



Robotic Heart Surgery Procedure Leads US In Program Growth

Dr. Kenneth Liao, chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Circulatory Support, recently completed his 200th robotic cardiac surgery. In 2019 Dr. Liao joined the Baylor faculty and started the robotic cardiac surgery practice at Baylor St. Luke's medical center. His team has successfully performed a wide range of robotic cardiac surgeries including mitral valve and tricuspid valve repair, coronary artery bypass, cardiac tumor resection, cardiac defect repair, MAZE procedures, left atrial appendage ligation, epicardial pacing lead insertion and pericardial resection. Under his leadership, the Baylor robotic cardiac practice has expanded rapidly during the past two years and it completed the most recent 100 robotic cases using only half of the time it took to complete the first 100 cases. Such practice growth and volume has made Baylor's program the fastest growing robotic cardiac program in the U.S. and placed us among the top 10 robotic cardiac programs in the country. Baylor St. Luke's hospital is among a handful of hospitals in the U.S. that has an intuitive robot designated for cardiac use and is the only hospital in the Greater Houston area to provide robotic cardiac surgery services to its patients.

Dr. Liao embraced the robotic surgical technology in early 2000 shortly after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved it for use on humans. He is among only a handful of cardiac surgeons in the world who are versatile in performing a wide range of robotic cardiac procedures from valve repair to coronary artery bypass. As the thought leader in robotic cardiac surgery, he authored "Operative Technique for Robotic Assisted Coronary Artery Bypass" in AATS' official journal and recently his team at Baylor presented their work "Using peripheral ECMO to expand Robotic CABG indications in high risk patients" at the 2021 AATS Annual Meeting.

During robotic cardiac surgery, only trocar ports or 1-2 inch incisions are made in the chest through the rib spaces instead of cutting the sternum and breaking the breastbone. The robot's fine instruments and high-definition 3D images allow the surgeons to perform very fine surgical maneuvers within a small space in the chest to repair the valve or cardiac defects, resect benign tumors and mobilize chest wall arteries for coronary artery bypass. The benefits of robotic cardiac surgery include less bleeding, less blood transfusion, lower risk of wound infection, shorter recovery time and lower risk of stroke.

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TOP STORIES

Dr. McCollum Honored at Joint Department and International Surgical Society Event

Dr. Charles H. McCollum, professor of surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy and Director of Alumni Affairs for the Department of Surgery, was awarded the coveted DeBakey Award at a special session of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society. This hybrid virtual/in-person joint event held on May 3, 2021 with the sponsorship of the Department of Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine Cullen Auditorium was attended by about 50 family, friends and colleagues in person and another 100 online.

Dr. McCollum joined our faculty in 1966, and was ultimately promoted in 1988 to the rank of professor of surgery. For 23 years beginning in 1966, Dr. McCollum served as the program director for the general surgery residency program for which he maintained continuous accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). He also held the Olga Keith Weiss Endowed Chair of Surgery at Baylor.



**Watch the
ceremony on
YouTube**



Dr. Matthew Wall Jr., president of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society, presents the 2021 DeBakey Award to Dr. Charles H. McCollum.

The David J. Sugarbaker Division of Thoracic Surgery Endowed Fund

In 2014, **Dr. David Sugarbaker** came to Baylor College of Medicine. A pioneer in the field of thoracic surgery, his aim was to build clinical, research and training programs of global impact. Dr. Sugarbaker was the founder and chief of the Division of General Thoracic Surgery and the founding director of the Baylor College of Medicine Lung Institute at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and the Mesothelioma Treatment Center (MTC) at Baylor College of Medicine. He and his team focused on developing medical and surgical treatments for benign and malignant thoracic and esophageal diseases. Dr. Sugarbaker was considered one of the foremost experts and pioneers in the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma .



Prior to coming to Baylor, Dr. Sugarbaker served as founding chief of the Division of General Thoracic Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and as the Richard E. Wilson Chair of Surgery at Harvard University. His major contributions to the field include refining the techniques of extrapleural pneumonectomy, developing methods to perform intraoperative heated chemotherapy, and conducting clinical trials to establish working intraoperative chemotherapies. Dr. Sugarbaker's later research focused on improving drugs for therapy of malignant pleural mesothelioma.

In 1992, Dr. Sugarbaker developed the first general thoracic surgical residency track in the United States, and he eventually trained more than 80 residents, many of whom subsequently became leaders in the field. Among many other awards and accolades, he won the Pioneer Award from the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation in 2012 and was the 94th president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). Dr. Sugarbaker also authored "Adult Chest Surgery," now in its third edition and retitled, "Sugarbaker's Adult Chest Surgery." Dr. Sugarbaker's clinical interests included video-assisted thoracic surgery, minimally invasive surgery, lung volume reduction surgery, and general thoracic surgery.



Today, the David J. Sugarbaker, M.D., Division of General Thoracic Surgery is proud to continue his work. The Endowed Fund, named in his honor, will support the Division's training of future thoracic surgeons and will carry on his legacy.

Your contribution will help future surgeons cultivate the same precise expertise and compassionate care for which Dr. Sugarbaker was world-renowned.

