Welcome to summer in Oregon. The weather is so spectacular that it is darn hard to find time to write a chair’s message. Take this last weekend, for example. My wife, Laura, was out-of-town with Jillian, our youngest, and the older kids are pretty much on their own. I managed to pack a summer’s worth of Northwest fun into a single weekend including a round of golf at Pumpkin Ridge, a 40-mile bike ride out past North Plains, an ascent to Crater Rock on Mt. Hood followed by a 3,000 foot corn snow descent into the Mississippi Basin with Joe Weiss, M.D., Ph.D. (see photos), a game of tennis, dinner on 23rd street, a recruiting conversation, and oh yes did I tell you I also made rounds on the esophageal patients Saturday and Sunday? But, alas, when I arrived at the office Monday morning this Surgical Log stared me in the face lacking only one essential element, the chair’s message! So here is what I have to report on:

I mentioned recruiting as one of the few items of work I did over the weekend. As you can imagine, recruiting to Portland, Oregon and OHSU, this time of the year is not particularly difficult, but it is extremely important that we find the right people to serve our community, and further build our clinical and academic programs. In the last few months several faculty searches have concluded, bringing new talent to our department. The Trauma and Critical Care division will be adding Phil Van, M.D. and Mitch Sally, M.D., two individuals well known to OHSU as former general surgery and critical care residents. Rob McLafferty, M.D., an OHSU resident from the more distant past has rejoined us as Chief of Surgery at the VA, and Vice Chair for VA Affairs in the Department of Surgery at OHSU. Two other leadership searches are moving along well, including our General Surgery Program Director, and the Chief of Bariatric Surgery. The one completed search which I am thrilled to report on is that of our Chief of Pediatric Surgery. Ken Azarow, M.D., the current Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Nebraska, has accepted our offer to be the Surgeon-in-Chief at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and the Chief of Pediatric Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Ken has demonstrated amazing leadership in the Army, on the American Board of Surgery, on the...
Pediatric Surgical Board, and pretty much provides leadership to any job or institution he has attended. A more formal announcement of Ken’s appointment will come closer to his starting date in November. I wanted to give the department a heads up that this search, chaired by Greg Moneta, M.D. and Kevin O’Boyle, M.H.A. has been closed. I would like to publicly thank Greg Moneta and Kevin O’Boyle, the search committee, and Sally Rodgers, M.A. for helping us recruit a fabulous new surgeon-in-chief for Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and Chief of Pediatric Surgery for our department.

Building partnerships in the community is a cornerstone of what we do at OHSU. As the Portland healthcare market gets more and more segregated, OHSU and the Department of Surgery have enjoyed the opportunity to build partnerships with independent hospitals and independent practice groups from Washington State to Northern California and from Boise to the Oregon Coast. Many of these partnerships, over the years, have been informal physician-to-physician relationships, but the natural evolution has brought us closer and closer to several health systems, as well as providing locum tenens surgeons from OHSU to support small hospitals, especially those with a single general surgeon. This program, started and hosted by Bruce Ham, M.D. is beginning to achieve real wind in its sails. Rural Oregon needs our support, and we are pleased to be able to help provide the support they need by bringing their patients to Portland and transporting our surgical skills to their community.

To that end, two of our four grand rounds speakers in the month of September will bring our focus to the needs of rural America. Tyler Hughes, M.D. and Tom Cogbill, M.D. are general surgeons from Fort McPherson, Kansas and Lacrosse, Wisconsin, respectively. These are two of the leading general surgeons in the country. Both sit as-at-large members on the American Board of Surgery not representing a society, but representing general surgeons in practice. The work of Dr. Cogbill has been so recognized that he has just completed his term as the Chair of the American Board of Surgery.

In October, Jeff Moley, M.D., a scientist/endocrine surgeon who understands more about hereditary endocrine tumor syndromes than almost anyone in the country will be here as a guest of Mira Milas, M.D. and the endocrine group. In November, Anna Ledgerwood, M.D. will join us to give the Trunkey Lecture. Dr. Ledgerwood is the President-Elect of the American Surgical Association, a compassionate trauma surgeon with a worldwide reputation. We hope you will join us.

