Message from the Chair

Wow! 2012 is over and 2013 is upon us. Where did last year go? All I remember is a rainy month of March, a gorgeous summer, a golf tournament, and elections. Then there was the holiday season. Now it is a new year.

In looking back at 2012 in the Department of Surgery there were some surprises, and some things more predictable. The predictable items, I leave to your imagination. The surprises, at least to me, included the ongoing and increasing demand for our services in the Department of Surgery despite forecasts that accountable care organizations, primary care, and preventive medicine were going to turn surgeons into rarely needed cost centers. While there is no doubt that our payor mix is moving toward the Medicare crowd as we baby boomers age, the demand for surgical services continues its relentless growth in the department. We continue to add faculty to keep up with the demand.

Another surprise has been the desirability of OHSU as a destination for the brightest residents, and the most talented academic surgeons in America. When arriving in Oregon in 2001, I thought that this great institution and this beautiful city would make recruiting a breeze. While we have added some amazing faculty members in the last decade, it turned out to be a tougher go than I thought. Having said that, the winds seem to have changed a bit and the desirability of OHSU, our Department of Surgery, and Portland as a destination has made recruiting easier. For example, we are in the midst of recruiting a new chief of pediatric surgery for Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, and the Department of Surgery. Thanks to the great program that Mark Silen, M.D. has built and our pediatric surgery fellowship we have had interest in this position from sitting pediatric chiefs around the country, as well as the greatest rising young talent in the field. This search is being co-chaired by Greg Moneta, M.D. from the Department of Surgery, and Kevin O’Boyle, M.H.S.A. from Doernbecher. We are also recruiting to fill some very big general surgery program director (PD) shoes as Karen Deveney, M.D. our vice-chair for education, turns the PD role over to her successor, while continuing to offer her energy and intellect as Vice Chair. Pat Southard, R.N., J.D. is

(continued on page 2)
Faculty News
Chairman's Message (continued)

chairing this search. The interest has been high from several talented surgeon-educators at OHSU and from equally talented individuals from outside our walls.

2013 is going to be a great year. Thirteen has always been my lucky number, although I have never played it in the lottery. In the next year we look forward to several new programs and opportunities. First, OHSU will be part of a 10 program pilot to test the concept of flexibility in surgery training, allowing us to customize the last two years of general surgery residency to accommodate the future needs of the surgical resident, whether it’s a practice in rural surgery, broad-based general surgery, or one of the many surgical specialties that have developed. While these training tracks will initially be developed for our residents staying at OHSU for advanced training (fellowship), we anticipate these tracks allowing all residents to choose rotations and experiences to better prepare them for their future.

A second development is the ongoing growth of our simulation program. Erica Mitchell, M.D. has taken a position with the Provost’s Office to coordinate simulation across the campus and has been instrumental in designing over 20,000 feet of new simulation space in our Collaborative Life Sciences Building going up on the South Waterfront campus. In addition, Erica and I are working with the Imperial College of London to create a Master’s Program for those at OHSU interested in simulation science. In parallel, Donn Spight, M.D., Pat Southard, and Elena An are beefing up our surgical simulation activities on the hill, as VirtuOHSU has quite literally outgrown its footprint in the Old Library.

Additionally, OHSU has embarked upon a journey to become a more efficient medical center, understanding that the pressures to eliminate waste and improve quality are heavy upon us. The management system that most suits these goals is the Toyota management system (aka LEAN). It is clear that one is unable to “dabble” in LEAN management practices, that a cultural change is necessary, but the outcome is fabulous as it allows management decisions to be made at every level of the organization, and requires a relentless pursuit of value for our employees, for our patients, and for our health care payors. The first stop for LEAN transformation will be inpatient operating rooms in the South Hospital and Kohler Pavilion. Our staff and surgeons are already engaged and the progress is palpable.

In closing, I would again like to invite all of you in Portland to attend our great grand rounds schedule and invite all surgeons who have trained at OHSU or are part of our faculty to join the Mackenzie Society. We have now crossed the 200 member threshold in the Mackenzie Society. If you work with our residents, or graduated from the program and haven’t joined the Mackenzie Society, you are now in the minority. The Society supports the many activities of our residents, and has been instrumental in making OHSU a destination of choice for the best surgical residents in the United States. For those who have already joined, my deepest thanks. We look forward to seeing you at our spring dinner following the Liu Lecture on May 6 where Chairman of the Department of Surgery at UC San Diego, Mark Talamini, M.D., will be our guest. Stay warm and dry this winter.

