Alexis Betancourt, MD University of North Carolina Vascular Surgery Residency

Pragna Shetty, MD University of North Carolina Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

> Ronald Brady, MD University of North Carolina General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



Diego Hipolito Canario, MD University of North Carolina General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



Nathaniel Dillard, MD Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



William Weibley, MD University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville General Surgery Residency PGY1 Preliminary



Mark Koruda, MD, Professor of Gastrointestinal Surgery Retires with a Career Dedicated to Clinical Excellence and Resident Education

We are at once delighted and disheartened to announce that Mark J. Koruda, MD, is retiring. His last day is August 2, 2021. Dr. Koruda's retirement will be felt by the department and the residency program, but a well-deserved respite for him.

"On behalf of current and past members of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery in the Department of Surgery at UNC, Chapel Hill, I congratulate Dr. Mark Koruda on his greater than 30-year career of dedicated hard work taking care of many patients throughout the state of North Carolina and participating in the training of innumerable surgical residents. I wish him well in his future endeavors and enjoying his retirement with family and friends." - José G Guillem, MD, MPH, MBA, Chief, Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery and Professor of Surgery.

"A dedicated educator who spent his career committed to caring for the patients of North Carolina." These words describe Dr. Mark J. Koruda, a professor with dual appointments in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery and the Department of Nutrition who arrived at UNC in July of 1988 as an Assistant Professor. He was recruited from the General Surgery Program at the University of Pennsylvania by Dr. George F. Sheldon, the chair of the department at the time.

Everyone was great, per usual. I have known Dr. Koruda for years and he is one of my favorite people on the planet!"

-UNC Patient

Dr. Koruda had research interests akin to Dr. Sheldon's in parenteral feeding and in luminal effects of foodstuff. Dr. Koruda also rapidly developed a strong working relationship with Dr. Charles Herbst. They coordinated the more specialized operations and procedures

related to gastrointestinal surgery, including bariatric surgery, surgery for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, sphincter-preserving surgery for rectal carcinoma, surgery for rectal prolapse and complex hepatobiliary pancreatic surgery, and offered expertise on the nutrition-related aspects of surgical care. A major contribution was their introduction of laparoscopic techniques for gastrointestinal surgery to UNC Hospitals. In May 1990, Drs. Herbst and Koruda performed UNC Hospitals' first laparoscopic laser cholecystectomy. They served as preceptors to the General Surgery faculty and residents, provided consultation on laparoscopic surgery for surgeons throughout the state, and maintained a computerized data base for all laparoscopic General Surgery procedures performed at UNC Hospitals.

Dr. Koruda pursued studies of the role of the intestine in nutrition and in response to injury. He evaluated mechanisms of intra-abdominal adhesion formation, and also obtained extramural funding from several industries seeking to develop optimal nutritional support for surgical patients.

Dr. Koruda spent over 32 years with the department in a variety of roles. He started out as an Assistant Professor and eventually became a full professor with tenure in 1998. He served as Chief of the Gastrointestinal Surgery division from 2001 until 2016 as well as Vice Chair in the department from 2004 until 2016. Many residents who passed through the halls of department will also remember him as the General Surgery program director from 2005 until 2012.

"Dr. Koruda has been a pillar of resident education at UNC for a generation," says Michael Meyers, MD, Professor and General Surgery Residency Program Director. "His contributions to individual residents becoming skilled independent surgeons will be remembered fondly by a long list of trainees. He truly embodied the spirit of allowing residents to develop progressive autonomy, a skill that is much talked about but far less frequently practiced. Equally importantly, he directed the surgery residency program for many years and I was honored to follow in his footsteps. I have said many times that I took He will be remembered for his clinical skill, work ethic and his commitment to training residents."

-Anthony Meyer, MD

over a program that wasn't broken and my primary goal was to not mess things up and I hope I accomplished that. His contributions to UNC are extensive and he will be missed."

