

2022

Leading the Way

Medical College of Wisconsin
Department of Surgery
2022 Annual Report

MCW Surgery
knowledge changing life

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Milwaukee Skyline (Photo by Motaz Selim, MD).

A Message From the Chair

“We are committed to improving the care of patients – not only our patients of today but also our patients of tomorrow – through innovation, discovery and courageous approaches to medical illness.”

I hope you have as much fun reading our Annual Report as we have had putting it together! Our faculty, residents, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and staff are easy to brag about as they have amazing talent, combined with a unique level of dedication – making Milwaukee medicine the best medicine in the world!

The last two Annual Reports commented on the challenges of the pandemic and how we tried to combine our efforts in clinical medicine, research and education with the reality of COVID-19. We are now beyond COVID and refueling for what will be the most transformational time in Milwaukee medicine. For example: in Cardiac Surgery we can now fix or replace almost any broken heart; in Pediatric Surgery we can operate on babies inside and outside of mom’s belly and provide the love and support that are needed for mom and dad; in Minimally Invasive Gastrointestinal Surgery and the Condon Hernia Institute, bring on the most difficult hernia or the most challenging digestive problem; in Colorectal Surgery, the advances in IBD and rectal cancer are improving the quality of life for our patients in ways never before imagined; in Surgical Oncology we have embraced the molecular revolution and have clinical trials available nowhere else in the world; in Trauma and Acute Care Surgery we are the safety net for all of southeastern Wisconsin, no one cares more; in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, we keep the blood flowing when no one else can; in Solid Organ Transplantation, we provide hope for a tomorrow which is only possible with the gift of life.

Most importantly, we have the greatest job on the planet – in no other field can we help people every day and bring the excitement of innovation and discovery into clinical medicine, research and education. Our support from the greater Milwaukee community and beyond has allowed us to fund the great thoughts which characterize the amazing minds of our faculty. The new faculty and residents that we have been fortunate enough to recruit bring novel ideas, diverse opinions and end-



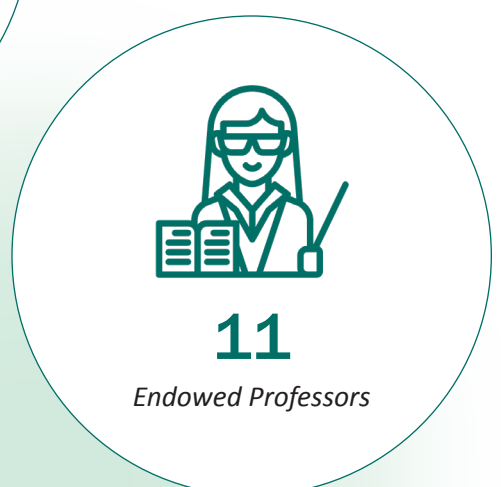
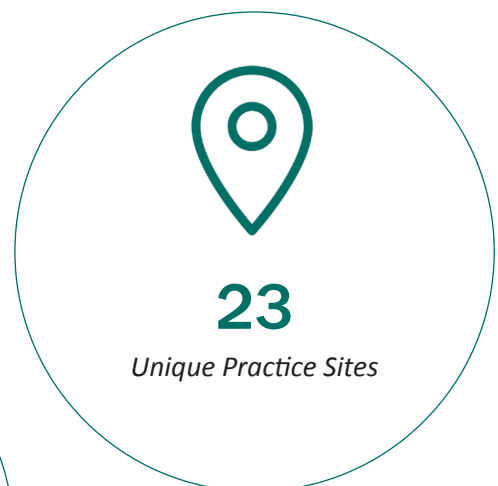
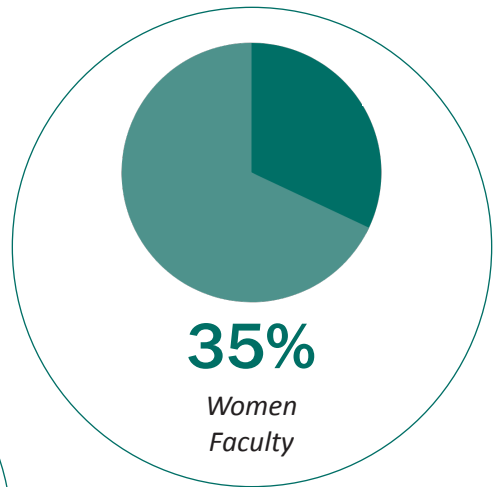
Douglas B. Evans, MD

Chair, Department of Surgery
Donald C. Ausman Family Foundation
Chair

less energy to what we do every day. Guiding us in our commitment to the patients of today and the patients of tomorrow are the core values of honesty, integrity, a commitment to open communication, an appreciation for the unique and diverse talents which all members of our department contribute to making the team so much more powerful than any individual, and a promise to do our very best even when the task at hand seems overwhelming. The Department of Surgery at MCW is proud of what we have accomplished and excited for what is possible – please join our team, the door is open and there is plenty of room!

By the Numbers

Department of Surgery Statistics





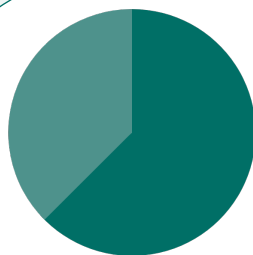
89

*Secondary & Volunteer
Faculty*



56

*General Surgery
Residents*



62.5%

*Women
Residents*



>15,000

*Patients Helped in the
OR by the Surgical
Skill of Our Faculty &
Residents*



10

Clinical Fellows



116

Full & Part-time Faculty



47,811

Unique Patients



\$2.7M

*of Sponsored Research
(FY'21)*

Practice Locations

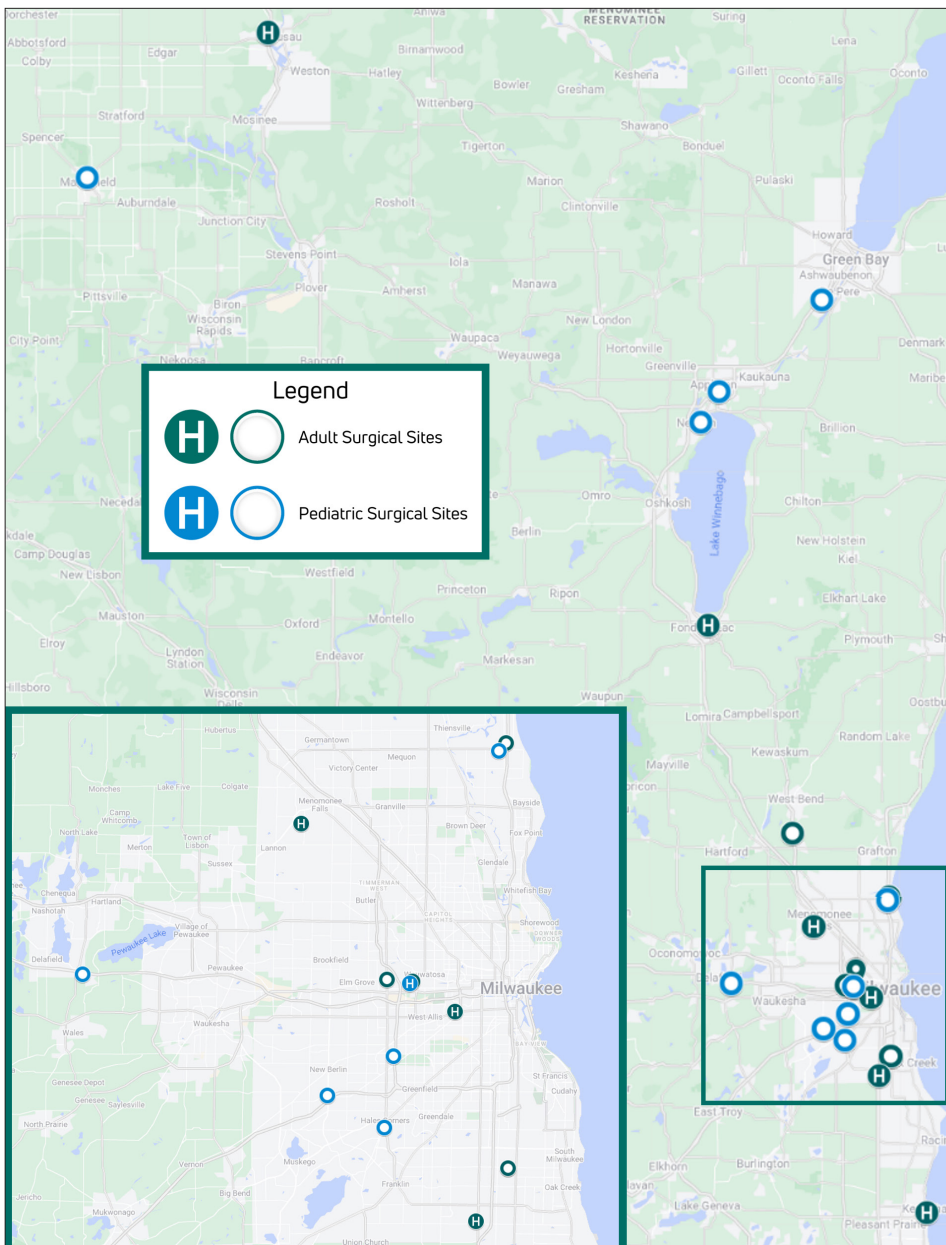
Our faculty operate at *12 pediatric surgery sites* and *14 adult surgery sites* in Wisconsin

Froedtert and MCW Locations

Cancer Center, Drexel Town Square Health Center
 Clinical Cancer Center, Froedtert Hospital
 Drexel Town Square Surgery Center

Froedtert Hospital and MCW, Milwaukee
 Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital & Town Hall Clinic
 Froedtert Surgery Center

Mequon Health Center
 Froedtert West Bend Hospital
 Pleasant Valley Health Center



Map of MCW Surgery practice locations.

MCW Surgery Locations

St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac
 Ascension Franklin
 Plank Road FORME Vein Clinic
 Froedtert South Vascular Access
 Zablocki VA Medical Center

Other Pediatric Surgery Locations

Marshfield Clinic

Children's Specialty Group Locations

Appleton Clinic
 Children's Wisconsin Clinics
 Children's Wisconsin Hospital, Milwaukee Campus
 Delafield Clinic
 Forest Home Clinic
 Mequon Clinic
 New Berlin Clinic
 Neenah Clinic
 Children's Wisconsin-Surgicenter
 West De Pere Clinic
 Marshfield Clinic Health System

Froedtert West Bend Hospital



Froedtert West Bend Hospital.



Froedtert West Bend Hospital.

Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital



Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital.

Froedtert Clinical Cancer Center



Froedtert Cancer Center (Photo by Motaz Selim, MD).

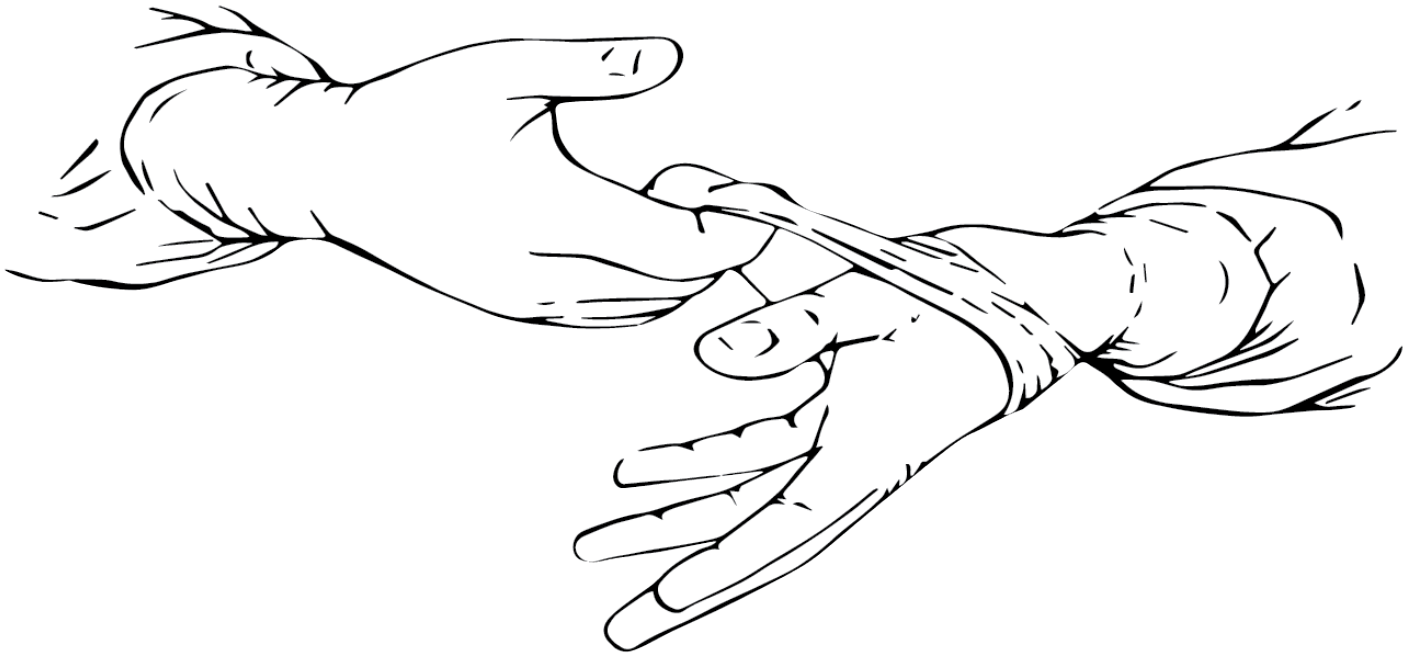
Milwaukee Regional Medical Center - Froedtert Hospital, Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin



Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.

