

SURGERY NEWS

THE MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Baylor
College of
Medicine

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Dr. Joseph Coselli

a lifetime of
surgical innovation
and impact

Robotic surgery firsts

New Center for Aortic
Surgery

Advanced procedure
offers relief for
slipping rib syndrome

MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY
DEPARTMENT OF
SURGERY

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HEALTHCARE UPDATE

Dr. Kenneth Liao with the Da Vinci surgical robot

The nation's first fully robotic heart transplant

In a milestone for American medicine, Dr. Kenneth Liao and his team at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center performed the first fully robotic heart transplant in the United States in April. The procedure is also the first in an adult worldwide and only the second fully robotic heart transplant ever performed globally.

Using the Da Vinci surgical robot, Dr. Liao, chief of Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Circulatory Support at Baylor College of Medicine, and his team performed the transplant through small incisions, avoiding the need to open the patient's chest using the traditional sternotomy method.

"With the robotic approach, we preserve chest wall integrity, reduce blood loss and support earlier mobility," said Dr. Liao. "It's a major step forward in reducing trauma and improving recovery."

"They didn't have to open my chest, I feel stronger every day, and I'm really thankful"
- Heart recipient

Dr. Liao is one of the most prolific robotic heart surgeons in the world, having completed more than 800 robotic heart surgeries since joining the institution in 2019.

The recipient, a 45-year-old Texas resident, had been hospitalized since November 2024 with advanced heart failure and was confined to a hospital bed for nearly four months. Within days of surgery, he was walking again. "They didn't have to open my chest," he said. "I feel stronger every day, and I'm really thankful."

New Center for Aortic Surgery led by global experts in complex aortic care



Drs. Joseph S. Coselli, Gustavo Oderich and Marc Moon

Baylor Medicine has launched the new Center for Aortic Surgery at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, marking a major advancement in the treatment of aortic disease. The center was formed with the recruitment of Dr. Gustavo Oderich, professor and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, a world leader in complex endovascular aortic surgery and unites his expertise with those of Dr. Marc Moon, professor and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Dr. Joseph S. Coselli, professor and executive vice chair of the Department of Surgery,—two of the most respected names in cardiothoracic and aortic surgery.

Together, this team brings unparalleled experience in the treatment of aortic aneurysms, dissections and valve disease, offering both open and minimally invasive solutions for even the most complex cases. "I'm truly excited about the launch of this center," Dr. Oderich said. "It brings together extraordinary talent and resources to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients facing some of the most challenging cardiovascular conditions."

For patients ineligible for standard or custom devices, Baylor offers a variety of industry and investigator-initiated clinical trials using physician-modified and specially designed endovascular grafts. This minimally invasive approach provides a timely, lifesaving option for urgent or anatomically complex aneurysms. The Center also serves as a hub for athletic cardiovascular care, working with elite athletes who present with unique vascular conditions such as iliac artery endofibrosis and exercise-induced syndromes.

In addition to offering advanced care, the Center is deeply engaged in translational and molecular biology research aimed at understanding and improving outcomes for patients with complex aortic aneurysms. This research is integrated with clinical data from patients enrolled in FDA-approved trials creating a robust platform for discovery and innovation.

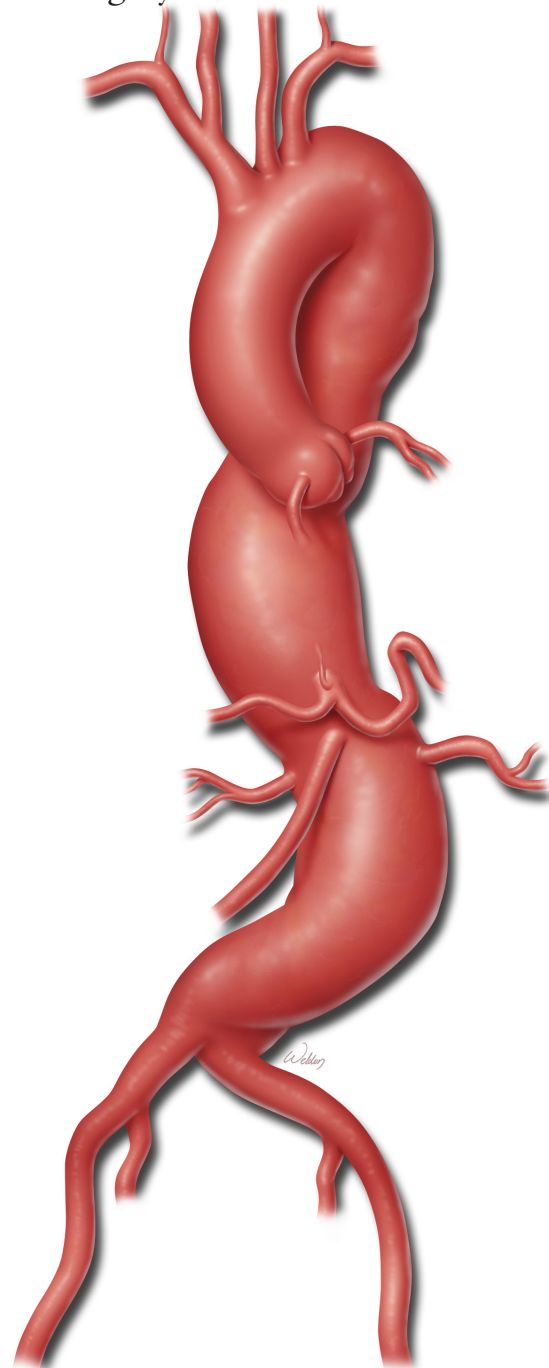
Dr. Joseph Coselli: a lifetime of surgical innovation and impact



