Message from the Chair

March is an interesting month in Oregon. On bad years, like last year, it rained solidly through the whole month, but in an average year, like this year, March is fickle. One day it is cold, pouring rain, and maybe spitting snowflakes. The next day it is sunny and warm and the daffodils start coming out. So, by similar proportions the climate at OHSU can’t decide to warm up or not. Our business, and our success in the Department of Surgery seems to continue unabated with procedure growth, revenue growth, and much individual accomplishment noted in the pages that follow. Against this background, national belt tightening and an inability to compromise in Washington have resulted in some uncertainty at the University level. NIH grants are slashed 10 percent – a result of the “sequester,” and the possibility of Medicare cuts again looms large. For this reason, we have been told to be guarded in our optimism for growth and cautious in our hiring. It appears that the future is as uncertain as ever. So, on we march!

Big news in the Department of Surgery includes the new addition of two new inpatient operating rooms on the adult side of the house and one new operating room in Doernbecher. The Doernbecher operating room will allow us another state-of-the-art minimally invasive suite and it will also allow us to attack our extensive add on list during the course of the working day rather than into the evening. Our surgeons and their families will be very grateful. Rooms 25 and 26 in the South OR are truly palatial, at least in size. Before it was built, I used to refer to room 26 as our “dance hall” because the room is so large. It is set up as a state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgical room, but it has been created as a platform for future innovation, a room where new ideas and new technology can be showcased and tested. Next door, in room 25 is a one of a kind Phillips imaging system, the only one in the United States capable of such flexibility and resolution in fluoroscopic imaging. This is a hybrid room for cardiac and vascular surgery where...
percutaneous valves will be placed, complex endovascular aortic reconstructions will be performed, and hybrid procedures can happen, where standard open surgical access will be paired with catheter based intervention. Greg Landry, M.D., Howard Song, M.D. and a cast of thousands deserve great credit for designing our second new OR of the future.

As we prepare for our next budget year, the main thrust in the Department of Surgery is recruiting a new chief of surgery for Doernbecher, and a new division chief of pediatric surgery for the Department of Surgery. I am thrilled by the quality of candidates that have shown interest in this job. We are now down to three finalists, any one of which would be a fabulous successor to Dr. Silen. We remain committed to our decade long partnership with Randall Children's Hospital, providing high levels of pediatric surgical care and education on the Emanuel campus. We welcome Cindy Gingalewski, M.D., the new Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Randall, as a full member of our pediatric surgical team. Cindy spent many years at Washington Children's Hospital in the District of Columbia and brings a strong set of pediatric surgical skills to our community.

In the Department of Surgery, a “grass roots” global surgery group continues to become better and better organized. Under a consortium leadership of Megan Frost, M.D., Katrine Lofberg, M.D. and Mackenzie Cook, M.D., this group is designing rotations for residents in Haiti, under the direction of Karen Kwong, M.D. and Martin Schreiber, M.D. and in East London, South Africa, a program Megan and Katrine initiated during their stint at the University of Cape Town. In a similar vein, I have become involved with a group from the Pacific Coast Surgical Association, headed by Bill Schecter, M.D. to examine our opportunity to create a west coast collaborative bringing sustainable presence of faculty and residents to a hospital in East Africa.

Our simulation program remains one of our great accomplishments in the Department of Surgery, under the superb leadership of Donn Spight, M.D., Elena An, and Pat Southard, M.S.N., J.D. and a cast of many! This group keeps pushing the frontiers forward. Not only are we bringing 20,000 new square feet of simulation up online at the Collaborative Life Science Building, a part of an OHSU wide simulation effort that Erica Mitchell, M.D. is shepherding, Dr. Spight and Pat Southard are working hard on building animate and inanimate simulation space on the hill in the Biomedical Research Building, and in Richard Jones Hall. These additional simulation venues may allow us to expand beyond our limited and heavily used VirtuOHSU space.