Edwin Ellison Surgical Society

The *Alumni Society of the Medical College of Wisconsin
General Surgery Residency*



The Edwin Ellison Surgical Society was initiated in 2019 with the intent of connecting MCW surgeons across subspecialties, practice settings and years of training through a collaborative network to provide support, mentorship and sponsorship to our esteemed faculty and alumni. To this end, the society plans to hold an annual reception at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. Additionally, when the annual meeting is in Chicago, an alumni event will be hosted at MCW. In the future this CME event will occur on the preceding Friday night and Saturday morning, with an intervening dinner reception

to catch up with friends. Symposia will allow for alumni to share their accomplishments, as well as exciting developments within the MCW Department of Surgery. The society will also facilitate communication and networking amongst members.

Lifetime membership to the due free society will be conferred on successful completion of the MCW general surgery residency or fellowship programs within the Department of Surgery. Lifetime membership will be retroactively granted to all previous graduates of the MCW Surgery program, if they wish to receive it. Additionally, all

MCW Surgery faculty who have been with the Department for 1 year will become Associate members until departure from MCW. Honorary membership can be given to those who have made significant contributions to the Department of Surgery. Previous graduates can update their contact information at: <https://www.mcw.edu/departments/surgery/education/edwin-ellison-surgical-society>

We hope that this new society can help us all stay connected as the surgical journey continues following residency.

2022 EESS Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the society consists of the Current and Past President, the President-Elect, Secretary / Treasurer, Faculty Representative, Alumni Representative, Program Director, Department Chair and Administrative Chief Residents. The inaugural Executive Committee was chosen by the planning committee and can be seen below.



Timothy Ridolfi, MD '05, GME '12, MS
President



Rachel Greenup, MD '04, MPH, GME '11
President-Elect



Betsy Appel, MD '11, GME '16
Secretary



Chris Fox, MD '98, GME '04
Alumni Rep.



Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH
Faculty Rep.



Matthew Goldblatt, MD '97, GME '04
Program Director



Erin Buchanan, MD
Resident Rep.



Paul Dyrud, MD
Resident Rep.



Lisa Olson, MBA
Program Manager



Douglas B. Evans, MD
Surgery Chair



Bud and Sue Selig Hub for Health Services Research

Bringing Hope to Health

The Department of Surgery is honored to announce the launch of the Bud and Sue Selig Hub for Health Services Research. The Commissioner and Mrs. Selig are Milwaukee through and through and their generous support of our community has been impactful for decades. This gift will further enhance our partnership to improve health care in southeastern Wisconsin, in bringing Hope to Health, especially for those struggling to receive the care they deserve. The Department of Surgery and our Division of Research are excited to build upon the Seligs' support and transform health care the same way Commissioner Selig transformed the Milwaukee Brewers and Major League Baseball.

Bud Selig's commitment to Major League Baseball is inseparable from the life-long dedication of the Seligs to our community. Bud began with the Milwaukee Braves in the 1950's and when they moved to Atlanta in 1965, he was responsible for bringing baseball back to Milwaukee, purchasing the Seattle Pilots and moving the team to

Milwaukee, renaming them the Brewers.

He is also the man responsible for bringing Hank Aaron back to Milwaukee to end his illustrious career. He and Hank Aaron were about the same age when they met and bonded over their struggles, however different, on the way to success. At the recent funeral of his longtime friend, Bud commented on their roots, "We were both becoming proof that all things can be possible, dreams can come true."

Under the ownership of Bud Selig, the Brewers reached the World Series in 1982. He was then named the 9th Commissioner of Major League Baseball in 1998 by a unanimous vote of the 30 team owners. Since then, his accomplishments are too numerous to list, but some of the highlights included his historic labor agreement in 2002 that avoided a loss of part or all of the baseball season, he introduced a plan for revenue sharing to achieve competitive balance, fortified drug testing policies, and dramatically increased fan support.

Commissioner and Mrs.



Commissioner Bud and Mrs. Sue Selig.

Selig have a long history of support for medical research and the importance of academic medicine. They introduced Major League Baseball to Stand Up To Cancer which made an enormous impact on cancer research. In recognition of the Seligs' many contributions to this program, Stand Up To Cancer awarded their first named Innovative Research Grant in honor of Bud and Sue Selig. Commissioner Selig was succeeded by Rob Manfred on Jan. 25, 2015, after 22 years, the second-longest tenure at the helm of MLB; he was

inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame in 2017.

This gift in support of Health Services Research is in perfect harmony with the Seligs' ongoing, thoughtful investments in making dreams come true, and our Milwaukee community the best it can be. It is in keeping with our commitment of bringing Hope to Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Douglas B. Evans, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery
Donald C. Ausman Family Foundation Chair

Leading the Way Newsletter

Scan the QR code to read MCW Surgery's *Leading The Way* newsletters! Newsletters publish triannually and feature the latest in academic medicine straight from our faculty experts.

Never miss an issue - join the *Leading The Way* mailing list by sending a request to surgeryevents@mcw.edu



The Word on Medicine

Where knowledge is changing life, by making tomorrow better than yesterday

The Word on Medicine (WOM) airs live on News/Talk 1130 WISN every Saturday at 4 PM CDT. Each week brings together a panel of medical experts and patients to discuss the latest in medical innovation and discovery. Since October of 2017, we have aired more than 120 unique programs involving over 600 faculty, countless nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and many distinguished

invited guests. Most importantly, we have brought to you the personal experiences of our patients and their families. Episodes are hosted by Dr. Douglas Evans, Chair of the Department, and Dr. Rana Higgins, Associate Professor of Surgery. The Word on Medicine is generously supported by Selig Leasing Company and Mark and Debbie Attanasio.



Dr. Douglas Evans recording the WOM.

411

Faculty & APPs featured on The Word on Medicine*

182

Total Guests on WOM/LWOM (24 guest faculty, 158 patients)*

117

Episodes to Date*

14

Episodes Covering COVID-19 Topics

*Through March 2022

Listen to the Word on Medicine

Don't miss our library of past episodes on iHeartRadio, featuring over 400 MCW guest experts covering all the hot issues in medicine today. **Scan the QR code to listen now**, or search The Word on Medicine on iHeartRadio, iTunes, Podbean, or Stitcher.



The Latest Word on Medicine

The Latest Word on Medicine (LWOM) airs every Friday at 2 PM CDT on the iHeartRadio app. These short four-minute features provide timely and concise information straight from MCW experts. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Latest Word on Medicine has provided important health information to the public, at a time when our community needed it most. The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association recognized these contributions to public health, awarding the program the 2nd place Award for Excellence in the category "Best Pandemic-Related Service to Community" in 2021. The Latest Word on Medicine is supported by a grateful patient through his donation to the We Care Fund.



Drs. Anai Kothari & Carrie Peterson in the studio.





Deputy Director Dr. Ugwuji Maduekwe & Director Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld.

The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment *Propelling the most promising work and ideas for a healthier Wisconsin today, and for generations to come*

Since issuing its first funding awards in 2004, The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment, based in MCW's School of Medicine, has become Wisconsin's largest health improvement philanthropy. Driven by a vision of a healthier Wisconsin, AHW has invested more than \$311 million in more than 517 projects supporting Wisconsin's health innovators, collaborators, and problem solvers to advance research that improves lives, to build education and workforce development programs and pathways, and to partner in communities statewide to create real change.

In 1999, Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin converted from a nonprofit to a for-profit corporation. Medical College of Wisconsin received half of the funds resulting from the conversion, with the other half going to UW-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health. Today, AHW, and

its peer program at UW, are counted among the several hundred "health conversion" foundations in existence across the U.S. The funds entrusted to the MCW School of Medicine to create AHW place it in a unique position – AHW is the only health philanthropy in the nation stewarding public funds while embedded in a private medical school.

AHW is delivering on its public stewardship mission by investing in promising biomedical research, supporting community health initiatives, and building the health workforce needed by Wisconsin.

Within the Department of Surgery, nearly \$11 million in AHW funding has supported work across the department with additional millions in related projects supported in neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, and more. Together, these investments in Department faculty have led to

research advancements in areas such as epigenetics, cardiovascular disease, trauma and cancer, while also supporting investments into the research infrastructure such as the launch of the state's first cancer precision medicine simulation unit. AHW is currently led by its director, anesthesiologist Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, and recent addition to the Department of Surgery, deputy director, Dr. Ugwuji Maduekwe.

Active Project Highlight: A Translational Study of Epigenetic and Neural Mechanisms of Risk Phenotypes for PTSD

Experiencing a traumatic event often leads to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is associated with changes in brain function and structure. While there has been progress in understanding who is at risk for PTSD following traumatic injury, there remains much to learn regarding PTSD devel-

opment in order to provide better and more timely intervention and treatment options.

With a \$250,000 investment by AHW awarded in 2020, Dr. Gwen Lomberk along with Dr. Terri deRoos-Cassini and their collaborative research team are working to apply novel strategies, including looking at marks present on DNA in the blood, to understand risk for chronic PTSD and recognize patterns that connect with changes in brain function after traumatic injury in order to develop patient-centered screening and intervention approaches.

Following a delay due to COVID-19, the project team pushed through challenges to successfully recruit



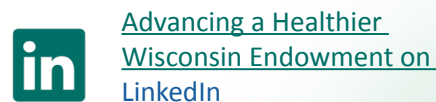
patients who have experienced traumatic injury and identify strategies to determine who is at risk for chronic PTSD after injury. The team has since collected enough samples to perform DNA isolation, methylome profiling and genotyping, with analysis currently underway.

Ways to Get Involved with AHW

At AHW, we seek partners who share our belief that by working together we can build a healthier Wisconsin today, and for generations to come. To help us propel this

mission forward, respond to an RFA as a source for your research funding, serve as a faculty partner for a community project, or serve as a volunteer on one of our review panels.

Stay connected by subscribing to the AHW e-newsletter at ahwendowment.org, and by following AHW on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. AHW staff are available to meet regularly with any interested investigators, teams, or departments to explore how your ideas can align with AHW funding opportunities.



Central Surgical Association 79th Annual Meeting

The Department of Surgery was honored to host the Central Surgical Association’s 79th Annual Meeting at the Saint Kate - The Arts Hotel in downtown Milwaukee.

The Department of Surgery has a strong history of representation within the Central Surgical Association (CSA), with 23 current members and four faculty members who have served as President of the organization. These include Edwin Ellison, MD (1968-1969), Robert Condon, MD (1978-1979), Jonathan Towne, MD (2002-2003), and most recently, Tina Yen, MD, MS (2019-2020). Jon Gould, MD, MBA, currently serves as the society Recorder. Tracy Wang, MD, MPH, served as this year’s Local Arrangements Chair.

In addition to President Timothy Pritts’ Presidential Address, “Grit and Resilience in Surgery,” this year’s program included the CSA Young Surgeons Committee Panel featuring “How I do It” video session, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Panel on “Workday Scenarios,” as well

as a ‘speed mentoring’ session for early- and mid-career faculty, with leaders from the CSA.

This year’s scientific program also included 5 oral and 3 quick-shot presentations by MCW residents and faculty. The local program focused on the innovative research and programs within the Department:

- Terri deRoos-Cassini, PhD, MS - “Hospital-Based Violence Prevention Programming: The Reach of 414LIFE”
- Tammy Kindel, MD, PhD - “Bariatric Surgery in Advanced Heart Failure Patients”
- Ugwuji Maduekwe, MD, MMSc, MPH - “Improving Surgical Care through Philanthropy: The AHW Experience”

The highlight of the meeting was the ‘fireside chat,’ “The Chicken Runs at Midnight: A Perspective on Life and Baseball from Craig Counsell.” Craig Counsell, manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, won two World Series Championships during his 16-year career as a player in Major League Baseball



From left to right: Dr. Douglas B. Evans, Roger Caplinger, Craig Counsell.

and was the National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player in 2001. The session was moderated by Roger Caplinger (Vice President of Medical Operations, Health and Safety for the Milwaukee Brewers) and Douglas B. Evans, MD.

Finally, we were thrilled to have Milwaukee-based Nineteen Thirteen, an award-winning duo featuring the cellist Janet Schiff and percussionist Victor DeLorenzo, the founding drummer of Violent Femmes, provide the musical entertainment at this year’s Nonie Lowry Dinner!

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Surgical treatment of congenital and acquired abnormalities of the heart and cardiovascular system, lungs and chest wall

Matt's Story

On September 19, 2021, Matt Laprade was a 46-year-old man with respiratory failure from COVID-19. He was in an ICU in Kenosha on a mechanical ventilator with a tube in his throat, lying on his stomach with medications to paralyze his muscles so they didn't use any additional oxygen. Even with 100% oxygen he was dangerously close to death. At the last moment he was accepted for transfer to a hospital in Milwaukee for ECMO with hope that it would buy his lungs more time to recover.

In late August, Matt had a sore throat, cough, and muscle aches, and then on September 1, he went to the emergency room in Kenosha and was found to have COVID pneumonia. He was started on supplemental oxygen and given treatment with Remdesivir and dexamethasone. By September 3 he was requiring 15 liters of oxygen and then later that day he needed a high flow device that delivered 60 lpm oxygen. A CT scan of his chest showed air in the mediastinum and bilateral opacified lungs, and by September 12 he was requiring mask ventilation. His lungs kept getting worse and he was intubated on September 15.

Matt showed no improvement throughout the entire month of October and by November 4, his doctors started looking for a hospital



Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery cardiac faculty. Back row: Drs. James Mace, Takushi Kohmoto, Lyle Joyce, David Joyce. Front row: Drs. Nilto de Oliveira, G. Hossein Almassi, Paul Pearson, Stefano Schena, Lucian Durham, H. Adam Ubert.

that could perform a lung transplant. At this point there was no possibility that his lungs would recover. Because he was unable to get out of bed and walk, multiple programs rejected him, but finally on November 30 he was transferred to Froedtert.

We knew that he had been confined to bed for over 2 months, and without being able to walk, he would be unlikely to recover from a lung transplant surgery. Matt's ECMO was being performed with a cannula in his femoral vein and another in his jugular, and we needed to reconfigure his access. The femoral catheter was removed, and the jugular was replaced with a dual lumen bicaval ECMO cannula. He was not able to stand on his own until December 6 when he stood

for 19 seconds. This was the first time Matt had been out of bed since September. He continued to work with physical and occupational therapy and by December 16, despite requiring ECMO and mechanical ventilation, he was able to walk for the first time in 3 months.

