MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Well, it’s time to say goodbye to the winter that wasn’t. Warm weather and sunny skies were pleasing to all but it was the skiers and farmers who suffered the consequences of a low snow pack for winter recreation and summer agriculture. But, as usual, just as we were giving up on winter entirely, Mount Hood finally started getting some snow and the skiing on the upper reaches of the mountain has been quite good. Go figure.

So what about the Department of Surgery? We don’t seem to be short of things to do. In the 27 years that I have been practicing surgery, I can’t remember a single year in which we didn’t feel that we were living in a time of great change. There has not been a single year when there haven’t been dire predictions that we were about to enter a medical recession because the high cost of care was unaffordable to America. Each time these predictions have come along, we tighten our belt a bit only to find the demand for our services increases at a rate not predicted by any model, models which generally predict the expansion of primary care at the expense of specialty care. Hold on to your seat; here we go again!

Market consolidation, population-based health, accountable care organizations, networks of care, and the like are all the buzzwords of the day. While all these terms bring fear to the heart of many surgeons who may worry that they may be “cut out” of the healthcare equation, experience tells us otherwise. Appendicitis won’t go away. ACO’s won’t lessen automobile accidents or penetrating trauma, and (alas) cancer doesn’t know the least bit about population health management. And, if this doesn’t give the surgeon any reassurance of their value, the aging population requires surgical care at a much higher rate than the young and invulnerable!

Biologic needs for surgical care would predict what we are observing: that there is a greater need for our services and hospital beds than ever before. While our ICU’s are probably about the right size for the current environment, our inpatient beds are at a premium. Most days, there is a long queue of patients waiting to be transferred to OHSU and no place to put them, causing frustration for our physicians, referring physicians, and the patient who needs our care. So what is our strategy to combat this problem?

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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The immediate solution, if there is one, is to partner with our neighbors to develop a strategy that helps keep primary and secondary care in their communities and in their hospitals, reserving OHSU for tertiary and quaternary care. We have found that some patients coming to OHSU for its brand and reputation could actually be cared for closer to home. If we can extend our services, our protocols and our culture into those communities our hope is that we can help those communities keep great physicians and the majority of their patients closer to home. At least in theory, this frees up hospital beds at OHSU to care for the difficult problems requiring complex team-based surgery, high-risk surgery, and sophisticated ICU care. While this theory has been tested in some divisions such as cardiology for several years the concept is new to surgery. Wish us luck!

The second strategic step forward is to build a second ambulatory facility on OHSU’s south waterfront campus to handle our growing outpatient volume and a greater spectrum of short stay surgery. Intensive planning is underway for the Center for Health and Healing South, a process we are engaged in with our architects, engineers, and construction team.

Enough about economics and health care projections for the future. Let’s talk education, research, and faculty.

The education program is going great guns. Our first Match with Karen Brasel, M.D. at the helm of the Surgical Residency Program brought a better than ever cadre of stellar students and resulted in an internship class which is rich in diversity (ethnic, gender, and geographic), accomplishment and energy. These individuals are listed later in this newsletter and will be welcomed to Portland in late June.

Our new 7,500 square foot surgical education facility, the Richard Jones Hall reincarnation of VirtuOHSU, is now opened and heavily utilized. Our partnership with Karl Storz Endoscopy was highlighted by a recent visit by Ali Amiri, a Storz Vice President, who is excited that Storz has picked the right partner for the future.

As many of you know, the American College of Surgeons launched a program called Transition to Practice (TTP), a program designed to provide an additional year of autonomous mentored practice for surgical residents seeking one more year of confidence-building before entering a truly independent general surgery practice. We have an application in process to build such a program for two Oregon TTP associates, one up the Columbia River at Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles and the other down the river at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Both medical centers are excited to be working with us on this project and I am thrilled that our new partners in The Dalles and Astoria have embraced this program heartily. In creating this program we have had the opportunity to become reacquainted with the leads in Astoria, Richard Crass, M.D. and Robert Wayne, M.D. In The Dalles I really enjoyed getting to know the new head of the surgical group in that community, Ann Rust, M.D. Ann is a great general surgeon with an interest in breast disease and in creating a clinical and educational program in The Dalles in partnership with OHSU to meet the needs of those living in the eastern gorge and slightly beyond.

