Baylor College of Medicine

SURGERY NEWS

THE MICHAEL E. DeBAKEY DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

2020 ISSUE 1

Official opening of the Office-Based Endovascular Lab (OBEL) offers patients with peripheral vascular disease an alternative to hospital visits

After a long year of preparation, the official opening of the OBEL (Office Based Endovascular Lab) this September ushered in a new paradigm for streamlined outpatient care at Baylor College of Medicine. The OBEL clinic, which provides patients the option to have traditionally hospital-based procedures performed in an in-and-out office-based setting, quickly became very busy with patients seeking high-quality, high-service attention.

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Bariatric Surgery Program receives national accreditation

Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (working in conjunction with the bariatric surgery program at Baylor College of Medicine) has received national accreditation through the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP), a joint Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

To earn this esteemed designation of excellence, the program underwent a rigorous review of its structure, processes, and clinical outcomes data and it successfully met the MBSAQIP's high standards across the board for staffing, training, facility infrastructure and patient care.

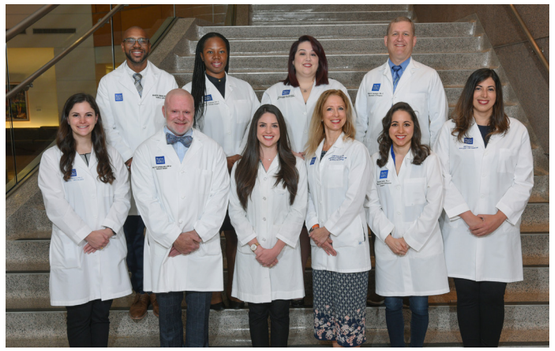
"*This is an important milestone for Baylor St. Luke's, and I am proud of our team, physicians, nurses, and staff who have devoted significant time building a comprehensive center for metabolic and Bariatric Surgery*," commented **Dr. Carlos Galvani,** the immediate past chief of Bariatric Surgery in our Division of General Surgery. *"By obtaining this accreditation, we hope to provide patients living with obesity in our community with the highest level of bariatric care."*

The premier program consists of surgeons and gastroenterologists who provide comprehensive treatment of metabolic or obesity related diseases. The rest of the team includes dieticians, psychologists, financial planners and social workers in addition to physician and nursing staff, all of whom collaborate to provide excellent, multidisciplinary patient care.

INSIDE

Newly-formed Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Council continues to gain momentum

The APP Council, which held its first meeting last May, has hit the ground running with numerous projects and initiatives aimed at bolstering the presence, promotion, support, and responsibility of our advance practice providers within the Department. The founding team, **Lauren Tezak, NP, Holly Clayton, PA-C, and Phil Bowden, NP**, have worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for this fresh, empowered, and productive group, with **Michelle Kelly PA-C**, elected into the APP Council leadership as vice-chair upon the recent departure of Phil Bowden.



Representatives on the APP Council now come from each surgical division and site supported by our APP faculty: Brandon Johnson, NP, and Sarah Morrissey, NP, from General Thoracic Surgery, Laura Ogbechie, NP, and Zachary Gray, PA-C, from Cardiothoracic Surgery, Charrika Williams, NP, from Vascular Surgery, Michelle Kelley, PA-C, from Plastic Surgery, Logan Healy, PA-C, and Brian Lassinger, PA-C from General Surgery and Surgical Oncology, and Ashlie Kaim, PA-C, from Abdominal Transplantation.

Among its numerous undertakings, the quarterly meetings of the APP Council provide a space for APP networking and mentoring as well as policy and procedure improvements. The council also plans and executes regular social, service, and educational events and works to promote optimal utilization of the APPs.

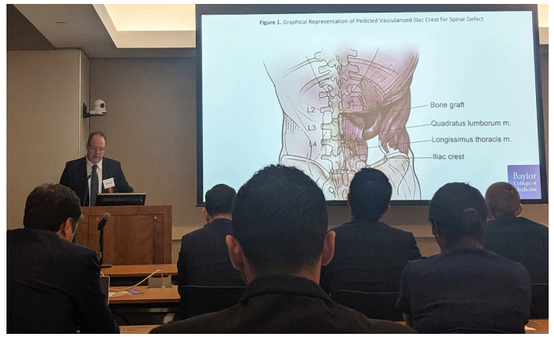
The vision for the APP Council is bright and ambitious, and Department members can be on the lookout for an APP newsletter, which should be out by this Spring. The new vice-chair of the council, Michelle Kelly, PA-C commented, *"It's such an honor to be able to work with and lead such a revolutionary group. We have the ability to really solidify and advance the APP role within the Department of Surgery. It's going to be a great way to show our value and how we can help advance the Department as a whole."*

Department holds cutting-edge, CME conferences

Inaugural Spino-Plastic Reconstruction

The Inaugural Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Spino-Plastic Reconstruction Conference, held on August 3, 2019, landmarked a remarkable new surgical strategy in part pioneered by BCM faculty to facilitate surgical treatment of patients with advanced spinal degenerative disease. Spinoplastic reconstruction is a new approach to spinal and plastic surgery, addressing complex spine issues and previously failed spinal reconstruction, conditions where the clinical stakes are often the highest.

Co-chaired by **Dr. Edward Reece**, associate professor and chief of the Division of Adult Plastic Surgery and **Dr. Alexander Ropper**, assistant professor and director of Spinal Neurosurgery at BCM, this highly successful event facilitated open collaboration between plastic surgeons and spine surgeons to help advance this new field of surgery. Attendees included 60 professionals including physicians, fellows, residents, physician assistants, nurses, and nurse practitioners specializing in surgery, orthopedics, neurosurgery, and plastic surgery.