Best wishes,

John S. Hunter

Service Awards for Dr. Herzig and Dr. Ham

The Department of Surgery’s 2012 service awards recognized
Dan Herzig, M.D. and Bruce Ham, M.D. Dr. Herzig received the Distinguished Service Award for his innovative ideas and support that assisted in the go-live of the electronic medical record system, EPIC. Dr. Ham received the 2012 Department Chair’s Service Award from Dr. Hunter for his efforts in initiating the surgical locums program throughout rural communities in Oregon. Dr. Hunter also emphasized that Dr. Ham has been an integral team member in the ICU’s and operating rooms, providing superb care to the critically ill patients we see so frequently at OHSU.
New Faculty: Mira Milas, M.D.

Please join us in welcoming Mira Milas, M.D. to the Division of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Milas earned a B.A. in Biochemistry, Cum Laude, from Rice University in Houston, Texas. She then attended medical school at The University of Texas - Houston Medical School and completed residency training in General Surgery at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then returned to Houston for a fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Surgical Oncology.

Since beginning her practice, Dr. Milas served as Associate Professor in the Department of General Surgery, Breast Center at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. She was the Director of the Thyroid Center from 2009 to 2012 and received a Nightingale Physician Excellence Award. She also served as Research Director for Endocrine Surgery and Co-Director for the Research Committee of Endocrinology and Metabolism Institute while at the Cleveland Clinic. Her research primarily focuses on treatments for hyperparathyroidism and thyroid cancer. Additionally, Dr. Milas was included in the Top 10 Ranking in Endocrinology in U.S. News and World Report from 2002 to 2011. She also has a passion for art.

Dr. Rowell Receives NIH K12 Grant

Susan Rowell, M.D., an assistant professor in the Division of Trauma, Emergency Surgery, and Acute Care Surgery, was awarded a K12 grant for her research, which will focus on coagulation changes after traumatic brain injury (TBI). This is the number one cause of death and disability due to trauma. Management of TBI focuses on preventing secondary brain injury. Dr. Rowell’s initial study will examine the hypothesis that TBI induces an early and significant hypocoagulable state that can be characterized by thromboelastography, and that the severity of the derangement in coagulation is associated with progression of intracerebral hemorrhage. She will test this hypothesis in a prospective observational study of adult patients admitted to the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at OHSU with blunt TBI. The second aspect of this study will begin to explore the mechanism involved in TBI-associated coagulopathy using samples collected from the initial phase of the study. In addition to support from this K12 grant, Dr. Rowell is a recipient of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Research Fellowship Award to support her research.

Dr. Rowell also served as the 2012 chair of the committee for the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, which established the national guidelines for the management of mild traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Tibayan Awarded MRF Grant

Fred Tibayan, M.D. was awarded a grant from the Medical Research Foundation (MRF) of Oregon this past October. This grant will help fund his study entitled, “Effects of increased pressure load on remodeling and development of near-term fetal aorta.” Dr. Tibayan is particularly interested in learning about how events and conditions in the womb predispose humans as healthy or unhealthy, especially as it relates to the heart. His work is focused on how fetal blood pressure affects development, such as the size and stiffness, of the aorta. Dr. Tibayan is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. His previous research is regarding better understanding and treatment of valvular heart disease, and remodeling and treatment of the failing heart.
Innovation in the Department of Surgery: A Multidisciplinary Valve Clinic

Cardiothoracic surgeon Matt Slater, M.D. and interventional cardiologist Saurabh Gupta, M.D. recognized inefficiencies in the healthcare system as patients with complex heart valve disease were shuffled from their primary care physician to a cardiologist to a surgeon and back. Further issues arose when a complicated patient was identified by the cardiologist. The patient would return home, which may be five or six hours away from the OHSU campus, and then the patient would need to come back for additional tests or surgeries.

