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THIS NEWSLETTER IS INTERACTIVE

The table of contents, web addresses, and e-mail addresses in this newsletter are interactive.

A newsletter for clinicians, staff, alumni, and affiliates
of the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery
at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

INSIDE SURGERY

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Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



A teaching hospital of
Harvard Medical School



Graduating chief residents in General Surgery gathered with Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, department chairman (center, front row) and Scott Johnson, MD, vice-chair of Surgery Education (far right, back row), for a class photo. Congratulations to the graduates (front row, left to right): Ian Makey, MD, Meghna Misra, MD, Lisa Parry, MD, Michelle Martin, MD, Junaid Malek, MD; (back row, left to right): YiMing Avery Ching, MD, Satish Nadig, MD, DPhil, George DeBusk, MD, and Shaun Allen Steigman, MD.

Congratulations to Our 2011 Graduates

The graduation of the department's chief residents and fellows took place on a picture-perfect summer evening at the Boston Harbor Hotel on Rows Wharf on Sunday, June 19.

Following cocktails outdoors and a sumptuous dinner enjoyed by more than 270 guests, the graduates, joined by proud family members, received their diplomas from faculty members, who delighted guests with some amusing stories about the graduates.

Among those who spoke at the black-tie event were **Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD**, department chairman, who wished the graduates "good health and happiness for years to come," and **Scott Johnson, MD**, vice-chair of Surgery Education, who described the graduates as "the best of the best." Congratulations to the following graduates:

CHIEF RESIDENTS IN GENERAL SURGERY

YiMing Avery Ching, MD

Fellow, Vascular Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,
University of Pittsburgh

Michael George DeBusk, MD

Fellow, Surgical Critical Care
Rhode Island Hospital, Warren Alpert Medical
School of Brown University

Ian Andrew Makey, MD

Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgery
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard
Medical School

Junaid Yusuf Malek, MD

Fellow, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard
Medical School

Michelle Catherine Martin, MD

Fellow, Vascular Surgery
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
Harvard Medical School

Meghna Vinod Misra, MD

Fellow, Pediatric Surgery
OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital,
Oregon Health and Science University

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E-mail: hbennett@bidmc.harvard.edu **Tel:** 617-632-9913 **www.bidmc.org/surgery**



Department Welcomes Chief Administrative Officer

The Department of Surgery welcomed **Debra Rogers** as Chief Administrative Officer in July. Over the past 20 years, Rogers has worked in both community and academic medical centers throughout the Greater Boston area in a variety of increasingly responsible roles.

Since 2001, she was at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), initially serving as Director of Finance and Projects for BWH Surgical Services. Subsequently, Rogers was promoted to Director of Clinical Services for BWH, with responsibility for directing operations, revenue, budgets, recruitment, and IS support. She initiated multidisciplinary teams to identify

opportunities for maximizing revenue in areas such as ED trauma, transplant, and cardiovascular services.

In 2007, Rogers was appointed the first Executive Director of Cardiovascular Services. Among her accomplishments were improving procedure-room utilization, developing streamlined patient- and family-flow processes, and improving on-time starts. She also was Senior Director for the planning, process design, and move-in activities for the \$350 million Shapiro Cardiovascular Center, receiving the 2008 Partners in Excellence award on behalf of the Shapiro Working Group.

Ron L. Alterman, MD, Named Chief of Neurosurgery

On October 1, **Ron L. Alterman, MD**, assumes the role of Chief of Neurosurgery at BIDMC.

Alterman is currently Professor of Surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where he has been Director of Functional and Restorative Neurosurgery since 2004. He is an international leader in the application of deep brain stimulation (DBS) for the treatment of movement disorders and has performed nearly 1,000 DBS implants. Under his leadership, functional neurosurgery at Mount Sinai has become internationally recognized for the excellence of its clinical, academic, and educational programs.

Among numerous honors, Alterman received the Young Neurosurgeon Award from the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery and the President's Award from the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. He currently serves as a section editor for the leading neurosurgery textbook, and serves on

numerous influential committees. Alterman's trainees have assumed leadership positions across the United States.

Alterman received his MD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed an internship in General Surgery at Washington University - St. Louis and returned to Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein to complete his residency in neurosurgery. He subsequently completed a fellowship in Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at New York University and, in 2002, received an MBA from Columbia University. Alterman served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was honorably discharged in 2008 from the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.





