In the last issue of *The Surgical Log* I talked about the winter that wasn’t. In this issue, the first issue of *On the Cutting Edge*, let’s talk about the summer that definitely was! While the desert state of Texas was suffering under 25-30 inches of rain in May and June, the soggy Northwest was sunny, dry, and hot. June was so hot and sunny that it hardly rained at all on the Rose Festival this year. Now, two weeks of weather in excess of 90 degrees left many Oregonians wishing for the Texas rains. How ironic! On top of this observation, the meteorologists told us that El Niño is back. What this portends is a little unclear although it usually means warm dry weather for Oregon, as we are seeing this summer, and then a lot of rain as the fall and winter roll in, if El Niño persists. Like most things in long-term weather forecasting, it’s just a little hard to know. So let me move on to some things we definitely do know.

The strength of the Department of Surgery is the strength of the faculty; that’s no surprise to anyone reading this newsletter. So let me start by introducing nine new faculty members who have joined us this year. In Pediatric Surgery, Nick Hamilton, M.D. has come through our fellowship after doing his residency in St. Louis at Washington University. James Ross, a Ph.D. in Trauma Research, comes from the Air Force in San Antonio. Rachel Van Dusen, M.D. will be our first faculty surgeon at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, Ore. Robert DuBose, M.D. joins the cardiothoracic team and will be based primarily at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Washington. Erin Maynard, M.D., also a graduate of Washington University and the University of Kentucky, will join us in Abdominal Organ Transplantation. Farah Husain, M.D. will join Division Chief Samar Mattar, M.D. in Bariatrics. Farah joins us from St. Joe’s Hospital in Denver, Colo. Kristen Massimino, M.D. will join the Surgical Oncology division, after a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Skye Mayo, M.D., a medical student at OHSU who did his residency at Hopkins and his fellowship at Sloan Kettering, will also join us in the Surgical Oncology division. And lastly but not least, Cherrie Abraham, M.D. joins us from Montreal’s McGill University. Cherrie is a vascular surgeon who will be the head of our new Aortic Center in our Knight Cardiovascular Institute. Greater biographical details can be found further in this newsletter.

I spoke in the last newsletter about the evolving face of healthcare in Oregon with the development of our linkages with many of the independent hospitals to create the synergy network. Because this landscape will evolve slowly, and what it all will mean is somewhat uncertain, I think I’ll defer further “news” about this statewide network of care to newsletters in the future. An interesting new local affiliation is emerging with ZoomCare, the largest urgent care network in Oregon with 250,000 visits a year. ZoomCare has now launched its own insurance product and is looking to OHSU and to the Department of Surgery to provide a partnership with ZoomCare physicians in delivering general surgical and specialty surgical care. Darren Malinoski, M.D. from our department will be working with ZoomCare and OHSU as we go down this road a little further.

The biggest and hottest national news from OHSU is, of course, the announcement of the completion of the Knight Cancer Challenge, which will deliver $1 billion in new funds for cancer research with a focus on early detection, one of Mr. and Mrs. Knight’s great desires. Dr. Brian Druker is in the process of designing the strategy and tactics to achieve the goal, after which the team to achieve this aim will be assembled. Dr. Druker will provide an update for faculty and staff on September 14th.
As you will see, this newsletter highlights new awards for our residents and faculty, and shows pictures of our stunning new surgical simulation facility (VirtuOHSU) and the new 8C Trauma and Surgical Intensive Care Unit, a state-of-the-art unit bringing trauma care, resuscitation, surgical critical care and imaging all to a single floor adjacent to the OHSU emergency room.

This autumn looks to be a very busy season in the Department of Surgery. First, we have divided our signature fundraising events into two, as each was worthy of its own day and venue. The golf tournament, which has raised over $1 million for simulation and surgical education, will be held on September 11th at the award-winning Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Wash., with drinks, appetizers and an awards ceremony to follow. The “Big Bang” annual gala dinner and auction will be held on the south waterfront at the new Collaborative Life Sciences Building on Friday, September 25th. This building is a stunning place for a dinner, an auction and entertainment, which will feature a Hollywood-style theme and the Kansas City Rhythm Kings big band. The special appeal at this dinner will be focused on raising money to continue support for VirtuOHSU, the surgical skills and simulation center that just keeps getting better and better thanks to the generosity of our donors. We hope that all of the readers of this newsletter will join us for this spectacular evening dedicated to resident education that is unparalleled. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pat Southard at southardp@ohsu.edu or leave a message on her work phone: (503) 494-6093.

