On The Cutting Edge

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Message from the Interim Chair
Ken Azarow, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P.

SPRING IS HERE!

As I write this, one of the harshest winters in Oregon’s history has just passed. Our January snowstorm was recorded as the fifth largest in the history of the state and the February rain resulted in the wettest month in the history of the Rose City. This led to challenges in commuting, child care, school closures, and patient cancellations resulting in creative staffing for clinical operations throughout the region. I would like to express my sincere thanks for all of you who made extraordinary efforts to travel during these challenging times in order to provide care to our patients.

As this is my first newsletter, let me begin by congratulating Dr. John Hunter as he will occupy the newly created position of chief clinical officer for OHSU this July. If there is anyone who can bring a clinical focus to our leadership at OHSU, he is the one person uniquely qualified. For the Department of Surgery we anticipate that we will see a new streamlined vetting process for clinical programs and expansion. This announcement also signifies that a new dean has been selected for the School of Medicine: Sharon Anderson, M.D. She currently serves as Chair of the Department of Medicine at OHSU and has been on faculty since 1991. Dr. Anderson has been described as a “quadruple threat” in academic medicine, spanning research, education, clinical care, and administration. While I continue to serve in the Chair’s office on an interim basis, the Department is undergoing several searches for divisional leadership positions. The chief positions for vascular and bariatric surgery are well underway. A search for a general surgery division chief will ensue this summer. Mubeen Jafri, M.D., has stepped in as interim Chief for the Division of Pediatric Surgery. Regardless of the eventual outcomes of these transitions, the Department of Surgery continues to grow and expand, providing excellence in all three of our missions: education, research, and the surgical care of our patients.

The theme by which we will navigate this exciting yet unsure time is transparency. It is my goal to keep the department fully informed of every move, every step of the way. To this end we are updating our website to make it more of an interaction with visitors rather than simply a repository for information and data. Each division chief and training director will have the opportunity to personally articulate the opportunities and accomplishments unique to their service. It is my hope that this will not only be useful for individuals outside of the OHSU community but will keep our own university informed and updated on our progress and achievements. We also intend to make a dedicated effort to reach out to our alumni (especially those outside of the Portland metropolitan area) in order to increase participation in the Mackenzie Society. This alumni society’s sole purpose is to provide opportunities that support our residents, including everything from supplying loupes, to support of our simulation center, to sponsoring a day off from the wears and tears of carrying the beeper (a.k.a. resident ski day).

While the OHSU world around us changes, let me take the opportunity to recognize some of the significant achievements credited to our faculty. The department brought in over $11 million in new research funding this year. The two largest contributors to these are James Ross, Ph.D., whose funding source is through the Department of The Army’s Military Health Research Foundation, and Darren Malinoski, M.D., whose funding is sourced through the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. These two individuals alone are responsible for over $9 million of research funding flowing through the department. In addition to new funding we have over $2 million in ongoing funding, and while the list of contributors from our faculty is long, I would like to single out Marty Schreiber, M.D., Susan Rowell, M.D., Howard Song, M.D., Ph.D., Bob Martindale, M.D., and Sue Orloff, M.D., for their efforts. As a result of the ongoing efforts of our entire
“The theme by which we will navigate this exciting yet unsure time is transparency”

faculty, our residents have benefited from research opportunities like never before. They are not simply presenting and publishing but they are demonstrating excellence in doing so. Twenty of our residents have been singled out as either competition winners or award winners. The newest of our scholarly endeavors, our Innovation Program, is also developing and growing. We currently have four teams of two interns (one engineer and one M.D.) whose sole purpose is to assist a faculty mentor in creating a system or device to solve a clinical problem. When we started the program in FY 2013 the program resulted in three intellectual property disclosures. This year we are on pace to surpass 15 IP disclosures as a result of the work that is being done. Lastly, for those of you who have not witnessed firsthand Albert Chi, M.D.’s work on neurosensory motor input to extremity prosthetics, you will be in for a treat, I assure you.