Marc Schermerhorn, MD, is New Vascular Chief

In August, Marc Schermerhorn, MD, was named the new Chief of the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

Schermerhorn is a member of several influential federal committees, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research on Quality. He has been, or is currently, the principal investigator (PI) or co-investigator of more than 25 research projects sponsored by industry and the federal government, including a major NIH-funded grant (*see page 11*).

Schermerhorn, recently named a Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery, is a member of three editorial boards and a reviewer for nine other major journals. He has had more than 70 peer-reviewed articles, case reports, book chapters, and reviews published, and has been an invited lecturer at many national and international forums.

Schermerhorn received his MD from the

Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in general surgery at BIDMC, including a two-year research fellowship in the laboratory of John Mayer, MD, at Children's Hospital Boston. After completing a residency in vascular surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire, he pursued advanced endovascular training with Juan Parodi, MD, at the Instituto Cardiovascular de Buenos Aires. He joined the Dartmouth faculty in 2000, where he completed graduate studies in biostatistics and epidemiology and helped grow one of the premier endovascular programs in the country.

Schermerhorn was recruited back to BIDMC in 2004 where, in collaboration with his colleagues in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, he instituted a variety of advanced endovascular programs for the treatment of carotid, aortic, and peripheral arterial disease.

Congratulations to Our 2011 Graduates

< *Continued from page 1*

Satish N. Nadig, MD, DPhil

Fellow, Abdominal Organ Transplantation
University of Michigan Health System,
University of Michigan

Lisa Atina Parry, MD

Fellow, Colon and Rectal Surgery
Georgia Colon & Rectal Surgical
Associates, Atlanta, GA

Shaun Allen Steigman, MD

Fellow, Pediatric Surgery
Hasbro Children's Hospital,
Rhode Island Hospital
Warren Alpert Medical School
of Brown University

CHIEF RESIDENTS IN PODIATRY

Kyle Lee Vaughn, DPM

Private Practice, East Valley Foot and
Ankle Specialists, Scottsdale, AZ

Jessica F. Vinokur, DPM

Private Practice, Naugatuck Valley Foot
and Ankle Group, Waterbury, CT

FELLOWS

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery

Kenneth B. Hughes, MD

Private Practice, Beverly Hills, CA

Breast Reconstructive Surgery

Adeyiza Olutoyin Momoh, MD

Academic Practice, University of Michigan
Health System, University
of Michigan

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Walter John Lech, MD

Fellow, Advanced Thoracic Surgery,
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard
Medical School

Hand/Microvascular Surgery

Simon George Talbot, MD

Academic Practice, Brigham and Women's
Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Arpan Goel, MBBS

Private Practice, General Surgery and
Bariatric Surgery, Westchester, NY

Rahul Gupta, MBBS

Attending Surgeon, Assistant Professor
of Surgery, University of Vermont
Alice Hyde Medical Center, Malone, NY

Surgical Critical Care

Niral Shah, MD

Academic Practice, BIDMC, Harvard
Medical School

Vascular Surgery

April Estelle Nedeau, MD

Private Practice, Vascular and
Endovascular Surgery, Central Maine
Medical Center, Lewiston, ME

New Program to Give Residents a Robust Clinical Research Foundation

The goal of the Surgery Education Program is not only to train exemplary surgeons, but also to develop outstanding scholars with the skills and knowledge to advance the field of surgery and improve patient care through innovative clinical research.

To help achieve that goal, a new Clinical Scholarship Program was recently launched that will pair all nine first-year categorical General Surgery residents with a faculty research mentor, who will guide the residents throughout the year as they acquire the requisite skills to develop and implement a clinical research project. Residents will be given one month of

The new Clinical Scholarship Program will help first-year residents acquire the skills to develop and implement a clinical research project.

protected time in which to complete their project.

The objectives of the Clinical Scholarship Program, directed by **Scott Johnson, MD**, vice-chair of Surgery Education, **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, and **Jim Rodrigue, PhD**, are to provide residents with a robust



Allen Hamdan, MD (right), Vascular Surgery, is Assistant Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, which will now offer first-year residents a clinical research opportunity.

foundation for scholarship early in their training, increase their academic productivity, and enhance their opportunities to compete for national grants. “We hope that providing this experience early in the training program will facilitate residents’ interest in scholarship, research, and an academic career,” says Johnson.

The curriculum will include participating in monthly Surgical Outcomes Club meetings; completing assigned reading; and attending presentations on five core research competencies, including clinical study design, biostatistics, communicating about research, ethics and regulatory issues, and grant writing.

