Chairman’s Message

As I write this, summer is finally hard upon us with sunny days in the low 80s and nights in the high 50s. This is what Oregon living is all about! In deference to the good weather, this note will be short and sweet. Despite the shaky economic news on our doorstep, our year, in the Department of Surgery, has been strong. As compared to last year, our growth for most clinical measures marches on at about 10%, year-over-year. This has resulted in the need to bring on 9 new faculty members in the next year. The biggest additions are in Urology and Pediatric Surgery which are each in the process of adding three and two new faculty members, respectively. Three of the nine are introduced on the next page. In the next newsletter, when our academic year gets in full swing, I will introduce the remaining new faculty.

Our research and education programs continue to thrive. We exceeded our research revenue expectations by nearly $2 million, thanks largely to a large multicenter clinical trial under Dr. Marty Schreiber’s direction. In addition, our general surgery residency program received a five-year accreditation with commendation within the last month. Congratulations to Dr. Karen Deveney and her great team.

While August tends to be a month of vacations and meeting cancellations, September is going to be a big month in the Department of Surgery. We restart the grand rounds season on September 12th with a slide show where the faculty, staff, and residents show off their talents, travel, family, and fun. In addition, the first grand rounds, given by yours truly, will be titled “Milestones in Education” in which we will show some of the newer developments in surgical education and certification, as well as reflect upon our education programs at OHSU.

Later in the month, on September 26th Sherry Wren, M.D., Professor of Surgery at Stanford and Chief of Surgery at the Stanford VA Hospital, will deliver the Krippaehe Lecture “Candidate Selection: Can We Do it Better?” On September 23rd the Sixth Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction will be held at Royal Oaks Country Club. This year, an especially large effort has been put in by the organizing committee with a goal of $200,000 to support our education programs in VirtuOHSU, our surgical simulation program, which continues to bring innovative programs online to promote education, quality, and patient safety. This will be a great event, and I encourage all readers of this newsletter to email Pat Southard at southarp@ohsu.edu and reserve your seats at the auction. There were some unbelievable “deals” at last year’s auction, including great seats at the Blazer’s games, dinner at faculty homes by award winning chefs, and a lot of other great things! I hope to see you there.

John G. Hunter, M.D.
New Faculty

Amir Azarbal, M.D. has joined the faculty in the Division of Vascular Surgery as Assistant Professor. Dr. Azarbal was born in Delaware and attended high school at Peninsula High School in Los Angeles. After high school he returned to the East Coast to complete his undergraduate degree at Cornell University. Dr. Azarbal completed medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. His General Surgery residency and Vascular Surgery fellowship training were at Oregon Health & Science University. Clinically, Dr. Azarbal practices a range of arterial, vascular, and endovascular therapy. His main clinical focus is on aortic pathology.

Brandon Tieu, M.D. has joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery as Assistant Professor. Dr. Tieu received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma and completed his general surgery residency and fellowship training at OHSU. Dr. Tieu’s primary responsibilities will be in the care of patients on the general thoracic surgery service. Dr. Tieu will be incorporating Super Dimension Navigational bronchoscopy to biopsy and locate small lung nodules. He will continue to develop his operative skills by exploring and adapting robotic technology to thoracic oncology surgery.

Vassiliki “Liana” Tsikitis, M.D. received her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. Dr. Tsikitis completed a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, and her general surgery residency training at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University. She was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and University Physicians Healthcare in 2008. Dr. Tsikitis' clinical areas of interest are treatment of colon and rectal cancer and surgical treatment of inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Tsikitis is an expert in the complete array of open and minimally invasive procedures for all diseases of the colon and rectum, including those in the pelvic floor. Dr. Tsikitis' primary research interests are the emerging field of colon and rectal cancer genetics, and optimization of the surveillance of colon and rectal cancer patients.

Welcome New Interns to the Department of Surgery!

