

Department of Surgery

NEWSLETTER

November 2019



Letter from the Chair

Happy Thanksgiving!

As we close out the fiscal year, the integration of Epic has allowed for a better financial year than we have recently experienced. There is still work to be done in terms of enhancing work-flows, but there is an increasing awareness that ongoing enhancements will be crucial to our success. We are fortunate that our own **Bob Steppacher** has worked very closely with all of you to refine many aspects of the Epic platform, and we will need to count on Bob to provide ongoing leadership in the future. Kudos to all clinical and administrative support staff for their hard work during the Epic transformation process. **Ulises Torres** has provided tremendous leadership around the Arbinger roll-out, and **Matthias Walz** and I will be making an effort to have all members of the Departments of Anesthesia and Surgery train side by side to enhance our collaborative relationship. Our General Surgery Residency has successfully expanded under the watchful eye and careful management of **Jennifer Lafemina**, and I am very excited about the prospect of interviewing the new crop of candidates in the next few weeks. The input of the faculty is the most important part of the selection process, so I want to thank all of you who are participating in the interviews and the ranking process for taking the time and making this a priority. Finally, there will be a series of faculty engagement forums, that we will be doing over the next few weeks, facilitated by **Mo Kasti**, a recognized healthcare transformation expert. I have limited attendance of the first two forums to enhance the effectiveness. Once the initial two have been completed, there will be similar forum(s) to involve the remainder of the faculty in this engagement exercise.

Best,
Demetrius

International College of Surgeons

The International College of Surgeons (ICS) is a global organization dedicated to bringing together surgeons and surgical specialists of all nations, races, and creeds to promote surgical excellence for the benefit of all of mankind and to foster fellowship worldwide. Dr. Litwin is currently the President-Elect of the United States Chapter. His objective is to help steer this Society toward a pathway of embracing more global surgery ventures. Consider supporting the ICS and Dr. Litwin by joining and coming to the next meeting in April. Follow the link below to register:
<https://www.ficsonline.org/i4a/forms/index.cfm?id=83>
Resident membership is free!!

2019-2020 Grand Rounds

The Department of Surgery will host several internationally and nationally recognized speakers during Grand Rounds this year.

Some upcoming sessions include:

November 20: **Bednarz Lecture** - Arghavan Salles, MD

December 11: **Rifat Latifi**, MD

April 15: **Wheeler Lecture** - Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD, FACS

April 22: **Barbara Barlow**, MD

May 13: **Ellinwood Lecture** - Malachi Sheahan, MD

The Department of Surgery 2019 - 2020



Research and Publications

Research

- **Mitch Cahan, MD** has been awarded for the CHEST Foundation Research Grant in VTE in the amount of \$30,000 for “A Translational Approach to Understanding Venous Thromboembolism in Post-Surgical Patients Using microRNAs in the American Black Bear” because of its importance and the promise it has to advance the Chest Foundation’s mission.

Recent Publications

- Kyle Diamond, MD (PGY3) and Jessica Simons, MD, MPH: “Prediction of Postoperative Myocardial Infarction after Suprainguinal Bypass using the Vascular Quality Initiative Cardiac Risk Index.” *Journal of Vascular Surgery* Volume 64, Issue 5, 2016, Pages 1411-1421.e4
- Arous E, Judelson DR, Malka KT, Wyman A, Simons, JP, Aiello FA, Arous EJ, Schanzer A. Carotid Duplex Velocity Criteria Recommended by the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound and Endorsed by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission Lacks Predictive Ability for Identifying High Grade Carotid Artery Stenosis. *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. In Press.
- Suckow B, Schanzer A, et. al. A Novel Quality of Life Instrument for Patients with an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*. In Press.
- Schanzer A. Driving Down the Costs of Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. In Press.
- Korpi-Steiner NL, Walz JM, Schanzer A, Rao, VL. Comparison of Point of Care Activated Clotting Time Methods in Different Clinical Settings in a Large Academic Medical Center. *Journal of Applied Laboratory Medicine*. In Press.
- Bensley R, Scali ST, Giles K, Fatima J, Huber T, Schanzer A, Cronenwett JL, Beck A. Validation of the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Measures for Asymptomatic Carotid Stenosis and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms in the Vascular Quality Initiative. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. In Press.
- Nguyen T, Simons J, Schanzer A. Utilization of Fenestrated/Branched Endovascular Aortic Repair to Treat Carrel Patch Aneurysmal Degeneration After Open Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair. *J Vasc Surg Cases Innov Tech*. 2019;5(2):117-121.
- Mayor J, Zhang Q, Montero-Baker M, Schanzer A, Conte MS, Mills JL. Using the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Wound,

Ischemia, and foot Infection (Wifi) Classification to Identify Patients Most Likely to Benefit from Revascularization. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. 2019.

