

Department of Surgery News

Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Get Top Rating

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery is proud that Carolinas Medical Center has been ranked a "Best Hospital" in orthopedics by U.S. News & World Report. This national ranking reflects the hard work of our orthopedic surgery team, as well as the dedication of many musculoskeletal teams across Carolinas HealthCare System.



In June, Levine Children's Hospital was also ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in six specialties, including Gastroenterology and GI Surgery. Being ranked among the top children's hospitals in the U.S. is a testament to the commitment that everyone at Levine Children's Hospital and Carolinas HealthCare System has to our children and our delivery of high-quality care.



Third Annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium

The Department of Surgery hosted the third annual Research Symposium at the Renaissance Charlotte Hotel on May 18, 2017. The visiting professor was Clifford Ko, MD, director of the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program® (ACS NSQIP®) and professor of surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles. Nine of 32 basic and clinical science abstracts submitted by a resident, fellow or post-doctoral candidate were selected for the plenary session at the research symposium.

The Department of Surgery winner of the resident, fellow and post-doctoral research competition was Kathleen Coakley, MD, advanced GI surgery fellow in the Division of GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery, for her study entitled "Carolinas Established Surgical Preoperative Algorithm (CeSPA): Accessible Evidence to Decrease Cost and Adhere to Guidelines." The following morning, Dr. Ko presented at Department of Surgery grand rounds on "Achieving Surgical Quality: Observations From the American College of Surgeons." Later that morning, he also gave the keynote address at the first annual Carolinas HealthCare System NSQIP collaborative meeting. Thirteen



Clifford Ko, MD, MS, MSHS, FACS

Carolinas HealthCare System hospitals in North and South Carolina participate in this healthcare systems-based quality collaborative under the leadership of Caroline Reinke, MD, assistant professor of surgery, Division of Acute Care Surgery.

Department of Surgery Division Chief Appointed Commission on Cancer State Chair

Richard White, MD, professor of surgery and chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, Levine Cancer Institute, was appointed as the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) state chair of North Carolina. As the North Carolina CoC chair, he will oversee the cancer liaison physicians throughout the state, helping them support their local cancer programs, commit to the goals of the CoC (focusing on the National Cancer Database and other quality initiatives), collaborate with the American Cancer Society in state and regional efforts, work on the cancer control coalition for the state and support recruitment and retention of CoC sites, and participate in the North Carolina chapter board of directors.

Department of Surgery Faculty Receives IRCAD Traveling **Fellowship**

Paul Colavita, MD, assistant professor surgery, Division of GI/Minimally Invasive Surgery, spent two weeks at Institut de Recherche Contre les Cancers de l'Appareil Digestif (IRCAD/ IHU) in Strasbourg, France, conducting original research under



Paul Colavita, MD

the supervision of Drs. Lee Swanstrom, Jacques Marescaux and Michele Diana. IRCAD is recognized worldwide as a reference center for minimally invasive surgery and annually trains more than 3,500 physicians from around the world through the European Institute of TeleSurgery. Dr. Colavita was awarded the IRCAD Traveling Fellow Award by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). The research project involved gastric ischemic preconditioning in a porcine model. The design included percutaneous intra-arterial embolization using an Artis Zeego system with gastric tissue sampling before and after embolization, followed by a seven-day survival and subsequent gastric conduit creation.

First Annual Teresa Flippo-Morton Lectureship

The Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) Charlotte chapter welcomed Amalia Cochran, MD, vice chair of education in the Department of Surgery at the University of Utah for our first annual Dr. Teresa Flippo-Morton Lectureship. Dr. Cochran is the past president of the Association of Women Surgeons and serves currently as the president of the Association of Surgical Education. On May 4, a reception honoring Dr. Cochran and celebrating Dr. Flippo-Morton was held by the Department of Surgery at the Duke Mansion for members of the AWS Charlotte chapter, including residents, fellows, faculty and community surgeons. The following morning, Dr. Cochran delivered a lively and informative presentation for Department of Surgery grand rounds entitled "Effective Mentoring in Surgery: More Than Meets the Eye."



Resident and Fellow News

Emily Benham, MD, matched into the Ohio State University MIS/Bariatric Fellowship in Columbus, Ohio.

Sam Ross, MD, matched into the University of Texas Southwestern Surgical Critical Care Fellowship in Dallas, Texas.

Anna Tyson, MD, matched into the University of Chicago, Comer Children's Hospital ECMO/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship in Chicago, Illinois.

Joe Thurman, MD, will join Premier Surgical Associates in Knoxville, Tennessee, as a general surgeon.



Department of Surgery New Faculty



Division of Acute Care Surgery

Kyle Cunningham, MD, MPH

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Cincinnati

GENERAL SURGERY **RESIDENCY:** University of Tennessee/ Chattanooga

FELLOWSHIP: R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

MPH: Johns Hopkins University



Division of GI/ **Minimally Invasive** Surgery

Paul Colavita, MD

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

RESIDENCY: Carolinas Medical Center (General Surgery)

FELLOWSHIP: Providence Portland Medical Center



Division of Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Surgery

Erin Baker, MD

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Georgetown University

RESIDENCY: Carolinas Medical Center

FELLOWSHIP: Carolinas Medical Center



Maria Baimas-George

Tulane University

New Residents

Leslie Okorii Northwestern



Sharbel Elhage

Medical University of South Carolina

Andrew Sorah East Tennessee State University



Division of GI/ Minimally Invasive Surgery

Kevin Kasten, MD

MEDICAL SCHOOL: University of Texas Medical Branch

RESIDENCY: University of Cincinnati (General Surgery)

FELLOWSHIP: Lahey Clinic



Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Snehankita Kulkarni,

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Bharati Vidyapeeth University