On the research front we have been busy with a recruitment to further Martin Schreiber, M.D.’s fabulous program, and are engaged with the Department of Biomedical Engineering to jointly recruit a computational biologist. Computational biology has been new to me in the last couple of years. In a nutshell, this field taps into the brightest mathematicians and computer scientists to help us find patterns in the reams and reams of genomic, behavioral, and environmental data which can predispose one to, or directly cause lethal diseases including cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and chronic inflammatory diseases. While the impetus for this recruitment clearly reflects our interest in GI cancer, the opportunities for collaboration with computational biology will extend our research sweep far beyond this narrow focus.

In closing this last newsletter of the academic year, I would like to highlight three upcoming events. First, our graduation dinner will be held on Saturday, June 6, with the Campbell Lecture following on Monday, June 8 at which Rebecka Meyers, M.D. will return to give a talk entitled “COG gets CHIC and Goes to PLUTO: What’s Happening with Liver Tumors in Children.” The second event of great significance is our golf tournament which will be held on Friday, September 11 at Royal Oaks in Vancouver, Washington. This will be the tenth annual tournament, which has raised over $1 million for surgical simulation in VirtuOHSU. A final date to add to your calendar is Friday, September 25, when we will meet in the evening at the stunning new Collaborative Life Sciences Building for a cocktail party, a dinner and an auction to celebrate the tenth year of our VirtuOHSU fundraising efforts, and the tenth year of the Krippaehne Lectureship. We also have a few other items to celebrate which will remain a surprise until September 25! We are looking forward to seeing all of our faculty and friends at this event. Have a great spring and we will be back to you in August.

Cheers!

John S. Hasty
CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL AWARENESS AT 19,341 FEET

In February 2015, pancreatic cancer expert and surgeon Brett Sheppard, M.D. (pictured right) and SWOG Cancer Research Chair Charles Blanke, M.D. climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness of the importance of cancer clinical trials and to bring attention to dwindling federal funding for the National Cancer Institute and its National Clinical Trials Network. Ever since the recession in 2008, millions in federal funds for clinical trials have been cut each year. As a result, clinical trials that could stand to save lives and improve treatment are waylaid or go unsupported.

In addition to funding, cancer clinical trials require willing participants: patients who are suffering from a disease and are still willing to help. As stated recently by Dr. Sheppard, “While in some cases we may be changing our approach to clinical trials, such as conducting SMART trials, clinical trials remain the foundation for advancement of cancer care. Generations of future patients will be ever grateful for the bravery and altruism of our clinical trial patients today. We honor them.” In recognition of the 200,000 cancer patients who have participated in Drs. Sheppard and Blanke’s clinical trials, a banner with each of their initials was unfurled at the 19,341 foot summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

As a result of Drs. Sheppard and Blanke’s climb and fund raising, over $110,000 was donated to The Hope Foundation, which, together with SWOG, funds critical, need-based research grants, fellowships, training events, physician education, and patient advocacy.
Development and Design Team:
Jessica M. Scott, B.S., OHSU School of Medicine
Shanley Deal, M.D., Resident, Virginia Mason Medical Center Department of Surgery
Mackenzie Cook, M.D., Resident, OHSU Department of Surgery
Alexis Moren, M.D., M.P.H., Resident, OHSU Department of Surgery
Laszlo Kiraly, M.D., Associate Professor and Clerkship Director, OHSU Department of Surgery

In recent years, resident work hour restrictions and surgical faculty oversight requirements have limited the role of medical students and interns in the operating room. This has the potential to reduce active student learning and interest in surgical careers. The inclusion of high-fidelity surgical models as a training tool helps learners to actively engage by integrating anatomy, technical skills and teamwork. There is not, however, an easy-to-construct, affordable and team-based simulator that can simultaneously support the development of medical students while enhancing the clinical teaching abilities of residents.

OHSU residents and Clerkship Director Laszlo Kiraly, M.D. sought to design such a model.