- Suckow BD, Schanzer AS, Hoel AW, Wyers M, Marone LK, Veeraswamy RK, Nolan BW. A Novel Quality of Life Instrument for Patients with an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg*. 2019.
- Gerhard-Herman MD, Gornik HL, Schanzer A, et al. 2016 AHA/ACC Guideline on the Management of Patients With Lower Extremity Peripheral Artery Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2017;69(11):e71-e126.
- O'Donnell T, Boitano L, Deery S, Schermerhorn M, Schanzer A, Beck W, Green R, Takayama H, Patel V. Open versus Fenestrated Endovascular Repair of Complex Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms. *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. *Ann Surg*. 2019.
- Donnell TFX, Deery SE, Boitano LT, Siracuse JJ, Schermerhorn ML, Scali ST, Schanzer A, Lancaster RT, Patel VI. Aneurysm sac failure to regress after endovascular aneurysm repair is associated with lower long-term survival. *J Vasc Surg*. 2019;69(2):414
- Schanzer A. Physician Modified Aortic Arch Fenestrated Endografts-Invited Commentary. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. *J Vasc Surg*. 2019;69(1):225-226.
- Fan EY, Judelson DR, Schanzer A. Explantation of infected thoracic endovascular aortic repair. *J Vasc Surg Cases Innov Tech*. 2019;4(4):307-310.
- Mohan S, Flahive JM, Arous E, Judelson DR, Aiello FA, Schanzer A, Simons JP. Peripheral Atherectomy Practice Patterns in the United States. *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. 2019;68(6):1806-1816.
- Marecki H, Schanzer A. Statins are independently associated with reduced mortality in patients undergoing infrainguinal bypass graft surgery for critical limb ischemia. In 50 Landmark Papers Every 21st Century Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon Should Know. 2019.
- LaFemina J, Whalen G, et al. Somatic molecular analysis augments cytologic evaluation of pancreatic cyst fluids as a diagnostic tool. *Oncotarget*. 2019 Jun 18;10(40):4026-4037. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.26999. 2019.
- LaFemina J. Invited Commentary. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2019.
- McKie K, McLoughlin RJ, Hirsh MP, Cleary MA, Aidlen JT. Risk Factors for Venous Thromboembolism in Children and Young Adults With Inflammatory Bowel Disease. *J Surg Res*. 2019;243:173-179
- Lu P, Fields AC, Meyerhardt JA, Davids JS, et. al. Systemic chemotherapy and survival in patients with metastatic low-grade appendiceal mucinous adenocarcinoma. *J Surg Oncol*. 2019.
- Hill SS, Davids JS. Surgical Evaluation and Management of Constipation. *Dis Colon Rectum*. 2019;62(6):661-664.
- Best CA, Szafron JM, Rocco KA, Zbinden J, Dean EW, Maxfield MW, et al. Differential outcomes of venous and arterial tissue engineered vascular grafts highlight the importance of coupling long-term implantation studies with computational modeling. *Acta Biomater*. 2019. pii: S1742-7061(19)30390-3.
- Scott BB, Maxfield MW, Hamaguchi R, Wilson JL, Kent MS, Gangadharan SP. Robot-Assisted Thoracoscopic Mediastinal Parathyroidectomy: A Single Surgeon Case Series. *J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A*. 2019.
- Rojas-Rodriguez R, Lujan-Hernandez J, Min SY, DeSouza T, Teebagy P, Desai A, Tessier H, Slamin R, Siegel-Reamer L, Berg C, Baez A, Lalikos J, Corvera S. Generation of Functional Human Adipose Tissue in Mice from Primed Progenitor Cells. *Tissue Eng Part A*. 2019;25(11-12).

New Surgery Center in Shrewsbury



The Surgery Center is a new state-of-the-art facility located just off 290 in Shrewsbury that opened in May 2019. It is a collaboration between UMass, Shields Healthcare, and Reliant Medical Group. It features 9 operating rooms with the latest technology in a day surgery setting.

Residents' invitation to join the GLOBAL HEALTH community

A group of faculty hold monthly Global Health seminars, which currently take place on the third Tuesday of each month from 6-8pm. Quarterly social events bring the UMass GH community (residents, faculty, fellows, students) together with a presentation and opportunity to network. If you are interested in either one of these, please respond to GH@umassmed.edu and indicate if you are interested in any or all of these options as well as list your specialty and year of residency.

