

# NEWS & NOTES

University of Maryland Department of Surgery

## » CHAIRMAN'S HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of Surgery's "News and Notes." Our goal with this newsletter is to keep you informed on the major news and achievements within the Department, including developments with our surgical trainees.

It was my privilege to graduate four out-standing chief residents in June and usher in a new class of interns. It brings me immense pride every year to send our chiefs on to the next phase of their training, knowing they completed residency at one of the best surgical programs in the country. I wish them well in their endeavors, and look forward to watching our newest surgical trainees thrive over the next several years.

Our faculty are responsible for the success of our residency program. They challenge our residents, and each other, to advance the field of surgery through clinical and research milestones. Together, our faculty have contributed to the following accomplishments from this past year:

- The Department of Surgery is the surgical volume leader in the state of Maryland.



- The adult living donor liver transplant program is the busiest in the state, helping patients in need get transplanted sooner and with better outcomes. Our liver transplant program overall performed more transplants in Maryland for the fourth year in a row.
- The Division of Cardiac Surgery expanded to include the surgical team at the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center as a joint Division with one program at two hospitals. Together, cardiac surgeons are engaged in more than 40 clinical trials, including a landmark clinical trial of a catheter-based device that enables surgeons to perform mitral valve repair on a beating heart without a breast-bone-splitting incision (COAPT trial).
- Vascular surgery volumes have now for the first time exceeded 1,000 operations in a year.

The Department has much to look forward to as we begin a new academic year. We appreciate your support of our programs and look forward to hearing from you as ambassadors of the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Surgery.

Stephen T. Bartlett, MD

*Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Chair,  
Department of Surgery, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and  
Senior Vice President and Surgeon-in-Chief, University of Maryland Medical System*

**MORE NEWS** from the University  
of Maryland Department of Surgery inside »»

## » A NEW ERA FOR THE MARYLAND SURGICAL SOCIETY

The University of Maryland Surgical Society was formed in the 1970s to encourage fellowship among alumni trainees, promote scientific knowledge and keep members abreast of the activities of the Department of Surgery. After a hiatus, the Society was recently reactivated and a new slate of officers was formally installed in June.

**President:** Eric Strauch, MD  
**Vice President:** Gina Massoglia, MD  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Stephen Kavic, MD  
**Historians:** Nelson Goldberg, MD  
J. Lawrence Fitzpatrick, MD  
**Young Membership Committee:** Joseph Scalea, MD

Society activities are open without dues for all with a connection to the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Surgery. This includes School of Medicine students who pursue a career in surgery, current and former residents, fellows, faculty and former faculty. If you are not already receiving Surgical Society invitations electronically, or for further information, please contact Karen Hussey, 410-706-2846.



The Department celebrated the annual Kristin Stueber, MD, Plastic Surgery Distinguished Lectureship with a photo of the women faculty in Davidge Hall. Dr. Stueber is one of many women surgeons and alumni with whom the Department is proud to share a history and commitment to the advancement of surgical innovation.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### 2014 EVENTS

**Dr. Joseph B. Ganey Distinguished Alumni Lecture**  
William O. Richards, MD,  
Professor and Chair, Department  
of Surgery, University of South  
Alabama Health System  
September 18, 2014 • 7:30 am

**Alumni Reception at the  
American College of Surgeons  
Clinical Congress**  
October 27, 2014 • 6 pm  
Hilton San Francisco, Union Square

### 2015 EVENTS

**Dr. Charles W. Getz Research Symposium**  
Irving L. Kron, MD,  
S. Hurt Watts, Professor and Chair,  
Department of Surgery,  
University of Virginia Health System  
January 9 & 10, 2015

**Dr. Robert W. Buxton Symposium**  
June 18, 2015

## » RESEARCH & AWARDS

**Rolf Barth, MD**, received a grant from the Department of Defense Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine for “Composite Allografts” (\$1,499,843).

**Stephen T. Bartlett, MD**, received a grant from the Department of Defense for “MR120023P1, Positioning Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation within the Spectrum of Transplantation” (\$2,532,426).

**Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD**, received a NIH research grant for “Migration and Trafficking in Tolerance” (\$537,250).

