Message from the Chair

On Tuesday, March 20, spring arrived north of the equator. On March 21, Portland and points south were covered in more snow than we received during most of the winter. But this is really no surprise. Weird weather is the province of the month of March. We understand the next three months will bring plenty more weird weather.

And speaking of weather, we at OHSU see the gathering clouds on the horizon of health care finance and have begun to make preparations for some significant changes in the state’s health care system. In Oregon, there is a prediction of a 30% gap in Medicaid financing, starting July 1, 2012. In response to this a number of things have been happening, which together are accelerating the transformation of Oregon’s health care system. The state had passed legislation supporting the formation of Collaborative Care Organizations, also known as CCOs, for the Medicaid population. CCOs cross traditional health system and payor-provider boundaries. Many kudos to Joe Robertson, M.D., President of OHSU and his team for addressing these changes in a very positive fashion. Additionally, there is some indication that the state may receive assistance as we transition to the CCO model through federal grants and demonstration project allocations. Regardless, the uncertainty of the future has made everyone, Department of Surgery included, just a little bit cautious.

Against this background, our year marches forward in a less dramatic fashion than any of my previous 10 years at OHSU. We are meeting our budget. Our physicians continue to gain distinction for their research, for their education, and for their superb clinical care. Once again, we topped the leader boards in the local “beauty contest” for Portland’s Best Doctors. While we understand this is hardly a scientific assessment of quality, we are nonetheless grateful for recognition.

We have just been through another Match Day where a “bumper crop” of qualified residents have matched to train in general surgery, plastic surgery, CT surgery, pediatric surgery, colorectal surgery, vascular surgery, and a host of other non ACGME approved fellowships. We are excited about the high quality of resident applicants and I think our group will be superb, comprising many AOA’s from top notch medical schools around the country. Most exciting, is our launch of

(continued on page 2)
Marilyn Butler, M.D. will be joining the Division of Pediatric Surgery in April 2012. She will focus her practice at Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel.

After completing medical school at Columbia University, Dr. Butler remained in NYC for her general surgery residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, and then trained in pediatric surgery at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She was in private practice for 8 years at Oakland Children's Hospital, before moving to Stanford University, where she has practiced for the past 7 years.

Dr. Butler's primary clinical interests are in the fields of minimally invasive surgery and thyroid surgery. She is the Founder and President of the Global Paediatric Surgery Network, a website that strives to coordinate the humanitarian efforts of pediatric surgeons worldwide.

We are very pleased to announce that Rabin Gerrah, M.D. joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in October 2011. Since 2009, he has served as an instructor in Clinical Surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York. In addition to his interest in high quality, challenging pediatric surgery, Dr. Gerrah designs cardiopulmonary circuits for infants, and has several patents for devices valuable in pediatric heart surgery. We are thrilled to have such great surgeons as Marilyn and Rabin joining our ranks.

As we look forward to the graduation of this year's residents, I would like to announce our alumnae/alumnus of the year. Steve Bickler, M.D. is a professor of surgery at the University of California, San Diego, and a nationally renowned pediatric surgeon. Dr. Bickler graduated from the OHSU surgery residency program in 1993. Dr. Bickler will be the guest professor at the Portland Surgical on June 1, attend our graduation exercises on June 2, and be a visiting professor at OHSU on Monday, June 4.

In closing, I would like to wish all our readers a sunny (hah!) and warm (maybe) springtime in Oregon. By the time we come back to you in August, our annual golf tournament and fundraiser will be right around the corner so please put on your calendar for now --- September 7 at Royal Oaks. Call Pat Southard @ 503-494-6093 soon if you want to play golf with us. Otherwise, you have plenty of time to make reservations for dinner.

That's it for now!

John
Knight Cancer Institute Melanoma Program

Malignant Melanoma is a cancer health risk of truly epidemic proportions; the incidence is doubling faster than any other human cancer (every six years) and melanoma is now the fifth and sixth most common cancer in men and women, respectively. The lifetime risk for Americans has risen from 1:260 in 1990 to 1:39 (for men) and 1:58 (for women) at present. Accordingly, the Knight Cancer Institute Melanoma Program, housed in the Division of Surgical Oncology under the direction of John Vetto, M.D., is expanding to meet increasing clinical needs and new exciting research opportunities.