Join us for our annual gala dinner and auction in support of VirtuOHSU at the spectacular Collaborative Life Sciences Building on September 25th

The Grand Rounds series, organized this year by Erin Gilbert, M.D. looks to be superb as well. We will hear from a historian, David Lubin, M.D., Ph.D., speaking of the history of masks as a method of restoring facial esthetics after devastating war injuries from the First World War. Eduardo de Santibañes, M.D., a world famous hepato-pancreatobiliary surgeon from Buenos Aires, will speak on breaking paradigms in liver surgery. The Krippaehne lecture entitled “Surgeon: What kind of job is that?” will be given by Timothy Flynn, M.D. from the University of Florida. Dr. Tim Flynn was the recent Chair of the Board of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and is a long time “friend of the family.” Jerry Jurkovich, M.D., the Chief of Surgery at Denver Health and former neighbor to the North (University of Washington) will return to give the Trunkey Lecture in December on 2500 trauma mortalities, and the lessons learned. We hope you will join us for all of these events. And as a last salvo, I would encourage all Mackenzie Society members to join us at the ACS meeting in Chicago on Tuesday night, October 6th at the River Roast Restaurant on 315 N. Lasalle Street in Chicago. Please let Michelle know that you plan to attend at kleyne@ohsu.edu or (503) 494-4937. We’d love to see you. Have a great fall and we’ll be back to you close to the holiday season.

John G. Hunter, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)
Mackenzie Professor and Chair
WELCOME NEW FACULTY

CHERRIE ABRAHAM, M.D.
Division of Vascular Surgery

Cherrie Abraham, M.D. is a vascular and endovascular surgeon, arriving to OHSU from the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Quebec where he served as Assistant Professor of Surgery and Program Director for the McGill University Advanced Aortic and Peripheral Endovascular Fellowship. His specialty interests primarily relate to the endovascular repair of complex aortic and peripheral arterial problems. It was in 2009 at the Jewish General Hospital that he performed the world’s first branched endovascular arch aneurysm repair. He has performed the most fenestrated and branched endovascular aneurysm repairs in Canada and is one of the world’s leading authorities on advanced aortic intervention for complex aneurysms.

Dr. Abraham received his medical degree from Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1990. He completed his five-year general surgery residency at Dalhousie University, and went on to do 15 months of Vascular Surgery Fellowship training at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario, Canada. He then completed a six-month Clinical Research Fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. This was followed by a 12-month Clinical/Research Endovascular Aortic Fellowship with Dr. Tim Chuter in San Francisco at the UCSF Medical Center followed by a six-month Clinical Vascular Interventional Fellowship with Dr. John Anderson at Ashford Medical Center in Adelaide, Australia.

Dr. Abraham has been instrumental in the evolution of advanced endovascular aortic programs across Canada, serving as proctor for the majority of academic centers across the country.

ROBERT DUBOSE, M.D.
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery is pleased to welcome the newest member of our faculty, Robert DuBose, M.D. Dr. DuBose will be based primarily at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center as part of a collaborative effort between that institution and Oregon Health & Science University’s Knight Cardiovascular Institute to offer enhanced cardiovascular services throughout the southwest Washington area.

Dr. DuBose is board-certified in Thoracic Surgery, and his areas of special expertise are complex coronary revascularization, minimally invasive mitral valve repairs and replacements, minimally invasive aortic valve replacements, and aortic surgery. He obtained his medical degree at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, was a General Surgery Resident at the University of Washington in Seattle, and was a Fellow of Thoracic Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. When he is not practicing medicine, Dr. DuBose enjoys photography, fly-fishing, hunting, golfing, and spending time with his family.

NICK HAMILTON, M.D.
Division of Pediatric Surgery

Nick Hamilton, M.D. was originally born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas. He attained his B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Missouri. He then returned to the University of Texas, Houston, for medical school, where he met his wife, Melissa. Dr.
Hamilton followed medical school with a move to St. Louis, Missouri, where he completed his general surgery residency at Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital. While there, he completed a two-year research fellowship in tumor immunology under William Hawkins, M.D. and a one-year pediatric trauma fellowship at St. Louis Children’s Hospital under Martin Keller, M.D. Most recently, Dr. Hamilton returned to Portland with his wife and two beautiful daughters, Madeleine and Evelyn, to complete his formal training in pediatric surgery at OHSU.

Kristen Massimino, M.D. joins the Division of Surgical Oncology after completing a fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Originally from western Pennsylvania, Dr. Massimino completed medical school at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio followed by General Surgery Residency at OHSU. During residency she completed a year of research in the Division of Surgical Oncology and was honored with the Department of Surgery Award for Outstanding Resident. Dr. Massimino plans to have a clinical focus in melanoma, breast cancer and sarcoma.

In her free time Dr. Massimino enjoys running, swimming and hiking. She and her husband Stefan along with their two children Ewan and Emilia are thrilled to be back in Portland.

Farah Husain, M.D. joins the Division of Bariatric Surgery in September of this year. Dr. Husain received her medical degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 2001 and completed her residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. in 2006. Her Endosurgery/Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship was completed five years later at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. From 2006-2010, she served as an Active Duty General Surgeon in the U. S. Army, serving two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dr. Husain has spent the last four years with Colorado Kaiser Permanente in Denver developing their bariatric surgery program. She enjoys outdoor activity and exploring the world with her husband. She is an avid sports fan and looks forward to yearly fantasy football.