**Bartley Griffith, MD**, received a NIH R01 grant for “First in Human Use of an Artificial Lung” (\$6,670,261).

**Sunjay Kaushal, MD, PhD**, received a NIH research grant for “Biological Characterization of Cardiac Stem Cells” (\$1,918,750). Dr. Kaushal also received a grant from MedImmune for “Determining the mechanism of myocardial recovery by human stem cells” (\$785,250) and a Maryland TEDCO grant for “Characterization of Resident Cardiac Stem Cells in Neonates” (\$600,000).

**Brajesh Lal, MD**, received a NIH sub-contract award for “Vascular Core Facility for CREST-II” (\$2,855,307).

**Thomas Monahan, MD**, was awarded the Vascular Cures Foundation E. J. Wylie Scholarship (\$150,000).

**Jonathan Pearl, MD**, received a research award from TEDCO for “Thermal Endoscope for Laparoscopic Surgery” (\$100,000).

**Pablo Sanchez, MD**, received a research award from TEDCO for “Bone Marrow-derived Stem Cells to Improve Lung Donor Quality” (\$200,696).

**Deborah Stein, MD**, received a grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for “‘Fit to Fly’ — Biomarkers After Severe TBI With or Without Additional Severe Trauma” (\$1,000,000).

**Jian-Ying Wang, MD, PhD**, received a NIH research grant for “Mucosal Repair in Gut Surgical Disorders” (\$1,370,250).

## » COMINGS AND GOINGS

### NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS:

**Si Pham, MD**  
Cardiac Surgery

**Kimberly Lumpkins, MD**  
Pediatric Surgery

**Josh Alvarez, MD**  
Transplantation

**Jamie Brown, MD**  
Cardiac Surgery

**Arthur Nam, MD**  
Plastic Surgery

**Megan Brenner, MD**  
Vascular Surgery, Trauma

**Murtaza Dawood, MD**  
Cardiac Surgery

**Minhaj Siddiqui, MD**  
Urology

**Melanie Hoehn, MD**  
Vascular Surgery

### 2014 GRADUATED CHIEF RESIDENTS:

*Pictured left to right*

**Reza Zahiri, MD**  
Minimally Invasive Surgery  
Anne Arundel Medical Center

**Shani Belgrave, MD**  
Minimally Invasive Surgery  
University of Washington

**Adriana Laser, MD**  
Vascular Surgery  
University of Maryland

**Joseph Scalea, MD**  
Abdominal Transplantation  
University of Wisconsin



A number of 2015's graduating chief residents have interviewed for fellowships and participated in specialty matches:

**Mariano Arosemena, MD**  
Vascular Surgery  
Thomas Jefferson  
University Hospital

**Jinny Ha, MD**  
Thoracic Surgery  
Johns Hopkins University

**Alexis Smith, MD**  
Pediatric Surgery  
Brown University

**Suzanne Siefert, MD**  
Vascular Surgery  
Ohio State University

This year our residency program received more than 1,300 applicants for our six categorical spots, including applicants from the most prestigious medical schools in the country. We are very proud to welcome our newest categorical interns:

**Bryan Buckingham, MD**  
University of Maryland  
School of Medicine

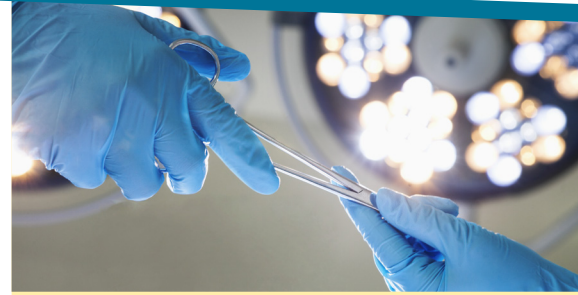
**Chelsea Harris, MD**  
University of Vermont  
College of Medicine

**Aparna Kishor, MD**  
University of Maryland  
School of Medicine

**Greg Conway, MD**  
University of Pennsylvania  
School of Medicine

**Ali Khalifeh, MD**  
University of Balamand

**Philip Wasicek, MD**  
University of Rochester  
School of Medicine &  
Dentistry



## RESIDENCY NOTES

### WORK HOURS MODIFICATION TRIAL

Over the past decade there has been a lot of talk about the influence of the 80-hour work week during general surgery residency. One key question is whether surgical residencies should abide by the same work hour restrictions as all other residencies. It seems clear to us that hospital-based surgery residency and outpatient pediatrics are entirely different, for example, and as a consequence, training programs should have different rules and regulations. However, as a field we continue to struggle with the balance of service and education for our trainees.