Matt was placed on the national lung transplant list December 22, and he received a bilateral lung transplant on January 8, 2022. Matt continued to improve rapidly, and he was discharged for physical rehabilitation on January 26. He was able to go home on February 2, 2022. After being hospitalized for five months (2 months at Froedtert), Matt was finally home and breathing on his own.

Faculty

Paul J. Pearson, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief

G. Hossein Almassi, MD
Professor

Nilto C. De Oliveira, MD
Professor

Lucian A. Durham III, MD, PhD
Associate Professor

Mario G. Gasparri, MD
Professor

George B. Haasler, MD
Professor Emeritus

David W. Johnstone, MD
Professor
Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
Chief, Section of General Thoracic Surgery

David L. Joyce, MD, MBA
Professor

Lyle D. Joyce, MD, PhD
Professor
Chief, Section of Adult Cardiac Surgery

Takushi Kohmoto, MD, PhD, MBA
Professor

R. Eric Lilly, MD
Assistant Professor

Paul L. Linsky, MD
Assistant Professor

James E. Mace Jr., MD
Surgeon

Stefano Schena, MD, PhD
Associate Professor

H. Adam Ubert, MD
Assistant Professor

Nurse Practitioners

Adam Holmbeck, RN, MSN, APNP

Melissa Kaske, RN, MSN, APNP

Lindsay Morris, RN, MSN, APNP

Chelsea Nettesheim, RN, MSN, APNP

Tony Sanders, RN, MSN, APNP

Shannon Scalish, RN, AGPCNP-BC, DNP

Dawn A. Schmidt, RN, MSN, APNP

Craig Schutta, RN, MSN, APNP

Meg Shannon-Stone, RN, MSN, APNP

Timothy Sie, RN, MSN, APNP

Trisha L. Wilcox, RN, MSN, APNP

Physician Assistants

Elizabeth Froelich, MPAS, PA-C

Andrew Kennedy, MPAS, PA-C

Rebecca Miller, MPAS, PA-C

Gina A. Muscato, MPAS, PA-C

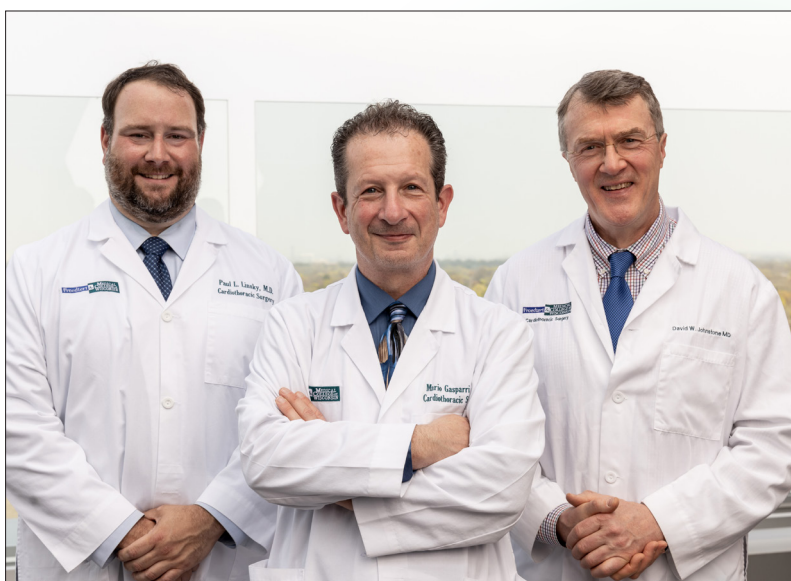
Allison Stone, MPAS, PA-C

Heather Sutter, MPAS, PA-C

Lisa M. Thomas, MPAS, PA-C



Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery APPs. Top row: APPs Andrew Kennedy, Adam Holmbeck, Tim Sie. Middle row: Chelsea Nettesheim, Lindsay Morris. Bottom row: Melissa Kaske, Trisha Wilcox, Shannon Scalish.



Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery thoracic faculty. From left: Drs. Paul Linsky, Mario Gasparri, and David Johnstone.



Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Division of Colorectal Surgery

Providing *high caliber, compassionate care* for patients with *colorectal disease*

Jennifer's Story

No 34-year-old should have to worry about rectal cancer and the prospect of a permanent colostomy, yet this is where Jennifer Jewson found herself in August of 2015. For years Jennifer thought that her rectal bleeding was caused by hemorrhoids, but eventually, a colonoscopy revealed that she had a large tumor in the lowest part of her rectum.

She was referred to the Colorectal Surgery Cancer Clinic for evaluation and treatment. Jennifer had what is called locally advanced low lying rectal cancer; the tumor was outside the rectal wall and had moved into the lymph nodes in the area. Her case was presented at our weekly multidisciplinary colorectal cancer tumor board and a treatment plan was put in place. This included courses of chemotherapy, radiation therapy and lower dose chemotherapy, followed by an operation to remove her rectum and anus and construct a colostomy.

Thankfully, Jennifer is alive and well, and almost seven years after her diagnosis, not only does she not have a colostomy, she never had any surgery at all. Jennifer had what is called a "complete response" to her treatments. This means that the tumor was destroyed by the chemotherapy and the radiation therapy and she has been cured without any operation.

Historically, surgery is the only curative option for patients with rectal cancer. So, how did this happen? The treatment for locally advanced mid- and low-rectal cancers involves giving chemotherapy and radiation therapy, followed by a large operation to

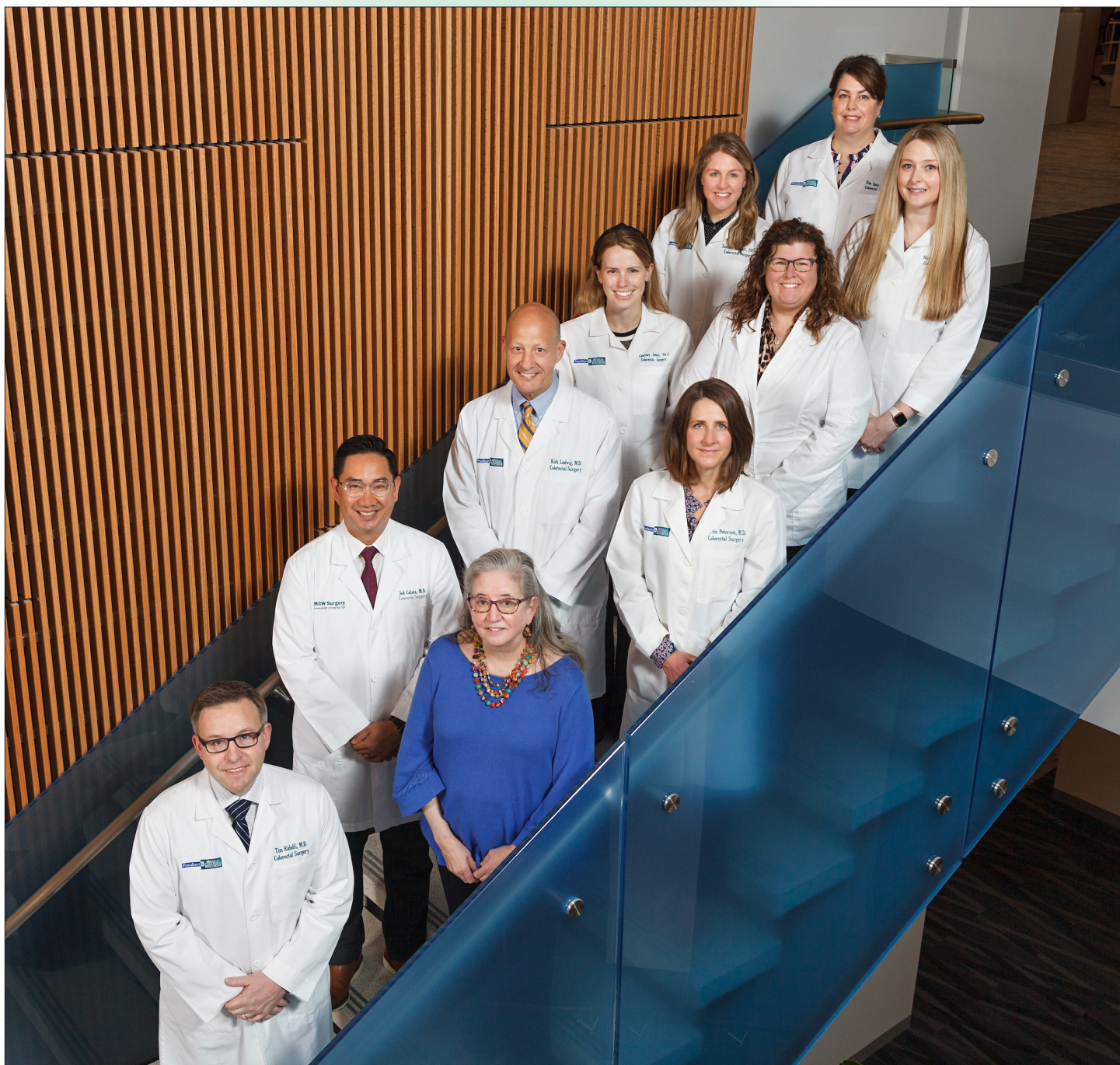
remove the tumor, which may result in a colostomy. After a six-week recovery, patients start a second dose of chemotherapy. Since the early 1990s when this approach was routinely adopted, rectal cancer outcomes improved tremendously. Up to 20% of patients had a "complete response," and the final pathology report showed that the preoperative chemo and radiation had destroyed the tumor and there was no viable tumor left. More recently, it has become clear that giving all chemotherapy and radiation therapy before surgery has advantages, one being that more patients achieve a complete response and can be spared operation. The challenge, for the surgeon, is deciding if their patient has any viable tumor left after treatments, who should have surgery and who could safely avoid a major operation. Jennifer was one of the latter patients and we now know, with the passage of time, that the proper decision was made to not operate.

Our Colorectal Surgery Division is proud to offer cutting edge treatments for benign and malignant colon, rectal and anal problems. We work closely with our colleagues in Gastroenterology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology. At MCW/Froedtert, we are surrounded by experts in each of these fields which allows us to offer treatment approaches that patients may not find elsewhere. We are one of only a small number of centers to be designated as a Rectal Cancer Center of Excellence by the National Accreditation Program for Rectal



Jennifer Jewson.

Cancer. Our research mission drives our desire to learn more every day, so that tomorrow's patients are better cared for than today's patients. We have recently published research on young age colorectal cancer and the use of advanced MRI techniques for evaluating rectal cancer. We have presented experience with complete response in rectal cancer patients at national meetings, and we are partnering with our patients to collect tumor specimens and blood samples for our Rectal Cancer Tumor Bank so that we can make new and important discoveries. We firmly believe that our patients benefit from our efforts and we are so happy that Jennifer Jewson was one of these beneficiaries. We look forward to her visits with us in the Cancer Center as we are energized each time we see her. Everyone around Jennifer recognizes that she is a kindhearted person and the world is a better place with her in it!



Division of Colorectal Surgery Faculty and APPs. From bottom: Drs. Tim Ridolfi, Jed Calata, Mary Otterson, Kirk Ludwig, Carrie Peterson; APPs Courtney Jones, Sarah Lundeen, Samantha Wolff, Nicole Kellner, Kim Spitz.

Faculty

Kirk A. Ludwig, MD
 Professor and Chief
 Vernon O. Underwood Chair in
 Colon Cancer Research

Jed F. Calata, MD
 Assistant Professor

Mary F. Otterson, MD, MS
 Professor

Carrie Y. Peterson, MD, MS
 Associate Professor
 Associate Vice Chair, Quality

Timothy J. Ridolfi, MD, MS
 Associate Professor

Nurse Practitioners

Nicole L. Kellner, RN, MSN, APNP

**Sarah J. Lundeen, RN, MSN,
 APNP**

**Kimberly A. Spitz, RN, MSN,
 APNP**

Physician Assistants

Courtney Jones, MPAS, PA-C
Samantha Wolff, MPAS, PA-C

Division of Congenital Heart Surgery

Providing the best care to our patients and researching cures for congenital heart disease

Emma's Story

Emma was born in 2010 with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS), a serious heart defect in which the left side of the heart fails to properly develop. The standard treatment includes three open-heart surgeries — typically around 2 weeks, 6 months and 2 years of age. After her second surgery, Emma developed heart failure, which occurs in about 10% of all cases. When she was 9 months old, Emma was placed on the heart transplant list.

Despite this, life began to stabilize for Emma and she was discharged from the hospital. But things took a serious turn almost two years later. While Emma was undergoing a cardiac catheterization to evaluate her for the third and final HLHS surgery, Michael Mitchell, MD, discovered that the arteries and veins in her groin had collapsed.

10-20% of heart transplants will fail due to rejection. In the first year following the transplant, patients are tested for rejection up to a dozen times. After that, they must undergo regular surveillance biopsies for the rest of their lives. Without vascular access to her heart, doctors would not be able to perform the necessary biopsies to test for organ rejection when Emma ultimately received a transplant. That also meant she was a high-risk candidate and her transplant was unlikely to be approved.

Dr. Mitchell refused to accept that, and thanks to a groundbreaking blood test developed by Dr. Mitchell and Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD, he won't have

to. The idea for this test arose half a decade earlier, when Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Tomita-Mitchell developed a non-invasive, DNA-based blood test that could diagnose Down syndrome in utero. It proved successful and they believed the same principles could be applied to donor rejection.

"In the test for Down syndrome, we were able to quantify fragments of fetal DNA present in the mother's blood," said Dr. Tomita-Mitchell. "Mike hypothesized that, similarly, fragments of donor DNA might be present in a transplant recipient's blood and, if so, that might help us determine if rejection was taking place or not. Mike and his colleagues applied for a grant from the National Institute of Health and we are now conducting a multi-site clinical study."