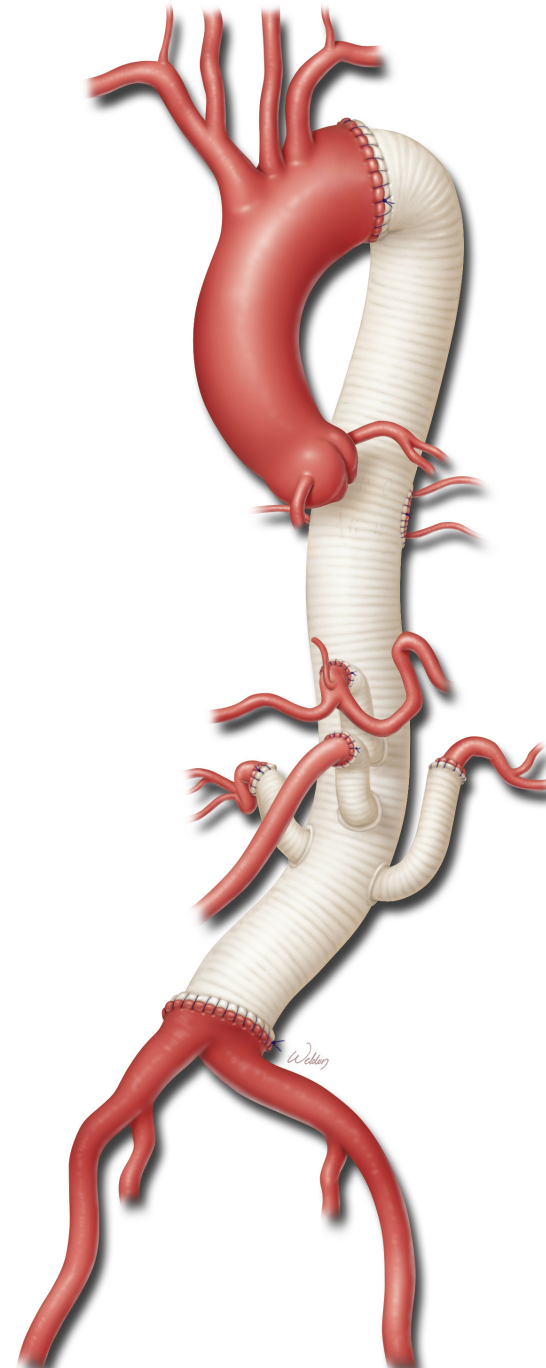
He is best known for advancing and standardizing the Crawford Extent II thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm repair, one of the most technically demanding procedures in cardiothoracic surgery. Coselli has also contributed to innovations in aortic arch replacement and valve-sparing aortic root replacement. His work has helped define modern aortic surgery and changed the field of adult cardiac surgery for the better.

Dr. Joseph Coselli, a pioneering cardiac surgeon whose work has transformed the treatment of complex aortic disease, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. The award, established in 2004, has been presented to only 10 other individuals and honors those who have made a profound impact on thoracic surgery through patient care, research, education and service.

Coselli was selected for his decades-long leadership in the surgical treatment of thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms, a condition historically associated with high rates of mortality and complications. His groundbreaking techniques in open aortic repair—including refinements in spinal cord protection, organ preservation and operative strategy—have significantly improved outcomes and are now widely adopted around the world.



Dr. Coselli is a past president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and is a life member of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Education and Research (TSFRE), the research and education arm of the four major thoracic societies: The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the AATS, the Western Thoracic Surgical Association and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association. He has served as chair of the Corporate Committee, the fundraising division of TSFRE, and is past president of both the Texas Surgical Society and the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society. In 2011, he completed his tenure as president of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.



A professor and executive vice chair in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Coselli has authored more than 600 peer-reviewed publications and contributed to several major textbooks. He has served as editor of the Annals of Thoracic Surgery and delivered dozens of named lectureships and keynote addresses around the globe. He is also a member of the Professional Advisory Board of the National Marfan Foundation and is recognized internationally as a leading expert on the surgical management of Marfan syndrome and other connective tissue disorders.

