

Welcome Fellows



Jeremy Springer, MD is the current Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow at University of Massachusetts. He grew up in Ontario, Canada and completed a B.Sc (Hons) in Physiology at the University of Western Ontario. He then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia where he completed his M.Sc. in electrophysiology followed by his MD at Dalhousie University.

He completed his general surgery residency at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario where he was awarded St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton Best Resident in Surgery Award and the Resident Award for Teaching Excellence from the Canadian Association of General Surgeons. Jeremy is a board-certified general surgeon and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. He is very excited to continue his education at UMass to obtain preeminent training in colorectal surgery.



Dustin Powell, MD grew up in southern New Hampshire before moving to the Midwest to attend college at the University of Michigan. To complete his training, he returned to New England where he attended medical school at Tufts University School of Medicine and surgical residency at St Elizabeth's Medical Center both in

Boston. He is now completing his one year fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at UMass Memorial Medical Center. His clinical interests are in laparoscopic foregut surgery and robotic surgery. In his free time, he enjoys various outdoor activities including skiing, mountain biking, and hiking.

Medical Group Announces 3rd Annual PACE Prize Winners

Congratulations to the 2020 PACE Award team members (left to right) **David Cave, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, GI Research Director; **Julianna Buchwald, MD, PhD**, Graduate Student; **Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, FAST, FEBS, FACS**, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Organ Transplantation, and **Anastasia Khvorova, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology on their recent PACE Award for their work on “**Silencing of Apoptotic Genes During Liver Machine Preservation to Alleviate Ischemia Reperfusion Injury of Liver Grafts.**”

The goal of this project is to improve the quality of suboptimal liver grafts that would otherwise be discarded. More specifically, the team will try to improve the quality of liver grafts by using gene modulation approaches during machine pump preservation — before transplant — to prevent damage and cellular death. The team will be using microsurgical techniques in a model of extra-corporeal circuit to preserve livers and a rodent model of liver transplant to test this hypothesis. This approach has the potential to improve transplant outcomes and decrease the discard rates, thereby increasing the pool of liver grafts and reducing wait time and mortality on the liver transplant wait list. This project will



be carried out by a UMass MD-PhD student, **Julianna Buchwald** for her PhD thesis.

The PACE Award is awarded annually by UMass Memorial Medical Group (UMMMG). The award supports the engagement of our Medical Group physicians in cutting edge-research, encourages interdepartmental collaboration, showcases UMMMG's commitment to academic excellence, and reinforces UMMMG's identity as a group comprised of academic physicians. Each team receives a \$100,000 prize.