

News from the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

# INSIDE SURGERY

Going Global: BIDMC Surgery Worldwide

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## Save the Date

#### September 18, 6-9 PM Department of Surgery "Food is Medicine" Gala to support the Greater Boston Food Bank

Location: Greater Boston Food Bank, 70 South Bay Ave., Boston Tickets and information:

gbfb.org/events

# October 8

## Surgical Grand Rounds

Salzman Visiting Professor of Vascular Surgery: Bruce Perler, MD Johns Hopkins University

"Evidence-Based Medicine and the Contemporary Management of Carotid Artery Disease: After the Randomized

Trials, the Controversy Continues"

# October 15

#### **Surgical Grand Rounds**

Goldwyn Visiting Professor of Plastic Surgery: Lawrence Gottlieb, MD University of Chicago "Reconstructive Microsurgery"

#### October 22 Surgical Grand Rounds

Distinguished Visiting Professor of Endocrine Surgery: Edwin L. Kaplan, MD University of Chicago

"Romancing the Shield: Thyroid Surgery from the Ancients through the Atomic Age"

- 18 Harvard Medical School Promotions
- 20 Alumni Spotlight David Linehan, MD
- 21 New Faculty
- 22 Annual Teaching Awards
- 23 News Briefs
- 26 Selected Faculty Publications
- 28 White Coat Ceremony

#### **November 5** Surgical Grand Rounds

Silen Visiting Professor of Surgery: Melina Kibbe, MD

Northwestern University

"The Challenges and Rewards of Translational Research: One Surgeon's Journey"

#### November 21-22

#### New England Robotics Course in Urology

Location: BIDMC Carl J. Shapiro Simulation and Skills Center, Boston, MA

Registration and information:

sdiflami@bidmc.harvard.edu; 617-667-2898

#### February 11, 2015 Surgical Grand Rounds

Clowes Visiting Professor of Surgical Research: Geoffrey C. Gurtner, MD Stanford University

"The Art of the Practical: Translating Scientific Discovery into the Real World"

**Surgical Grand Rounds** are held from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Joslin Diabetes Center Auditorium, One Joslin Place, Boston, MA. For a listing of all 2014-2015 Surgical Grand Rounds, go to: bidmc.org/surgery.

Cover photo credits: top left and bottom right, Dr. Jordan Pyda; top right, Dr. Daniel Jethanemest (NYU); bottom left, stock photo.



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The mission of the Department of Surgery:

- Provide care of the very highest quality
- Improve health through innovation and discovery
- Prepare future leaders in American surgery
- Serve our communities with sensitivity and compassion

#### Chairman, Surgery

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#### bidmc.org/surgery

# Message from the Chairman

The influential book by University of Pennsylvania business professor Adam Grant, "Give and Take: Why Helping Others Drives Our Success," provides many examples of how "givers" — people who are generous with their time, talents, and resources without expectation of personal gain — achieve extraordinary results in business and in life.

In this issue of *Inside Surgery*, we are pleased to tell the stories of some of our own givers: faculty and trainees who care for underserved, impoverished patients around the globe, and longtime BIDMC friends Martin and Diane Trust, who gave very generously to create a Career Development Chair in Surgery. While each of their stories is different, their motivations for giving are remarkably similar — to help others live better, healthier lives. We are all extremely grateful for their contributions and the examples they set.



This issue also acknowledges the 150th anniversary of the Department of Surgery and its pioneering leaders who helped shape the landscape of American surgery. We also are proud to highlight the many accomplishments of our current faculty and trainees, who are living out our founders' legacy of excellence each and every day.

Euro Chainot

Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD

## Dr. Robert A. Fisher Joins BIDMC as Chief of Transplant Surgery



Following a national search, Robert A. Fisher, MD, joined Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on September 1 as Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery and the multidisciplinary BIDMC Transplant Institute.

Previously, Dr. Fisher was the H. M. Lee Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia of Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Fisher served as Director of the Liver Transplant Program and Director of Transplant Research at the Hume-Lee Transplant Center at the Medical College of Virginia, one of the largest transplant programs in the Southeast.

A native of Texas, Dr. Fisher received his BS degree from Texas A&M University and his MD from Baylor College of Medicine. He completed a residency in General Surgery at Case Western Reserve University, and was a member of the United States Naval Medical Corps, in which he served as Fleet Surgeon for the super-carrier USS Forrestal. After completing a fellowship in transplant surgery at the University of Cincinnati, he joined the Medical College of Virginia, where he was a member of the surgical faculty for more than two decades. As a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigator for some 15 years, he has pursued basic, translational, and clinical studies in the areas of hepatocyte transplantation for fulminate hepatic failure, as well as living donor liver transplantation and the treatment of liver cancer. Dr. Fisher currently serves as principal investigator for the NIH-funded Adult to Adult Living Donor Liver Transplantation study.

Dr. Fisher has published more than 200 peerreviewed publications and book chapters, and serves on the editorial boards of *Liver Transplantation*, *Transplantation Proceedings*, and the *World Journal of Transplantation*, among other journals. He also holds leadership positions in the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the Cell Transplantation Society, and the American Society of Transplantation.

BIDMC Surgery has long been a leader in the field of transplant surgery. The work of luminaries in the field such as **Anthony Monaco**, **MD**, formerly Chief of Transplant Surgery at New England Deaconess Hospital and later at BIDMC, and the late **Fritz Bach**, **MD**, led to key advances that improved the outcomes of organ recipients. New England's first liver transplant was performed in 1983 at New England Deaconess Hospital, and New England's first living-donor liver transplant was conducted at BIDMC in 1998.

# **GOING Surgery Worldwide**

The Department of Surgery's mission is to serve its communities with sensitivity and compassion, and provide care of the highest quality. Faculty and trainees are fulfilling this mission not only in Boston and surrounding communities but also at underserved regions around the globe — in Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, India, and Southeast Asia.

In the past two years alone, dozens of faculty members and trainees in the Department of Surgery have traveled long distances to often-remote regions, and frequently at their own expense, to share their expertise with local providers and deliver much-needed surgical care to patients. Meanwhile, here in Boston, others are engaged in research aimed at improving access to surgical care for millions worldwide.

Here are some of their stories:

#### Selena Heman-Ackah, MD, MBA, Medical Director of Otology, Neurotology, and Audiology, "always wanted to be involved in humanitarian efforts." While in college, she volunteered in a clinic in Ghana, and returned there as a medical student to participate in efforts to screen newborns for sickle cell disease.

During her neurotology fellowship training at New York University, Dr. Heman-Ackah started thinking about doing mission work in Uganda after hearing about the experiences



Sunset from Murchison National Park in Uganda. (Photos on this page by Dr. Daniel Jethanemest, NYU.)

of her mentor, Tom Roland, MD, who for many years had been teaching attending surgeons at a hospital in Kampala to perform basic ear surgeries. Last January, Dr. Heman-Ackah joined Dr. Roland at Mulago Hospital in Kampala for a full week, teaching senior residents to perform advanced ear operations, assisting in busy clinics, and giving lectures.

"In the OR, my goal was to do as little of each procedure as possible so the residents could do them themselves after I was gone," says Dr. Heman-Ackah. "I talked them through each case and my thought processes, asking questions along the way so we could discuss each step." Describing her approach, Dr. Heman-Ackah quotes the proverb, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime."