Dr. Edward Reece shares a graphical representation of a Pedicled Vascularized Illiac Crest for Spinal Defect.

The conference opened with a welcome address given by **Dr. Larry H. Hollier**, professor and surgeon-in-chief at Texas Children's Hospital. A keynote address, on the multidisciplinary use of plastic surgery in spine surgery, was delivered by **Dr. Scott Hansen**, professor and chief of hand and microvascular surgery at the University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Alexander Ropper engages some of the attendees during a session break.

The case-based and panel discussions throughout the day empowered those in attendance to bring knowledge of the latest techniques, research, and education back to their practice groups and departments. Honors throughout the symposium were bestowed upon **Dr. Rex Marco**, associate professor of orthopedic surgery at the Institute for Academic Medicine at Houston Methodist, Weill Cornell Medical College, who had been recently injured in an accident.

Dr. Ropper noted the success of the conference and the new vision for 2020: *"The 2019 Symposium was a great success. It generated continued multidisciplinary working discussion about improved patient outcomes in challenging spinal fusion cases. We anticipate to offer an even more exciting program for our 2020 symposium. This will feature a hands-on session for surgeon education as well as international and national speakers from plastic surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery."*

Inaugural Critical Care Conference

Over 175 physicians, nurses, and critical care experts from around the country attended the inaugural Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Advances in Critical Care Conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in the Texas Medical Center this past September. Organized by faculty members of the Department of Surgery, the conference directors included **Dr. S. Rob Todd**, professor and immediate past chief of acute care surgery, **Dr. Subhasis Chatterjee**, assistant professor of surgery, **Dr. Kalpalatha K. Guntupalli**, the Frances K. Friedman & Oscar Friedman, M.D. '36 Endowed Professor for Pulmonary Disorders, and **Dr. James P Herlihy**, professor of pulmonary medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

Keynote addresses were given by **Dr. E. Wesley Ely** of Vanderbilt University, who discussed the clinical conundrum of analgesia, sedation, and delirium management to promote ICU Liberation, and **Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox**, Distinguished Service Professor in the Division of Cardiac Surgery, who presented "The DaMattox Code," a look at the death of Princess Diana from a trauma perspective. **Dr. Chatterjee** commented, *"It was a lively and dynamic conference with nationally-renowned thought leaders, and it drew on the expertise of Baylor faculty and clinicians across four other Texas Medical Center institutions. It really benefited from having the presence of surgical, medical, and anesthesia perspectives to facilitate robust dialogue."*

PANEL SESSIONS FEATURED DISCUSSIONS ON SEPSIS, ARDS, TRAUMA, ECMO, SHOCK AND ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.

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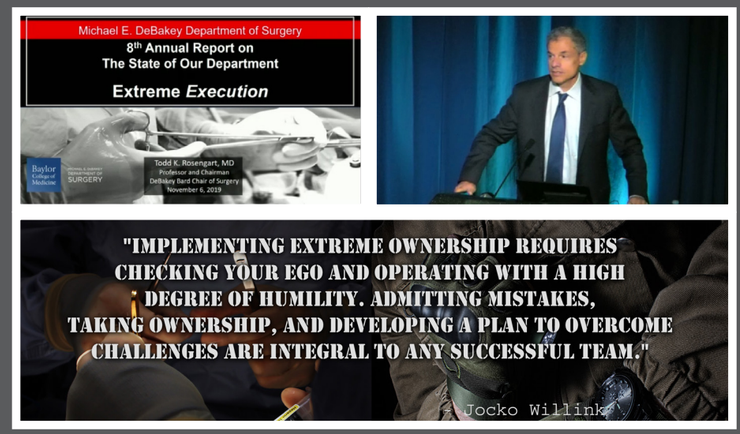
As a comprehensive, full-service vascular surgery practice, the OBEL clinic offers in-office consultation, vascular imaging, vein procedures and excellent post-operative care, eliminating the need for hospital visits in most cases. The immediate success of the clinic is reflective of a growing trend across the country. Grand View Research estimates that growth in the number of office-based labs in the US will approach 10% from 2019-2026. As OBEL Clinic Director **Dr. Miguel Montero**, associate professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Surgery, explained, *"Over the last 30 years, vascular surgery has evolved from a specialty that would make large incisions to access and fix blood vessels, to one where we do most cases minimally invasively. With today's technology, we are now able to fix very complex issues with tiny incisions. This makes for a much better patient experience. Because the impact on the body is so minimal, the recovery is much shorter and less painful."*

While the hospital setting is still very important for high acuity or complex cases, surgeons in the OBEL clinic are able to perform certain procedures in the lab and then send the patient home at the end of the day, while preserving safety, quality, and efficacy of care. **Kristin Covington, NP, MSN**, vascular nurse manager commented, *"The OBEL has already received positive feedback from our patients that have received treatment. Having an outpatient-based lab reduces anxiety for obtaining vascular procedures, particularly for the older patient population that we serve. They have comfort in knowing they are receiving the skills and knowledge from top vascular surgeons, along with one-on-one care from the nursing staff."*

Some of the common conditions treated in OBEL include peripheral arterial disease, claudication, hemodialysis access failure, venous insufficiency, varicose veins, and deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

The State of the Department Address introduces "Extreme Ownership" as the theme for the Department of Surgery in 2020