The team built and revised an inguinal hernia model with input from six expert general surgeons and a pilot group of students and residents from OHSU. The model was evaluated with a pilot study that yielded qualitative feedback from students and residents, including modifications for a more realistic inguinal canal, adherent fascial layers for blunt dissection, and alteration of both inguinal rings. This inguinal hernia simulator allowed mid-level residents to take on an “attending” role and guide medical students and interns through the open repair of an inguinal hernia.

The simulation experience is the first of its kind that can meet the technical education needs of more junior learners while facilitating the team leadership and mentoring educational needs of senior learners. Medical education must include model-based simulation to optimize the surgical skills of learners in a changing environment. Low-cost, team-based simulators are feasible and now, for the first time, can meet the learning needs of multiple learners simultaneously. Looking ahead, the team will begin formalizing the construction process of these models to add fidelity and standardization without dramatically increasing cost. This will allow expansion of the reach of the simulation to all levels of medical student education as well as increase its utilization in the OHSU intern and resident skills lab.

OHSU TEAM ADVANCES MEDICAL EDUCATION WITH NOVEL INGUINAL HERNIA MODEL

In the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, OHSU general surgery residents, thoracic residents and medical students perform 12 to 14 surgical simulations each year using all live tissue. The majority of these simulations are performed using pig or sheep heart lung blocks mounted in Tupperware with one or more vessels pressurized with red water. These are then put under mannequins to simulate or mimic actual incisions.

Procedures performed include the following:
- Repair of esophageal perforation, esophageal anastomosis and esophageal myotomy
- Hilar dissection/lobectomy
- Tracheal anastomosis
- Sleeve resection
- Pulmonary artery bleeding management
- Mitral repair
- Heart transplant
- Large vessel anastomosis
- Coronary anastomosis
- Aortic root replacement
As part of a broad collaboration between PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center (Vancouver, Washington) and OHSU, the Department of Surgery and Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery have begun providing advanced cardiovascular surgical services to the Southwest Washington population. OHSU cardiac surgery faculty, directed by Division Chief Howard Song, M.D., Ph.D., are now the exclusive providers of cardiac surgery at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center.

This agreement will lead to recruitment of new OHSU Department of Surgery faculty and flow of patients to OHSU for advanced services such as transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and surgery for heart failure and complex aortic conditions. TAVR is an innovative and minimally invasive treatment option that replaces the aortic valve without open-heart surgery. Currently, OHSU has the only heart transplant program in Oregon.

A MODEL OF COLLABORATION

The first Apollo Endosurgery® endoscopic suturing cases at OHSU took place this past March and were conducted as a model of collaboration between the GI faculty and the Department of Surgery, under the supervision of gastrointestinal endoscopy specialist Gene Bakis, M.D. and Bariatric Services Division Chief Samer Mattar, M.D. (pictured right).

Since then, procedures requiring endoluminal suture, such as repair of a staple line leak following a sleeve gastrectomy, and gastro-gastric fistulae following gastric bypass have been performed by faculty from both the Bariatric and GI divisions, and were attended by residents and fellows from both departments.

As a regional referral center, OHSU receives many patients who have developed complex and challenging complications following bariatric and foregut surgery. The Apollo technology represents a remarkable breakthrough in the treatment of these patients. These outpatient procedures, which were conducted at the OHSU Multnomah Pavilion GI lab, represent an important advancement in the field of endoscopic suturing, and have the potential for allowing high-risk complicated surgical revision cases to be completed at a markedly reduced hazard to patients, with minimal discomfort.

Pictured from Left: David Hampton, M.D., Hunter Morgan, MA, Gene Bakis, M.D., Samer Mattar, M.D., Nathan Bronson, M.D. and Martina Dunbar, RN
FACULTY NEWS

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY GOES MICRO

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery has had a busy start to the year. Shiliang Chang, M.D. (pictured right) joined the division in January and, with her arrival, OHSU plastic surgeons now offer the most comprehensive array of microsurgical services in Oregon. Dr. Chang is scheduled to perform the state’s first free microsurgical profunda artery perforator flap breast reconstruction later this year.