Throughout her stay, the residents impressed Dr. Heman-Ackah with their insightfulness and in-depth knowledge of anatomy.



AFRICA

"Here we rely on CT scans and other technologies; there, where they lack some of the latest technologies we take for granted, they rely on their knowledge of anatomy. This experience taught me that you can do a lot with a little."

While Dr. Heman-Ackah spent just a week in Uganda, "It was remarkable to see the residents' progression even during the course of the week," she says. "We started Sunday night and every day, all day,



Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

we were in the OR, in clinic, or in lectures. As one resident said at the end of the week, 'This was like Otology Boot Camp!'"

Dr. Heman-Ackah plans to go back to Uganda this fall to continue teaching residents, and hopes someday to return to Ghana to help launch a newborn hearing screening program.



Under the direction of Dr. Selena Heman-Ackah, senior residents at Mulago Hospital in Uganda perform an advanced ear operation (photo by Dr. Daniel Jethanemest).

Avul Raykar, MD, is a surgery resident on a twoyear research elective as a Paul Farmer Global Surgery Research Fellow. Offered through the Program in Global Surgery and Social Change (PGSSC) at Harvard Medical School, the fellowship offers surgical residents the opportunity to acquire the skills, both medical and non-medical, they need to improve the health of some of the world's most impoverished people. The PGSSC is led by John Meara, MD, DMD, MBA, of Boston Children's Hospital, and is part of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, whose Chair is Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, co-founder of Partners In Health.

Ever since medical school, Dr. Raykar has been interested in global health issues, so he was thrilled to be accepted to the fellowship program, which combines his passions for global health and surgery. "There is no other program like this in the country," he says.



The "waiting area" for patients and families outside a clinic in rural Chhattisgarh, India (photo by Dr. Nakul Raykar).

#### INDIA

Whereas in the past most global health efforts have focused on infectious



diseases and pediatrics, it is now widely acknowledged that improving health and reducing health disparities worldwide must also embrace surgery, says Dr. Raykar. "Five to 15 percent of pregnancies are complicated and require a C-section to save the mother's or infant's life, peritonitis occurs as frequently as it does anywhere else, and open fractures from traffic accidents are a growing problem, yet most people in low-income nations lack access to surgical care," he says. "We cannot achieve global health equity without surgery."

During his fellowship, Dr. Raykar is serving as a lead research assistant for the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery. This international commission will produce a major policy report containing key recommendations on

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global surgery that will be published by the *Lancet* in 2015 and drive international policy decisions for many years to come.

As a member of the commission's healthcare delivery and management working group, Dr. Raykar facilitates discussions with experts worldwide, leads writing efforts, and conducts research in Boston and at distant locations. In the past year, research projects and work with the Lancet Commission have taken him to Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, and



The clinic in Chhattisgarh, a rural area of India (photo by Dr. Nakul Raykar).

India's Assam, New Delhi, and rural Chhattisgarh.

This year, with the bulk of the Lancet Commission report behind him, Dr. Raykar will spend two months in Haiti at the new Partners In Health-funded Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais, where he will work in an administrative and teaching role with the first cohort of surgical residents in Haiti.

Chief of Neurosurgery Ron Alterman, MD, is one of the world's leading experts in deep brain stimulation (DBS), which is used to treat movement disorders like Parkinson's disease and dystonia.

The procedure involves implanting leads into a specific area of the brain, which are attached to a device implanted in the chest wall that sends electrical impulses to the brain. DBS is transformative, especially in children with a rare inherited form of dystonia, which causes uncontrollable twisting movements from involuntarily contracting muscles. "The results of DBS in children can be astounding," says Dr. Alterman, who has performed more than 1,000 DBS procedures.

When Dr. Alterman learned from young Chilean neurosurgeon David Aguirre-Padilla, MD, who recently did a neurosurgery observership at BIDMC, that a 12-year-old girl named Fernanda

> desperately needed the surgery, he immediately agreed to do it. "I was honored to be asked," he says.

After a month of long-distance planning with Dr. Aguirre-Padilla, last May Dr. Alterman went to Santiago and performed the first DBS procedure

Dr. Ron Alterman (left) and Dr. Aguirre-Padilla with their young Chilean patient, Fernanda, prior to her DBS surgery.

#### SOUTH AMERICA



in Chile's public hospital system, where

70 percent of mostly low-income Chileans, including Fernanda, receive their care.

Although Fernanda had been completely bedridden and was suffering a potentially lifethreatening "dystonic storm" when Dr. Alterman arrived, just three days after the surgery she had improved to the point where she could sit in a chair and use her hands, and she continues to improve. "Her prognosis is excellent," says Dr. Alterman.

In Chile's public hospital system, DBS is not covered by insurance, putting the costly procedure beyond the reach of most citizens. (Fernanda's treatment was covered by public donations



after Dr. Aguirre-Padilla convinced the media to shine a spotlight on her situation.) Dr. Alterman is supporting Dr. Aguirre-Padilla's ongoing efforts to persuade the Chilean public hospital system to cover this procedure for patients

Jordan Pyda, MD, is a first-year surgical resident who since college has spent four years living in Haiti, often in very remote areas of the country, participating in a range of initiatives to help the people of this island nation gain access to adequate medical care.

Dr. Pyda first went to Haiti as an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, where he provided assistance to doctors at a Partners In Health site. There he met Partners In Health's Dr. Paul Farmer, whose invitation to return after graduation he eagerly accepted. with dystonia and the more prevalent Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Alterman plans to return to Chile next year to check on his patient and collaborate further with Dr. Aguirre-Padilla. "The opportunity to dramatically impact the life of one child is very rewarding," says Dr. Alterman. "But if our efforts help make DBS a covered treatment for all lowincome Chileans, we can improve the lives of hundreds of patients."

Intending to stay only six months, Dr. Pyda ended up spending three years in Haiti before entering medical school, returning during medical school for another year as a surgical sub-intern with the Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellowship. "I fell in love with Haiti," says Dr. Pyda.

One of the major projects Dr. Pyda took part in was coordinating and conducting home visits to severely malnourished children living in remote areas to check on their condition and provide them with fortified foods.



A father from Bouli, Haiti had to carry his malnourished daughter for six hours to bring her to the closest doctor. The new dispensary in Bouli will serve people, like this family, who otherwise bear insufferable hardships in seeking even the most basic healthcare services (photo by Dr. Jordan Pyda).

HAITI

Another ongoing project involved the construction of a four-room



health facility in the village of Bouli that will ultimately be staffed by Partners In Health providers. "Many families living in rural Haiti are simply too poor to seek care even if it's free," says Dr. Pyda, "so we realized we had to bring the care closer to them."

One of Dr. Pyda's most poignant memories from his years in Haiti was of a 14-year-old girl with a cleft lip/palate from a small, isolated village. He arranged for her to undergo corrective surgery through Partners In Health and Operation Smile, but she and her father did not show up at the agreed-upon time and location. Dr. Pyda hiked for seven hours through difficult terrain to their village to find out why.

"The father, a widower, explained that as much as he wanted his daughter to have the operation, he couldn't leave his fields and his other young children, plus he had no shoes or clean clothes," recalls Dr. Pyda. "It was heart-wrenching that the difference between surgery and lifelong disability came down

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Dr. Jordan Pyda holds a young Haitian patient.