"He has been a true role model for residents and faculty over many years at UNC," said Timothy Farrell, MD, professor in the Gastrointestinal Division and Vice Chair of Education. "He always is there as a reliable back up and confidant. He always puts



patients and learners first. Dr Koruda is the surgeon who gets the call when a colleague or one of their loved ones needs a surgeon. He will be missed around UNC every day, but he'll never be forgotten."

The road from Massachusetts to North Carolina with stops along the way. Dr. Koruda obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Boston College. After graduating from college, he matriculated to Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, CT. He then went on to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and completed a general surgery residency where he concurrently also completed an American Cancer Society Clinical Fellowship, Measey Foundation Research Fellowship, and a Nutrition and Metabolic Research Fellowship with the Philadelphia V.A. Medical Center and Harrison Department of Surgical Research.

"He is the ultimate clinician teacher because he is committed to teaching and training residents and he is a superb clinician," says Anthony Meyer, MD, Chair Emeritus of UNC Surgery. "He helped set a standard for clinical activity and excellence. Within two years of being recruited to UNC he was the busiest surgeon in terms of time in the operating room of anyone in the department. His area of specialty is inflammatory bowel disease which is notoriously difficult. He has cared for patients with major medical and surgical problems. The most catastrophic patients with GI emergencies from around the state would get funneled to him. I have referred many people to him including my own family members."



"The Department of Surgery congratulates Dr. Mark Koruda for an incredibly fulfilling and rewarding career. He will be fondly remembered for taking care of patients in need while educating the next generation of surgeons. As a testament to his career and the impact he has had on others, please stay tuned for an additional tribute to Dr. Mark Koruda that will be posted on our <u>UNC Department</u> of <u>Surgery YouTube channel</u> and join me in wishing him well in retirement," — Melina R. Kibbe, MD, Colin G. Thomas Jr. Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery.

HEALTHCARE CHAMPIONS

In November of 2020 UNC Health began a new initiative in partnership with the North Carolina Tar Heels, referred to as Healthcare Champions. Health care providers from across the UNC Health system were nominated for this honor. These individuals are important members of our team and are dedicated to caring for people of North Carolina across all communities.





Two of our surgeons were honored with this opportunity to discuss who they are and the impact they make in the work they do: David Gerber, MD, Division Chief of Abdominal Transplant, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, and George F. Sheldon, MD Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Benjamin Haithcock, MD, Section Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Surgical Director of the Lung Transplant program. They were interviewed and featured as Healthcare Champions over the last couple of months. Congratulations to both!

MILESTONE ACHIEVED

Milestone Achieved for UNC Chronic Pancreatitis and Autologous Islet Cell Transplant Program

Three years after performing its first case the UNC Chronic Pancreatitis and Autologous Islet Cell Transplant Program has performed its **50th case**, making UNC one of the most significant centers for surgical therapy for this disease.

The program was established and initiated in mid-2017 by Chirag S. Desai, MD, FACS, professor of Surgery and Surgical Director of the Liver Transplant Program. The goal of the program is to provide comprehensive surgical care to patients suffering from chronic and recurrent acute pancreatitis of several etiologies.

The program offers pancreatic surgery including total pancreatectomy and autologous islet cell transplant (TPAIT). In TPAIT, the whole pancreas is surgically removed, sent to the UNC Lineberger Advanced Cellular Therapeutics (ACT) Facility and then processed under current Good Manufacturing/Tissue Practices (cGMP/cGTP). At the ACT, enzymatic digestion of the pancreas is carried out to separate insulin and glucagon-producing islet cells from the rest of the diseased gland. These islet cells are brought back to the operating room and transplanted into the patient's liver via infusion through a portal vein. This helps patients produce insulin without the pancreas and prevents brittle diabetes. This is the only program of its kind in North Carolina and one of just a handful across the U.S.