2021 GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 23, 2021, the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery hosted its second virtual graduation commencement. There were over 150 attendees gathered via Zoom and in person to honor our 27 graduating departmental fellows and residents from across our esteemed divisions and their educational programs. Awards for excellence were also given in recognition to our medical students, residents and faculty members.



2021 Resident and Fellow Graduates

Aortic Surgery

Dr. Jonathan Colin Hong

Cardiovascular Surgery

Dr. Bhalinder Dhaliwal

General Surgery

Dr. Elizabeth Alore

Dr. Caleb Euhus

Dr. Rachel W. Davis

Dr. Jessica Mayor

Dr. Eric Rosenfeld

Dr. John Saydi

Dr. Aspinder Singh

Dr. Christopher Taylor

Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Lily Cheng

Plastic Surgery

Dr. Mohin Bhadkamkar

Dr. Edward Chamata

Dr. Faryan Jalalabadi

Pediatric Plastic Surgery

Dr. Han Zhuang Beh

Surgical Critical Care

Dr. John Bliton

Dr. Dennis Choi

Dr. Young Chun

Dr. Yangyang Yu

Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Ademola Adeseye

Dr. Ankur Bakshi

Dr. Jenalee Coster

Dr. Douglas Farmer

Dr. Trung Tran

General Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Davut Cekmecelioglu

Vascular Surgery

Dr. Harold Hsu

Dr. Andrew Rousseau

GRADUATION

Awards

Michael E. DeBakey Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Ramyar Gilani

Gene A. Guinn Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Marcus Hoffman

George P. Noon Faculty Professionalism Award

Dr. Chad Wilson

Thoracic Surgery Chief Award to an Outstanding Faculty Member

Dr. Kenneth Liao

Thoracic Surgery Scholarly Award

Dr. Douglas Farmer

Vascular Surgery Chief Award to an Outstanding Faculty Member

Dr. Miguel Montero-Baker

Outstanding Student in Surgery Award

Dr. Anoosha Moturu

Medical Student Award for Best Teaching Resident

Dr. Sam Creden

Dr. Daron Jacob

Medical Student Award for Best Teaching Faculty

Dr. N. Thao N. Galvan

Dr. Marcus Hoffman

Dr. R. Mario Vera

Charles H. McCollum Academic Achievement Award

Dr. Kevin Huang

Outstanding Intern Award

Dr. Megan Moore

Outstanding Chief Award

Dr. Jessica Mayor

Global Surgery Faculty Award

Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern

General Surgery Chief Resident Award to an Outstanding Faculty Member

Dr. Michele Loor



**WATCH THE
CEREMONY ON
YOUTUBE**

CLINICAL NOTES

Dr. Burt Completes 125 Transthoracic Robotic First Rib Resections for Thoracic Outlet Syndrome

Dr. Bryan Burt, associate professor and chief of the Division of General Thoracic Surgery, recently completed his 125th transthoracic robotic first rib resection for thoracic outlet syndrome (TOS) at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. This surgical technique which Dr. Burt helped pioneer is a novel approach to resection of the first rib and scalene muscles using surgical robots from within the chest cavity. This procedure had ordinarily been performed to relieve compression on the brachial plexus to relieve TOS had typically been performed approach performed through an incision at the clavicle. Dr. Burt and his team are among a small cadre of surgeons performing this operation in the U.S. This 125th robotic first rib resection marks a tremendous step forward for the patients who visit Baylor St. Luke's from around the country to undergo this procedure.



Sherrie Benson Honored at SaberCats Game



"She is the face of Baylor thoracic surgery and we are so grateful for her."

-Dr. Bryan Burt

Sherrie Benson, medical assistant in the Division of Thoracic Surgery, was honored at the Houston SaberCats Rugby Game on Saturday, April 17 during their Salute to Healthcare Heroes Night.

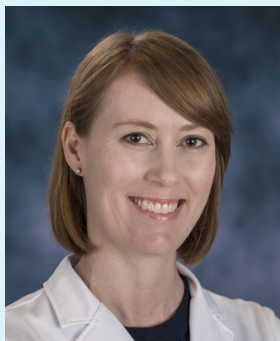
Sherrie, also known as 'Super Sherrie' by her colleagues, was honored largely for her efforts working at the Baylor drive-thru COVID testing site. Benson has been assisting with the drive-thru COVID testing site since conception in March 2020. She knows that as a healthcare provider, she serves an important role in the community. She has had the opportunity to mentor other medical assistants on taking nasal swabs, and work alongside two surgeons from her division, teaching them how to wrap specimens before being sent to the lab.

Benson is in her 37th year of working in healthcare, and joined the Department in 2014.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF



Katie Cardenas, M.S., PA-C
Physician Assistant
Plastic Surgery
Ben Taub Hospital



Dr. Lauren Goldie
Director, Clinical Research
Congenital Heart Surgery



Dr. Lara Landry
Senior Manager-
Research Administration
Office of Surgical Research



Anne Marie LeNeave, NP-C
Advanced Practice Provider
Abdominal Transplant
Baylor St. Luke's Medical



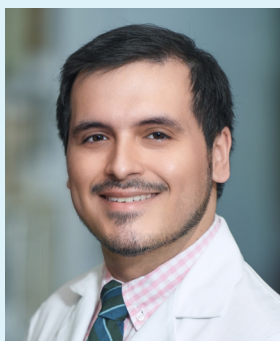
Amanda Morales
Senior Business Operations
Coordinator
Office of Surgical Research