Dr. Slater, with the engagement of Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Howard Song, M.D., and Dr. Gupta, founded a multidisciplinary clinic. The clinic is referred to as the Heart Valve Clinic and cares for patients with valvular heart disease (some of them previously without any options) who can now be offered multiple treatment modalities including catheter based options. The main focus of the clinic is to enable real-time multidisciplinary decision making and care; the patient now sees the cardiologist, surgeon and other required specialists in one appointment to improve the experience for the patient. During the visit, physicians can pool their knowledge and expertise, decide additional diagnostic testing that might be indicated and come to a conclusion on the best option for the patient, whether that is traditional open surgery, or catheter based options.

In fall of 2011, the Food and Drug Administration approved technology for transcatheter aortic valve replacement. Clinicians in the Heart Valve are now able to insert valves through arteries in the patient's groin, a less invasive and safer procedure than traditional surgery by opening their chests. The video of this procedure called Transfemoral Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAF TAVR) is available on our electric Surgical Log version at this address: http://youtu.be/DQWq0_G9Jl4. The groin insertion procedure has been performed on more than 15 patients at OHSU and that number is rapidly growing. This procedure is ideal for patients who are high-risk patients for traditional valve replacement surgery. On Friday, October 26, 2012, the team placed an aortic valve through a small incision between the patients ribs (Transapical TAVR). This was among the first such procedure to be performed nationwide outside of a clinical trial.

Feedback from patients regarding the clinic has been overwhelmingly positive. They and their families frequently only have to make one trip to the clinic, diagnostic tests are scheduled in the morning, followed by a visit with their physicians in the afternoon with their test results. Dr. Slater notes that the multidisciplinary portion has only been in operation for two years and they are extremely busy and plan on adding scheduling slots. He credits the PAS staff and coordinator, Leasa Keene and Practice Manager, Lisa Dean for taking initiative and assisting in coordination. Furthermore, medical assistants aid in performing a frailty assessment on patients to determine their ability to undergo surgery.

Dr. Slater is hopeful that the clinic will serve as a platform for introducing new valve technology to the university. He wants to continue to develop the patient experience as a “one-stop shopping” visit that is both positive and efficient. His goal is to track outcomes by diseases process and follow patient outcomes long after their visit. However, challenges remain for a new clinic in obtaining additional resources. Dr. Slater explains that the staff and physicians understand that this is the best way to treat patients and they support the initiative and gladly take on the extra work, “In a time in medicine when providers are getting separated by subspecialty, having cross-specialty relationships is valuable for both the patients and doctors. Working with and across various disciplines is the best approach. It is a time and labor intensive undertaking but in the long run it is what is required to treat this extremely complex sub-set of patients.” The clinic is jointly staffed by Dr. Slater and Dr. Gupta and located in Physician’s Pavilion. In the near future this will expand into the clinic at Center for Health and Healing to accommodate more patients.
Liver Transplant Program Established at OHSU

The history of the liver transplant program at Oregon Health & Science University is intricate and not often common knowledge to those outside the OHSU community. Since 1988, liver transplants in the Portland area have only been performed at the OHSU-affiliated Veteran Affairs Hospital. C. Wright Pinson, M.B.A., M.D. served as Chief Resident in General Surgery at OHSU in 1986 and during his fellowship at Harvard, established a liver transplantation program at the Portland VA Hospital. The VA became one of only four medical centers in the United States where liver transplants were performed. Veterans traveled across the country to undergo surgery in Portland. However, OHSU patients were also in need of this service and two-thirds of transplant patients at the VA were actually from the university.

In May 2012, regulatory changes mandated that university patients at the VA be moved to a Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) accredited facility. The VA does not fall under the authority of CMS, rather it is under the federal government. Suddenly, the Division of Abdominal Organ Transplant Surgery and the numerous staff involved in transplant surgery were faced with the colossal charge to create a transplant program at OHSU within six weeks. "We worked night and day to get this done," says Division Chief of Abdominal Organ Transplant Surgery, Susan Orloff, M.D., F.A.C.S. She explains that the biggest challenge in constructing a liver transplant program at OHSU was the time crunch, as most programs are established within a nine month time frame.

