

Congratulations!



- **Josh Scurlock, MD** (General Surgery PGY4) and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed their beautiful son and third child, Griffin William Scurlock (above) on October 12, 2018.

- **Soleil Niknam-Bienia, MD** (UMass General Surgery residency 2017-2018 graduate) and her husband, Sebastian, welcomed their second child, Olivia, on January 3, 2019. Mom, Dad, brother Marcus, and baby Olivia (below) are doing well and loving their time in Los Angeles during Soleil's Plastic Surgery Residency.



- **Eleanor Tomczyk, MD** (Plastic Surgery Chief Resident) and her husband (and former UMass General Surgery residency graduate), Tom Tomczyk, MD, welcomed their first child, Theodore (Theo) Adam Tomczyk on November 2, 2018. Congratulations to baby Theo as the recipient of the Residency's Holiday Party "Ugly Sweater" (read=cutest) contest.

Departmental Updates

- Department of Surgery employees celebrated service milestones of 10 or more years on October 16, 2018. Pictured left to right are **Themia Pappas-Fillmore**, Surgical ASG (35 years), **Laura Cardin**, Training Coordinator (10 years), **Supriya Puranik**, Surgical ASG (15 years), and **Seann Burke**, Surgical ASG (10 years).
- Two chief residents in General Surgery recently completed a successful match seasons. **Sanaz Leilabadi, MD** matched into the Trauma, ACS, and Critical Care Fellowship at Baylor-Dallas. **Christine Choi, MD** matched into Colorectal Surgery fellowship at Cleveland Clinic.



- Congratulations to **Drs. Frank Yuan** (PGY5) pictured left, and **Bryce Bludevich** (PGY2) on their “prize” winning Minion in this year’s Pumpkin Carving Contest. (Thanks for keeping the carpet clean, Frank.)



Winning pumpkin and two contenders for the Pumpkin Carving Contest.



- Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty appointments and promotions (left to right).
Leora Balsam, MD (Cardiac Surgery), Associate Professor
Muriel Cleary, MD (Pediatric Surgery), Assistant Professor
Nora Fullington, MD (General Surgery), Assistant Professor

Thank You!



- Thanks to all faculty and residents for their participation in the 2019-2020 Residency Interview season for all programs. Certainly, this year we were able to welcome so many remarkable applicants. Thank you for taking part from through the entire process and for demonstrating daily who is “The UMass Family.”
- Thank you all for your help with the opiate study. The study group recruited over 150 patients and have two published abstracts to date. In addition, they have begun recruiting all bariatric patients as well as Acute Care Surgery cholecystectomy and appendectomy patients. The team, including Dr. Brett Baker (PGY4, as part of his Quality Project), was instrumental in the instillation of the secure disposal box (left) located outside of the University Campus pharmacy. Please remind patients they can dispose of their excess medications right outside of clinic.

Accomplishments

- In October, surgeons from the University of Massachusetts together in collaboration with WPI’s Advanced Robotics Engineering graduate students, met for a seminar in Robotic Surgery. The initial idea for the seminar derived from WPI professor of robotic engineering, Dr. Loris Fichera, and **Dr. Raymond Dunn**, Division Chief of Plastic Surgery and an alumnus of WPI. The goal of the seminar was to provide engineers with insight into the clinical implications of robotic surgery and to enable and inspire them to develop new robotic technologies with the surgeon and the patient in mind. The meeting was a success and would not have been possible without expert panel members and those who coordinated the event: **Dr. Dunn, Dr. Mitch Cahan, Dr. Sharmilee Korets, Dr. Mitchell Sokoloff, Dr. Igor Sorokin, Dr. Paul Sturrock, and Dr. Jennifer Yates.**



Accomplishments

- Congratulations to **Dr. Mitch Cahan** and colleagues on their recent publication entitled “The impact of deliberate reflection with WISE-MD™ modules on surgical clerkship students’ critical thinking: a prospective randomized controlled pilot study,” in *Advances in Medical Education and Practice*.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Karim Alavi** and his recent paper, “Systemic Reviews and Meta-Analytic Methods: Not all Are Created Equal,” published in the November issue of *Diseases of the Colon & Rectum*.



- The Divisions of Trauma, Plastic Surgery, and 2 Lakeside ICU hosted a Burn Symposium for nurses at the University Campus. Presenters (above, left to right) included **Tammy Roach, RN**, **Karen Shea MS, RN**, **Lisa McNamara, NP** and **Katy Staszek, RN**. Attendees received instruction on burn dressing changes and received instruction and practice wrapping specific burn wounds.

- Our General Surgery Residents recently had their work highlighted in several oral presentations at the 2018 American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting in Boston.
 - **Chau Hoang, MD** presented her work with the Colorectal Surgery division, describing “Challenges in the Management of T4b Colon Cancer: Chemotherapy or Surgery as First Line Treatment.”
 - **Ryan Hendrix, MD** (below) presented the Surgical Education Committee’s work describing “Well-being Program Demonstrates Early Improvement in General Surgery Residency.”



- **Dr. Simon** (left photo) presented on behalf of the Trauma Division at the TQIP Conference in Anaheim in November. The presentation discussed the Division’s Quality Improvement Initiative process for ventilator-associated pneumonias. Process Improvement nurse **Tammy Roach, RN** and **Deborah Gleason, CSTR** and **Robert Corbo, CPC** (right photo) from the trauma registry also attended.