Residents are expected to prepare, submit, and present their research at the annual Harvard Medical School Department of Surgery Research Day, as well as submit abstracts for presentations at conferences and manuscripts for publication in scientific journals.

BIDMC Among the Nation’s Best

BIDMC was recognized in July as one of the nation’s top hospitals in the *US News & World Report’s* “Best Hospitals” edition, placing among the leaders in eight clinical specialty categories. According to the magazine, BIDMC is among an elite group of 140 hospitals nationally — only three percent of the nation’s 4,825 hospitals — to rank in at least one of 16 specialties.

BIDMC ranked among the nation’s top hospitals in cancer care, diabetes (in partnership with Joslin), digestive disorders, respiratory care, heart and heart surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, kidney diseases, and geriatrics. It was also cited as a “high performer” in gynecology, urology, orthopedics, psychiatry, and otorhinolaryngology.



Department Educational Awards and White Coat Ceremony

Every year in mid-June, Grand Rounds features the much-anticipated “White Coat Ceremony,” during which the graduating chief residents in General Surgery present white coats to the incoming chief residents, and the department educational awards are announced. Congratulations to this year’s chief residents and award recipients.

ABSITE* AWARDS

Highest Junior-Level Resident
on the 2011 ABSITE
Prathima Nandivada, MD

Highest Senior-Level Resident
on the 2011 ABSITE
Bidhan Das, MD

Residents scoring above the 90th
percentile on the 2011 ABSITE
**Scott Atay, MD, Ian Makey, MD,
Alessandra Mele, MD, Jonathan
Romanyshyn, MD**

MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHER AWARD Teviah Sachs, MD

To the resident with the highest teaching-
evaluation ratings from third-year Harvard
Medical School (HMS) students in the
Core Surgery Clerkship.



New administrative chief resident **Teviah Sachs, MD** (left), recipient of the Medical Student Teacher Award, poses with his predecessor, graduating administrative chief resident **Satish Nadig, MD**, recipient of the Resident Teacher Award.

RESIDENT TEACHER AWARD

Satish Nadig, MD

Voted by residents as the senior resident
who best exemplifies teaching to
other residents.

ISAAC O. MEHREZ, MD, AWARD

Noelle Saillant, MD

To the third-year resident selected by
Mount Auburn Hospital surgeons for
“Dedication to the highest quality care,
honesty, willingness to learn, and a sense of
humor.”

GEORGE W.B. STARKEY AWARD

Stephen Odom, MD

(Acute Care Surgery)

To the faculty member with the highest-
rated teaching evaluations from third-year
HMS students in the Core Surgery
Clerkship.

JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM AWARD

Stephen Odom, MD

(Acute Care Surgery)

Voted by residents as the faculty member
who best exemplifies excellence
in teaching.

Nadig, Odom, Sachs, and Schuler

were also presented with an award at a
June 20 hospital-wide Education Week
Teaching Award Celebration, which
recognized outstanding teaching
at BIDMC.

HAROLD BENGLOFF AWARD

John Schuler, MD

(Mount Auburn Hospital)

Voted by residents as the faculty member
who best exemplifies humanism
in teaching.



John Schuler, MD (left), Mount Auburn Hospital, receives the Harold Bengloff Award from graduating chief resident **Satish Nadig, MD**.

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Jeffrey Siracuse, MD



Graduating chief resident **Junaid Malek, MD** (left), presents new chief resident **Jeffrey Siracuse, MD**, with his white coat and case-log journal.

*American Board of Surgery In-Service Training Exam



Mark Puder, MD, PhD

Pediatric Surgeon-Scientist, Children's Hospital Boston

When Mark Puder, MD, PhD, was a surgical resident at New England Deaconess Hospital in the late 1980s, he planned to take 18 months after his third year to focus on research before completing his residency. But he found he enjoyed research so much that he wanted to continue. With the enthusiastic support of the residency program's directors, Puder spent the next five and a-half years earning a doctorate in virology and biochemistry from Harvard, after which he returned to the hospital (now the merged Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center) to finish his residency.

"Because the residency program was so supportive of research, I was able to follow my interests," says Puder, who after graduation from BIDMC completed a pediatric surgery fellowship at Children's Hospital

Boston (CHB). "There were many surgeon-scientist role models at BIDMC and the hospital had a strong culture of academics, both of which had a major influence on my career."

