

# The Surgical Log



Department of Surgery, OHSU School of Medicine

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**John G. Hunter, M.D.**  
Mackenzie Professor and  
Chairman

*The Surgical Log* is published three times a year by the Department of Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, for colleagues, alumni and friends of the department.

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For more information, visit [www.ohsu.edu/som-surgery](http://www.ohsu.edu/som-surgery).

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## Chairman's message

Sometimes four months pass without noticeable change. Sometimes it is hard to remember what the world looked like four months ago. This spring, it is the latter. The most dramatic change to our landscape is the bright silver aerial tram car that makes the trip from the OHSU Hospital to the South Waterfront a shorter journey than walking across the Marquam Hill campus. This filamentous connection has changed our life, bringing OHSU into direct contact with the most rapidly growing portion of Portland. Once you get off the tram and enter the Center for Health and Healing (CHH) the transformed environment is palpable. No longer do we need to make excuses for narrow corridors and small poorly ventilated exam rooms. Included in the CHH is a new fitness center which helps keep the "health" in OHSU. This building is amongst the top ten most environmentally sound office buildings in the nation. As pioneers in this new waterfront development, we are still surrounded by construction, and access by car not as easy as we thought, but all these bugs are being worked out.

Under the direction of **Karen Deveney, MD, Robin Alton, Patricia Southard, RNJD, Karen Kwong, MD, and Melanie Morris, MD**, the education executive committee has much to be proud of. Of its several accomplishments, the most exciting is the reaccreditation of our general surgery residency program for five years and permission to expand its size to 12 residents per year, making the OHSU general surgery residency program the second largest in the nation. Our new cadre of incoming residents is superb. They will "do us proud." The graduating chief residents in general surgery, urology, vascular, cardiac surgery and plastic surgery continue to be heavily recruited for fellowships and jobs. Successes aside, there is still much work to be done. At the request of our President, **Joe Robertson, MD**, I have offered my services to the University at large to help organize simulation and skills training. **Patricia Southard, RNJD** and **Mike Seropian, MD** (Department of Anesthesiology) and I have devoted many hours to bring this vision to

fruition. And if you haven't already heard, an anonymous donor has given 40 million dollars to start a new medical campus on the Schnitzer campus, between the Marquam and Ross Island bridges. A cornerstone of this development will be a multi-disciplinary simulation center bringing together many of the educational efforts of the various schools, departments, and centers at OHSU.

Clinical excellence continues to be our mantra. Not long ago, our hospital-based quality committee put our risk adjusted outcomes on a public website ([ohsuhealth.com](http://ohsuhealth.com)) using the University Health Consortium (UHC) database. This database compares us with other like academic centers across the country. In most areas we performed extraordinarily well, but we were quite surprised to see that the last report places our risk-adjusted mortality as the lowest in the country! It may be impossible to keep this position, but we will aspire to maintain superb clinical quality in high risk and routine care. More importantly, by identifying areas of weakness we have begun to impact quality across the board. This is clearly a concerted effort for the whole University, but special credit for this is due to **Jeff Kirsch, MD** (Chair of Anesthesiology), **Brett Sheppard, MD** and **Karl Welke, MD** from the Department of Surgery and the Quality Executive Committee. In addition to an emphasis on quality, the purchase of a DaVinci robot by OHSU Hospital has allowed **Mitch Sokoloff, MD** and others to bring their considerable skills in robotic minimally-invasive surgery to our university. **Stewart Graham, RN** in the operating room has been a cornerstone to the success of this program.

Research in the Department of Surgery, while not our strongest suit, is sprouting new shoots in the springtime sun. Seed grants, and program support for residents and faculty are becoming more frequent. Our successful programs in shock and coagulopathy (**Marty Schreiber, MD**) and bariatric surgery (**Bruce Wolfe, MD**) have been complemented by a new NCI

(CONTINUED ON PAGE



## Awards

**John Barry, MD** was elected by the Board of Directors of the American Urological Association (AUA) as President. He will begin his duties as President-Elect of the AUA at the end of May, 2007. At the end of May, 2008, he will begin his one-year term as President of the AUA. The AUA was founded in 1902. It has 15,000 members and, according to the website, it is the world's pre-eminent urological association.

The Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) is charged with the task of overseeing more than 62 residencies and fellowships to ensure that they offer the best education and are carried out in the most professional and collegial manner. To accomplish those goals requires significant effort on the part of both residents and faculty who serve as members of GMEC. Some members of the Committee consistently go beyond expectations to ensure that SOM programs are best served. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes those who have made particular contributions to graduate medical education through the Committee's work. Congratulations to the following individuals: **Karen Deveney, MD**, professor of surgery and program director for the surgical residency program and **Raphael El Youseff, MD**, surgery resident

**Kevin Billingsley, MD**, has been selected for the James IV Traveling Fellowship for expertise in surgical oncology. Dr. Billingsley is Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, and Hedinger Associate Professor of Surgery. The fellowship is awarded to candidates who have made outstanding contributions to the art and science of surgery and allows the candidate to personally present their newer techniques and innovations to surgical audiences in countries around the world. Each year two to five surgeons are selected to receive this fellowship. Dr. Billingsley traveled to the Queen Mary Hospital at the University of Hong Kong, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre of the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne, Australia, and the Princess Alexandra Hospital of the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. In the fall, Billingsley will travel to liver surgery medical centers in Scotland and France.

**Kristian Enestvedt, MD** was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute for his project entitled "Gene therapy in gastrointestinal surgery: Improving anastomotic healing by upregulating angiogenesis." Kristian is a resident in our general surgery residency program.

In collaboration with the Oregon Cancer Institute, **Blair Jobe, MD** was awarded \$150,000 for his grant proposal entitled "Pathogenesis and prevention of esophageal cancer."

**Drs. Blair Jobe and Donn Spight** were awarded \$20,000 in support from the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute for their project entitled "Utilizing Impedance Catheter Technology to Describe Laryngopharyngeal Physiology in Healthy Volunteers."

Congratulations to **Rodney Pommer, MD** and **SuEllen Pommier, PhD** for their two year, \$448,238 NIH award entitled "A Phase I/II Study of DHEA With Letrozole in ER-negative Breast Cancer." This study will treat patients with what has classically been deemed as "hormone-insensitive" breast cancer. These are tumors that lack the classic estrogen and progesterone receptors used for hormone manipulation. However, their research indicates that at least half of ER-negative breast cancers still express an androgen receptor (AR).

## Surgery Chief Residents and Their Plans

Shabnam Chaugle - Private practice, California

T Dixon - Trauma and Critical Care fellowship, University of California, Irvine

Jennifer Garreau - Surgical oncology, John Wayne Cancer Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Charles Kim - Minimally invasive surgery fellowship, OHSU

Chloe Sandquist—Private practice

Rebecca Sawai - Colorectal fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Maha Shakir - Private practice, Portland, OR

Kirsten Smith - Private wound care practice, San Antonio, TX

Jason Smithers - Pediatric surgery fellowship, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

Jennifer Watters - Trauma/EGS staff surgeon, OHSU

Tracy Weisberg—Private practice

## William S. Fletcher Traveling Fellowship Award by Eugene Chang



Eugene Chang and his wife, Emmeline Hou, with John Hunter in Rome

Last December, I had the opportunity to present the results of a research project at the 20th congress of the International Society of Digestive Surgeons in Rome, Italy. The presentation was the culmination of two years of work on one of the projects in Blair Jobe's research lab. Our study has suggested that dynamic contrast enhanced MRI could play a role in the evaluation of esophageal adenocarcinoma. As one of the finalists in the resident competition, the presentation was part of the first session - 8 am on the first day of the congress, after flying halfway around the world. To my surprise, a large number of people showed up for it, and the congress was accordingly well attended. I bumped into some of the previous OHSU Grand Rounds speakers from the United States. Dr. Hunter also gave his three presentations and introduced me to even more surgeons from around the

world.

Outside the presentations, my wife and I took the opportunity to see Rome while the skies were unseasonably sunny. Although my high school Latin was completely useless when it came to conversational Italian, we managed to find some of the things Rome was known for (the Vatican, gelato, and Italian hot chocolate). Dr. Hunter brought us to one of the local restaurants for a "real" Roman meal hosted by one of his friends from the area, Dr. Roberto Coppola. There, we enjoyed a magnificent (too-many-courses-to-count) dinner with a group of mostly pancreatic surgeons.