This expansion received a “shot in the arm” recently with a gift from longtime Oregon business leader, philanthropist, and grateful patient John D. Gray. Mr. Gray, a real estate developer well known in Oregon for developing such projects as Sunriver, Salishan, and Skamania, has donated 5 million dollars to the Knight Melanoma Program to help expand OHSU’s pioneering role and ongoing leadership in the arena of personalized cancer medicine into the field of melanoma and other lethal skin and soft tissues tumors. With the help of this funding, Dr. Vetto and Brian Druker, M.D., have developed a multipronged plan to build on the existing strengths of the Melanoma Program:

* $500,000 will go directly to support clinical research. Dr. Vetto has hired Jeanine Frotino, former tumor registrar for Providence Health System, to collect and submit OHSU melanoma clinical data to the National Sentinel Node Working Group Registry housed at Vanderbilt University. This IRB-approved, prospective database will allow ongoing assessment of clinical and quality outcomes in melanoma care on a national and local level. Current studies include comparisons of lymphocele rates after the use of various energy-based surgical techniques for sentinel node biopsy, an analysis of adverse events in sentinel node biopsy (including false negative biopsies), and a pacific coast registry of Merkle cell cancers. Funding will also go toward support of conferences and for clinical trial management of present and future studies of new agents for advanced melanoma.

* Increased clinical trial availability and support. Working with Matthew Taylor, M.D. from Internal Medicine at OHSU, Dr. Vetto has already opened the ECOG 1609 trial, a three-armed study of adjuvant therapy for resected high risk melanoma. This study compares interferon to high and low doses of ipilimumab, a recently-approved monoclonal antibody that allows expansion of anti-melanoma memory T cells. Dr. Taylor has also opened phase I and phase II studies of MEK inhibitors, which target tumors with mutations in the NRAS/BRAF pathway.

* 2.5 million dollars will go toward the John Gray Chair of Translational Melanoma research. The chair will round out the existing Multidisciplinary Melanoma Team of surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, dermatologists, pathologists, and genetic counselors, and focus the team on finding molecular defects that drive the growth of melanoma and developing new targeted therapies. Dr. Vetto is working with the Chair of Medical Oncology, Alan Sandler, M.D., to identify and recruit this individual.

* Expansion of the Melanoma program will also mean expansion of the ongoing collection of melanoma data into the Knight Cancer Institute’s exclusive Personalized Cancer Medicine Registry. Headed by Chris Corless, M.D., this clinical and translational program is already developing one of the nation’s largest and best-organized databases of melanoma tumor genetics and patient information. The registry’s growth is expected to increase OHSU’s participation in major national clinical trials of promising new melanoma drugs developed here or at other institutions.

For further information about the melanoma program contact Dr. Vetto at vettoj@ohsu.edu.

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Dr. Robert O’Rourke Receives R03 Grant Funding

We recently learned that Robert O’Rourke, M.D.’s R03 will be funded. Dr. O’Rourke will submit an R01 application to the NIH in February. The grant, “Adipose tissue NK cells and inflammation and insulin resistance in obesity,” will fall under the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases B Subcommittee and begins April 1st, 2012.

In Dr. O’Rourke’s words, “The goal of this application is to study the role of NK cells in human adipose tissue inflammation and the efficacy of in vivo systemic NK cell knockdown in murine obesity as first steps towards developing NK cell-based therapy for metabolic disease.”

“Adipose tissue inflammation underlies numerous obesity-related disease and elucidation of its mechanisms will guide research directed towards developing therapy for obesity-related metabolic disease.”

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Research Assistants Kevin Meyer and Ashley White, with Robert O’Rourke, M.D., take a break for the camera in Dr. O’Rourke’s Mackenzie Hall Lab.
The Surgical Oncology lab headed by Research Associate Professor, SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D., who is investigating multi-tumor diagnostic testing of aerobic glycolysis to assist with drug therapy. This work is funded by a private donation of $125,000 made up of several parties.

Cancers express a variety of different genetic abnormalities, often within the same type of cancer. This makes it difficult to develop anti-cancer therapies that can be utilized by large numbers of patients. However, it is now recognized that many cancers share a common feature. They transport large amounts of glucose into their cells and use it for energy to grow and produce more cancer cells. This process is called “aerobic glycolysis” (AG). To initiate and maintain AG, cancer cells have to restructure and reorganize many of the functions found in normal cells. By doing so, cancers acquire a survival advantage that allows them to successfully proliferate in the body.