ERIN MAYNARD, M.D.
Division of Abdominal Organ Transplantation

Erin Maynard, M.D. grew up in Ohio where she obtained her bachelor of science degree at Ohio University and her medical school education at The Ohio State University. She went on to Maine where she completed her general surgery residency at Maine Medical Center. Dr. Maynard then completed a combined fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplant and Hepato-pancreatobiliary surgery at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. In addition to her clinical practice and research in abdominal transplant and cancer surgery for both the liver and pancreas, Erin enjoys teaching, which is demonstrated by her teaching awards during residency, fellowship, and first years in clinical practice.
SKYE MAYO, M.D.
Division of Surgical Oncology

Skye Mayo, M.D. is a fellowship-trained surgical oncologist who focuses on tumors of the liver, bile ducts, and pancreas. He also treats patients with gall bladder cancer, cancers of the stomach and digestive system, and sarcomas. His research focuses on helping patients with cancers that have metastasized to the liver, such as colorectal cancer and neuroendocrine tumors.

Dr. Mayo is an Oregon native—born in Eastern Oregon and raised in Central Oregon. After graduating from Stanford University, he received an M.D. and an M.P.H. at Oregon Health & Science University and then completed a general surgical residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. During surgical residency his clinical and research work focused on the treatment of patients with pancreatic and liver cancers. He completed a research fellowship in Cancer Immunology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, investigating the role of immune therapy in patients with liver and bile duct cancers and investigating how to harness the immune system to treat hepatic metastases.

Skye, his wife, Joëlle, and their two kids (ages 4 and 6) are thrilled to return home to Oregon. They live in Southeast Portland and often visit their family in Central Oregon where Skye is able to pursue his passion of fly fishing on the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers.

JAMES ROSS, Ph.D.
Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery

James D. Ross, Ph.D. hails from Monmouth, Illinois where he grew up on the Ross family farm. He received his Bachelor of the Arts in Biology from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. After two years as a Research Specialist at the University of Illinois College of Nursing’s Medical/Surgical Nursing Department studying sex-mediated cardiac contractile function, he joined the UIC College of Medicine’s Physiology and Biophysics doctoral training program. Dr. Ross was awarded an American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship for the study of purinergic regulated myocardial immune responses in sepsis in addition to work investigating novel tissue preservation techniques for organ storage and transport. Dr. Ross’ doctoral thesis research resulted in a patent application for the use of immune modulating drugs in prevention and affirmative treatment of the hallmark cardiac dysfunction in sepsis and the systemic immune response syndrome.

After completing his doctorate, Dr. Ross transitioned to private industry where he served as the Senior Research Scientist for Maroon Biotech, INC and Avocet Polymer Technologies. In this position he led private contract and government-sponsored research in malignant hyperthermia, trauma and wound regeneration.

In the spring of 2012, Dr. Ross was selected as the Director of Trauma and Clinical Care Research for the 59th Medical Wing at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center and the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute. As Director, he was responsible for a $50 million research directorate encompassing six major clinical and translational research programs covering the areas of En-Route Care, Vascular Injury, Regenerative Medicine/Reconstruction and Advanced Life Support.

As faculty at OHSU, Dr. Ross’ long term aspirations are centered on expanding trauma and critical care research to better integrate military medical innovations into civilian practice. His research will focus on pre-hospital hemorrhage control and resuscitation,
identification of therapeutic targets for modulation of the trauma-induced immune and inflammatory response, and multi-functional blood substitutes for use in austere medicine.

**DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY**

“*It’s just a hernia*” is a common phrase overheard from those that have not experienced the breadth and complexity of abdominal wall hernias.

**ABDOMINAL WALL RECONSTRUCTION & COMPLEX VENTRAL HERNIA REPAIR AT OHSU**

Robert Martindale, M.D., Ph.D. and Sean Orenstein, M.D.

“It’s just a hernia” is a common phrase overheard from those that have not experienced the breadth and complexity of abdominal wall hernias. The reality is that incisional and other abdominal wall hernias are not only very common (nearly 400,000 repairs in the USA in 2012), but can be very complex, requiring significant healthcare resources. In fact, incisional hernias develop in up to a staggering 30% of all abdominal surgeries. While many general surgeons routinely perform ventral hernia repair, the complexity of repairs in our increasing obese population, immune compromised patients, and those who have sustained trauma requiring open abdominal support makes successful repair difficult. Studies show that with each hernia recurrence and subsequent repair, the risk of recurrence steadily increases. Up to one third of patients’ hernias will recur following their initial repair; for multi-recurrent hernias, this approaches 50% by the time they have received their third hernia repair. What is more striking is the cost for these repairs – over $3 billion per year! This number is likely to increase with the severe obesity and diabetic epidemics faced in this country and abroad.