Trevi Fountain

## Special Events



The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce a special joint grand rounds presentation on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at noon in the OHSU Auditorium. Atul Gawande, MD will be the featured speaker. The title of his talk is "BETTER: On the Idea of Performance in Medicine". Gawande received a B.A.S. (1987) from Stanford University, an M.A. (1989) from the University of Oxford, an M.D. (1995) from Harvard Medical School, and an M.P.H. (1999) from Harvard School of Public Health. Since 2003, he has been an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and a surgeon in the Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Since 2004, he has also served as an assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard School of Public Health and as assistant director of the Center for Surgery and Public Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is a staff writer for the *New Yorker* and writes the "Notes of a Surgeon" column for the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In 2002, Gawande's book, *Complications* was published. "Complications is a literary version of an informed consent form. It's refreshingly honest, if not always reassuring. Some people still prefer to think of surgeons as infallible gods. But Atul Gawande is a rare and wonderful storyteller who portrays his profession with bravery and humanity." --Ellen Goodman, Pulitzer prize-winning columnist and coauthor of *I Know Just What You Mean*

## SAM LIU MEMORIAL LECTURE



We are very pleased to have Dr. Alden Harken as the seventh annual Liu Lecturer. Dr. Harken is Professor and Chair at UCSF-East Bay Surgery Program. He received his medical degree from Case-Western Reserve Medical School and completed his surgery residency at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. Harken was associated with the Department of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania for 18 years. He then traveled to the University of Colorado where he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery for 18 years. In 2003 he was recruited to replace Dr. Claude Organ as UCSF-East Bay's Chair of Surgery.

Dr. Harken was one of two or three cardiac surgeons who created electrophysiologic surgery of the heart understanding the role of the surgeon to interrupt abnormal conduction pathways. More importantly, Harken is a brilliant molecular scientist, and has continuously held NIH grant funding for nearly 40 years.

## Grand Rounds — Spring/Summer 2006-2007

### *MONDAYS, except May 2nd, AT 7:00 A.M.* **OHSU AUDITORIUM**

Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. OHSU School of Medicine, Division of CME, designates this educational activity for a maximum of *1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* per session. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

- April 9, 2007 "Radiation Medicine for the Practicing Surgeon: Update for the New Millennium". Charles Thomas, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, OHSU
- April 16, 2007 "Pediatric Thoracoscopy: Where Did This Come From and Where Is It Going?" Bradley Rodgers, MD, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center
- April 23, 2007 "What's New in Adult Cardiac Surgery". Howard Song, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, OHSU
- April 30, 2007 "Body Bags Unzipped". Michelle Barry, MD, Associate Medical Investigator, Office of the Medical Investigator, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- May 2, 2007 "BETTER: On the Idea of Performance in Medicine". Atul Gawande, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, and Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health
- May 7, 2007 "Living Liver Transplant Donors". John Ham, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief, Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation, OHSU
- May 14, 2007 LIU LECTURE: "Should Surgeons Ask Questions?" Alden Harken, MD, Professor of Surgery and Chair, UCSF-East Bay Surgery Program
- May 21, 2007 "Hypertonic Saline for Prehospital Resuscitation of Injured Patients". Susan Rowell, MD, Fellow, Surgical Critical Care, Department of Surgery, OHSU
- May 28, 2007 CANCELED: MEMORIAL DAY
- June 4, 2007 "Rib Fracture Pain & Disability: Can We Do Better?" John Mayberry, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Section of Trauma/Critical Care, OHSU
- June 11, 2007 "Why There's A Future in Cardiac Surgery". Gautam Velamoor, MD, Resident, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, OHSU
- June 18, 2007 "Inferior Vena Cava Filters in the Era of Retrievable Devices: Indications and Controversies". Erica Mitchell, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, OHSU
- June 25, 2007 "Strategies to Reduce Cardiac Risk of Noncardiac Surgery". Lee Fleisher, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania Health System (Jointly sponsored by the Department of Surgery and the Department of Anesthesiology)

## Visiting Professors



Bradley Rodgers, MD is Professor of Surgery and Clinical Pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He earned his MD degree at Johns Hopkins Medical School and then did his residency at Duke University Medical Center. Rodgers completed a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Montreal Children's Hospital in Canada. His interests in his clinical practice include general and thoracic pediatric surgery, pediatric surgical oncology and pediatric surgery. His research interest is in minimally invasive surgery techniques in pediatrics. Rodgers has been named in America's Top Doctors for the past three years. He has more than 162 publications and 37 books or book chapters to his credit.