The hallmark of our department is our education program led by our general surgery residency. Program Director Karen Brasel, M.D., has added two assistant program directors, Erin Maynard, M.D., and Nick Hamilton, M.D., to her educational leadership team. We continue to be in the top two in the nation as far as program size and are uniquely positioned amongst general surgery residencies with our growing rural experience and the offering of a Transition to Practice program following successful completion of the general surgery residency. This year we had approximately 1,500 residency applicants and interviewed nine percent of them. Over 50 faculty members and residents participated in this process making this a true OHSU family effort. I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the role that OHSU is playing on a national level concerning residency redesign and updating our maintenance of certification program. Dr. Brasel and I, as fifth year directors, would like to point out and thank Dr. Hunter for his leadership as Chair of the American Board of Surgery this past year. For the past three years OHSU has been the only institution with three sitting directors on the Board.

At this point I would like to quote Dr. Hunter from last year’s spring letter: “Our clinical divisions are the engine that pulls the Department of Surgery.” As OHSU Partners develops new and exciting relationships around the state, there is one common theme: these hospitals want the Department of Surgery to interact with them and help them grow. To this end I am trying to meet as many of our surgical partners as possible, for as many of us know, it is the local surgical workforce that can really tell you about the population they serve and where to best utilize resources. Our affiliate faculty operates out of Astoria, The Dalles, and Coos Bay and currently we are actively expanding into Salem Health, Tuality Hospital in Hillsboro, and Portland Adventist. Erica Mitchell, M.D., M.Ed., is being recruited to lead the newly assembled vascular group in Salem; meanwhile, we look forward to partnering with Patrick O’Leary, M.D., at Tuality.

Let me mention a few of our rapidly expanding programs here on the hill. First, Jens Berli, M.D., has joined our faculty and taken the transgender program at OHSU to a new level. The number of patients is exponentially expanding and the multidisciplinary team that he leads is only one of a few in the country offering total care to these patients. Nick Hamilton, M.D., has helped the pediatric surgery service start one of the only dedicated pediatric motility clinics on the West Coast. Everything from pH probes in infants to colonic manometry evaluations are now possible here at Doernbecher. Pediatric Surgery is leading the way at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital as we attempt to become one of only a selected few children’s hospitals to achieve the American College of Surgeons’ new verification as a Level 1 Site for Children’s Surgery. Our transplant surgery service performed a record number of liver transplants (81) this year. James Lim, M.D., has brought endocrine oncologic surgery back to the forefront in the Division of Surgical Oncology. His head and neck expertise along with his minimally invasive adrenal program is bolstering

Ten inches of snow dropped overnight on Portland and OHSU this January. The tram remained fully operational, designed and modeled after those used in the Swiss Alps in the most extreme winter conditions. Photo by Kelley Langston

Continued on page 15
A big thank you to our sponsors

On Sept. 8, the OHSU Department of Surgery will hold its **12th Annual Golf Tournament Charity Event at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Wash.** Over the past eleven years, we have had tremendous support from many sponsors and donors. These people and companies are recognized on the day of the event but since not all alumni and friends of the Department are able to attend, we would like to celebrate them here as well. They deserve widespread recognition for all they have done to help us raise close to $2 million in support of VirtuOHSU and our teaching and research missions. Each and every one recognized here have contributed significantly to the success of our charity event. The advanced surgical skills and simulation training our residents receive today is made possible by their support and generosity. Thank you all so much; we look forward to your continued partnership with the Department of Surgery at OHSU.
Karl Storz Medical

Karl Storz Medical has donated the majority of the equipment in the VirtuOHSU laboratory, which has allowed us to become a state-of-the art surgical skills and simulation center. Our laboratory has been awarded national certification as an accredited American College of Surgeons Education Institute and is a Storz Center of Excellence.

Ken and Cheri Hick

Ken and Cheri Hick have not only donated many valuable auction items, but they have also brought guests to the auction who have generously spent many dollars to support our cause.