Bertie Taylor
Senior Editor
Department of Surgery



**Marisett Tolentino,
APRN, FNP-C**
Nurse Care Manager
Bariatric Surgery
Baylor St. Luke's Medical



Taylor Vickers, PA-C
Physician Assistant
Surgical Critical Care
Baylor St. Luke's Medical



Sandy Woodside, ACRP-CP
Regulatory Affairs Associate
Office of Surgical Research

EDUCATION NOTES

Transplants and teaching: An interview with Dr. Galvan



From: Progress Notes - By Rachel Ortega, second-year medical student at Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. N. Thao N. Galvan is an abdominal transplant surgeon practicing at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and Texas Children's Hospital. While on my surgical rotation, I had the privilege of working with her and seeing firsthand the impact a transplant can have on a patient's life.

Dr. Galvan is dedicated not only to her patients, but also to her family, colleagues, residents, and medical students. Dr. Galvan shared why she decided to become a transplant surgeon and discussed her career journey in medicine.



**READ THE FULL
ARTICLE HERE**

2021 Postdocs Enter T32 Research Training Program



The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery has accepted three new fellows into our two-year T32 Research Training Program in Cardiovascular Surgery, which first received grant funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute on July 1, 2018. The aim of this T32 grant is to facilitate the successful advancement of translational investigators studying cardiovascular diseases.

Our NHLBI T32 program is led by principal investigator and program director Dr. Todd K. Rosengart, chair of the Department of Surgery, and program co-directors Dr. Scott A. LeMaire and Dr. Barbara W. Trautner. This program was founded on the idea that interdisciplinary collaborations between clinical investigators, bench scientists and diverse specialists are essential for translational research to have a tangible impact on clinical care. We are proud to welcome our three new T32 fellows to our department as we graduated 3 fellows in June 2021.

Dr. Kimberly Rebello is a general surgery resident

at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals. Dr. Rebello will enter the T32 Basic and Translational Research Track under the joint mentorship of Dr. Scott A. LeMaire and Dr. Ying Shen. Dr. Rebello will study sexual dimorphism in aortic aneurysms and dissection.

Dr. Oluyinka Olutoye joins our T32 program after completing two years of general surgery residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Olutoye will also enter the T32 Basic and Translational Research Track, under the mentorship of Dr. Sundeep Keswani. Dr. Olutoye will investigate the role of endothelial cells in pulmonary hypertension resulting from congenital diaphragmatic hernia.

Dr. Paige Brlecic is joining our T32 training program as a general surgery resident from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio - UT Health San Antonio. Dr. Brlecic will enter the Basic and Translational Research Track under the mentorship of Dr. Todd K. Rosengart, investigating cardiac regeneration via cellular reprogramming.

Chalk Talks



Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox demonstrates the proper way to bend a Bakes dilator.

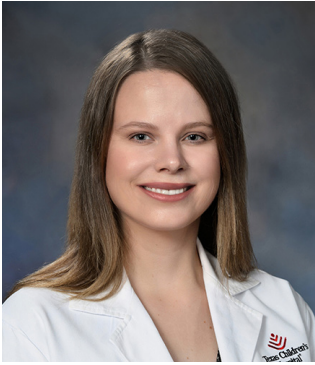
Dr. Eric J. Silberfein, associate professor of surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology and associate program director for the General Surgery Residency program, has helped develop a monthly Zoom program for the Department dubbed ‘Chalk Talk’. This program includes two to three ‘master surgeon’ faculty members who share secrets of the art of surgery with our residents. Our Chalk Talk series aims to equip our residents with key expertise filling potential gaps in their technical knowledge and clinical experience. The program was born from concerns raised by residents regarding their curtailed clinical experience during the COVID pandemic. By instilling transparency and the trust of experienced faculty members in their sharing these experiences with our residents, the Chalk Talk series has helped reinforce a “Just Culture” of candor and respectful sharing of information.

These talks include sharing clinical experience ranging from clinical/technical “worst nightmares” that have occurred in the operating room to amazing outcomes and technical successes that the faculty members have achieved despite adversities. These talks have been well received, helping to impart insight on rare clinical events and complications that can improve the confidence of our residents in tackling challenging cases.

Through these candid and dynamic Chalk Talks, Dr. Silberfein and our faculty are also able to promote leadership and Just Culture qualities of transparency, collaboration, and self-awareness.

This program includes two to three highly experienced faculty members who share “secrets of the art of surgery” with our residents.

RESEARCH NOTES



Dr. Sarah Woodfield Receives Funding from the US Department of Defense, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Dr. Sarah E. Woodfield, assistant professor of surgery in the Pediatric Surgical Oncology Laboratory (PSOL) in the Division of Pediatric Surgery, has been awarded a \$642,000 Career Development Award from the United States Department of Defense office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). Her project is titled "Characterizing and Targeting Circulating Tumor Cells in

Pediatric Liver Cancer." The aims of this three-year study are to investigate the use of circulating tumor cell (CTC) numbers to predict patient prognosis and disease characteristics, target CTCs with experimental therapies, and analyze the role of signaling pathways in the aggressive characteristics of CTCs.