Complex and recurrent ventral hernias require substantial preoperative workup, patient counseling, and evaluation to determine the most effective methods for their repair. Several pre-op optimization protocols have been instituted, from nutritional optimization and diabetes management, to weight loss and smoking cessation. A significant amount of time is devoted to ensuring successful outcomes in our hernia patients, even before they enter the operating room. With preoperative optimization comes operative planning. Given the wide variety of hernia defect sizes, types, and locations, a tailored surgical approach for abdominal wall reconstruction is necessary to reduce hernia recurrences and ensure quality outcomes for the patient. Because of these complex issues and need for advanced surgical techniques, OHSU has received patients from afar for workup and treatment of their hernias. We have had the opportunity to treat patients from all corners of Oregon, regionally from Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Northern California, as well as from Hawaii, Alaska, and occasionally from the Midwest, East Coast and overseas. We have also had the pleasure of hosting surgeons from around the country at our hernia mini-fellowships. These two-day events are designed to teach and practice complex hernia techniques with the use of cadaveric and live surgery-based demonstrations.

Regardless of hernia type, comorbidities, or distance traveled, we strive to improve the lives of our patients by repairing their hernias and reconstructing their abdominal walls with techniques individualized to each patient and hernia.

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**RACHEL VAN DUSEN, M.D.**
Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery

After growing up on the Oregon Coast, Rachel Van Dusen, M.D. completed her undergraduate degree at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. followed by a post-baccalaureate degree in Premedical Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. She attended medical school and completed her surgical residency at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Van Dusen has a particular interest in global health; as an undergrad, she traveled to Madagascar and helped to create a sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention program; during medical school, she traveled to Brazil as a researcher to aid in the first of the Hookworm Vaccine Clinical Trials.

Dr. Van Dusen is now returning to her roots in Astoria, Ore. as an affiliate faculty to focus on the practice of rural surgery. Her interests include academics, research and acute care surgery, and she hopes to improve and expand upon the quality of comprehensive surgical care in Astoria’s rural community.

[Image of Dr. Rachel Van Dusen]
RESEARCH IN SURGERY

DAVID SCOTT, M.D. LEADS PACIFIC NORTHWEST KIDNEY PAIRED EXCHANGE PROGRAM

For the past year, OHSU and Seattle's Swedish Medical Center have partnered together to participate in a life-saving clinical trial examining how regional paired kidney exchange may improve transplant rates for patients in the Northwest. David Scott, M.D., Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at OHSU, serves as a co-primary investigator and helped lead efforts this past December to perform the program's first three-way kidney transplant. The swap involved six people in two states (Oregon and Washington) undergoing surgery for either transplant or donation all on the same day: December 8, 2014.

The basic premise of kidney paired exchange is the matching of patients with willing but incompatible donors to one another. In the exchange, which can involve multiple pairs, each donor gives a kidney to a compatible recipient while their friend or family member receives a kidney from a different compatible donor.

What can be most discouraging for those in need of a transplant is that even if they have a family member or friend willing to donate, the match might not be compatible due to the donor's blood type or the presence of specific antibodies in a recipient who has been previously sensitized to donor antigens. Up to one in three living donors is found to be incompatible with their intended recipient. In the case of such a mismatch, these patients have three options: wait for another donor, undergo removal of the antibody through “desensitization,” or participate in a donor exchange program.

Waiting for another donor to come along is no guarantee and desensitization has its own set of complications, not to mention an estimated additional $20,000 to $30,000 above the cost of a kidney transplant that does not require desensitization.

Paired kidney exchange requires coordination of a variety of factors but presents a growing solution for what could be considered a national shortage crisis. According to the National Kidney Foundation, the demand for donated kidneys far exceeds the supply. In 2014, over 120,000 patients were wait-listed for a kidney transplant and every day 12 of those people died while waiting. In Oregon and Washington, approximately 2,300 people are currently waiting for kidneys.

A rendition of the paired exchange, which is becoming more and more common, is the “kidney chain.” In this style of kidney exchange, a non-directed donor pays the initial kidney forward to a patient with a willing but incompatible donor. That incompatible donor then donates a kidney to a matched recipient with a similarly incompatible donor. The chain can continue sequentially with similar transplants until the supply of possible donor/recipient is exhausted. Recently in the U.S., a link was created that featured 60 people and 30 organs.

As stated by Dr. Scott in regards to the paired exchange program, “Living donor kidney transplantations offer the best chance for patients with kidney failure. This collaboration offers hope to many patients who have struggled to find a compatible donor and to willing donors who are now able to see their loved ones transplanted successfully.”
ORGAN PROCUREMENT GETS TWO DEGREES COOLER

MILD HYPOTHERMIA IN DECEASED ORGAN DONORS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES DELAYED GRAFT FUNCTION IN KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS WHEN COMPARED TO NORMAL BODY TEMPERATURE.

According to a collaborative group of researchers from Oregon Health & Science University, the VA Portland Healthcare System, the University of California, San Francisco, the California Transplant Donor Network, and OneLegacy. This finding could lead to an increase in the availability of kidneys for transplantation, of which there continues to be a national shortage: in 2014, over 120,000 patients were wait-listed for a kidney transplant; only 29,532 of those patients received one.

Of those patients who receive a kidney transplant, it is estimated that 40 percent experience delayed graft function, which is associated with increased costs and diminished long-term graft function. In other words, a transplanted kidney that doesn’t immediately “take” can lead to a temporary continuation of dialysis and kidney-failure care for the transplant patient as well as predict a shorter lifespan for the transplanted kidney, eventually placing the same patient back on the waiting list for a repeat transplant. Reducing delayed graft function as well as increasing the number of viable kidneys for transplant is necessary to address the national shortage and save lives.