Researcher, clinician, and mentor

Puder now devotes about 70 percent of his time to basic and clinical research and the rest to patient care and teaching. Puder's research has always been inspired by what he sees in the clinic. For example, he had witnessed too many young children die or require a transplant as a result of cholestasis, a liver disease that once afflicted 60 percent of children who required prolonged intravenous (parenteral) feeding. Virtually every child whose cholestasis persisted for one year died.

Back in his lab, Puder discovered that the major cause of injury to the liver from parenteral nutrition was the type of intravenous fat being used (based on soybean oil). He substituted it with a fish oil-based fat, and that made all the difference.

"At Children's, we went from two to six deaths or transplants a year for this disease to none in six years," says Puder. This new treatment is now being used by more than 100 hospitals around the world, and the number of transplants in the U.S. from parenteral nutrition-associated liver disease has dropped significantly.

Puder's research also led to the discovery of a potential new treatment — which will be evaluated soon in a clinical trial — for intra-abdominal adhesion after surgery, a major cause of morbidity and death.

Among many other projects, he is also focusing on finding a treatment for fatty liver disease, which affects 30 percent of the U.S. population and can lead to cirrhosis of the liver.

"I was taught that no matter what it took, you always did what was best for the patient and you didn't give up."

General Surgery Residency Program alumnus Mark Puder, MD, PhD

Dedication to patient care

Puder credits the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program for giving him the freedom to pursue his passion for research and also for teaching him an invaluable lesson that has been his lodestar throughout his remarkably productive career as a surgeon-scientist. "I was taught that no matter what it took, you always did what was best for the patient and you didn't give up," he says. "Whether I'm in the lab or the clinic, that dedication to patients has been a driving force throughout my career."

ALUMNI: So that we can stay in touch with you, please send your current e-mail and office address to: surgedu@bidmc.harvard.edu. Also, please send us the contact information for fellow alumni who might like to receive this newsletter or other occasional communications from the Department of Surgery.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our Legacy: Making a Difference

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD

It has been a little over a year since I had the privilege of joining the BIDMC Department of Surgery as chairman. As I reflect back on the past year and contemplate the future, I am inspired to think about the legacy we want to leave as a department.

How do we want to be remembered? How do we want to change the world, to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families, our students, our residents, and fellows? How do we wish to touch the future?

I believe in the power of faith, hope, and charity — the guiding beliefs of Beth Israel Hospital and New England Deaconess Hospital. As a great academic medical center that matters not only to the communities we serve but also to history, I also believe in embracing the pursuit of wisdom.

This does not mean merely acquiring new information for its own sake. Rather it means teaching ourselves and others how to apply new knowledge in a manner that makes a difference in the lives of our patients and their families.

In pursuing new wisdom, we also need to be courageous, as the risk of failure is inherent to the process of innovation. Without courage, surgeries will always be too risky, technologies too new, and the benefits somewhat unclear. Without courage, very little of real substance can be accomplished.

Our challenge, then, as a department is not simply to deliver outstanding surgical care, although that is certainly the core of what we do. Our challenge is to be courageous and to design it — through innovation and discovery to build a future where our designs for care-delivery systems; for curing diseases through repair, reconstruction, replacement, or regeneration; and for educating future leaders are effective, efficient, and easily adopted by others.

I believe it is our duty to question the status quo — to focus not only on caring but also on curing, and to foster an environment in which miracles, small and large, can continue to happen. If we can do that, we will be able to make a profound difference and establish a legacy of which we can all be extremely proud.



The dedication ceremony for Beth Israel Hospital on August 1, 1928.



The Palmer operating room at New England Deaconess Hospital, 1951.

Looking Back

In this and many future issues of *Inside Surgery*, we will publish photos from the medical center's archives, which provide a fascinating glimpse of the long, proud history of Beth Israel Hospital and New England Deaconess Hospital. (Photos courtesy of the Ruth and David Freiman Archives at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center)



Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, department chairman, was featured in a video on the health section of Channel 5's website (thebostonchannel.com) in July and August. Chaikof discussed the questions patients should ask their surgeon prior to undergoing a procedure, when to seek a second opinion, and how to choose the right surgeon.



Thanh Dinh, DPM, Podiatry, was elected to the Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society Board of Trustees.

Lauren DeLorie, RN-BC, Acute Care Surgery, recently earned her board certification in ambulatory nursing.