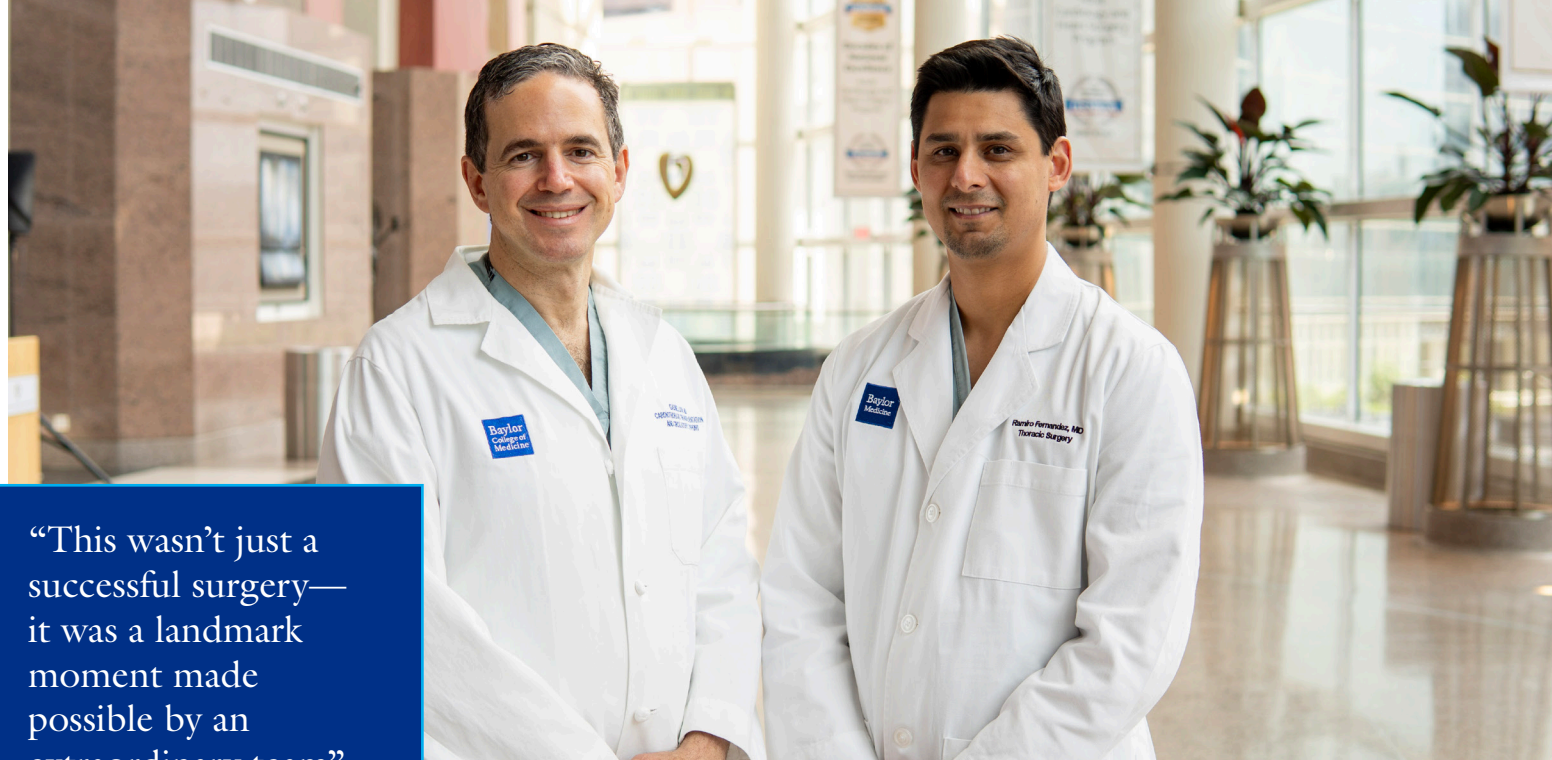
Dr. Joseph Coselli's career is highlighted by numerous prestigious awards, including two Michael E. DeBakey Excellence in Research Awards (2001 and 2017) for his work on aortic aneurysms, aortic dissection and Marfan syndrome. In 2018, he received the DeBakey Surgery Award and the Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement, followed by the Leader of Distinction Award from The Marfan Foundation in 2019 and the Aorta 2024 Surgical Giant Award.

Throughout his career, Coselli has maintained a steadfast focus on patient outcomes and surgical excellence. He has trained hundreds of residents and fellows, many of whom now hold leadership positions in academic surgery.

Dr. Coselli has earned a global reputation as one of the foremost surgeons and surgical researchers in cardiovascular, thoracic and vascular surgery. His career has been defined by technical brilliance, dedication to patients and an unwavering commitment to advancing the field.

◀ Crawford Extent II thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm repair

Illustration by Scott Weldon, MA, CMI, FAMI



“This wasn’t just a successful surgery—it was a landmark moment made possible by an extraordinary team”
- Dr. Ramiro Fernandez

Drs. Gabriel Loor and Ramiro Fernandez

Baylor surgeons make history with robotic-assisted lung transplant

In a groundbreaking advancement for lung transplant surgery, Baylor Medicine surgeons recently performed the first robot-assisted double lung transplant in Texas. The procedure, led by Dr. Ramiro Fernandez, assistant professor of surgery, and Dr. Gabriel Loor, associate professor of surgery and surgical director of the Lung Transplant Program at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center (Baylor St. Luke’s), not only marked a new chapter in transplant care but also resulted in a record-setting outcome: the patient was discharged five days after surgery—the fastest known discharge following a lung transplant at Baylor St. Luke’s.

The patient, who had severe end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), is now recovering well and has returned to normal activities. Grateful for the care and technology that made this possible, this patient represents what the future of transplantation could look like—less pain, fewer complications and quicker recovery.