I would again like to thank all of our Mackenzie Society members, now over 200 in number, for supporting the residents in the Department of Surgery. Ski Day was a great success again this year, despite less than perfect conditions, and two orthopedic injuries (yikes!). You will be happy to hear that both residents are on the mend and the enthusiasm for the once a year event has not been diminished! This year it was a family event with a makeshift nursery set up in the corner of our reception room at Meadows Ski Lodge.

The grand rounds schedule for April, May, and June is exciting, including the Liu Lecture which will be delivered by Mark Talamini, M.D. the chair of surgery at UC San Diego. The Campbell Lecture which will be given by Heinz Rode, M.D. from Cape Town, South Africa will bring a distinctly international flavor to this signature lecture in pediatric surgery. The series of spring lectures is indeed an all-star cast, and I will leave you to read deeper in this Surgical Log to find out more about the individuals and their topics, but in the following order these world famous visiting professors and our own all-star faculty will be giving grand rounds. Starting on March 25 we will see Nick Sevdalis, Ph.D., a simulation expert from Imperial College London. Nick will be followed by Heidi Nelson, M.D., Greg Landry, M.D., Joanne Conroy, M.D., Diana Farmer, M.D., Albert Starr, M.D., Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Michael Longaker, M.D., C. Wright Pinson, M.D. and finally Brian Druker, M.D.. Looking at this list, it will be hard for anyone to miss a single Monday!

In closing, I again want to thank - once again - our fabulous faculty, residents, and staff in the Department of Surgery who make this “joint” a truly wonderful place to work every day.

Cheers,

John
Inaugural Thyroid Awareness Event Led by Dr. Milas

OHSU’s inaugural Thyroid Awareness Event as part of Thyroid Awareness Month on January 25, 2013 showcased excellent collaboration amongst the Thyroid and Parathyroid Center, several departments and the Knight Cancer Institute. Professor of Surgical Oncology, Mira Milas, M.D. coordinated and hosted the event, while Professor of Endocrinology, Mary Samuels, M.D., Professor of Otolaryngology, Maisie Shindo, M.D. and Associate Professor of Ear, Nose & Throat, Neil Gross, M.D. generously gave their time and wisdom. Dr. Milas notes that given the interest, high turnout and seriousness of the diagnoses that arose, she believes the event will continue to be a success on a larger scale.

Highlights from Dr. Milas

- 84 individuals stopped by our booth for information about the thyroid.
- Hypothyroidism was a most frequent topic of interest, followed by thyroid cancer.
- The providers were able to direct several individuals to further evaluations, including:
  - Thyroid nodules/cancer
  - Thyroid medication
  - Multiple endocrine neoplasia type I
  - Cowden Syndrome (two patients)
- The individuals were a 50/50 mix of OHSU employees and patients and CHH visitors and had pretty neat stories:
  - Former contestant on the Biggest Loser TV show.
  - A grateful patient from last year’s Head and Neck Screening event who pulled down her collar to show off a scar.
  - A staff member who emphatically noted: “I think we should screen every woman” for thyroid disease.

Dr. Watters Receives Sznewajs Award

Jennifer Watters, M.D. was awarded the 2013 Virginia I. Sznewajs Faculty Excellence Award for her contributions in palliative care and her outstanding work caring for patients with life-threatening diseases. The Sznewajs family created this award to recognize the outstanding system-wide palliative care Ginny Sznewajs received as an OHSU patient over an 18 month period.
A ventricular assist device (VAD) is an artificial heart pump utilized for patients recovering from heart attacks or heart surgery or those who suffer from congestive heart failure. Initially, VADs were developed for short term use. However, in the last few years, VAD technology has improved substantially and their use has been extended to patients who need long term support. The VAD program has been growing since 2009 as more reliable and long lasting pumps are introduced into the market, battery technology is improving and fewer complications are arising with the VADs. Dr. Song also mentions that because of the improved safety of the procedure, surgeons are able offer the therapy to a broader range of patients.