I would like to close by acknowledging a new effort and new focus for the Department of Surgery in the next five years. Surgeons are full of great ideas on how to improve the care of the surgical patient, how to make the operating room safer, or how to improve on existing operative equipment. While OHSU has a history of innovation that dates back 50 years to Al Starr, M.D., Tom Fogarty, M.D., and Charlie Dotter, M.D., three individuals who put OHSU on the map for their innovations in surgical devices and techniques, the last 50 years have been a bit quieter. By creating the environment for surgeons, engineers, and investors to come together we are hoping to rekindle that fire. The innovation project is still in its infancy, but we have hired a manager, Sharon Kryger, an individual who has very effectively managed many relationships between the Vascular Surgery division and industry in the performance of research over the last several years. Our charge to Sharon is that she make herself available to meet with Department of Surgery members on and off Marquam Hill to facilitate the process of taking a great idea and turning it into a profitable product. In this project we will be collaborating with bioengineering, with OCTRI, with our Tech Transfer office, and other departments and divisions within OHSU. So I challenge students, residents, and faculty to come up with a fresh idea that may become a product. Sharon would love to meet with you and help design a pathway for vetting the idea, for design, for applying for a patent, for testing and assessment, and – finally - for production. While programs similar to this are springing up on many academic medical campuses, we hope to be most successful by creating the environment in which our very busy surgeons can be supported and helped when they have a great idea, but little time to develop it.

So that is enough rambling for this month. Go out and enjoy the sun!
The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons is a leading surgical society, representing over 6,000 general and gastrointestinal surgeons throughout North America and the world. This year, the SAGES annual meeting, entitled, “Innovating the Present for the Future” was held in Baltimore from April 17 - 20, 2013.

Thomas and Velda LaPierre’s family had a long and painful, multi-generational history of kidney disease and kidney transplant procedures. The family was cared for by the excellent, caring doctors and staff at OHSU for many years. They reported that at least 10 members of the family have been treated for kidney disease, and/or have been a part of kidney transplantation procedures at OHSU.

Because of that excellent care, the LaPierres wanted to say thank you in a tangible way to OHSU. That prompted them to provide a $1 million gift through their estate. That bequest was used to establish the endowed Professorship for Kidney Transplantation to support leadership for the clinical, educational and research programs in kidney transplantation in OHSU’s Department of Surgery.

In July 2012, David Scott, M.D. was appointed the inaugural Thomas and Velda LaPierre Professorship for Kidney Transplantation. Central to Dr. Scott’s concerns are the challenges of how to increase access to transplantation, improve the quality of the program, and find better ways to serve our patients. To this end, and given the reality that there are not enough organs for the ever-increasing number of patients on the list, Dr. Scott strives to implement practices that yield the most from every donation gift; one such strategy includes the scientific use of database studies to identify efficacious practices in the management of organ donors that lead to successful transplantation.

For more information on how you can have your estate plans benefit the Department of Surgery, contact Pete Sommerfeld at 503 220-8328, or sommerfe@ohsu.edu.
Donn Spight, M.D.’s dedication to surgical education and his leadership of OHSU’s surgical simulation program, VirtuOHSU was recognized by students and faculty at the 2013 School of Medicine Hooding and Commencement, when he was awarded the David W.E. Baird Award for excellence in teaching. However, Dr. Spight’s passion for surgery and resident education did not follow the traditional pre-medical path.

While at the University of Illinois, Dr. Spight pursued a B.S. in animal sciences with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. He soon realized that although he liked pets, he was not interested in all animals and was in fact more drawn to human surgical care. He ultimately completed a B.S. in Agricultural Science and went on to study Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Spight recalls numerous mentors who assisted in navigating the difficult path to a career in academic surgery. He specifically credits key mentors and leaders within the Society of Black Academic Surgeons for recommending that he complete his minimally invasive surgery training at OHSU under the leadership of John Hunter, M.D.