What primary investigators Darren Malinoski, M.D. (OHSU) and Claus Niemann, M.D. (University of California, San Francisco) reported in their recently-published New England Journal of Medicine study (2015 Jul 30 [epub ahead of print]) is that by lowering the body temperature of deceased organ donors just two degrees (target temperature 34 –35°C) prior to the recovery of organs, the relative odds of delayed organ function in the recipient were reduced by 38 percent when compared to targeted temperature management at normal body temperature (36.5 – 37.5°C). A total of 370 deceased organ donors were enrolled in the randomized clinical trial from March 2012 to October 2013, with 180 in the hypothermia group and 190 in the normal body temperature group. Delayed graft function developed in 28 percent of the kidneys from the hypothermia group and 39 percent from the normal body temperature group. The trial was terminated early by the Data Safety and Monitoring Board after only 49 percent of the enrollment target had been reached due to the efficacy of the hypothermic intervention.

A secondary study finding of great significance is related to expanded criteria donors (ECDs), who are either over the age of 60, or 50-59 years old with a history of high blood pressure, renal insufficiency, and/or death resulting from stroke. Kidney transplant failure is more likely from an ECD, as well as an increased likelihood of delayed graft function. In a pre-planned subgroup analysis, kidneys from ECDs in the hypothermia arm of the trial had a 31 percent delayed graft function rate compared to 57 percent in the normal body temperature group. When an ECD is “marginal” and has insufficient function in each kidney to be suitable for transplantation, dual kidney transplant is occasionally performed, wherein both kidneys are transplanted into one recipient to accomplish the same degree of functionality as a single kidney. In the reported study, 11 of the 370 enrolled donors were identified as dual kidney donors, five in the control group and six in the mild hypothermia group. Five of the six (83 percent) recipients in the control group compared to zero of the five recipients in the mild hypothermia group experienced delayed graft function, a finding that was statistically significant despite a small number of dual kidney donors in the trial. This finding not only indicates the benefits of a mild hypothermic state in deceased organ donors, but promises a greater number of available low-risk kidneys from donors described as marginal than previously thought.

While the clinical trial commenced in 2012, the groundwork laid by Malinoski and his team has been underway for nearly a decade. Clinical research in deceased organ donation has historically been very limited and many practice patterns are dogmatic and based on anecdotal experience. This is due to a highly fragmented group of stakeholders (donors/recipients/families, donor hospitals, OPOs, transplant centers, transplant clinicians, regulatory bodies, CMS, UNOS, IRB, etc.) with varied priorities that are often incongruent with research study objectives. In 2007, the eight organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in UNOS Region 5 (California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) collaborated to conduct the first unified regional donor management research study. The focus was on establishing evidence-based critical care endpoints, or DMGs, to guide the management of organ donors.
2015 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 7:30 AM, unless otherwise noted.

SEPTEMBER

September 14 | “Surgical Residency Redesign: Is it Time?,” John G. Hunter, M.D., Mackenzie Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, OHSU

September 21 | “New Paradigms in Cancer Treatment: From Bedside to Bench and Back Again,” Nipun B. Merchant, M.D., Alan S. Livingstone Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair of Surgical Oncology Services, Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, Chief Surgical Officer, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami Medical Center, Miami, Florida

September 28 | “Breaking Paradigms in Liver Surgery,” Eduardo de Santibañes, M.D., Professor and Chief, General Surgery and Liver Transplant, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

OCTOBER

October 5 | Canceled for the ACS Clinical Congress

October 12 | “Fixing Faces: WWI, Plastic Surgery, and the Modern Beauty Revolution,” David M. Lubin, M.D., Ph.D., Charlotte C. Weber Professor of Art, Wake Forest University, Tampa, Florida

October 19 | “Connecting Population Health and Value-Based Care in the Clinical Enterprise,” Thomas R. Yackel, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Associate Professor, Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology, OHSU

October 26 | “Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: What’s New,” Amir-Farzin Azarbal, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

NOVEMBER

November 2 | Krippaehne Lecture | “Surgeon: What Kind of Job is That?,” Timothy C. Flynn, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, University of Florida College of Medicine, Chief Medical Officer, UFHealth at Shands

November 9 | 7:00 - 8:00 AM | Professionalism Week | “Caregiver Resilience,” Gregory L. Fricchione, M.D., Associate Chief and Director, Division of Psychiatry and Medicine, Director, Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

November 16 | “Inflammation and Cancer: Reprogramming the Immune Microenvironment as an Anti-Cancer Therapeutic Strategy” Lisa M. Coussens, Ph.D., Hildegard Lamfrom Chair in Basic Sciences, Professor and Chair, Department of Cell, Developmental & Cancer Biology, Associate Director for Basic Research, Knight Cancer Institute, OHSU

November 23 | Research Fair | Belinda H. McCully, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

November 30 | “Controversies in the Management of Sigmoid Diverticulitis,” Kim C. Lu, M.D., Associate Professor, Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU
December 7 | TRUNKEY LECTURE | “2500 Trauma Deaths: Lessons Learned from M&M Conference,” Gregory J. Jurkovich, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Colorado Denver

December 14 | “Challenges and Opportunities in Oncologic Imaging,” Fergus Coakley, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, OHSU

December 21 | “PTSD After Traumatic Injury,” Karen Brasel, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Surgery, Program Director, General Surgery Residency, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

December 28 | Canceled for the holidays

THE NINTH ANNUAL WILLIAM W. KRIPPAEHNE LECTURE

NOVEMBER 2, 2015 | 7:30 AM

“Surgeon: What Kind of Job is That?”