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to a few dollars." Dr. Pyda was able to bring the girl to surgery, and last winter he saw her again, now a young woman. "She walks with her head held high," he says.

Dr. Pyda, whose long-term aspiration is to contribute to the development of safe and equitable surgery in Haiti, hopes to return as the Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellow during his research years. "I'm so excited to be in the BIDMC residency program, which offers so many opportunities to be engaged in academic global surgery," he says.

Christopher Boyd, MD, is Chief of General Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham. A Peace Corps volunteer before medical school who also did humanitarian work in Botswana and elsewhere in Africa after medical school, Dr. Boyd has always been interested in global health.

Two years ago, he went to Haiti for the first time for two weeks to lend a much-needed hand at a hospital in Cange, a poor, rural area. "The doctors there were very good but at the time there weren't enough to handle the high volume of patients," says Dr. Boyd. In that facility, the conditions were rustic and resources were very limited, which required "a return to pure clinical medicine," says Dr. Boyd, rather than a reliance on technology. "In these settings, you make the best decisions you can based on the resources you have."

Dr. Boyd looks forward to returning to Haiti, likely at the end of this year. He will spend his time teaching the first class of surgical trainees at the new Partners In Health-funded hospital in Mirebalais, 30 miles north of Port-au-Prince. "The people in Haiti are wonderful, and are working very hard to improve the quality of and access to surgical care by training the next generation of Haitian surgeons," says Dr. Boyd. "It will be a privilege to be a part of that in some small way."





With Christopher Boyd, MD (second from right), at the Partners In Health Hôpital Bon Sauveur, in Cange, Haiti are (from left): Jordan Pyda, MD, BIDMC; Ainhoa Costas-Chavarri, MD, MPH, with Harvard Medical School's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change and Human Resources for Health; and Paula Hercule, MD, a resident at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.



As participants in the Partners In Health agricultural program, women from Bouli, Haiti carry fruit tree seedlings, which are distributed to help meet local families' nutritional needs (photo by Dr. Jordan Pyda).

These are not the only members of the Department of Surgery who are passionate about medical mission work. Urologist Michael Kearney, MD, joined by fellow urologist Peter Chang, MD, MPH, has led a group of BIDMC clinicians and medical interpreters to the west African island nation of Cape Verde for four consecutive years to teach local doctors and perform urologic procedures. For years, surgical oncologist Rosemary B. Duda, MD, MPH, has conducted research and provided patient care aimed at improving women's health in Ghana, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bangladesh, and most recently, Micronesia. Dr. Duda has also mentored surgical residents interested in global surgery, like Jennifer Zhang, MD, who worked with her in Ghana last year. Vascular surgeon David Campbell, MD, has traveled frequently to Vietnam for many years to train surgeons there to perform limb-preserving surgical techniques for diabetic patients.

Whether here in Boston or on the other side of the globe, the members of the Department of Surgery are committed to sharing their time, skills, and knowledge so that more people around the world will have an opportunity to live healthier, better lives.

# Congratulations to 2014 Graduates

) oston Harbor was once again the beautiful backdrop for this year's graduation dinner for chief residents and fellows on June 22. More than 220 guests, including faculty, family members, and friends, attended the formal affair, during which graduates received their diplomas from faculty members. Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, department Chairman, and Tara Kent, MD, Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, offered well wishes to the graduates during opening remarks. Congratulations to the following graduates:

#### **GENERAL SURGERY**

**Rodney Paul Bensley Jr., MD** Fellow, Vascular Surgery University of Florida-Gainesville

Louis M. Chu, MD Fellow, Cardiac Surgery Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Martin J. Dib, MD Fellow, Abdominal Organ Transplant/ Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery The Hospital for Sick Children University of Toronto, Canada

**Stephen Gondek, MD, MPH** Fellow, Surgical Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

**Kiran Lagisetty, MD** Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgery University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI

**Yuen-Jong Liu, MD** Fellow, Plastic Surgery University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Department Chairman Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD (far left), and General Surgery Residency Program Director Tara Kent, MD (far right), with graduating Chief Residents (left to right): Louis Chu, MD, Martin Dib, MD, Stephen Gondek, MD, MPH, Rodney Bensley Jr., MD, Elizabeth Turner, MD, Jana Simonds, MD, Kiran Lagisetty, MD, and Yuen-Jong Liu, MD.

Jana Simonds, MD Fellow, Colorectal Surgery University of Texas Medical School at Houston

**Elizabeth Noelle Turner, MD** Fellow, Acute Care Surgery Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

#### PODIATRY

Allyson Leigh Berglund, DPM Private Practice Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates/ Atrius Health, Boston, MA

Matthew Daniel Juriga, DPM Private Practice Orthopedic Care Specialists, North Easton, MA

#### **FELLOWS**

Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Mark K. Markarian, MD Private Practice, Chestnut Hill, MA

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Breast Surgery **Oren Ganor, MD** Fellow, Pediatric Plastic Surgery Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA Cardiothoracic Surgery

Anton L. Cherney, MD Fellow, Cardiac Surgery Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Critical Care Surgery Lee Hallagan, MD Private Practice, Portland, ME

Hand and Microvascular Surgery Jacob Maxwell-Phillip Bloom, MD Private Practice, Northwood, IL

Minimally Invasive Surgery Hussna Wakliy, MD Private Practice, New York, NY

Robert Sung, MD Private Practice, Bloomington, IN

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Matthew J. Alef, MD Assistant Professor University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

## **BIDMC SURGERY**

The following article is excerpted and edited from the publication "1864-2014: BIDMC Surgery at 150," by Surgery Chairman Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD. The complete history will be available later this year on the BIDMC Surgery website or by request at surgerycommunications@bidmc.harvard.edu.

of Leadership









The roots of the Harvard Surgical Service at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center reach back to the mid-19th century, establishing it as one of the oldest academic surgical programs in the nation. Then, as now, its mission is to provide advanced surgical care of the very highest quality, improve health through innovation and discovery, and prepare future leaders in American surgery. In 1864, **David Williams Cheever, MD** (1831-1915), the son and grandson of physicians who trained under Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., assumed the position of Chief of Surgery at the newly established Boston City Hospital, which was one of two hospitals associated with Harvard Medical School.

A series of numbered clinical services were established, with the surgical service referred to as the Fifth (Harvard) Surgical Service, which



Dr. Cheever led from 1864-1885. In later years, Dr. Cheever reflected on the challenges faced by the surgeons and house officers of the Fifth Surgical Service in the care of patients during and after the Civil War:

"...We struggled bravely to fight sepsis amid the terrible discouragement of those surgical days, so full of mortality. Amputations, when primary, gave a mortality of 50%. In abdominal operations, more died than recovered... much debility and poor blood were brought to our hospital by the returning Union army. Chronic diarrhea, malaria, old suppurating wounds. This influence lasted for years...but we never wavered in our daily visits and honest efforts..."

Until his death in 1915, Dr. Cheever created and grew a vibrant, internationally recognized surgical program that rapidly established itself as a vital center for clinical care, training, and research of Harvard Medical School. A pioneering surgeon and man of immense dedication and integrity, Dr. Cheever served as the second Chair of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.



Dr. Cheever pioneered new surgical techniques in craniofacial Left: David W. Cheever, MD, as a young man. Below: The operating theatre of

the Fifth (Harvard) Surgical Service.



surgery and in the surgical treatment of oropharyngeal tumors as well as in abdominal, vascular, and pediatric surgery. He wrote extensively on the topic of shock and published one of the first major American textbooks of surgery, *Lectures on Surgery*, in 1894. Dr. Cheever served as editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, a predecessor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and in 1889 served as President of the American Surgical Association.