There are several companies which have donated and have been annual sponsors for at least eight of the past eleven tournaments. Their support amounts to over $40,000 per company. The companies in this elite group are as follows:

- CompView Medical, NuBOOM® system
- Hart Wagner LLP, Attorneys at Law
- PKA Architects
- Salem Health
- OHSU Hospital & Clinics

Companies and individuals have also been generous enough to donate major items to the event or auction:

- The Heathman Lodge, Vancouver (General Manager Brett Wilkerson)
- Kuni BMW, Beaverton
- Royal Oaks Country Club, Vancouver
- Multnomah Whiskey Library, Portland
- The Heathman Hotel, Portland

Additionally, there are companies and foundations which have supported the event at $8,000 to $20,000 over the past eleven years:

- The Daniels Family Foundation
- City Center Parking (Greg Goodman Family)
- Cactus Ya Ya, Vancouver (Owners Jim and Cheryl Rettig)
- MODA Health
- Alaska Airlines
- Main Event Sports Grill, Vancouver (Owner Jason Fish)
- Nike Golf
- Drs. Cliff and Karen Deveney
- Dr. and Mrs. John and Laura Hunter
- Mr. Jim Martin
The overall survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients is seven percent. While this disease is the 11th most common diagnosis of cancer in the United States it recently became the second most frequent cause of death from cancer. There is a critical need to develop methods for the early detection of pancreatic cancer when it is at a curable stage.

Brenden-Colson investigators, in collaboration with the Knight Cancer Institute and the Swedish bio-tech firm Immunovia AB have recently completed a retrospective study of a blood based test utilizing the Oregon Pancreatic Tissue Registry, established in 2006 by Dr. Brett Sheppard.

This test requires only a small amount of blood. It is based on a micro-array of human recombinant anti-bodies that target primarily immune system proteins. This produces a snapshot of the systemic response to cancer and tumor secreted factors. Bound antigens are detected by fluorescence and the micro-array images are then analyzed by a bio-informatics platform to provide a quantitative result.

Methods
Antibody microarray slides are printed and incubated with patient serum. Bound antigens are detected by fluorescence, the slides are scanned and the resulting microarray images are analyzed by state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools.
Unlike earlier preliminary trials in China and Scandinavia, the Brenden-Colson trial included patients with pancreatitis and pre-malignant pancreatic diseases. In this complex scenario the blood test was able to correctly identify Stage I and II patients 96 percent of the time and differentiate pancreatic cancer from autoimmune pancreatitis 99 percent of the time while correctly separating pancreatic cancer from chronic pancreatitis 86 percent of the time.

Based on these studies, a prospective multi-institutional, international study is being launched to monitor high-risk populations. The OHSU Knight Diagnostic Laboratories will be the central coordinating hub for all patient-derived samples.

The Department of Surgery and Brenden-Colson Center currently run an early detection high-risk clinic and have an ongoing clinical trial utilizing advanced DCE-MRI for the early detection of pancreatic cancer. This blood test will be a complimentary and critical effort in developing an effective test that will be easily applied to broader patient populations.
The Power of Difference
Gender Confirmation Surgery at OHSU

JUST UNDER A YEAR AGO, in July 2016, Jens Berli, M.D., joined the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as its first dedicated gender surgeon. He and Juliana Hansen, M.D., whose expertise in breast reconstruction at OHSU is well-known, are now able to offer transgender patients a number of surgical options to aid in their transition, including chest masculinization and feminization, phalloplasty and facial gender confirmation procedures.

When it comes to the surgical care of his patients Dr. Berli is an idealist, and in this relatively new field of surgery there is still much room for improvement in terms of technique and approach. Dr. Berli and OHSU urologist Daniel Dugi, M.D., have a particular interest in outcomes improvement after phalloplasty procedures and are proud to say that OHSU is the first center in the United States to routinely offer the multistage phalloplasty approach as successfully developed at the St. Peter’s Andrology Centre in London. The approach is quickly catching on; in April of this year Dr. Berli spent a week as a visiting professor at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, sharing the advantages and benefits of the multistage approach with their team of gender surgeons.
In 2014, the US Department of Health and Human Services decided that its 1981 exclusion of transsexual surgical treatments from Medicare coverage was based on outdated, incomplete, and biased science and did not reflect current evidence or standards of care, and the exclusion was therefore lifted. As a direct result of this decision, surgeons nationwide are seeing an increase in consultations for surgical therapy to help transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals.

Did you know?

Nearly 1.4 million Americans are transgender. The prevalence of gender confirmation surgery in the U.S. is at least 1 per 100,000 people and is expected to increase following the lift of the 33-year exclusion on coverage for transitional care which occurred in 2014.