Alok Gupta, MD, Acute Care Surgery, was among six faculty recently selected for a Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education. The year-long fellowship, which emphasizes experiential learning, provides faculty with an opportunity to develop the expertise and skills needed to launch or advance academic careers in medical education and/or academic administration. The curriculum covers a broad spectrum of historical and contemporary issues in medical education.



Mary Jane Houlihan, MD, General Surgery/ BreastCare Center, and **Michael Kearney, MD**, Urology, were nominated

to receive the prestigious 2011 Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver Award. One of the region's most prestigious honors in health care, the award pays tribute to one extraordinary Massachusetts health care provider. The recipient and four finalists will be announced in September and honored at The Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner in Boston on November 17.



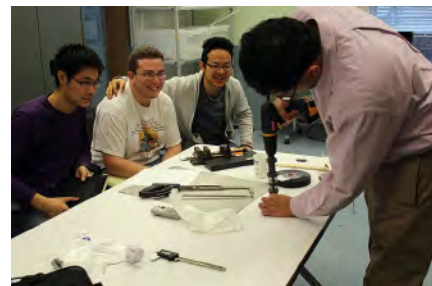
Tara Kent, MD, General Surgery, and **Vitaliy Poylin, MD**, Colon and Rectal Surgery, were each recently awarded a fellowship from the Eleanor and Miles Shore 50th Anniversary Fellowship Program for



Scholars in Medicine of Harvard Medical School (HMS). The fellowship provides support to junior faculty to pursue academic activities. Kent, Poylin, and the other recipients will be recognized at the annual Scholars in Medicine Celebration on November 21.

Sharon Taylor, NP, Thoracic Surgery, earned a certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education from Massachusetts General Hospital.

Ajith Thomas, MD, Neurosurgery, was a key member of a team of three students in a graduate medical device design course taught by Conor Walsh, PhD, a lecturer at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The team developed a new mechanism that improves patient safety when drilling small holes in the skull, spine, and other parts of the body. For their innovative engineering work, the group was awarded one of two "Excellence in Medical Device Design Awards" sponsored by the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance.



Harvard graduate students (left to right) Paul Loschak, Hao Pei, and Kechao Xiao, teamed up with Ajith Thomas, MD, Neurosurgery (far right), to develop an innovative medical device that improves patient safety.

Robin Volante, MM, Thoracic Surgery/Interventional Pulmonology, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, received a master's in Management in Health Care from Cambridge College in June. She is starting work on her second master's, in Health Care Informatics, this fall.

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Teaming Up for Charity

Staff from Cardiac Surgery and Neurosurgery participated under the BIDMC name in the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge this summer. Now in its 28th year, the 3.5 mile race/walk from Boston Common to Kenmore Square and back benefits a different charity each year. This year the beneficiary was the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. **Kate Shaw, NP**, Neurosurgery, organized the team and created its custom T-shirt design.

Mandatory Flu Shots

This year it is mandatory for all staff and physicians who have patient contact as part of their jobs (health care workers 1, 2, and 3) to have a flu vaccination by December 1. Those who have not complied by that date will not be allowed to work again until they are vaccinated (go to the BIDMC Portal for details about exceptions for medical reasons).

Staff with non-patient contact jobs are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated by December 1, as well, to achieve this year's goal of 100% participation.

More information about this important initiative will be available via e-mail, the BIDMC Portal, and managers and department administrators.

CBS Evening News Features SASC



In the Carl J. Shapiro Simulation and Skills Center (SASC), Daniel Jones, MD, chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery (pictured above in the SASC's mock OR), and Neelesh Kantak, MD, a surgical resident, were interviewed by Sally Rosen of CBS Evening News for an August segment on the advantages of simulation training for surgeons.

New Faculty

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery welcomes **Peter Kim, MD**, who joined BIDMC in August. After earning his medical degree from Brown University Medical School, Kim completed both his general surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery training at Northwestern University, in Chicago. Kim completed a fellowship in hand and microvascular surgery at the University of Washington, in Seattle. Kim's clinical interests include hand and wrist surgery, peripheral nerve surgery, limb salvage, and reconstructive microsurgery. His research interests include peripheral nerve repair and regeneration, post-traumatic limb salvage, non-operative treatment of Dupuytren's disease, and return to work after fractures of the hand and wrist.