Timothy C. Flynn, M.D.
Professor, Department of Surgery
Sr. Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Univ. of Florida College of Medicine
Chief Medical Officer/Chief of Staff
UFHealth at Shands

Timothy Flynn, M.D. received his medical degree with honors from Baylor College of Medicine in 1974 where he was elected Alpha Omega Alpha. He did his internship at Navy Hospital, San Diego followed by two years as a general medical officer which included a year as the physician for Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica. Upon completion of his Navy obligation, he returned to Houston and completed his surgery residency at the University of Texas and remained as faculty until coming to the University of Florida in 1984.

Dr. Flynn rose through the ranks to become Professor of Surgery in 1994 and served as the General Surgery Residency Program Director from 1993 through 2003. He has training and Board certification in General Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. Dr. Flynn’s clinical interests include dialysis access, limb salvage and complications from vascular interventions. In addition to his role as Surgery Program Director, he was Associate Dean for GME/DIO from 1992 through 2009.

Dr. Flynn is former chair of the American Board of Surgery, former Chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Board of Directors, and former Chair of the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors. Also, he is former president of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery and the Association of VA Surgeons.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL DONALD D. TRUNKEY LECTURE

DECEMBER 7, 2015 | 7:30 AM

“2500 Trauma Deaths: Lessons Learned from M&M Conference”

Gregory Jurkovich, M.D.
Professor, Department of Surgery
University of Colorado Denver

Gregory J. Jurkovich, M.D. most recently served as Director of Surgery and Trauma Services for Denver Health Medical Center from 2012-2015. While there he was responsible for managing Denver Health’s Rocky Mountain Regional Level I Trauma Center that cares for more than 2,500 of the region’s most severely injured patients each year. Dr. Jurkovich came to Denver Health from Harborview Medical Center and the University of Washington in Seattle where he served as Professor of Surgery and Chief of Trauma from 1994-2012.

He is the Rockwell Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

His national responsibilities currently include serving as a Director of the American Board of Surgery, and Chairman of the component board in Trauma, Burns, and Critical Care. He is the current President of the National Trauma Institute, and serves on the Board of Managers of the Trauma Center Association of America.

He has served as President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), where he was largely responsible for spearheading that organization’s leadership role in developing the Acute Care Surgery fellowships, curriculum, and paradigm of practice. He is also the past president of the Western Trauma Association and the Western Surgical Association.
NIPUN MERCHANT, M.D.
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 | 7:30 AM

Nipun B. Merchant, M.D. is currently the Alan S. Livingstone Endowed Professor of Surgery at the University of Miami Medical Center where he is the Vice Chair of Surgical Oncology Services and the Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery. He also serves as the Chief Surgical Officer and is the Director of Surgical Oncology Research of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is a recognized leader in the clinical management of hepatopancreatobiliary and neuroendocrine malignancies. Dr. Merchant has an active basic science and translational research laboratory investigating signal transduction and tumor-stromal interactions in pancreas cancer and has maintained extramural research support for over 10 years as a Principal Investigator on a NIH P50 grant project and an R-01 grant and is also an investigator on a T32 training grant in Surgical Oncology. He is very active in student and resident education, and has been a mentor to many medical and graduate students, residents and junior faculty.

EDUARDO DE SANTIBAÑES, M.D.
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015 | 7:30 AM

Eduardo de Santibañes, M.D. obtained his degree in medicine from the University of Buenos Aires in 1987 and has been Chief of the General Surgery Service at the University of Buenos Aires since 2005. The University’s General Surgery Service is the most active of Latin America, having performed over 7,400 procedures in 2014. He has also served as Chief of the Liver Transplant Unit of the Hospital Italiano since 1985, where over 1,200 liver transplants have been performed so far. It was in 1988 that he and his team performed Argentina’s first liver transplant.

Dr. de Santibañes is an active clinical researcher and has published more than 210 articles in several national and international journals, more than 63 book chapters and more than 130 investigational papers.

In the last three years he was honored by several awards, including the “Best Surgeon” of the last decade, receiving the “KONEX,” one of the most important awards given in Argentina, as well as the “KONEX PLATINO” for “Maximum Discipline in Surgery.”

David Lubin, M.D., Ph.D.
OCTOBER 12, 2015 | 7:30 AM

David Lubin, M.D., Ph.D., the Charlotte C. Weber Professor of Art at Wake Forest University, has written extensively on American art and popular culture. His book Flags and Faces: The Visual Culture of America’s First World War was published in 2015 by the University of California Press, and his Grand Illusions: American Art and the First World War will appear from Oxford University Press in early 2016.