“This is a significant achievement,” said Dr. Loor. “Robotic-assisted lung transplantation offers the potential to transform how we care for patients with end-stage lung disease, particularly those who may not tolerate traditional open surgery.”

While robotic surgery has long been used in urology, gynecology and general surgery, its use in lung transplantation is exceptionally new. The combined efforts of Drs Loor and Fernandez, along with the talented operating staff that make up the robotic center, allowed the procedure to be done with the greatest degree of safety possible. While there have been over a dozen robotic lung transplants now performed in the US, Baylor Medicine’s case represents first in the state and one of the first in the nation—and sets a new benchmark with its record-breaking recovery.

Using the robot for this lung transplantation, the surgical team made small incisions between the ribs, avoiding the need to spread the ribs or divide the chest bone as in traditional surgery. Through these openings, surgeons were able to remove and replace the damaged lungs using robotic instruments with unmatched dexterity in a confined space. This level of minimally invasive access is a game-changer for patients with fragile respiratory function and may lower the risks associated with conventional lung transplant techniques.

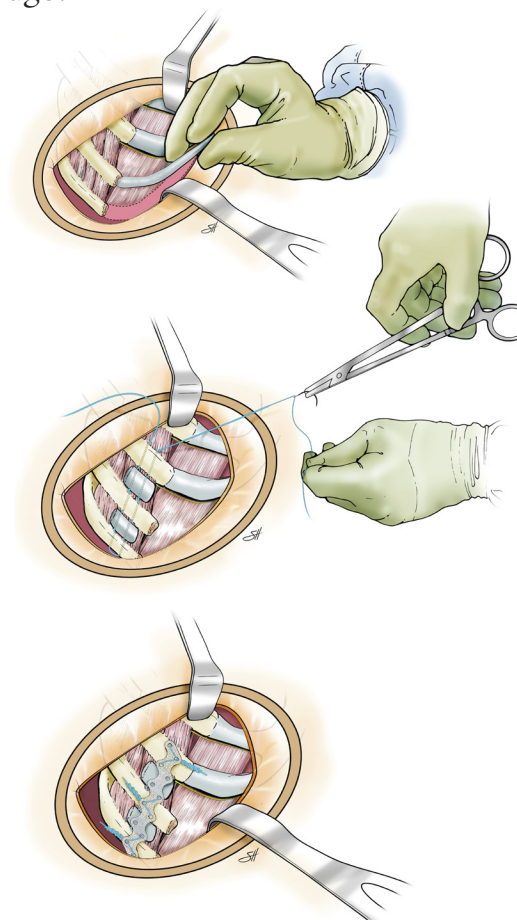
Celebrating one year of innovation: Advanced procedure offers relief for slipping rib syndrome

In early 2024, Dr. Taylor Ripley, professor of surgery, began offering an innovative procedure called costal margin reconstruction for patients suffering from slipping rib syndrome—a painful condition caused by overly mobile lower ribs that irritate nearby nerves. Traditional treatments often fall short, but Dr. Ripley uses the latest approach that removes damaged cartilage, reconstructs the area using the patient’s own tissue and secures it with a dissolvable plate to stabilize the rib cage and prevent recurrent nerve impingement. This innovative technique was pioneered by Dr. Adam Hansen at West Virginia University, where Dr. R. Taylor Ripley learned it. Dr. Ripley has now performed the most cases in Texas.

Not only has Dr. Ripley brought this innovative procedure to Texas, but he has also built a comprehensive program around it—offering patients access to physical medicine and rehabilitation, interventional pain management, a clinical geneticist and a dedicated coordinator.

“We’ve built out a comprehensive program to help create the best plan of care for these patients,” Dr. Ripley said. “We’re proud to have seen 100 patients and performed 31 of these procedures in just the first year, and we look forward to the program continuing to grow and help more patients—some of whom travel from across the country to be seen here.”

At the forefront of surgical innovation, Dr. Ripley has helped countless patients find long-term relief, including Zach Wawrzyniak, who spent nearly a decade battling rib, back and shoulder pain after a jiu-jitsu injury. After discovering Dr. Ripley through a Facebook group and learning about the advanced surgical technique, he chose to move forward. He went home the same day as surgery and, for the first time in years, was finally pain-free. Wawrzyniak says if the procedure was available, he would have done it years ago.



Patient Zach Wawrzyniak

Costal margin reconstruction ▲

Illustration by Scott Holmes, CMI



Dr. Trenton Gluck with a BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart (TAH)

Innovation resident plays key role in groundbreaking heart device research

When Dr. Trenton Gluck entered general surgery residency in the innovation track at Baylor College of Medicine, he was eager to pursue a career in heart surgery, confident that Baylor was the ideal place to foster his passion. However, he never anticipated that his path would lead him to working on a breakthrough device, the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart (TAH).

Dr. Gluck was involved in early preclinical studies, testing the device and also compiling and synthesizing all the information gathered from initial animal trials to submit to the FDA for approval for human trials. With experience not many others had, Gluck played a critical role in preparing surgeons, intensivists, nurses and all clinicians who would potentially come in contact with a BiVACOR TAH patient for human trials.

Decades of effort culminated in July 2024, when the first human received the BiVACOR TAH at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston. The 58-year-old patient, suffering from end-stage heart failure, lived with the device for eight days before receiving a donor heart.