Dr. Hyun-Sung Lee Awarded Funding for Checkpoint Immuno-therapy Study

Dr. Hyun-Sung Lee, assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Thoracic Surgery, has been awarded a three-year industry-sponsored research grant of \$1.94M from Samyang Biopharm USA. The goal of this funding is to investigate the role of anti-MIC (MHC Class I Chain-Related Protein) antibody in overcoming resistance to checkpoint immunotherapy by targeting MIC-NKG2D (a receptor on natural killer cells and cytotoxic T cells) through systems onco-immunology approach.

Dr. Lee has launched the Systems Onco-Immunology Laboratory (SOIL) this year in the Division of General Thoracic Surgery to investigate cancer-immune system networks through the integration of state-of-the-art single-cell platforms and inform the design of novel approaches to immunotherapy. The objective of the SOIL program is to use single-cell multi-omics data and biospecimen samples from multiple cohorts to help predict response/resistance and immunotoxicities to immunotherapy before or during treatment, allowing patients access to precision immunotherapy. The SOIL is a hub for translational oncology research projects and unites an interdisciplinary team of surgeons, medical oncologists, immunologists, bioinformaticians, and biostatisticians who are conducting research in the field of onco-immunology.



Dr. Chen Awarded NIH Grant to Study Monitoring of Non-Cardiac Perioperative Outcomes

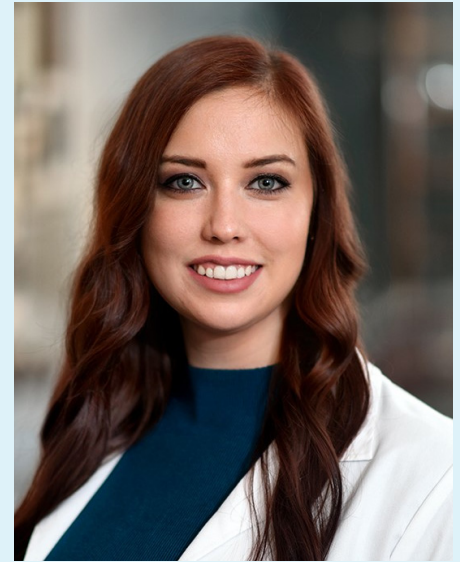
Dr. Vivi Chen, PGY-2 categorical general surgery resident in our research track, has received a two-year F-32 grant totaling \$166,952 from the National Institute of Health. The goal of Dr. Chen's project entitled "Optimizing the Risk-Adjusted CUSUM for Monitoring Hospital Non-Cardiac Perioperative Outcomes" is to study and refine CUSUM, a major alternative analytic strategy to current national surgical quality improvement programs. This method can provide real-time data that can detect previously underappreciated suboptimal care

processes and prevent potentially preventable morbidity and mortality. Dr. Chen's faculty mentor is Dr. Laura Petersen, director of IQuEST. The Department of Surgery has launched our SHARE program to facilitate our collaborations with IQuEST.

In the OR Light ■

Heather West, MS, PA-C

Instructor in Surgery



Q. Where are you from?

A. Austin, Texas. My parents, younger sister, and many friends still live there, so my husband and I go back often!

Q. What made you decide to go into medicine?

A. In college, I knew I wanted to go into medicine but had not decided in what capacity. In college, one of the girls in my immunology study group had already been accepted to PA school and introduced me to the profession. She highlighted all of the benefits of PA school: the ability to easily change fields and flexibility in choosing a work location (hospital vs. clinic), the autonomy, the PA-physician relationship, etc. After doing some research it seemed that being a PA was very much in line with what I was looking for.

Q. Where did you go to medical school and do your training?

A. I went to Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona for PA school. I set up the majority of my own rotations so that I could return to Texas after finishing the didactic portion of school.

Q. What made you choose your specialty? What do you like most about it?

A. Surgery was one of my first rotations in PA school, and I'm so grateful for that! I really enjoyed being in the OR. I loved participating in various cases and interacting with OR staff, but I was especially taken by the opportunity to really make a difference in a patient's life! The group I did my training with offered me a job at the end of the rotation. Through other rotations I realized that my job satisfaction was not just dependent on enjoying that particular field, but it's also very important that you have a good relationship with your team, the doctors, nurses, and support staff. I just knew that surgery, and that group, were a great fit!

Q. What is your current position?

A. Physician Assistant/ Instructor with Acute Care Surgery and Clinic Lead for the new Baylor Hernia Center.

Q. What do you like most about being at your job?

A. I love that every day is a little different than the day before and I'm able to utilize different skills to help different patients. Some days I am rounding on patients in the hospital or assisting in the OR with various cases, other days I'm seeing patients in clinic and preparing them for surgery or working on research that will further benefit my patients. I also enjoy being able to work with so many supervising physicians: you learn something different from everyone you work with.

Q. Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about getting into your profession?

A. I would strongly recommend becoming a Physician Assistant to anyone looking to get into medicine but unsure of exactly which path is right for them! I encourage those going through PA school to keep an open mind throughout rotations--you never know which field will end up being the right fit.