Dr. Todd K. Rosengart, chair of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, delivered a comprehensive annual update on the state-of-the-department on Nov. 6, 2019. He focused on every facet of the Department's growth, including new hires, research, diversity and equity, clinical programs, and innovative training programs, among many other topics. The engaging talk introduced the concept of extreme ownership, as described by Jocko Willinick in his book, "Extreme Ownership: How Navy Seals Lead and Win." The idea includes choosing to take personal responsibility and utilizing effective communication to "lead up and lead down" in addressing challenges in the workplace and in life. Enjoy the full speech here: **youtu.be/Le7CjlhuOmg**



NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Department welcomes new bariatric surgeon to the team

S. Julie-Ann Lloyd, M.D., Ph.D.

The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery is extremely pleased to welcome **Dr. S. Julie-Ann Lloyd** as an assistant professor of general surgery in our bariatric surgery program. Dr. Lloyd received her undergraduate and advanced education (S.B., Chemistry, and S.M., Bioengineering) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and earned joint graduate degrees (M.D. and Ph.D., Cellular and Molecular Medicine) from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She completed her general surgery residency at the Cleveland Clinic, followed by a fellowship in minimally invasive bariatric and general surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she was also a clinical instructor. Dr. Lloyd serves on national committees and holds active membership in the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

As a specialist in minimally invasive, robotic, and bariatric surgery, Dr. Lloyd treats obesity-related diseases and utilizes a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary care plan with her patients. Her research interests include the pathophysiology of obesity and improvement in patient outcomes through optimization of perioperative care.

Dr. Lloyd is enthusiastic about joining the team at Baylor College of Medicine. She has also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contribute toward the achievement of the Institution's mission.

New leadership appointments at Ben Taub Hospital

Chad Wilson, M.D., M.P.H., FACS

Dr. Chad Wilson, associate professor in the Division of General Surgery, has accepted the position of **Director of Trauma Services at Ben Taub Hospital**. In this new role, Dr. Wilson will help guide quality improvement efforts and maintain the ACS Level One verification status of the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center at Ben Taub Hospital. Most recently, Dr. Wilson served as the associate trauma director at Ben Taub where he played a pivotal role in advancing our exemplary national "TQIP" quality ranking.

"I am very excited to take on this leadership role in the trauma center and ensure that Ben Taub continues to provide high-quality care to the injured in their time of need. The trauma center has a rich legacy of service to the people of Houston" said Dr. Wilson about his appointment.

Dr. Wilson joined the Department of Surgery in 2016, joining the department from New York University, where he was an assistant professor of surgery with a clinical focus on trauma at Bellevue Hospital for five years.

Dr. Wilson's research interests include trauma, surgical global health, general surgery, and disparities studies.

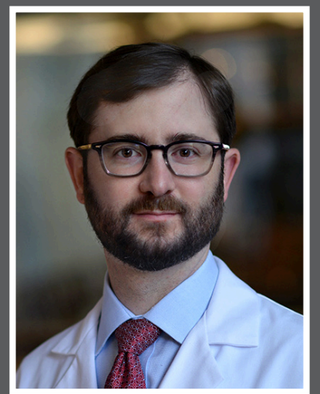
> **My mother worked in the Ben Taub blood bank for 28 years to ensure blood products were available to the sickest patients at any hour of the night, and it is a real honor and privilege for me to be able to continue in that tradition of service to our community.**
>
> ***- Dr. Wilson***

New Chief of General Surgery at Ben Taub Hospital

Dr. Eric Silberfein, associate professor of surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been appointed **Chief of General Surgery at Ben Taub Hospital**. Dr. Silberfein is also the associate program director of our general surgery residency program and chief of Surgical Oncology at Ben Taub Hospital.

"It is a true honor to accept this position as a successor to Dr. Rob Todd," said Silberfein. "*We wish him all the best in his new endeavor. I look forward to continuing his legacy as a leader of the Ben Taub surgery team.*"

Dr. Silberfein joined the Department in 2010, undertaking his general surgery residency here prior to that. His research interests include the natural history of solid organ tumors and the multidisciplinary therapy of solid organ malignancy. He has won multiple awards for his teaching and educational contributions.



New leadership appointment of the ACGME Surgical Critical Care Residency Program

Jeremy Ward, M.D., FACS

Dr. Jeremy Ward, assistant professor in our Division of General Surgery, has been appointed as **Director of the ACGME Surgical Critical Care Residency Program**. In this role, Dr. Ward will continue to enhance the broad clinical and educational experiences provided to the trainees. Dr. Ward, who joined the Department in 2014, is also the Medical Director of the Trauma & Surgery Intensive Care Unit (TSICU) at Ben Taub Hospital. His clinical interests include elective and emergency general surgery, trauma surgery, and the management of critically ill patients in the intensive care unit.

Dr. Edward Hickey takes the helm of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program (ACHD) at Texas Children's Heart Center

Dr. Edward Hickey, associate professor in the Division of Congenital Heart Surgery, has joined Dr. Peter Ermis, assistant professor of pediatric cardiology at Baylor College of Medicine as the new leadership of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Program at Texas Children's Heart Center®. Dr. Edward Hickey will serve as the surgical director and Dr. Ermis as the medical director of this program.

The Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program is the largest of its kind in the state. Dr. Hickey, a recognized leader in cardiovascular surgery, most recently served as associate professor of cardiac surgery at the University of Toronto and cardiac surgeon and chief of the ACHD program at The Hospital for Sick Children.