The program's first case was performed in Chapel Hill in the fall of 2017. This month, the program celebrated a new milestone. After evaluating nearly 190 patients of chronic pancreatitis for potential surgical therapy, last week a surgical team performed the program's 50th case (30 parenchymal preserving CP surgeries and 20 autologous islet cell transplants), which makes UNC one of the most significant centers of surgical therapy for this disease. The program has had very good outcomes, resulting in several publications and research projects as well. Desai and other program members hope to continue this work and expand their capabilities to help even more patients achieve a better quality of life.



SURGERY BOOTCAMP 2021

The 2021 Surgery Bootcamp has concluded. Over 2 days, UNC Medical Students, matching in surgical specialties, refined their skillsets on some basic procedures that they will likely encounter during the first year of residency.

In order to stimulate interprofessional collaboration, some sessions were combined with the Anesthesia Bootcamp.









PLASTICS CADAVER LAB

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery held its first 2-day cadaver lab in March focusing on raising flaps, abdominal wall reconstruction, and aesthetic procedures. All of the faculty participated and were joined by Dr. Wayne Overby and Dr. Arielle Perez for their expertise on component separation techniques.

Q & A with the event organizer Dr. Yemi Ogunleye. *How important was this event to their overall learning experience?* It's key to learning outside of the operating room, so the residents get to build their confidence and skill in flap dissection before having to do complex reconstructive procedures on real patients under supervision.

Why do you think it's so important for your students to get this type of experience? This learning opportunity improves the skills of residents at a much faster pace such that more junior residents can perform more complex procedures earlier, thereby leading



to our graduates having a more rounded skillset and more confidence in the operating room at graduation.

Acknowledgments - We are thankful to the Department of Anatomy, Drs. Perez and Overby and the cadaver lab team for their support and assistance in providing this opportunity to our trainees.

GRATEFUL for Your SUPPORT

In the Winter 2021 Newsletter we mentioned the APPs, residents, and staff during this very difficult time who are freely giving their time towards the vaccination and testing efforts. It came to our attention that we missed some of our

team members and we would like to remedy that. Our clinic volunteers include:

Patricia Gebe, NP | Audrey Cook, PA | Kevan Haas, PA

SURGERY CLERKSHIP VIDEOS

The Surgery Clerkship program has continued to expand its offerings and education to the medical students at the UNC School of Medicine. Its latest initiative is an effort by the team to help medical students and faculty work together better in clinic and the operating room.

For medical students the videos include "Good vs. Bad Presentations," "Proper Etiquette in the Operating Room," and "Day in the Life of a Third-Year Medical Student." These videos can be found on our UNC Surgery Department site under the Education tab in the Medical Student information section.

For our faculty, the clerkship program also created videos to help our team when

working with medical students including "Teaching in the Operating Room," "Teaching in Clinic," and "Understanding the Common Assessment Form." These videos will be available on the UNC Surgery Intranet page, which can be accessed using your Onyen login, later this year. If you have questions or need more information, please contact the Clerkship Director Luigi Pascarella, MD, or check out our UNC Surgery website.



TRANSPLANT SURGERY RESIDENT CONTENT CREATORS

BEHIND THE

KNIFE THE SURGERY PODCAST

Dr. Guilherme C. de Oliveira, a PGY3 General Surgery resident and the Division of Abdominal Transplant were chosen as content creators of Transplant Surgery for the *Behind The Knife* podcast. (https:// behindtheknife.org).

Behind the Knife is the most popular surgical podcast with millions of "views" on Spotify and Apple Podcast.

The podcast has since expanded beyond the borders of an audio podcast itself. *Behind the Knife* has published an ABSITE review book (a best-seller on Amazon!) and also released videos on the YouTube channel with hundreds of thousands of views.

The podcast is expanding and investing in new ways to improve the quality and delivery of surgical education content. To accomplish that, they called for applications for content creators in specific surgical sub-specialties. There was a selection process and UNC Surgery was chosen to do the Transplant Surgery content. Other institutions selected included Johns Hopkins, UTSW, MD Anderson, UCLA, UCSF, University of Toronto, and others.