The BiVACOR TAH is a compact, implantable device that replaces both ventricles of a failing heart, restoring blood flow to the body and lungs. Unlike traditional artificial hearts, it has just one moving part—a levitated rotor suspended in an electromagnetic field—eliminating valves, mechanical bearings and friction. This design could allow the device to last indefinitely, making it a groundbreaking solution.

The BiVACOR TAH is currently being tested as a “bridge-to-transplant” device, with plans to seek FDA approval for broader use in the next few years. Eventually, the goal is to offer it as a long-term solution for patients who may never receive a transplant.

The Innovation Track is a seven-year general surgery pathway in partnership with the Texas Medical Center Biodesign Program, offering two dedicated years focused on surgical innovation. Residents join interdisciplinary teams to develop and test medical devices or therapies and gain hands-on experience in prototyping, 3D printing, funding, patenting and more.



Dr. Cotton appointed vice chair for education

Dr. Ronald T. Cotton has been appointed vice chair for education in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery. Dr. Cotton in this role and as program director for our General Surgery Residency Program will oversee one of the largest general surgery residency programs in the U.S. and be responsible for the training of over 150 post graduate residents and fellows and all of the Baylor College of Medicine students who participate rotate through our department clinical services. Dr. Cotton previously served as our core medical student clerkship director and is also the inaugural recipient of the Charles H. McCollum, MD Endowed Chair in Surgery. This chair was recently established in honor and recognition of Dr. McCollum's commitment to excellence in surgical education, endowed through the generous support of the DeBakey Medical Foundation, and Dr. McCollum's family, friends and former trainees.

In addition to his leadership roles in education, Dr. Cotton also oversees the liver and kidney transplant programs at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and in this role was part of the surgical team that performed the center's first multi-organ transplant involving the heart.

Born and raised in Houston, Dr. Cotton's journey in medicine began at the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions, where he graduated as valedictorian in 1998. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree summa cum laude from the University of Houston in 2002 before matriculating at Baylor College of Medicine, where he completed his medical degree, general surgery residency, and liver/kidney transplant surgery fellowship. He joined the Baylor surgery faculty in 2015.

Dr. Cotton succeeds Dr. Bradford Scott, who previously served as vice-chair for education and director of the General Surgery Residency program and oversaw the growth of our general surgery program from eight to 10 categorical positions and the addition of multiple specialty tracks including global surgery and surgical innovation. Dr. Scott's innumerable awards in recognition of his service to education include the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award from the ACGME, Fulbright and Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching Evaluation, Excellence in Teaching Award from Baylor medical student class and Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award from general surgery residents and many more.

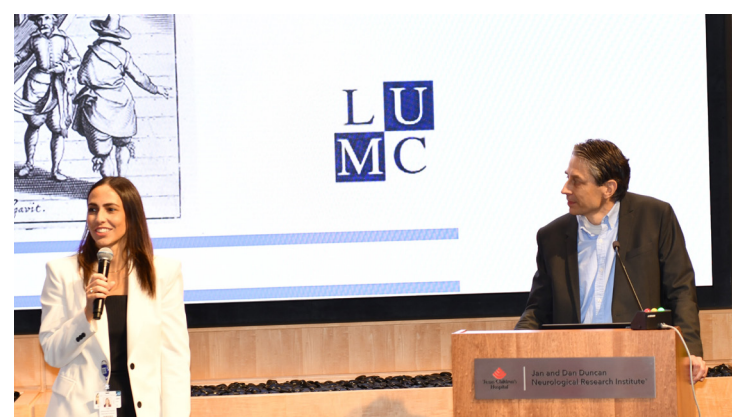
RESEARCH UPDATE

13th Annual Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery Research Day

The 13th Annual Research Day was held on June 10 and 11 and featured sessions highlighting the clinical, educational and research accomplishments of the department. Dr. Erik van Zwet, an expert in medical statistics and meta-research and an associate professor of medical statistics at the Department of Biomedical Data Sciences of the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands, delivered the keynote talk. There were nearly 400 faculty, staff, students, trainees and alumni in attendance for the two-day event. Both days featured an informal poster reception and abstract presentations.

Top Awards:

Outcomes in Health Services and Quality Safety: Dr. Sarah Peiffer, mentored by Dr. Alice King
Student – Basic Science: Trevor Godfrey, mentored by Dr. Livia Eberlin
Student – Clinical: Josephine Schmidt, mentored by Dr. Lucas Dvoracek
Resident – Clinical: Dr. Trenton Gluck, mentored by Dr. William Cohn
Postdoctoral Fellow – Basic Science: Dr. Abou Bakr Salma, mentored by Dr. Tamer Mohamed



Joseph et al. *Cancer* 2017; 125(suppl 24):5037



NEW GRANTS AND AWARDS

Dr. Ying Shen – \$3,461,973 NIH Grant

“Epigenetic Regulation of Trained Immunity in Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections”

This project investigates how epigenetic mechanisms influence trained immunity and contribute to the development and progression of thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections.

Dr. Crystal Shin – \$2,000,000 NIH Grant

“Design of Tunable Biopolymers to Understand the Dynamic Wound Microenvironment”

This study focuses on engineering biopolymers with adaptable properties to better understand the wound healing process and guide future biomaterial-based therapies.