"I'm thrilled to join Texas Children's and lead the ACHD Program alongside Dr. Ermis," said Hickey in a recent interview. "*Treating these unique patients requires dedication from an entire team and it is evident Texas Children's is paving the way in this field.*"

"I am looking forward to joining this innovative and collaborative group as we continue to develop tailored approaches for our patients."

- Dr. Edward Hickey, new Surgical Director of the ACDH at Texas Children's Hospital

EDUCATION NOTES

Dr. Rachel W. Davis and Dr. Megan T. Vu at the World Health Assembly, held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Where in the world are the global surgery fellows?

Special amongst the many jewels in our Department's accomplishments in recent years is the Global Surgery Residency program. The only one of its kind in the country and recognized by the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP), this program includes a two-year dedicated global surgery curriculum founded on broad-based surgical skills, international and rural US experience, and academic training directed towards supporting healthcare in under-served communities at home and abroad. The Global Surgery Track uniquely emphasizes clinical training in a variety of medical fields crucial to global healthcare, including those not typically taught in a standard general surgery residency (such as OBGYN, orthopedics and urology). This past year, our fellows' studies took them to locations near and far, including Egypt, Mongolia, Vietnam, rural Texas, and even to the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

Dr. Davis, the first and founding Global Surgery Resident, shares some of her inspiration, experience, and updates on the Global Surgery Track in the following Q and A:

Q. Why did you seek a career in global surgery?

A. When I was a freshman in high school, we were shown a video that mentioned women in a low-resource region dying during labor due to lack of access to medical and surgical care. Since that point, I have had a desire to help make health care accessible to everyone, regardless of resource limitations.

Q. Is global surgery a relatively new field?

A. Historically, surgery was considered to be too expensive and complex to merit global health resources. However, with increasing availability of data showing the cost-effectiveness of investment in global surgery, the landscape has begun to change. As a global health community, we are beginning to focus more on development of sustainable, long-term surgical infrastructure as a means to achieve improvements in both the physical and economic wellbeing of even the world's most impoverished nations.

Q. What role does technology play in global surgery?

A. Technology is foundational to global surgery. Through low-cost innovation and device development, we can facilitate high-quality care for populations that can most benefit from it. For example, innovations allowing inexpensive laparoscopic surgery in regions where it would otherwise be cost-prohibitive can reduce time before post-operative return to work. This can be life-changing for families that face catastrophic and impoverishing expenditures related to the financial burden of surgery.

Q. You've worked on developing technology for low-resource settings. Can you tell us about it?

A. Yes. This past year, I worked with Dr. Stuart Corr and the INSTINCT Program at Baylor and students from Rice University on developing sustainable, low-cost, 3D-printed laparoscopic instruments. Our goal is to design high quality but inexpensive laparoscopic instruments that can be printed with locally sourced materials. The EasyScope laparoscopic grasper currently designed can be printed for only $15.

Q. Are you working on any other initiatives to promote global surgery?

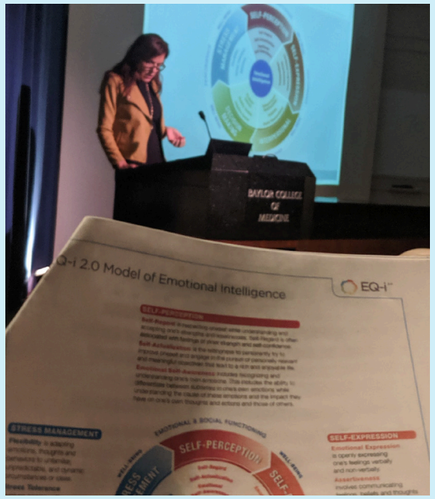
A. Yes, along with Drs. Larry Hollier and Youmna Sherif, we are working with a number of international surgical organizations to create a unified set of international standards and guidelines for safe surgery globally.

Also, last year we collaborated with the National School of Tropical Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to provide a week-long course to train surgeons in skills necessary for humanitarian and austere environments. We offered both a certificate and a diploma pathway for trainees in Tropical Surgery, Obstetrics, and Gynecology. We will be holding the course again in the Department of Surgery Simulation Lab this coming year.

Q. Are there other global surgery initiatives at Baylor?

A. Yes, there are full-time Baylor faculty members from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology currently working in Malawi. Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor are developing a strong presence in pediatric surgery and anesthesia care there as well. As Chief of Global Surgery at Texas Children's Hospital, Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern has worked to create new partnerships around the world. Additionally, we now offer a rotation in rural Texas through the Global Surgery Fellowship.

Drs. David Holmes, Sukriti Bansal, Megan T. Vu, Rachel W. Davis and Youmna A. Sherif with Program Director Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern (second from right).



Keynote speaker Dr. Holly Tompson, senior faculty, Rice University Center for Creative Leadership.

Annual Surgery Education Retreat: "What's your emotional intelligence IQ?"

It was standing room only at Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Education Retreat this past October. The highly anticipated, breakthrough event kicked off our Leadership Development & Coaching Program, a year-long series of seminars and workshops geared to providing faculty, residents, and staff with the essentials of leadership and teamwork. Nearly 100 participants from divisions across the Department came together for this unique and transformative workshop session, titled "Leading with Emotional Intelligence."