Currently there are several clinical trials investigating drugs that can be used against cancers that perform AG. But it is unclear which types of cancers are best treated by these drugs. Therefore, we have developed a diagnostic test to determine which cancers are performing AG. We will evaluate the success of the test first in breast, lung and colon cancers. Small amounts of genetic material will be collected from cancer specimens. Through a series of molecular procedures, it will be possible to determine if AG is occurring in the cancer sample. This will allow clinicians to work better with patients to determine which of the new investigational drugs will provide a beneficial response against the cancer. It also is hoped that, with further testing, this diagnostic test will be able to predict the behavior of early stage tumors so that earlier therapeutic intervention is possible.

In addition, SuEllen and her team are working to provide the Scientific Basis for a Breast Cancer Prevention Plan by Determining the Genetic Changes that Transform Normal Stem Cells into Cancer Stem Cells. Support for this project is made possible by third year funding from the Avon for Women foundation in an amount of $150,000.

The goals of this study are to determine if breast cancer stem/progenitor cells have target receptors for HRT and breast cancer therapeutic agents such as tamoxifen, aromatase and HER2 inhibitors. For more information on Dr. Pommier’s research, please contact SuEllen at pommiers@ohsu.edu.

2012 Resident Research Fair

Surgical Grand Rounds on Monday, February 6, 2012, was devoted to the Department of Surgery research fair. This forum was designed to showcase Department of Surgery faculty, interdepartmental research colleagues and the current residents who are actively engaged in research. Robin Feidelson, Grants and Contracts Coordinator, Department of Surgery, organized the event and coordinated the presentations with the faculty which describes the division specific research programs and related opportunities for research residents. More than 15 mentors and their labs participated in this event. The interactive poster presentation format of the conference allowed surgery residents, interested in applying for a year of research during their general surgical training, to meet mentors and discuss research opportunities. The response to this research fair was quite favorable. The event was organized by Bruce Wolfe, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery, Bariatric Surgery Section, and SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D., Director of Resident Research in Surgical Oncology.

The William S. Fletcher Award was presented at this year’s research fair. This award was established to recognize outstanding cancer related research. It is awarded annually to a resident or fellow in the Department of Surgery at OHSU for research intended to be submitted for oral presentation at an international meeting. The award supports the winner’s travel, registration and expenses to an international meeting. This year the award was presented to Jeffrey Barton, M.D.
Kevin Billingsley, M.D.
and
this July. While an enormous number of people were a great help in preparing that abstract, the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association's 12th World Congress in Paris, France was accepted to Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association in Miami, FL, and the study, titled “Coagulopathy following liver resection: Is it over-diagnosed and over-treated?” during his research year. We've looked at coagulation after hepatectomy, comparing the
The most exciting part of my year has come from work started by Gordon Riha, M.D. looking at thrombelastography-based dosing of enoxaparin for prophylaxis. Kunio, M.D. Nick Phil Van. M.D. I have had the chance to continue work started by Peter Fischer, M.D. one of the Trauma/Critical Care fellows. I'm also looking at the utility of chest CT scans in pediatric trauma patients. I have had the chance to continue work started by Phil Van. M.D. and carried on by Nick Kunio, M.D. looking at thrombelastography-based dosing of enoxaparin for prophylaxis. The most exciting part of my year has come from work started by Gordon Riha, M.D. during his research year. We've looked at coagulation after hepatectomy, comparing the INR to thrombelastography and evaluating coagulation factors. The first abstract from this study, titled “Coagulopathy following liver resection: Is it over-diagnosed and over-treated?” was accepted to Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association in Miami, FL, and the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association's 12th World Congress in Paris, France this July. While an enormous number of people were a great help in preparing that abstract, I would particularly like to thank Kevin Billingsley, M.D. and Martin Schreiber, M.D. for their support and mentorship, and Jerome Differding for his help with data analysis. In addition, I'd like to extend an enormous thanks to William Fletcher, M.D. for his generous gift that will allow me to go to the IHPBA meeting. I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to present this work internationally, and it's truly the opportunity of a lifetime.

My research year has been a lot like my musical tastes: eclectic, but thoroughly enjoyable for me. Thanks to the structure in place in the Trauma Research Institute of Oregon, I’ve been able to explore studies in hepatobiliary surgery, pediatric trauma, trauma and general surgery. Despite spreading myself thin, I’ve managed to accomplish quite a bit. I am currently preparing an abstract on pediatric venous thromboembolism following trauma, with the help of Jennifer Watters, M.D. and Peter Fischer, M.D. one of the Trauma/Critical Care fellows. I’m also looking at the utility of chest CT scans in pediatric trauma patients.

In addition, I'd like to extend an enormous thanks to William Fletcher, M.D. for his generous gift that will allow me to go to the IHPBA meeting. I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to present this work internationally, and it's truly the opportunity of a lifetime.