Recognized as a superb surgeon and a devoted educator, in 1864 Dr. Cheever established the very first competitive examination in Boston to select incoming



Members of the Fifth (Harvard) Surgical Service. Standing, left to right: William Fifield, David Cheever, and George Gay; Seated, left to right: William Ingalls, Charles Homans, and William Thorndike.

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interns or house surgeons from among the very best applicants for surgical training. Later in his career, Dr. Cheever wrote:

"Experience has taught that the extraordinary and unique cases, which are, of course, to the student's mind extremely interesting, are not as desirable as clinical material as the common diseases and injuries. The former, as they present themselves in a great hospital, should be shown to students but never at the expense of omitting the latter."



Dr. Cheever published one of the first major American textbooks of surgery, Lectures on Surgery, and was editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, a predecessor of the New England Journal of Medicine.





Succeeded by Herbert L. Burrell, MD (1856-1910), who wrote a series of reports in the New England Journal of Medicine over a 20-year period (1884-1906) entitled Progress in Surgery. Dr. Burrell described

r. Cheever was

the management of the strangulated hernia, detailed indications for tracheotomy and intubation, and published one of the earliest reports of direct thoracic surgical exposure for treatment of an innominate artery aneurysm.

Dr. Burrell served as President of the American Medical Association, Surgeon General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Secretary of the American Surgical Association (1895-1901), and established the Society of Military Surgeons. He organized and served as Commander of the hospital relief ship Bay State sent by Massachusetts to Cuba during the Spanish American War. He wrote: "There is a great work for us still in the future and I believe it to be this: That we shall strive to make this the center of the best surgery that is done in the world. Not that we can do such surgery, but that by cooperation in the work, we may help the men who are striving to advance surgery, and not themselves, to accomplish their end."



Dr. Burrell served as Commander of the hospital relief ship, Bay State (above). Photo courtesy of Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

#### **Sears Surgical Research Laboratories**

**I**rving J. Walker, MD (1880-1960), who served as Chief of the Fifth Surgical Service from the 1920s through the 1940s, established the Sears Surgical Research Laboratories in 1928, which was one of the earliest laboratories for surgical investigation in the United States.



The Sears Laboratories would serve as a focal point for studies by residents and faculty of the Fifth Surgical Service, many of whom would shape their respective



fields and emerge as leaders in American surgery. These included William V.
McDermott, MD, John (Jack) C.
Norman, MD, and Judah Folkman, MD (1933-2008), who later became Chief of Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital.

Dorothy Pierce Walker, Dr. Walker's wife of 50 years, wrote a series of novels whose themes were often the life of a young woman married to a busy surgeon in the first decades of the 20th century. In 1931, Dr. Walker wrote:

"The field of investigative surgery is a fertile one, and barely scratched, but for some time we have noted the fruits of surgical research. Witness the recent advance in surgery of the central and peripheral nervous system, the circulatory and respiratory systems, all primarily the products of the worker in the investigative laboratory. The path of progress of those devoting their lives to new lines of thought has never been rosy; their efforts have never been rewarded without some opposition...Let the surgeon always bear in mind that we should expect only a small but important percentage of the products of research to be positive findings applicable to the human."

#### Fifth Surgical Service relocates



### n 1973, William V. McDermott, MD

(1917-2001), who had been Director of the Fifth Surgical Service and Cheever Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School since 1966, moved the entire Surgical Service — staff, residents, and students

as well as the research activities of the Sears Research Laboratories and the Cheever Professorship of Surgery at Harvard Medical School — to the New England Deaconess Hospital, where he assumed the position of Chief of Surgery until 1986.

Dr. McDermott and his colleagues elucidated some of the fundamental mechanisms underlying hepatic encephalopathy and later demonstrated that liver resection for colorectal metastases could improve disease-free survival. Writing in *Science* in 1978, he was also among the first to publicly advocate for the creation of a national agency to assess the effectiveness of both established and new surgical operations, which led to the development of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in 1989.



Harvard Medical School, 866 Boylston Street, 1883-1906. Image courtesy of Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

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#### Two hospitals merge

The New England Deaconess Hospital was originally founded in 1896 to care for the city's underserved residents as part of the charter of the Methodist deaconess movement. In 1916, Beth Israel Hospital was established by Boston's Jewish community to meet the needs of the growing immigrant population. In 1996, the hospitals merged to become Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Today, the Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center consists of 300 faculty and staff and nearly 100 surgical residents and clinical fellows in eight training programs.

The department is supported by \$16 million in research funding and joined by more than 50 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who work with our faculty. In the past year, members of the department made significant contributions to the arena of ideas through the publication of some 600 scholarly articles, as well as many textbooks, in the fields of both surgery and the biomedical sciences. As the central academic hub for a healthcare network of eight owned or affiliated hospitals throughout eastern Massachusetts, close to 30,000 operative procedures are performed each year, establishing Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as one of the busiest centers for surgical care in the United States, drawing patients, trainees, and faculty from around the nation and the world.

As the Department of Surgery recognizes its 150th anniversary, we look back with gratitude and humility to those whose vision — in operating rooms, clinics, laboratories, and at the bedsides of patients — set us upon this journey.

Today, the Department of Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center consists of 300 faculty and staff and nearly 100 surgical residents and clinical fellows in eight training programs.



Close to 30,000 operative procedures are performed at BIDMC each year, establishing it as one of the busiest centers for surgical care in the United States.

# **Department Welcomes New Trainees**

In mid-June, the Department of Surgery hosted the 2014-2015 new General Surgery interns and upper-level residents to the BIDMC community at a reception at the Harvard Club in Boston. Chief residents and faculty members welcomed the new trainees to the department and to BIDMC.

#### **CATEGORICAL INTERNS**

Seema Anandalwar, MD Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Ngoc-Quynh Chu, MD Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Chun Li, MD Emory University School of Medicine

**Shen Li, MD** University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Jordan Pyda, MD University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

Nicholas Swerdlow, MD Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

Sarah Tracy, MD University of Massachusetts Medical School

Kathleen Weiss, MD University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

**Daniel Wong, MD** Yale University School of Medicine

#### INTEGRATED VASCULAR SURGERY (0-5) INTERN

Patric Liang, MD Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

#### **PRELIMINARY INTERNS**

Brian Bassiri-Tehrani, MD Stony Brook University School of Medicine

Daniel Buitrago, MD Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Senora del Rosario Facultad de Medicina

Ahmed Ibrahim, MD Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine

Vivek Kanumuri, MD Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Armine Kocharyan, MD Yerevan State Medical University Named for Mkhitar Heratsi

Jane O, MD Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Marilia Oliveira, MD Duke University School of Medicine

Chinedu Otu, MD University of Kentucky College of Medicine

**Timothy Robinson, MD** University of New Mexico School of Medicine

James Wallace, MD University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Ximeng Yang, MD Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine

#### NEW UPPER-LEVEL RESIDENTS

Arthur Celestin, MD (PGY 2) Boston University School of Medicine

Qing Zhao Ruan, MD (PGY 2) University College London, Royal Free University College Medical School