- Aimie Apigian, Loma Linda University
- Amanda VanDlac, East Carolina University
- Benjamin Siatu’u, Fiji School of Medicine
- Christopher Connelly, Case Western Reserve University
- Eugene Sansoni, Medical University of South Carolina
- Farbod Rastegar, University of Chicago
- Ina Nevdakh, University of Siena
- Jacob Adams, University of Utah
- Jared Mahylis, University of North Dakota
- Jeffrey Crawford, University of Michigan
- Jennifer Pasko, Indiana University
- John Gleysteen, University of Alabama
- John Young, Uniformed Services University
- John Zatarain, University of Guadalajara
- Katelyn Clark, Oregon Health & Science University
- Kirsten Jansen, University of Missouri, Kansas City
- Konstantin Turchaninov, Kazan State Medical University
- Lauren Luk, University of California, San Francisco
- Mansher Singh, All-India Institution
- Mariko Ferronato, Western University of Health Sciences
- Mark Thomas, University of Louisville
- Mary d’Alelio, Drexel University
- Michael Markiewicz, Oregon Health & Science University
- Minna Wieck, University of Chicago
- Nicole Wiegard, University of Kansas
- Patrick Worth, Brown University
- Reyhaneh Akhavein, Shaid Beheshti University
- Sena El-Sekkaki, University of Mustansiriyah
- Thomas Gibson, Oregon Health & Science University
- Thomas Kowalik, Dartmouth University
Residency Program Awarded Full Accreditation

The OHSU surgery residency program was awarded a full five year accreditation following the site visit by the ACGME this year. Additionally, the ACGME found there was complete compliance with the ACGME’s Requirements for Graduate Medical Education which resulted in NO citations issued. The ACGME commended Dr. Karen Deveney as the program director of a "well-run program". They noted the "excellent first time test-taker pass-rates on the American Board of Surgery qualifying exam and certifying examination”. They also noted the "well-executed program information form", which was directly related to the hard work of Robin Alton in preparing this information for the site visit. The award of the full accreditation is a reflection of the excellence of the residency program and is seen every day in the quality of the surgery residents. Pictured left to right: Erin Anderson, Education Coordinator, Robin Alton, Education Manager, and Dr. Karen Deveney, Program Director

Dr. Hunter 10 Year Milestone Celebration

On June 24th, the Department of Surgery faculty led by Dr. Kevin Billingsley held a surprise party for Dr. John Hunter in celebration of his ten years as Chairman of the Department. The party was held at the Multnomah Athletic Club with many of the faculty members attending including almost every Division Chief. Dr. Billingsley managed to keep the party a secret as was evidenced by the look on Dr. Hunter's face when he walked in the room where the faculty members were assembled. Laura Hunter arranged to have Dr. Hunter accompany her to the MAC on the pretext that they were going to have dinner with best friends David Brown and his wife Andrea Corradini. When he walked into the room, the faculty were assembled toward the front of the room and there was an ovation to greet him. The celebration was made even more special by the presence of Dr. Joe Bloom, past Dean of the School of Medicine, Dr. Joe Robertson, President of OHSU, Dr. Don Girard, Associate Dean, GME and Dr. Mark Richardson, current Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Bloom was the Dean at the time that Dr. Hunter was recruited to OHSU. Anna Milne, previous Department Administrator, was also present to celebrate this achievement. During Dr. Billingsley's remarks, he noted the accomplishments that have occurred during Dr. Hunter's tenure including the growth in the number of faculty members and the growth in revenue. Many of the attendees who spoke during the open microphone period congratulated Dr. Hunter not only for the achievements he has attained during the past ten years for the Department of Surgery but they also emphasized the importance of both the professional and personal relationship they have with Dr. Hunter. It was a wonderful evening to honor Dr. Hunter for the contributions he has made to increase the stature of the OHSU Department of Surgery at the institution, in the city, region, nationally and internationally. Pictured right: Dr. Hunter with Dr. Jeffrey Kirsch, Chair, Department of Anesthesiology and Director of Perioperative Services Melody Montgomery

“...When I walked in the doors and saw so many familiar faces from my ten years at OHSU, I was flabbergasted. A good turnout to say good bye is not unexpected, but to say, ‘thanks, stay another 10’ is such an unexpected show of appreciation. Many thanks to the organizers and all who took the time to turn out. I am indeed lucky to have such a fabulous group of professionals to work with.”

John G. Hunter, M.D.