Executive Director at Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank, Mike Seely, Interim AHA at OHSU, Marc Edelman and VA nurse, Katie Wasinger, R.N. pushed forward to simulate the VA program within OHSU walls by training OHSU nurses, pharmacists and blood bank staff. Other necessities included entering pre-op and post-op formulas into EPIC, establishing a stat lab for the OR and a blood bank for pathologists and recreating any ancillary services needed to support a 24-hour surgery center dealing with major blood requests. OHSU nurses and staff shadowed those at the VA. VA staff taught their colleagues specific order writing and care pathways. Logistically, the operating room also needed to fit the needs of liver transplant surgery, which is far more complex and risky than a liver resection. The team installed renal dialysis machines and ordered surgical instruments and fresh frozen plasma in the event that numerous liters of blood were needed.

A mock transplant was performed at OHSU on July 19, 2012 and a week later the program was in motion. Katie Wasinger scrubbed in on the first six transplants to ensure smooth sailing. As of November 30, 2012, the OHSU team has performed nine transplants, all successful. Dr. Orloff attributes the program's success to the motivation and dedication of every individual involved and is thankful for the enthusiasm and positivity of her staff and those at the VA. "It is such an inspiration to see the energy behind this and it has been a whole group effort," she says.

Dr. Orloff is excited that transplant surgery can now serve as a front and center face of OHSU. She highlights her goals for continuing to grow the program, which include maintaining and developing an excellent team, expanding the volume of transplants, upholding survival rates and outcomes and moving towards more cutting edge surgeries. She is confident that the transplant program and its ability to incorporate patients with a multitude of hepatobiliary and pancreatic disorders will bring new patients and referrals to OHSU and enhance the university as a multidisciplinary center. Read more about Dr. Orloff and her accomplishments as part of the School of Medicine Labyrinth Movement at http://www.ohsu.edu/labyrinth.
Visiting Lecturers

Charles Mock, M.D., Ph.D. is a professor of surgery, epidemiology and global health at University of Washington in Seattle. He received his medical degree from Brown University in 1980 and then received degrees in public health (MPH, 1994, PhD 1997) from the University of Washington. Dr. Mock previously worked as a surgeon in Ghana for four years, including both time as a staff surgeon in a rural hospital and as a Senior Lecturer in Surgery at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. From 2005 to 2007, he served as Director of the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center (HIPRC) at the University of Washington and during this time, established several injury control training fellowships for young professionals from low and middle-income countries. From 2007 to 2010, Dr. Mock worked at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva and was responsible for developing WHO’s activities on trauma care. He has written over 150 journal articles on injury control and trauma care, as well as many book chapters. He also speaks French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Harry Greenspun, M.D. is the senior advisor for health care transformation and technology at the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions in Washington D.C. Prior to joining Deloitte, he received his medical degree from the University of Maryland and completed his residency and fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Anesthesiology, where he served as chief resident. Dr. Greenspun has been both an educator and consultant throughout his career, making recommendations for the Obama administration and Congress on the importance of health care IT. He has served as chief medical officer for Northrop Grumman Corporation and Dell Inc. and is the distinguished co-author of “Reengineering Health Care: A Manifesto for Radically Rethinking Health Care Delivery.” He is recognized as a leader in the industry and has been named one of the “50 Most Influential Physician Executives in Healthcare” by Modern Healthcare in 2010 and 2011. Currently he is responsible for helping Deloitte’s health care, life sciences and government clients address key health information technology issues.

E. Patchen Dellinger, M.D. is professor and chief of the Department of Surgery at University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Dellinger earned his medical degree and completed his training at Harvard Medical School. He then completed a fellowship in infectious diseases at Tufts University. He was involved in the development of the World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist which was piloted at eight hospitals around the world. He subsequently worked with the Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP) to assist in introducing the checklist to all operating rooms in the state of Washington. He actively works to promote interdisciplinary communication and teamwork in the operating room for increased patient safety. His clinical and research interests include general and laparoscopic surgery, surgical infectious diseases, surgical critical care and gastrointestinal and bariatric surgery. Dr. Dellinger is currently conducting clinical trials related to intra-abdominal infections, the diagnosis and treatment of severe sepsis and the development of new antibiotics.