Keynote speaker **Dr. Holly Tompson**, senior faculty at the Rice University Center for Creative Leadership, presented on the emotional and social skills and competencies that affect a person's ability to effectively cope with the pressures of work and life. A leader in the world of coaching and organizational development, Dr. Tompson holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior & Leadership, completed her coach training at Georgetown University, and is certified by the International Coach Federation.

Before the day of the workshop, a group of faculty and residents in our general surgery residency program completed a confidential online emotional intelligence assessment instrument, the Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQ-i). The EQ-i is a highly regarded, psychometrically grounded instrument based on 20 years of research development that offers EI assessment and development at individual, team, and organizational levels. The Department of Surgery plans offer the EQ-i to all other members of the department faculty and residency programs over the course of the year's ongoing workshops.

After the keynote speech, retreat participants broke off into groups to talk about their results on the EQi instruments. **Melanie Jagneaux**, JD, MBA, Ombudsman Director at Baylor College of Medicine, said, *"The main takeaway was a greater understanding of the importance of having emotional intelligence (and what that means), as well as having insight into their own unique emotional intelligence. Each person who completed the EQ-I instrument received an individual report of their results."*

Many participants continued their discussions about the program and their EQi well after the workshops had ended, and expressed excitement about the next session in our Leadership Development Program, which was slated to address "Leadership Styles."

BCM surgeons lead "Stop the Bleed" Program in Houston

"The only thing worse than a tragedy, is one that could have been prevented." That's one of the powerful tag-lines of the "Stop the Bleed Program," an initiative of the American College of Surgeons currently being implemented all over the nation and here in Houston by surgeons from the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery. The program is designed to train potential bystanders on how to respond to a trauma situation in which there is uncontrolled bleeding.

Here at Baylor College of Medicine, our trauma and acute care surgery physicians at Ben Taub Hospital have taken the helm in this endeavor, helping to train all BCM students, faculty and employees and many others in the greater Houston area who want to be better prepared should they find themselves in a life-threatening situation. To date, the Ben Taub staff have trained over 3000 people in life-saving techniques that can be readily employed in an emergent situation to stop traumatic hemorrhage.

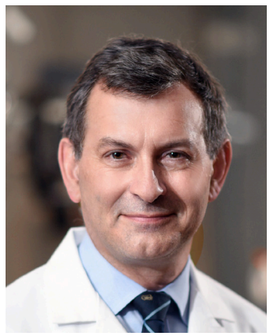
Dr. Stephanie D. Gordy trains Baylor College of Medicine employees during a Stop the Bleed event.

The "Stop the Bleed" Program has reached 100 countries, with 1.5 million people trained.

"Knowing how to apply pressure, pack a wound, use a tourniquet, and call for help are simple yet highly effective tools that anyone can use to help prevent a needless loss of life," said **Dr. Millard Andrew Davis**, assistant professor of surgery in our Division of General Surgery and "Stop the Bleed" program facilitator.

RESEARCH NOTES

Dr. Thompson to participate in study with $7 million in CPRIT funding



Dr. Alastair Thompson, chief of the Section of Breast Surgery, will be leading the clinical trial component of a study that has been approved to receive up to $7.4 million in funding from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), to be conducted at Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas (UT San Antonio, UT Southwest, and UT MD Anderson).

The clinical study seeks to test the efficacy of a high-resolution imaging device called OTIS™ an is called the "OTIS Impact on Final Positive Margin Rates in Breast Conserving Surgery." Its goal is to reduce repeat surgeries for breast cancer removal, currently required in a third of breast conservations surgery across the nation. The device images tissues removed during surgery and allows surgeons to assess if they have achieved successful removal of the entire tumor without having to wait the usual 2-7 days for a pathology report. The total cost to treat breast cancer patients in Texas is $250 million per year.

Dr. Todd K. Rosengart and Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta.

Department participating in major multi-site clinical trial

Based on past successes as a member of the prestigious National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) CT Surgical Trials Network Research Group, the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery has again been named as a participating site for a new "CTSNet" trial. This new project is called the "Anti-coagulation for New-Onset Post-Operative Atrial Fibrillation after CABG" (CTSN PACES) Trial. **Dr. Todd K. Rosengart** will serve as site principal investigator, and be assisted by co-investigator **Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta**, associate professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The primary objective for this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of adding oral anticoagulation to background antiplatelet therapy in patients who develop new onset, post-operative atrial fibrillation (POAF) after isolated coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery.

Dr. Kenneth Liao receives Brockman Funding

Dr. Kenneth Liao, professor and Lester and Sue Smith Endowed Chair of Surgery, will receive over $3.5 million in funding from the Brockman Charitable Trust, for his study titled, "Increasing Heart Transplantation by Using Organs from Donors after Circulatory Death." Dr. Liao's project was selected due to its potential for far-reaching public health and individual impact for people who suffer from severe heart disease and require heart transplantation, but who do not have an available heart donor.

As stated on their website, the Brockman Foundation has supported worthy initiatives in the areas of education and medical research for more than three decades. The philanthropic activities of the Brockman Foundation are effected by distributions from a trust established by A. Eugene Brockman. The late Mr. Brockman, a businessman and philanthropist, believed strongly that gifted individuals could help to create a better world for us all.

Dr. Liao is the Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Circulatory Support at Baylor College of Medicine and the Chief of Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. He is a fellow in the American College of Chest Physicians and American College of Surgeons. Dr. Liao has given numerous presentations both nationally and internationally. He has participated in over 20 clinical trials as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator. His work in the field of valve surgery, heart transplantation, and ventricular assist device has been extensively published.