IN THE NAVY

Plastic Surgery hosts navy surgeons and transgender program directors

IN JANUARY, the Naval Medical Center in San Diego sent urologist Dr. Jack Zuckerman and plastic surgeon Dr. Eamon O’Reilly to learn more about gender affirming genital surgery. They spent a week with OHSU’s Dr. Daniel Dugi from Urology and Dr. Jens Berli. The Navy hopes to soon offer these procedures for their personnel.

In addition to the Navy, this past year the gender team of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery had the pleasure to host Mario Cherubino, M.D., from the University of Insubria, Devin Coon, M.D., Medical Director of the Transgender Program at Johns Hopkins University, and Zil Goldstein, N.P., Program Director of the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital.

We continue to enjoy an ongoing close collaboration with plastic surgeon Rachel Bluebond-Langner, M.D., from NYU Langone Medical Center.

Dr. Jens Berli caught up with his breast augmentation patient Denise Dubois earlier this spring. Denise was born as a boy into a working-class Polish American Milwaukee family in the 1950’s. Despite daunting hurdles, she was able to embrace her identity as a woman. Her memoir, “Self-Made Woman,” will be published in August.

Another expanding surgical field is facial gender confirmation surgery and the OHSU plastic and gender surgeons are excited to have established a close working relationship with Spain’s renowned FacialTeam specialists, both clinically and within research.

Looking forward, Drs. Berli and Hansen and the multidisciplinary gender affirming surgery team at OHSU aim to provide continuous and comprehensive care to transitioning individuals, offering them the surgical, mental and emotional support needed throughout their transformation.

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JAMA Surg. 2017;152(4):394-400
LIKE OHSU, this past winter the Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System survived some of the most severe snow and ice storms to hit the area in decades. So many in the Operative Care Division performed beyond the call of duty in providing care to our Veterans. Many of our staff hiked to work while others worked extra shifts and stayed overnight, keeping the clinics, wards, and operating rooms on par. Equally, our facility and logistic teams kept up despite the medical center being atop an icy hill. I am very proud of the dedication and teamwork demonstrated. It is a testimony to the mission the VA serves.

Currently, two of our operating rooms are under construction for creation of the new cardiovascular hybrid operating room. The completion date is projected to be in May of this year. In order to assure success, we have put together a multidisciplinary team from vascular surgery, cardiac surgery, cardiology, interventional radiology, anesthesia and surgical services to begin the equally important tasks of determining staffing, training, supply chain, workflow and change management. Our cardiac team is working in parallel to bring transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) to our facility. The team recently evaluated their first patient to possibly undergo the procedure in our new hybrid room this summer.

Similarly, we have been approved to purchase the Da Vinci Surgical System to add to our minimally invasive operative suite that was completed in 2015. We anticipate its arrival this summer and this project too has a multidisciplinary team working to assure success from a training, supply and staffing standpoint. Many thanks to Ryan Kopp, M.D., from our Urology Section and Donn Spight, M.D., from our General Surgery Section who spearheaded this work.

Recent changes have led to two new Assistant Chiefs of Surgery joining our VA team: David Adelson, M.D., as the Assistant Chief of Clinical Operations and Michael Conlin, M.D., as the Assistant Chief of Informatics. Dr. Adelson, a dermatologist, has a Master's degree from Dartmouth College in the Science of Health Care Delivery and will primarily assist us in our veteran access and outpatient clinic operations. Dr. Conlin, a urologist, has exceptional experience in clinical informatics and we look forward to his guidance in streamlining the wealth of data from the VA system so we may better deliver care. Dr. Darren Malinoski will continue as Assistant Chief of Research and Education. Dr. Malinoski has done an outstanding job in revamping our entire research operation with increased funding for the department as a whole and growing our clinical research assistance from one to three full time employees.

Recently, our quarterly and rolling 12 month Veterans Affairs Surgical Quality Improvement Program report (VASQIP) was released. We continue to perform the majority of surgery within our integrated network of four states and six hospitals. Over the last 12 months, our Operative Care Division performed 80 percent of all complex surgery in our network and remains one of the most productive VA hospitals in the nation. Other noteworthy successes that serve to espouse the clinical brain power and talent within Operative Care includes an observed to expected surgery 30-day mortality ratio of 0.61 and the morbidity ratio is 1.14. Great work team!