Mackenzie Society Member Update

Mackenzie Society at American College of Surgeons
Please join us for dinner at the American College of Surgeons meeting in San Francisco.
Tuesday, October 25, 2011
6:30 pm
North Beach Restaurant
1512 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
RSVP to Pam Sidis: sidisp@ohsu.edu

Annual Mackenzie Society Meeting
The annual Mackenzie Society meeting will take place prior to the annual Trunkey Lecture dinner.
Monday, November 14, 2011
6:30 pm
The Heathman Hotel
1001 SW Broadway at Salmon
Portland, OR 97205
RSVP to Pam Sidis: sidisp@ohsu.edu
Dr. Jennifer Watters Receives Golden Rose Award

Congratulations to Jennifer Watters, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery on receiving a Golden Rose Award in July 2011. Her nomination letter follows:

On a challenging organ donation case, where the family’s wishes were to have their loved one donate their organs through a process called donation after cardiac death, when all treatment options for recovery were exhausted, we at PNTB found ourselves at a loss for a physician to assist us with withdrawing life support in the operating room for organ donation to become a reality. A physician’s assistance is essential for this process to be completed and without it, we would be unable to proceed. Going through the proper channels to find a physician to participate proved challenging and required the AOD to proceed finding a physician who would be willing to help when they were not on call. Dozens of calls were made to various physicians, departments, and services without any success. Dr. Watters was the only physician to return our call and was immediately accommodating to our needs to fulfill this family's wish for organ donation. It is individuals like Dr. Watters, who go above and beyond the call of duty that makes working for an institution like OHSU enjoyable and satisfying. These individuals show their true compassion, sense of teamwork, and dedication for the greater good of not only to OHSU as a facility, but to their fellow colleagues, patients, and their patient’s families. It is truly an honor to work with individuals such as Dr. Watters. Thank you Dr. Watters, for going above and beyond the call of duty. We wouldn’t have been able to make organ donation a reality without you and you are vital to Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank’s mission “to save and enhance lives through organ donation”.

Dr. Landry Honored by Society for Vascular Surgery

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) elected Gregory Landry, M.D., Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, as a Distinguished Fellow during their Vascular Annual Meeting held in June. The designation of Distinguished Fellow is bestowed upon an active, international, or senior member of the Society for Vascular Surgery who has made substantial, sustained contributions in two of three categories – research, service, or education. The application process requires three letters of support from SVS Distinguished Fellows. "I am honored to be elected as a Distinguished Fellow in the Society for Vascular Surgery and follow the footsteps of my mentors at OHSU, Drs. Greg Moneta, Lloyd Taylor and John Porter," said Dr. Landry. "OHSU has played a vital role in the development of vascular surgery as a specialty, and I am proud to be a part of this tradition." Currently, Dr. Landry is the principle investigator on three research protocols and co-investigator on another 11 research protocols. Within the past three years, he has completed 16 research protocols as primary or co-investigator. Dr. Landry has served on seven medical journal review boards. He has contributed to 47 medical articles and 35 book chapters. He has made 117 medical presentations. Board certified in both general and vascular surgery, Dr. Landry is a member of 10 professional societies. The Society for Vascular Surgery is a not-for-profit professional medical society, composed primarily of vascular surgeons, that seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, advocacy, research, and public awareness. SVS is the national advocate for 3,550 specialty-trained vascular surgeons and other medical professionals who are dedicated to the prevention and cure of vascular disease.

Fletcher Travelling Award

Fourth year General Surgery resident Kristen Massimino, M.D. will be traveling to the 2011 European Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress to present her paper entitled, “Surgical Exploration is Superior to All Other Modalities for Locating Occult Neuroendocrine Tumors”. Dr. Massimino would like to thank Dr. SuEllen Pommier and Dr. Rodney Pommier for their support and mentorship throughout her research year stating, “I am fortunate to have two mentors who are brilliant scientists as well as truly wonderful people.” In addition she would like to thank Dr. Fletcher whose endowment will enable her to travel to Sweden to attend a conference highlighting the state of cancer treatment throughout the world. In Dr. Massimino’s words, “As a resident interested in Surgical Oncology, attending this meeting is the chance of a lifetime. I am truly indebted to Dr. Fletcher.”
Dr. O’Rourke recognized by F1000