Dr. Guilherme C. de Oliveira will be leading the team, which includes fellow residents Dr. Megan Lombardi, PGY2 General Surgery Resident and Dr. Sasha McEwan, PGY1 General Surgery Resident. They will be supported with mentoring by Dr. David Gerber, Chief of the Division of Abdominal Transplant and Dr. Alexander Toledo, professor. The team will be responsible for one podcast every four months for a 2-year commitment.

"Our first podcast in September will be a review of important, new or practicechanging articles," says Dr. de Oliveira. "We will be discussing challenging cases in Transplant Surgery and other reviews on the subject."

The *Beyond the Knife* podcast was created by Scott Steele, Kevin Kniery, Jason Bingham, and John McClellan in 2015 as they were in the same residency program together. What started as humble ideas quickly germinated into a full-on podcast with esteemed guests from around the world joining to share their experience!

UNC HEALTH EMPLOYEE NEWS

New CDC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated Individuals Do Not Apply at Work: Continue to Mask On, Mask Up!

On Tuesday, April 27, the CDC released new public health recommendations for individuals that are fully vaccinated (>2 weeks past their final COVID-19 vaccine shot). While we are excited to see these new recommendations, please note that they only provide guidance on mask wearing outside of work. To ensure the safety of our patients, co-workers and visitors, these recommendations do not apply at UNC Health's hospitals, clinics and administrative offices.

- Please continue to follow our Universal Masking Policy until further notice and submit your Mask On, Mask Up observations to ensure we are accountable to wearing our masks appropriately.
- UNC Health strongly recommends that our co-workers and patients receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit yourshot. org for details on COVID-19 vaccines and visit this link to schedule your shot.
- We recognize that this situation is changing rapidly, and a team of experts from across UNC Health and the School of Medicine are meeting to examine our current policies and practices that were implemented at the start of the pandemic. This group will make recommendations to support our hospitals and practices if/when these policies and practices should be adjusted. As these recommendations are finalized in the coming weeks, we will share this information widely.

New Hours: Occupational Health COVID Hotline

Effective Sunday, May 2, the Occupational Health COVID Hotline (984-215-5668) is changing its hours. New hours will be 8 am to 4:30 pm daily (7 days a week). Calls received during non-operational hours will go to voicemail and will be returned the next day.

Changes to N95 Extended Use/Re-Use

N95s are to be worn up to 5 times when not used on a COVID+ patient, PUI or patient on isolation. This is a change from previous guidance which allowed for 5 days of use and is based on updated CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators. N95s used on COVID+, PUI or patients on isolation are still single use. <u>Please post this flyer in your areas</u>.

Avoiding Delays in Interpreter Requests

Staffing shortages in the Interpreter Services Department have caused some delays in meeting interpreter requests; they expect to fill the needed positions in the coming months. To avoid patient and co-worker wait times for interpreter services, co-workers can call Pacific Interpreters at 855-456-5224 to work with a telephone interpreter as needed.

Please note that Spanish speaking patients should be discharged with both an English and Spanish AVS form. If you are experiencing long wait times for AVS translation needs, please call Interpreter Services at 984-974-0158 or 974-0157 for help. <u>Find more information on the Interpreter Services</u> <u>intranet site.</u>



HIGHLIGHTS/HONORS FACULTY, RESIDENTS, & STUDENTS

David Gerber, MD

Professor and Chief, Division of Abdominal Transplant, elected to the Board of Directors for UNOS (United Network of Organ Sharing). Appointed by Governor Cooper to serve a second term on the "NC License To Give Trust Fund Commission," selected for Fellowship in the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and received the "Friend of Nursing Award" from UNC Health.



Jihane Jadi, MD

Medical Student, University of North Carolina, is the recipient of the 2021 George F. Sheldon, MD, Leadership Award.

Mahesh Sharma, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, elected to the STS Workforce on Congenital Heart Surgery.



Karyn Stitzenberg, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, was appointed Chair of the Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure committee for tenure track assistant to associate professors for the 2021 - 2022 academic year, and to two American Society of Clinical Oncology Committees: Health Equity and the Annual Meeting Scientific Program.