I want to end this brief update with a sincere thank you to the entire OHSU faculty, across multiple departments, who commit their time to making the VA Portland Health Care System one of the best. Your hard work and dedication to providing care to a population greatly in need signifies a real commitment. We too are committed to doing everything we can to assure that all the clinical teams are well equipped to provide cutting-edge care, outstanding education, and exceptional research. I look forward to partnering in every way I can to create win-wins between the medical centers connected by the bridge. As always, my door is open and I welcome feedback and suggestions.

Robert McLafferty, M.D.
Chief of Surgery
Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System
2016-2017 Grand Rounds Schedule

Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. OHSU School of Medicine, Division of CME, designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per session. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Grand Rounds begins at 7:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

APRIL

April 3 | “Evidence-Based Medicine in the Age of Medical Reversal,” Vinay Prasad, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology in the Knight Cancer Institute, Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Senior Scholar in the Center for Health Care Ethics, OHSU

April 10 | HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE | “Outcome Disparities in Trauma Care: Who, Why, When,” Edward Cornwell, III, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.M., LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D. Professor and Chairman of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine, Surgeon-in-Chief, Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C.


April 24 | “The Unexpected Evolution of Live Donor Liver Transplantation,” Christoph E. Broelsch, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department for General, Visceral and Transplantation Surgery, University Hospital Essen, Germany

MAY

May 1 | “Partnering with Risk Management,” Renee Wenger, J.D., C.P.H.R.M., Professional Liability Senior Risk Manager, Department of Risk Management, OHSU

May 8 | “Hope and Healing: Lessons from the Oncology Front Lines,” Kevin Billingsley, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery, OHSU; Susan Hedlund, L.C.S.W., Manager, Patient and Family Services, Knight Cancer Institute, OHSU

May 15 | “Knives vs. Guns - Update on Surgery and Radiation Outcomes for Early Stage Lung Cancers,” Jennifer Dixon, M.D., Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

May 22 | ICU Fellows Debate | “Extracorporeal Life Support in Trauma,” Ben Davis, M.D., Kelly Fair, M.D., Bill Finley, M.D. and Sean McCully, M.D., Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

May 29 | CANCELLED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE

June 5 | CAMPBELL LECTURE | “Pediatric Liver Tumors: Clinical Management and Recent Discoveries” | Michael La Quaglia, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., Chief, Pediatric Surgical Service, Joseph H. Burchenal Chair in Pediatrics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

June 12 | MIS FELLOWS DEBATE | “LINX: The Future of Anti-Reflux Surgery or You wanna put what around my esophagus?” Joseph Drosdeck, M.D. and Abhisek Parmar, M.D., Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 19 | “A 435-Bed Surgical Hospital in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan,” James Peck, M.D., Professor Emeritus, OHSU

To view the entire 2016-2017 Grand Rounds schedule, watch archived presentations or stream our conference live, visit www.ohsu.edu/surgery
Cristina Ferrone, M.D., is a surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital who specializes in treating patients with gastrointestinal cancers. Her clinical interests lie in the treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies and metastatic liver disease, immunologic treatment of solid tumors and GI malignancies and primary hepatic and pancreatic cancers.

Dr. Ferrone received her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis in 1997. Her residency was completed at Massachusetts General Hospital and her surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Ferrone has served as the Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at Mass General since 2006. On a national level, she is an Associate Oral Examiner for the American Board of Surgery, Surgical Oncology Board, and also serves on the American College of Surgeons International Relations Committee.

Edward Cornwell, III, M.D.
Health Equity Lecturer
April 10, 2017 | 7:30 a.m.

Dr. Edward Cornwell is the LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine. He received his surgical training at the Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center (1982-1987) and completed a Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems in Baltimore (1987-1989). He has been certified and re-certified in both General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care by the American Board of Surgery and has risen through the academic ranks through teaching and clinical appointments at Howard University (1989-1993), the University of Southern California (1993-1997), and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (1998-2008).

Dr. Cornwell’s career interest is in the prevention, treatment, and outcome disparities of traumatic injuries, and their critical care sequelae. He has authored or co-authored over 275 articles and chapters and has given over 340 invited presentations in the field. He has delivered the named lecture or keynote address at over 20 institutions and conferences and is a reviewer for several surgical journals, as well as former deputy editor of JAMA-Surgery. He has served as President, Society of Black Academic Surgeons; President, Surgical Section of the National Medical Association; and Chairman of Trauma Net of Maryland.