A major transition in the use of the VAD is that older or chronically ill patients who are poor transplant candidates can now actually live with a VAD for years as destination therapy. Due to increased demand, a team of providers has been formed to support the VAD program. Three VAD coordinators have joined and the cardiothoracic surgery faculty has grown. Another component of VAD development is research. Dr. Song, his faculty and other researchers are committed to investigating the outcomes associated with their patients. They are engaged in outcomes based studies that analyze which patients are the best candidates for a VAD. Currently, OHSU is involved in a pivotal HEARTWARE device trial and a Heart Mate 2 Trial investigating VAD outcomes in patients with ambulatory heart failure.

Dr. Song notes that the program faces challenges in its goals to be involved with emerging technology that pushes the field ahead and to ultimately make surgery safer. In several years, his team will be able to insert completely implantable VADs, in which the battery of the VAD will no longer be tethered to a wall charger and can be charged within one’s body. He explains that as the need for VADs expands it could be difficult to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to look after the growing population of these patients.

The program has achieved many accomplishments in the past few years including numerous papers showcasing outcomes data that were presented at national meetings. Dr. Song and his team have also helped hundreds of patients and provided ongoing care long after the patient’s initial surgery. Another accomplishment is their commitment to educating cardiologists and providers throughout the region who are now using the new VAD technology with their patients and improving quality of life. Dr. Song is excited about the future of VADs and strives to continue to offer the most advanced treatments in heart failure while pursuing research and development that improves surgical outcomes and safety.
**Visiting Lecturers**

**Joanne Conroy, M.D.** currently serves as Chief Health Care Officer for the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington D.C. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and medical degree at the Medical University of South Carolina where she also completed a residency in anesthesiology. She joined the faculty at USC and quickly rose to the ranks of vice chair and chair. Dr. Conroy also served as Vice President of Medical Affairs for MUSC and Senior Associate Dean for the College of Medicine before moving to Morristown, New Jersey where she served as COO of Morristown Memorial and Executive Vice President and president of Morristown Memorial. In her current position, she focused on interface between the health care delivery system and academic medicine. She represents approximately 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems.

**Diana Farmer, M.D.** is the chair of the Department of Surgery at UC Davis Health System in Sacramento, CA. She received a bachelor’s degree in marine and molecular biology at Wellesley College and her medical degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. She then completed her general surgery residency at UC San Francisco. She is an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon and a recognized pediatric surgeon. She is known for her skilled surgical treatment of congenital anomalies and for her expertise in cancer, airway and intestinal surgeries in newborns and for her investigations on the safety and effectiveness of providing spina bifida treatments before birth. In 2010, Dr. Farmer was inducted as a fellow into the Royal College of Surgeons of England, becoming only the second woman from the United States to receive this honor.

**Michael Longaker, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S.** is a professor of Plastic & Reconstructive surgery, Bioengineering and Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University. He received his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University where he played varsity basketball and his medical degree at Harvard Medical School. He completed general surgical residency at University of California, San Francisco and a residency in plastic surgery at NYU. The majority of his research training took place while he was a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at UCSF. As Director of the Program of Regenerative Medicine and Co-Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Dr. Longaker develops research programs in developmental biology, epithelial biology and tissue repair, tissue engineering and stem cell biology.

**Heidi Nelson, M.D.** is a professor in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She attended medical school at the University of Washington in Seattle and completed her general surgery residency at OHSU. She then relocated to Rochester for a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery. She is heavily engaged in research and her long-term goal for her research program is to improve both the duration of life and quality of life for patients with colon and rectal cancer. Dr. Nelson’s research efforts have helped reduce the impact of surgery on patients with early-stage disease through the safe introduction of laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgical procedures.

**C. Wright Pinson, M.B.A., M.D.** is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System in Nashville, TN. Dr. Pinson received a bachelor degree and MBA from the University of Colorado, a medical degree from Vanderbilt University and completed his general surgery residency at OHSU. He then did a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Surgery and another in Transplantation at Harvard University. In addition to his clinical interests in benign and malignant disorders of the liver, bile ducts and pancreas, as well as his extensive experience with liver transplantation and liver resection, he contributes his time and expertise to surgical education and administration.
Campbell Lecture: Heinz Rode, M.D.
Monday, April 29, 2013, 7 AM in OHSU Old Library Auditorium