In 2007 the Department of Surgery was in need of a savvy medical director for Surgical Simulation Education and Dr. Spight proved to be an excellent fit. Charged with the task of expanding the surgical skills simulation program, Dr. Spight eagerly joined the faculty as the leader of the surgical skills center that would later become VirtuOHSU. Facilitated by the expansion of the Monday morning educational time, Dr. Spight was able to create opportunities and new ways of learning that he wished he had as a resident. Under his leadership, six surgical skills courses became the backbone of the Monday skills lab curriculum. In 2009, VirtuOHSU achieved accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Consortium of Accredited Educational institutions. Today the skills lab not only serves the training needs for the Department of Surgery but also the needs of OB/GYN, Emergency Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery, Pulmonary Critical care, Anesthesia, Radiology, Neurosurgery, Internal Medicine, Nurse Midwifery Program, and the medical school.

Now as a mentor and teacher, Dr. Spight says that he hopes medical students realize that despite hard work, a career in medicine is tremendously rewarding. He espouses the importance of maintaining happiness, humility and a work life balance. Without this balance, it becomes difficult to have the capacity to help others in a meaningful way. He acknowledges various challenges for residents today including the ever tightening work hour restrictions, increasing volume of material to learn, pressure to gain competency in a more challenging legal and fiscal environment, and shrinking faculty availability due to competing clinical pressures.

With these challenges in mind, Dr. Spight has big plans for surgical education and VirtuOHSU. In 2014 a major remodel of Richard Jones Hall will be completed, allowing the placement of the existing skills lab in the Old Library directly adjacent to the Gross Anatomy lab. This relocation of VirtuOHSU will allow a tremendous opportunity to conduct wet, dry, animate and inanimate simulation activities in one area. As the surgical skills lab offerings grow for resident trainees he hopes to also expand the national presence of VirtuOHSU through CME activities and research. He feels the arrival of a new Program Director will help re-charge the committed core teaching faculty and help facilitate recruitment of new instructors to accomplish this goal. In the immediate future Dr. Spight hopes to strengthen the role of the skills lab in the documentation of resident competency as necessary for compliance with the RRC milestones. He also hopes to improve the surgical skills curricula by working with instructors to create more efficient competency-based didactics and evaluation tools.

As the Department of Surgery plans to welcome a new Program Director and relocate VirtuOHSU to a newly remodeled space, the future looks bright.
Promotion & Tenure 2013

Marilyn Butler, M.Phil., M.D., M.P.H.
Promotion to Clinical Professor
Pediatric Surgery

Jay Krishnaswami, M.D.
Promotion to Associate Professor
Pediatric Surgery

Anna Kuang, M.D.
Promotion to Associate Professor
Plastic Surgery

Darren Malinoski, M.D.
Promotion to Associate Professor
Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery

Susan Rowell, M.D.
Promotion to Associate Professor
Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery

Matt Slater, M.D.
Promotion to Professor
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Jennifer Watters, M.D.
Promotion to Associate Professor
Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Care Surgery

Resident Recognition

Research resident, David Hampton, M.D., M.Eng., was the recipient of two American College of Surgery awards for his research paper, “Cryopreserved Red Blood Cells Are Superior to Standard Liquid Red Blood Cells.” He received the ACS COT Region X Resident Competition, Best Clinical Science Paper and Overall Winner (December 2012), as well as the ACS COT National Resident Competition, 2nd page Clinical Science Research Award (March 2013).

Research resident, Tim Lee, M.D. was awarded the Raymond H. Alexander award for best resident paper at EAST, January 15-19, 2013.

From left: Raul Coimbia, M.D. with Dr. Hampton and Michael Rotundo, M.D. during the awards ceremony at the ACS Trauma Conference.
Visiting Lecturers

**Tyler G. Hughes, M.D.** is a clinical faculty member at the Kansas University School of Medicine and works primarily with medical students. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and completed his general surgery residency at St Paul Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. In 2009, Dr. Hughes was nominated for KU’s highest faculty award and in 2010 he received the school’s Outstanding Preceptor Award. Dr. Hughes has been active in the American College of Surgeons (ACS) since he entered practice, serving as Kansas chapter president in 2007. In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of Surgery News, Selected Readings in General Surgery and Evidence Based Reviews in Surgery. He has independently developed a rural surgeons network and in 2011, was co-director of the rural surgical skills course held at Northwestern University. In June 2012, he was selected as an at large Director of the American Board of Surgery.