The new test starts with a simple blood draw. The sample is shipped overnight to the TAI Diagnostics lab in Wauwatosa.¹ A robot extracts the DNA from the sample and separates the donor DNA from the recipient's DNA. The test looks for how much donor DNA is present in the patient's blood — a high level of donor DNA indicates rejection. "We have fragments of DNA that circulate in our blood," said Dr. Mitchell. "If you've had a transplant, a fraction of the DNA comes from the donor organ, and this fraction increases with injury to the donor organ." In addition to being faster, cheaper and less invasive than a physical biopsy, testing for DNA levels is more accurate and can lead to earlier detection.

Fortunately, Emma has not yet needed the blood test. After making incredible progress these past few

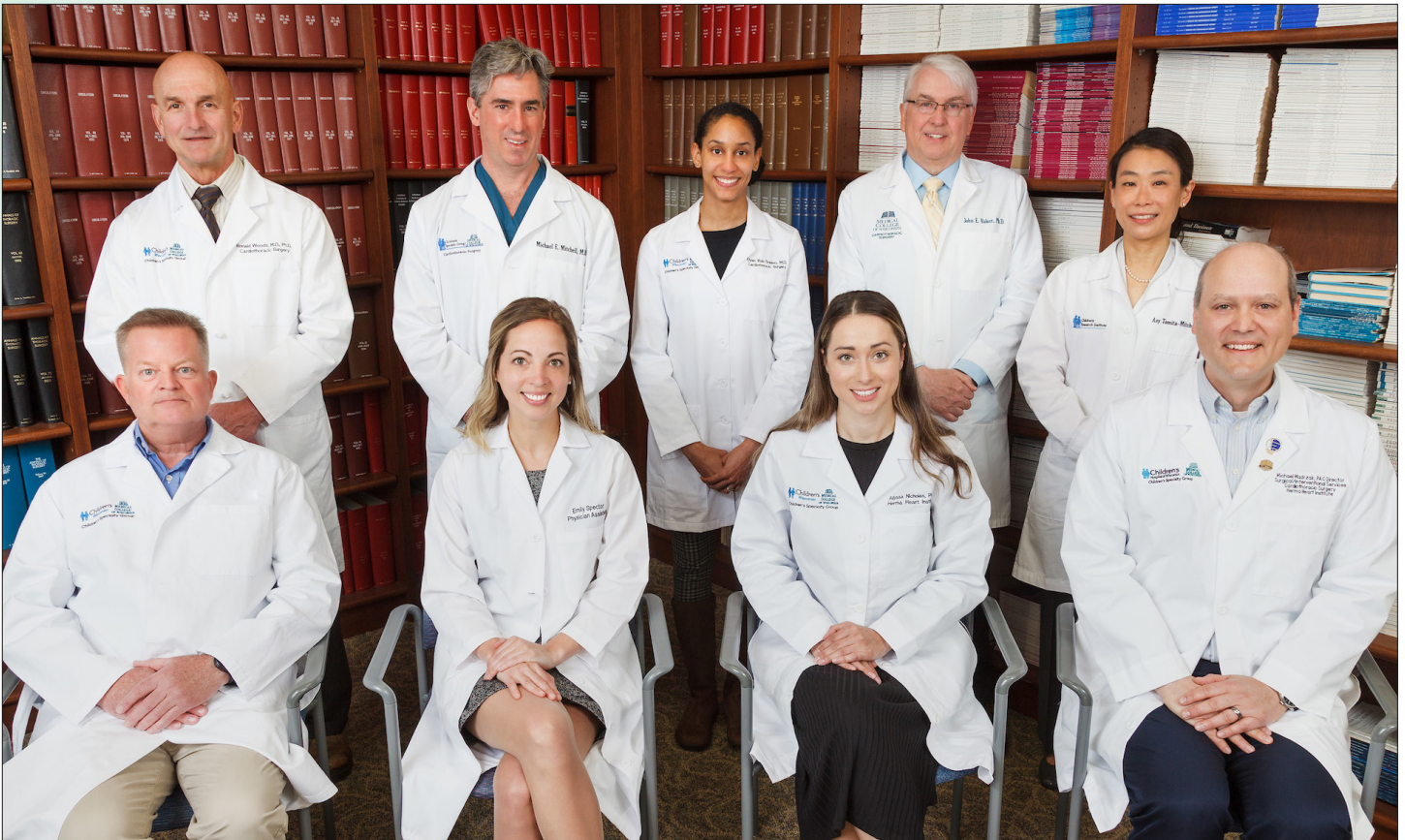


Emma holding a penguin cookie.

years, she was officially taken off the transplant list in November 2017. But her mother knows that it's likely a matter of when, not if. And knowing that this test now exists gives her great peace of mind.

"Nothing has been easy, and Emma has overcome so much to get where she is today. This test definitely takes away one of the biggest risk factors against her having a transplant," said her mother. "I think that Emma inspired the test is wonderful. I've always felt that she has a purpose."

¹ At the time of publication, Dr. Aoy Tomita-Mitchell and Dr. Michael Mitchell are each inventors of the DNA-based test and each hold leadership positions at TAI Diagnostics, Inc. as the Chief Scientific Officer and the Chief Clinical Advisor, respectively.



Division of Congenital Heart Surgery Faculty and APPs. Back row: Drs. Ronald Wood, Michael Mitchell, Elyan Ruiz Solano, John Baker, Aoy Tomita-Mitchell. Front row: APPs L. Eliot May, Emily Spector, Alyssa Nicholas, Michael Madrzak. (Not pictured: Drs. Tracy Geoffrion and Viktor Hraska).

Faculty

- Michael E. Mitchell, MD**
Professor and Chief
S. Bert Litwin Chair
Surgical Director, Herma Heart
Institute
- John E. Baker, PhD**
Professor
- Tracy R. Geoffrion, MD, MPH**
Assistant Professor
- Viktor Hraska, MD, PhD**
Professor
- Elyan Ruiz Solano, MD**
Instructor
- Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD**
Professor

Ronald K. Woods, MD, PhD
Professor

Physician Assistants

- Jennifer L. Ingle, PA-C**
- Aaron M. Kleinertz, PA-C**
- Michael R. Madrzak, PA-C**
- L. Eliot May, PA-C**
- Allyssa Nicholas, MPAS, PA-C**
- Ryan Smith, MPAS, PA-C**
- Emily Spector, MMS, PA-C**



Dr. Aoy Tomita-Mitchell in the lab.



Division of Minimally Invasive & Gastrointestinal Surgery

Offering the most advanced surgical options available – from laparoscopic surgery, to incisionless endoscopic procedures, to robotic surgery, and whatever comes next

Anthony's Story

In 2015, Anthony Moriva, an otherwise healthy and active individual, began to struggle with shortness of breath. Doctors in his hometown determined that a very large paraesophageal hernia was compressing his lungs and contributing to his shortness of breath. He underwent a minimally invasive surgery to repair his hernia in 2015.

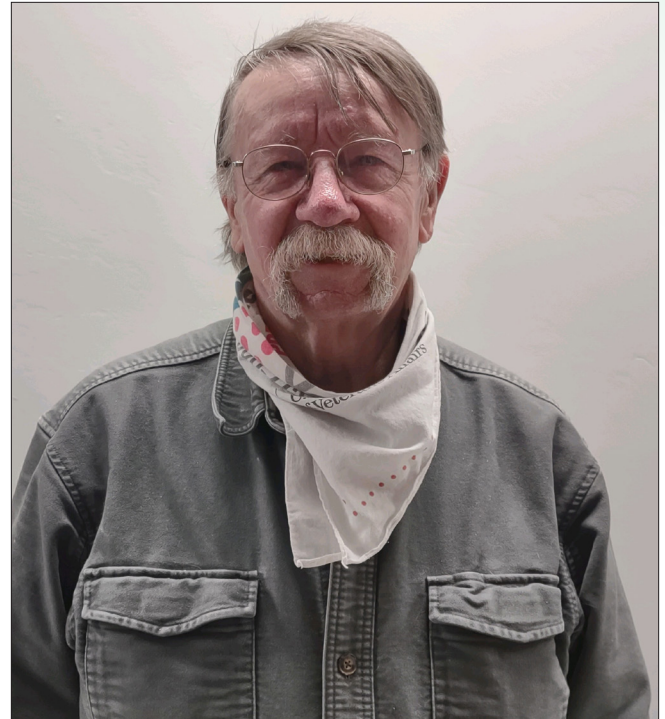
Following surgery, Tony did well for many years. However, in 2018 he began noticing problems when he would eat and drink. He was unable to eat normally and had to lie down to allow food to pass through his system. Tony was experiencing severe abdominal pain and chest pain if he was not extremely careful with what and how much he ate.

Tony's primary care physician referred him for an upper endoscopy to determine the cause of his abdominal pain and nausea. He was subsequently diagnosed with massive recurrent paraesophageal hernia with near-total intrathoracic stomach and transverse colon consistent with a recurrent type IV paraesophageal hernia. Tony met a few surgeons closer to home to discuss reoperative repair, however they felt that the surgery he required was too complex and referred him to Jon Gould, MD, MBA. Per Tony, the referring surgeon claimed Dr. Gould to be "the best in the state."

Tony's journey wasn't an easy one. While waiting for his scheduled surgery, he was seen in the emergency room close to home for severe abdominal pain and vomiting. A CT scan was performed and revealed that his

incarcerated stomach was dilated and fluid-filled, and that he was suffering from gastric organo-axial volvulus. Tony's scheduled surgery was moved to an earlier date. On January 28, 2022, Tony underwent a laparoscopic repair of a recurrent paraesophageal hernia with mesh, and reoperative Toupet partial fundoplication. Dr. Gould, who performed the surgery, noted that, "This was an unusual recurrence. Tony had a hole in the left side of his diaphragm, and rather than herniating into the mediastinum, the stomach and colon were trapped in his left hemi-thorax. I had to get creative and perform a traditional reconstruction of the hiatus and then primarily repair the large left-sided hole in his diaphragm. I used a large piece of synthetic mesh to buttress my left-sided repair and reinforce the hiatus at the same time. We meticulously sutured this mesh into place."

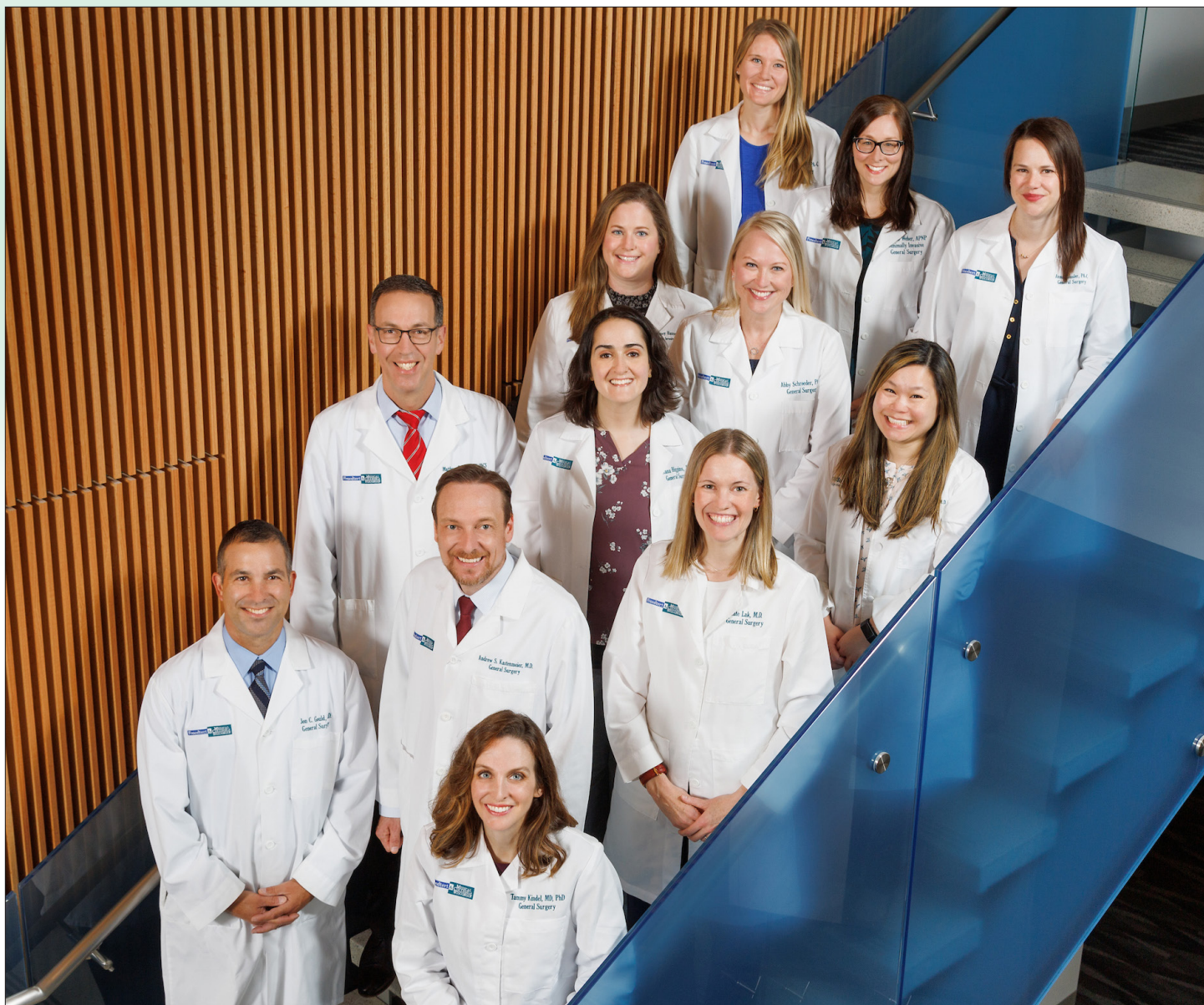
Although Tony's path to surgery has been "a roller coaster ride," he is incredibly grateful to Dr. Gould for the positive difference this surgery has made in his life. Tony even has fond memories of his hospital stay in the Center for Advanced Care. Tony is thankful to everyone who has been a part of his care, throughout his



Anthony Moriva.

journey to surgery - Dr. Gould, Abigail (Abby) Schroeder, PA-C, who he states, "has been the best," the OR staff, and all of his nursing staff as well as the administrative staff in the office. When asked if he was happy that he decided to undergo this surgery, Tony's response was "No doubt, it has made an amazing difference in the way I feel and what I can do today." Tony has restarted his daily walks and looks forward to being his active self once more.