In the OR Light ■

Kevin Huang, M.D. *General Surgery Resident*

Q. Where are you from?

A. I was born and raised in Iowa City, Iowa. My parents and siblings were born in Taiwan!

Q. What made you decide to go into medicine?

A. I actually wanted to be a researcher in undergraduate school; however, I found I really enjoyed working with patients when I volunteered at a local outpatient surgery center. It was amazing to see patients with abdominal pain, broken bones, and even cancer completely healed in a few hours.

Q. Where did you go to medical school and do your training?

A. Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa.

Q. What made you choose your specialty? What do you like most about it?

A. I chose general surgery because of the special joy and satisfaction from merging humanity, art, and science all into one practice. As a medical student, I was lucky to have wonderful mentors and residents who would constantly teach and inspire me. What I enjoy most about my job is being able to share my passion for surgery and medicine with junior trainees on my service.

Q. What is your current position?

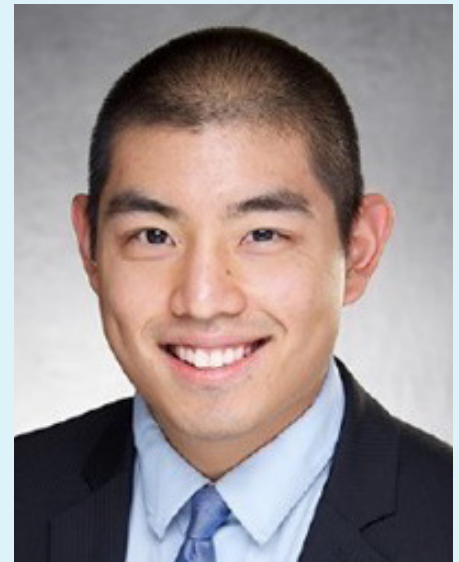
A. I'm a fourth year general surgery resident, and executive chief resident.

Q. What do you like most about being at your job?

A. Being surrounded by a diverse group of amazing mentors and colleagues who keep pushing me to be the best surgeon I can be.

Q. Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about getting into your profession?

A. A career in surgery is not a sprint, but a rather a marathon. Be sure to make time for your family, friends, and hobbies. Also be kind and be willing to learn from all medical staff, including nurses, pharmacists, respiratory techs, social workers, etc. They're the ones who will keep you (and your sick patient!) afloat through medical school and residency!



In the OR Light ■

Joanna Starosolska

Q. Where are you from?

A. I am from Warsaw – the capital of Poland. We moved to Houston, Texas about 12 years ago for my husband's job.

Q. What made you decide to go into medicine?

A. After moving to Houston, I could see how much my husband enjoyed working in the Texas Medical Center and it was pretty obvious to me that I would like to work for a medical institution as well. I focused on applying for administrative jobs in the Texas Medical Center and Dr. Joseph L. Mills gave me a chance and here I am five years later. Working for a medical institution gives me a sense of pride, because it is an industry that does good and this is an important aspect of a workspace for me.

Q. Where did you go to school?

A. I did my bachelor's degree in administration at the University of Warsaw and after that I got my master's degree in land management at the University of Warsaw.

Q. What made you choose your specialty? How did you get into your specialty? What do you like most about it?

A. 19 years ago after I completed my bachelor's degree, land management was a fast growing field in my hometown and I thought it would be something I would end up doing. Of course life writes its own script and I ended up working in a different field, but ultimately I am very content with that. Working for a renowned medical college gives me a great sense of pride and achievement.

Q. What is your current position?

A. I started as administrative secretary, but I am currently a senior coordinator for business operations. I help two divisions – vascular surgery and plastic surgery with various administrative tasks. I am also involved with our new Office-Based Vascular Lab (OBL) and Center for Ambulatory Surgery Therapeutics (CfAST).

Q. What do you like most about being at your job?

A. The people! It is definitely my coworkers, some of whom became my friends outside of the workplace. Since I am a foreigner who moved abroad late in life, my friends' base is in my home country, but thanks to this job I am surrounded by wonderful people with whom I found lots of things in common with. Another aspect of my job that I enjoy a lot is helping doctors who fix other people's health on a daily basis. Last, but certainly not least, I have really learned a lot in my five years in the Department of Surgery. This is a pretty unpredictable job that constantly carries new challenges, but the fact that I am able to figure it out and find solutions to the new tasks, gives me satisfaction and a sense of achievement.

Q. Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about getting into your profession?

A. If you plan on doing only the things that you saw in the job description, this is not a job for you. You need to be flexible to undertake new tasks that you encounter in your job on a daily basis. You may have to dig for the answers, but ultimately once you figure it out on your own, it is pretty exciting and rewarding.



LEADERSHIP NOTES



Dr. Camp Named Baylor St. Luke's Oncology Service Line Chief

Dr. E. Ramsay Camp, professor and chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been named Baylor St. Luke's Oncology Service Line Chief.

In this new role, Dr. Camp will lead and coordinate a robust service that integrates surgical, medical, radiation, urologic, and gynecologic oncology to deliver seamless, high quality patient care. In this position, Dr. Camp will be a voting member of the Baylor St. Luke's medical staff executive committee, which convenes monthly to direct and oversee activities of the medical staff.

