Message from the Chair

The year end is already upon us. The days are a little over 9 hours long, and the rain has set in. Mount Hood is accumulating vast quantities of snow and the fireplaces around the city are beginning to see quite a bit of action. We in the Department of Surgery at OHSU wish you a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2014.

To recap the events of the autumn, the 8th annual VirtuOHSU Golf Tournament and auction at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver started us off with a bang. The day was greeted by a NW gale with 30 mph winds and horizontal rain. The organizing committee got together, held their breath and prayed for good weather, which arrived in the afternoon, sufficient that the tournament was a great success once again, raising over $100,000 for simulation and education. At the tournament, we had a chance to show off our vision for simulation at OHSU to executives from a well-known industry giant in minimally invasive surgery. They were sufficiently captivated that we are finalizing a partnership that will bring much needed equipment support for our educational programs in simulation to VirtuOHSU and several other sites across campus.

In late September, the Krippaehne lecture gathered the sons and daughters of Bill and Marion Krippaehne, and brought Tom Cogbill, M.D., the Immediate Past Chair of the American Board of Surgery, to Portland for an amazing lecture on the future of surgery education. In early November Anna Ledgerwood, M.D., President of the American Surgical Association, delivered the Trunkey Lecture, debunking surgical myths. Her 40 years of experience at the bedside of the critically injured, and her interest in challenging dogma was refreshing to the faculty and residents who were fortunate enough to spend time with her.

We are excited to announce a few bits of good news from Marquam Hill. First, a very thorough search for a new Surgeon-in-Chief for Doernbecher Children’s Hospital has led to the appointment of Ken Azarow, M.D., F.A.C.S., to become our third Chief of Pediatric Surgery, following Jack Campbell, M.D., and Mark Silen, M.D. Dr. Azarow comes to us...
from the University of Nebraska, where he's been the Chief of Pediatric Surgery for the last five years. Before that he had roots in the Northwest. Ken is known to many in Washington and Oregon as the former Chief of Surgery at the Madigan Army Medical Center, and Program Director of its residency program. In this position, he was much beloved and was President of the Washington Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. Like many of our surgeons, Dr. Azarow has served our nation in the Middle East and serves on the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Pediatric Surgery. Suffice it to say that Ken Azarow is one of the leaders of pediatric surgery in the country. We are pleased to have him on board. Dr. Azarow and his team will have the opportunity to recruit another team member to join us in the summer, and another to follow a year later.

Also announced recently was a clinical and translational science initiative to turn the tables on pancreatic disease. The initiative is supported by a landmark $25 million philanthropic pledge, which is a partnership between Norman and Linda Brenden and the Colson Family Foundation. OHSU’s top pancreatic surgeons and Knight Cancer Institute scientists will study the biology and treatment of pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, and the linkage between these two entities. While this effort will touch many points within the School of Medicine, Brett Sheppard, M.D., will be the principal guiding this program. Assisting Dr. Sheppard is Dana Andersen, M.D., an expert in pancreatitis research and a well-known figure in academic surgery in the U.S. Dr. Anderson is the only surgeon on staff at the National Institute for Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disease. He has relocated to Portland with his wife, Cindy Gingalewski, M.D., the new Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Legacy. Dr. Anderson has already been invaluable, assisting Dr. Sheppard in identifying national opportunities for this program. We look forward to some of the next advances in pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer research coming out of OHSU when the full team of collaborative scientists is assembled.

In September, Phil Knight, the co-founder of Nike®, surprised us all by announcing a formidable challenge. If OHSU raises $500 million for cancer research in the next two years, he and his wife Penny have pledged to donate $500 million to support this ambitious line of research. OHSU is gearing up to respond to this challenge and good things are already beginning to happen. While there is no doubt that the spotlight has been pointed rather directly on cancer research, many of the cancer biology questions to be addressed will impact other areas of research in the Department of Surgery and OHSU through pathways common to cancer and chronic inflammatory conditions including obesity, shock, and infection.