Division Chief Juliana Hansen, M.D. has been nominated and selected by members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons as one of the Plastic Surgery Foundation visiting professors for the 2015-2016 academic year. The visiting professors are elected by peers and use their clinical, technical and education expertise to benefit training programs across the country, of which Dr. Hansen will visit four. Dr. Hansen was also nominated and selected for the American Society of Plastic Surgeons slate of officers, serving a three year term on the Ethics Committee from 2015-2018.

UNOS!

The Oregon Health & Science University Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the Knight Cardiovascular Institute won a first place national award in the category of Revenue Management/Optimizing Profitability during the recent 23rd Annual UNOS Transplant Management Forum in San Diego, California, held on April 21-23, 2015.

This was OHSU’s first time to enter an abstract at this conference. There were more than 600 registered participants and nearly 60 abstract presentations submitted in five categories during the UNOS Forum.

Scott Kihoi, Division Manager for the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, won for the abstract titled “Cost Modeling and Global Reimbursement Analysis in the Medical Group: Establishing the Reimbursement to Cost Ratio for the Heart Transplant Surgery Practice.” The abstract focused on costs and managed care reimbursement around heart transplant care provided by the Division. He led a multidisciplinary team which included Rosalie Blaeuer (Department of Surgery Accounting Specialist), Mark Valadez (Division Manager for the Division of Abdominal Organ Transplantation), Jennifer Merrill (Department of Surgery Fiscal Coordinator), Kate Kenemer (University Medical Group), Fred Tibayan, M.D. (Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery), Leasa Keene (Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery), and Howard K. Song, M.D., Ph.D. (Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery). OHSU competed against Stanford University, the University of North Carolina, and PERFUSIX USA to win this award.

From Left: Division Manager Scott Kihoi, Accounting Specialist Rosalie Blauer and Division Manager Mark Valadez with awarded abstract

Promo: OHSU News - Faculty News
Greetings from the Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System! The Operative Care Division and the Department of Surgery continue to be as busy as ever. In January 2015, our minimally invasive operating room suite opened with unparalleled laparoscopic technology and multiple high-resolution ceiling mounted monitors. We are also on target for construction to begin in early 2016 on our new vascular hybrid operating room. Last October we increased staffing across the hospital to expand to ten operating rooms and we are currently working to expand to eleven operating rooms by the end of this year. These two expansions will increase our operative capacity throughput by another 1,600 surgical cases per year.

Funding from the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act continues to afford us expansion of clinical staffing. From this, we are in a “full-court press” to hire surgeons, anesthesiologists, mid-level providers and nurses. Thus far, four new full-time surgeons have been recruited, including orthopedic surgeon Peter Schilling, M.D., joining us in April following completion of a sports medicine fellowship with Sports, Orthopedic, and Rehabilitation Medicine Associates in Redwood, California; neurosurgeons Esther Kim, M.D. from the University of Washington and Andrew Bieber, M.D. from OHSU – both to start this summer; and urologic oncologist Ryan Kopp, M.D., also joining us this summer after fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Interviews and recruiting continue in many other surgical specialties.

Congratulations to Amir Azarbal, M.D. for his work as Principle Investigator in getting two NIH-sponsored multicenter clinical trials, named N-TACT and BEST, up and running for our Veterans. The N-TACT Trial will examine whether doxycycline will have a dampening effect on infrarenal aortic aneurysm growth and the BEST Trial will evaluate whether endovascular or surgical treatment is optimal for the treatment of critical limb ischemia.

We want to recognize our lead facilitator in Operative Care, Lori Eastin, for her “Stockings for Soldiers” program. Every year since 2009, she and her team raise money throughout the VA facility and assemble “stocking” care packages for our troops abroad in Afghanistan. To date, over 300 stockings have been received. Thank you, Lori, for honoring those who serve to protect our freedoms every day!

Lastly, I want to personally thank all the surgeons from OHSU that are dedicating their time to take care of our Veterans. I look forward to strengthening partnerships in every way.

Rob McLafferty, M.D.
Chief of Surgery
Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care System
Professor of Surgery
Oregon Health & Science University
JOHN F. EIDT, M.D., F.A.C.S. is a member of the Division of Vascular Surgery at the South Carolina Greenville Health System and Director of Faculty Development in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Eidt has also received an academic appointment as a Professor of Surgery at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. He came to Greenville following a 25-year career as the Chief of Vascular Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Dr. Eidt grew up in Dallas, Texas. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a degree in English, he received his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1981. Following a residency in General Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School, he served as a Registrar in Surgery in Manchester, England. He took additional training in 1987 in vascular surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and cardiovascular research in 1988. He completed a fellowship in endovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in 2001.