**UMass Memorial
Department of Surgery
Teams Pick up the Pace**



Surgeons Against Cancer Team raised just under \$5000. Members of the team included, the Division of Surgical Oncology, cancer survivors, friends, and families. This year, the team walked in memory of a former team member Joan Greffrath, who worked with the Department of Surgery and lost her battle with metastatic breast cancer this summer. (below)



The combined UMass LUNgevity Team of Thoracic Surgery, Pulmonary, and Interventional Pulmonary Departments. (above)

Mark Maxfield, MD, Division of Thoracic Surgery, ran the 3.5 mile route. (left)



Crystal Reardon, Operations Administrator, Surgical ASG, (third from the left) ran a 13.1 mile marathon at the 13th Annual Wicked Half Marathon in Salem, MA. Crystal finished just over 2 hours for her first marathon ever. Congratulations, Crystal!



The 66th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (MCACS)

MCACS meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the Westin Copley Hotel in Boston, MA. For more information: <http://meeting.mcacs.org/>

The Department of Surgery - Newest Editions



Edward Kim, MD, PhD (PGY1 General Surgery) and wife, Dr. Yuri Kim, welcomed handsome, Henry Zion Kim, on May 9, 2019.



Dejah Judelson, MD from the Division of Vascular Surgery and husband, Mason Ashcraft, celebrated the arrival of their son, sweet Dexter Reed Judelson, on August 13, 2019.



Lauren Daly, MD (PGY5) Plastic Surgery and Mike Daly welcomed their first child on September 8, 2019. Welcome Ava Violet Daly.

Department of Surgery Employees Celebrate Service Milestones of 15 or More Years

(Left to Right) **Mary Cawley**, Residency Coordinator (15 years), **Jeannine Bottis**, Residency Program Administrator (20 years) and **Cindy LeBlanc**, Residency Coordinator (20 years) were named for their contributions to the General Surgery and Plastic Surgery Residency Programs.



Congratulations!



Kelli Hickle (PGY5) Division of Plastic Surgery and Tyler Morin were married in a small ceremony in Westport, Maine on September 7, 2019.



Kate H. Dinh, MD joined the Division of Surgical Oncology. She earned her MD at New York Medical College, and completed her residency in General Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. During that time, she spent two years in clinical research and earned a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation, at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She subsequently completed her Breast Fellowship at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is thrilled to return to UMass to join the faculty as a breast surgeon.

Appointments and Awards



Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Professor of Surgery, has been appointed to a newly created position of Assistant Vice Provost for Wellness and Health Promotion.

“We and our learners will benefit greatly from Dr. Hirsh’s expertise, compassion and track record of leadership in many realms, in-

cluding as an outstanding clinician, advocate, mentor, community partner, role model and colleague,” said **Dr. Flotte** and **Dr. Chimienti**, in announcing the new role. “The health and well-being of our students is a high priority, and UMMS has long worked to ensure that our learners benefit from a supportive, respectful and inclusive learning environment, with access to a wide variety of health and support services. As you know, caregiver burnout and resilience are critical issues being addressed by many health systems and we endeavor to equip our graduates in all three schools with the tools they will need to lead successful, fulfilling careers.”

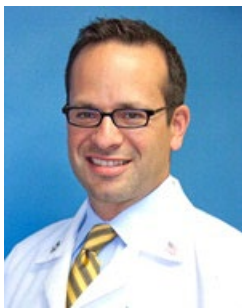
The scope of the Assistant Vice Provost’s role includes serving as chair of a newly created Committee on Stu-

dent Well-Being. This committee will include student and faculty representation from each school, along with representatives from the student body and the Office of Student Life. Its mission will be to work collaboratively to create and support extracurricular programs and events that foster a sense of community and learner well-being at UMMS. Dr. Hirsh will lead planning of an annual “wellness week” each fall and will serve as a liaison to the clinical system’s new wellness officer and graduate medical education wellness initiatives.

Dr. Hirsh said he is “humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead a major effort to keep our wonderful learners in all three schools moving forward feeling supported, interconnected and fulfilled.”



Congratulations to Jeremy Aidlen, MD, Division of Pediatric Surgery, who assumed the role as Chief of Pediatric Surgery, on October 1, 2019.



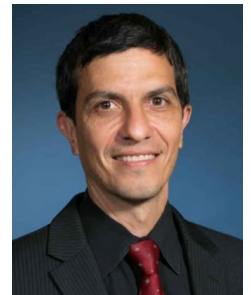
Justin A. Maykel, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, is the inaugural recipient of the newly endowed Joseph M. Streeter and Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Surgery. As a leading expert in gastrointestinal surgery, research, and clinical care, Dr. Maykel’s appointment honors the exceptional,

compassionate and patient-centered care he and his colleagues provide. This chair endowment supports research that advances our understanding of gastrointestinal disease and offers innovative pathways to treatment.



George Debusk, MD, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, will participate in this year’s Physician Leadership Development Program.

Earlier this summer, **Paulo Martins, MD, PhD, FAST, FACS, FEBS** was awarded the American Society of Transplant Surgery Basic Science Career Development Award, in recognition of the numerous contributions to basic science research in the field of Transplantation. In addition to this prestigious award, the University of Massachusetts Medical School also appointed Dr. Martins to the position of Associate Professor of Surgery.