Most readers of this newsletter will realize that the replacement of Karen Deveney, M.D., our General Surgery Program Director of over 25 years, will be virtually impossible. We have had great interest from many experienced educators around the nation willing to take on the challenge of following in Karen's footsteps, and (hopefully) we should have a new program director to announce by the time of our next newsletter. I'm looking forward to the spring. We anticipate a great series of visiting professors, punctuated by the Liu Lecture and the Campbell Lecture.

Please join us!
Division of Trauma to Coordinate $8 Million Grant

The OHSU Division of Trauma will serve as the Clinical Coordinating Center for an $8.4 million dollar multicenter grant written by Dr. Susan Rowell and funded by the Department of Defense, NHLBI and the Resuscitations Outcome Consortium to study the use of tranexamic acid in patients with traumatic brain injury. Dr. Rowell will serve as the Scientific Principal Investigator for the study and Dr. Martin Schreiber will serve as Principal Investigator for the Clinical Coordinating Center.

The Data Coordinating Center will be run through the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium. ROC was established in 2004 to perform out-of-hospital, clinical resuscitation research in cardiac arrest and trauma and is charged with performing interventional prehospital trials under exception from informed consent. The Tranexamic Acid for TBI trial will be ROC’s 8th clinical trial. The study will take place across 10 centers in the United States and Canada and will begin enrolling next year. The target population will be patients with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury who are not in shock. The study is anticipated to enroll for one year.

An Investigation of the Biological Mechanisms of PTSD Onset

Dr. Martin Schreiber and the Trauma Research Institute of Oregon have teamed up with the National Institute of Nursing Research to examine the biological mechanisms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in trauma patients. With up to 90% of Americans experiencing a traumatic event in their lifetime, and 8 to 12% of those people developing PTSD, it is estimated that up to $180 million could be saved in health care costs and 9,000 lives saved from suicide, if PTSD could be prevented. However, biomarkers to detect a person’s risk do not exist. Therefore, the research team will examine epigenetic profiles and inflammatory response in patients admitted to the trauma service at OHSU. Blood and sweat samples will be collected to identify which markers through DNA methylation and concentrations of inflammatory proteins best predict a person’s risk for developing PTSD. Study participants will be followed for up to 6 months after injury and asked to complete a series of questionnaires regarding PTSD symptoms, depression, and sleep disturbance. The study is scheduled to begin early in 2014 with enrollment of 60 participants over the following 9 months.
On September 21, the pediatric cardiac surgery program team welcomed nearly one hundred family and friends of patients at the second annual Brielle Grace Lackey fun run. The event raised several thousand dollars in support of the annual Brielle Grace Lackey endowed visiting lectureship. The visiting lectureship was established in memory of Brielle by her parents and Dr. Stephen Langley four years ago, with the purpose of inviting an accomplished cardiac surgeon to share their pioneering techniques and knowledge with our program, making it possible for us to provide the best care to children in our area.

Runners turn out in support of Isaac and Kristie Lackey (shown right with their twins) and the advancement of pediatric heart surgery.

OHSU/Portland Secured for 2017 National Endocrine Meeting

Dr. Mira Milas has secured Portland and OHSU as the site for the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons national meeting in 2017. The AAES has been dedicated to the advancement of the science and art of endocrine surgery since 1980 and the 2017 meeting will be its first in the Pacific Northwest.
New Department Faculty

Kenneth Azarow, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Please join us in welcoming Ken Azarow, M.D., F.A.C.S. to the Division of Pediatric Surgery. Dr. Azarow comes to Portland after five years in Omaha, Nebraska following a distinguished 25-year career in the United States Army. He was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center after completing his Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Program. His progression at Madigan has taken him to the positions of Director of the General Surgery Residency Training Program and Chief of the Department of Surgery which he held at the time of his retirement from the Army. While in Omaha he developed and initiated the Pediatric Surgery Training Program at the University of Nebraska. His entire professional career has been dedicated to training surgeons so that they can take care of the next generation of children.