LEADERSHIP NOTES

Dr. Preventza becomes president-elect of ISEVS

Dr. Ourania Preventza, professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has been named president-elect of the International Society of Endovascular Specialists (ISEVS). Dr. Preventza is the first woman named president-elect of this society. This prestigious role has been held by several legends in the field of cardiothoracic surgery, including former Baylor College of Medicine faculty member **Dr. Ted Dietrich**, who founded the Arizona Heart Institute, and Dr. Tom Fogarty, inventor of his revolutionary, eponymous embolectomy catheter. ISEVS represents interventional cardiologists, vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, and all other interventionists dedicated to cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Rosengart Appointed to Board of Directors of the AATS

Dr. Todd K. Rosengart, DeBakey-Bard Chair of Surgery, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery at the 2019 Annual Meeting, May 4-7 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The AATS is an international association founded over 100 years ago, which promotes scholarship, innovation, and leadership in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. Its leadership and mentors have a "proven record of distinction within the specialty and have made significant contributions to the care and treatment of cardiothoracic disease throughout the world."

Dr. Rosengart is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported scientist with uninterrupted extramural funding since 1998. An extensively published investigator, he is also editor of Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and chair of the NIH Bioengineering, Technology, and Surgical Sciences (BTSS) study section.

In the OR light

Jill Maureen Riley, MSN, RN

Bariatric Surgery Program Coordinator

Q. Where are you from?
A. I am from the beautiful, Great Lake State of Michigan. I grew up in a small farming community and moved to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University. I lived in Kalamazoo for 20 years before moving to Texas with my husband, Jeff, and my dog, Charlie.

Q. What made you choose a career in healthcare?
A. Growing up, I always knew I wanted to do something in the medical field, but I wasn't exactly sure which path I would take. Originally, I went to school for occupational therapy, but then, in the summer of my college freshman year, my best friend became very ill. I spent hours helping to care for her, and one of those days, when she was at her lowest, she looked at me and said, "You should be a nurse." From that moment on, I knew my calling.

When she was at her lowest, she looked up at me and said, "You should be a nurse." From that moment on, I knew my calling.

Q. Where did you go to school?
A. I earned my bachelor's degree in Nursing from Western Michigan University (WMU) in Kalamazoo, MI. The nursing program's curriculum at WMU was community-based, so most of my training focused on caring for patients in the community setting. When we moved to Houston, I earned my master's degree in Nursing Leadership and Administration at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

I feel like I have been preparing for this job over the last 18 years of my career.

Q. How did you get into your specialty/current position?
A. As a nursing student, I was a nurse extern in the post-anesthesia care unit, which is where I developed my love for the perianesthesia nursing specialty. I was a perianesthesia nurse for over 15 years working in the preadmission testing center, pre-op, post-op and endoscopy units. When I came to Houston, I knew I wanted to work in quality management. I started my new career path at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center as a quality review nurse.

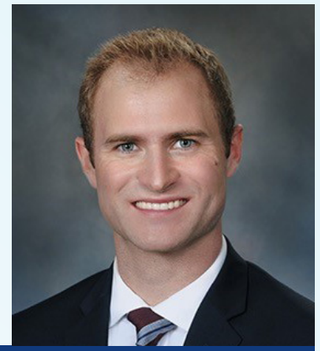
My new and current position is the Bariatric Surgery Program Manager. I am working with a great team to grow the bariatric surgery program. This position pulls my perianesthesia, quality, and patient education knowledge into one position. I feel like I have been preparing for this job over the last 18 years of my career.

Q. What would you tell someone who is thinking about going into nursing?

A. Nursing is a tough yet rewarding career. The opportunities are endless with the ability to work in different settings, roles, and responsibilities. My advice to anyone interested in becoming a nurse would be to research the profession, talk to nurses, and seek opportunities for job shadowing. Once the decision is made to make nursing your career path, take the time to really think about how you would like to positively impact your patients and community.

My advice to anyone interested in becoming a nurse would be to research the profession, talk to nurses, and seek opportunities for job shadowing.

In the OR light



I am a fourth-year General Surgery Resident and a Captain (reserve) in the Air Force.

Dr. Caleb Euhus

General Surgery Resident

Q. Where are you from?
A. I have lived in several different places, including, Louisiana, Germany, Washington State, Florida, Alabama, San Antonio, and Virginia. My Dad was an Army Lt. Colonel and so we moved where he was stationed.

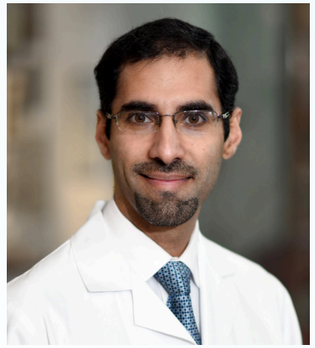
Q. What made you decide to go into medicine?
A. I decided to go into medicine in high school while tutoring an autistic student. I was also influenced by my Mom's brother who is a dermatologist and my Dad's brother who is a breast surgeon. They were both doctors in the Army. I earned a B.S. from UT Houston and then went on to get my M.D. from there as well. Currently, I am a fourth-year general surgery resident and captain (reserve) in the US Air Force.

Q. What do you like most about being a surgeon?
A. It's a very unique job we have—knowing someone's story and comforting their spouse, but also making incisions on their body.