**Thomas H. Cogbill, M.D.** has been Program Director of the general surgery residency at Gunderson Health in La Crosse, Wisconsin for the past 20 years. He attended Dartmouth Medical School and the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center. For 30 years, he has served as the attending surgeon at Gunderson and as a clinical professor of surgery at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wisconsin. He serves on the executive committee of the Western Surgical Association and represents the organization on the ACS Advisory Council for General Surgery. Dr. Cogbill is also the Immediate Past Chair for the American Board of Surgery.

**Jeffrey Moley, M.D.** is Professor of Surgery and Chief of the section of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He is also Associate Director of the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University and has a long involvement in VA research programs. Dr. Moley graduated from Harvard College and then received an M.D. from Columbia University in 1980. He served as chief resident in general surgery at Yale - New Haven Hospital. As a member of the Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia research program for the past 26 years, he has been involved in many clinical and translational research projects, including preventive thyroidectomy in MEN 2 gene carriers, identification of novel molecular targets in thyroid cancer, and surgical management of recurrent disease.

**Anna Ledgerwood, M.D., F.A.C.S.** is Professor of Surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine and on the staff at Harper Hospital and at Detroit Receiving Hospital where she serves as Trauma Director. She earned a B.A. from Gonzaga University, an M.T. from Sacred Heart Hospital of Medical Technology and her medical degree from Marquette University School of Medicine. Following an internship at Detroit General Hospital, Dr. Ledgerwood completed her general surgery residency at Detroit Medical Center hospitals. She has served as coordinator of the surgical residency program and her past appointments have included director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit and vice-chief of Surgery. Since 1988, she has been active on the trauma quality assurance committee. Dr. Ledgerwood’s extensive research and publication credentials include 159 publications, 68 books and chapters, and over 160 presentations.

**Bruce Spiess, M.D., F.A.H.A.** is Vice Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Chief of Cardiothoracic Anesthesia and Director of Research at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio with a B.S. in biology and then attended medical school at Rush University in Chicago, Illinois. His resident training took place at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and his final chief resident year was spent back at Rush where he opened the sub-speciality of liver transplant anesthesia as an assistant professor. In recent years, Dr. Spiess has worked to establish VCURES shock research center, a consortium of over 60 M.D. and Ph.D. researchers. The center has secured over 40 million dollars in extramural funding for shock research and patented/out licensed numerous medical technologies. Dr. Spiess has published over 200 peer reviewed articles and 25 book chapters.
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.

SEPTEMBER

September 9: “Innovation in Surgery,” John Hunter, M.D., Mackenzie Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, OHSU, Portland, OR

September 16: “Extreme Radiology and Interventions in Modern Warfare,” Ronald Boucher, M.D., Chief of Radiology, Musculoskeletal/Sports Imaging, VA Medical Center, Imaging Services, Portland, OR

September 23: “The Art and Ethics of Transfers: A World Wide Story of Rural Surgery,” Tyler G. Hughes Sr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Director, American Board of Surgery, General Surgeon, Kansas University School of Medicine, Wichita, KS

September 30: Krippaehne Lecture: “General Surgery Training – Where Are We Now and Where Are We Headed?” Thomas H. Cogbill, M.D., Program Director, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse, WI, Professor, General Surgery, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Madison, WI

OCTOBER

October 7: CANCELED - Annual ACS Conference, Washington, D.C.