This year I have joined Melissa Wong M.D.’s lab within the Department of Dermatology. I began the year completing a project that identified prognostic cancer stem cell marker profiles in aggressive metastatic colorectal cancer. I presented the results at the Northwest Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons meeting in Suncadia, Washington. This project demonstrated CD166 as a potential target for further studies. CD166, a cell adhesion molecule, has been identified as a cancer stem cell marker and is over expressed in both advanced and metastatic colorectal cancer although the specific role this molecule plays in the development of metastatic disease is currently unknown. I applied and was awarded a $20,000 grant from the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon which will help support my research to identify the role of CD166 in the formation of hepatic metastases from colorectal cancer. My current project uses several laboratory techniques including cell culture, cell transfection, transgenic mouse creation and breeding as well as immunohistochemistry, western blot and advanced microscope techniques. These are techniques I have learned from the extremely supportive group within our lab who come from several different backgrounds.

My time in the lab has allowed me the ability to explore the connection between basic science research and clinical practice. This has given me a greater appreciation for strong collaborative practices. I plan on taking these experiences and applying them to my future surgical practice.

Emily Bubbers, Dermatology

Resident Researcher Roster:
The Department of Surgery has approximately 90 General Surgery Residents. Between their third and fourth year of residency, our residents have the option of applying for one of a handful of available research positions located both here at OHSU and at off-campus localities. Currently, we have seven General Surgery residents who are completing their research year in labs on campus at OHSU. We pass the research residents in halls, and we see them working diligently in their labs, but what are they really working on? We asked our 2011-2012 research residents to share with us a brief summary of their research year pursuits. The next three pages summarize the outstanding lab work of our team of research residents – Enjoy!

P.S. As impressive as you may find the following lab summaries, please don’t forget to catch our research residents “fun facts” on page 7. Our stellar group of research residents exemplify an outstanding camaraderie, not only clinically and academically, but also in their pursuit of taking in all Oregon has to offer - fresh powder on the mountains, great brews, and braving the waves of the Oregon coast…

Victor Wong
Resident Paper Published

Fourth year General Surgery resident Victor W. Wong, M.D. is the lead author of a paper recently published in Nature Medicine (Nat Med 2012 18:148-52) entitled “Focal adhesion kinase links mechanical force to skin fibrosis via inflammatory signaling.” He recently returned from a three year research fellowship at Stanford University and collaborated with Anna Kuang, M.D. from the Division of Plastic Surgery on this project. Dr. Wong has received several prestigious national awards for his research on scar mechanotransduction and skin engineering and would like to thank Karen Deveney, M.D., John Hunter, M.D. and Juliana Hansen, M.D. for their continued support and guidance. In his words, “I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented OHSU at national and international meetings.”
I have spent this year in the trauma research laboratory. I am involved with several active retrospective and prospective studies. Transfusion practices have been an important area of focus for me. I am performing a prospective observational study comparing thromboelastography (TEG) with INR before and after transfusion of fresh frozen plasma (FFP). Our hypothesis is that TEG will prove a more reliable predictor of bleeding and thrombotic events in surgical patients and allow for more judicious administration of FFP. I am also involved in our study of frozen versus refrigerated packed red blood cells. This is a prospective, randomized, interventional study in trauma patients comparing frozen blood, young refrigerated blood (<15 days), and older refrigerated blood. Our primary endpoint is tissue oxygenation. We are also comparing biochemical changes and clinical outcomes. This month marks the exciting expansion to a multi-center study. In a different area of focus, I have launched the continuous feeding trial. This is a prospective, randomized, interventional study in intubated surgical and trauma patients who are receiving enteral feeding and are planned to undergo operations. We are comparing the standard 6 hour pre-operative fasting period to a continuous feeding regimen with enteral nutrition proceeding until the patient transfers to the operating room. Our hypothesis is that the continuous feeding protocol is safe and will allow for delivery of calories and protein. We are also observing clinical outcomes.