This year’s Liu Lecturer is Mark Talamini, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at University of California, San Diego and the M.J. Orloff Family Endowed Chair in Surgery. He is a pioneer in minimally invasive abdominal surgery and serves as a highly respected surgeon, researcher and teacher. He is also recognized as one of the leading authorities on laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgery in the United States. He and the UC San Diego Center for the Future of Surgery attracted global attention in 2008 for advancing Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES). Dr. Talamini’s team was the first in the country to remove a diseased appendix through a natural orifice, such as the mouth. In his clinics and surgeries at UCSD, Dr. Talamini specializes in gastrointestinal surgery with a particular emphasis on the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis) and the use of minimally invasive technology to minimize pain and scarring.

Dr. Talamini received his medical degree and completed a General Surgery residency and fellowship at John Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. He has had an active career and has been very involved in clinical inflammatory bowel disease surgery, and has particular interest in the use of minimally invasive surgery for these diseases. He also has a substantial interest and practice in foregut intestinal surgery for reflux, achalasia, and other benign disorders. His active oncologic surgical practice focuses on colorectal, pancreatic, and gastric surgery. With more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters to his credit, Dr. Talamini also holds a National Institutes of Health grant to study the basic biological mechanisms involved with minimally invasive surgery. His book, Advanced Therapy With Minimally Invasive Surgery, was published in 2006.

Sam Liu Lecture: Mark Talamini, M.D.
Monday, May 6, 2013, 7 AM in OHSU Old Library Auditorium

The Division of Pediatric Surgery is proud to announce Emeritus Professor Heinz Rode as the 2013 Campbell Lecturer. Dr. Rode graduated with his medical degree in 1966 and qualified as a general surgeon from the University of Pretoria in 1974, from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, FCS (Surg) 1974 and from the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, FRCS (Ed) 1974. He then spent 15 months in Antarctica as the physician and deputy leader to the 9th South African National Antarctic Expedition. He was appointed Senior Specialist in Pediatric Surgery in 1982 and subsequently as principal specialist and eventually as Chief Specialist and Charles F.M. Saint Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatric Surgery at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital and University of Cape Town in 1997.

Dr. Rode held many leadership positions in a variety of professional organizations, including President of the South African Association of Pediatric Surgeons and the South African Burn Association. He was secretary of SAAPS, the Finance and General Purpose Committee of the Colleges of Medicine, the European Club for Pediatric Burns and the Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association. He is also an examiner and convener of examinations for the Colleges of Medicine in all categories of examinations.

Dr. Rode has written one book and is currently writing two additional books on the history of pediatric surgery in South Africa and a surgical manual for pediatric burns. He was the original driving force behind the establishment of the Pan-African Pediatric Surgical Association and served as the secretary for many years. His main interests are in trauma, neonatal surgery, oncology and burns. Dr. Rode has written 49 chapters in leading international textbooks and has published 268 articles in peer review journals. He is recognised as a leading burns surgeon in South Africa and is on the rehabilitation committee of the International Society for Burn Injuries.

His hobbies consist of Antarctic philately, oil painting and mountain walking. He is married to a child psychiatrist and Jungian analyst and has two children.
2013 Grand Rounds Schedule

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.

Grand Rounds begins at 7:00 AM, unless otherwise noted.

APRIL


April 8: “Vascular Innovation: What can we learn from the Europeans?” Greg Landry, M.D., Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU


April 22: “Surgical Global Health. A New Paradigm,” Diana Farmer, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chair and Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, UC Davis Children’s Hospital, Sacramento, CA

April 29: CAMPBELL LECTURE: “Pediatric Surgical Care in Africa,” Heinz Rode, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Red Cross Children’s Hospital, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, Africa

MAY

May 6: SAM LIU LECTURE: “Future of Surgery,” Mark A. Talamini, M.D., Professor & Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of California, San Diego, CA

May 13: “The Price of Innovation,” Albert Starr, M.D., Professor and Special Adviser to School of Medicine Dean, OHSU

May 20: “Health Reform in Oregon: Progress to Date,” Bruce Goldberg, M.D., Director, Oregon Health Authority