Q. What would you tell someone who is thinking about going into your field?
A. What I would tell someone who is thinking of going into this field is that general surgery is like medicine, but you have to know anatomy and be able to control your hands with small pieces of metal. We do a lot of critical care in the early years of residency and that makes you a vigilant doctor, which is a good home base. I do think there's an ethos of ownership in our department, which I'm proud of. We like to run the shock room, see the patient overnight, be the primary, have difficult family conversations, scrutinize our shortcomings, and be the one to stop the buck so the patient gets well and goes home.

"I do think there's an ethos of ownership in our department, which I'm proud of. We like to run the shock room, see the patient overnight, be the primary, have difficult family conversations, scrutinize our shortcomings, and be the one to stop the buck so the patient gets well and goes home."

- Dr. Caleb Euhus, 4th year General Surgery Resident, Baylor College of Medicine



Dr. Atif Iqbal

Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of Colorectal Surgery

Q. What made you decide to go into medicine?
A. My interest in medicine peaked very early when I saw my grandfather run his medical practice in a small town with unparalleled dedication. His relationship with his patients and dedication to his work was truly inspiring. Throughout my training and career, I have had the opportunity to work with and appreciate many different people and their cultures. Growing up in Bahrain, a tiny island in the Arabian Sea, was unique in that I did not realize the importance of sandy beaches and cheap gasoline until I moved to King Edward Medical College in Pakistan. Built in 1864, and referred to as 'The Harvard of the East' by The British Empire, King Edward Medical College is one of the oldest and most prestigious medical colleges in Asia. I was 20 years old when I graduated, one of the youngest graduates the school had seen. I completed my surgical internship at The Mayo Hospital; an 1800 bed

University Hospital with the largest ER in Asia. My desire for excellence and passion for innovation brought me to the USA, where I did a research fellowship at the Department of Surgery, Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE.

My research fellowship taught me how to be academically productive and successfully balance multiple animal and human projects. Most importantly, it taught me the impact a mentor could have on someone's life. This ignited my interest in academic surgery. I completed a general surgery residency at the University of Missouri Columbia and a colorectal surgery fellowship at the prestigious Washington University/Barnes Jewish Hospital in St Louis. The depth and breadth of laparoscopic/robotic training I received was one of the best in the country. It helped broaden my horizons and forced me to see academics as a path where one, regardless of their stature or background, could have a direct impact on the care of surgical patients. I joined as faculty at the University of Florida where I stayed for 8 years. I was fortunate to be able to join Baylor College of Medicine as the chief of colorectal surgery in 2019.

I was 20 years old when I graduated medical school, one of the youngest graduates the school had seen.

"Your unique background coupled with a commitment to excellence, dedication to the field, and the will to persevere, will make you successful regardless of the path you choose."

Q. What made you choose your specialty?
A. My love and passion for colorectal surgery started in my second year of residency when I began to realize that nothing got me as excited as a colon resection in the operating room or a difficult colonoscopy in the GI lab. I also realized that it was an area where I had a special talent which made the cases much more interesting, the challenges well-worth the time, and the outcomes rewarding. Over time, my inclination towards colorectal surgery grew stronger, and by my fourth year, I could not envision myself happily pursuing a career in anything other than colorectal surgery. It is a field that gives me the opportunity to work on an area of my greatest interest while utilizing my strengths and expertise in laparoscopy and endoscopy.

Q. What do you like most about your job?
A. I feel very fortunate to be able to treat patients with complicated colorectal problems ranging from colorectal cancer to inflammatory bowel disease to anorectal pathology. I am fortunate to currently be serving as a peer-elected 'surgical expert' on the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) task forces for both colon cancer and ano-rectal cancer. However, the most satisfying parts of my job come from the recognition of the ability to change a patient's life within a span of a few hours in the OR, the graceful embrace and thankful gaze of the family members in the recovery room after a successful surgery, and the occasional happy tears shed by the patients.

Q. Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about getting into your profession?
A. Good ethics, values, and morals, play fundamental roles in my life. I aim to treat patients like family. Honesty, integrity, compassion, and hard work are key ingredients for the practice of this noble profession. Although, medical knowledge and surgical excellence are crucial, without integrity and character, one cannot succeed or be satisfied. Your unique background coupled with a commitment to excellence, dedication to the field, and the will to persevere, will make you successful regardless of the path you choose.

"The most satisfying parts of my job come from the recognition of the ability to change a patient's life within a span of a few hours in OR, the graceful embrace and thankful gaze of the family members in the recovery room after a successful surgery, and the occasional happy tears shed by the patients."

- Dr. Atif Iqbal

HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty awards and honors

Dr. Joseph S. Coselli, professor, vice-chair and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery received the Leader of Distinction Award from the Marfan Foundation.

Dr. Shawn Groth, associate professor in the Division of General Thoracic Surgery, was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.

Dr. Marcus Hoffman, assistant professor in the Division of General Surgery, was appointed to the Baylor College of Medicine School Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox, Distinguished Service Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was inducted as a member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Educators™.

Dr. Bindi J. Naik-Mathuria, associate professor of surgery and pediatrics, received a Norton Rose Fulbright Educational Grant from the Academy of Distinguished Educators for her project titled, "Developing surgical simulators for complex and rare minimally-invasive operations in infants to enhance the training of pediatric surgical fellows." A foundational part of this project is innovative simulator work conducted by **Dr. Jared Mortus**, preliminary surgical intern in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Ayse Leyla Mindikoglu, associate professor of medicine and surgery, was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr., professor and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, was named associate editor of the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*. He is the first North American to join this prestigious editorial board.