Tony has since referred at least three other people to Froedtert for medical care. He believes in the quality of the care he received at Froedtert and MCW but overall feels that, "Not only Dr. Gould, but all surgeons doing the things they do, are nothing short of amazing."



Division of Minimally Invasive & Gastrointestinal Surgery Faculty and APPs. From top left: APPS Kristen Sircher, Michelle Weber, Anna Hausler, Courtney Hanson, Abby Schroeder; Drs. Wen Hui Tan, Matthew Goldblatt, Rana Higgins, Kathleen Lak, Andrew Kastenmeier, Jon Gould, Tammy Kindel. (Not pictured: Dr. Philip Redlich.)

Faculty

Jon C. Gould, MD, MBA
Professor and Chief
Alonzo P. Walker Chair in General
Surgery
Vice Chair, Quality

Matthew I. Goldblatt, MD
Professor
Director, Condon Hernia Institute
Director, Surgical Residency
Program

Rana M. Higgins, MD
Associate Professor

Andrew S. Kastenmeier, MD
Associate Professor
Director, Adv. GI MIS Bariatric
Fellowship

Tammy L. Kindel, MD, PhD
Associate Professor

Kathleen L. Lak, MD
Assistant Professor

Philip N. Redlich, MD, PhD
Gerald L. Schmitz Professor of
Surgery
Vice Chair, VA Surgical Services

Wen Hui Tan, MD
Assistant Professor

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Michelle A. Weber, RN, MSN,
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Physician Assistants

Anna Hausler, MPAS, PA-C

Abby B. Schroeder, MPAS, PA-C

Kristen Sircher, MPAS, PA-C

Division of Pediatric Surgery

Covering the spectrum of *general and thoracic surgical problems in infants and children*

Gabe's Story

Gabe had always been a strong, healthy kid who rarely even caught a cold. At 5'10", 240 lbs., he was a dedicated athlete who was excited to start his sophomore year playing offensive lineman for his high school football team. Between morning workouts in the weight room, afternoon football practice, and games for both the varsity and junior varsity teams, Gabe was exercising multiple times a day.

But then the 16-year-old noticed that his bowel habits had changed. When the problems persisted, Gabe and his parents assumed it might be the byproduct of his diet and rigorous workout routine. However, Gabe began having 12-15 bowel movements a day and was passing blood. Desperate for answers, his mother took him to see a gastroenterologist who specialized in treating adults.

A colonoscopy revealed that Gabe had ulcerative colitis, a condition in which the lining of the large intestine and rectum become inflamed and develop ulcers, causing abdominal pain and cramping, frequent and urgent need to use the bathroom, weight loss and fatigue. The gastroenterologist tried to treat Gabe with medications, but his condition deteriorated. Gabe lost more than 30 pounds and struggled to keep up with school and activities.

By the time summer started, Gabe could hardly leave home. During Gabe's annual physical, his mother, Jane, shared her frustrations with the pediatrician, who recommended they seek a second opinion from the Gastroenterology, Liver and Nutrition Program at Children's Wisconsin. Gabe was reluctant to start from scratch with another gastroenterologist, but



Gabe and the sport that he loves.

he decided to give Children's Wisconsin a try.

"Once I got to Children's Wisconsin, I could tell they were trying to make a change to help me instead of just sitting around and waiting to see if I would get better," Gabe said. "I felt like I was finally in the right hands."

Gabe's story isn't unusual, noted David Gourlay, MD, Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery, who treated Gabe. "Many families think of Children's Wisconsin as a place for babies and children, not older adolescents," said Dr. Gourlay. "But they soon see the difference between Children's Wisconsin and the care provided by other providers. Our pediatric GI group manages one of the largest patient cohorts in the Midwest. The experience they bring to bear is unparalleled in the state."

Gabe's first visit to Children's Wisconsin turned into a three-day hospital stay as the medical team, led by pediatric gastroenterologist Jose Cabrera, MD, worked to get his symp-

toms under control with IV steroids. Dr. Cabrera later prescribed regular infusion treatments. His symptoms finally under control, Gabe resumed playing football that fall. But the next year, his condition flared up again and Gabe was back in the hospital. More testing showed that the disease had spread to his entire large intestine. Over the next few months, Dr. Gourlay performed three surgeries to remove Gabe's large intestine and adapt his anatomy so he could resume normal bowel elimination.

After spending a total of seven weeks in the hospital, 18-year-old Gabe was eager to get back to football and back to normal life as a high school senior. When he eventually needs to switch to an adult provider, Children's Wisconsin will help him transition. "I'm very grateful that we ended up at Children's Wisconsin instead of with another adult doctor," Jane said. "I honestly don't know what we would have done without them."

Faculty

David M. Gourlay, MD
Professor and Chief

John J. Aiken, MD
Professor

Casey M. Calkins, MD
Professor
Director, Pediatric Surgery
Fellowship

Brian T. Craig, MD
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John C. Densmore, MD
Professor

**Katherine T. Flynn-O'Brien,
MD, MPH**
Assistant Professor

Dave R. Lal, MD, MPH
Professor

Keith T. Oldham, MD
Professor and Vice Chair
Marie Z. Uihlein Chair in
Pediatric Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief, Children's
Wisconsin

Kirkwood A. Pritchard, Jr., PhD
Professor

**Jose H. Salazar Osuna, MD,
PhD**
Assistant Professor

Thomas T. Sato, MD
Professor

Jack G. Schneider, MD
Assistant Professor

**Kyle J. Van Arendonk, MD,
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Amy J. Wagner, MD
Professor

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CPNP-AC**

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Diana M. Choren, MPAS, PA-C

Terry Derks, BMS-PA, PA-C

**Danielle N. Leranth, MPAS,
PA-C**

Ruth Povlich, MPAS, PA-C

Carly E. Windt, MPAS, PA-C



Division of Pediatric Surgery Faculty. Front row: Drs. Katherine Flynn-O'Brien, Keith Oldham, David Gourlay, John Aiken. Back row: Drs. Jose Salazar Osuna, Casey Calkins, Brian Craig, Kyle Van Arendonk, Dave Lal, John Densmore, Amy Wagner, Jack Schneider, Thomas Sato. (Not pictured: Dr. Kirkwood Pritchard.)



Division of Pediatric Surgery APPs. Standing: Ruth Povlich, Sara Avery, Kristin Braun, Terry Derks, Lori Duesing, Danielle Leranth. Sitting: Carly Windt, Kathy Leack, Susan Becker.



Division of Surgical Oncology

Leading the way in cancer surgery for breast, liver, pancreas, skin, stomach, biliary and endocrine system diseases, and tumors

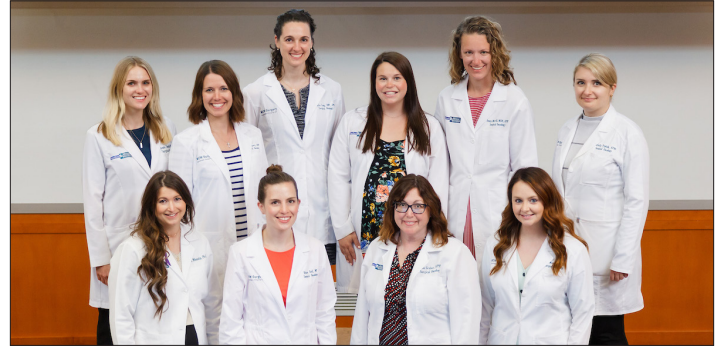
Dominic's Story

Graves' disease is a type of autoimmune disorder where the body's immune system attacks the thyroid gland. This can lead to hyperthyroidism, causing a patient's thyroid to overproduce hormones. While Graves' can be managed in some cases with medication or radioiodine therapy, some patients will require thyroid surgery. Dominic Harris shares his experience with Graves' to spread awareness of the disease.

"This journey with Graves' disease has been the greatest challenge in my life! This disease not only attacked my body, but it has also attacked my mental and spiritual fortitude along the way. The months before a diagnosis was made left me feeling drained, losing weight rapidly (which was not a good thing in my case), and with a feeling of losing the grip I had on life. Daily activities began to become impossible and that's when I knew I had a major issue on my hands. Multiple-day stays at the hospital for months left me tired, answerless, and acquainted with every blood test and required levels as if I was a medical student. Months of becoming weaker, struggling to keep food down and my family becoming very worried heightened the need for answers. Spending time researching only to find the lack of available information left me to advocate for myself and request to check my thyroid. When my results returned showing that my thyroid levels were off the charts then my symptoms began to make sense, leading to the diagnosis: Graves' disease!

I am 1,300 miles away from my

family, living in Austin TX, and left my family feeling helpless and needing to get me in the hands of a place we trust. Being born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin is the only hospital we trust when our lives are on the line. My family has needed the excellent care they provide on several occasions — from kidney transplants to ICU surgeries — and here we are again, needing them to stop the destruction that is happening to my body. My family has been blessed to have had Dr. Tracy Wang, MD, MPH and her team save the life of a family member a few years prior with a similar issue that I am facing. It is because of her skill, knowledge, and preparation that I am on the road to recovery with plans to be better than I was before Graves' came into my life like a wrecking ball. From start to finish I felt cared for, confident and positive that Dr. Wang and her team would do all within their power to bring about the desired outcome. My surgery was high-risk and depending on how well my body behaved during surgery would determine how well things would go. Even with the unknown, Dr. Wang was prepared and she had my complete trust. I am ever so grateful for the great work and care they extended to me and now I continue to live my life.

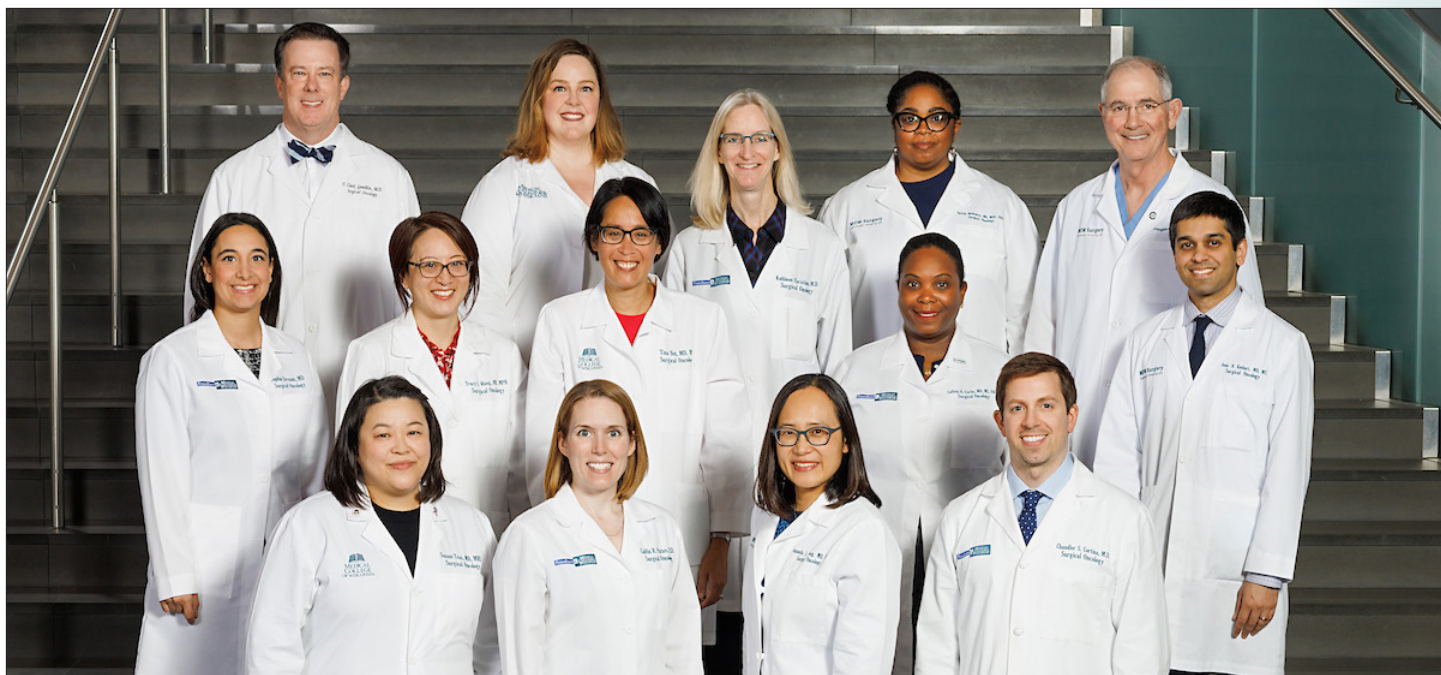


Division of Surgical Oncology APPs. Back row: Bente Smith, Jessica Fodrocy, Natalie Lang, Lauren Newell, Jenny Merrill, Gabriella Pyptiuk. Front row: Sarah Misustin, Kelsey Doll, Lisa Graber, Jennifer Menako. (Not pictured: Joanne Mattingly, Kimberly Moriarty, Anna Purdy, and Tanya Radke.)



Dr. Tracy Wang, Dominic Harris, and APP Kim Moriarty.

The battle with Graves' disease did not end when surgery was done, instead it changed to a journey to repair everything it has destroyed and to share my story. There is not much information available on Graves' disease in men and checking levels in men showing these signs may have prevented these extreme events I had to endure. The need for information on Graves' is great and this is becoming more common in men who look like me."



Division of Surgical Oncology Faculty. Back row: Drs. T. Clark Gamblin, Karen Kersting, Kathleen Christians, Ugwuji Maduekwe, Douglas Evans. Middle row: Drs. Sophie Dream, Tracy Wang, Tina Yen, Callisia Clarke, Anai Kothari. Front row: Drs. Susan Tsai, Caitlin Patten, Amanda Kong, Chandler Cortina. (Not pictured: Drs. Aldakkak, Cobb, Istl, Lytle, Nataliansyah, Rabaglia, Quebbeman, Walker, and Wilson.)