Dr. R. Taylor Ripley – \$1,238,051 AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals Clinical Award

“Combination of Induction Durvalumab and Tremelimumab Alone Versus with Chemotherapy for Potentially Resectable Pleural Mesothelioma”

This study investigates whether neoadjuvant immunotherapy with checkpoint inhibitors can improve pathological response rates in patients with resectable MPM.

Dr. Atif Iqbal – \$404,344 Astellas Pharma Global Development Inc. Child Account

“A Phase 3, Multicenter, Prospective, Randomized, Open-Label Study for Intraoperative Ureter(s) Visualization Using ASP5354 with Near-Infrared Fluorescence Imaging”

This trial evaluates ASP5354 for ureter visualization during minimally invasive and open abdominopelvic surgeries.

Dr. Livia S. Eberlin – \$300,000 Welch Foundation Grant

“Understanding Metabolic Flux in In Vivo Tissues with Solvent-Based Ambient Ionization Mass Spectrometry”

This renewal expands studies using DEDI and the MasSpec Pen to examine a wider range of lipid species and metabolites.

Dr. Jayer Chung – \$225,417 Bard Peripheral Clinical Award

“A Prospective, Multi-Center, Non-Randomized, Single-Arm Study of the BD™ Low Profile Vascular Covered Stent in Peripheral Artery Disease (AGILITY)”

This study will assess the safety and effectiveness of the BD™ LPVCS for treating stenosis and occlusion in the common and/or external iliac artery and SFA/PPA.

Dr. Gabriel Loor – \$172,000 St. Luke’s Foundation Grant

“Validation of Temperature Control to Preserve Hearts with a Novel Oxygenating Organ Preservation System”

This project tests a new heart preservation system that combines oxygenation and temperature control, in collaboration with Newcastle University and ScubaTx.

Dr. Joseph L. Mills – \$152,197 LimFlow, Inc., Clinical Award Grant

“PROMISE II: A Pivotal Study to Investigate the Safety and Effectiveness of the LimFlow System for the Treatment of Critical Limb Ischemia”

This trial investigates the safety and feasibility of the LimFlow Stent Graft System in patients with critical limb ischemia not eligible for standard treatment.

Dr. Riham Abouleisa – \$50,000 MacDonald Research Fund Grant

“Testing Novel Approach to Induce Cardiac Regeneration in Human Heart Slices”

This project studies the effect of Ube2c overexpression on cardiomyocyte cell cycle activity using human heart slices and in vivo mouse models.

Dr. Jayer Chung – \$50,000 MacDonald Research Fund Grant

“Development of Machine Learning Models Integrating Angiographic Data into Risk Assessment Models for PAD and CLTI”

This project aims to improve DSA interpretation and develop a machine learning risk-prediction tool for PAD and CLTI.

Grants under \$50,000 not listed

New Endowed Chairs and Professorships

Michael E. DeBakey Distinguished Endowed Chair in Surgery



Dr. Gustavo S. Oderich, professor and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, has been appointed as the inaugural *Michael E. DeBakey Distinguished Endowed Chair in Surgery* bestowed from a gift from the DeBakey Medical Foundation. A global leader in vascular surgery, Dr. Oderich is known for his pioneering work in minimally invasive techniques for treating complex aortic conditions. He recently joined our department after a long tenure at the Mayo Clinic as chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy and director of the Baylor Medicine Center for Aortic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. His career has been dedicated to advancing the field of endovascular aortic repair and improving outcomes for patients with life-threatening vascular diseases.

Charles H. McCollum, MD Endowed Chair in Surgery



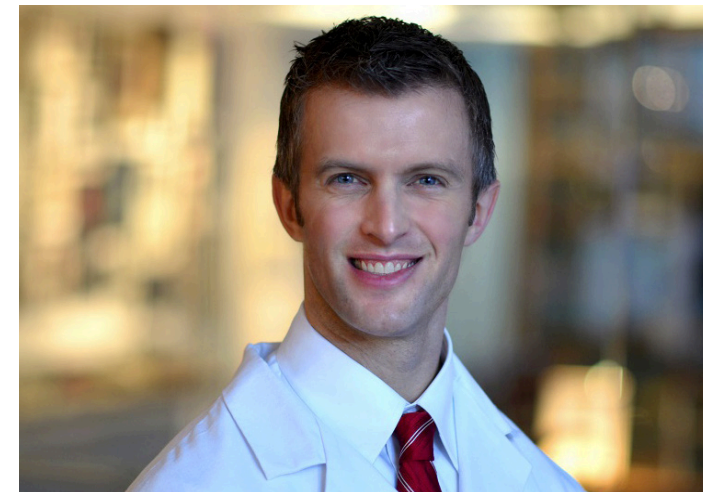
Dr. Ronald T. Cotton, associate professor in the Division of Abdominal Transplantation and vice chair for education, has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the newly established *Charles H. McCollum, MD Endowed Chair in Surgery*, bestowed from the DeBakey Medical Foundation as well as gifts from alumni and friends. As a transplant surgeon, he plays a vital role in the liver and kidney transplant programs at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Texas Children's Hospital. His clinical expertise spans complex multidisciplinary care including patient optimization, immunosuppression management and long-term graft monitoring. In addition to his surgical excellence.