Nick Sevdalis, Ph.D. is an experimental psychologist, currently appointed Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery and Cancer and the Center for Patient Safety and Service Quality at Imperial College London. He also serves as director of the Non-Technical Skills and Simulation Research Group. He received his Ph.D. from University College London in 2004. Dr. Sevdalis’ research group is an international leader in the development of scientifically valid and clinically feasible assessment tools, methods and training modules for healthcare teams in operating rooms, resuscitation and cancer care settings. The group has developed tools such as the Observational Teamwork Assessment for Surgery (OTAS), the revised NOTECHS for operating room teams, the Observational Skill-based Clinical Assessment tool for Resuscitation (OSCAR) and the Multidisciplinary Team Metric for the Observation of Decision Making (MDT MODE) for multidisciplinary cancer teams and tumor boards. Dr. Sevdalis’ research has been disseminated in over 140 peer-reviewed publications and he has attracted more than $19.5 million in research income as a principal and co-investigator. He is currently an Associate Editor for Implementation Science and serves on several editorial boards.
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.*

**JANUARY**

January 7: “A Global Perspective of the Current Management of Gastric Cancer,” Erin Gilbert, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, OHSU

January 14: “Strengthening Care for Trauma and Other Surgical Conditions Globally,” Charles Mock, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Washington

January 21: Martin Luther King’s Birthday - Grand Rounds CANCELED

January 28: Department of Surgery Research Fair, SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery, OHSU

**FEBRUARY**


February 11: “Preventing Surgical Site Infections – Some Things Old & Some Things New,” E. Patchen Dellinger, M.D., Professor and Chief, Department of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, University of Washington

February 18: President’s Day - Grand Rounds CANCELED

February 25: ACGME - “Caring for Ourselves and Others: OHSU’s Efforts to Promote Resilience in Physicians,” Mary Moffit, Ph.D., and Sydney Ey, Ph.D., Graduate Medical Education, OHSU

**MARCH**

March 4: “Endocrine Oncology,” Mira Milas, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery, OHSU

March 11: “The Treatment of Obesity: Why is Access so Limited?” Bruce Wolfe, M.D., Professor, Section of Bariatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

March 18: “Organ Donation,” Darren Malinoski, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma & Critical Care, Department of Surgery, OHSU

Visiting Author and Trunkey Lecturer, Wendy Moore Presents The Knife Man

Wendy Moore, a British medical journalist and author of The Knife Man delivered the 2012 Trunkey Lecture on Friday, November 30th. Wendy traveled from London, England to speak at the Department of Surgery’s Grand Rounds and explore the countryside of the Pacific Northwest. Her lecture and book were so popular that residents and faculty requested far more signed copies than the department had originally ordered. Luckily, Powell’s Books was able to oblige. Wendy also met members of the Mackenzie Society at the Trunkey Dinner on Friday evening at The Heathman Restaurant in downtown Portland. To view Wendy’s full History of Medicine lecture, you can click the link below on our electronic version or visit www.ohsu.edu/edcomm/flash/flash_player.php?params=4’/adm/lib/HoM113012e.flv’vod&width=640&height=480&title=History of Medicine 11-30-12.
Special Announcements

- Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery attending (and OHSU surgery residency program graduate), **Brandon Tieu** and wife **Danica** welcomed a baby boy on August 11, 2012, **Braeden**.
- The Department of Surgery offices in Mackenzie Hall recently underwent a major renovation and now feature wood floors and neutral tones. Please come check it out!

- 2011 general surgery residency program graduate, **Carrie Allison, M.D.** gave birth to **Gavin Reed Allison**
- Current resident, **Vicente Undurraga, M.D.** and his wife have a new son, **Vicente “Max” Undurraga** born on November 19, 2012.
- Residency program graduate, **Karen Zink, M.D.** and her family welcomed **Kaitlin Anne Teeter**, born November 21, 2012.
- General Surgery resident, **Fernando Mier M.D.** and his family welcomed daughter **Isabella Mier** on August 14, 2012.
- Division of Trauma Surgery attending, **Laszlo Kiraly, M.D.** and division manager of Trauma Surgery, **Kelly Kiraly** are excited to introduce their second child, a son, Lukas, born September 18, 2012 and weighing in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce.
- Resident **Isaac Young, M.D.** and his wife have a new son, **Iral Theophilus Young**, born November 8, 2012.