October 14: “New Anticoagulants - Promise and Perils,” Thomas Deloughery, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor, Pathology, and Pediatrics, Division of Hematology/Oncology and Laboratory Medicine, OHSU, Portland, OR

October 21: “Genetic Profiles in Sepsis and Trauma,” Mitchell Sally, M.D., Assistant Professor, General Surgery, Trauma, Critical & Acute Care, VA Medical Center, Portland, OR

October 28: “Hereditary Endocrine Tumor Syndromes: New Surgical Paradigms,” Jeffrey Moley, M.D., Professor, General Surgery, Chief of Cancer and Endocrine Surgery Section, Associate Director of Siteman Cancer Center, St. Louis, MO

NOVEMBER

November 4: Trunkey Lecture: “Myths in Surgical Care - A Personal Perspective” Anna Ledgerwood, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Wayne State University, Director of Trauma, Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit, MI

November 11: Professionalism Week Speaker

November 18: “Transfusion Related Immunomodulation,” Bruce Spiess, M.D., F.A.H.A., Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Emergency Medicine, Director of VCURES, VCUHS, Richmond, VA
Resident & Fellow Graduation Banquet

This year’s graduation banquet took place at the Oregon Zoo on June 8, 2013. Residents, fellows, family, faculty and staff joined together for an evening of cocktails, dinner and celebration. John Hunter, M.D. hosted the event and recognized graduating and outstanding residents and fellows. We wish our graduates luck in their next endeavors!

From left: Residency Program Director, Karen Deveney, M.D., graduating general surgery resident, Rachel Danczyk, M.D. and John Hunter, M.D.

From left: CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System, C. Wright Pinson, M.B.A., M.D. received the Distinguished Alumnus award (right: Jack Campbell, M.D.)

From left: Dr. Hunter, Chief of Vascular Surgery, Greg Moneta, M.D. and graduating Vascular Surgery fellow, James Ballard, M.D.

Graduating general surgery resident, Kristen Massimino, M.D. with Dr. Hunter.
From left: Dr. Hunter, graduating Trauma/Critical Care fellows, Philbert Van, M.D., Erica Loomis, M.D. and Shad Pharaon, M.D. with associate professor, Susan Rowell, M.D.

Graduating general surgery resident, Julia Swanson-Birchill, M.D. thanks family and friends for supporting her during her journey to becoming a practicing surgeon.

Division Chief of Trauma, Martin Schreiber, M.D. and associate professor, James Dolan, M.D. in military dress.

From left: Dr. Deveney with graduating resident, Jeffery Brown, M.D. and Dr. Hunter.

A team of transplant surgeons from left: graduating fellow, Fernando Meier, M.D., Travis Smith, M.D., Division Chief of Abdominal Organ Transplant, Susan Orloff, M.D. and Dr. Pinson.

Graduating general surgery resident, Jimmy Chim, M.D. and Dr. Hunter.
Good luck to our graduating residents and fellows!

Kelly Salter, M.D., Ph.D. will be employed as a thoracic surgeon at Northwest Kaiser Permanente in Portland, Oregon.

Curtiz Wozniak, M.D. will move to San Francisco, California where he will join the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Brich Buchburg, M.D. will join a private practice colorectal surgery group in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mark Eichler, M.D., M.S. is moving to Vancouver, Washington to work as a bariatric and general surgeon.

Renato Luna, M.D. is returning to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to practice general surgery.

Sergio Toledo Valdivinos, M.D. will be an OHSU General Surgery resident this next academic year.

Jeffery Brown, M.D. will return to Albuquerque, New Mexico and join a private practice general surgery group.

Jimmy Chim, M.D. is moving to Montreal, Canada to start a fellowship in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at McGill University.

Rachel Danczyk, M.D. began her Vascular Surgery Fellowship at OHSU in July 2013.

Megan Frost, M.D. will return to Grants Pass, Oregon and continue to work with OHSU residents.

Nicholas Kunio, M.D. will continue at OHSU as a fellow in the Advanced GI - Minimally Invasive Surgery program.

Kristen Massimino, M.D. will begin a two year Surgical Oncology Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, New York.

Gordon Riha, M.D. will continue his training at OHSU as a Surgical Critical Care Fellow.

Julia Swanson-Birchill, M.D. is moving to Charlottesville, Virginia for a Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship.

Victor Wong, M.D. began a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in July 2013.

Travis Smith, M.D. is returning to LaCrosse, Wisconsin to practice hepatobiliary surgery.