Dr. Fisher Named Secretary for Baylor St. Luke's Medical Staff

Dr. William E. Fisher, professor and vice-chair for clinical affairs in the Department of Surgery, has been elected secretary of the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center's (BSLMC) medical staff. Dr. Fisher is the first Baylor College of Medicine full-time faculty member to serve as an officer of the medical staff since the joint venture of Baylor with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital was initiated in 2013. In his new role, Dr. Fisher will serve as the chair of the Bylaws Revision Committee and help lead the administrative affairs of the medical staff executive committee that includes all BSLMC service chiefs.



Dr. Mills Elected Vice President of The Society for Vascular Surgery

Dr. Joseph L. Mills, Sr., chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy and John W. "Jack" Reid, M.D., '43 and Josephine L. Reid Endowed professor in surgery, has been elected by the voting members of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) to serve as the 2021-2022 vice president and president-elect of the society. The SVS is dedicated to advancing excellence and revolution in vascular health through knowledge, outreach, research, and awareness. The society is a national advocate for vascular surgeons and additional medical personnel who are dedicated to the prevention and study of all vascular disease. Dr. Mills is slated to serve as SVS president from 2023-24.



Dr. Ghanta Appointed ITE Chair for TSDA

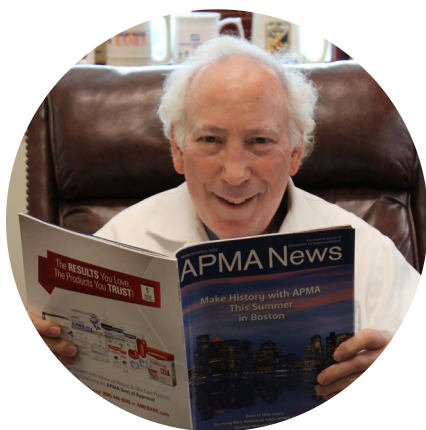


Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta, associate professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, associate director of for the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program and chief of cardiac surgery at Ben Taub Hospital, has been appointed National In-Training Exam (ITE) Committee chair for the Thoracic Surgery Directors Association (TSDA). Dr. Ghanta will serve from May 2021 to May 2023 and during his term lead development of the 2022 and 2023 in-training exams for cardiothoracic surgery residents.

Dr. Ghanta will lead a team of 35 cardiothoracic surgeons from academic institutions across the United States to develop new questions to assess residents and construct the annual examination. There are roughly 450 in-training examinees annually, working at 90 training programs nationwide.

The exam aims to equip cardiothoracic residents in the United States with the tools to best prepare for the written portion of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery certifying exam. By completing the in-training exam, it allows residency directors to measure the knowledge and skill base of their current residents, and to determine if the examinees possess the information and cognitive skills for a well-rounded, effective tenure within cardiothoracic surgery.

Dr. Ross Appointed Chair of the Clinical Practice Advisory Council at the APMA



Dr. Jeffrey Alan Ross, associate professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at Baylor College of Medicine, was appointed Chair of the Clinical Practice Advisory Council (CPAC) at the American Podiatric Medical Association. CPAC was established for the purpose of gathering data from podiatric practices and developing research projects whose goal was to identify protocols that, when followed, would result in increased prevention and superior treatment outcomes. Dr. Ross' term will begin March 15, 2021.



The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery has launched an employee recognition program, KUDOS. Developed by CME and Events Coordinator **Susan Ressler**, this “app” allows department members to share their appreciation for faculty and staff colleagues that perform “above and beyond” in providing assistance, support and mentorship for colleagues, patients, and others. The program instantaneously uploads kudos, which are then shared with team members at the beginning of every month.

Susan aimed to create a platform that allowed the Department to highlight the amazing team members for going “the extra mile” for each other every day. Since the conception of the program in March, there have been over 150 submissions giving appreciation to team members. Submissions have come from management, peers, section chiefs and division administrators.

Department members can access kudos through the online platform here:



Who: Martha Jones | From: Dr. Joseph Mills

“Martha has done an amazing job guiding investigators through the pathway of grant submission and IRB approval. A very tortuous process which she navigates seamlessly and effectively.”

Who: Ronnetta Etter | From: Dr. Eric Silberfein

“Want to give a huge shout out to Ronnetta for helping organize this year’s grand rounds. Not only was this a challenging year for all with the pandemic, but it created many unique challenges for day-to-day operations, including our educational conferences. Thank you for coordinating a wonderful grand rounds curriculum, organizing CME credit, managing a hybrid approach and running the mic. Looking forward to another great year ahead.”

Who: LaShanes Washington and Tina Tran | From: Nicole Miller

“LaShanes and Tina have kept our busy CT Surgery running while we have been down 3 members of our clinical staff team. Our patients love them! Thank you LaShanes and Tina for all your hard work.”

Who: Dr. Bryan Burt | From: Ellie Biaghoshli

“Dr. Burt transitioned the thoracic regroup meetings from in person to virtual. A visual representation is very informative and creative. From topics that include reflection to clinic. I appreciate that I join the regroups and I get to talk about the telemedicine outreach.”