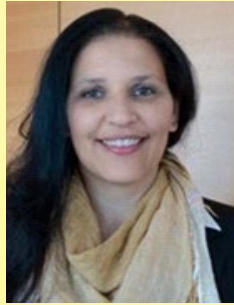
Ricardo Bello, MD, Division of Cardiac Surgery, was appointed to the Medical Group Board of Trustees.

Appointments and Awards *continued*

Junior Faculty Development Program for Department of Surgery for 2019



James Lindberg, MD - Surgical Oncology



Isabel Emmerick, PhD - Thoracic Surgery



Jessica Simons, MD, MPH, Division of Vascular Surgery, was the recipient of the extremely competitive SVS Women's Leadership Grant. This is a reflection of Dr. Simons' hard work and the Society's belief in her strong leadership abilities.



(Left to right) **Jonathan Green, MD** and **Christopher Schlieve, MD**, both PGY5 residents, were elected to the UMass chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. The members of AOA chose our residents in honor and recognition of their distinguished professional accomplishments and contributions.



At the New England Society for Vascular Surgery meeting earlier this month, **Mohammad Alqaim, MD (Vascular PGY4)**, received the Deterling Award for the best clinical science presentation/manuscript for his work on complications of lumbar drain placement.

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT - Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Joyce McIntyre, MD, (pictured right) Division of Plastic Surgery, has championed the inception of postoperative telehealth for Surgical specialties at the University. Using the infrastructure provided by AmWell, Dr. McIntyre has been able to remotely provide postoperative follow ups for patients on Cape Cod. Patients come to the UMass Plastic Surgery office in Dennis, where a Medical Assistant serves as the telepresenter. From Worcester, Dr. McIntyre is able to evaluate patients using video conferencing technology available via smartphone.



Establishing this work flow took considerable efforts by stakeholders throughout the Medical Group. Working closely with Dave Smith and Teresa Rincon from the Clinical Operations and Innovation department, we were able to identify the appropriate "Place of Service" designation, integrate the telehealth visit type into Dr. McIntyre's Epic Dashboard, change the General Consent to capture the required verbiage, and establish the correct supervision policy for the MA. Going into her sixth month using telemedicine to provide service to a remote patient demographic, Dr. McIntyre thinks telehealth is the future of surgery and in Plastic Surgery: "We are embracing this awesome new technology. Our patients adore the virtual visit, it makes so much sense to them, and I love being able to follow the patient closely postoperatively to make sure they are on track and healing well. Tremendous opportunity exists going forward to leverage our telehealth program to increase patients' access to the unique, world class Plastic Surgery services we offer at UMass. With telehealth technology, we can operate on more patients here at UMass from near, far, and around the world."

General Surgery Residency - Simulation



2019-2020 sees the continuation and expansion of the simulation curriculum. This year's "kick off event," planned by **Dr. Jennifer Davids**, was a success. Residents left photo from left: **Danielle DePalo, Qi Wang, Gazi Rashid, Jana Qiao, Ashley Russo, Kaye Lu, Jose Mercado-Matos, Joshua Scurlock**. Residents right photo: **Ricardo Bello, Larissa Pamen**.

Faculty Development

UMass Medical School - Teaching of Tomorrow (TOT) Faculty Development Course 2019 - 2020

This is a 4-day course held over two Friday/Saturday sessions and participants are required to attend all 4 days. Course dates are November 22 - 23, 2019 and March 27 - 28, 2020 and will be held at the Hotel Northampton, Northampton, MA. CMEs offered.

Two Tracks are offered:

Track 1 - Foundations of Clinical Teaching and Educational Planning

Track 2 - Building Your Career as a Clinician Educator (This is an advanced program for graduates of Track 1 with only 10 slots available)

To Register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TOTReg2019-20>

Improving Faculty Competence in Assessment Evaluation Course, April 29 and May 2, 2020

Maine Medical Center (MMC) is collaborating with the ACGME to co-sponsor a regional faculty development opportunities dedicated to the needs of academic physicians. This is a faculty development course focusing on improvement of assessment systems, the clinical evaluation and assessment of residents and fellows and increasing effectiveness of Clinical Competency Committees.

To Register:

<https://mainehealth.cloud-cme.com/mmcacgmehub2020>

Questions: Kelley-Anne Clisham KClisham@mmc.org

Upcoming Events

- Department of Surgery Residency Holiday Party: Friday December 6, 2019 at Tavern in the Square, Shrewsbury, 6:30 pm.
- MCACS 66th Annual Meeting: **Saturday, December 7th** at Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA

Thank you for all of your submissions for the Department of Surgery Newsletter!

Send submissions to: Darius.Jagminas@umassmemorial.org