Pavan S. Mallur, MD, joined the Division of Otolaryngology in August. Mallur received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, where he also did his residency in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He completed a fellowship in Laryngology and Care of the Professional Voice at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Board-certified in Otolaryngology, Mallur's clinical interests include the medical and surgical management of all voice disorders, including care of the professional voice, and the diagnosis and surgical treatment of upper airway stenosis and swallowing disorders. He uses a variety of in-office procedures as part of the treatment plan. His research interests include 532nm KTP laser treatment and treatment of vocal fold scar.



Welcome to Our New Interns, Residents, and Fellows



On Wednesday evening, June 22, the department held a welcome reception for the 2011-2012 new interns and upper-level residents at the Harvard Club in Boston. At the event, the interns and new residents were introduced by the chief residents to core faculty members and welcomed to the department and the BIDMC community.

New interns Bharath Nath, MD, PhD, and Tovy Kamine, MD, and his guest at the intern welcome reception in June.

NEW UPPER-LEVEL RESIDENTS

Claudia Lozano, MD (PGY 2)
Universidad El Bosque, Colombia

A. Lyonel Carre, MD (PGY 4)
University of California, San Francisco

Frankie Fike, MD (PGY 4)
University of Texas Medical School
at Houston

PODIATRY INTERNS

Allyson Berglund, DPM
Dr. William M. Scholl College
of Podiatric Medicine

Matthew Juriga, DPM
Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

CATEGORICAL INTERNS

Ammara Abbasi, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

Christina Bess, MD
Pennsylvania State University
College of Medicine

Christina Feng, MD
University of Michigan Medical School

Eliza Lee, MD
Columbia University College
of Physicians and Surgeons

Victoria Lee, MD
New York University School of Medicine

Ali Linsk, MD
Jefferson Medical College
of Thomas Jefferson University

Laura Mazer, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

Bharath Nath, MD, PhD
University of Massachusetts
Medical School

Peter Soden, MD
Harvard Medical School

PRELIMINARY INTERNS

James Cappadona, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine

Jeremy Carey, MD
University of Minnesota Medical School

Matthew Dedmon, MD, PhD
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill School of Medicine

Jason Fowler, MD, PhD
University of Minnesota Medical School

John Galbraith, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin

Michael Ingraham, MD
Ross University School of Medicine

Tovy Kamine, MD
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine

Matthew Langman, MD
Duke University School of Medicine

Jonathan Latzman, MD
New York University School
of Medicine

Caroline Park, MD, MPH
Tufts University School of Medicine

Anna Serels, MD
Sackler School of Medicine–New York
State American Branch

Kapil Verma, MD
Harvard Medical School

Alexander Vezeridis, MD, PhD
Boston University School of Medicine

Mala Young, MD
Wayne State University

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WELCOMES ITS NEW FELLOWS:

Olumbimpe (Bimpe) Ayeni, MD, MPH
Aesthetic and Reconstructive
Plastic Surgery

Reena A. Bhatt, MD
Hand/Microsurgery

Abraham Frech, MD
Minimally Invasive Surgery

Omar Yusef Kudsi, MD
Minimally Invasive Surgery

Priti P. Patel, MD
Reconstructive and Aesthetic
Breast Surgery

Marc Schermerhorn, MD, conducts research comparing open to minimally invasive repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms.



THE QUESTION I OWN—Marc Schermerhorn, MD

In this and future issues of *Inside Surgery*, we focus on the question a member of the department “owns” — a question that inspires the individual and drives his or her work.

Twenty years ago, the first endovascular (minimally invasive) repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) was reported. Until then, the only way to repair an AAA, a weakening and subsequent ballooning of the abdominal aorta that can lead to a fatal rupture, was with an open surgical procedure.

While the minimally invasive approach was an exciting advance and has since been shown in clinical trials to offer many significant advantages over open repair, many important questions remain.

For example, which approach offers the best long-term survival? Which results in the fewest re-interventions and other complications? Which is the most cost-effective over the long haul?

A significant health problem

For more than 10 years, surgeon-investigator **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, new Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (*see page 3*), has made it his mission to find answers to these and other questions relating to open versus endovascular AAA repair.

“Ruptured AAA is the tenth leading cause of death in men over age 55 in this country, so this is a significant health problem,” says Schermerhorn. “To ensure the best possible outcomes for patients, it’s vitally important to compare the effectiveness of these interventions over the long term.”