AWARDS AND HONORS

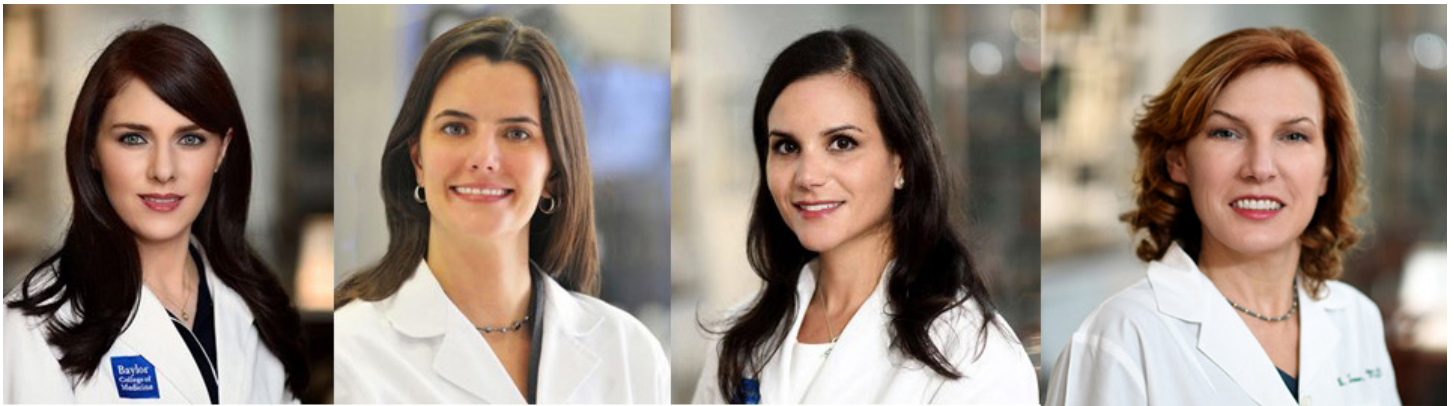


Eric J. Silberfein, M.D. '08 - Young Alumnus Award

Dr. Eric J. Silberfein, associate professor of surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, received the 2021 Young Alumnus Award, presented to alumni who make outstanding contributions to biomedical and/or medical science through clinical service, research, education, and/or administrative leadership.

Dr. Silberfein has been an intricate part of building the surgical cancer program at Ben Taub Hospital, where he treats and operates on all solid organ malignancies, including hepato-pancreato-biliary, gastric, colorectal, sarcoma, melanoma and breast malignancies. Dr. Silberfein played an important role in helping the facility become a fully integrated, multidisciplinary and accredited cancer program that is recognized by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. As chief of surgical oncology at Ben Taub, he also guides other cancer physicians to success in their practice. Dr. Silberfein's colleagues describe him as someone who engages and empowers others, sets the bar high, pushes others to reach their potential, leads by example and doesn't ask anyone to do anything he wouldn't do himself.

Surgery's 2021 Women of Excellence Awardees



Several members of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery have received the 2021 Baylor College of Medicine Women of Excellence Award. The award was established in 2018 to celebrate individuals who exemplify Baylor values and demonstrate exceptional dedication to issues that affect women at Baylor or in the larger community.

Dr. Stacey Ann Carter, assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology, associate program director for the general surgery residency, and director of the sub-internship program in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

Dr. Lorraine Cornwell, assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and interim chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Dr. Kristy Rialon, assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Pediatric Surgery and director for elective surgery for our undergraduate medical education program

Dr. Barbara W. Trautner, professor and director of clinical and health research for the Department of Surgery and investigator for the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety (IQEST)



Dr. Mattox Awarded Order of Military Medical Merit

Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox, distinguished service professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was recently awarded the Order of Military Medical Merit by the U.S. Army Health Services Command. The award is given for exemplary contribution to the Army's medical department and to individuals who have saved countless injured war fighters' lives through actions and dedicated service to the advancement of trauma care.

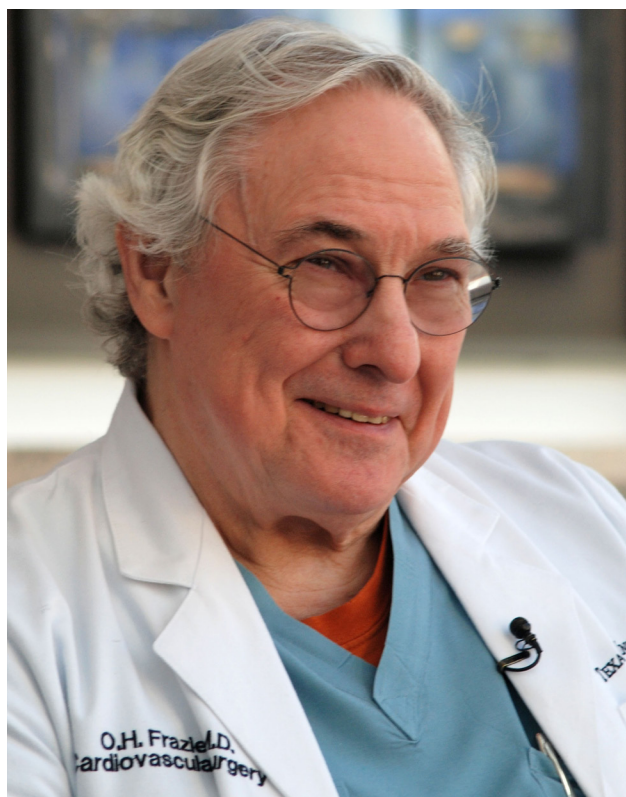
In presenting the award, Dr. Martin Schreiber, professor of surgery in the Division of Trauma at Oregon Health & Science University, cited Dr. Mattox's book, "Top Knife," the most commonly carried book for surgeons deployed down range--their "Bible" for care of severely injured war fighters. In bestowing the honor, Dr. Schreiber noted that Dr. Mattox in 1998 established the first military/civilian hospital training program at Ben Taub Hospital, resulting

in the development of similar programs in hospitals throughout the country and the saving of countless lives of injured war fighters. He related Dr. Mattox's history of performing paradigm shifting research that directly contributed to positive, life-saving changes in approaches to resuscitation and treatment of injured warriors.