#### **PODIATRY INTERNS**

**Justin Kaminski, DPM** Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine

Alison Migonis, DPM Des Moines University

#### THE DEPARTMENT ALSO WELCOMES ITS NEW FELLOWS

Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Nyama Sillah, MD University of Wisconsin

Aesthetic and Reconstructive Breast Surgery **Olivia Ho, MD** University of Toronto, Ontario

Cardiothoracic Surgery Jennifer Wilson, MD Swedish Medical Center, WA

Critical Care Surgery Sean Monaghan, MD Brown University

Hand and Microvascular Surgery **Kevin Cheung, MD** McMaster University, Ontario

Interventional Pulmonology Jey Chung, MD Stanford University

Bryan Husta, MD Georgetown University

**Scott Oh, DO** University of California, Los Angeles

Minimally Invasive Surgery Steven Henriques, MD University of Illinois

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fahad Shuja, MD Harvard University (Massachusetts General Hospital)

# MAKINGADIFFERENCE

# Trust Family's Generous Gift Supports Emerging Surgeon-Investigators

Ever since they met in the Catskills when he was 22 and she was 19, Martin ("Marty") and Diane ("Dena") Trust have been a team. Through thick and thin, the couple who have achieved so much in business and in life have made it their mission to help others, as they have been helped.

"We are indebted to so many people who have helped us along the way, from schools that gave me scholarships to business partners who trusted us when we had no money or track record, that we feel it's our obligation and privilege to do good things for others," says Mr. Trust.

An entrepreneur with more than 50 years in the apparel and textile industry,

Mr. Trust is President of Brandot International, an investment firm he founded in 2001 that specializes in creating joint venture partnerships with apparel and textile companies worldwide. Previously, he was President and CEO of MAST Industries, which he founded in 1970 after a decade of learning the ropes in the apparel business.

Mr. and Mrs. Trust started MAST in the basement of their Boston-area home when their two children were small and with an investment of just \$1,000. Through a combination of hard work, innovation, and a well-earned reputation for reliability and fairness, the Trusts developed the company into one of the largest international apparel producers in the world, with annual sales of \$1.5 billion and offices in 14 countries. In 1978, MAST was acquired by The Limited Stores, later known as Limited Brands.

Throughout their lives, the Trusts, who live in Boston and Florida, have traveled around the world for business and pleasure, counting among their favorite locations Hong Kong, Singapore, and Sri Lanka, where they have many longtime colleagues and friends. "We've had the good fortune of seeing the most beautiful places and meeting the most



Martin and Diane Trust. The Martin and Diane Trust Career Development Chair in Surgery was established with a gift of \$1 million from the Trust Family Foundation.

interesting people," says Mrs. Trust.

The Trust family (which includes the couple's adult children David, Laura and her husband, Alan, and their three children) have been longtime, major supporters of the region's leading cultural, educational, and healthcare institutions. These include the New England Aquarium; Cooper Union, from which Mr. Trust graduated in 1956; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, from which Mr. Trust graduated in 1958; Simmons College, where Mrs. Trust earned a master's degree; the Museum of Fine Arts; and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

In 2011, for example, Mr. and Mrs. Trust donated the funding to establish the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship, which provides students and faculty across MIT with programs and space to transform their ideas into new business ventures. Mrs. Trust, who was a charter member of the New England Aquarium, has long been passionate about its mission and with her husband funded the Aquarium's new Shark & Ray Touch Tank.

The Trusts also have a long and close relationship with BIDMC. Mr. Trust was previously a member of

the Board of Directors and for many years also served on numerous BIDMC committees, the couple's children and grandchildren were born at BIDMC, and Mr. Trust is a patient and friend of **William DeWolf, MD**, Chief of Urology.

In the fall of 2013, the Trusts discussed with Dr. DeWolf and Surgery Chairman Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD, ways in which they might help support the Department of Surgery's mission. "We have a great deal of respect for Dr. DeWolf and Dr. Chaikof and what they have accomplished, and were excited about the opportunity to fund the creation of an endowed chair, which will provide support in perpetuity to emerging young leaders in surgery," says Mr. Trust.

Last spring, the Martin and Diane Trust Career Development Chair in Surgery was established with a gift of \$1 million from the Trust Family Foundation. The Department of Surgery will raise an additional \$500,000 toward the chair, which will provide two to five years of salary and research support for early- or mid-career faculty of great promise.

"By investing in our very best, talented young faculty at a formative stage in their careers, the Trust family's gift will enable them to fulfill their creative potential and, in so doing, make lasting contributions that will improve care for future generations of patients," says Dr. Chaikof. "Through their vision and enormous generosity, the Trusts will touch many, many lives."

The first incumbent of the Martin and Diane Trust Career Development Chair is **Peter Chang**,

"The Trusts' generous gift will give Dr. Chang and future incumbents the time, access, and credibility to become...a successful surgeon-scientist, whose ability to couple science and surgery can, and often does, lead to great discoveries."

William DeWolf, MD, Chief of Urology

MD, MPH. A Urology Care Foundation research scholar and accomplished pianist, Dr. Chang recently completed a two-year fellowship in minimally invasive urologic oncology at BIDMC. He is Director of the multidisciplinary BIDMC Prostate Cancer Care Center and also provides care for patients with bladder cancer and other urologic conditions.



From left: Peter Chang, MD, MPH, first incumbent of the Martin and Diane Trust Career Development Chair and Director of the BIDMC Prostate Cancer Care Center, and William DeWolf, MD, Chief of Urology.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Chang conducts research focused on understanding the effects of prostate cancer treatment on all aspects of a patient's quality of life, especially factors that limit full recovery. Dr. Chang's goal is to help patients select the most appropriate course of care, while developing new treatment strategies that enhance the likelihood of a complete recovery.

"At this stage of my career, the support provided by the Trusts' remarkably generous gift is absolutely critical," says Dr. Chang, whose career has been mentored by Dr. DeWolf and **Andrew Wagner, MD**, Director of Minimally Invasive Urologic Surgery. "It will give me sufficient time to pursue my research investigations while maintaining and expanding my clinical roles. Furthermore, this support will be a bridge to additional research funding in the future. I am very grateful to the Trusts, Dr. DeWolf, and Dr. Chaikof for this wonderful opportunity."

Dr. DeWolf, whose own very successful career as a surgeon-investigator was supported by a research career development award from the National Institutes of Health, points out that the support provided by the Trusts' generous gift will give Dr. Chang and future incumbents the time, access, and credibility to become that "rare bird, a successful surgeon-investigator, whose ability to couple science and surgery can, and often does, lead to great discoveries."

To learn how you can support clinical, research, or educational programs in the Department of Surgery, please contact Michele Urbancic at murbanci@bidmc.harvard.edu or 617-632-8388.

# **Harvard Medical School Promotions**

The Department of Surgery congratulates the following faculty members on their well-deserved Harvard Medical School promotions or appointments.

#### PROMOTED TO: PROFESSOR



#### James R. Rodrigue, PhD Area of Excellence: Investigation

James R. Rodrigue, PhD, is Director of the Center for Transplant Outcomes and Quality Improvement as well as Director of

Behavioral Health Services and Research for the BIDMC Transplant Institute. He also is Co-Director of the Department of Surgery's Clinical Scholarship Program and the Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR) Program.