Michelle Barry, MD is an associate medical investigator in the Office of the Medical Investigator in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as an assistant professor of pathology and hospital autopsy co-director at the University of New Mexico Hospital. She achieved her MD at OHSU and completed her residency at the University of Iowa in the Department of Pathology. Barry completed a forensic pathology fellowship at the University of New Mexico Hospital in 2005. She is involved in many volunteer activities. And it should come as no surprise that she is interested in flamenco dancing since her father, John Barry, is interested in surfing, unusual avocations for two very interesting people.



Lee Fleisher joined the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as Chair of the Department of Anesthesia. A Penn graduate and native Philadelphian, Fleisher earned his medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook and completed his residency at Yale. Before returning to Penn, he served as Professor of Anesthesia, Vice Chair for Clinical Investigation and Clinical Director of Operating Rooms for The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He has also held an appointment in Health Policy & Management at The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health since 1997.

## Abdominal Open 2007



Greetings,

It's that time of the year again to schedule our annual golf outing - The Abdominal Open . We have the event scheduled for June 2, 2007 starting at 10:30 AM at Eastmoreland Golf Course. The entry fee is \$40 person. Power carts can be rented for \$28 per 2 people. The entry deadline is Wednesday, May 23rd, 2007. There are 60 spots available on a first come, first served basis. Please complete the entry form, detach and return it, with payment (checks payable to the Department of Surgery) to Shelly Winn, L352A, OHSU, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239

This annual event has provided great joy and excitement in the past, and this year should be no exception. After the day's events on the golf course, we also have a gathering / barbeque at the Deveney's for bragging rights and the presentation of the plaid jacket to the winning team! If you would be interested in participating and have questions, please contact Shelley Winn at 503.494.4692 or winns@ohsu.edu.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Pager No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests (Tee Time, Partners, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

## Chairman's Message (continued)

award in surgical oncology (**Rodney and SuEllen Pommier**), a study funded to look at the clinical effect of androgen blockade on estrogen receptor negative breast cancer. This award caps a decade of investigation by the Pommier lab, and we are excited by the benefit it will bring to breast cancer patients in this country.

In closing, I would like to invite you all to attend two spring events. The combined spring dinner of the Portland Surgical and Mackenzie Societies will occur on May 14th. The Mackenzie Society continues to grow in strength and numbers, and will be providing surgical loupes as well as textbooks and other educational materials to our surgical residents this year. The speaker at the Liu Lecture and our guest for the Mackenzie Society and Portland Surgical Society will be **Alden Harken MD**, a regent of the American College of Surgeons, a chair of surgery in Colorado and Oakland, a brilliant individual and a mentor of mine. If you have never experienced Dr. Harken's infectious academic curiosity, his irreverent challenging of surgical dogma, or his extraordinary sense of humor, this is a great opportunity to do so.

I would also like to invite you to a very special event co-sponsored by the Department of Medicine and the Department of Surgery. **Dr. Atul Gawande** is a surgeon at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and an endocrine surgeon of some skill and increasing renown. Atul is much better known to this world as one of its greatest medical writers, publishing frequently in the New Yorker magazine and authoring an award winning book Complications, a series of short pieces that bring our world into focus for the American public. We've been trying to get Atul to Oregon for some time. He will be delivering the Nobel Wiley Jones lecture in the OHSU Auditorium at noon on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the evening, he will be reading from his new collection and signing books at Powell's bookstore on Burnside. I hope to see you in May at one of these events.

## Mergers and Acquisitions

The Lattin family, Jason and Anna, has a new addition! Announcing Noelle Marie Lattin, born on Jan 20th. She weighed 7 lbs 10 oz, and 19 inches long.

Stephen and Bajik Noble welcomed their new daughter, Sanaa Sharon Jewel Noble, on January 22nd and she weighed 6 lbs 3 oz..

Jon Finks welcomed his son, Carlos Jacob Finks, on January 22, 2007. Carlos weight 7 lbs. 9 oz.

Maija Enestvedt was born Monday morning on January 29th weighing in at 6lbs 5oz and 18.5" long. She and Brintha & Kristan Enestvedt are doing well.

Ashley Vernon gave birth to Leighton Elisabeth Matthews on January 29, 2007. Elisabeth weighed 4 lbs 6 oz.

## General Surgery and Urology Residency Match Results

March saw another very successful match day for the general surgery residency program. Overall, the program had 707 applications and 144 candidates were interviewed. We are thrilled by the superb students from all over the country that have chosen to come to OHSU for their surgical education.