In an influential paper published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in January 2008, Schermerhorn and colleagues reported on the results of their comprehensive observational study of more than 22,830 matched cohorts of Medicare patients (45,660 patients) who had undergone AAA repair nationwide.

The authors concluded that endovascular repair resulted in lower short-term rates of death and complications than open repair, with the greatest

survival advantage among the oldest and frailest patients. They also found that after approximately three years, the rates of survival appeared about the same whether patients underwent endovascular or open repair. At the time, it was widely believed that several years out, patients who had undergone the open procedure had a survival advantage.

NIH grant awarded

Still, many more questions remain. Last year, Schermerhorn and his collaborator and co-principal investigator Bruce Landon, MD, of the School of Health Policy at Harvard Medical School, were awarded a \$2 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) RO-1 grant that will enable them to find answers to many of them.

Among the aims of the NIH-funded project is to study the long-term (up to nine years) outcomes of endovascular versus open AAA repair in a large cohort of Medicare patients. Another is to define and quantify the impact of non-graft (incision)-related and graft-

“To ensure the best possible outcomes for patients, it’s vitally important to compare the effectiveness of these interventions [open and minimally invasive] over the long term.”

Marc Schermerhorn, MD

related complications among patients undergoing, respectively, open and endovascular repair — an important question overlooked by other researchers.

“We’ll take advantage of our uniquely qualified research team to continue this project, which is a natural extension of the work we’ve been doing for years,” says Schermerhorn. “In so doing, we hope to find answers that will help improve the outcomes of patients nationwide.”

Research Notes



Andrew Wagner, MD, Urology, was selected recently as a recipient of a Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) Kidney Cancer SPORE Developmental Project award for his research project “Evaluating the Comparative Effectiveness of Open and Minimally Invasive Kidney Surgery: Patient-Reported Quality of Life (QOL) Outcomes and Cost.” The competitive grants were awarded based on scientific merit, relevance to the kidney cancer field, and the translational potential of the research.

Francesco Tecilazich, MD, of the Joslin-Beth Israel Deaconess Foot Center, gave an oral abstract presentation, “Muscle Energy Reserves Changes during Exercise,” at the American Diabetes Association’s 71st Scientific Sessions in June. The other authors were **Thanh Dinh, DPM**, **Thomas Lyons, DPM**, and **Julie Guest**, study coordinator, of BIDMC; Charalambos Gnardellis, PhD, of the Technological Educational Institute of Messolonghi, Greece; Rosemund Villafuerte, study coordinator, and Chun Zuo, PhD, of McLean Hospital, and **Aristidis Veves, MD**, of BIDMC.

ACS NSQIP Conference Held in Boston

The 2011 American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) national conference was held in Boston from July 24-26. The conference included sessions on building an effective surgical quality program, achieving optimal outcomes in various surgical disciplines, as well as geriatrics and anesthesia concerns in the elderly.

The keynote speaker was well-known author Atul Gawande, MD, a general and endocrine surgeon at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Attending the conference from the department were **Marc Schermerhorn, MD**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, and NSQIP quality-improvement specialists **Mary Beth Legassey, RN**, and **Mary Ward, RN**. **Linda Trainor, RN, BSN**, bariatric nurse coordinator, and **Charlotte Gugliemi, RN, CNOR**, perioperative nurse specialist, were invited guest speakers. Trainor spoke about strategies for improving the quality of bariatric data collection. Gugliemi, who is immediate past president of the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN), discussed intraoperative interventions to prevent surgical site infections and facilitated the NSQIP-focused discussion on AORN and OR teamwork.



Save the Date

September 7, 8-9 AM

and every Wednesday through June

Event: Surgical Grand Rounds

Location: Kennedy Building, G2A (West Campus), BIDMC

For more information:

Kara May, klmay@bidmc.harvard.edu
617-632-9236

October 12, 8-9 AM



Event: Surgical Grand Rounds: The 2011 Judith and Robert Melzer Lecture in Healthcare Quality at BIDMC, presented by John Birkmeyer, MD, George D. Zuidema Professor

of Surgery, University of Michigan Health Systems

Location: Kennedy Building, G2A (West Campus), BIDMC

For more information:

Kara May, klmay@bidmc.harvard.edu
617-632-9236

October 23-27

Event: American College of Surgeons 97th Annual Clinical Congress — The Surgeon as a Leader: Addressing Health Care Disparities

Location: San Francisco, CA

For more information:

American College of Surgeons
(www.facs.org/clincon2011)

November 30

Event: Surgical Grand Rounds: The 2012 George H. Clowes Visiting Professor in Surgical Research, presented by Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, Dallas B. Phemister Professor of Surgery, The University of Chicago Medical Center

Location: Kennedy Building, G2A (West Campus), BIDMC

For more information:

Kara May, klmay@bidmc.harvard.edu
617-632-9236

Selected Faculty Publications



General Surgery

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Duda RB, Bhushan D. Teaching rural women in Nicaragua the principles of breast health. *J Cancer Educ* 2011; in press.