Kristalyn Gallagher, DO

Philip Spanheimer, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of

Surgical Oncology, was appointed to the Program Committee for the

Association for Academic Surgery.

Associate Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, was elected for membership in the Society of University Surgeons.



Hong Jin Kim, MD

Professor and Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, was appointed to SCORE Committee of the Society of Surgical Oncology, Chair of the Data and Safety Monitoring Board for the Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer Consortium of the National Institute of Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Cancer Institute Rex Cancer Center Executive Council.





GRANTS FACULTY, RESIDENTS, & STUDENTS

Stephanie Downs-Canner, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, received a UNC Lineberger Development Award for her project titled, "Characterizing the Endogenous Antibody Response in Triple Negative Breast Cancer" in the amount of \$200,000. Named as member of Research Committee for Society of Surgical Oncology and started a new medical student rotation on Multidisciplinary Cancer Care.



Gita Mody, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery recieved a Faculty Research Fellowship from the American College of Surgeons for her project titled, "Improving Thoracic Surgery Using Electronic Patient-Reported Outcomes."





Jeffrey Johnson, MD

Surgical Oncology Fellow with the Division of Surgical Oncology, was awarded a TraCS \$2k pilot grant for his proposal titled "Deep Learning-Aided Digital Pathology to Improve Diagnosis and Identify High-Risk Features in Melanoma Sentinel Lymph Nodes."



Micah Willis, BSPS

CiTEM PhD Graduate Student in the Cairns/Maile Burn Lab was a recipient of a 2021 American Association of Immunologists Minority Scientist Award for an upcoming presentation of his study "Microvesicle-Associated Immunomodulators are Critical Regulators of Immune Dysfunction Following Burn Injury."





Ross Ungerleider Professor CT Surgery

Dr. Ungerleider attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, where he graduated with Highest Honors in Biology and a major in English. He

then completed medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago, IL. He received his surgical training at Duke University Medical Center where he remained on the faculty for 15 years, rising to the level of tenured professor.

He is the author of over 300 peer-reviewed scientific papers and book chapters as well as an editor of two major textbooks on cardiac surgery. He has been named to America's Best Doctors, Cambridge's Who's Who, Castle Connolly's Top Doctors (receiving their distinction as being among the top 1% nationally in his field), and by Good Housekeeping as one of the best pediatric surgeons in the U.S. Throughout his 40-year career, he has repaired the hearts of more than 8,000 children. He is an expert in all congenital heart surgery procedures and has special expertise in aortic valve surgery and the Ross procedure. He is well recognized for his work in developing safe techniques to perform complete repairs of cardiac defects in tiny infants while protecting their neurologic outcomes.

He joins UNC Surgery after consulting for the Driscoll Children's Hospital pediatric heart surgery program in Corpus Christi, TX. His previous positions also include chief of pediatric cardiac surgery, surgical director of the pediatric intensive care unit, and medical director of the ECMO program at Duke University Medical Center.

Read more about Dr. Ungerleider in his <u>interview</u> and <u>professional profile</u>.



Victoria Smith Administrative Specialist GI Weight Management

Victoria graduated from North Wood High School in Pittsboro, North Carolina in 2014. She has spent the last five years working in the clerical and

administrative space in a veterinarian hospital setting. Her current role involves supporting patients through the bariatric surgery pathway and the GI Weight Management program. A fun fact about Victoria is that she is a leap year baby and she loves Giraffes.

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McDermott MM, Spring B, Tian L, Treat-Jacobson D, Ferrucci L, Lloyd-Jones D, Zhao L, Polonsky T, **Kibbe MR**, Bazzano L, Guralnik JM, Forman DE, Rego A, Zhang D, Domanchuk K, Leeuwenburgh C, Sufit R, Smith B, Manini T, Criqui MH, Rejeski WJ. JAMA. 2021 Apr 6;325(13):1266-1276. PMID: 33821898; PMCID: PMC8025122.