Resident Recognition

General surgery chief resident, **Victor W. Wong, M.D.** served as an invited speaker and mini-session co-chair for the 4th Congress of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies in Yokohama, Japan this past September. He is grateful to **Karen Deveney, M.D.** and **John Hunter, M.D.** for the opportunity to represent the Department of Surgery.

General surgery research resident, **Tim Lee, M.D.** won the resident competition for best paper at the North Pacific Surgical Association 99th Annual Meeting in Spokane Washington on November 9, 2012. The paper is entitled, “Correlation of Conventional Thrombelastography (TEG) and Rapid Thrombelastography (r-TEG) in Trauma” - Lee TH, McCully B, Underwood S, Cotton B, Cohen M and Schreiber MA. The paper was submitted to the American Journal of Surgery and is currently under review.
This year’s VirtuOHSU Golf Tournament and Auction took place at the Royal Oaks Country Club on August 17, 2012. Faculty, residents, staff and friends of the department enjoyed a sunny afternoon and evening of golf, dinner, auction and spirits to support the educational endeavors of the department.

The seventh annual OHSU Department of Surgery Annual Golf Tournament and Auction was held at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Washington. It was a very successful event and approximately $160,000 was raised to support simulation and surgical skills education. In the seven years of the tournament, we have grossed about 1.1 million dollars again totally committed to VirtuOHSU.

This was a particularly special year because we had two honorary foursomes of wounded warriors with the golfers representing service from the Vietnam War through the current conflicts in the middle-east. The older veterans actually won this year’s tournament. They were totally thrilled with the victory. They are all members of the Friends of American Lake Veterans Golf Course in Washington. It was truly a pleasure to host these men who so valiantly served our country.

The actual dinner and auction was one of the most successful evenings we have ever had for this charity event. We had almost 200 people attend the dinner and they uniformly said it was one of the most fun evenings they have had in years. We already have golfers signed up for 2013.

We did have several silver sponsors who are always proud to be a part of this important charity event. The silver sponsors this year included Andersen Construction, CompView Medical, Hart Wagner Trial Attorneys, Ken and Cheri Hick, Jim and Kym Martin, Nike, OHSU Healthcare, PKA architects and Salem Hospital. These are very special people who have made a strong commitment to our event and who always support the cause.

The golf tournament committee volunteered many hours during the year in preparation for this tournament and auction. From May until the tournament, the time commitment for the volunteers is enormous. For the 2013 tournament, we have added Ron Sidis (Pam Sidis’ husband) to the committee. He will be a great addition with all of his contacts for the auction.

We would like to thank all of the surgeons who either donated items for the silent and oral auction or played in the tournament. It is so helpful to be able to show the commitment from our faculty members to the participants.

Finally, please mark your calendars for Friday, September 6 for the Eighth Annual Department of Surgery Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction.
VirtuOHSU is a place of learning, not only for adult medical learners but for young high school students as well. In fall 2012, VirtuOHSU hosted two rural Northwest and Portland community outreach events. Both of these events were for high achieving, high school students with goals of future careers in the medical field. Medical Director for VirtuOHSU, Donn Spight, M.D. leads the students through the path to become a surgeon and with the help of some residents and the OHSU Medical Student Surgical Interest Group volunteers, exposes these eager learners to basic surgical skill tasks. From basic knot tying to virtual simulation and surgical energy sources, each student learns how these skills transfer over to caring for a patient in the operating room. Members of the department love answering the student questions and encouraging their excitement for a possible career in surgery. Over 70 students attended these outreach events and the events were enjoyed almost more by the instructing volunteers than the students!
Faculty Flashback: Ralph & Ray Matson, M.D.

Twins Ralph Matson, M.D. and Ray Matson, M.D. are credited as surgeon pioneers in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. The brothers received their medical degrees from the University of Oregon Medical College in 1902 and served as interns and residents at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland. After residency, they traveled abroad to complete post graduate education. Ralph studied at Cambridge University in London and worked alongside Alexander Fleming, the man who discovered penicillin. Ray did his postgraduate work in Vienna, London and Paris.