May 27: CANCELED - Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE

June 3: “Reparative and Regenerative Medicine,” Michael T. Longaker, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.S., Co-Director, Program in Regenerative Medicine, Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Generative Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA

June 10: “Critical Success Factors for Surgical Leaders” C. Wright Pinson, M.B.A., M.D., CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System, Division of Hepatobiliary Surgery & Liver Transplantation, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

June 17: “Imatinib as a Paradigm of Targeted Cancer Therapies,” Brian Druker, M.D., Director, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

June 24: “Nobel Laureate Surgeons - Commitment, Determination, Focus, and Innovation,” Shad Pharaon, M.D., Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Division of Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU
Resident Research Fair

Surgical Grand Rounds on Monday, January 28, 2013, was devoted to the Annual 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 and their accomplishments over the past year. The morning began with a brief introduction to Research in Surgery by SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D. and Bruce Wolfe, M.D. followed by presentations of the ongoing research in each of the Department of Surgery divisions. Following the presentations was the interactive poster presentation format of the conference, which allows the surgery residents, interested in applying for a year of research during their general surgical training, to meet mentors and current residents and discuss future research opportunities. More than 15 mentors and their labs participated in this event. Grants and Contracts Coordinator from the Department of Surgery, Robin Feidelson, organized the event and coordinated the presentations with the faculty. Each presentation described the division specific research programs and related opportunities for research residents.

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 Ian White, M.D. for his abstract entitled “Differential expression of miRNA-320a, -145, and -192 among different histology of colonic adenoma.” Dr. White’s project has been submitted for presentation at the International Surgical Week, August 25-29, 2013 in Helsinki, Finland.

Ian White, M.D. - 2013 Fletcher Award Winner

Thanks to a number of incredibly supportive and inspiring mentors, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in several different projects this year ranging from melanoma stem cells to virtual reality endoscopy.

My basic science research this year in the lab of SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D. has focused on how the immune system reacts to the presence of stem cells in patients with primary and metastatic melanoma.

When not pipetting in the lab, John Vetto, M.D. always has a plethora of clinical melanoma projects waiting for me. Examples of these include examining different factors impacting nodal drainage patterns in lower extremity melanomas, the role of sentinel node biopsy in patients with thick melanomas, and predictors of axillary web formation after sentinel node biopsy in upper extremity melanomas.

I have also been helping Kim Lu, M.D. and Brian Buchberg, M.D., our colorectal fellow, on several studies examining the role of virtual reality colonoscopic simulation in the training of surgical residents and as a potential tool in surgeon recertification.

I have also had the pleasure of working with Liana Tsikitis, M.D. on characterizing miRNA expression patterns in metastatic colorectal cancer to the liver. Our initial work in this effort, entitled “Differential Expression of miRNA-320a, -145, and -192 among different histologies of colonic adenomas” was submitted for both a MRF grant as well as an abstract to the World Journal of Surgery’s International Surgical Week in Helsinki, Finland, both of which are currently under consideration.

I would especially like to thank William Fletcher, M.D. for this extremely generous opportunity to present our work at International Surgical Week. It is occasions such as these that make me feel lucky to be a part of a residency program populated with people like Dr. Fletcher who are so dedicated to broadening our surgical education.
**Resident Ski Day**

Surgery interns and residents enjoyed a full day of skiing at Mt. Hood Meadows with professor and chair, John Hunter, M.D. The event was open to family members and many residents brought spouses and children to take part in the snow and activities. The Resident Ski Day is sponsored by the Mackenzie Society. Please contact Pam Sidis for information on contributing at sidisp@ohsu.edu.

On the mountain, from left, Julia Swanson, M.D., John Hunter, M.D., Cory Donovan, M.D., Elliot Stephenson, M.D. and Kelly Haisley, M.D.

From left, resident Mac Cook, M.D. with Dr. Hunter and resident Vicente Undurraga, M.D. relax in the lodge after skiing.

Residents, friends and family members pose for a group photo.

From left, Sheena Harris, M.D., Sheena’s husband, Keith and Emily Groves, M.D.

From left, Louise Corle, M.D. and Sheena Harris, M.D.