Effective Use of Reporting Guidelines to Improve the Quality of Surgical Research.

Brooke BS, Ghaferi AA, **Kibbe MR**. *JAMA Surg.* 2021 Apr 7. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33825817.

Sustained physical activity in peripheral artery disease: Associations with disease severity, functional performance, health-related quality of life, and subsequent serious adverse events in the LITE randomized clinical trial. Slysz JT, Rejeski WJ, Treat-Jacobson D, Bazzano LA, Forman DE, Manini TM, Criqui MH, Tian L, Zhao L, Zhang D, Guralnik JM, Ferrucci L, Kibbe MR, Polonsky TS, Spring B, Sufit R, Leeuwenburgh C, McDermott MM. Vasc Med. 2021 Apr 8:1358863X21989430. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33829920.

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Trista Reid, MD, teaching general surgery residents and medical students in the OR.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Grace Chen, BA, our Research Administrator, and **Jeneal Melvin Leone, MS, 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 items 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 Jeneal as early as possible, but provide the budget and budget justification at least 2 weeks before the due date, as external grants must be routed and submitted to the university in advance of the due date.

Groups assigned to Grace Chen			
Burn	Vascular		
Pediatric Surgery	Plastics and Reconstructive		
Gastrointestinal Surgery	Abdominal Transplant		
Groups assigned to Jeneal Leone			
Cardiothoracic	General and Acute Care		
Surgical Oncology	Trainees		

To request grant submission assistance, please complete the <u>online</u> <u>service request form</u>.

To request clinical trial contract submission, please complete the <u>online service request form</u>.

DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Chris Agala, PhD, is the Database Manager and leads our team.

- <u>Creation of a consult request form</u>. This online request form will take the place of directly emailing anyone in the database manager group and will be for: feedback about project ideas, answering database questions, commenting on article methods, etc.
- Email correspondence will occur through the <u>Database Manager</u> email. The Database Manager team will assist with 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 <u>FAQs and Available Databases</u>. They are in charge of the NIS, NSQIP, and SEER databases and can also point you to

RESEARCH RESOURCES

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

Dates: 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of every month Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Brinkhous-Bullitt Building, Room 218 (Please see website for current virtual trainings)

<u>SPIN Plus</u> 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 <u>available here</u>.

other databases that may be of assistance. Please contact them BEFORE you start any project involving data. To request their assistance, please complete the <u>online service request form</u>.

All requests must be submitted at least 4 weeks before any deadlines. Projects which utilize administrative claims data (MarketScan, Medicare) will require substantially more notice, as they are much more labor intensive. For projects which require chart review or data abstraction from EMR, the data must be complete and ready for analysis at least 4 weeks before the deadline. If you have questions about how long your project may take, please submit a consult request.

BIOSTATISTICS

The Department of Surgery is collaborating with the North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute (NC TraCS) to provide biostatisticial consultations and support to our faculty members and residents. Biostatistics support can be requested through the <u>NC TRaCS website</u>. If you are using a database, creating a database or have questions as to whether you need a biostatistician, please contact Dr. Chris Agala through the <u>online service request form</u>.

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 <u>online</u> <u>request form</u>. For any other requests, contact librarian Rebecca Carlson at <u>rcarlson@unc.edu</u>.

NIH UPDATES

- <u>Updated NHLBI Guidance Concerning Mentored Career</u>
 <u>Development (K08 and K23) Awards</u>: Percent Effort.
- <u>Upcoming Changes to the Biographical sketch and Other</u> <u>Support Format page</u> for Due Dates on or after May 25, 2021
- Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples
- Other Support sample and FAQs

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 website.

Introduction to EMERSE

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

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

2021 NC/SC Chapter ACS Clinical Congress Meeting Date: July 23-25, 2021 | Location: Asheville, NC Abstract Deadline: May 15, 2021 for General Surgery and Cancer; June 1, 2021 for Trauma More information <u>available here</u>.