Faculty

T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS, MBA
Professor and Chief
Stuart D. Wilson Chair in Surgical
Oncology
Vice Chair, Off-Campus Clinical
Operations
Co-Director, HPB Fellowship

Mohammed Aldakkak, MD
Instructor

Kathleen K. Christians, MD
Professor
Co-Director, HPB Fellowship

Callisia N. Clarke, MD, MS
Associate Professor

Adrienne Cobb, MD, MS
Assistant Professor

Chandler S. Cortina, MD, MS
Assistant Professor

Sophie Y. Dream, MD
Assistant Professor
Director, Endocrine Surgery
Fellowship

Douglas B. Evans, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery
Donald C. Ausman Family
Foundation Professor

Alexandra Istl, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor

Karen E. Kersting, PhD, LCP
Assistant Professor

Amanda L. Kong, MD, MS
Professor
Chief, Section of Breast Surgery

Anai N. Kothari, MD, MS
Assistant Professor

Nikki K. Lytle, PhD
Assistant Professor

**Ugwuji N. Maduekwe, MD, MMSc,
MPH**
Associate Professor
Director of Regional Therapies

**Mochamad (Muska) Nataliansyah,
MD, MPH, PhD**
Assistant Professor

Caitlin R. Patten, MD
Assistant Professor

Jennifer L. Rabaglia, MD, MSc
Associate Professor
CMO, Ambulatory Specialty
Practice

Edward J. Quebbeman, MD, PhD
Professor Emeritus

Susan Tsai, MD, MHS
Professor
Director, LaBahn Pancreatic
Cancer Program

Alonzo P. Walker, MD
Professor Emeritus

Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH
Professor
Chief, Section of Endocrine
Surgery
Vice Chair, Strategic and
Professional Development

Stuart D. Wilson, MD
Professor Emeritus

Tina W. F. Yen, MD, MS
Professor
Director, Complex General Surgical
Oncology Fellowship

Nurse Practitioners

Kelsey M. Doll, RN, MSN, APNP

Jessica Fodrocy, RN, MSN, APNP

Lisa A. Graber, RN, MSN, APNP

**Natalie Lang, DNP, AGPCNP-BC,
APNP**

**Joanne D. Mattingly, RN, MSN,
APNP**

**Jennifer L. Menako, RN, MSN,
APNP**

**Jennifer R. Merrill, RN, MSN,
APNP**

**Kimberly J. Moriarty, RN, MSN,
APNP**

Lauren Newell, RN, MSN, APNP

Anna C. Purdy, RN, MSN, APNP

Gabriella Pyptiuk, RN, MSN, APNP

Tanya M. Radke, RN, MSN, APNP

Physician Assistants

Sarah M. Misustin, MPAS, PA-C

Bente E. Smith, MPAS, PA-C

Division of Transplant Surgery

Providing *abdominal organ transplantation* at Froedtert Hospital and Children's Wisconsin

Audrey's Story

Audrey Huss was born full-term and immediately experienced jaundice, a condition that causes yellow discoloration of the baby's skin and eyes. Bilirubin is a normal part of the pigment released from the breakdown of "used" red blood cells and is responsible for the yellow color of jaundice. Normally, the liver filters bilirubin from the bloodstream and the jaundice resolves within 2 weeks.

Unfortunately, Audrey's jaundice persisted and required additional workup that led to a diagnosis of congenital biliary atresia. There is a blockage in the ducts that carry bile from the liver to the gallbladder and intestine in this condition. The backup is caused by the absence or underdevelopment of bile ducts inside or outside the liver. Audrey underwent an operation at two months old to bypass the blocked bile duct using her small intestine, which can slow liver damage and delay the need for transplantation.

However, Audrey's health continued to decline. She became severely malnourished and experienced fluid buildup in her abdomen and life-threatening bleeding from poor liver function. Audrey's liver had completely failed, and she had only a short time to live without a life-saving liver transplantation.

The shortage of donated organs is a nationwide problem. In 2021, among the patients on the waiting list for liver transplantation in the U.S., only 67% received transplants. Of those, only 1.5% (136) were infants younger than 12 months. The scarcity

of donated livers results in more than 2,300 patient deaths each year and is particularly devastating to small children. Furthermore, among those children who reach transplantation, more than 40% spend over a year on the waitlist.

Luckily for Audrey, the unique ability of the liver to regenerate allows for living donors to donate a part of their liver to save another life. Dr. Mark B. Adams ran the first living donor liver transplantation program at MCW from 1999-2001. Johnny C. Hong, MD reestablished the living donor liver transplantation in 2013. In 2017, Dr. Hong initiated the Anonymous (Altruistic) Living Donor Liver Transplantation Program, at a time when only 15 living donor liver transplants had been performed from anonymous living donors in the U.S. since 2013. Hence, the MCW Living Donor Liver Transplantation Program was one of few in the nation to lead this effort.

Ms. Brenda Burt heard about Audrey's condition through a coworker, Audrey's aunt. While Brenda did not know Audrey, she came forward without hesitation and got tested. All potential living donors must undergo a comprehensive informed consent process, particularly related to possible complications, including death and impact on the quality of life after donation. Even after a lengthy educational session and discussion about the risks, her determination to donate and save Audrey did not waver. When Dr. Hong asked her why she would do such a noble act, Brenda replied, "I am thankful to have a healthy son and would beg for someone to help my son if ever he needs one."



Audrey with Dr. Johnny Hong during a clinic visit.

Brenda underwent living donor hepatectomy (removal of a part of the liver) at Froedtert Hospital in December 2021. Brenda's first question to Dr. Hong after the operation was, "how is the baby doing?" Brenda spent the week leading up to Christmas Day in the hospital. Brenda's sacrifice has been extraordinary.

Audrey's recovery has been steadfast after receiving a living donor liver transplantation. She has grown substantially and is full of energy. Audrey celebrated her first birthday with Brenda in February 2022. Brenda has resumed her everyday activities. Travis and Kendra, Audrey's parents, genuinely appreciate Brenda's heroic act and are also grateful for "the brilliant medical professionals, practices, and medicine that saved our sweet Audrey." For many of us, Brenda's act of kindness serves to restore our faith in humanity.



Division of Transplant Surgery Faculty and APPs. (Not pictured: Drs. Johnson, Price, Roza, and Zhu.)

Faculty

Johnny C. Hong, MD
Professor and Chief
Mark B. Adams Chair
Director, Transplant Surgery
Fellowship

Francisco A. Durazo, MD
Professor
Chief, Transplantation Hepatology

Calvin M. Eriksen, MD
Assistant Professor

Christopher P. Johnson, MD
Professor

Joohyun Kim, MD, PhD
Associate Professor

Priyal Patel, MD
Assistant Professor

Terra R. Pearson, MD
Assistant Professor

Jenessa S. Price, PhD
Assistant Professor

Allan M. Roza, MD
Professor

Badi Rawashdeh, MBBS
Instructor

Motaz A. Selim, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor

Stephanie C. Zanowski, PhD
Associate Professor
Director, Transplantation Mental
Health

Yong-ran Zhu, MD
Associate Professor Emeritus

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Rebecca R. Russ, RN, MSN, APNP

Keighla Slattery, RN, MSN, APNP

Physician Assistants

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PA-C**

Andrea Hayes, MPAS, PA-C

Breanna Leija, MPAS, PA-C

**Stephanie M. McVeigh, MPAS,
PA-C**

Gretchen Nelson, MPAS, PA-C

Lauren Nelson, MPAS, PA-C

Clarie Olejnik, MPAS, PA-C

Jennifer Scheffler, MPAS, PA-C

Cynthia L. Schulzetenberg, PA-C

Sara Steffen, MPAS, PA-C

Amanda Steiger, MPAS, PA-C

Jessica A. Stromich, MPAS, PA-C

Ally Thompson, MPAS, PA-C

Megan Zoet, MPAS, PA-C

Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery

Responsible for the *trauma and surgical critical care* at the only *Adult Level I Trauma Center* in Milwaukee

Barry's Story

"You can't keep a good man down." That old song springs straight to mind when speaking with Barry Blackmore, who lives near Los Angeles. The 79-year-old seems up for anything, even after a crash that dramatically changed his life. An avid race car driver for over 60 years, Barry was a regular at Road America in Elkhart Lake. In July 2020, eager to rock the road in his vintage Formula 5000 car, Barry headed east with his No. 1 fan, his wife, Karen Blalack.

It was a damp, overcast morning when Barry hit the track for a practice session. Coming down a straightaway, he tried to pass a driver who was moving more slowly ahead of him. "He obviously wasn't looking in his mirrors when he moved over right in front of me at the very last moment," Barry said. "I tried to get away from him because I knew if I hit him, it would be a very bad crash for both of us. As it turned out, I put two wheels in the grass, and my car instantly veered off and hit the wall on the side of the track." The impact of the collision proved devastating, leaving Barry with a ruptured eye and multiple fractures to his face, spine and legs. He ultimately lost his left eye, and his right leg had to be amputated below the knee.

Barry was extracted from the wreckage of his race car and brought to the adult Level I Trauma Center at Froedtert Hospital. When Barry arrived, Marc de Moya, MD, and the trauma team conducted their primary survey, checking Barry's heart and lungs and assessing his blood loss and

injuries. Teamwork is essential in the Trauma Center, especially when treating patients with multiple injuries. Once Barry was stabilized, a full complement of medical specialists — including a neurosurgeon, orthopedic surgeon and eye surgeon — converged to initiate immediate treatment.

In spite of his extensive injuries, Barry made remarkable progress. "He spent 11 days in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, which is much less time than our team expected given his injuries and age. We were all amazed," said Thomas Carver, MD, the trauma surgeon who managed Mr. Blackmore's care while he was in the SICU, alongside the incredible trauma team and nurse practitioner Kerry Short, who cared for Barry from the ICU until his discharge. "If Barry had not been brought to a Level I Trauma Center, it is unlikely he would have seen this outcome."

"From the moment I got to the hospital, the people were unbelievable," Karen said. "They kept me filled in on everything. Everyone was so



Barry Blackmore.

kind and thoughtful, not only about Barry, but about how I was doing. He healed unbelievably quickly, and I think that's because of all the support. They were always there for him."

Back in California, Barry is keeping up with physical therapy and managing well with his prosthesis. "I walked over a mile without any assistance a month or so ago, which I was very proud of," he said. "I've got one eye, but it's working pretty good. It's just a matter of getting used to everything." Between sailing off to San Diego and taking a trip to France, it seems Barry is back in the driver's seat.



Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Faculty and APPs. (Not pictured: Drs. Davis, Elegbede, Haeberlin, Holena, Megal, Murphy, Peschman, Robinson, Somberg, and Trevino.)

Faculty

Marc A. de Moya, MD

Professor and Chief
Milton and Lidy Lunda/Charles
Arahamian Chair

Marshall A. Beckman, MD, MA

Associate Professor

Nathan A. Carlson, MD

Surgeon

Thomas W. Carver, MD

Associate Professor
Program Director, Surgical Critical
Care and Acute Care Surgery
Fellowships

Christopher S. Davis, MD, MPH

Associate Professor

Terri A. deRoos-Cassini, MS, PhD

Professor
Program Director, Clinical
Psychology Fellowship
Director, Comprehensive Injury
Center
Director, Trauma Research

Christopher M. Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA

Associate Professor
Director, Global Surgery

Anuoluwapo F. Elegbede, MD, MSc

Assistant Professor

Timothy J. Geier, PhD

Assistant Professor
Director, Outpatient Trauma &
Acute Care Surgery Psychology
Services
Director, Trauma and Health
Psychology Rotation for
Residency Program

John W. Haeberlin, MD

Assistant Professor

Daniel N. Holena, MD, MCSE

Associate Professor
Research Director, Trauma & Acute
Care Surgery

Katie Iverson, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor

Christian J. Kastrup, PhD

Professor
Senior Investigator, Versiti Blood
Research Institute

Christina L. Megal, RN, DNP, APNP

Assistant Professor

David J. Milia, MD

Associate Professor

Rachel S. Morris, MD

Assistant Professor
Associate Director, Trauma
Research

Patrick B. Murphy, MD, MPH, MSc

Assistant Professor

Todd A. Neideen, MD

Associate Professor
Chief, General Surgery, Zablocki
VA Medical Center

Jacob R. Peschman, MD, MSPE

Assistant Professor

Evan Robinson, DO

Assistant Professor

Andrew T. Schramm, PhD

Assistant Professor

Mary Elizabeth (Libby) Schroeder, MD

Associate Professor
Associate Director, Global Surgery

Lewis B. Somberg, MD, MSS

Professor

Colleen Trevino, RN, NP, PhD

Assistant Professor

Travis P. Webb, MD, MHPE

Professor
Associate Dean for Curriculum

Nurse Practitioners

**Susan E. Arnsdorf, RN, MSN,
APNP**

Danielle Crass, RN, MSN, FNP-C

Susan Cronn, RN, DNP, APNP

Janice Erbe, RN, DNP, APNP

Suzette Erickson, RN, MSN, APNP

Morgan Godfrey, RN, MSN, APNP

**Kelly Gordon-Meyer, RN, MSN,
APNP**

Cheryl Grandlich, RN, MSN, APNP

Kailey Lewis, RN, MSN, APNP

**Adrienne Markiewicz, RN, MSN,
AGACNP-BC**

Amanda Nesta, RN, MSN, APNP

Angelica Paul, RN, MSN, APNP

Tracy Richardson, RN, MSN, APNP

Anna Rodriguez, RN, MSN, ACNP

Kerry Short, RN, MSN, APNP

Jamie Simon, RN, FNP, APNP

Pamela Souders, RN, APNP

Mary A. Stauber, RN, DNP, APNP

Kelly Stone, RN, MSN, APNP

Brittney Thyssen, RN, MSN, APNP

Colleen Trevino, RN, NP, PhD

Sarah E. Tybring, RN, MSN, APNP

Grace Van Valin, RN, MSN, APNP

Jame Vance, RN, MSN, FNP

Sarah Ziem, RN, MSN, APNP

Physician Assistants

Marina Besserud, MPAS, PA-C

Jennifer Mahaffey, MPAS, PA-C

**Sarah Vanderlinden, MPAS, PA-C,
DFAAPA**

Sarah Wasz, MPAS, PA-C

Section of **Community General Surgery,** Division of **Trauma & Acute Care Surgery**

Ensuring *optimal care* is delivered by physicians who are committed to practicing at our *outreach sites*

Faculty

Marc A. de Moya, MD
Section Chief

John W. Haeberlin, MD

Marina Affi Koprowski, MD

Kaizad Machhi, MD

Eric A. Sonesson, MD

Mark A. Timm, MD

Nurse Practitioners

Jenna R. Lease, RN, APNP

Alexandra Weil, RN, MSN, APNP

Physician Assistants

Jennifer Esser, PA-C

Paige Krieck, PA-C

Megan Nelson, PA-C



MCW Campus (Photo by Motaz Selim, MD).