Dr. Frazier Receives 2021 AATS Scientific Achievement Award

Dr. O. H. Frazier, professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Transplantation & Circulatory Support and chief of the center for cardiac support for Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, was awarded the 2021 Scientific Achievement Award from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). The award, established in 1994, serves to honor individuals who have achieved scientific contributions in the field of thoracic surgery worthy of the highest recognition the Association can bestow. Dr. Frazier received the award during the AATS 101st annual meeting on April 30. As part of the recognition, Dr. Frazier's biography will be published into a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.

Previous department leaders who have been recipients of this award are Dr. Michael E. DeBakey (1999), and Dr. Denton Cooley (2000), two of the most renowned surgeons in history.



AWARDS AND HONORS



Dr. Balaji Receives Inaugural H. Paul Ehrlich Rising in Wound Healing Award

Dr. Swathi Balaji, assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Pediatric Surgery, has received the inaugural H. Paul Ehrlich Rising in Wound Healing Award from the Wound Healing Foundation. The award will be given annually to a recipient who shows leadership potential in the area of wound healing research. Dr. Balaji received the award May 19 at the virtual award ceremony. This award honors Dr. Paul Ehrlich, who passed away Aug. 25, 2020. Dr. Ehrlich was a world-renowned scientist in wound healing and scar research, and a founding member of the

Wound Healing Society and the second president. He was a staunch advocate for aspiring investigators throughout his career, making major contributions to research and education efforts of the Foundation and Society aimed at engaging and promoting junior researchers.

Dr. Marcus Hoffman, Dr. Marco Maricevich, Dr. Lorraine Cornwell, Dr. Cary Hsu, Dr. Timothy C Lee, Dr. Gabriel Loor, Dr. Sohail Shah, and Dr. Eric Silberfein: 2021 Faculty Excellence Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Cary Hsu, Dr. Juliet Holder-Haynes, Dr. Ravi Ghanta, Dr. Renata Maricevich, Dr. Christy Chai, Dr. Nader Massarweh, Dr. Sohail Shah, Dr. Jeremy Ward, and Dr. Shawn Groth: 2021 Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award

Deeksha Bidare: Diversity Medical Student Travel Scholarship, Society of Vascular Surgery
Mentors: Dr. Neal Barshes, Dr. Natasha Hansraj, Dr. Cary Hsu and Dr. Eric Silberfein

William Frankel: AATS Member for a Day Program.
Mentors: Dr. Scott A. LeMaire and Dr. Joseph S. Coselli

Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta: Appointed to Editorial Board, *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

Dr. Gabriel Glaun: 2020 Resident Consultant Award, Department of Emergency Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine

Heidi Krause: Best Poster Award – Clinical Student, 2021 CVRI Symposium

Dr. Nabeel Gul: Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Foundation. Mentor: Dr. Bryan Burt

Dr. Daron Jacob: Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition (PEAR) Awards, Baylor College of Medicine students

Dr. E. Dean McKenzie: Master Clinician Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Vicente Orozco-Sevilla: Best Poster Award – Clinical Faculty, 2021 CVRI Symposium

Dr. Todd K. Rosengart: Elected to American College of Surgeons Board of Governors

Dr. Rodrigo Zea Vera: American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Member for a Day Program. Mentors: Dr. Todd K. Rosengart, Dr. Ravi K. Ghanta, Dr. Ourania Preventza

Dr. Rodrigo Zea Vera: The Society of Thoracic Surgeons President's Award. Mentors: Drs. Ravi K. Ghanta, and Ourania Preventza.

Amy Butcher, PA-C, Logan Healy, PA-C, Ashley Waldon, PA-C, Heather West, MS, PA-C: Michael E. DeBaakey Department of Surgery Quality Improvement Seed Grant Award for Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. E. Ramsay Camp: Merck Industry Grant: "Phase II Study of Neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX Chemotherapy Combined with Pembrolizumab Followed by Surgery for Patients with Localized, Resectable Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas," **\$995,000.**

Dr. Raymon Grogan: Michael E. DeBaakey Department of Surgery's Interdisciplinary Surgical Technology and Innovation Center (INSTINCT), "Novel Radial Dilator for Surgical Tunnel Creation," **\$9,500.**

Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr.: Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation Vascular Volunteers in Service to All (VISTA) Pilot Project Grant, "A Patient-Centered Approach to Reduce Diabetes-Related Lower Extremity Amputations among Underrepresented Minorities," **\$52,266.**

***Surgery News* is a publication
of The Michael E. DeBakey
Department of Surgery at
Baylor College of Medicine**

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