Dr. Ourania Preventza was promoted to the rank of tenured professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Dr. Kristy Lynn Rialon, assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric Surgery, was named to the Baylor College of Medicine School Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Eric J. Silberfein, associate professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, was inducted as an associate member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Educators™.

Dr. Qizhi Cathy Yao, professor of surgery, molecular virology & microbiology, pathology & immunology, and pharmacology, was elected to the National Academy of Inventors.

Faculty Grants And Contracts

Dr. Bryan Burt, associate professor and chief of the Division of General Thoracic Surgery, received a grant from the **Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)** for over $1M for his project titled, "Novel Endoscope-Cleaning Port for Minimally Invasive Cancer Surgery."

Dr. N. Thao N. Galván, assistant professor in the Division of Abdominal Transplantation, and **Dr. Stuart J. Corr**, assistant professor and director of Surgical Innovation and Technology Development, each received a $25,000 Pediatric Device Faculty Seed Grant from **The Southwest Pediatric Consortium**. Dr. Galván's project, *"Bioartificial Kidney"* includes pre-clinical studies for the pediatric version of a novel implantable, dialysate-free, bioartificial kidney to address end-stage renal disease in children, especially in global, low-resource settings. Dr. Corr's project *"Lil Halos"* includes continued development of a non-invasive monitoring device to log breathing and movement patterns in infants and alert healthcare providers of life-threatening events to avoid Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SUID).

Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta, associate professor of surgery, received $15,000 in funding from an FY20 Pilot Award through the **Baylor College of Medicine Cardiovascular Research Institute**. His project is titled "Immune Evasive Alginate Encapsulation for Sustained Cell Therapy for Heart Failure."

Dr. R. Taylor Ripley, associate professor in the Division of General Thoracic Surgery, was awarded $50,000 from the **American Association for Thoracic Surgery Foundation Surgical Investigator Program** to fund his project "Environmental Carcinogens Induce Minority MOMP and Upregulate Mcl-1 to Initiate Carcinogenesis in Thoracic Cancers." Dr. Ripley was also awarded $25,000 in funding for his proposal "BH3 Profiling of Lung and Esophageal Cancers Enables Precision-Based Targeting of the Mitochondrial Apoptotic Pathways," through the Department of Surgery Faculty Research Award Program.

Dr. Ying Shen, professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and director of the Aortic Diseases Research Laboratory, and **Dr. Scott LeMaire**, professor of surgery and molecular physiology & biophysics, received a three-year, $750,000 Collaborative Sciences Award from the **American Heart Association** to fund their multidisciplinary (radiology and surgery) study on early detection of aortic degeneration using nanoparticle contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) imaging.

2019 Seed Grant Awards for Advanced Practice Providers

Phillip Bowden, MSN, ACNP-BC, along with **Brandon Johnson, APRN, FNP-C**, and **Priya Manoje, FNP, NP-C**, won APP Seed Grant Award for their project titled, "Development of Patient Educational Materials to Improve Understanding of Thoracic Patient Discharge and Self-Care."

Jana Bishop, PA-C, won an APP Seed Grant Award for her project titled, "Increasing Patient Activation and Engagement Post-Cardiac Surgery through Enhanced Educational Tools."

Logan Healy, PA-C, won a Seed Grant Award for her project titled, "Use of APP as Part of the Clinical Team to Improve Patient Satisfaction."

Katrina Zahorik, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, CCRN won a Seed Grant Award for her project titled, "Standardizing Communication for Handoff Report Between Perioperative and Postoperative Intensive Care Staff: Safe for the Patient, Safe for the Staff, Increased Satisfaction for All."

*each APP Seed Grant is for $2,000

Student and Resident Grants, Contracts and Awards

Dr. Lisa Brubaker, PGY3 surgical resident, was recently accepted into the Center for Translational Research on Inflammatory Diseases (CTRID) T32 program *Collaborative Research Training in Thrombosis and Inflammation*. In this program, M.D. and Ph.D. trainees participate in a collaborative didactic and research training program on conditions highlighting the links between inflammation and thrombosis. Dr. Brubaker is one of four fellows in this year's inaugural class. **Mentors: Dr. Qizhi Cathy Yao and Dr. George Van Buren II**.

Ryan Jacobs, MSx; Sergio Navarro, MSx; Emilie Warren, MSx; and Laura Washburn, MSx; were awarded **2019 Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery American College of Surgeons (ACS) Travel Scholarships** to attend the annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons, held in San Francisco, CA.

William Johnston, MSx, received $2500 through an **Accelerating Clinical Excellence (ACE)** Grant, "Utilizing Pre-operative Social Work Consults to Reduce Hospital Length of Stay for Elective Surgery Patients." **Mentor: Dr. Atif Iqbal**.

Dr. Christopher Taylor, resident in general surgery and **Dr. Denny Scaria**, resident in general surgery, received $2500 in **Accelerating Clinical Excellence (ACE)** grant funding. **Dr. Luis De Leon Castro**, general surgeon and research coordinator, will be a co-investigator.
Mentor: Dr. Atif Iqbal.

Dr. Richard Whitlock, PGY3 research resident, was named the Organization of Resident Representatives (ORR) liaison to the **American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Careers in Medicine Advisory Committee.**
Mentor: Dr. Sanjeev Vasudevan.

Dr. Rodrigo Zea Vera, general surgery resident, received the Southern Thoracic Surgery Association Brooks Scholarship.
Mentor: Dr. Ravi Ghanta.

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