Their father’s death of pulmonary tuberculosis spurred an interest in the young men to specialize in this area. However, their practice was interrupted when they left for the First World War in 1916. Ralph served with the Harvard University Surgical Team and treated chest wounds and empyema, a collection of pus in the space between the lung and inner surface of the chest wall, a common ailment before antibiotics. Ralph received the French Legion of Honor Award for his work.

Upon returning to Portland, Ralph and Ray gained a national reputation for their operations such as pulmonary resections for the treatment of lung cancer. Ralph was a founding member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and an editor of Diseases of the Chest. Ray was president of the Portland Academy of Medicine. In 1932, the Matson brothers performed an operation for pulmonary tuberculosis on an infant and in 1939, established the University of Oregon Medical School as one of 11 thoracic surgery training programs in the country.

Apart from their reputation as skilled surgeons, Ralph and Ray were known for their engaging and ambitious personalities. Both played polo, were active in steeplechases, drove fast cars and flew airplanes. Ray died a tragic death in 1935 in a fiery sports car crash with a female companion.

Nurse Practitioners Receive State Awards

Department of Surgery nurse practitioners, Yun Long Ong, ACNP and Charmika Schuster, FNP were honored at the March of Dimes, Nurse of the Year Awards for the state of Oregon. The winners were chosen from a competitive pool of applicants with 400 nominations, 183 finalists and only 16 awards.

Long received the Advanced Nurse Practitioner of the Year award and was recognized for his outstanding efforts in coordinating the development of a patient education video to prepare patients for their day of surgery. This collaborative effort included John Hunter, M.D., the Department of Anesthesia, the preoperative nursing staff and the PMC staff. In addition, he volunteers with the Multnomah County Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, teaches wilderness first aid to SAR volunteers and holds certification with the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

Charmika received the Community Health Nurse of the Year award. She is a tireless volunteer locally and internationally. Locally, she volunteers for the Clark Center for the Homeless and administers health screenings and health education. Internationally, Charmika founded a non-profit organization, “Global Mustard Seed Missions.” After spending time in post-earthquake Haiti, Charmika saw an opportunity to address a need and facilitated logistics by providing medications and mobile equipment packages. In January 2013, she will spend her vacation time organizing medical teams in urban and rural regions of Haiti. The teams will stay connected with the areas for two to three years after the event when health needs and malnutrition are still a major problem.
If asked if I would do my general surgery training over again….I would have to answer “yes,” especially if it were during the same period of my life. I have never had so much fun, combined with intellectual and personal growth. I started as a general surgery intern at UCSF and I can still smell the ER at San Francisco General. I feel as though I was following in the footsteps of those mentors that I love so dearly, Karen and Cliff Deveney and of course Donald Trunkey, M.D. My journey back to Oregon, allowed me to be molded by the OHSU general surgery program and my beloved mentors. I finished in general surgery with my fellow 7 male residents and one child. My son was strategically planned during a research year. The few hours that I slept in the hospital were more than I was getting at home with my child. Maybe the sleep deprivation only allows me to remember the good times in residency.

Regardless, I continued on to become a plastic surgeon, or as Richard Mullins, M.D. would say, “A surface surgeon”. The challenges and 3-dimensionality of reconstructive surgery drew me to this field, along with the encouragement of Juliana Hansen, M.D. I have now been in practice for eleven years with a mix of both cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. In fact, these fields are not mutually exclusive and do complement one another in technique. I have a significant breast cancer reconstructive practice and we do Race for the Cure with our patients every year. Our group has easily grown to over 100 people. My mission is to educate the public on their breast cancer reconstructive options. Many do not know about the federal law that mandates coverage for breast cancer reconstruction if an insurance company pays for mastectomy.

As I enter a new phase in my life, I now have two teenage children and have been married to my orthopedic husband for 20 years. We have enjoyed hosting foreign exchange students and traveling abroad. Our next trip will be to Ecuador, where my husband and I will undertake our first medical mission trip in January 2013.

Just when I think that I am truly a surface surgeon, I crave a good general surgery case and the smell of the abdomen. I thought about giving up my board certification in general surgery and just keeping the plastic surgery certification, but in the end I couldn’t give up all those great general surgery years. So I recertified in general surgery and have enjoyed the anatomy lab dissection with the medical students. I am thankful for my opportunities at OHSU and for the people that have truly changed my life.