He is currently a Director of the American Board of Surgery and began a three-year appointment as Chairman of the Vascular Surgery Board in June 2013. He has a special interest in surgical education and the development of novel tools for advancing the surgical curriculum. He is a co-editor of the Vascular Surgery Section of UpToDate and also serves as co-editor of the Vascular Surgery Self-Assessment Program (VESAP).

H. RICHARD ALEXANDER, JR., M.D. is an internationally recognized surgical oncologist and clinical researcher. He treats cancer patients at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center and is Associate Chairman for Clinical Research in the University of Maryland Department of Surgery.

Dr. Alexander received his medical degree from George-town University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in general surgery at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and did a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dr. Alexander came to the University of Maryland after spending 16 years at the National Institutes of Health, where he served as Chief of the Surgical Metabolism Section, Chairman of the Gastrointestinal Malignancies Working Group, and Deputy Director of the NCI's Center for Cancer Research.

Dr. Alexander is recognized for developing innovative techniques to treat patients with advanced cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. He has designed and conducted clinical trials evaluating the use of isolated organ perfusion, a way to circulate high doses of chemotherapy or biological agents directly into a cancer-burdened region of the body for the treatment of patients with metastatic cancers confined to the limb or liver. He has also made significant contributions in the development of operative cytoreduction and delivery of hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy techniques for patients with peritoneal surface metastases from colorectal or appendiceal cancers or mesothelioma.
A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Rebecka Meyers, M.D. was raised around the world as an “Air Force brat.” She earned her undergraduate degree with honors and academic distinction at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. She then attended medical school at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, where she graduated cum laude.

Dr. Meyers completed her general surgery residency and a fetal surgery research fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. She went on to her pediatric surgery fellowship in Philadelphia and a pediatric liver transplant fellowship at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. Following fellowship, Dr. Meyers joined the faculty at University of Utah as an Assistant Professor in Pediatric Surgery. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000 and Professor in 2007. She has served as Chief of Pediatric Surgery from 2001 – 2011. She received the Surgery Teaching Award, “Triple Threat,” in 1999 and was named Utah Best in State University Professor in 2008.

Dr. Meyers helped to establish the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program at Primary Children’s Medical Center in 1996 and served as the Surgical Director of the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program until 2008. Her academic passion has been the study of pediatric liver tumors and specifically the role of liver transplantation in the treatment of pediatric liver tumors. She has served on the liver surgical and rare tumor committees of the Children’s Oncology Group for many years and in 2008 was named Chair of the COG Liver Committee.

Dr. Meyers is an active member of American College of Surgeons, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Pediatric Surgical Association, Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons, Children’s Oncology Group, and International Pediatric Surgical Oncology and has served in leadership roles on many committees with these organizations. She currently serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Surgery Executive Committee as well as the American Pediatric Surgical Association Pediatric Surgical Self-Assessment Program.

Dr. Meyers likes all things outdoors. She and her husband enjoy wilderness camping, gardening, skiing, and fly-fishing at their old homestead in the Belt Mountains of Montana. In the fall they enjoy grouse and pheasant hunting with their bird dog, a Brittany pointer named Smoke.
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.

APRIL

April 6: “History and Current Trends of Surgical Technology,” Sean Orenstein, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

April 13: “Management of Aortic Infection,” John Eidt, M.D., Division of Vascular Surgery, Greenville Health System University Medical Center, Greenville, South Carolina

April 20: “Oncoplastic Surgery,” Juliana Hansen, M.D., FACS, Professor and Chief, Program Director, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery, OHSU

April 27: “Colorectal Cancer: Looking at a Familiar Disease from a Public Health Perspective,” Robert Goldman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Portland, Oregon

MAY

May 4: “Development of Surgical Isolation Perfusion Techniques for the Treatment of Patients with Metastatic Cancer,” H. Richard Alexander, Jr., M.D., Professor of Surgery, Associate Chair for Clinical Research, Department of Surgery, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland

May 11: “Perception vs. Reality in Medicine,” Marc Gosselin, M.D., Associate Professor of Diagnostic Radiology, Department of Radiology, OHSU

May 18: “Intraoperative Irradiation: An Addition to the Multidisciplinary Treatment Toolbox for Oregon Practitioners Caring for Patients with Locally Advanced and Recurrent Solid Tumors,” Charles Thomas, Jr., M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Medicine, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute

May 23: Memorial Day - Grand Rounds canceled

JUNE

June 1: “Professional Communication: Crucial Conversations,” Nick Engstrom, M.D., Thoracic Surgery Fellow, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 8: CAMPBELL LECTURE: “COG gets CHIC and goes to PLUTO: What’s Happening with Liver Tumors in Children,” Rebecka Meyers, M.D., Chair, Children’s Oncology Group (COG), PI, Hepatic Tumor International Collaboration (CHIC), Founding Member, Pediatric Liver Unresectable Transplant Observatory (PLUTO), University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

June 15: MIS Fellows Debate: “Laparoscopic Heller Myotomy vs. Per-Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) for Achalasia,” Nathan Bronson, M.D. vs. David Pham, M.D., Advanced GI/MIS Fellows, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 22: ICU Fellows Debate: “Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta (REBOA),” Loic Fabricant, M.D. and Jamison Nielsen, M.D. vs. Christopher Dodgion, M.D. and Phillip Letourneau, M.D., Surgical Critical Care Fellows, Department of Surgery, OHSU

June 29: Grand Rounds canceled
My relationship with the OHSU transplant team was both unexpected and completely life-saving. 2014 had been a challenging year for my family to say the least. I was pregnant with my second child when my husband passed away in August. Friends and family were eagerly awaiting a joyful ending to the year with the arrival of my son after a seemingly healthy pregnancy.

Unfortunately, it took a little more worrying, a whole lot of prayer and the amazing knowledge and expertise at OHSU to get to that joyful ending. I delivered a healthy baby boy in Corvallis but my health began to quickly decline following the delivery. When I arrived via Life Flight to OHSU, I was in liver and kidney failure, unresponsive and carrying about 60 pounds of excess fluid. The OHSU team quickly went to work to identify the underlying cause of my decline all while reassuring my friends and family that there was still reason to have hope.

We learned that I was experiencing Acute Fatty Liver Disease associated with pregnancy and a liver transplant was identified as the best way to save my life. Fortunately, a donor was found very quickly after I was listed and Dr. Susan Orloff and the liver transplant team went to work. When I came to and began to unpack all of the details of what had just happened I had two primary thoughts: one, I felt safe; and two, I was in the best place I possibly could be.

Every encounter with Dr. Orloff (pictured above with Rachel) and the countless other doctors and nurses each with their own specialty and wealth of knowledge was so reassuring. While I was being treated as their patient, I never felt as though I was forgotten as a person. Simple actions of the team reintroducing themselves each time they came to visit me, asking how my kids were doing and giving my mom that hug she needed made me feel valued. I appreciated their enthusiasm as I reached each new milestone in my recovery and their optimism as I met stumbling blocks.

I have OHSU to thank for my life and that 2014 ended with something to celebrate for my family and friends. I continue to heal while adjusting to my new life as a transplant patient and am grateful for each moment with my kids I’ve been gifted with thanks to the expertise at OHSU.

If Rachael’s story inspires you, please consider making a gift in support of the OHSU Department of Surgery
Visit http://support.ohsufoundation.org/surgery to make an online donation
SKI DAY!

After last year’s surprise snow storm that nearly canceled the 2014 Ski Day, perhaps this year’s balmier event was more fortunate. Although record-low snowpack levels have plagued the Oregon ski slopes this year, residents and education faculty were able to enjoy the higher elevation routes and celebrate what has become a happily anticipated tradition of the Department.