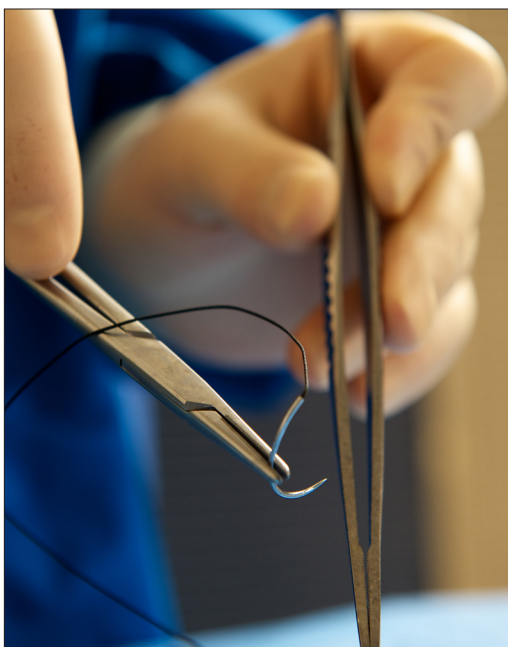
Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital.



Resident Michael Josephson, MD (Photo by Allan Roza, MD).



Tracy Wang, MD, MPH, in the OR.



Surgical resident getting better every day.



Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.



Chris Johnson, MD and resident Michael Josephson, MD (Photo by Allan Roza, MD).

Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery

Providing surgical expertise in all aspects of vascular surgery, including an endovascular program providing the full array of endovascular techniques

Richard's Story

When Richard Sobraliski was told that he had an enlarging abdominal aortic aneurysm which was going to be very difficult to repair, had a high risk of rupture which could end his life, and fraught with complications, he was referred to Peter Rossi, MD, with the MCW Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery to receive a second opinion and second chance at life.

An abdominal aortic aneurysm, or AAA, is a bulge in the wall of the artery below your heart, called the aorta, which is the body's largest artery. The bulge is caused by a weak section in the artery wall and is at risk of tearing which can result in death. On top of having a AAA, Rich also unfortunately had a large right groin aneurysm. Rich was pleased to hear when Dr. Rossi told him, "I can fix these for you."

Rich is no stranger to vascular surgery. He had previous operations



Richard Sobraliski.

years ago at an outside institution including bilateral leg femoral-popliteal bypasses which were nearly blocked. This caused him pain when walking, along with numbness and pain in his feet at night. The first procedure that Dr. Rossi performed on Rich was a lower extremity angiogram, to save his leg from needing an amputation. "I was amazed when I walked out the hospital the next day to the parking lot without any pain at all. I can't remember the last time I felt no pain in my legs, I was amazed and so pleased with the outcome," Rich recalls.

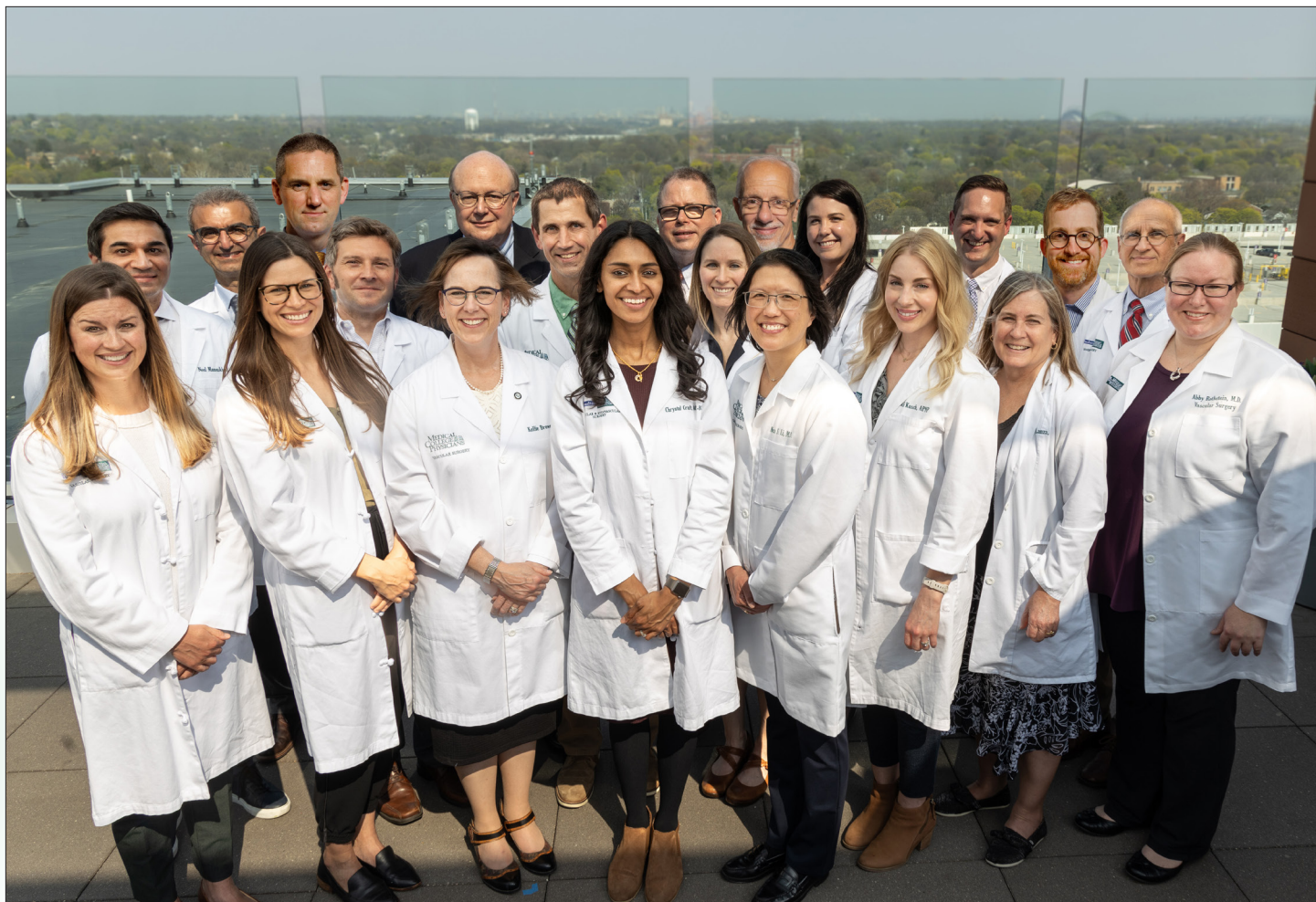
Months later, Dr. Rossi performed the second, larger surgery on Rich's AAA and femoral aneurysm. Rich remembers the day well, "He did it the day before my birthday, February 11th, I'll never forget." An endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR), is a minimally invasive method to treat an aortic aneurysm. The alternative is an open repair where the patient's chest and abdomen are surgically opened. The endovascular repair reduces recovery time to a few days, and leaves only two small groin incisions. The surgeon inserts guidewires and catheters into these incisions, and using radiographic imaging, will locate the



Drs. Gary Seabrook and Kellie Brown in the OR.

aneurysm and insert a stent graft to repair the aorta. Compared with open AAA repair, EVAR is associated with a significant reduction in perioperative mortality, shorter procedure time, less discomfort during recovery, and quicker return to daily activities. Rich was at Froedtert Hospital for his recovery for only five days before he returned home with his family.

Rich, who at 82 is now living an active lifestyle, is fully recovered, pain free, and is looking forward to returning to golfing several times a week, fishing with his sons, and keeping up with the yard work. Rich states that after surgery, "They did a great job managing my pain, I barely had any. Whoever is doing the training in manners is doing a pretty great job also. Everyone was just so wonderful to me. I'm very lucky to have met Dr. Rossi and his team and I would strongly recommend everyone to go there."



Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Faculty & APPs. (Not pictured: Dr. Dyer.)

Faculty

Peter J. Rossi, MD
Professor and Chief
Associate Vice Chair, Off-Campus
Clinical Operations

Shahriar Alizadegan, MD
Assistant Professor

Kellie R. Brown, MD
Professor
Chief, VA Vascular Surgery
Director, Vascular & Endovascular
Surgery Fellowship Program

Mitchell R. Dyer, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor

Charles E. Edmiston, PhD
Professor Emeritus

Joseph P. Hart, MD, MHL
Associate Professor

Christopher P. Johnson, MD
Professor

Dean E. Klinger, MD
Professor

Nathan W. Kugler, MD
Assistant Professor

Brian D. Lewis, MD
Professor

Mona S. Li, MD
Assistant Professor

Michael J. Malinowski, MD, MEHP
Associate Professor

Neel A. Mansukhani, MD
Assistant Professor

Abby E. Rothstein, MD
Assistant Professor

Allan M. Roza, MD
Professor

Gary R. Seabrook, MD
Professor Emeritus

Nurse Practitioners

Chrystal Craft, DNP, MSN, APNP
Emily Ehrengren, RN, MSN, APNP

Allison Fladten, RN, APNP
Ali Kusch, RN, MSN, APNP

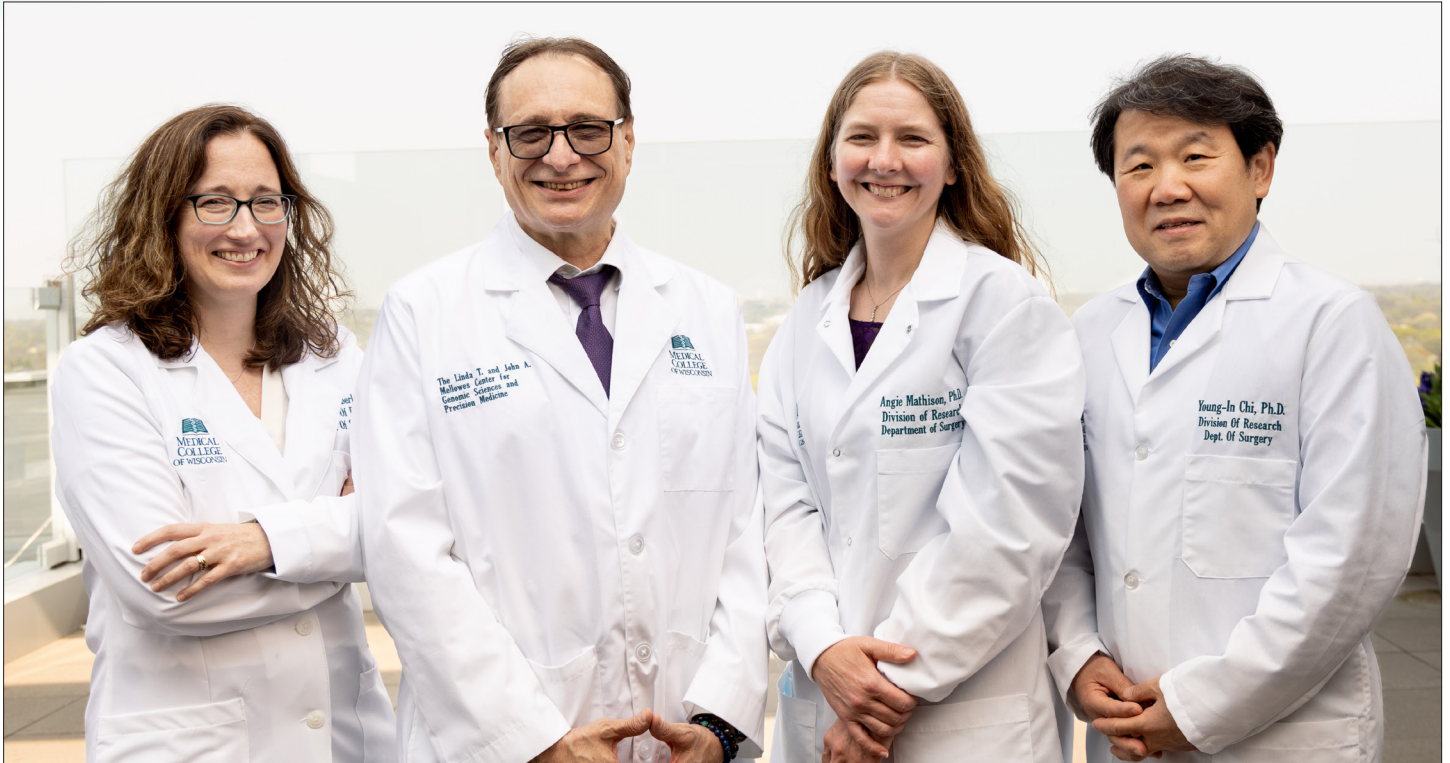
Debra J. Lanza, RN, MSN, APNP
Laura Needler, RN, MSN, APNP
Maria Wellenstein, ACNP

Physician Assistants

Kate M. Goelz, MPAS, PA-C
Stephanie Hayes, MPAS, PA-C
Stephen W. Robischon, MPAS, PA-C

Division of Research

Advancing careers of *research-intensive faculty*, enhancing *academic achievement*, fostering *interdepartmental and inter-institution collaborations*, and facilitating the *resident research program*



Division of Research Faculty.