Daniel Marks, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Robert O’Rourke, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Bariatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, recently published a paper in the journal *Diabetologia* that has been included in the F1000 index, a list of high profile scientific publications. “This is very significant,” said Emily McElroy, MLIS, Associate Professor, Head, Content Management & Systems, OHSU Library. “The F1000 selects only the most important articles published in the biomedical sciences. It's certainly noteworthy for Drs. Marks and O’Rourke to have their paper included.” The paper, titled, “Hypoxia-induced inflammatory cytokine secretion in human adipose tissue stromovascular cells,” studies the response of human adipose tissue to hypoxia in human obesity. The paper by Drs. Marks and O’Rourke demonstrates that adipose tissue from obese humans is afflicted not only with enlarged fat cells, but also decreased blood vessel density, suggesting possible mechanisms for hypoxia. Furthermore, they demonstrate that this hypoxic state induces a strong inflammatory response in adipose tissue, thus linking hypoxia-induced inflammation to metabolic disease. They describe the details of this hypoxia-induced inflammation and identify a specific inflammatory cellular stress molecule, p38, in mediating these effects, thus identifying p38 as a target for pharmacotherapy directed towards ameliorating hypoxia-induced inflammation and metabolic disease.” Dr. Marks, a pediatric endocrinologist/neuroscientist, and Dr. O’Rourke, a surgeon/immunologist are collaborating from different perspectives in both the clinical and research realms to accomplish their research. “We are excited by these results, which will serve as a launching point for further in vitro and in vivo studies directed towards developing therapy for metabolic disease based on hypoxia-inducible mediators of inflammation within adipose tissue,” said Dr. O’Rourke. “The focus of these studies on human tissues is one unique and valuable aspect of this work. The inclusion of this manuscript in the F1000 list identify these data as being of significant interest to the broader scientific community.”

This first appeared in the OHSU School of Medicine News, www.ohsu.edu/somnews

Dr. Erin Gilbert Receives Fellowship Award

Dr. Erin Gilbert is the 2012 recipient of the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation and Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. Fellowship $25,000 grant for her project entitled “Optical Fiber Spectroscopy (OFS) and its Applications in Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy.” Dr. Gilbert will give a formal presentation of her research at the AWS Annual Conference, held in conjunction with the ACS meeting in Chicago in September of 2012. Dr. Gilbert is currently a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow and Research Instructor in the Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery. Erin’s had strong support from the Department of Surgery in pursuing research on the clinical application of visible light spectroscopy in coordinated efforts with the OHSU Department of Biomedical Engineering’s Dan Gareau, Ph.D. and Dr. James Dolan in the Division of General Surgery. Dr. Gilbert firmly believes that the application of this unique device will be able to dramatically reduce the morbidity of esophagectomy by recognizing complications early and by identifying interventions that can mitigate or even prevent gastric conduit ischemia.

Regional American College of Surgeons Best Clinical Paper Award

Megan Frost, M.D., currently a fourth year surgical resident, won the regional WA/OR American College of Surgeons Best Clinical Paper Award for her paper "Preventable Deaths at a Level 1 Trauma Centre in South Africa: a panel study." She completed this study in Cape Town, South Africa at Groote Schuur Hospital while obtaining her Master’s in Public Health (MPH). Her purpose in South Africa was to help set up the Global Health Advocate Program, an opportunity for OHSU surgical residents to obtain their MPH and conduct research in South Africa, and gain an overall understanding of the union between surgery and global health. She is excited to have received this award not only as a compliment to her work, but as recognition that surgery and global health is a growing field that requires interested surgeons to have an understanding of public health research and policy making.
Grand Rounds - Fall/Winter 2010-2011

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 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.