Outside of the laboratory, I have had the opportunity to be involved in several administrative roles within our residency program, the OHSU office of graduate medical education, and the Department of Surgery itself. This April, I will be attending the American College of Surgeons. Outside of the lab I am enrolled in the Human Investigations Program, which will provide the basis for a Master’s in Clinical Research. I’ve helped the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division establish a porcine model for simulation and training purposes, written several chapters in foregut surgery textbooks, and have mentored several promising medical students in writing grants for their own projects this summer.
Marcus Kret, Vascular Lab

I have spent the 2011-2012 academic year pursuing numerous research projects within the Division of Vascular Surgery. My counterpart and I, Phong Dargon, M.D. have been extensively involved in surgical education. Under the guidance of Erica Mitchell, M.D. we have assisted in preparing a systematic review on simulation in vascular surgery education. In addition, as a part of the VirtuOHSU skills curriculum, we have had the opportunity to teach techniques for both central line insertion and vascular anastomosis to the PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents, respectively. In addition, I have given four lectures on various topics to residents and students on the OHSU Vascular Surgery rotation, and have lectured the MS3 students on peripheral vascular disease as part of their 3rd year General Surgery rotation curriculum.

This fall I completed a project with Gregory Landry, M.D. entitled “Results of Routine Shunting and Patch Closure during Carotid Endarterectomy.” The project was presented as a podium presentation at the North Pacific Surgical Association’s annual meeting in Vancouver, BC on Nov 11, 2011. The accompanying manuscript has been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Surgery. In addition, I submitted a book chapter prepared with Gregory Moneta, M.D. entitled “Duplex Imaging of Infragenual Occlusive Disease” to the text Current Therapy in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

In addition, I currently have several ongoing projects. Timothy Liem, M.D. and I have been designing a prospective, randomized trial evaluating the rate of PICC associated upper extremity DVT associated with the specific vein of insertion. The project is based on previous retrospective work published by Dr. Liem. I have also prepared a project with Amir Azarbal, M.D. evaluating the relationship between distances travelled for care with patients’ likelihood to comply with surveillance recommendations after EVAR. Finally, Dr. Landry and I are initiating a retrospective review to evaluate the role of the angiosome in lower extremity revascularization for critical limb ischemia. We plan to use this as the basis for prospective evaluation of the topic, including investigation into regional variation in limb perfusion after bypass in collaboration with Bill Rooney, M.D., OHSU’s Advanced Imaging Research Center.

Phong Dargon, Vascular Lab

My research year in the Division of Vascular Surgery has been an incredible year of reading, writing, and arithmetic (statistics). I love vascular biology and it has been a pleasure to read and learn about various vascular topics during journal club, fellow’s lecture, outcomes research, and manuscript preparations. It has been a busy year and so far I have 2 manuscripts accepted, “Buerger’s disease” in Annals of Vascular Surgery and “Upper extremity arterial evaluations” in Journal for Vascular Ultrasound. I also gave 2 presentations at the Pacific Northwest Vascular Society 2011 annual meeting. This summer I have a podium presentation of Timothy Liem M.D.’s study on radial artery catheter-associated ischemic complications at the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society annual meeting, as well as a poster presentation of Erica Mitchell, M.D.’s study on mentorship and medical student pre-clinical exposure to vascular disease at the Society for Vascular Surgery annual meeting.

Education has been a large part of my research year as I’ve helped instruct the PGY2 vascular anastomosis skills lab and the PGY1 central venous catheter course in the VirtuOHSU. I’ve also given 5 lectures to a variety of audiences from MS3 to PhD. I’m currently preparing an abstract with Gregory Moneta, M.D. comparing the utility of various imaging modalities in the evaluation of mesenteric artery stenosis. I have ongoing projects with Dr. Mitchell studying operative competence, AAA wall stress as a predictor of rupture with Amir Azarbal, M.D., and outcomes of endoscopic vein harvest for infrainguinal bypass with Gregory Landry, M.D.

Lastly, I am currently preparing 2 case reports: bilateral mechanic vertebral artery occlusion and spontaneous splenic artery dissection. Despite the rigors of vascular research, I have been able to spend quality time with my wife, explore Portland, and write 40 non-peer-reviewed Yelp reviews thus securing my 2012 Yelp Elite status.
Stephen W. Bickler, M.D. will join us June 4, 2012. Dr. Bickler completed his medical education at UC Irvine and finished his residency at OHSU. Dr. Bickler is a pediatric surgeon who has advanced fellowship training in pediatric surgery, tropical medicine and hygiene. As a pediatric surgeon at UCSD, he provides surgical care for children at Children’s Hospital and Health Center in San Diego. He was named one of San Diego’s Top Doctors in 2005, as selected by the San Diego County Medical Society in partnership with San Diego Magazine. Dr. Bickler has spent many years working as a pediatric surgeon in developing nations around the world. Dr. Bickler has published extensively and has traveled widely in the United States and around the world to present lectures on pediatric surgery, injury prevention, and methods for improving healthcare for children in developing countries. He works with the World Health Organization and other organizations devoted to bringing medical attention to children in need.