RESIDENCY: **Drexel University** (General Surgery)

Duke University (Plastic Surgery)



Division of **Surgical Oncology**

Amy Voci, DO

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Midwestern University

GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY: University of South Carolina

FELLOWSHIP: John Wayne Cancer Institute



Michael Watson University of Virginia



Robert Willis University of South Alabama



Jared Brown Mercer University



Joseph May Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

Honors, Grants and Recognition

Resident Leadership Award: Samuel W. Ross, MD, MPH

Excellence in Surgical Education: Bradley R. Davis, MD

American Board of Surgery In-Training **Examination Achievement Award:** Benjamin M. Motz, MD, for the third

year in a row and with a top score in the 99th percentile

Faculty Medical Student Teaching Award:

Gaurav Sachdev, MD

Resident Medical Student Teaching Award:

Ciara Huntington, MD

Teresa Flippo-Morton Mentor Award: Brent Matthews, MD

Division of Acute Care Surgery



Gaurav Sachdev, MD

UNC School of Medicine Academy of Educators Junior Faculty Award (2017)

Carolinas HealthCare System Excellence in Medical Student Education Faculty Award (2017)

UNC School of Medicine, Charlotte Campus Surgery Medical Student Teaching Award (2016)

Society of Critical Care Medicine Star Research Achievement Award (2016)

Division of Gastrointestinal and Minimally Invasive Surgery

Todd Heniford, MD, Vedra Augenstein, MD, and Amy Lincourt, MD, were recipients of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Quality Award 2017 for CeSPA (Carolinas Established Surgical Preoperative Algorithm), in which a mobile application



Todd Heniford, MD

Vedra Augenstein,

is used to reduce indiscriminate and unnecessary preoperative testing by merging evidence-based guidelines from surgery, anesthesia, cardiology and internal medicine.

A pilot study with 348 patients demonstrated the potential to save approximately \$580 per patient through improved adherence to evidence-based recommendations.



Amy Lincourt, MD





Division of Pediatric Surgery

Elected President of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons

Levine Children's Hospital Level I Trauma Accreditation



Tony Stallion, MD

Honors, Grants and Recognition

Division of Surgical Oncology

The Leon Levine Foundation contributed a \$1 million grant to support the Sandra Levine Young Women's Breast Cancer Program at Levine Cancer Institute. This is a comprehensive program focused on optimizing care, offering specialized patient support services and improving awareness of treatment options for female cancer patients 40 years of age and under.



Lejla Hadzikadic Gusic, MD



Terry Sarantou, MD

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC): Chair, Standards and Accreditation Committee

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC): Board of Directors

American Society of Breast Surgeons:

Chair, Ethics Committee

American College of Surgeons:

Board of Governors

American College of Surgeons:

Chair, Patient Education Workgroup

National Surgical Adjuvant **Breast and Bowel Project** (NSABP): Member

Department of Surgery Grants

HPB Surgery (David Iannitti, MD/Ian McKillop, PhD)

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCan) Translational Research Grant for a project titled "Developing Next Generation IRE to Treat Pancreatic Cancer"

Total cost: \$300,000

GI/MIS/Pediatric Surgery (Steven Teich, MD/Paul Colavita, MD)

A multicenter, randomized, double-blind, sham-controlled clinical investigation of the EndoStim® Lower Esophageal Sphincter (LES) Stimulation System for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)

Total cost: \$162,700

Acute Care Surgery (Toan Huynh, MD)

A study of the safety and efficacy of 514G3 in subjects hospitalized with bacteremia due to staphylococcus aureus

Total cost: \$396,700

Department of Surgery Strategic Plan

The third in a series of Department of Surgery leadership retreats was convened on Jan. 13, 2017, at Carmel Country Club to finalize a Department of Surgery strategic plan. Divisional leadership steered the direction of our strategy, culminating in a shared purpose to advance our clinical, educational, research and community outreach objectives. A mission and vision was adopted that aligns with Carolinas HealthCare System's mission and vision and guides the strategic roadmap along five core competencies, including education and scholarship, research and investigation, quality and evidence-based practices, outreach and diversity, and faculty development and mentorship. Vice chairs have been appointed to lead these priority areas.

Mission

Improve perioperative health, elevate hope and advance healing for all

Vision

Create a leadership culture that advances surgical science, transforms education and inspires innovation to be the first and best choice for comprehensive, interdisciplinary surgical care

Department Leadership Vice Chair of Education:

Brad Davis, MD, Division of GI/MIS

Vice Chair of Research:

Susan Evans, MD, Division of Acute Care Surgery

Vice Chair of Quality and Evidence-Based

Dionisios Vrochides, MD, Division of HPB Surgery

Vice Chair:

Michael Thomason, MD, Division of Acute Care Surgery

Chair, Department of Surgery:

Brent Matthews, MD



Celebrate Sarah Day 2017

The Department of Surgery general surgery residents hosted the second annual Celebrate Sarah Day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center on May 6. The event supports the Sarah Lantz Surgical Mission Fund to provide charitable support to allow residents to travel overseas and provide mission care to underserved patients in hopes of continuing to foster the spirit of care that Sarah Lantz embodied through her surgical missionary work in Zambia. These events have raised approximately \$36,000. Ciara Huntington, MD, PGY5 general surgery resident, was the first recipient of funding from the Sarah Lantz Surgical Mission Fund to support a month-long surgical mission trip to Mukinge Hospital in Kasempa, Zambia, in April 2017. This is the same hospital at which Sarah completed a post-residency program with World Medical Missions. Contributions to the Sarah Lantz Surgical Mission Fund can be made through the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation at givecarolinas.org/sarahlantz/.



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