WHERE'S THE SNOW? Residents Taranjeet Kaur, M.D., Heather Hoops, M.D. and Steve Siegal, M.D. look optimistic in Ski Bowl’s rainy parking lot

At the 54th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Northwest Society of Plastic Surgeons, several plastic surgery residents presented papers. Third-year resident Lindsay Stone, M.D. and Hand Surgery Fellowship Director Joel Solomon, M.D., Ph.D. presented a retrospective study looking at outcomes of nerve fascicle transfer for adult/congenital brachial plexus injuries. Chief Resident Hetal Fichadia, M.D. presented two papers, the first of which was a case report on a patient who was treated for candida tenosynovitis, and the second, a paper with plastic surgeon Anna Kuang, M.D., described 11 patients presenting with both cleft lip/cleft palate and craniosynostosis. Fourth-year resident Allison Nauta, M.D. presented basic science research from her postdoctoral research fellowship at Stanford. The data presented by Dr. Nauta speaks to the limited role for mast cells in wound healing, based on a small animal excisional wound healing model in three transgenic mast cell deficient mouse lines.

SEAN MCCULLY, M.D., MS WINS THIS YEAR’S RAYMOND H. ALEXANDER, M.D. RESIDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Congratulations to Senior Resident Sean McCully, M.D., MS (pictured right) for winning this year’s Raymond H. Alexander, M.D. Resident Paper Competition! Since 1993, this annual award has been given in honor of renowned trauma surgeon Dr. Raymond Alexander at the Annual Scientific Assembly of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

At this year’s competition, 10 entries vied for the title of best resident paper, with Dr. McCully and his co-authors coming out on top with their manuscript, “Effect of Ascorbic Acid Concentrations on Hemodynamics and Inflammation Following Lyophilized Plasma Transfusion.” Co-authors included fellow residents Mackenzie Cook, M.D., Nicole Gordon, M.D., Tim Lee, M.D., Alexis Moren, M.D., and Kelly Fair, M.D.

Dr. McCully makes the fifth resident from the OHSU Trauma Research Laboratory to win this award in the past nine years, joining Michael Englehart, M.D. (2007), Nicholas Spoerke, M.D. (2010), Tim Lee, M.D. (2013), and David Hampton, M.D. (2014).
WELCOME 2015-2016 INTERN CLASS

Amir Azari  Oregon Health & Science University
Nikolas Baksh  Case Western Reserve
Kyle Baltrusch  Oregon Health & Science University
Grace Lee Banik  Case Western Reserve
Paul Buck  Oregon Health & Science University
Cameron Cangelose  Texas Tech
Nicholas Chakiran  SUNY Downstate
W. Christian Crannell  University of Vermont
Aaron Cunningham  Georgia Regents
Lernik Essayei  Yerevan State Medical University
Elizabeth Gilliam  Virginia Tech
Kyle Gillis  University of California, San Diego
David Jiang  Georgetown University
Lindsay Kiyama  University of California, San Diego
Natalie Krane  Drexel University
Christopher Kyles  Oregon Health & Science University
Saunders Lin  Texas A&M
Taylor Lara  University of Tennessee
Joseph McClellan  UNC Chapel Hill
David Putnam-Pite  Oregon Health & Science University
Elie Ramly  American University of Beirut
Duncan Ramsey  University of Texas San Antonio
Hannah Robbins  University of Washington
Derek Rogalsky  Georgetown University
Maria-Elise Sanchez  Howard University
Jessica Scott  Oregon Health & Science University
Ragavan Siddharthan  Emory University
Haruka Snow  University of California, Davis
Caroline Squires  Medical College of Wisconsin
Grant Sun  University of Utah
Melissa Symon  Creighton University
Brett Walker  Texas A&M
James Yawn  Medical University of South Carolina
BOTTLE CALL

At this fall’s charity event supporting VirtuOHSU, we will once again hold our ever-popular 75-bottle wine raffle! Ninety-nine tickets will be sold at $100 each in hopes of raising close to $10,000 for the ongoing support of VirtuOHSU. The raffle will take place at the Tenth Annual Department of Surgery Dinner and Auction on Friday, September 25th at the Collaborative Life Sciences Building, OHSU’s new state-of-the-art teaching and research facility on the South Waterfront.