Meghna Misra, M.D. will be working at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

Erica Loomis, M.D. will return to Rochester, Minnesota to join the Trauma, Critical Care and General Surgery Division at Mayo Clinic.

Shad Pharaon, M.D. joined Southwest Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, Washington and will practice trauma, critical care and acute surgery.

Mitchell Sally, M.D. will be working at the Portland Veteran Affairs Medical Center and OHSU in general and critical care surgery.

Philbert Van, M.D. has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Surgery at OHSU and will start this fall.

James Ballard, M.D. will return to Utah with his family to begin a position as a vascular surgeon with Intermountain Healthcare.
Orthopaedic Surgery Simulations in VirtuOHSU

In May 2013, OHSU’s Orthopaedic Surgery residency program began their simulation events in VirtuOHSU. Assistant professor, Darin Friess, M.D., M.P.H. and various other faculty and senior orthopaedic surgery residents are leading these simulation events with some industry partnership.

The first session was entitled: “Pertrochanteric & Intertrochanteric Fractures: Sliding Hip Screw & Cephalomedullary Nailing Techniques.” Goals included residency understanding of the indications for sliding hip screws and cephalomedullary nailing as well as the steps for placement and instrumentation. The three hour course was focused on the utilization of senior resident instruction to expose Ortho PGY-1 through PGY-3 residents to the skills needed for the procedures. This event not only assists in the skills development for all levels of residency but also enhances the relationships between the senior and junior residents. “Having an opportunity to work in small groups, in a safe setting, gives the freedom to answer skill questions and connect with our junior residents,” Orthopaedic resident, Richard Myers, M.D., PGY-4, explains.

Dr. Friess has already booked simulation days for this coming year, coinciding with the Department of Surgery’s educational goals. We look forward to assisting Orthopaedics’ simulation events.

VirtuOHSU & Community Outreach

Every year VirtuOHSU hosts 10 to 15 community outreach events. The students are derived from various programs; rural community focused, diversity focused, and science interest groups. Our surgical residents, as well as first and second year medical students, get the opportunity to share their passion for medicine with high achieving students that are interested in going into the health career field. The students gain valuable hands-on experience and are given the chance to ask career questions.
Remembering Marion Carolyn Larsen Krippaehne, M.D.

The Department of Surgery is deeply saddened by the passing of retired OHSU physician, Marion Krippaehne, M.D. on April 15, 2013. As a female pioneer in the field of medicine and a committed member of the OHSU family, she will be greatly missed but her contributions will be remembered. Dr. Krippaehne was born on June 22, 1923 in Missoula, Montana. In 1940 she graduated high school from Queen Anne High School in Seattle, Washington and began college at the University of Washington. During this time, she worked as a secretary in the pre-medical department. In 1944, she graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry and moved to Portland to attend University of Oregon Medical School. She completed residency training at Emanuel Hospital in Portland and pursued a career in experimental medicine (hematology). At OHSU she practiced internal medicine and retired in 1988.

Her husband, William Krippaehne, M.D. was a Department of Surgery faculty member and precedes her in death. The family asks that remembrances be made to the William Krippaehne Fund, payable to the OHSU Foundation, side marked "Krippaehne Endowment" and sent to OHSU Foundation, 1121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97205.

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

Royal Oaks Country Club
Friday, September 6, 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

Darren Malinoski, M.D., F.A.C.S.

My family and I returned to Portland last June and we could not be happier to be back! The timing was perfect, as our children were about to start school and my wife, Sehra Sampson, M.D., and I had just found ideal jobs; Sehra joined the Emergency Medicine groups at OHSU and Providence Milwaukee and I was helping to launch a new Section of Surgical Critical Care at the Portland VA Medical Center, with the opportunity to also work with the Trauma Division at OHSU.