Dr. Azarow and his wife are very proud of their three daughters who have successfully navigated growing up in both a military and a medical family. The family is an avid animal-loving group. They currently have two golden retrievers and three cats to keep them occupied.

C. Kristian Enestvedt, M.D.

Dr. C. Kristian Enestvedt was educated in Minnesota before heading to Chicago where he completed his medical school education at Northwestern University. Thereafter he received his internship and general surgery residency training at Oregon Health & Science University. During residency he completed a two-year research fellowship where his focus was on clinical outcomes in hepatobiliary and oncologic surgery as well as basic science related to ischemic tissue injury. The latter included utilizing gene therapy to protect at-risk tissue from the effects of poor perfusion and reperfusion injury. Following residency training, Dr. Enestvedt completed an additional year at OHSU in hepatopancreato-biliary surgery where he specialized in major hepatic resections and laparoscopic liver surgery. He then successfully completed a fellowship in abdominal organ transplantation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. At Penn, Dr. Enestvedt was trained in adult and pediatric liver transplantation, living donor transplantation of both liver and kidney, and pancreas transplant. He continued to pursue research in clinical outcomes with a specific focus on liver retransplantation and biliary complications during fellowship. Dr. Enestvedt joins an experienced transplant and hepatobiliary group at OHSU which will enable him to continue his transplant practice and focus on liver and pancreas surgery. He continues to explore both clinical and basic science research questions related to ischemia/reperfusion, complications in transplantation, new techniques in hepatic surgery, and outcome analyses.

Ashok Muralidaran, M.D.

Dr. Muralidaran graduated from Madras Medical College, Chennai, India in 2001. After completing his general surgery residency in 2009 at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Muralidaran worked as a research associate at Stanford University. He completed his cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Yale New Haven Hospital/Yale University in 2011. Since 2011, Dr. Muralidaran has been at Stanford University in the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery fellowship program. He is board certified in Thoracic Surgery and board eligible for the pediatric/congenital cardiac surgery subspecialty certificate.
Visiting Lecturers

Andrew M. Lowy, M.D. is Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Leader of the Gastrointestinal Disease Team at the Moores UCSD Cancer Center. Dr. Lowy’s clinical and research interests are in the area of pancreatic and gastrointestinal cancer, with a special emphasis on the surgical treatment of metastatic disease. He runs a basic research laboratory that has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1999. Dr. Lowy's laboratory co-developed the first genetically engineered mouse model of pancreatic cancer and currently focuses on the study of RON receptor tyrosine kinase signaling and preclinical modeling in pancreatic cancer. Dr. Lowy has served on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Oncology and as editor for both the Pancreatic Tumor and Translational Research sections for the Annals of Surgical Oncology. Since 2007 he has served as Co-chair for the National Cancer Institute’s Pancreatic Cancer Task Force that is charged with advising the NCI on the direction of clinical research in pancreatic cancer in the United States. Currently Dr. Lowy serves as the surgical principal investigator of RTOG 0848, the largest pancreatic cancer adjuvant trial ever to be conducted in the U.S.

David Wisner, M.D. is the Lloyd and Rosemargret Donant Professor of Surgery and Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of California, Davis. He previously served for many years as Chief of UC Davis’ Trauma and Emergency Surgery service. Dr. Wisner has research interests in the resuscitation of shock, the treatment of combined head and abdominal injury, and medical ethics. He is a member and officer of a number of national medical and surgical societies and has been very active in the American College of Surgeons Trauma Verification Program and also in the development of the specialty of acute care surgery in both academic and community hospital environments.