Focus on Alumni

Elisa Burgess, M.D.

“Just when I think that I am truly a surface surgeon, I crave a good general surgery case and the smell of the abdomen.”

Elisa and her family at a wedding in France in summer 2012.

Elisa with her husband and two sons at her husband’s 50th birthday party on Cinco de Mayo.

Elisa and her husband and two sons at her husband’s 50th birthday party on Cinco de Mayo.
Patient Story: Lauris & Shiela Slocum

When first finding out that you have cancer, you’re shocked, maybe even in denial. I had been diagnosed with Barrett’s Esophagus three years earlier and knew that there was always a possibility of a cancer diagnosis. My wife and I did some research and talked with family back in Minnesota who encouraged us to go to the Mayo Clinic.

Fortunately, my gastroenterologist was able to arrange an appointment with John Hunter, M.D. at OHSU because he believed Dr. Hunter was the best surgeon on the West Coast able to perform a less invasive surgery.

Our first meeting with Dr. Hunter made us feel so at ease. He was thorough, had a sense of humor, and exuded confidence. Shiela and I were concerned about my age and the fact that I had atrial fibrillation. Dr. Hunter listened to our concerns and arranged for me to see a heart specialist. The tests confirmed that my heart should present no problem during surgery.

The day of my operation, I remember thinking how much the operating room looked like NASA headquarters in Houston! Looking up at my surgical team and Dr. Hunter, I knew I was in good hands. Throughout my six day stay in ICU and the hospital, everyone from the student nurses to Dr. Hunter himself took great care of me and Shiela.

It amazes us that Dr. Hunter removed seven inches from my esophagus and attached my stomach to what was remaining with only six little incisions along my torso. Since the surgery I have lost 25 pounds, I also walk regularly, mow the lawn, ride horses and watch what I eat. Thankfully, life has returned near normal and I am cancer free, at this time.

I have been fortunate. Because of regular endoscopic tests, we caught the cancer early. But without Dr. Hunter and all the wonderful people at OHSU who all contributed to my outstanding care, I would not have the quality of life I now enjoy. My one year check-up is coming up in March and I have high hopes for another great visit at OHSU.

Watch Lauris and Shiela tell their story at: http://youtu.be/6YA4dDljonQ.

If Lauris’ 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 11:59PM, December 31, 2013 to qualify for tax year 2012.

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As Oregon's only publicly-funded health sciences university, OHSU strives for excellence in education, research, scholarship, clinical practice and community service. Through its dynamic interdisciplinary environment, OHSU stimulates the spirit of inquiry, initiative and cooperation among diverse students, faculty and staff.

The Department of Surgery (OHSU) is recruiting for the position of Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. This position provides the leadership and oversight for one of the largest surgery residency programs in the country. The Department of Surgery residency program graduates twelve residents every year, and includes first year designated preliminary interns in orthopedics, otolaryngology, oral-maxillofacial surgery and urology. The program also trains residents in the first three years of their training in the OHSU Plastic Surgery integrated residency program. In addition to rotations at OHSU, residents rotate to six additional clinical sites in the Portland metropolitan area, and are offered an optional rural surgery rotation in southern Oregon.

The individual in this position is responsible for assuring compliance with all ACGME requirements and for assuring outstanding quality and performance of the trainees and educators in the surgery residency program. Competitive candidates for this position will have a proven track record of experience and success in resident education and will be someone recognized by their peers for his or her surgical abilities, strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated problem solving skills.

OHSU honors diversity of age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation and thought. OHSU provides reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities. We are proud to be an equal opportunity, affirmative action organization. Portland is the largest city in Oregon and provides quick access to the Pacific Ocean, Mt. Hood and the Willamette Valley. In their off hours, our faculty and residents enjoy hiking, mountain biking, skiing, surfing, rock climbing and fishing. Also, Portland has some of the best restaurants and arts and culture in the country.

Applicants should forward a letter of interest and current curriculum vitae to the attention of the Program Director for Surgery Search Committee at stilley@ohsu.edu no later than February 28, 2013.
Department Chair
John G. Hunter, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin) .. 503 494-7758

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Change can't happen if we see things just one way. That's why diversity is so important to OHSU. 1212 (12)