Ormond Neely Panton, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.C., F.A.C.S. will join us May 7, 2012. Dr. Panton completed his medical education at the University of the West Indies and enrolled in the Surgical Residency Program of the University of British Columbia. Dr. Panton practiced as a community surgeon joining the General Surgery staff at the University of British Columbia Hospital. He was appointed Head of the Division of General Surgery in July of 2008. Dr. Panton was trained to perform diagnostic laparoscopy and embraced these techniques which served him well as a community surgeon. He introduced laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair, laparoscopic colectomy and laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication in his surgical practice. For the last 20 years he has supported his colleagues at multiple sites at the University of the West Indies. He has contributed equipment to developing their laparoscopic surgery services and more recently to the establishment of a surgical skills training centre at the Mona Campus in Kingston, Jamaica. He has also donated a substantial of amount of medical and surgical equipment to the Cayman Islands Hospital in Georgetown and Grand Cayman to provide relief after Hurricane Ivan.

Norman E. McSwain, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S. will join us May 14, 2012. Dr. McSwain completed his medical education at University of Alabama and finished his residency at the Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. He worked at the University of Kansas in Kansas City for four years before being recruited to Tulane University. He came to New Orleans in order to lend his skills to Charity Hospital, which Dr. McSwain estimates was one of the three major trauma centers in the area before Hurricane Katrina. He worked with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma to assist in the development of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) program. Dr. McSwain is the only person in the history of the ACS to receive all five major trauma awards. He has worked with the military and the Department of Defense.

Keith Georgeson, M.D. is a native Californian who spent his childhood years on the family farm in the San Joaquin Valley. He received his medical degree at Loma Linda University in Southern California. His fellowship in pediatric surgery was completed at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. After nine years on the faculty at Loma Linda University, he moved with his family to Birmingham, Alabama, where he was Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Alabama, School of Medicine for 26 years and Chief of Surgery at the Children’s Hospital of Alabama. He was appointed Vice Chairman of the University’s Department of Surgery in 2006. Dr. Georgeson’s primary academic interest has been in the evolution of minimally invasive pediatric surgery. He has developed several minimally invasive surgical techniques for children including laparoscopic fundoplication, laparoscopic gastrostomy, laparoscopic pull-through for Hirschsprung disease and laparoscopic pull-through for high anorectal malformations. He has edited three books on the subject of pediatric minimally invasive surgery, of which two were also translated into Spanish.

Dr. Georgeson was a Director of the American Board of Surgery from 2000 to 2006 and Chairman of the Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery from 2003 to 2006. He is a past President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) and a founding member and past President of the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group (IPEG). In October, 2011, he was awarded the Ladd Medal from the American Academy of Pediatrics for his contributions to the field of Pediatric Surgery. He and his wife Evelyn have recently moved to Spokane, to continue his practice in pediatric surgery and to live near their children and grandchildren.

The 5th Annual John R. Campbell Lecture
Thursday, May 3rd, 2012 at 8:00 AM
Vey Auditorium, Doernbecher Children’s Hospital

Save the Date!
Colorectal Cancer Symposium
Continuing Medical Education
Friday, May 4
The Allison Inn, Newberg

Want to learn more? Please contact Claire Lawrence: 503 494-6920 or lawrencc@ohsu.edu
2012 Grand Rounds Schedule
MONDAYS 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 medical education for physicians. OHSU School of Medicine, Division of CME, designates the 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

April 2: LIU LECTURE, “The Path of Surgical Education: What Direction Will We Take?,” Mark Malangoni, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Executive Director, American Board of Surgery, Philadelphia, PA

April 9: “Ethical and Legal Issues in Informed Consent,” Susan Bankowski, M.S., J.D., Chair, Institutional Review Board, OHSU, and Renee Wenger, J.D., Risk Management, OHSU

April 16: “An Update on Cardiothoracic Surgery,” Jon Boyum, M.D., Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

April 23: “Patient Safety: It’s Not Rocket Science,” James P. Bagian, M.D., P.E., Joint Conference with the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine

April 30: “Severe Acute Pancreatitis,” Hobart W. Harris, M.D., M.P.H., J. Englebert Dunphy Professor of Surgery, Chief, Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery, UCSF

MAY


May 14: “Resuscitation: The Basic Science,” Norman E. McSwain, M.D., Professor, Tulane University, Surgery, Trauma Director, Spirit of Charity Trauma Center, ILH/MCLNO, New Orleans, LA