2021 Southern Surgical Association Meeting Date: December 5-8, 2021 | Location: Hot Springs, VA Abstract Deadline: June 30, 2021 More information <u>available here.</u>

2021 Pediatric Trauma Society Meeting Date: November 3-6, 2021 | Location: Baltimore, MD Abstract Deadline: May 18, 2021 More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Society of Surgical Oncology Meeting Date: March 9-12, 2022 | Location: Dallas, TX Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium Meeting Date: January 20-22, 2022 | Location: San Francisco, CA Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information<u>available here.</u>

2022 Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery Meeting Date: March 28-30, 2022 | Location: Las Vegas, NV Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2021 Shock Society Meeting Date: October 12-15, 2021 Location: Portland, OR Abstract Deadline: June 28, 2021 More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma Meeting Date: January 11-15, 2022 | Location: Austin, TX Abstract Deadline: July 1, 2021 More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Society of Critical Care Medicine Meeting Date: February 6-9, 2022 | Location: San Juan, PR

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY

NC TraCS Pilot Awards for Translational Research Application Deadlines: June 29, 2021 and November 2021 for the following programs: • \$5K-50K Grants

•FastTraCS Grants

Tust nucleo Grantes

For more information about these pilot grant mechanisms please contact <u>Paul Kerr</u> or <u>nctracs@unc.edu</u>.

Emerging Challenges in Biomedical Research UNC School of Medicine's Office of Research (OoR) is partnering with NC TraCS and the UNC Center for Health Equity Research for these <u>pilot funding research projects</u> Application Deadline: June 29,2021 | \$50,000 Grants

Questions can be emailed to Jennifer Brennan (OoR) at jenbren@med.unc.edu or Mary Beth Cassely (NC TraCS) at marybeth_lister@med.unc.edu

Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 American Burn Association Meeting Date: April 5-8, 2022 | Location: Las Vegas, NV Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Society of Thoracic Surgeons Meeting Date: January 29-February 1, 2022 Location: Miami, FL Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2021 Annual Meeting of the American Pancreatic Association Meeting Date: November 3-6, 2021 | Location: Miami Beach, FL Abstract Deadline: June 11, 2021 More information <u>available here.</u>

2021 American Heart Association Meeting Date: November 12-14, 2021 | Location: Boston, MA Abstract Deadline: June 3, 2021 More information<u>available here.</u>

2022 General Thoracic Surgical Club Meeting Date: March 10-13, 2022 | Location: Bonita Springs, FL Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Southern Association for Vascular Surgery Meeting Date: January 19-22, 2022 | Location: Manalapan, FL Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery Meeting Date: March 18-23, 2022 Location: Las Vegas, NV Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

2022 American Venous Forum Meeting Date: February 23-26, 2022 Location: Orlando, FL Abstract Deadline: pending announcement More information <u>available here.</u>

NON-FACULTY - require a Faculty mentor

NC TraCS \$2K Grant Awards Application Deadlines: May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19 Award Amount: \$2,000 | More information available here.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

TraCS is accepting applications for the TL1 program on biomedical translation for postdocs at UNC Chapel Hill who are US citizens or permanent residents. The ideal candidate has a product, idea, or research finding that is ready to move to the next translational stage. More information is <u>available here</u>.

The NCI funded Integrated Translational Oncology T32 Training Program (UNC iTOP) is accepting applications from outstanding post-doctoral fellows committed to a career in cancer research that will enter our program no later than August 2021. Program start date: no later than August 2021 (next cycle of applications for start date July 2022 will open in Fall 2021)

GRAND ROUNDS

Wednesdays 7:15 am - 8:15 am in the Education Center, 4050 Burnett-Womack

5/26/2021

Visiting Professor Thomas E Read, MD, Professor and Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery, University of Florida Health, Gainesville, FL

6/2/2021

Faculty Talk Gene Deune, MD, Professor, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

6/9/2021 UNC Visiting Speaker Genevieve Neal-Perry, MD, PhD, Robert A. Ross Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