September 12, 2011  CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE: “Milestones in Education”
September 19, 2011  “Obesity: Genetic, Evolutionary, and Environmental Mechanisms of Pathogenesis”
                     Robert O’Rourke, M.D., Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, OHSU
September 26, 2011  Krippahne Lecture: “Candidate Selection: Can We Do it Better?”
                     Sherry Wren, M.D., Professor and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Stanford University School of Medicine
October 3, 2011     “Frozen Blood”
                     Joel Elterman, M.D., Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Department of Surgery, OHSU
October 10, 2011    “Evolution in the Management of Very Early HCC in Cirrhosis; Resect, Ablate, or Transplant?”
                     Scott Helton, M.D., Director, Liver and Pancreas Surgery, Virginia Mason Medical Center
October 17, 2011    “Role of Autopsy in Assessment of Quality of Care” & “Requesting an Autopsy at OHSU”
                     Jody Hooper, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Pathology, OHSU
                     Susan Yoder, R.N., BSN, Director of Patient Relations, OHSU
October 24, 2011    CANCELLED: ACS Conference
October 31, 2011    “Surgical Infections: Are We Following Data or Dogma”
                     Robert Martindale, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chief, Division of General Surgery, OHSU
November 7, 2011    “Acute Traumatic Coagulopathy: The Mechanistic and Evolutionary Link Between Early Coagulopathy and Late Inflammation.”
                     Mitch Cohen, M.D., University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco General Hospital
                     William Schacter, M.D., FACS, FCDM, Professor of Clinical Surgery, UCSF Division of Surgery
                     Megan Frost, M.D., General Surgery Resident, Department of Surgery, OHSU
November 28, 2011   “NSQIP: Where We’ve Been and Where We’re Going”
                     Sharon Weber, M.D., Professor, Section of Surgical Oncology, Division of General Surgery, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine
December 5, 2011    "The Evolving Surgical Management of Crohn’s Disease"
                     Vassiliki Tsikitis, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, OHSU
December 12, 2011   TBD
December 19, 2011   “Basic Science Sepsis”
                     Jeffrey Gold, M.D., Associate Professor, Pulmonary Critical Care, OHSU
December 26, 2011   CANCELLED
Visiting Professors

Scott Helton, M.D. is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Irvine College of Medicine. Dr. Helton completed his residency at the University of Washington and research fellowships in gastrointestinal peptide physiology at the University of Washington and surgical nutrition and metabolism at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He then completed a clinical fellowship in hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation at the University of Toronto. He is Director of Liver and Pancreas Surgery at The Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle where he is also director of their HPB fellowship training program. Dr. Helton specializes in liver, biliary and pancreatic cancer and abdominal wall hernias and has a special interest in pancreatic disease; liver, bile duct and pancreas tumors; minimally invasive surgery; and complex abdominal wall hernias.

Mitch Cohen, M.D. is Assistant Professor of Surgery in Residence at UCSF-SFGH. Dr. Cohen received his undergraduate degree from Brandeis University and his medical degree at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Rush University/Cook County Integrated and then completed a Research Fellowship at Loyola University Medical Center in the Department of Surgery, Burn and Shock Trauma Institute and a Fellowship in Trauma and Critical Care UCSF-SFGH. Dr. Cohen has an active basic science research lab where he studies coagulation and inflammation perturbations after trauma. He is Acute Care Director of the CDC San Francisco Injury Center, and actively involved with projects related to inflammatory lung injury and monitoring of resuscitation and coagulation after injury.

Sharon Weber, M.D. is Professor, Section of Surgical Oncology, Division of General Surgery at University of Wisconsin Medical School. Dr. Weber attended the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison. She completed a Residency in General Surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and a Research Fellowship in Tumor Immunotherapy, University of Wisconsin Medical School. Dr. Weber continued on to complete a Surgical Oncology Fellowship and a Hepatobiliary Fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She specializes in benign and malignant disorders of the liver, pancreas, and bile duct. Dr. Weber is actively involved in minimally invasive approaches to cancer treatment, including both laparoscopic pancreas and liver surgery.

Trunkey Lecture

William Schecter, M.D., FACS, FCDM is Professor of Clinical Surgery at the UCSF Division of Surgery at San Francisco General Hospital. He received his M.D. at Albany Medical College and completed a Rotating Internship at SFGH. He completed a residency in Anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, a residency in Surgery at UCSF and a Fellowship in Hand Surgery. Dr. Schecter has served as Chief of Surgery at SFGH and as Vice-Chair of Surgery at UCSF from 1993-2008. Dr. Schecter also served as Governor of the American College of Surgeons, President of the Board of Directors of Operation Access and Vice-President of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. In 2004, he was elected as a Director of the American Board of Surgery. Dr. Schecter’s clinical interests involve the surgery of poverty: trauma, soft tissue infections related to drug use and alcoholism, advanced malignancy related to poor access to health care and the surgical treatment of HIV infected patients.