There is more to work hour restrictions than just the overall 80-hour work week cap per resident. For instance, in 2013, interns were not permitted to work more than 12 consecutive hours. This placed some logistical strains on our services as it requires two interns to cover any given 24-hour period. However, the impact on the development of the individual trainees has been unclear.

This academic year, we are participating in a national trial to assess a modification of work hours: the FIRST (Flexibility In Duty Hour Requirements for Surgical Trainees) trial. This trial is sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and involves more than 150 residency programs.

As part of the trial, some of the more restrictive requirements will be waived for our program. Regardless of outcome, we are excited to be participating in a critical evaluation of our training process.

**STEPHEN KAVIC, MD**  
General Surgery  
Residency Program Director



## » INTRODUCING THE SURGICAL LEADERSHIP SERIES

The University of Maryland General Surgery Residency launched what is considered to be one of the nation's first organized leadership curriculums for surgeons in training—the Surgical Leadership Series. This initiative originated from general surgery residents who recognized that leadership is best learned through discussion and interaction with those who have overcome challenges during their ascent to leadership.

On May 8, 2014, the Surgical Leadership Series hosted Baltimore City Mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. The Mayor was the inaugural speaker in the Series and spoke to a private audience of residents in historic Davidge Hall.

On September 25, 2014, the Surgical Leadership Series will host Colonel J. Richard Jordan, III, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.

These resident-only events expose our surgeons-in-training to the essential skills necessary of any leader, regardless of clinical, business or political setting. The University of Maryland Department of Surgery is committed to preparing our residents for leadership, both in and out of the operating room.



## » LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Robin Pierson, MD**, cardiac surgery, was named Senior Associate Vice Chair for Research for the Department of Surgery.

**Bartley Griffith, MD**, cardiac surgery, received the Golden Apple Teaching Award from the Cardiothoracic Residency program. Moving forward, this award will be named the *Bartley P. Griffith Excellence in Teaching Award*.

**John Olson, MD, PhD**, general and oncologic surgery, was named to American Surgical Association.

**Sheri Slezak, MD**, plastic surgery, was elected Chair of the American Board of Plastic Surgery for 2015-2016.

**Devinder Singh, MD**, plastic surgery, was appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley as Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians.

**Linda Martin, MD**, thoracic surgery, was awarded the first ever Carolyn E. Reed Traveling Fellowship from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education.

**James Donohue, MD**, thoracic surgery, completed a 6-month tour at FOB Apache in Qalat, Afghanistan, providing front-line surgical trauma care to U.S. and coalition soldiers.

**Thomas Scalea, MD**, trauma surgery, was named President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma on September 12.

**Sharon Henry, MD**, trauma surgery, was named course director for Advanced Trauma Life Support by the American College of Surgeons.

**Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD**, transplantation, established the Basic Science Investigator Award within the American Society of Transplantation.

**Bruce Jarrell, MD**, chief academic and research officer and senior vice president and dean of the graduate school, University of Maryland Baltimore, and **Stephen Kavic, MD**, general and oncologic surgery, are co-editors of the 6th edition of *NMS Surgery*. Each chapter author is connected to the University of Maryland, either as faculty, student, or resident. Publication planned for Fall 2014.



## THANK YOU NOTES

The Department of Surgery received \$5.9 million in private charitable gifts and pledges from 285 donors in the past year.

Thanks to the generosity of generous resident alumni, the Resident Research and Education Fund provided each resident with a copy of "*Sabiston Textbook of Surgery: The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice*" and a specially designed University of Maryland Department of Surgery jacket from Under Armour.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the Aaron Grollman, MD '28 Fund, which sponsored travel funds for oral and poster presentations by our residents at national conferences, including the 43rd Clinical Care Congress, 24th ELSO Conference, and Western Trauma Association Meeting.

If you would like to make a gift to support the Resident Research and Education Fund, please visit our web site ([medschool.umaryland.edu/surgresgiving](http://medschool.umaryland.edu/surgresgiving)) or contact Karen Hussey at 410-706-2846, [khussey@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:khussey@som.umaryland.edu).



## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

**Stephen Bartlett, MD**  
Chair

**John Olson, MD, PhD**  
Vice Chair

**Stephen Kavic, MD**  
Residency Program Director