John Ryan, M.D. is a renowned surgeon and a distinguished educator. For the past 35 years, Dr. Ryan has provided leadership in and outside the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, serving as the Surgical Residency Director, the Section Head of General Surgery, and the Chief of Surgery. His accomplishments are as numerous as they are significant, which include being a multi-year recipient of the Joel Baker teaching award and the first recipient of the coveted James Tate Mason award. He has a myriad of publications on aspects of general surgery, including minimization of blood loss in hepatic surgery, avoidance of infection in colorectal surgery, and minimally invasive parathyroid surgery. Dr. Ryan retired from Virginia Mason in November 2012.

Sarah Thompson, M.D., Ph.D., FRACS is Associate Professor of Surgery and was appointed as an Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon and Clinical Senior Lecturer in the University of Adelaide Department of Surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 2007. She completed her surgical training in Canada and subsequently completed two fellowship years in Portland and in Adelaide, South Australia. Dr. Thompson has clinical interests in gastroesophageal reflux disease and upper gastrointestinal cancer. She completed a PhD in 2011 evaluating better diagnostic and staging tools for esophageal cancer through ongoing work with sentinel lymph nodes. Dr. Thompson is a member of both the Australian and New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association (ANZGOSA), and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and she acts as a reviewer for the British Journal of Surgery, and the Annals of Surgical Oncology. For the past 6 years, she has been a clinical supervisor for international upper gastrointestinal surgical fellows, and local surgical trainees and medical students, and she acts as a tutor for the SA/NT Regional Board in General Surgery.
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 6: “Cleft and Craniofacial Surgery - Mythbusters,” Anna Kuang, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

January 13: “The RON Tyrosine Kinase in Pancreatic Cancer Biology and Therapy,” Andrew M. Lowy, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, Moores Cancer Center, University of California, San Diego

January 20: Martin Luther King’s Birthday - Grand Rounds CANCELED

January 27: Department of Surgery Research Fair, SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery, OHSU

February 3: “Pulmonary Metastectomy: Who, What, When and Why?” Brandon H. Tieu, M.D. Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

February 10: “Consequences and Implications of a Competency Based Curriculum,” George C. Mejicano, M.D., M.S., Professor of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean for Education, School of Medicine, OHSU

February 17: President’s Day - Grand Rounds CANCELED

February 20 (Thursday): Campbell Lecture, “Leadership in Medicine: Developing the Mentor Relationship,” Kenneth Azarow, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU (Vey Auditorium)

February 24: “Improving Performance and Well-Being Through Active Sleep Deprivation and Fatigue Management,” Holger Link, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Sleep Disorders Medicine Program, Department of Pediatric Pulmonary and Cystic Fibrosis, OHSU

March 3: “Medical Ethics and Nutrition Decisions at the End of Life,” Maureen McCarthy, MPH, RD, CSR, LD, Assistant Professor, Transplant Dietitian, OHSU

March 10: “James K. Polk, Ephraim McDowell and John C. Fremont: Manifest Destiny, Lithotomy, and the Reason OHSU is not part of Canada,” John A. Ryan Jr., M.D., Professor of Surgery, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington

March 17: “Vegas Potpourri,” David Wisner, M.D., Professor of Surgery - Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care, UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento

March 24: “Parenteral or Enteral Nutrition in the Surgical Patient; Useless or Useful?” Robert G. Martindale, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Medical Director for Hospital Nutrition Services, Division of General Surgery, OHSU

March 31: “Achalasia,” Sarah Thompson, M.D., Ph.D., FRACS, Consultant General and Upper GI Surgeon, Department of Surgery, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, Australia
ORION (Oregon Index of Endocrine Neoplasias) is the 12-month-old brain child of Dr. Mira Milas and Project Coordinator Enrique Leon, assisted by research resident Dr. Uma Rajbbeharrysingh. Both Dr. Milas and Enrique joined the Division of Surgical Oncology in late 2012. Within a year, they collaborated to produce OHSU’s first registry dedicated specifically to patients affected by thyroid cancer, parathyroid disease and other endocrine tumors. It includes 1,061 (and counting) OHSU patients over the past ten years with a primary diagnosis of hyperparathyroidism – just one example.