Krippaehne Lecture

Sherry M. Wren, M.D., received her medical degree from Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, Illinois and completed her residency in general surgery at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, and University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She also completed a research fellowship in transplant immunology at University of Pittsburgh and a fellowship in hepatobiliary surgery at University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Dr. Wren is certified by the American Board of Surgery. She is presently Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs at Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California. Dr. Wren also serves as the Chief of General Surgery and Assistant Chief of Surgical Services for the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care System. Dr. Wren is recognized nationally as a gastrointestinal surgeon specializing in the treatment of cancer.
Exceptional Service Recognition

At the Department of Surgery Resident Banquet in June, we honored Anna Milne with a special Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize her 22 years of service to the Department of Surgery, as our Executive Director. Anna Milne was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland. She moved with her family to the south of England as a child, where her father received treatment for TB he acquired in the Navy during WWII. She returned to Edinburgh, where she met her husband, Stewart. Anna and Stewart emigrated to San Diego in 1967. Shortly thereafter their two children, Ross and Kirsten, were born. Anna worked at San Diego Trust and Savings Bank in the evenings. For 12 years Anna worked in research at Scripps, but seeking a climate nearly as miserable as Scotland, Stewart and Anna brought their family to Oregon in 1989. Shortly thereafter Anna was hired by Don Trunkey to take Vicki Field’s position as Executive Director of the Department of Surgery. In the last 22 years, Anna kept the Department of Surgery on track, through good times and bad. Anna was great with faculty and staff earning their confidence and respect. We are forever indebted to Anna Milne for her service to the Department of Surgery.

Professional Staff Awards

Seven awards for outstanding contributions were given during the Professional Staff annual meeting. Matt Slater, M.D., Associate Professor, Division of Cardiotoracic Surgery received the award for Outstanding contribution to systems based clinical care. Martin Schreiber, M.D., Professor, Division of Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery, received the award for Outstanding contribution to development of interdisciplinary teams. Dr. Brett Sheppard, Professor, Division of General Surgery presented his colleagues with their Professional Staff Award while Chair of the OHSU Medical Staff Professional Board.

Dr. Hunter elected to FPP Board

Per the FPP Charter, one elected and two appointed members drawn from the FPP Board also joined the FPP Management Committee. The Board elected (for a two-year term) John Hunter, M.D., Chair, Department of Surgery. Drs. Cigarroa, Nedrow, Hunter, Saultz and Thomas join Paul Flint, M.D., Chair, Department of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery and Dean Richardson, as the seven voting members of the FPP Management Committee. The FPP Board is charged with providing ongoing oversight of FPP activities; the Management Committee is defined as a subset of the Board with more frequent meetings. Oversight covers all aspects of the FPP operations, including financial performance, clinical metrics, regulatory compliance, strategic direction as well as oversight of the leadership team charged with day-to-day operations.

VirtuOHSU Director

In July, Elena An joined the VirtuOHSU Team in the Department of Surgery. Elena is the Program Director for VirtuOHSU, the surgical skills and simulation laboratory. Elena previously worked in the Section of Bariatric Surgery, so she is well acquainted with OHSU. In addition to her responsibilities in VirtuOHSU where she works closely with Dr. Donn Spight, the Medical Director, she is also responsible for coordinating the annual golf tournament and dinner auction charity event which is held every September. She will interface with many of the faculty members and Department staff members in her role as Program Director. Please join us in welcoming Elena to this important role.
I’ve always been one to enjoy striking out on a new adventure, eager to determine its ultimate destination. That can certainly be said having grown up on the East Coast city of Virginia Beach and migrating ever further West from medical school at Vanderbilt in Nashville to pursue my surgical residency at Oregon Health & Science University in 1999. After completing my chief year in 2006 my wife Kelly and I headed to The Ohio State University for my fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery under the direction of Dr. Scott Melvin who I had the pleasure of getting to know via several resident courses during my years as a research resident in the lab of Dr. Blair Jobe at the Portland VA. Although immensely satisfied with my surgical training at OHSU, I wanted to expand my horizons and gain perspective to see what encompassed the surgical world beyond Portland. Ohio State proved to be a rich transition between residency and my first faculty role at the University of California, Irvine. As fellows we were Assistant Professors of Surgery and experienced the full terror and exhilaration that comes with being the senior most surgical faculty member on call for general and trauma surgery in central Ohio four days a month. Fellow OHSU classmate, Dr. Jordana Gaumond, was alongside me while she completed her transplant fellowship as a co-Ohio State Buckeye. In addition to learning the true meaning of Big Ten football and what it means to discuss the animosity (I mean REAL animosity) of a century-old rivalry like Ohio State/ Michigan football, I gained a new perspective on our field, operative skill set and a Midwest professional family including great friends at Case Western Reserve University as well as the Cleveland Clinic which were all part of our good natured “Ohio Mafia”. My experience in Columbus opened up an opportunity to join Dr. Ninh Nguyen, Dr. Brian Smith and fellow OHSU graduates Drs. Steven Mills, Darren Malinoski and a bit later T Dixon at the University of California, Irvine (affectionately dubbed “The OHSU to the South” by Dr. Hunter). Here an entirely different approach to academic surgery was in full swing along with close friends at neighboring institutions USC, UCLA, Cedar-Sinai, and UCSD. Focusing on diseases of the esophagus and foregut I was exposed to aspects of bariatric, anti-reflux and malignancy related surgical techniques I had not before experienced in the South, Pacific Northwest or Midwest. After four wonderful years in Southern California serving as an Assistant Professor of Surgery, Kelly and I realized that ultimately Portland, amongst our Northwest family, was THE place we wanted to return. Now we begin the next chapter in our lives incorporating ideas and techniques I’ve picked up from each segment of my training along with Buckeye memorabilia and a few additional surfboards. It’s been quite an exciting journey of training and work that leads to my start with The Oregon Clinic and OHSU this Fall. One that I will continue to travel while joining my extended faculty families and teaching courses at Ohio State and UC Irvine over the forthcoming weeks. The opportunity to rejoin familiar faces here in Portland and teach our residents and fellows is something I’m already enjoying tremendously! There’s something about going out, gaining perspective and returning to such a wonderful city and training ground that makes what we do on a day to day basis all the more sweet.