May 21: CANCELED - All Hill Faculty Meeting

May 28: CANCELED - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

JUNE

June 4: “Pediatric Surgery in sub-Saharan Africa: Insights from a Prospective Database,” Stephen W. Bickler, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, University of California, San Diego; Section Chief, Pediatric Surgery, Rady Children’s Hospital

June 11: “Hemostatic Resuscitation,” Nicholas Spoerke, M.D., Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 18: “Delivering WOW. Patient Satisfaction in Surgery,” Peter E. Fischer, M.D., M.S., Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 25: “The Utility of the Bedside Echo in the ICU,” Mary Sorenson, M.D., Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Department of Surgery, OHSU
Cardiothoracic Ex-Vivo Simulation Lab

This winter, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery ramped up their simulation curriculum and with the assistance of Donn Spight, M.D. and Program Director, Elena An moved this effort into VirtuOHSU. Simulation training in cardiothoracic surgery is now an RRC requirement and is becoming the norm as Graduate Medical Education emphasizes patient safety and supervision of trainees.

The Cardiothoracic Surgery Simulation Program offers educational opportunities for students, residents, fellows and faculty located at VirtuOHSU. Paul Schipper, M.D., Thoracic Surgery Program Director, has constructed clinical simulation models from low cost tupperware, department store mannequins, tubing and connections found at the local hardware store and coupled this to a curriculum and assessment strategy to better educate our residents. This new program uses the latest simulation techniques and technologies in this rapidly growing field of surgical education. These are lifelike simulators, which use fresh porcine organs that are re-animated using hydraulics, reperfusion, and are then placed in a human equivalent model. Another simulator is the recently acquired Beating Heart Model for cardiac surgery clinical training.

Simulation sessions completed so far include finding and repairing a Boerhaave’s perforation of the esophagus, esophageal myotomy, esophageal anastomosis, large vessel anastomosis, lobectomy, tracheal resection and anastomosis, aortic root replacement, and coronary artery bypass grafting. General surgery residents, cardiothoracic surgery residents, and medical students have all participated in these exercises. Further sessions are planned for the spring, including management and repair of aortic dissection, aortic interposition grafting and mitral valve surgery.

Finding time to incorporate simulation in surgical residencies requires the willingness to overcome logistical barriers and providing set protected time for skills lab training on a regular basis.
If you have visited the VirtuOHSU simulation lab you may have noticed that some new equipment has arrived and new simulations have been taking place. It is a busy space and along with the resident skills lab, there are multiple other simulation events happening!

With the support of the OHSU hospital and the Robotic Surgery User Group, Christopher Amling, M.D. and Donna Spight, M.D. have arranged to move the training da Vinci Surgical Robot from the Kohler South OR multipurpose-training room to our simulation lab in VirtuOHSU. This exciting move allows multidisciplinary utilization of the robot for simulation activities. We are very excited to be one of the few training programs that have the capability to provide a laboratory experience using this cutting edge tool.

Through grants and donations we have been able to make some terrific simulation purchases for the Vascular and Cardiothoracic Surgery programs. We are very excited to incorporate for the first time high fidelity simulation tools such as a beating CABG heart model as well as dynamic carotid and aortic artery models for senior resident skills training.

The Cardiothoracic Surgery division jumped head first into surgical simulation in January 2012 putting on labs enjoyed by both residents and fellows. Paul Schipper, M.D. has been busy at work in his garage customizing fiberglass manikins to create innovative models for cardiopulmonary simulation. These models, which utilize perfused porcine heart lung blocks have been a tremendous success. (See page 10).

VirtuOHSU has two new talented undergraduate student volunteers selected from a field of 62 applicants. Their names are William Coad and Amina Ali. Both of them are currently engaged in pre-medicine studies at Portland State University:

William Coad is a senior and majoring in Micro/Molecular Biology. He has been volunteering in the community since 2007, and currently volunteers not only for OHSU, but also Providence St. Vincent, and he tutors biology/chemistry sciences at PCC. William started in January and has been a terrific volunteer. We are very happy to offer him this opportunity.

Amina Ali moved to Portland in 2008 from Dallas, Texas and is currently a junior, majoring in Health Sciences. Amina has been a peer mentor for Diversity & Multicultural Student Services at PSU for freshmen and transfer students and assists in creating curriculum for the summer high school programs. She currently tutors high school students in the Upward Bound program in science and mathematics. We are looking forward to having her join our volunteer team, starting in April.

We are constantly looking for more opportunities to open VirtuOHSU for additional educational activities. It is an exciting time for our program as more grants and donations allow us to enhance our educational programs.