Dr. Rodrigue's research focuses on how to reduce the gap between the number of people needing transplants and the availability of organs for transplantation. He is the author of more than 175 peer-reviewed journal articles, and principal investigator of three NIH grants and three Health Resources and Services Administration grants, including the six-center Kidney Donor Outcomes Cohort Study.

Dr. Rodrigue lectures internationally and serves on numerous editorial boards and committees. He also maintains a clinical practice evaluating prospective live kidney donors and providing evaluation and treatment for patients pre-and post-transplantation.

#### PROMOTED TO: PROFESSOR



#### Steven Schwaitzberg, MD

Area of Excellence: Clinical expertise and innovation with significant supporting activities in administration, institutional service, and investigation

Steven Schwaitzberg, MD, is Chief of Surgery at Cambridge Health Alliance, Director of the Harvard Medical School-

Cambridge Health Alliance Integrated Clerkship, and Site Director for the BIDMC General Surgery Residency at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Dr. Schwaitzberg is recognized internationally for his significant contributions to and leadership in minimally invasive surgery (MIS) and MIS surgical training, technology development, and the integration of new technologies into surgical training.

Dr. Schwaitzberg has published 128 peer-reviewed publications and edited two books. He has served in numerous leadership

roles, including as President of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and as a Governor of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Schwaitzberg is co-principal investigator of a national, multicenter clinical trial comparing NOTES cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) to laparoscopic cholecystectomy, and conducts research on surgical outcomes. He is also co-investigator of several NIH-funded investigations of virtual reality computer-based surgical skills training programs.

Dr. Schwaitzberg served in Operation Desert Storm where, as Chief of Surgery of the 365th Evac Hospital, he was awarded commendations from both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.

#### APPOINTED AS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



#### Jeffrey Arle, MD, PhD

*Area of Excellence:* Clinical expertise and innovation with significant supporting activities in administration, institutional service, and investigation

Jeffrey Arle, MD, PhD, is Associate Chief of Neurosurgery. Dr. Arle's clinical interests include neuromodulation, epilepsy, pain,

neuroprosthetics, complex spine disorders, and brain tumors. He was the first in New England to perform deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery for patients with Parkinson's disease and dystonia, and the first in the world to use intradiscal stimulation for patients suffering from back pain.

Dr. Arle's research interests include the use of computational modeling and analysis of neural circuitry and function,

developing novel implantable devices for interfacing with the nervous system, and DBS for patients with movement disorders and pain. He has authored nearly 60 publications and co-edited *Essential Neuromodulation*, one of the first textbooks in the field of neuromodulation.

Dr. Arle served as a neurosurgeon in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps and was honorably discharged in 2009 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

#### APPOINTED AS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



#### Raul J. Guzman, MD

*Area of Excellence:* Clinical expertise and innovation with significant supporting activities in investigation

Raul J. Guzman, MD, is a vascular surgeon with expertise in lower extremity disease, including critical limb ischemia, diabetic

vascular disease, and claudication. He is widely considered an expert in lower extremity limb salvage. A surgeon-investigator, Dr. Guzman also conducts basic research focusing on the role of arterial calcification in lower extremity ischemia and the mechanisms by which this occurs. His investigations have provided a more accurate, non-invasive way to predict amputation risk among patients with peripheral arterial disease. Dr. Guzman is a principal investigator and co-investigator of two NIH-funded studies, the author of 44 peer-reviewed publications, and is involved in teaching and mentoring trainees in the operating room and the laboratory. In 2013, Dr. Guzman was elected a Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery, an honor bestowed on a select group of members who have distinguished themselves by making substantial contributions in research, service, or education.

#### APPOINTED AS: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



#### Khalid Khwaja, MD

Area of Excellence: Clinical expertise and innovation with significant supporting activities in administration and institutional service

Khalid Khwaja, MD, Surgical Director of Solid Organ Transplantation, specializes in kidney, pancreas, and liver

transplantation, dialysis access procedures, hepatobiliary and laparoscopic surgery, and the care of other complex surgical patients. Dr. Khwaja has extensive experience in pancreas transplantation and live organ donor transplantation.

Dr. Khwaja's clinical research is focused primarily on posttransplant immunosuppression and transplant outcomes. He has been actively involved in teaching and mentoring trainees throughout his career, and serves on a key education committee of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

A respected regional leader, Dr. Khwaja is former Chair of the New England Pancreas Transplant Oversight Committee of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network/United Network for Organ Sharing (OPTN/UNOS) and also served as the Region 1 representative for the OPTN/UNOS Pancreas Transplantation Committee.

#### PROMOTED TO: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



#### Efstathios Papavassiliou, MD

Area of Excellence: Significant and sustained contributions to the teaching mission of Harvard Medical School for more than 10 years

A skilled neurosurgeon, Efstathios Papavassiliou, MD, is Co-Director of the Spine Center at BIDMC.

He focuses primarily on simple and complex spine surgery and movement disorders, but also performs a full range of other neurosurgical procedures.

A dedicated teacher and mentor, Dr. Papavassiliou has been actively engaged in teaching Harvard Medical School (HMS) students, residents, and fellows for the past 10 years. His major teaching activities include serving as Director of the Neurosurgery/Spine Rotation for the HMS Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program since 2010, supervising third-year HMS medical students on their neurosurgery elective, and training second-year HMS medical students in the art of neurosurgical examinations for their outpatient elective. He is also a faculty examiner for the comprehensive Objective Structured Clinical Examination for fourth-year HMS students.

# **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

## David Linehan, MD

E ven as a teenager, Boston native David Linehan, MD, knew he wanted to be a doctor. His early career choice was influenced by his mother, who founded and ran a rehabilitation facility for men with alcohol and drug addictions, and the Jesuit high school he attended. From both, says Dr. Linehan, "I learned about a life of service and academic excellence."

Service and academic excellence have always defined Dr. Linehan's career. A 1997 graduate of the department's General Surgery Residency Program, Dr. Linehan was recently named Chair of Surgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center, a position he assumes on October 1. He was formerly the Neidorff Family and Robert C. Packman Professor of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he worked since completing a surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in 1999.

Since 2007, Dr. Linehan served as Chief of the Division of Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic, and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where he maintained a high-volume clinical practice focusing largely on cancer patients. He was also Director of the HPB/GI Fellowship Training Program, one of the most competitive such fellowships in the nation.

*"It's pretty exciting that a concept developed in our lab is now in [phase 2] clinical trials."* 

David Linehan, MD, Chair of Surgery, University of Rochester Medical Center

Dr. Linehan devotes nearly half of his time to translational research aimed at finding a novel, effective treatment for pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest malignancies. For the past 15 years he has focused on understanding the intricacies of the pancreatic tumor microenvironment.

This work led to his discovery that pancreatic tumors mobilize stromal cells from the bone marrow

and that these cells, which suppress the immune response, play a key role in the growth and spread of



tumors. "We hypothesized that if we could block these cells, we could reverse the immunosuppression and improve the effectiveness of chemotherapy," explains Dr. Linehan.

Using a drug called a CCR2 inhibitor, which prevents the mobilization of these cells from the bone marrow, Dr. Linehan and his team demonstrated efficacy in preclinical models. The drug is now being evaluated in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer. "It's pretty exciting that a concept developed in our lab is now in [phase 2] clinical trials," he says.

Last year, Dr. Linehan received a \$1.25 million RO1 grant, "CCR2 Blockade in Human Pancreatic Cancer," from the National Institutes of Health to take this research to the next level. And this year, he was named to a multi-institutional Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Pancreas Cancer "Dream Team" to further pursue this area of investigation.