Dutton R, Parr M, Tortella BJ, Champion HR, Bernard GR, Boffard K, Bouillon B, Croce MA, Dimsits J, Holcomb JB, Leppaniemi A, Vincent JL, **Hauser CJ**; for the CONTROL study group. Recombinant activated factor VII safety in trauma patients: Results for the CONTROL trial. *J Trauma* 2011;71(1):12-19.

Mahadevan A, Miksad R, Goldstein M, Sullivan R, Bullock A, Buchbinder E, Pleskow D, Sawhney M, **Kent T, Vollmer C, Callery M**. Induction gemcitabine and stereotactic body radiotherapy for locally advanced nonmetastatic pancreas cancer. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2011; in press.

REVIEWS, CHAPTERS, MONOGRAPHS, AND EDITORIALS:

Blackburn GL. Metabolic considerations in management of surgical patients. *Surg Clin North Am* 2011;91(3):467-80.

Neurosurgery

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Kasper EM, Aguirre-Padilla DH, Alter RY, Anderson M. Histiocytosis X: Characteristics, behavior, and treatments as illustrated in a case series. *Surg Neurol Int* 2011;2:57.

Ophthalmology

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Kinoshita T, Kovacs KD, Wagley S, **Arroyo JG**. Morphologic differences in epiretinal membranes on ocular coherence tomography as a predictive factor for surgical outcome. *Retina* 2011; in press.

REVIEWS, CHAPTERS, MONOGRAPHS, AND EDITORIALS:

Torun N. A practical approach to evaluation of patients with diplopia. *J of Clinical and Experimental Medicine* 2011; in press.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Momoh AO, Colakoglu S, Westvik TS, Curtis MS, Yueh JH, de Blacam C, **Tobias AM, Lee BT**. Analysis of complications and patient satisfaction in pedicled transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous and deep inferior epigastric perforator flap breast reconstruction. *Ann Plast Surg* 2011; in press.

Reddy SK, Colakoglu S, Curtis MS, **Tobias AM, Lin SJ, Lee BT**. Bilateral autologous reconstruction from different sites: Indications and outcomes after DIEP and SGAP flaps. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2011;127(6):151e-3e.

Podiatry

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Malik R, **Veves A**, Tesfaye S, Smith G, Cameron N, Zochodne D, Lauria G; on behalf of the Toronto Consensus Panel on Diabetic Neuropathy. Small fiber neuropathy: Role in the diagnosis of diabetic sensorimotor polyneuropathy. *Diabetes Metab Res Rev* 2011; in press.

Transplantation

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Kuramitsu K, Gallo D, Yoon M, Chin BY, Csizmadia E, **Hanto DW, Otterbein LE**. Carbon monoxide enhances early liver regeneration in mice after hepatectomy. *Hepatology* 2011;53(6):2016-26.

Rodrigue JR, Ladin K, Pavlakakis M, Mandelbrot DA. Disclosing recipient information to potential living donors: Preferences of donors and recipients, before and after surgery. *Am J Transplant* 2011;11(6):1270-8.

REVIEWS, CHAPTERS, MONOGRAPHS, AND EDITORIALS:

Evenson AR. Utilization of kidneys from donation after circulatory determination of death. *Curr Opin Organ Transplant* 2011;16(4):385-9.

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS:

Jain M, **LoGerfo FW**, Guthrie P, **Pradhan L**. Effect of hyperglycemia and neuropeptides on interleukin-8 expression and angiogenesis in dermal microvascular endothelial cells. *J Vasc Surg* 2011; 53(6):1654-60.

Topcic D, Kim W, Holien JK, Jia F, Armstrong PC, Hohmann JD, Straub A, Krippner G, Haller CA, Domeij H, Hagemeyer CE, Parker MW, **Chaikof EL**, Peter K. An activation-specific platelet inhibitor that can be turned on/off by medically used hypothermia. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 2011, in press.