Resident, Jimmy Chim, M.D.’s wife, Taylor Chim and daughter, Nora.
Education and community outreach events have created a very busy winter season. During these past three months, VirtuOHSU has hosted over 90 high school students as well as 30 sixth graders. With the assistance of our surgical residents, Department of Surgery staff and medical student volunteers, we were able to share what we love about our branch of medicine and our passion for giving back to the Oregon community. Four different underserved, rural, high achieving, senior students were able to spend time in our surgical simulation lab and talk to resident mentors about what makes the hard work worth the effort. Surgical hand washing, virtual surgical simulation as well as knot tying and suturing are just a few of the task stations the students all get to rotate through. VirtuOHSU also hosted a class of Gresham sixth graders that got to try their hand at surgical skills. There was much laughter and some frustration as trying to do some of these skills tasks appeared harder than anticipated. Fun was had by all, and it is unclear who enjoyed it more, our volunteers or our visitors. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for all of their hard work and the generosity of their time.

The program also has wonderful donor and industry partners that support our surgical simulation lab. Their generous investment in our program’s residents and our mission is appreciated and we thank all of our industry and donor efforts to keep VirtuOHSU Surgical Simulation a success. Our partnership with Ethicon Surgical gave our large contingent of PGY-3 and PGY-4 surgical residents the opportunity to advance their understanding and expertise in laparoscopic surgery this past December. These high fidelity surgical events are a vital part of our surgical skills curriculum and it is a favorite of our surgical residents. Donn Spight, M.D., Dan Tseng, M.D. and Erin Gilbert, M.D. facilitated instruction of the complex, but needed index of surgical procedures that were performed at the Legacy Research Center wet lab event. We were very pleased to have such terrific surgeons instructing our learners. In teams of three or four, our surgical residents were able to learn not only surgical techniques for important laparoscopic and open procedures, but also practice team communication in a safe environment. We thank Ethicon Surgical for all of their assistance in making this event a success and Legacy Research for a great space for our large learning group. This event was an excellent way to kick off the winter holidays.
Welcome New Interns to the Department of Surgery!

Aravind Bommiasamy, M.D.
University of Illinois - Peoria

Alexandar Bridges, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania

Nicholas Fromm, M.D.
Stanford - South Dakota

Cameron Gibson, M.D.
State University of New York Downstate

Bryan Glaenzer, M.D.
Southern Illinois University

Heather Hoops, M.D.
University of Iowa

Taranjeet Kaur, M.D.
Government Medical College Patiala

Katherine Kelley, M.D.
Medical College of Wisconsin

Farbod Khaki, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University

Rosemary Reidy, M.D.
University of Colorado

Tana Repella, M.D.
University of Illinois - Urbana

Milda Shapiro, D.O.
Rocky Vista University College / Osteopathic

Steve Siegel, M.D.
University of Florida

Daniel Smith, M.D.
University of Colorado

Sergio Toledo, M.D.
University de la Salle

Sean Watters, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University

Katie Zirschky, M.D.
Loma Linda University
Faculty Flashback: J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D.

In 1959 J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D. was recruited from Harvard Medical School to be the new Chairman of Surgery at the University of Oregon Medical School after receiving several offers from other departments in the United States. Dr. Dunphy was born in Northhampton, Massachusetts and received his medical degree from Harvard where he was ninth in his class. He was the first Chairman of the Department of Surgery who had served on a faculty at a medical school outside of Oregon. While at the University of Oregon, he reached extraordinary national prominence. In 1963, Dr. Dunphy was elected President of the American College of Surgeons and at this time, he was the only physician in American history to hold the top four positions in the field of Surgery. He was also President of the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons and Chairman of the American Board of Surgery. During his acceptance speech for President of the American Surgical Association, he said, “I want to say you all have made a damn fine choice.” Dr. Dunphy left the department in 1964 when he was recruited by the Department of Surgery at University of California, San Francisco and offered the opportunity to have his own private practice and a salary of $50,000 a year.