He is presently Secretary of the American College of Surgeons and is on the Board of Managers of the American Association for Surgery of Trauma.

Dr. Cornwell has received numerous awards and citations for his efforts in education, outreach, and violence prevention. He has received major teaching awards in every faculty position he has held, and was selected as the commencement speaker at the USC School of Medicine in 1996, and at the HUCM in 2002. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from HUCM in 2014.

Christoph Broelsch, M.D., Ph.D.
April 24, 2017 | 7:30 a.m.

Continued on page 14
Christoph Broelsch, M.D., Ph.D., was born in Germany in 1944 as one of six children of the Reverend Werner Broelsch and his wife Magdalene. Raised in the Hanseatic City of Bremen, he attended the public school of Karl Schurz in Bremen and the Humanistic Gymnasium in Bremen and Berlin. He then attended medical schools in Cologne, Erlangen and Düsseldorf. Dr. Broelsch's State Examination in 1969 was followed by research fellowships in Pathology and Physiology at the Max Planck Institute for Physiology in Dortmund. He completed his surgical residency from 1974 to 1979 at the Medical School Hannover, as well as his Ph.D. in surgery under Dr. Rudolf Pichlmayr, a German pioneer in transplantation and HPB surgery.

In 1979, Dr. Broelsch was appointed as Professor of Surgery and Head of the new Section of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at the University of Chicago, Illinois with Drs. David Skinner and Frank Stuart. In 1984, he performed the first reduced-size liver transplants, the first split liver transplants in 1987 and the first live donor liver transplants in the United States of America in 1989.

In 1992, Dr. Broelsch returned to Germany as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University Hospital Eppendorf in Hamburg. In 1999 he accepted the position of Professor and Chairman at the University Hospital Duisburg in Essen, Germany, retiring from the hospital in 2009. Since retirement, he has been a Visiting Professor at universities and international hospitals in Israel Beer Sheba, Beilinson Tel Aviv, (Eytan Mor), Lybia, Bahrain, Kenya and Pakistan (Gambat Institute of Medical Science). He now lives in Germany with his wife Bianka, their three sons and six grandchildren.

Michael La Quaglia, M.D.,
Campbell Lecturer
June 5, 2017 | 7:30 a.m.

Michael La Quaglia, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., is the Chief of the Pediatric Surgical Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and a Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, New York. He specializes in the treatment of cancer in children and adolescents, with a particular interest in neuroblastoma, gastrointestinal stromal tumor, Wilms’ tumor, hepatocellular carcinoma and other pediatric liver tumors, as well as thyroid tumors, desmoplastic small round cell tumor, and childhood sarcomas. Dr. La Quaglia is actively involved in surgical and translational oncologic research into the pathologic and genetic mechanisms of the diseases affecting his patients. As a member of the faculty of both Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College, he has been a committed medical educator for decades, training scores of pediatric surgeons who now practice across the U.S. and internationally.

Dr. La Quaglia earned his M.D. degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1976 and completed his postgraduate training at Massachusetts General Hospital and Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston, Mass., and at Broadgreen Regional Chest Center in Liverpool, England. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, and the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Dr. La Quaglia holds leadership positions in several professional societies, including the American Pediatric Surgical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and for several years served as the Surgical Committee Chairperson of the Children's Oncology Group. Dr. La Quaglia has authored over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has contributed chapters to numerous medical textbooks.

Learn more about Dr. John “Jack” Campbell and his history within Doernbecher Children's Hospital and the Department of Surgery. Visit www.ohsu.edu/surgery/John-Campbell-Lectureship.
Chairman’s Message (Continued from page 3)

our department where minimally invasive surgery is already a hallmark. Trauma, critical care, and acute care surgery continue to keep OHSU open and available to care for surgical patients 24/7 and in all weather conditions. In addition, I would be remiss if I did not mention specifically the personal sacrifices made by Bruce Ham, M.D., and Phil Van, M.D., as they deployed in support of our troops overseas. This past year, the cardiothoracic team led by Dr. Song has surpassed all budget expectations this year. Despite the departure of one of our most senior and productive surgeons last year, the additions of Jai Raman, M.D., and Don Thomas, M.D., have kept the cardiothoracic surgery engine running at full steam. Our esophageal program, now led by Jim Dolan, M.D., continues to be the leader on the West coast for quality outcomes. This coming year we hope to focus on both ends of the surgical spectrum for diabetic patients: to add a pancreatic islet cell transplant program here led by Brett Sheppard, M.D., and to assist our bariatric division in promoting the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass as a means of reversing insulin requirements in obese diabetic patients.