During the Great War, trenches exposed combatants’ faces to sniper fire and flying shrapnel. In previous wars such wounds would have proved fatal. Now, with improved medical and ambulance services, the wounded could be saved—but not necessarily their faces. Crudely patched-together and sent back to the trenches or their homes, men with “broken faces” were routinely ostracized. Dr. Lubin’s lecture examines the humanitarian efforts of plastic surgeons to restore obliterated faces and sculptors to fashion prosthetic masks, while also considering the 1920s beauty culture that arose in reaction to wartime unsightliness.
And the award goes to...

MARY CONDRON, M.D.
This past spring, surgical oncology research resident Mary Condron, M.D. was doubly awarded for her research paper, entitled, “A comparison of mutation profiles and immune microenvironments in primary and metastatic breast cancers: suppressed angiogenesis and apoptosis as survival strategy.” Her work received the Best Translational Paper Award at May’s Portland Surgical Society Scientific Conference and the Baker-Moseley Resident Award for best basic science paper during June’s OR/WA ACS meeting. Excellent work!

NIKKI WIEGHARD, M.D.
Fourth-year general surgery resident Nikki Wieghard, M.D. is the 2015-2016 award recipient of the Nicholas L. Tartar Research Fellowship. Dr. Wieghard’s research focuses on identifying potential prognostic biomarkers in primary colorectal cancers that can predict progression of disease. She will use her award to present her research project, entitled, “Differential miR expression regulating stem cell and EMT traits predicts colorectal cancer metastasis,” at the national meeting of the American College of Colon and Rectal Surgeons in 2016. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Chief Residents Mackenzie Cook, M.D. and Alexis Moren, M.D. for their recent JAMA publication: “A Consortium Approach to Surgical Education in a Developing Country”

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY RESIDENCY MILESTONES
On June 19 and 20, 2015, the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery marked two milestones in its history: full adoption of the Integrated Plastic Surgery Program and the inauguration of its OHSU alumni society, Oregon Plastic Surgeons. With the integrated program, residents now match directly from medical school and train for six years in plastic surgery rather than matching into a three-year plastic surgery training program after completing general surgery training. Creation of the alumni society will provide alumni with information about the University, opportunities for networking, social gatherings, clinical/research symposia and the opportunity for mentoring relationships between alumni and residents.

The commemorative events began on Friday afternoon, June 19th with a first-ever plastic surgery research symposium. First-year plastic surgery resident Nick Esmonde, M.D. won the award for best paper with “Predictors of Non-adherence to Nasoalveolar Molding (NAM) Therapy in Cleft Lip & Palate,” a project done in collaboration with Anna Kuang, M.D. A cocktail party followed in the foyer of OHSU’s Kohler Pavilion at the entrance to the tram, allowing all alums to appreciate the spectacular view and the many changes on campus.

The graduation, held on Saturday, June 20th at the Portland Art Museum ballroom, was an elegant and memorable event. Over 100 people attended, including alumni who traveled from both coasts, residents, faculty, support staff, and our OR affiliates. All prior heads of the plastic surgery program were in attendance and each spoke of their role in creating the program as it exists today, including the program’s first Chief Steve Miller, M.D. (1979-1988), Robert Demuth, M.D. (interim Chief, 1988) and Alan Seyfer, M.D. (1988-2000).

The night was notable for the auctioning of eight works of art: a series of hand-painted and designed torsos. The torsos were created by an eclectic group of artists, who all donated their time and energy to create a unique piece for the event. The artists included plastic surgery residents Kyle Baltrusch, M.D., Hetal Fichadia, M.D., and Allison Nauta, M.D., as well as Marcus Eriksen, artist and environmental activist from Los Angeles, Tatiana Defigueiredo, a local artist and breast cancer survivor, Ano Youseffian, local art instructor, TJ McNulty, OHSU scrub tech, and Priyanka Arora, student, artist and daughter of alumni Balvantray Arora, M.D. All proceeds from the auction went to the Steve Miller Research and Education Fund, which was established by Dr. Robert Demuth and provides funding for research and educational missions for the plastic surgery residents of OHSU.

2015 plastic surgery residency graduates Hetal Fichadia, M.D. and Aric Aghayan, M.D.

Plastic surgery resident and artist Allison Nauta, M.D. poses with her masterpiece
DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RICHARD J. MULLINS TRAUMA AND SURGICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

The new state-of-the-art 8C Trauma and Surgical Intensive Care Unit brings trauma care, resuscitation, surgical critical care and imaging all to a single floor adjacent to the OHSU emergency room.

Above: Drs. Martin Schreiber, Richard Mullins and John Hunter at the opening celebration

Left: Dr. Richard Mullins prepares to cut the ribbon, with fellow trauma surgeons Drs. Martin Schreiber and Jennifer Watters

A LOOK INSIDE OUR NEW SURGICAL SIMULATION FACILITY - VirtuOHSU

DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

The Division of Surgical Oncology was recognized with the OHSU Golden Bar of Satisfaction from hospital ambulatory leadership in March and again in July of this year. Based on post-care patient satisfaction surveys, the surgical oncology care team landed in the 99th percentile for overall score, nursing score, provider score and wait-time score.