OHSU Department of Surgery
Eighth Annual
Hunter Cup Golf Tournament & Dinner Auction

Royal Oaks Country Club
Friday, September 7, 2013

Contact Elena An (bradleye@ohsu.edu or 503-494-3074) for reservations and/or Pat Southard (southarp@ohsu.edu or 503-494-6093) in regards to Silent Auction donations or sponsorship. Deadline for participation is August 24, 2013.
Focus on Alumni

Steven Mills, M.D.

“The real answer is that I chose this specialty because it gives me the opportunity to cure colon cancer with surgery alone.”

I certainly have a unique point of view... I'm a colorectal surgeon.

Too bad I don't get a dollar every time a patient asks, “How did you pick this line of work?” I can answer with a joke about seeing a sign for 18 holes-a-day and being surprised that I didn't need golf clubs. Or, I mention that whoever finishes at the bottom of the class has to stay at the bottom. But the real answer is that I chose this specialty because it gives me the opportunity to cure colon cancer with surgery alone or to relieve the unbearable pain of an anal fissure in a patient who was at first too embarrassed to even talk about the problem. Of course, I could certainly mention that my OHSU mentors (notably Karen Deveney, M.D., Mark Whiteford, M.D. and Dave Parsons, M.D.) influenced me and showed me the light in a dark hole... Dr. Deveney even referred to my year of residents as the "terrible twos" during our second year - thus demonstrating to me subtle encouragement (you were just kidding, right??).

After completing my training at OHSU and fellowship at USC, I started working at the University of California, Irvine. As a fellowship program director and the medical student clerkship director, I have found that I have a great opportunity to repay my fantastic mentors by emulating them. I enjoy watching the metamorphosis from eager, though somewhat frightened, medical student to someone who we are recruiting for our general surgery residency, and then to a surgeon I am counseling (brain-washing) about a career in colorectal surgery. Being in this position has shown me just how fortunate I was to be trained at OHSU and just how tolerant everyone was during my training.

I have learned to balance a surgical career with real life. I got married during my 4th year of residency (a choice which I still rank as my all-time best!). We have 2 beautiful daughters and I make every effort to balance patient care and bedtime stories. I still live a surgeon's life, but refuse to have a traditional surgeon's lifestyle. We regularly go camping or and enjoy traveling around the globe. I love being able to see the world through young eyes; everything is exciting and new – whether it is hearing a Coqui frog in Puerto Rico, or seeing a stingray in Baja. Watching a 4 and 6 year-old zip line through Costa Rica together can be terrifying until you hear their giddy laughter. Indeed, that laughter and the big hugs I get every day make it all worthwhile.

To the students who ask me where I would recommend doing surgery residency, I always wax poetic and reminisce about a great half-decade in Portland at OHSU – forming such strong friendships and making fantastic memories. I could fill pages and pages with stories and quotes, though much of it would have to be censored due to content and to protect the identity of both the innocent and guilty. In truth, though we worked very long hours and were often exhausted, what I remember most is the fun we had doing the job we had competed for (and won!), the friendships that we forged and which are still strong today, and the awesome experience that is a surgical residency. Great training makes great physicians – we are all fortunate to have been trained by the best!
Patient Story: Theresa Rodriguez

I was diagnosed with lobular breast cancer in December of 2011 and had a mastectomy on January 10, 2012. I live in Boise, ID and had the majority of my treatment locally, including the mastectomy, the removal of several compromised lymph nodes, chemotherapy and radiation. When I completed treatment for my cancer, I sought options for reconstruction here locally, but I didn’t feel comfortable with the surgeon I originally saw. I did some research and planned a visit to the Breast Center at OHSU.

I traveled to Oregon fully anticipating that first visit to be one of many necessary prior to seeing the completion of my surgery. To my great surprise, Juliana Hansen, M.D. and her team arranged for me to be seen that very day by the other providers involved so that I didn’t have to make any additional travels. I was so surprised it almost seemed as if I had cheated the process, as I was certain from my previous experiences with medical providers that this would be a rather involved process! As I was in the exam room, her team was coordinating with radiology, the oncology department, etc. in order to smooth the way for me. This was a brand new kind of experience for me. I thought that I had been given excellent treatment over the last months, but nothing could compare to what I was seeing here. I never had to worry about details. OHSU staff kept me informed by phone of every detail. When I arrived in Portland the second time, it was for the surgery. Everything was scheduled so quickly, compared to local providers who would have been a minimum of several months away from performing reconstruction. The type of procedure available to me locally would have also included weekly follow up visits for months, multiple surgeries with expanders, and more extensive recovery time.