6/16/2021 Department of Surgery Education Awards

6/23/2021 Quality Corner Katharine McGinigle, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

IN THE LOOP

EDUCATION

6/30/2021

James F. Newsome, MD Distinguished Visiting Professor Jeffrey Drebin, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

7/7/2021 Career Corner Dr. Jason Mizell, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

7/14/2021 Nathan A. Womack Distinguished Visiting Professor Dorry Segev, MD, PhD, Associate Vice Chair for Research Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD

7/21/2021

Womack Research Presentations Josh Herb and Brittney Williams, Postdoctoral Research Residents

8/4/2021 Faculty Talk

The PGY 4 and PGY 5 General Surgery residents had their second virtual Mock Orals on March 15, 2021. Thanks to all the faculty, examinees, and administrative staff (Crystal Boney and Melainie Bolick) who helped ensure a successful event. We are in the process of setting dates for the next UNC Mock Orals this Fall, and we hope you will be able to participate.

Dr. Kyla Terhune, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at Vanderbilt University is our visiting professor for the annual Residents as Teachers workshop and will be speaking about developing a plan for the future and creating a portfolio. We look forward to this on September 28 and 29, 2021.



Kyla Terhune, MD

Other Career Development and Educational Grand Rounds this quarter included Dr. Melina Kibbe who spoke about "Writing a Manuscript" and Dr. John Ikonomidis who spoke about "Time Management." These were excellent talks with several takeaway points.



Upcoming Career Corner speakers include Dr. Jason Mizell, MD Jason Mizell ("Managing Personal Finances" - 7/7/21) and Dr. Lillian Erdahl ("Social Media for the Busy Surgeon: Successfully Mark Farber, MD, Professor and Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery

8/11/2021

Annual Safety and Teamwork Event 7 - 8am

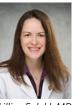
9/1/2021

Colin G. Thomas, Jr., Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

Sally E. Carty, MD, Chief of the Division of Endocrine Surgery and Director of the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Program; University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA



Julie Ann Sosa (3/31/21 GR)



Leveraging Social Media for Your Career" - 9/8/2021).

UNC Academy of Educators recently inducted new members, and the 2021 Alan W. Cross Evening of Scholarship will take place on May

Muneera

Kapadia, MD, MME

Associate Vice Chair of Education

Lillian Erdahl, MD 20, 2021. The keynote speaker is Dr. Katherine Chretien, associate dean for student affairs from George Washington University.

Thank you for your dedication to the teaching mission at UNC.

Sincerely,



Timothy Farrell, MD Vice Chair of Education



COMMUNICATIONS



SOCIAL



Impressions

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

YOUTUBE

►

Program in Chapel Hill was ACC Certified as a TAVR Center of

Hayes featured on ABC 11 News

Day of Surgery Pediatric Video



Engagements

Watch Time

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Followers

TOP YOUTUBE VIDEOS (February, March and April 2021)



Pediatric Surgery - A Guide to Day Surgery Views: 8,770 Avg view duration: 1:30



General Surgery Residency Program Virtual Tour Views: 194 Avg view duration: 2:49



UNC Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency Program Views: 549 Avg view duration: 2:05



UNC General Surgery Residency Program Views: 155 Avg view duration: 3:14

MUNC

Surgery

TOP FACULTY VIDEOS (February, March and April 2021)



UNC Surgery Profile: Lawrence Kim, MD (Altering the Course of a Disease) Views: 157 Avg view duration: 2:33



Published patient story, Brighid Willis



UNC Surgery Profile: Andrea Hayes, MD (Saving Generations of Children) Views: 128 Avg view duration: 1:45







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

MAKE A GIFT

paves the way for healthier futures for our patients. Gifts to the Department of Surgery advance surgical care in the to pursue bold ideas in the research arena, and provide a rigorous training experience for tomorrow's surgical leaders. UNC Department of Surgery or to make a Foundation, at (585) 622-7425, erin_kinney@med.unc.edu, 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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