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD Professor of Surgery



Dr. Eric J. Silberfein, professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been appointed as the inaugural *Kenneth L. Mattox, MD Endowed Professor in Surgery*, bestowed from Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Mattox as well as from gifts from alumni and friends. Dr. Silberfein is the chief of general surgery at Ben Taub Hospital, where he plays a key role in providing exceptional trauma and surgical care to Harris County residents. He also serves as the associate program director for the General Surgery Residency Program and as the chief of surgical oncology at Ben Taub. Additionally, Dr. Silberfein is the inaugural chair of the Michael E. DeBakey Surgical Society Advisory Committee, continuing the legacy of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society.

David J. Sugarbaker Professor of Thoracic Surgery



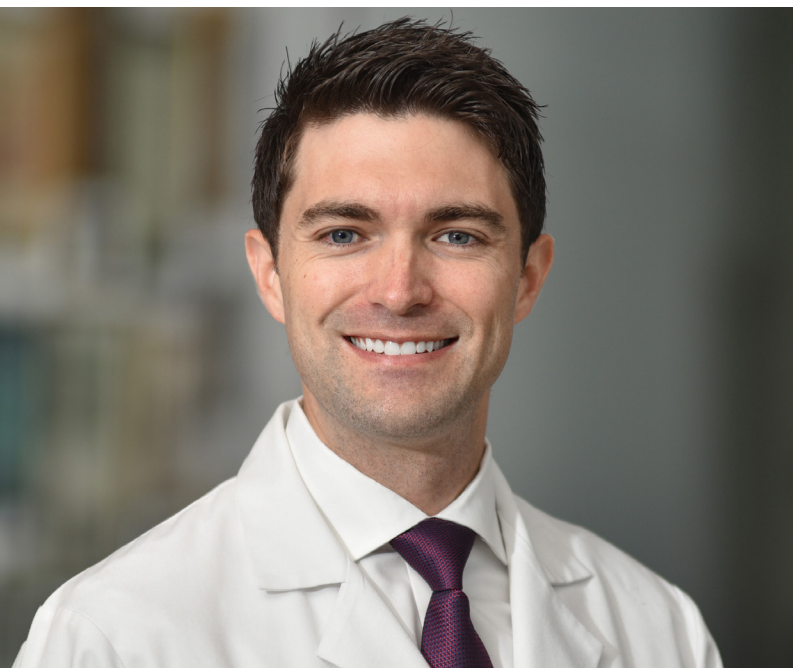
Dr. Shawn Groth, professor and chief of the David J. Sugarbaker Division of Thoracic surgery, has been appointed as the *David J. Sugarbaker Professor of Thoracic Surgery*, bestowed as a gift from the Everett D. and Geneva V. Sugarbaker Family Foundation as well as gifts from friends. With expertise in complex esophageal and lung diseases, Dr. Groth is dedicated to advancing surgical techniques that improve patient outcomes, particularly in esophageal cancer and benign esophageal disorders.

Olga Keith Wiess Professor of Surgery



Dr. Thomas E. Milner, professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been appointed to the endowed *Olga Keith Wiess Professorship of Surgery II in Surgery*. Dr. Milner is a distinguished biomedical engineer specializing in biophotonics, optical coherence tomography (OCT) and translational nano-biophotonic technologies came to Baylor last year funded by a Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) award. He has dedicated his career to advancing optical imaging and laser-based medical technologies that improve diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities in medicine.

In the OR Light



Dr. Derek Erstad

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology

Where are you from?

I grew up in Boise, Idaho, and spent 22 years there. I then moved to Boston for medical school and surgical training, where I met my wife and started a family. We've been in Houston since 2020 and love it.

What made you decide to go into medicine?

When I was 17, my dad was diagnosed with a spinal cord tumor and became paralyzed. A surgeon operated on him, and he made a full recovery. That experience showed me how one person's skill and courage could change lives, and I knew I wanted to do the same for others.

What made you choose surgery and how did you choose your specialty?

I went into rotations with an open mind but found myself drawn to surgery. It reminded me of sports—high-pressure, high-stakes, and teamwork—and I loved the blend of hands-on problem-solving and deep knowledge of the body. I chose cancer surgery, especially hepatobiliary, because it challenges me to use my skills and judgment in the most meaningful ways.

What do you like most about your job?