Kevin M. Reavis, M.D., FACS
We invite all Department of Surgery Faculty to join us for a hosted social hour and dinner auction following the Sixth Annual Department of Surgery Golf Tournament to benefit VirtuOHSU, the surgical skills and simulation laboratory. There are amazing items for both the silent auction and the oral auction that will be incredibly popular with all attendees.

Some of the items for this year include:

- **One week at a 6,500 sq. ft. Nantucket Style home on Yale Lake (perfect for a big family reunion)**
- **One week at Cerrito’s Beach Resort (located outside Cabo San Lucas)**
- **Wine Tasting and Dinner for 20 at the Yamhill Valley Vineyards (rave reviews from last year’s winner)**
- **Brandon Roy autographed game jersey (framed, under glass)**
- **Gorgeous framed photograph – Last Game Played at Yankee Stadium**
- **Autographed Darwin Barney OSU jersey**
- **Pair of Alaska Airline tickets to anywhere Alaska flies**
- **And much, much more**

Please contact [Pat Southard](mailto:southarp@ohsu.edu), if you would like to come join us on September 23, 2011 at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Washington.

**Special Announcements**

- 2011 graduate **Mitchell Sally**, his wife Smyth, and daughter Sloane welcomed Eliza Maude Sally on August 21, 2011
- 2009 graduate **Michael Englehart**, his wife Jeannette, and daughters Noelle and Katherine welcomed Adrianna Brooke Englehart on August 15, 2011

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**Dr. Wolfe reflects on Term as President of ASMBS**

Bruce Wolfe, M.D.

During the last year, **Bruce Wolfe, M.D.**, Professor, Section of Bariatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, served as the President of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). The Society is the largest of its kind for this specialty in the world. The mission of ASMBS is to “improve public health and well-being by lessening the burden of the disease of obesity and related diseases throughout the world.” ASMBS leadership and staff are devoted to carrying out this mission in the critical areas of education, advocacy, patient care and research. Dr. Wolfe presided over an organization that was active at the national, regional and local levels in advocating for access to bariatric surgical and related care. The Society focused on educating appropriate persons in government, including members of the legislative and executive branches. Along with its premier surgical journal SOARD, and national and regional meetings, the Society continued to provide a major forum for the presentation and discussion of original bariatric surgical research. Notably, under Dr. Wolfe’s tenure, ASMBS formalized a coalition, “The Obesity Care Continuum.” The coalition consists of ASMBS, Obesity Action Coalition, The Obesity Society, and the American Dietetic Association. “By formally joining forces with these organizations we created a broad-based obesity advocacy coalition with a combined membership of over 100,000 patient and health care professional advocates,” said Dr. Wolfe. Other notable undertakings of Dr. Wolfe’s presidency include: providing formal input to the draft of the NIH proposal for future obesity-related research, and directing the ongoing financial support of original research. In addition, a formal partnership with the Surgical Review Corporation to maximize the research potential of the Centers of Excellence program and BOLD database was put in place. In his Presidential address, Dr. Wolfe summarized extensive literature documenting systematic discrimination against obese people, which can result in diminished access to health care services. He outlined the various approaches the ASMBS members and its staff are taking to counteract this discrimination, focusing on national, regional and local leaders in government health care policy and coverage, education, and others. “Our challenge to achieve fair treatment of the severely obese while we pursue our educational and research objectives remains before us,” said Dr. Wolfe, whose term ended June of 2011. “But I am confident we are up to the challenge.”
Grateful Patient Ken Hick