From left: Paul Schipper, M.D., Howard Song, M.D., Kristen Massimino, M.D., Nathan Bronson, M.D., Mithran Sukumar, M.D., and Kelli Salter, M.D.
The Mackenzie Society

Named for founding chair Kenneth A.J. Mackenzie, M.D., the Mackenzie Society is comprised of alumni and faculty who provide the back-bone of annual giving for the Department of Surgery. Funds raised benefit the surgical residents, allowing travel, loupes and other educational activities. Members receive special benefits and are invited to the annual society dinner at the ACS fall meeting and the dinner honoring our eponymous lecturers. Interested in joining the Mackenzie Society? If so, please contact Pamela Sidis at 503-494-4937 or sidisp@ohsu.edu.

Resident Ski Day

Sponsored by the Mackenzie Society

Thanks to the generosity of the Mackenzie Society, for the third year in a row, John Hunter, M.D. and our residents have hit the slopes of Mt. Hood Meadows for Resident Ski Day. The day at the mountain is a well-deserved getaway – A few hours, and a few thousand miles in altitude, to reprieve from the day-to-day. As you can see from below, Resident Ski Day is fantastically fun and much appreciated by all. Thank you Mackenzie Society!
“Would You Consider a Job In Hawaii?”

I remember being asked this question in December 2007 while living in Rochester, Minnesota, where I was completing a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Mayo Clinic. The offer seemed both fantastically wonderful and completely unbelievable. More incredible was the contrast I experienced when I went for the interview. It was -40°F in Minnesota not counting the wind chill, my Subaru was protesting the temperature by putting on its “check engine” light for no apparent reason, and I was always scheming how to expose as little skin as possible to the elements. What a change to step off the plane in Honolulu and feel gentle breezes across my face, hear birds singing, and smell jasmine in the air. I was sold at that moment.

I have now been working at the Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center for nearly 4 years. It has been an adjustment to settle in to life on the most geographically isolated archipelago in the world. The suits that were my uniform in fellowship have no use here and wearing closed-toed shoes counts as being formal. There is a whole new pidgin vocabulary I have acquired, including “eh, howzit?” (“how are you?”) and various anatomic references. Google okole, a term I use regularly. Travelling more than 45 miles per hour is being somewhat reckless (although the hospital operates at normal mainland speed). Sunscreen is a daily necessity. Driving more than 10 miles seems a long way to go for something on the island, but hopping a trans-Pacific flight to the mainland is no big deal. The average grocery store is stocked with more varieties of miso or kim chee than ketchup.

Despite these differences, there are larger ideas central to Hawaiian life that I have come to embrace. One of these is aloha. This goes beyond a simple “hello” or “goodbye.” It also means peace, compassion, mercy, sharing and love. I see this aloha in the notes of appreciation my patients send me after healing from their various operations, random greetings and smiles I get on the street when walking my dogs, and people who will let you merge in traffic (I send out a “shaka” to the white Jeep I see every morning at 6:30!). It is a rare sentiment today and I feel lucky to have landed in a place where this is a societal value.

Another core structure in Hawaii is the ‘ohana, or family. I have been fortunate to have many ‘ohanas in my life: the one that I was born to; completed schooling with; trained with; and now, practice with. It strikes me that OHSU has been a common thread in my recent families. I was thankful to have Liana Tsikitis, M.D., Ann Seltman, M.D. and Addi Rizvi, M.D. with me in Rochester. I think of my residency friends and mentors almost daily. I always enjoy getting together with old friends and colleagues at meetings. And I am privileged to practice with what I like to call “OHSU-central-Pacific:” a small but critical mass of OHSU graduates found here in my Kaiser general surgery department (specifically Brian Wong, M.D., Mark Yamamura, M.D. and Daryl Kurozawa, M.D.).

So, to all of my extended OHSU ‘ohana, I wish you great aloha and look forward to seeing you next time.
The Surgical Log

Department of Surgery, OHSU School of Medicine

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Trauma .......................................................503 494-5300
Martin Schreiber, M.D.
Urology .......................................................503 346-1500
Christopher Amling, M.D.
Vascular Surgery ...........................................503 494-7593
Gregory Moneta, M.D.

OHSU includes the schools of dentistry, medicine and, nursing, OHSU Hospital and Doernbecher Children's Hospital; numerous primary care and specialty clinics; multiple research institutes; and, several outreach and community service units.

Change can’t happen if we see things just one way. That’s why diversity is so important to OHSU. 0412 (8)