A great opportunity for faculty involvement within the Department of Surgery is by donating a bottle (or two!) for inclusion in the raffle. Each wine selection is requested to be a minimum of $25 and donated bottles can be brought to the office of VirtuOHSU Administrative Director Pat Southard (Mackenzie Hall 3168) anytime between now and August 24th, or call 503 494-7758 to arrange for pick up.

Thank you for your support of this important charity event.

On March 14th, at the annual American College of Surgeons Consortium of Accredited Educational Institutes in Chicago, VirtuOHSU Simulation Technician Caleb Haley presented a poster entitled, “The Creation of PGY Level-Specific FLS Proficiency Benchmarks Allows for Longitudinal Tracking of Multiple General Surgery Milestones Domains.” The poster was received with great interest and a full manuscript is in preparation. Caleb is pictured below with VirtuOHSU Medical Director Donn Spight, M.D.
It seems like just yesterday I received my Society of Surgical Oncology Fellowship Match results: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). I was elated by the match and at the same time apprehensive about training on the east coast and worried about the impact the move would have on my family. One thing gave me great reassurance: that my OHSU mentors who trained at MSKCC had nothing but positive memories of their experience. Of course they were mostly single, while I would be schlepping my husband (Stefan), two toddlers (Ewan, 4 and Emme, 2) and our 55-pound shepherd mutt (Grayson) to a 750 square foot apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. On second thought, well, it was too late to turn back!

The end of residency for me was a blur. Like most of our transitions during training, busy rotations left little time to dwell on things like goodbyes. Following graduation, a quick six hour red-eye found the kids and me on the ground at LaGuardia and just like that, I was a New Yorker. In reality it took some time to make the transition as I did not know that to be a New Yorker you must 1) have a smart phone permanently attached to your hand, 2) wear heels to work (preferably Tory Burch) and 3) be able to sleep through the constant hum of traffic and car horns or, as Stefan and I like to call it, the New York Philharmonic.

While the transition to life in NYC was a bit of a challenge, the transition to fellowship was quite easy. It turns out a great surgical education translates well. Thanks to the OHSU faculty, I had a solid foundation to grow from during my two years here. And there is a definite OHSU presence at MSKCC. Each day I walk by photos of Drs. Kevin Billingsley, John Vetto, Rod Pommier, Ron Wolf and Kate Morris outside the Surgical Oncology Fellow’s office. While rotating on the Breast Service I practiced a surgical technique called the “Arpana Ridge” named after Dr. Arpana Naik. And I learned that if the long-time Chief of the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC needed surgery he would travel to OHSU to have it done by his former fellow, Dr. Peter Andersen. Seeing the smiling faces of and hearing compliments about my OHSU colleagues makes me swell with happiness and pride.

As you can imagine, we all adjusted to life in the Big Apple. I love my commute (a four-block walk up York Avenue) and I run regularly with a group of my co-fellows, crossing “Run the NYC Marathon” off of my bucket list last fall. Stefan found a great soccer league on Roosevelt Island with killer views of Manhattan. The kids are thriving. Emme, who is now four, can hop on the subway, hail a cab and hold her own in a crowded NYC playground. Ewan, who is now a six-year-old kindergartener, absolutely loves New York. His first class field trip was to MoMA – what’s not to love?

To be honest, it’s hard to believe my time in New York City is coming to a close. I’ve established friendships in fellowship that I know will last for life. I’ve gotten to be an extended tourist in one of the most amazing cities in the world. And I’ve had a surgical oncology experience that is beyond compare. Life is good! But will I be sad come July? No way! I would trade penthouse views of Central Park and Tory Burch heels for a glimpse of Mount Hood and a good pair of Danskos any day…

OHSU, here I come!

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**FOCUS ON ALUMNI: KRISTEN MASSIMINO, M.D.**

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**DR. MASSIMINO WILL RETURN TO OHSU THIS JULY AS THE DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY’S NEWEST FACULTY**
The goal of the Department of Surgery’s newsletter is to highlight our accomplishments and news, while presenting a publication that is visually consistent with OHSU printed materials. We hope you like it. Have feedback? Email Sara Szymanski at szymanss@ohsu.edu – we’d love to hear from you.

The Surgical Log

Department of Surgery, OHSU School of Medicine

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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. 0115