When it comes to developing a registry, Dr. Milas is no novice; ORION is her third created endocrine tumor database in the past 12 years. When asked to identify attributes of a successful registry, Dr. Milas immediately used the word “flexible.” Changes in the field and publications of new guidelines all require a registry to be modifiable as well as forward-thinking. What takes ORION beyond her previous two designs is its malleable nature, as well as its multidisciplinary approach, web accessibility and user-friendliness.

In step with OHSU’s long-standing tradition of collaboration, Dr. Milas developed ORION to be truly multidisciplinary in nature. Thyroid tumors have translational ramifications and practitioners in oncology, endocrinology, pathology, genetics and ENT, among others, are able to utilize this tool for research and in practice. The benefit of this registry being web-based rather than Access- or Excel-based is the ability of practitioners to utilize and update the registry at all times, whether in clinic or in their research lab. And while so many registries and databases struggle to present huge amounts of data in a clean and intuitive format, ORION’s design is, in a word, elegant. Project Coordinator Enrique has created order out of chaos, programming intelligence into every piece of the registry. As each new piece of patient information is entered, the remaining data fields refine and adapt according to the new information. ORION has components relevant to lab research (it tracks stored tissue samples) and education (online quiz for surgery residents, links to national surgical meetings and surgery journals).

Genetics and molecular markers of endocrine tumors form an important component of ORION. Included is a calculator* that estimates a patient’s risk for Cowden Syndrome. In fact, at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Thyroid Association, Dr. Milas and colleagues from OHSU’s ENT, Endocrinology and Genetics departments presented data from the first manuscript to come from ORION: “Screening for Cowden Syndrome in a Thyroidology Practice.” This study found a 10% prevalence of Cowden Syndrome when clinicians screen patients referred for thyroid conditions more thoroughly. Cowden Syndrome is of high interest because it is associated with a 35% lifetime risk for thyroid cancer, as well as significantly increased risk for breast, renal and endometrial cancers. In contrast, usual lifetime thyroid cancer risks for Americans are <1%. Cowden Syndrome is famous for being difficult to recognize and under-diagnosed because it also has many common benign associations that may not raise suspicion - lipomas, uterine fibroids, fibrocystic breast disease, Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, and colon polyps, to name a few. Seeing the “big picture” matters. For example, an oncologist might diagnose a woman with breast cancer but may not routinely think to perform a head measurement or look for lipomas. Peculiar, yes, but a woman with breast or thyroid cancer and a head size larger than a certain circumference results in an automatic diagnosis of Cowden Syndrome! This, in turn, gives the benefit of early cancer screening and preventative care for other associated conditions.

ORION was approved by OHSU’s institutional research review board in September 2013. The software application is adaptable to a variety of endocrine specialists and for scientific lab management. An IP disclosure has been filed with the OHSU Tech Transfer office.

The Department of Surgery hosted the 8th Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction on Friday, September 6, 2013. The event was a wonderful success, netting approximately $100,000.

Although the morning of the tournament experienced significant rainfall, the clouds soon parted and, to the relief of all involved, near-perfect conditions greeted the golfers on the green. Participation reached the maximum number of foursomes able to be accommodated on the Royal Oaks Country Club golf course.

Later that evening, over 200 people attended the post-tournament dinner auction. Bidding commenced on some spectacular items and tremendous support was shown for this charity event – support which has only increased over the years.

We hope you will consider being part of the 9th Annual Golf Tournament that will be held at Royal Oaks Country Club on Friday, September 5, 2014. If you know of any businesses who might be interested in participating as a sponsor, please pass their information on to Pat Southard at southarp@ohsu.edu.