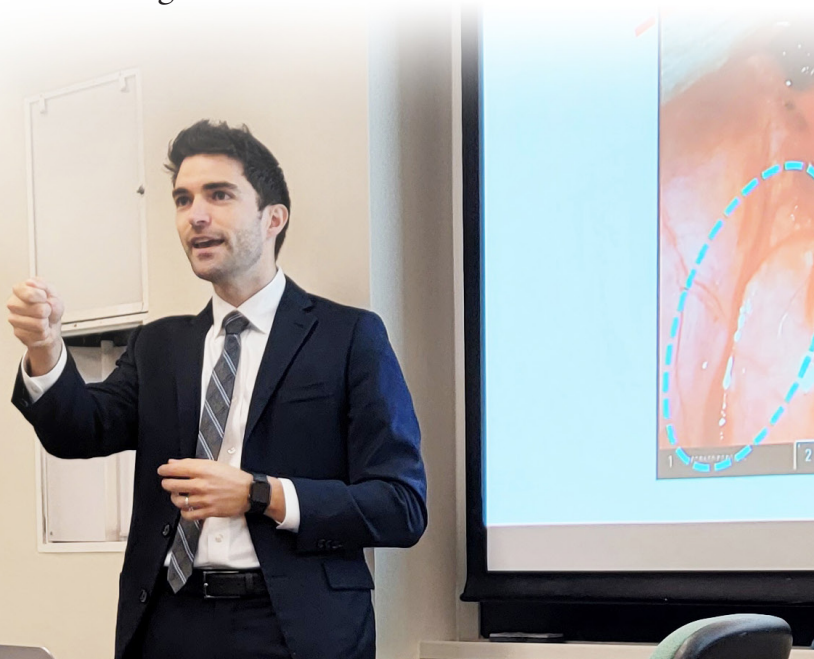
The relationships with patients are a privilege, and I love the challenge of improving my skills in complex surgeries. I also find joy in teaching residents and students and seeing our team grow together.

Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about going into medicine?

Medicine is a tough path but offers a sense of purpose and impact that few other careers can match. There are challenges, like the system and compensation, but if you focus on the mission of helping others, it's a deeply fulfilling profession. If you're driven to learn and serve, I say give it a shot—you won't regret it.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I love spending time with my daughters, and lately, we've been deep into the world of Wicked. When I get a chance, I enjoy running and recently finished the Chicago marathon.



Dr. Jennifer Chen

General Surgery Resident

Where are you from?

I was born in China and moved to the U.S. at age eight. We moved often but I consider New England home because my parents have lived there for 17 years.

Why did you choose medicine?

A love for biology first drew me in but caring for patients and building lasting relationships confirmed it was the right path. Medicine is a unique blend of science and humanity.

Why surgery, and how will you choose a specialty?

I originally planned to pursue internal medicine. But after doing back-to-back clerkships in medicine and surgery, I realized I loved the technical aspects of surgery, the ability to fix a problem in real time and the strong sense of community in the department. I'm especially interested in surgical oncology and breast surgery for the team-based care, rapid scientific advances and deep patient relationships.

What do you enjoy most about medicine?

Helping people through difficult times and playing a role in their recovery is incredibly rewarding.

What advice would you give to someone considering medicine?

You will face setbacks. Use them to learn, ask for feedback and improve. Medicine requires resilience and reflection.

What do you do outside of work?

I enjoy trying new restaurants with friends, hiking with my fiancée and our dog, live music and antiques.



Amy Wood

Senior Manager in Clinical Research

Where are you from?

Northern California

Where did you go to school?

UC San Diego for BA, UT Health for MPH

What made you choose your career?

I chose a career in clinical research because it brings together my interest in human experiences—developed through studying history and anthropology in undergrad—with my goal of improving public health through evidence-based work.

What do you like most about your job?

What I like most about my job is the people—I'm lucky to work with an incredible team.

Is there anything you would tell someone thinking about going into your profession?

I'd tell them that clinical research is a great path if you're curious, detail-oriented, and want to contribute to improving health care—it can be challenging, but the work is meaningful and the learning never stops.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

When I'm not working, I like to read mysteries, watch F1—go Max!—and spend time with my family.

Honors and Awards



Dr. Riham Abouleisa, Roderick D. MacDonald Research Award

Dr. Dora Babocs, Best Poster Award, Critical Issues America in Aortic Endografting

Dr. Heather Burns, Outstanding Abstract Award, American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Dr. Christy Y. Chai, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Educational Leadership, Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Holly Clayton, Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Joseph Coselli, Lifetime Achievement Award, American Association for Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Rachel W. Davis, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Educational Materials, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Katy Delijoui, Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Jacob Dinis, Best Presentation Award, American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Dr. Derek Erstad, Power of Professionalism (POP) Award, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. O.H. Frazier, Recognized by Tarleton State with Honorary Doctorate

Dr. N. Thao N. Galvan, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery UME Quarterly Teaching Award

Dr. Ravi Ghanta, Roderick D. MacDonald Research Award

Dr. Erin Greenleaf, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Educational Materials, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Bennett Hartley, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery UME Quarterly Teaching Award

Dr. Silas Henderson, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery UME Quarterly Teaching Award

Dr. Gabriel Loor, \$170,000 grant, St. Luke's Foundation

Dr. Michele Loor, Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine, Power of Professionalism (POP) Award, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Renata Maricevich, Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Nandan Mondal, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Brinkely Moore, Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Vicente Orozco, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Zachary Pallister, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Chris Pederson, Outstanding Abstract Award, American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery

Dr. Sai Manikonda, Best Poster Presentation Award in Clinical Outcomes Research, 12th Annual Cardiovascular Research Institute Symposium

Dr. Yesenia Rojas-Khalil, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery UME Quarterly Teaching Award

Dr. Alastair Thompson, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., Excellence in Research Award, Baylor College of Medicine

Heather West, Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Sebastian Winocour, named associate chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery

Dr. Sarah Woodfield, First Prize, International Childhood Liver Tumours Strategy Group (SIOPEL) 2025 Spring Conference

Dr. Chad Wilson, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, Baylor College of Medicine



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