When Ken Hick was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2008, his gastroenterologist gave him a grim prognosis. “He said that this type of cancer was 80% terminal. That is pretty scary,” said Ken. Immediately after getting this diagnosis, Ken and his wife, Cheri Cooley-Hick, went online to begin an extensive search to find a surgeon who was an expert in treating this type of cancer. “I looked at Scripps, Mayo Clinic, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and I talked to everybody” during the search. The name that kept coming up was Dr. John Hunter, Chairman of the OHSU Department of Surgery and an internationally recognized surgeon in minimally invasive surgery for esophageal cancer.

Before his first meeting with Dr. Hunter, Ken was convinced that he had only six to nine months to live. “I was making sure my estate was in order,” he said. “When I met John, I knew I was talking to the right person.” He laid out the option of having surgery and he provided hope that the surgery could make the difference with this diagnosis. Ken made the decision to have the surgery at OHSU with Dr. John Hunter and his team performing the surgery. “It was a tough surgery”, Ken said.

During the recovery, Ken and Cheri decided they wanted to “give back” to OHSU and the Department of Surgery. The decision to give back to OHSU was bolstered not only by Ken’s surgery and subsequent recovery, but also because Ken’s father also had an outstanding experience with OHSU in the past. His father was diagnosed with prostate cancer 20 years ago, and he was also told that he had less than one year to live. But according to Ken, his father came to OHSU and participated in a clinical trial with Tomasz Beer, M.D., “and had 12 more great years.”

The Hicks have a long history of philanthropic activity with non-profits throughout the community. They are actively involved (Ken is a Board member) of the Cat Adoption Team and the Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital among many other charities. They truly wear their hearts on their sleeves for the causes in which they are passionate and generous supporters.

Ken and Cheri wanted to do something that would benefit OHSU and he talked to Dr. Hunter for his guidance on what the focus should be for support. Dr. Hunter introduced Ken to Dick Southard, another grateful patient and generous supporter of VirtuOHSU, the Department of Surgery surgical skills and simulation laboratory. Dick has been the Chairman for the very successful and popular annual golf tournament held at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver that benefits surgical simulation. There was an instant connection between Ken and Dick. Since that first introduction, Ken has been an active member of the Golf Tournament Committee and he has been instrumental in getting incredible auction items for both the silent and oral auctions. Ken and Cheri use their community and family ties to assure that the auction continues to be highly successful for VirtuOHSU. They have even donated a few items from their extensive art collection, including a two-foot bronze sculpture from renowned artist Lorenzo Ghiglieri that will now be used annually as the Hunter Cup, the tournament trophy. They have recruited friends to support the cause and to donate items, and they have approached others throughout the community. “We aren’t bashful about going into businesses that have something we can use”, he said. This year the committee hopes to raise $200,000. “It takes a lot of work, time and dedication, and it takes folks who feel passionate about what they are doing. The committee is made up of an incredible group of people.”

That dedication goes to a powerful cause: surgical simulation. As a pilot, Ken says, he’s had plenty of experience with simulators. But he is amazed by the possibilities that simulators offer for medical training. “It’s never dawned on me how complex a simulator would be for the medical profession. It is a pretty incredible piece of equipment, and the more we can do to give our surgeons more tools to be proficient, the better! Think about performing surgery on a patient for the first time. With simulation, you have done it 35 times, and been confronted with all the things that could happen and learned how to deal with it. What a training tool!”

Thanks to the efforts of Ken and Cheri Hick and others, OHSU is on the forefront of these technologies, keeping students, residents and faculty on the leading edge of medical advances. And giving these healthcare providers the skills to change lives for people like Ken Hick.
The Surgical Log

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

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