My path towards an academic and administrative career in surgical critical care and trauma was an interesting one, for it wasn’t what I had planned when I set out on the general surgery residency interview trail. During my first year of medical school in Chicago, while I was walking up hill in the snow both ways to and from class, I figured that I wanted to be a pediatric cardiologist, for I had always enjoyed working with kids and I loved cardiac physiology. Two years later, I had just finished my third-year surgery rotation and I was home for Thanksgiving visiting my family, trying to explain to them how it felt to be in the operating room, suturing wounds, and holding the heart during a CABG. I felt a sense of pride when I was able to answer questions on the ward and in the operating room and was then rewarded with more responsibility assisting on cases and seeing patients by myself. It was then that I realized that I wanted, or “needed”, to be a surgeon.

After two years of residency at OHSU, I had enjoyed working with Mark Silen, M.D. and Marvin Harrison, M.D. on the Pediatric Surgery Service and had two things drilled into my brain: “You get two points for a colostomy takedown” and “Don’t eat the green jello.” I still smile when I remember hearing these phrases on rounds… every day… for six weeks! I had learned a lot about surgery, medicine, and life from many attendings from all over town. I also discovered what made me tick, what motivated me, and the page that I was always excited to receive, no matter what time it was – “Level 1 trauma, GSW abdomen, eta 10 minutes.” So, I did research with Richard Mullins, M.D. and Martin Schreiber, M.D. and pursued a trauma/critical care fellowship at LA County/USC.

My first job out of training was at UC Irvine and I received some guidance from my Chairman, David Hoyt, M.D., “if you are going to spend time on something, write about it.” This proved to be sage advice, as I have been able to turn several quality improvement projects into research papers and presentations. This is especially true about organ donation, a field to which I was exposed during my fellowship and wound up dedicating a significant amount of time throughout my career. It is not something I ever contemplated as a student or resident, yet it became the focus of my academic career.

It is hard to know what kind of job you want until you’ve had one, or two, or several. It can also be challenging to know what makes you happy until you have lived life and matured beyond school and training. I can happily say that after having worked at two other medical centers, explored various research fields, and started a family, I feel as if I have found the right balance between clinical, academic, administrative, and family activities and that this is the best job I have ever had. My career has not taken the path that I anticipated and the piece of advice that I would give to others who are contemplating their future is to be open to discovering what really motivates you and contributes to your happiness, because it may not be what you originally thought.
June 15, 2013

We did 17 surgeries today - I did seven, Mr. Ngock (Surgeons are "Mr." like the UK) did five, then we went to clinic and we supervised the techs doing five others - breast biopsies, hydroceles, and open fracture washouts. Obviously there is rapid turnover between cases, since no one goes home until the work is done. There are two *theaters* with two operating tables in each room. My lady with a 20 cm "ovarian cyst" (football sized) walked to the operating table carrying her IV bag on her head. It was an ovarian torsion with bloody gangrene. My last patient had sepsis (bacteria in the blood) from gangrene of his foot and I did an open below knee amputation. With the spinal anesthetic, he had his arm raised in prayer the whole time - singing hymns. I went to the clinic at 4PM and saw 5 new patients. It is a challenge since about half of the clinic patients speak French only. There is always something lost in translation.

Yesterday an American CDC (Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta) expert went on a field trip with two Cameroon officials and infectious disease doctors. On the way back to Banso Baptist Hospital. Their car lost its brakes on a curve, it stopped 250 yards from the road after crossing terrain with trees, huge boulders and waist high bushes. The car was totaled. Somehow no one suffered a major physical injury, though when they got back to our house they were in emotional shock. It’s a known fact that more humanitarian workers die from "Road Traffic Accidents" than malaria or infectious disease.

Jim

June 20, 2013

I’m pretty tired tonight. At 3:30 this morning I was called for two c-sections for fetal distress. The first had the cord wrapped around its neck and the second was bathed in meconium (baby poop). Fortunately we delivered two very healthy baby girls. There were four elective cases for me today and two other emergencies. The first was a 6-year-old boy who had been sick for three weeks. He had abdominal abscess everywhere (intra-loop, pelvis, gutters and subphrenic) from a small intestines typhoid perforation. The second was an 11-year-old hit by a motorcycle with right hemiparesis. Mr. Ngock, the Cameroonian general surgeon, helped me do a decompressive craniectomy (remove the left half of his skull) to relieve the intracranial pressure. His brain bulged out of his head, but he began moving the right side purposefully. We implanted the skull in the abdomen and will retrieve it when he gets better.