Tournament Winners: Ian Johnson, M.D., Eric Kastner, J. R. Zatarain, M.D., Gary Mariani

General Surgery Research Resident, Nicole T. Gordon, M.D. and General Surgery Resident David Hampton, M.D., MEng, were invited to participate in the Diverse Surgeons Initiative training series in Cincinnati, Ohio this past year. This intense two-part course recognizes top residents with an interest in advancing their skills in minimally invasive surgery and incorporates teaching, laparoscopic surgical training and mentorship. Drs. Gordon and Hampton credit the OHSU residency program for more than adequately preparing them for this course, both in technical skills and knowledge base. The conference concluded with a laparoscopic simple knot-tying tournament, of which Dr. Hampton placed third and Dr. Gordon took first place! Dr. Gordon's winning time was 17.2 seconds, just 0.2 seconds off from the DIS record.
Special Announcements

- Division of General Surgery Senior Researcher Charlie Borzy and wife Misty welcomed their first baby girl, Sadie Rose Borzy, on July 16, 2013!

- Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellow (and OHSU general surgery residency program graduate), Nicholas Kunio and wife Samantha welcomed a baby boy on September 19, 2013, Jameson George Kunio!

Pam Sidis Retires After 34 Years

Pamela Sidis retired this past December after 34 years with the Department of Surgery. Her career at OHSU has been one of meticulous and steadfast dedication to her work, her colleagues and the interests of the Department. Hired in 1979 as the executive assistant to Chairman, William Krippaehne, M.D., she continued on to support the following two Department Chairs: Donald Trunkey, M.D., and current Chairman, John Hunter, M.D. In addition to her executive assistant role, Pam worked closely with the residency program, the Mackenzie Society and department-sponsored charity events. This past September, Dr. Hunter presented Pam with the esteemed and much-deserved Service Excellence Award.

The years between 1979 and 2013 have seen development and change within OHSU and the Department of Surgery; however, one constant has been Pam, always keeping stride.

Her advisors, past and present, shared the following remarks:

Pam has equanimity. She does not rattle when chaos reigns. Her heart is big.

Donald Trunkey, M.D., Chairman, 1986-2001

Since Pam is the first person staff and visitors would see when they entered the department office, her demeanor of calm competency and friendliness created the best impression possible. Pam was always ready to help with whatever needed to be done, whether it was a time crunch, a deadline or just any time. Her sense of humor helped relieve many stressful situations. Also, her longevity with the department made her an invaluable resource. I feel very fortunate to call Pam a friend and wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Anna Milne, Executive Director, 1989-2011

Pam has been a wonderful partner in keeping the Department of Surgery humming. Her skills are so perfectly complementary to mine. Like many surgeons, I am good at making decisions on the fly with short turnaround, covering many bases at once. What Pam has provided is advance planning. Whereas I will pick up my schedule in the morning to learn what I have to do, Pam is thinking beyond the horizon: “Who should we invite for the Trunkey Lecture in a year?” “If you accept the invitation to go to Argentina next fall you will have been gone two weeks in a row.” And etc.! (BTW, I am not going to Argentina in the fall this year but probably can’t escape this forever). She has single-handedly run the Mackenzie Society, and made sure that all the dinners are impeccably organized. While organizational skills define a great executive assistant, Pam raised the bar to a whole new level.

We will miss her!

John Hunter, M.D., Chairman, 2001-present
Focus on Alumni

The Oregon Burn Center

“We’ve been at the Center since God was young.”

At Legacy Emmanuel Medical Center, Dr. Joseph Pulito and OHSU alumni Drs. Nathan Kemalyan, Niknam Eshraghi and H. Jean Lin are the surgical staff of the Oregon Burn Center, the only facility of its kind between Sacramento and Seattle.

This technologically-advanced burn treatment facility has been providing care to Oregonians for over 40 years. In 1968, a collaboration between Dr. Philip Parshley and Dr. Fred Bieker, a plastic surgeon, was the beginning of organized burn care at Emanuel Hospital. Within five years, Drs. Parshley and Bieker were joined by Dr. Peter Smiley and Emanuel Hospital surgical resident Joseph Pulito, providing care for burn victims at Legacy. However, it wasn’t until 1973 that an organized burn center unit emerged with the assistance of a grant from the JR Murdoch Trust that allowed for the refurbishing of a clinical unit at Emanuel. This became what is now known as the Oregon Burn Center.