Dr. Linehan's commitment to all domains of academic surgery — patient care, teaching, and research — was inspired by his experiences as a surgical resident. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Linehan is grateful to have trained under Glenn Steele Jr., MD, PhD. "Dr. Steele was a fantastic role model — a true triple threat: an outstanding administrator, researcher, and surgeon," says Dr. Linehan. "He set a tone and standard that many of us benefited from."

Dr. Linehan says he also benefited from the broad and diverse training and research opportunities offered by the BIDMC surgical residency, which he describes as the "best in Boston." During his residency, Dr. Linehan spent two years in a research fellowship in tumor immunotherapy at Brigham and Women's Hospital with Timothy Eberlein, MD. Dr. Eberlein, who recruited Dr. Linehan to St. Louis, is now Chairman of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine.

Despite his packed schedule, which also includes serving in leadership roles in numerous professional societies and as an editorial board member of *JAMA Surgery*, Dr. Linehan, a married father of two teenaged sons, still finds time to return to New England every year, where he enjoys visiting family, downhill skiing, fishing, and spending time at his summer home on the Maine coast. But even when he's relaxing, Dr. Linehan's goal — to find a better treatment or even a cure for pancreatic cancer is never far from his mind.



David Linehan, MD (right), and William Hawkins, MD, on a recent ski trip in Utah. Dr. Hawkins, an HPB surgeon who worked with Dr. Linehan at Washington University in St. Louis, is also a graduate of the BIDMC General Surgery Residency Program.

## **New Faculty**



#### Peter Chang, MD, MPH

Division: Urology

Medical School: Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY

Internship: General Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

**Residency:** Urology, Harvard Longwood Program in Urology, Boston, MA

Fellowship: Minimally invasive urologic oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

Clinical Interests: prostate cancer, bladder cancer

**Research Interests:** effects of prostate cancer treatment on quality of life, optimizing prostate cancer treatment decision-making, using patient-reported outcomes in the clinical practice setting

Phone: 617-667-4075



#### Walter J. Lech, MD

**Division:** Thoracic Surgery and Interventional Pulmonology

Medical School: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Internship/Residency: General Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

Fellowship: Minimally invasive thoracic surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Clinical Interests: minimally invasive approaches, lung cancer, GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), tracheal tumors, mediastinal disease, esophageal cancer, esophageal dysmotility

**Research Interests:** development of drug resistance to targeted molecular therapies, optimal strategies for establishing thoracic programs in community hospital settings

Phone: 508-746-6385

# **Annual Teaching Awards**

#### **ABSITE\* AWARDS**

Highest Junior-Level Resident on the 2014 ABSITE Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD

Highest Senior-Level Resident on the 2014 ABSITE Scott Atay, MD

#### Residents scoring above the 90th

percentile on the 2014 ABSITE Scott Atay, MD, Meredith Baker, MD, Christopher Barrett, MD, Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD, David Nelson, MD, Kortney Robinson, MD, Bijan Teja, MD

#### MEDICAL STUDENT TEACHER AWARDS

Jeff Chang, MD (Senior Award) Bijan Teja, MD (Junior Award) To the residents with the highest teaching evaluation ratings from third-year Harvard

evaluation ratings from third-year Harvard Medical School students in the Core Surgery Clerkship.

#### **RESIDENT TEACHER AWARD**

#### Scott Atay, MD

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



#### Ali Linsk, 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."



Ali Linsk, MD, accepted the Isaac O. Mehrez, MD, Award from Mount Auburn Hospital Chief of Surgery Russell Nauta, MD.

#### **GEORGE W.B. STARKEY AWARD**

#### Amy Evenson, MD

To the faculty member with the highestrated teaching evaluations from third-year Harvard Medical School students in the Core Surgery Clerkship.



Scott Atay, MD, accepted the Resident Teacher Award from Tara Kent, MD.

\* ABSITE: American Board of Surgery In-Service Training Exam

Michael Cahalane, MD, presented transplant surgeon Amy Evenson, MD, with the George W.B. Starkey Award.

#### HAROLD BENGLOFF AWARD



**Stephen Odom, MD** Voted by residents as the faculty member who best exemplifies humanism in teaching.

#### JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM AWARD

#### Frederick Bartlett, MD

Voted by residents as the faculty member who best exemplifies excellence in teaching. Dr. Bartlett is a member of the Department of Surgery at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, one of several Harvard-affiliated clinical rotation sites.

#### Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory



Also announced at the awards ceremony were the second-year residents selected to attend a weeklong course in comparative physiology at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (above) on the Maine coast in August. Now in its fourth year, this unique educational and team-building experience was made possible by donor Ted Boylan. The top five ABSITE scorers are invited to participate:

Lorenzo Anez-Bustillos, MD Meredith Baker, MD Nisha Narula, MD Kortney Robinson, MD Bijan Teja, MD

# **NEWS BRIEFS**



A paper authored by Ajith Thomas, MD, Neurosurgery, and colleagues from BIDMC, other Harvard Medical School-affiliated

institutions, and Boston University, was selected by the journal *Brain Research* for its May 27 cover. Other contributing authors of the paper, "Bidirectional crosstalk between periventricular endothelial cells and neural progenitor cells promotes the formation of a neurovascular unit," were: Ravi Vissapragada, MD, Mauricio Contreras, MD, Cleide da Silva, PhD, Vivek Kumar, PhD, Angelica Ochoa, BS, Anju Vasudevan, PhD, Magdy Selim, MD, PhD, and Christiane Ferran, MD, PhD.



Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH, Chief of Surgical Oncology, was elected Secretary of the Society for

Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT). SSAT is committed to advancing the science and practice of surgery in the treatment of digestive disease.



Vitaliy Poylin, MD, Colon and Rectal Surgery, was selected for the 2014 Traveling Fellow

Award at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) annual meeting. The award enables the recipient to visit the United Kingdom as part of an exchange program with the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland.



Current or former heavy smokers can be screened for lung cancer through a new program at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham. Run by **Sidhu Gangadharan, MD**, Chief of Thoracic Surgery/ Interventional Pulmonology, the program offers low-dose CT scans to detect lung cancer early. For more information, call 617-632-8062 or email: lungscreening@bidmc.harvard.edu.

### BREASTCARE CENTER



NAPBO NATIONAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR BREAST CENTERS

The BIDMC BreastCare Center, led by Michael D. Wertheimer, MD, Chief of Breast Surgery, was granted another full, three-year accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a voluntary program administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation by the NAPBC is granted only to centers that provide the highest level of quality breast care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. First accredited in 2012, the BreastCare Center again received a perfect score and remains the only nationally accredited center in Boston.



Samuel Lin, MD, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, is a member of an interdisciplinary

BIDMC research team that received a 2014 CAO Pilot Grant awarded through a new BIDMC program that promotes and supports

# NEWS BRIEFS

#### < Continued from page 23

translational research. The grants, which provide funding of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for six months to two years, enable investigators to acquire preliminary data needed to apply for larger and longerterm grants. Twelve projects were selected from among 61 grant applications. Dr. Lin is teaming up with Evan Rosen, MD, PhD, Medicine, and John Rinn, PhD, Pathology, to investigate the epigenomic and transcriptional basis of human insulin resistance.