The overriding message that I would like to leave you with is that despite clinical productivity increases, the quality of our services continue to be stellar. Whether you measure surgical quality with NSQIP, TQIP, STS, UHS/Vizient, or Press-Ganey, the Department of Surgery is committed to excellence in everything that we do. Our patients always come first.

Over these past six months it has been my honor and privilege to serve all of you as the interim Chair. With the announcement that Dr. Hunter will be moving on to the newly created position of Chief Clinical Officer for OHSU, I expect this role to continue well into the next academic year. No matter how long or short, it is my goal to keep this Department moving forward in a positive direction. Thank you to our faculty, staff, and residents for all that you do on a daily basis.

-Ken

Ken Azarow, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P., Interim Chair
Rosemary Morgan, M.D., was awarded the Best Paper Award at this year’s Pacific Coast Surgical Association meeting in Indian Wells, Calif. on Feb. 18, 2017. Dr. Morgan is currently a research resident in the laboratory of SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D. The winning paper is entitled, “Surgical Resection of Residual Breast Cancer Following Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy: Molecular Analysis of Stem Cells in Refractory Disease.”

This study builds upon notable work devoted to understanding the behavior of breast cancer stem cells and their malignant potential that has come out of the Pommier lab over the past decade. In this paper, it was investigated whether breast cancer stem and progenitor cells (BCSC) are present in patients with residual disease after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and, if present, whether BCSCs exhibit oncogenic mutations. The team hypothesized that BCSCs play a role in treatment failure and recurrence by comparing their frequencies and mutation profiles between breast cancers obtained from chemotherapy naïve patients and patients with residual disease following neoadjuvant chemotherapy. They found significantly higher rates of two BCSC types in the neoadjuvant chemotherapy group compared to the chemotherapy naïve group. They further identified higher rates of two oncogenic mutations, PIK3CA and TP53, among the neoadjuvant chemotherapy group. These findings led to the conclusion that the combination of increased numbers of BCSCs, along with more oncogenic mutations, provides a mechanism to explain treatment failure seen in patients after neoadjuvant chemotherapy. The results of this study contribute to a growing body of work regarding the critical role that BCSCs play in cancer behavior.

Incoming first-year resident Caitlin Harrington, M.D., participated in the #ILookLikeASurgeon Twitter campaign in April with Drs. Shanda Blackmon (Mayo Clinic), Mara Antonoff (MD Anderson Cancer Center) and Katie Nason (UPMC Presbyterian) in a filmed roundtable discussion of how the campaign and social media can be used to change public perceptions of who can be a surgeon and to inspire future generations to pursue a career in surgery. #ILookLikeASurgeon was founded in 2015 by then surgical resident Heather Logghe, M.D., to show that women, people of color and LGBTQ+ people can all look like surgeons.

In addition to her roundtable discussion, Dr. Harrington received first place for her video “McKeown Esophagectomy” in the 2016 CTSNet Resident Video Competition. The video shows how the McKeown esophagectomy technique is utilized for patients with mid- and distal esophageal cancers. Both videos can be found at www.ctsnet.org by searching for Caitlin Harrington.

Meet our new Assistant Program Directors:

Nick Hamilton, M.D., and Erin Maynard, M.D.

Dr. Hamilton, from the Division of Pediatric Surgery, serves as faculty leader for our resident educational conferences. Dr. Maynard, from the Division of Abdominal Organ Transplantation, is the faculty leader for our bi-annual mock oral examinations for residents in the 4th and final years of clinical training and she provides post-graduation board preparation for residents who have completed training. You can contact the Department of Surgery Education Office at surgedu@ohsu.edu.
Luai Zarour, M.D., receives the 2017 William S. Fletcher Award

The William S. Fletcher Award was established to recognize outstanding cancer related research. It is awarded annually to a resident or fellow in the Department of Surgery at OHSU for research intended to be submitted for oral presentation at an international meeting. The award supports the winner's travel, registration and expenses to an international meeting.