Since 1973, the Center has expanded its practice steadily and deliberately. In 1995, Drs. Parshley, Smiley and Pulito were joined by Dr. Nathan Kemalyan, a then-recent OHSU graduate. This marked a new trend in surgical staff recruitment, as all subsequent recruitments have been OHSU trained surgeons.

Dr. Niknam Eshraghi, who joined the practice in 2002 as a general surgeon, had not experienced a burn rotation during his OHSU residency. However, Dr. Eshraghi was drawn to the strong team-oriented approach to burn care. Three years into practice, he left to participate in fellowship training at the University of Washington and as an American Burn Association traveling burn fellow. He then completed his fellowship time at the Oregon Burn Center and was added to the burn center staff rotation.

Dr. H. Jean Lin is the most recent addition, completing her residency at OHSU in 2010. During her third year in residency, she completed a rotation at the Oregon Burn Center and was surprised by how much she enjoyed it. During rotation, Dr. Lin was able to operate quite a bit, see multiple aspects of surgery, and experience the team aspect of the center. The duration and intensity of physician-patient interaction was attractive to her, as was the opportunity to care for both children and adults. She completed a year of post-graduate training in burn care under the Burn Center surgeons and joined the staff in September 2011.

One obvious example of the Oregon Burn Center’s positive work environment is its faculty retention. Dr. Parshley retired in 1999, Dr. Smiley in 2011, and Dr. Pulito is anticipating retirement in 2014. As put by Dr. Kemalyan, “We’ve been at the Center since God was young.” From two surgeons and a nurse in 1968, the Oregon Burn Center has developed into a multi-disciplinary care facility, run by a seasoned staff with decades of accumulated experience and approximately 50 allied health professionals in nursing, acute care therapy, dietetics, social work, psychology, palliative care, pharmacy and other disciplines. In 1989, the Burn Center admitted 160-200 patients per year. Today, it’s closer to 500 admissions per year, and the scope of practice has expanded dramatically. The burn center routinely admits patients with necrotizing soft tissue infections, Purpura Fulminans, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, truncal pressure ulcers, open abdomen/Enterocutaneous fistulas, and many unusual medical skin- and soft-tissue-loss conditions.

It is not always a perfectly joyful place to work, but it is a place where all the staff come together as a true multidisciplinary team, communicating as a team and collaboratively treating each patient. Along with a component of general surgery, residents are exposed to a busy schedule of critical care, post-operative care, complex wound management, ambulatory burn care, post-operative after-care and chronic wound care clinic, as well as reconstructive surgery of various types, making the burn center rotation a unique addition to the OHSU surgical residency.
THE SURGICAL LOG

Department of Surgery, OHSU School of Medicine

Department Chair
John G. Hunter, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin) .. 503 494-7758

Division Chiefs
Abdominal Organ Transplantation .........................503 494-7810
Susan Orloff, M.D.
Cardiothoracic Surgery ..................................503 494-7820
Howard Song, M.D., Ph.D.
Gastrointestinal and General Surgery .................503 494-6900
Robert Martindale, M.D., Ph.D.
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery ......................503 418-1560
Julie Ann Smith, D.D.S., M.D.
Pediatric Surgery ........................................503 494-7764
Kenneth Azarow, M.D.
Plastic Surgery ...........................................503 494-7824
Juliana Hansen, M.D.
Surgical Oncology .......................................503 494-5501
Kevin Billingsley, M.D.
Trauma, Critical Care & Acute Surgery ............503 494-5300
Martin Schreiber, M.D.
Vascular Surgery ........................................503 494-7593
Gregory Moneta, M.D.

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

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