DIVISION OF TRAUMA, CRITICAL CARE AND ACUTE CARE SURGERY

From the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery, Bruce Ham, M.D. has been promoted to Colonel in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve. This advancement comes just one year after his previous promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Congratulations!

Jackson Dominic Gibson on February 17, 2015, to Cameron Gibson, M.D. and Alyssa Marie Gibson

Elliot Cook on May 10, 2015, to Mackenzie Cook, M.D. and Crystal Cook, M.D.

Sadie Rose Orenstein on August 8, 2015, to Sean Orenstein, M.D. and Aubrey Orenstein

Surgery Residents Luai Zarour, M.D. and Heather Farley, M.D. were married on July 18, 2015 in Portland
after neurologic determination of death (DNDDs). The result was the creation of a Bundle of critical care parameters that were prospectively implemented at the bedside of every DNDD in the Region. After six years of research and system optimization, the DMG Workgroup in Region 5 invited interested OPOs from around the country to join them. The OHSU-affiliated OPO (Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank) in Portland, Oregon was the first to join. Over the past two years, six OPOs from six distinct UNOS Regions have joined the DMG Workgroup and are prospectively entering data into a web portal, which is the first of its kind in the country. The resulting data have allowed for the introduction of standardization and evidence-based practices in organ procurement, creating an infrastructure upon which randomized trials like the hypothermia study can be based as well as increasing both the quantity and quality of organs available for transplantation.

Dr. Darren Malinoski was the creator of the DMG Workgroup and has served as its leader for the past nine years. He has served on the Board of Donate Life America, the HRSA Strategic Planning Initiative, the Executive Committee of the American Society of Transplantation Thoracic and Critical Care Community of Practice, the HRSA Donor Intervention Research Expert Panel (DIREP), and the HRSA Donor Management Task Force. Dr. Malinoski has also served as an advisor to the Joint Commission regarding improvement of their organ donation-related standards for donor hospitals.

The end of September will mark the end of Fiscal-Year 2015 at the Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System. It truly has been a challenging year for all Divisions, including the Operative Care Division (OCD), at the VA given the $3 billion deficit that was just “replenished” by Congress with urgency. Despite these challenges, I am blessed with an amazing team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and particularly a cracker-jack administrator “can do” team who continues to make our Division grow. In the past six months we have had a net gain of 32 FTE over the 14 surgery sections and services. Of particular note, we have abolished “direct scheduling” and added nine schedulers to our Division to assist our surgical teams in coordinating access to surgery clinics. This will be a monumental improvement in efficiency.

On June 11th, the OCD had a full day retreat on the Vancouver, Wash. VA campus whereby the theme was “innovation.” Facilitators included Ron Sakaguchi, M.D. and Jessica Walter from the Division of Management at OHSU. It was the first time that all stakeholders in the operating room came together to learn the design techniques of service innovation. Not only were surgeons, anesthesiologists, and operative nurses present, but representatives from the sterile processing department, logistics and material management, operative housekeeping, technologists, pharmacy, schedulers, and ward clerks. Four multi-stakeholder groups took on specific problems in learning the design process of innovation in operative efficiency, safety, work flow, and supply-chain. From that retreat, a six member pilot innovation team has been assembled that is using blog technology over the next twelve weeks to further innovate our robust surgery scheduling process.

Several large projects are underway in OCD as well. From our annual OCD retreat last year, we continue Project ARM – Analyze, Redesign, Maximize. This project represents a complete redesign of how we use our office space to bring together our Surgery Specialty Teams to improve communication and efficiency. Planning for the new cardiovascular hybrid room is well underway and we have had three meetings with the architectural firm in combining operating rooms #5 and #6. Final touches have been made on the basic room layout and construction plans will begin for “breaking down the walls” in 2016. We will be moving forward with a Phillips system.

On September 1, 2015, the end of an era will come when Pasala Ravichandran, M.D. (Dr. Ravi) steps down as Chief of Cardiac Surgery and will move to quarter-time at the VA. After 21 years of full-time service to the Veterans, he will be taking a job with the Legacy group in Portland. Dr. Ravi has influenced countless fellows and residents and has had some of the most outstanding clinical results in the entire VA system. Also of note, Meg O’Reilly, M.D. stepped down as Chief of Gynecology on July 1st after 12 years of note, Megan O’Reilly, M.D. stepped down as Chief of Gynecology on July 1st after 12 years of service to our VA. Katherine Jorda, M.D. will be assuming her role of Chief.

This summary is but a small fraction of all the great things happening in Operative Care. An institution is only as good as its people and despite the daily challenges and surprises, I continue to be amazed at the commitment and resiliency of our Operative Care Team’s mission. Booyah!

Robert McLafferty, M.D.
Chief of Surgery
Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System
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.