Less than two months from my initial visit to OHSU, I underwent my reconstruction. There was a moment immediately following surgery when I got nervous about my recovery – I was certain it was going to be a challenge – but the next morning I was up and walking around and feeling confident that I would be back to normal in no time.

While I had looked forward to being “whole” again, I had seriously underestimated what to expect in terms of impact for my self-esteem. In the last several weeks I have grown far more confident, outgoing and happy in general. My relationship with my husband is more solid than ever, and I feel much more comfortable with intimacy, my seven year old was so excited when I took her swimming recently, and the manner in which I carry myself has transformed. I feel vibrant and alive and happy to enjoy everything that I used to do! None of this would have been possible without Dr. Hansen, OHSU and this wonderful reconstructive program.

If Theresa’s story inspires you, please consider making a gift in support of the OHSU Department of Surgery

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*Checks must be postmarked before December 31, 2013 and online gifts must be received on or before 11:59 PM, December 31, 2014 to qualify for tax year 2013.

Please contact the OHSU Integrity Office at 1-855-257-4100 if you no longer wish to receive fundraising information.
A new, consumer-oriented website has been launched that puts OHSU’s cosmetic and plastic surgery services on par with market competitors. Behind the online presence is a collaborative effort unprecedented at OHSU involving the Departments of Surgery, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, plus the School of Medicine/Faculty Practice Plan, Healthcare Marketing and Web Strategies.

The new OHSU Cosmetic & Plastic Services integrated consumer website provides visitors a “one-stop shop” for information on services and providers in the following units: Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Clinic, Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Clinic, Casey Eye Institute's Facial Aesthetic Surgery Center, Dermatology Laser & Cosmetic Center, and Vein Clinic at South Waterfront.

Launched in October 2011, the project required stakeholders to fundamentally refocus their notion of an online presence, leaving behind the traditional definitions of academic websites to embrace content and a presentation that would stand out among private sector competitors.

The rationale for creating the site was both practical and strategic. Multiple clinics were marketing the same procedures, creating internal competition and making it difficult for consumers to find surgical services at OHSU. After an extensive analysis of market size, volume and types of procedures, and current patient demographics, all the stakeholders sat down to plot a mutually beneficial solution. The site is expected to generate demand and incrementally increase revenue for all five clinics – a big shift from the previous model which provided little visibility in the local marketplace.

“We know OHSU’s surgical providers and teams are among the best, but people looking for services weren’t necessarily getting that message by searching our websites,” said Sally Rodgers, department administrator for surgery. “Once we all understood this, the need for an overhaul was clear. It’s been a complex, year-long effort and I want to thank everyone for their hard work.”

In addition to an overall focus on visual design, project managers and the digital marketing agency ISITE Design incorporated search engine optimization to help with brand awareness and built a customized monthly metrics dashboard to help drive content strategy and accurately measure success.

“Our goal throughout this project was to preserve each clinic’s ability to provide services while at the same time creating coordination between departments to maximize marketing spend,” said Diane Ziel, associate director for OHSU Healthcare Marketing. “We are confident that the website will provide a concierge service to point consumers in the right direction.”

The new cosmetic and plastic services site is part of a broader overhaul of the Department of Surgery’s website, which will include plastic and reconstructive surgery, urological health, bariatric surgery, digestive health and transplant surgery. Please visit the new site at: www.ohsu.edu/xd/health/services/cosmetic-plastics-services.

The content core team will continue to collaborate to improve the site, analyze clinical marketing efforts and develop new areas of content.
The Surgical Log

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Do you have questions, suggestions or newsletter submissions? Send them to Madeline Stilley, stilley@ohsu.edu.

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. 0413 (8)