This year’s award recipient, research resident Luai Zarour, M.D., was recognized for his research into the impact of Circulating Hybrid Cells on tumor progression. His winning abstract is titled, “Circulating MΦ-cancer cell hybrids to detect disease status in cancer patients across organ sites—from head to toe.”

“It was an honor to receive the Fletcher Award this year to present my research,” stated Dr. Zarour. “I would like to thank Dr. William Fletcher for this generous opportunity to present my work at an international conference.” Dr. Zarour will be submitting his work for presentation at the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association World Congress in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2018. Zarour continued, “I have been very fortunate in my research endeavors to have many great mentors who supported and guided me through my first research year; in particular my clinical mentor Skye Mayo, M.D., and my basic science mentor Melissa Wong, Ph.D. This hybrid mentorship combining basic science and clinical medicine has allowed me to engage in a unique experience ranging from basic science discovery to translational medicine. Finally I would like to extend my thanks to Kevin Billingsley, M.D., who without his tremendous support as my long term clinical mentor I would not have been where I am today.”

Along the clinical research front, Dr. Zarour has been working with Dr. Mayo on multiple projects that focus on a unique patient population that receives Hepatic Arterial Infusion therapy for their metastatic colorectal cancer. Another population of interest has been pancreatic cancer patients. They have married these projects to basic science by engaging in Dr. Wong's laboratory in the Department of Cell, Developmental and Cancer Biology. Dr. Zarour’s research focuses on a novel discovery of Circulating Hybrid Cells that are the product of cell fusion between cancer cells and macrophages. Along with elucidating the biologic impact of these cells on tumor progression and their role in the metastatic cascade, he aims to utilize these cells to develop early detection assays that can help identify non-responders and patients with recurrence of disease.

Heather Hoops, M.D., wins for Performance Excellence Week

Performance Excellence Week is celebrated at OHSU each February and is hosted by the Graduate Medical Education Division. It is an opportunity to bring focused attention to healthcare safety, quality, service and affordability and to celebrate the accomplishments of those who exemplify performance excellence. This year, research resident Heather Hoops, M.D., received first place and a cash prize for her poster submission and presentation, “What do Surgery Residents know about Medical Coding and Billing?”
Katherine Kelley, M.D., presents her research at ASA

Research Resident Katherine Kelley, M.D., and GI surgeon Liana Tsikitis, M.D., presented their abstract “Understanding and Resetting Radiation Sensitivity in Rectal Cancer” at the American Surgical Association’s annual meeting on April 21.

Dr. Kelley works with Dr. Tsikitis and Sudarshan Anand, Ph.D., in the Anand Lab at OHSU. She has been utilizing the SEER-Medicare database to identify colorectal surgery outcomes in relation to travel distance for definitive colon and rectal cancer surgical care. Dr. Kelley is also completing a multi-disciplinary educational project, targeting residents and assessing their understanding of benign anal disorders. Her interest in resident education has led to subsequent involvement with the Department of Surgery Quality Committee, working to improve medical documentation and coding in residents. Her additional projects in basic science include understanding microRNA expression profiles in predicting response to radiation therapy in rectal cancer as well as understanding early-onset rectal cancer under the mentorship of Drs. Tsikitis and Anand.

Dr. Tsikitis was published in and featured on the December 2016 cover of Cancer Prevention Research as the first author of a paper entitled, “MicroRNA Signatures of Colonic Polyps on Screening and Histology.” According to the study, differences in microRNA in colon polyps may help identify high-risk cases that require more frequent follow-up screening.

Performance Excellence

Dr. Hoops’ research interests include surgical education, quality improvement and evaluation of treatment options for hemorrhagic shock. Ongoing projects include development of an assessment tool for surgeons in their first year of practice, development of a practice management curriculum for surgical residents, and evaluation of selective aortic arch perfusion as a therapeutic option to treat hemorrhage-induced traumatic cardiac arrest.
On the Cutting Edge

Questions or comments? Email On the Cutting Edge Editor Sara Szymanski at szymanss@ohsu.edu – we’d love to hear from you.

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