### General Surgery PGY-1 for 2007-2008:

Aric Aghayan - University of Missouri  
James Ballard - University of Utah  
Rachel Danczyk - Indiana University  
Crystal Hessman - University of Kansas  
Nicholas Kunio - University of Illinois  
Katrine Lofberg - University of Washington  
Kristen Massimino - Wright State  
Gordon Riha - Baylor  
Sharon Wright - New York Medical  
Douglas York - University of North Carolina

### Specialty-bound and Preliminary PGY-1 for 2007-2008:

Jeffery Brown - University of New Mexico  
Jimmy Chim - University of Maryland  
Brooke Crawford - OHSU  
Emily Dinges - OHSU  
Arun Raman - Univ of West Indies - Trinidad  
Kelly Ryan - Georgetown University  
Jennifer Wu - Georgetown University

### Urology PGY-1

Liyan Zhuang - the Norman Bethune Medical University  
in China  
Adrienne Heckler - Thomas Jefferson in Philadelphia.

## Second Annual OHSU Department of Surgery Golf Tournament & Auction

The Second Annual Department of Surgery Golf Tournament is scheduled to be held at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Washington on September 14, 2007. Last year we were able to raise close to \$160,000 at the tournament and auction with a profit of approximately \$106,000 that went directly to benefit the Surgery Education Center.

We are already getting a tremendous response for this year's tournament and have had to limit the foursomes to those who are going to sponsor at a minimum of \$5,000. There are some really wonderful items that have been donated to the auction including wine, restaurant dinners, vacation homes, golf lessons among other great items.



Pictured above : Steve Stadum, Joe Robertson, Peter Kohler and Henry Hewitt,

A new event in this year's tournament is the addition of having the four players who were closest to the pin during the tournament getting one shot at a hole in one for \$250,000 cash. Of those four, the individual who is closest to the pin will get one chance to hit a hole in one for \$1,000,000 cash. In addition, cars may be won with a hole in one on any of the par three holes.

Please consider coming to the dinner/auction following the tournament. It is \$50.00 per person to attend the dinner/auction. Last year we had close to 200 people come to the dinner further enlivening the event.

If you know of someone who might be a sponsor or if you know of potential auction items, please contact Pat Southard at 503-494-6093 or at southarp@ohsu.edu.



## Recognition

### Meet Robin Alton: Education Manager Extraordinaire

Robin Alton is an individual who needs no introduction to the current residents and faculty of the OHSU Department of Surgery, as she is the central figure in every aspect of OHSU's surgical residency. Having served as residency coordinator for seven years, in June Robin will "graduate" the second class of residents for whom she has served in the role of den mother (or sometimes mother confessor) for the entirety of their residency training. Only Tara Karamlou and Jason Smithers have been residents so long that they can remember anyone other than Robin serving that role!

The depth of Robin's knowledge and expertise regarding residency training in general surgery and the intricacies and nuances of the accreditation rules of the RRC (Residency Review Committee) and ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) make Robin an invaluable resource not only for surgical faculty and coordinators in other disciplines locally, but also among her colleagues in other surgery programs nationwide. Not only does she "know the rules", but she is also a practical problem-solver, who can be counted on to come up with innovative, successful ways to deal with the myriad of sticky issues that arise all-too-frequently in the management of the second-largest general surgery residency in the country.

Although Robin oversees all aspects of surgical education in the department, her first love is obvious: the surgical residents and their welfare. Robin plays a vital role in managing every part of the residency, including recruitment and interviewing; coordination and scheduling of rotations, call, and vacations; departmental management of the Verinform hours and evaluation reporting system; organization and communication of the education program; interfacing with local and national governing bodies; and serving as an integral part of the Department's management team.

Robin's door is always open to the resident in need of advice, a kind word, or occasional "tough love" when it's appropriate. Robin is clearly proud of the academic and personal accomplishments of the residents—even their successes in producing Gerber-quality babies to populate the NEXT generation of surgical residencies, as the many (and frequently updated) pictures on her office door demonstrate. Robin keeps in touch with many of the graduates of the program, and they send her updates on their progress.

It should come as no surprise that Robin earned her BA (with honors) in English from Portland State: she loves to read and is a precise and careful writer. Outside work hours, Robin and her husband Bruce Boswell enjoy gardening, spending "quality time" with their five cats and dog, and traveling both locally as well as to exotic, adventurous destinations. True Oregonians, they appreciate and protect the natural beauty of our region and enjoy hiking, bicycling, and camping.



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