Accomplishments

- The 65th Annual Meeting for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons was held in Boston on December 1, 2018, with Dr. Anne Larkin serving as President of the Society. Dr. Harold Hsu (PGY5) did a beautiful job representing the residency in the Survivor game; Drs. Abe Jaffe (PGY5), Max Hazeltine (PGY2), and Sam Vazquez (PGY1), under the mentorship of Dr. Don Czerniach (Minimally Invasive Surgery) made us proud in the Top Gun competition! Members of the Department of Surgery were well-represented for their academic achievement:
 - **Dr. Chris Schlieve** (PGY4): Served as a resident moderator
 - **Susanna Hill, MD** (Colorectal fellow) with co-authors from UMass **Chau Hoang** (PGY3), **Seyedeh Cheraghi**, **Michelle Shabo**, **Adam Resnick**, **Cristina Harnsberger**, **Karim Alavi**, **Paul Sturrock**, **Justin Maykel** and **Jennifer Davids** presented their work on “Accuracy and predictors of high ratings of US colon and rectal surgeons on Healthgrades.com.”
 - **Dr. Brett Baker** (PGY4) and his co-authors, **John Kelly** (PGY2), **Max Hazeltine** (PGY2), **Olivia Karcis**, **Sardis Harward**, **Madeline Fryer** and **Rich Perugini** (Minimally Invasive Surgery) presented their work on “Postoperative Opiate Management: Developing a Model for Balanced Prescribing.”
 - **Dr. David Meyer** (Research Resident, Year 1) and his co-authors, **Allison Wyman**, **Karim Alavi**, **Jennifer LaFemina**, and **Jennifer Davids** presented their work on surgical education and simulation, entitled “General Surgery Resident Attitudes Towards Surgical Simulation.”
- Dr. Mike Hirsh recently contributed an article to The Conversation discussing firearm injury. The beautifully written piece can be found at: <https://theconversation.com/forget-lanes-we-all-need-to-head-together-toward-preventing-firearm-injury-107399>.
- Graduate Medical Education, under the leadership of Dr. Deborah DeMarco, was nominated and is now a finalist for the **ACGME and Arnold P. Gold Foundation DeWitt C. Baldwin Jr. Award** for the GME and residency programs’ commitment to resident humanism. Our GME is one of the six national finalists. Thank you to all faculty and residents who took part in the recent site visit—regardless of results, your commitment to your patients and to each other shines through day.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Paulo Martins** and the transplant team on the following publications:
 - **Martins PN**, Gillooly AR, **Movahedi B**, **Bozorgzadeh A**. Bipolar Sealing Devices Use in Pancreas Graft Preparation: A Novel Tie-less Back-table Surgery Technique. *Transplantation Direct*. 2018 Sep 25;4(10):e397. doi: 10.1097/TXD.0000000000000831. eCollection 2018 Oct.
 - Dolgin N, Smith AJ, Harrington SG, **Movahedi B**, **Martins PN**, **Bozorgzadeh A**. Sarcopenia predicts survival after liver transplantation. *Experimental and Clinical Transplantation*. 2018 Oct 5. doi: 10.6002/ect.2018.0018.
 - Brüggewirth IMA, Moore C, Mahboub P, Thijssen M, Xiaofei E, Leuvenink H, Mandrekar P, Wang X, Bozorgzadeh A, Kowalik T, Porte RJ, **Martins PN**. A Comparative Study of Single (Portal Vein) and Dual (Portal Vein and Hepatic Artery) Perfusion During Subnormothermic Liver Machine Preservation. *Transplantation Direct* 2018, Oct 23;4(11):e400..
 - Gillooly AR, Perry J, **Martins PN**. First Report of siRNA Uptake During Ex Vivo Hypothermic and Normothermic Liver Machine Perfusion. *Transplantation*. 2018 Nov 9.
 - **Martins PN**, Berendsen TA, Yeh H, Bruinsma BG, Izamis ML, Op den Dries S, Gillooly AR, Porte R, Yarmush ML, Uygun K, Markmann JF. Oxygenated UW solution decreases ATP decay and improves survival after transplantation of DCD liver grafts. *Transplantation*. 2018 Nov 13. doi: 10.1097/TP.0000000000002515.

Other Announcements and Upcoming Events

- The General Surgery ABSITE will take place **Saturday, January 26** and **Sunday, January 27**. A call schedule to allow for uninterrupted test taking and ensure no gaps in transitions of patient care has been created and is available.
 - The Call for Abstracts and Videos for the American College of Surgeons 2019 Clinical Congress in San Francisco (October 27-31) is now open through **March 1**.
 - The UMass Resident Spouse Network is a support and social network for partners/spouses of interns/residents at UMass Medical School. The network organizes meet-ups to connect and support each other. Please contact Aislinn Doyle at Aislinn.doyle@me.com for questions.
 - Graduation Medical Education has developed and launched our GME-wide Wellbeing website. The site is designed to make it simpler to access counseling, mental health treatment and on-line resources for residents, fellows, and medical staff dealing with emotional and psychological concerns. Confidential and discrete, it can link you to the next step with a click or help guide you with some straightforward on-line tools. We hope our colleagues and those of us who are concerned about them will find it helpful. The link is <https://umassmed.edu/wellbeing>. Feedback is welcomed by GME on ways to improve as wellbeing is a prime priority for our trainees!
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We would love to highlight your accomplishments!
Please contribute submissions for any member of the Department you wish to be highlighted.