Tara Kent, MD, Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program, was elected

as a 2014-2015 Rabkin Fellow in Medical Education. The honor provides Harvard Medical School faculty with dedicated time to further their skills and develop expertise to launch or advance their academic careers in medical education and/or academic administration.



Mark Callery, MD, Chief of General Surgery, was elected to a six-year term on the Gastrointestinal

Surgery Advisory Council of the American Board of Surgery. This council provides expertise to the board as it defines all examination and certification processes in gastrointestinal surgery.



BIDMC's Center for Education awarded 19 Outstanding Resident-Fellow Teaching Awards this year during Medical Education Week in June. Among the recipients of this honor were Surgery residents **Sayuri Jinadasa, MD** (fourth from left), and **Mariam Eskander, MD** (third from right).

**Deborah Nagle, MD**, Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery, was among the panel of international experts who presented at the Department of Surgery's fourth annual IDEAS Symposium on Surgical Robotics. Dr. Nagle addressed challenges in colorectal robotic surgery.





The Fall 2013 issue of *Inside Surgery* was awarded the Gold (top prize) in the Aster Awards, a national medical

marketing awards program recognizing excellence in healthcare marketing and advertising. The newsletter has been published since September 2011.



A paper authored by Jeffrey Arle, MD, PhD, Neurosurgery, and colleagues Kris Carlson, Longzhi Mei,

MS, and Jay Shils, PhD, "Modeling effects of scar on patterns of dorsal column stimulation," was selected as the cover article in the June issue of *Neuromodulation*.



James Rodrigue, PhD, Transplant Surgery, recently received three-year funding from the

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for his research focused on increasing organ donation throughout Massachusetts, which is being conducted in collaboration with the New England Organ Bank.



Daniel Jones, MD, Vice Chair of Technology and Innovation, was elected Vice

President of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). Dr. Jones was also elected President of the Association for Surgical Education (ASE) and was awarded the 2014 ASE Distinguished Educator Award.



Michael Cahalane, MD, Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care, was recently

elected Treasurer of the Aesculapian Club at Harvard Medical School (HMS). Founded in 1902, the Aesculapian Club is dedicated to enhancing the lives of HMS students and fostering interactions among faculty and students.



Surgery resident Thomas Curran, MD, was one of seven residents honored for being a

lead author of the most outstanding posters during the 2014 BIDMC



In June, delegates from the Chinese Society for Vascular Surgery (above) spent the day and evening with faculty and trainees in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. From throughout mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, the delegates were in Boston for the annual Society for Vascular Surgery meeting and had asked to visit BIDMC because of its international reputation in the field, says Chief **Marc Schermerhorn**, **MD**. The group spent the morning observing cases in the OR and in the afternoon heard presentations by faculty and trainees. The visit concluded with a dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge.

"Our visit was very impressive, and we had a wonderful day," said Jinsong Wang, MD, PhD, Vice Chief of Vascular Surgery at the First Affiliated Hospital and Vice Dean of Medical Education at Sun Yatsen University in Guangzhou, China. "We had an excellent chance to communicate with the vascular surgeons from one of the best hospitals in the United States and observe operations, followed by a warm dinner at the historic Harvard Faculty Club. We hope we can come back again!"

Resident Research Day in June. Honorees earned a \$500 scholarship for travel expenses to facilitate presentation of their research throughout the country. Dr. Curran also recently received a Certificate of Excellence in Tutoring for the academic year 2013-2014 from the Academy Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard Medical School.



Resident Ammara A. Watkins, MD, was accepted as a delegate in the Resident Associate

Society-American College of Surgeons (RAS-ACS) International Exchange Scholar Program, following the selection of her essay from among more than 120 submissions. Dr. Watkins will travel to Australia in May 2015 to attend the RAS-ACS meeting.

# Selected Faculty Publications

#### Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Critical Care

Albutt K, **Glass C, Odom S, Gupta A.** Endometriosis within a left-sided inguinal hernia sac. J Surg Case Rep 2014;2014(5):rju046.

Raghavan B, **Cook CH**, Trgovcich J. The carboxy terminal region of the human cytomegalovirus immediate early 1 (IE1) protein disrupts type II inteferon signaling. Viruses 2014;6(4):1502-24.

Sumi Y, Woehrle T, Chen Y, Bao Y, Li X, Yao Y, Inoue Y, Tanaka H, **Junger WG**. Plasma ATP is required for neutrophil activation in a mouse sepsis model. Shock 2014; 42(2):142-7.

Zhao C, Itagaki K, **Gupta A, Odom S**, Sandler N, **Hauser CJ**. Mitochondrial damage-associated molecular patterns released by abdominal trauma suppress pulmonary immune responses. J Trauma Acute Care Surg 2014;76(5):1222-7.

#### **Cardiac Surgery**

**Levitsky S**, Chitwood WR, Orringer MB, Mack MJ. Education above and beyond: Innovative STS educational initiatives. Ann Thorac Surg 2014;97(1Suppl):S29-33.

Owais K, Kim H, **Khabbaz KR**, Bergman R, Matyal R, Gorman RC, Gorman JH 3rd, Hess PE, Mahmood F. In-vivo analysis of selectively flexible mitral annuloplasty rings using three-dimensional echocardiography. Ann Thorac Surg 2014; 97(6):2005-10.

#### **Colon and Rectal Surgery**

**Poylin V**, Bensley R, **Nagle D.** Changing approaches to rectal prolapse repair in the elderly. Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf) 2013;1(3):198-202.

**Poylin V, Curran T**, Lee E, **Nagle D.** Laparoscopic colectomy decreases the time to administration of chemotherapy compared with open colectomy. Ann Surg Oncol 2014; in press.



#### **General Surgery**

**Glass CC**, Acton RD, Blair PG, Campbell AR, Deutsch ES, **Jones DB**, Liscum KR, Sachdeva AK, Scott DJ, Yang SC. American College of Surgeons/Association for Surgical Education medical student simulation-based surgical skills curriculum needs assessment. Am J Surg 2014;207(2):165-9.

Kamine TH, Papavassiliou E, Schneider BE. Effect of abdominal insufflation or laparoscopy on intracranial pressure. JAMA Surg 2014 1;149(4):380-2.

#### Neurosurgery

Agarwalla PK, Stapleton CJ, **Ogilvy CS**. Craniectomy in acute ischemic stroke. Neurosurgery 2014;74 Suppl 1:S151-62.

Alter RY, Wamsley CC, Mullen JT, Haile WZ, Goldsmith JD, **Kasper EM**. Peripheral nerve fibromyxoid sarcoma. J Neurosurg 2014; 25; in press.

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# White Coat Ceremony

Every June, the culmination of years of hard work and dedication is recognized and celebrated at the Department of Surgery's white coat ceremony, during which incoming chief residents (below) receive their new white coats from graduating chief residents, and teaching awards are presented (see page 22). Congratulations to this year's new chief residents and award recipients.



The 2014-2015 new Chief Residents, with General Surgery Residency Program Director Tara Kent, MD (far left), and department Chairman Elliot Chaikof, MD, PhD (far right), are (from left): Denis Gilmore, MD, Erica Fallon, MD, Yue-Yung Hu, MD, Scott Atay, MD, Andy Lee, MD, Antonio Lassaletta, MD, and Jeff Chang, MD. Not pictured is Claudia Lozano Guzman, MD.