The British internist Craig Davies is one of my housemates. He went on a field trip to one of the poorest parts of Cameroon yesterday. Like many Englishmen, he has a way with words and his descriptions are priceless. After a long day of seeing malnourished patients he was hosted with the team to dinner by the villagers. He could smell rotten meat and when he tried to be polite and eat the dinner, he couldn’t stomach it. The meat was tough as rope and made him dry heave. He thought it might be "bush food" - mice, rats, road kill, but NO, it was "cold cow." A beef carcass had been hanging in a locker after being salted as a preservative. The village has no refrigeration or cold storage. The African team members couldn’t stop laughing when he blurted out "What is this?"
June 25, 2013

Popular names in Cameroon are: Cyprian (Cy for short), Emmanuel, Chairman, Oscar, Happiness, Emmeline, Honoré, Janessa, and Magdalena. I still struggle understanding Pidgin English. Today a new clinic patient made it very clear to me that he wasn’t going to speak or understand “Shakespeare’s English.” He would converse in “Pigeon English only.” Some of the phrases are: “nil fresh complaints” or NFC for short, “bitten by bandits,” which means a knife fight and “elderly Mum,” which means no one knows how old she is, but she is “very old.”

The operating room technicians drain a lot of extremity and breast abscesses every day. Many patient are HIV positive. This retrovirus causes AIDS. The prevalence of HIV in the Cameroon population peaked in 2001 at 11.8%, but is now down to 5.3%. However Banso Baptist Hospital is a referral center for the Northwest Province and so it may be as high as 10% here. Every patient who goes to surgery gets a Hemoglobin (to check for anemia) and an HIV test. The reality is they still get their surgery. The OR team double gloves on all cases with “universal precautions,” the practice of avoiding contact with the patients’ bodily fluids, by means of the wearing of nonporous articles such as medical gloves, goggles, aprons and face shields. Purely elective surgery for, let’s say, a hernia will prompt a CD4 count. These cells are a type of white blood cell that fights infection and their count indicates the stage of HIV or AIDS in a patient. The CD4 count should be greater than 500. If its 200 we won’t do an elective surgery since the risk of infection and complications is too high.

I performed five elective cases today: a radical mastectomy for ulcerating breast cancer, a gastrectomy (removal of the stomach) for an obstructing cancer, an orchiectomy (removal of the testicles) for prostate cancer, an amputation for diabetes and varicose veins excision in a 19-year-old from the back of her leg (lesser saphenous vein). I haven’t done a stomach removal for years. Cancer of the stomach killed my Dad and grandmother, but it has disappeared in the United States.

Jim

June 29, 2013

About 5% of Cameroonians are native speakers of Pidgin English, also called Cameroonian Creole. An estimated 50% of the population speak it in some form. It came into being during the Slave Trade Years (1440 to early 1800s). It preceded English in Cameroon: the first Baptist missionaries who arrived in Cameroon in 1845 introduced formal education in English, but had to learn Pidgin (Creole) first.

I have seen 88 clinic patients since I arrived. I have struggled with the language in all 88. The three ER operations were: 1) “Festus” had a perforated peptic (stomach) ulcer 2) “Believe” had drainage of another empyema (pus in the chest cavity) like the “elderly Mum” and 3) “Genesis” needed evacuation of >150cc “pus under pressure” from a foul smelling peri-rectal abscess. When I made the incision for Genesis, the pus hit me hard in the chest apron - not a pretty site.

Festus had eaten a hole in the intestines (duodenum) just beyond the stomach from too much acid caused by stress and malnutrition. He was in shock - the nurse anesthetist could not get a blood pressure. He had a thready femoral (groin) pulse and was unconscious. He needed lots of intravenous (IV) fluids for severe dehydration. His hemoglobin came back as 2g/dL. (Normal: 12.0 - 16.0 g/ dL) Fortunately Festus is doing well today and making urine.

Jim
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. 0813 (8)