Faculty

Gwen Lomberk, PhD
Professor and Chief
Joel & Arlene Lee Pancreatic
Cancer Research Chair
Director, Basic Science Research

Young-In Chi, PhD
Assistant Professor
Research Scientist, Genomic
Science and Precision Medicine
Center

Angela J. Mathison, PhD
Assistant Professor
Technology Development
Director, Genomic Science and
Precision Medicine Center

Raul A. Urrutia, MD
Professor
Warren P. Knowles Professor
of Genomics and Precision
Medicine
Director, Genomic Sciences and
Precision Medicine Center

Program Director

**Krissa Packard, MS, ACRP-CP,
CRA**



Krissa Packard,
Program Director

Research By the Numbers

210

of unique publications (CY21)

108

of active clinical trials (at the time of publication)

41

of competitive grants submitted

\$920,392

Amount awarded in CY21

15

of awarded competitive grants

7

of NIH grants active (CY21)

\$6.3M

\$ in research funding (FY21)

\$2.7M

\$ in sponsored research (FY21)

Awarded Grants (CY21)

PI Name	Sponsor	Title
Kyle Van Arendonk, MD, PhD	Central Surgical Association Foundation	CSA Characterizing and Addressing Disparities in Surgical Care among Rural Children
Terri deRoon-Cassini, MS, PhD	AHW-Research and Education Program	Planning for the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project
Jennifer Mahaffey, PA-C	American Society of Transplant Surgeons	Evaluation of a new Transplant Surgery workforce paradigm: Transplant Surgeon-Advance Transplant Provider Model
Jenessa Mayer, PA-C	American Society of Transplant Surgeons	Advanced Transplant Provider Award: Impact of the role of advanced transplant provider (ATP) on patient experience in liver transplantation
Terri deRoon Cassini, MS, PhD	AHW-Research and Education Program	The Wisconsin Violence Prevention Project (WVPP)
Thomas Carver, MD	We Care Fund for Medical Innovation and Research	We Care Interdisciplinary - Observation vs Embolization in Severe Splenic Injury - A Randomized Controlled Trial
Andrew Schramm, PhD	Research Affairs Committee	RAC Pilot Grant Resubmission - Suicide Prevention in the Level 1 Trauma Center: Identification of Risk and Protective Factors to Prevent Future Suicide Mortality
Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD	Herma Heart Institute/AHW	Effect of shear flow and mesenchymal stem cells on maturity and function of iPSC-derived cardiomyocytes in HLHS
Michael Mitchell, MD	Office of Research/AHW	Cell-Free DNA in COVID-19
Andrew Schramm, PhD	Comprehensive Injury Center	Lethal Means Counseling and Safe Firearm Storage: Testing a Suicide Prevention Approach in Novel Emergency Medical Settings
Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD	Cardiovascular Center	CVC FY22 Pilot Award: The Ubiquitin-Proteasome System in Ebstein's Anomaly and Left Ventricular Noncompaction
Brian Craig, MD	CHW Children's Research Institute	Surgical Stress-Inflammatory Response Modulation of Immune Cell Recruitment to the Neuroblastoma Tumor Immune Microenvironment
Michael Mitchell, MD	CHW Children's Research Institute	CRI - Head to head comparison of mitochondrial cell-free DNA and cardiac troponin as a biomarker for the extent of cardiac injury following high risk infant cardiac surgery
Terri deRoon-Cassini, MS, PhD	Greater Milwaukee Foundation	Greater Milwaukee Foundation Violence Prevention Fund

Grant Spotlights



Terri A. deRoos-Cassini, MS, PhD

Professor, Division of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine, Institute for Health and Equity; Director, MCW Comprehensive Injury Center

Terri deRoos-Cassini, MS, PhD, was awarded \$2,499,738 as an R01 from the National Institute of Mental Health for her study “Risk and Resilience in Urban Black American Acute Trauma Survivors.” Approximately 20-30% of survivors following injury are diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, and the risk for PTSD increases for those patients from disadvantaged backgrounds. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin a history of structural racism has led to segregation, and resource deprivation for Black and African American residents. The purpose of this study is to identify within group variability in experiencing PTSD for Black American injured patients, and to determine the unique individual and neighborhood-level socio-environmental stressors that influence the neurobiological response to trauma that incur risk for PTSD. This is a prospective longitudinal study that will follow pa-

tients for 1 year after injury, utilizing biomarkers and neuroimaging at multiple timepoints. The outcomes of this study will be used to inform targets for intervention in Black American patients.



Gwen Lomberk, PhD

Chief, Division of Research; Joel and Arlene Lee Endowed Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research; Director, Basic Science Research; Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology & Toxicology

Gwen Lomberk, PhD, was awarded \$2.3M from the NCI for a 5-year study entitled, “Targeting Epigenomic Regulators at the Replication Fork in Pancreatic Cancer.” Pancreatic cancer remains a therapeutic challenge, making the identification of new targets and development of novel treatment strategies for this disease of paramount importance. Early in tumorigenesis, higher proliferation rates driven by activated oncogenes, such as KRAS, trigger stress during DNA replication. Tolerance to this replication stress, consequently, becomes vital to tumor progression, yet the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. Our study investigates the role of the G9a epigenomic

regulator to ensure chromatin integrity during DNA replication, when it acts to reinforce cancer-associated proliferation. We hypothesize that if we target G9a during DNA replication, we can interrupt its compensation of KRAS-driven replication stress and ultimately destroy the cancer cell. Moreover, we propose to enhance the effectiveness of this approach by further increasing the levels of replication stress using pharmacological agents available for this purpose. Together, our studies aim to advance our understanding of pancreatic cancer and harness this knowledge to improve therapeutic options for this dismal disease.



Kirkwood A. Pritchard, Jr., PhD

Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Kirkwood A. Pritchard, Jr., PhD, was awarded a 4-year grant from the NHLBI entitled “Mechanisms of Inflammation in Sickle Cell Disease.” It is the first disease to be identified as a genetic disease. Sickle cell disease (SCD) markedly increases the risk of infection, acute chest syndrome, and stroke compared to people who do not have SCD. Dr. Pritchard’s laboratory discovered that SCD impairs vascular function

and increases vasocongestion of all the major organs by inducing a destructive cycle between cells in the vessel wall and innate immunity. Dr. Pritchard’s lab discovered that therapeutic targeting of components in the destructive cycle was sufficient to improve vascular function and reduce vasocongestion in sickle cell mice. In his renewed application, Dr. Pritchard determines how the mechanisms in the destructive cycle impair vascular function. More importantly, he develops novel therapies that inhibit the mechanisms and, in so doing, improve vascular function and decrease vasocongestion. One of the therapeutic agents invented by Dr. Pritchard’s lab is currently being developed through an NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) application as a therapy for SCD, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and multiple sclerosis.



Susan Tsai, MD, MHS

Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology; Director of the Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn Pancreatic Cancer Program; Chief of Hepatopancreaticobiliary Surgery, Clement J. Zablocki VA Hospital

Dr. Susan Tsai and Dr. Jen Jen Yeh (the University of North Carolina)

have received a R01 grant renewal from the NCI for the study “Tumor Subtypes and Therapy Response in Pancreatic Cancer.” FOLFIRINOX (FFX) and gemcitabine plus nab-paclitaxel (GnP) have emerged as the first-line treatments for patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). These two regimens have not been compared in the first-line setting, and treatment selection is guided by physician’s “best-guess.” Matching the most effective systemic therapy with the potential vulnerabilities of the tumor has been an unrealized hope for patients and a solid barrier to personalized medicine for PDAC. Our collaborators at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill have identified molecular subtypes of PDAC that are robust and replicable. We and others have found that basal subtype patients rarely respond to FFX, but show responses to GnP. Thus, identifying patients at initial diagnosis to optimize treatment is critical. Proteomic analysis of tumor samples shows differential kinase expression in basal tumors including previously known targets such as EGFR. Based on our findings of subtype association with treatment response, we have developed a robust and replicable single sample classifier PurIST assay that is now CLIA approved and ready. For this proposal, we will use CLIA PurIST for treatment selection of either FFX or GnP on a clinical trial performed at MCW, PANCREAS trial. To develop

alternative approaches and to overcome FOLFIRINOX resistance, we will identify new targets for basal tumors using a tailored CRISPR screen. Finally, we will use our deconvolution and single-cell methods to determine if the tumor and tumor microenvironment may be predictive of response in the therapies studied.



Raul Urrutia, MD

Professor, Departments of Surgery, Biochemistry and Physiology; Director, Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine Center; Warren P. Knowles Chair of Genomics and Precision Medicine; Associate Director, Precision Medicine, CTSI

Raul Urrutia, MD, was awarded \$2.8M from the NIDDK for the 5-year study, “Epigenomic Regulation in Pancreatic Cell Growth.” The focus of the proposal is to investigate how epigenomic regulators work as nuclear effectors of common mutations associated with human pancreatic diseases, such as oncogenic KRAS. Our data reveal a key role for the Histone H3 Lysine 9 (H3K9) methylation pathway and its associated methyltransferase, EHMT2, as an epigenetic regulator of oncogenic KRAS. EHMT2, together with its paralog EHMT1, are the

main histone lysine methyltransferases responsible for catalyzing histone H3K9 dimethylation. However, no information is known regarding the function of EHMT1 and EHMT2, either separately or as a complex, in relationship to pancreas physiology or pancreatic diseases. We will test the hypothesis that the EHMT1/EHMT2 complex works as an epigenetic effector of KRAS during ADM and PanIN formation as well as their progression by pancreatitis. By focusing on better understanding epigenomic pathways that serve as effectors downstream of common mutations in the pancreas, our design seeks to maximize the yield of rapidly translatable mechanistic knowledge.



Amy Wagner, MD

Professor of Surgery; Section Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Amy Wagner, MD, was awarded \$4.2 Million from the NICHD for her national, multi-center clinical trial “Gastroschisis Outcomes of Delivery (GOOD) Study.” This study is designed to evaluate delivery timing in infants diagnosed with gastroschisis, the most common abdominal wall defect. The specific aims of the study include (1) compare risk of mortality and

major morbidity for infants with gastroschisis between the early and late delivery arms, (2) determine maternal, fetal, and neonatal secondary outcomes, and (3) establish a national registry of clinical data and bio-bank comprised of gastroschisis patients. Currently, 26 centers across the country are participating in the study. The trial has two intervention arms, a 35-week delivery group and an expectant management group with a goal of 38 weeks. Our hypothesis is that delivery at 35 weeks gestation in stable mothers and fetuses with gastroschisis will be superior to expectant management of the pregnancy with a goal of delivery at 38 weeks gestation. The objective of this study is to discover the best practice for caring for gastroschisis-affected pregnancies and help elucidate the etiology of this disease.

Researcher Spotlights



**Callisia N. Clarke,
MD, MS**

Associate Professor,
Division of Surgical
Oncology; Director of
Advanced Skin Cancer
Disease-Oriented Team

Specialties:

- Neuroendocrine tumors*
- Pancreatic cancer*
- Skin cancer*
- Sarcoma*
- Gastrointestinal cancer*

**Treatments &
Services:**

- Bowel resection*
- Pancreatic resection*
- Liver resection*
- Lymph node dissection*
- Skin Cancer resection*
- Cytoreductive surgery/
HIPEC*

Research Interests:

- Neuroendocrine tumors*
- Genomic science*
- Precision medicine*
- Epigenomics*

I completed my medical degree and general surgery residency at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Cincinnati. During my residency, I spent an additional 2 years dedicated to basic science research studying the role of CXC chemokines on hepatic ischemia reperfusion injury. I then completed a clinical fellowship

in Complex General Surgical Oncology at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and an Oncology Research Fellowship where I focused on translational research in metastatic colorectal cancer using patient-derived xenografts, circulating tumor DNA and multi-omic tumor subtyping to identify novel therapeutic targets and predict tumor response to therapy.

I joined the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2016 as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology with a clinical practice focused on neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) of the pancreas and GI tract, melanoma, and sarcoma. My research efforts are centered on epigenetic regulation of neuroendocrine tumors and are funded by a mentored NIH grant. Surgical oncology was the perfect field for me to marry my love of complex cancer cases and research inquiry. I chose to focus on NETs as these rare tumors are poorly understood and more progress is needed to make significant advances in the treatment of this disease. Our work is centered on understanding how epigenetic modulation of the tumor genome impacts tumor biology and response to treatment. We also investigate how the NET epigenome is affected by social determinants of health including ancestry and geolocation, and how these changes may affect long-term cancer outcomes.



Drs. Douglas Evans and Callisia Clarke in the OR.



Drs. Chad Barnes, Erin Strong, and Callisia Clarke (Photo from Twitter).



**David L. Joyce,
MD, MBA**

Professor, Division of
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Specialties:

Coronary artery disease
Valvular heart disease
Atrial fibrillation
Aortic disease
Pulmonary embolism/
chronic thromboembolic
pulmonary hypertension
Heart failure
Advanced lung disease

Treatments & Services:

Heart transplant
Lung transplant
LVAD
TAH
Percutaneous MCS
OPCAB
PTE
VSARR
Complex aortic
reconstruction
Convergent/Hybrid AF
ablation

Research Interests:

*Precision Transplant:
Artificial intelligence/
Machine learning
to optimize donor/
recipient matching in
cardiac transplantation
(in partnership with
the Genomic Sciences
& Precision Medicine
Center and the
Southwest Research
Institute)*

*Logix: Case component
logging to optimize
resident education in
the operating room*
*Medical 21: Advisory
board member to
Manny Villafana's
artificial coronary artery
bypass graft*
*Transmedics: Use of the
OCS Heart System in
DCD heart procurement*
*Abiomed: Impella
supported off
pump coronary
revascularization in
the setting of ischemic
cardiomyopathy*
*LivaNova: Use of
the Protek Duo
percutaneous RVAD as
an alternative to CRRT
in the setting of post-
cardiotomy renal failure*
*CD Leycom: Use of a
PV loop catheter to
characterize RV failure*

My research career began as a PGY III resident in the laboratory of Michael E. DeBakey. I probably learned more in those two years than at any other time during my residency. Most of these lessons had to do with how to handle failure. I'm pretty sure I hold the world record for the number of botched Western blots, despite the fact that I had great mentorship and lots of support. I just wasn't any good at doing research.

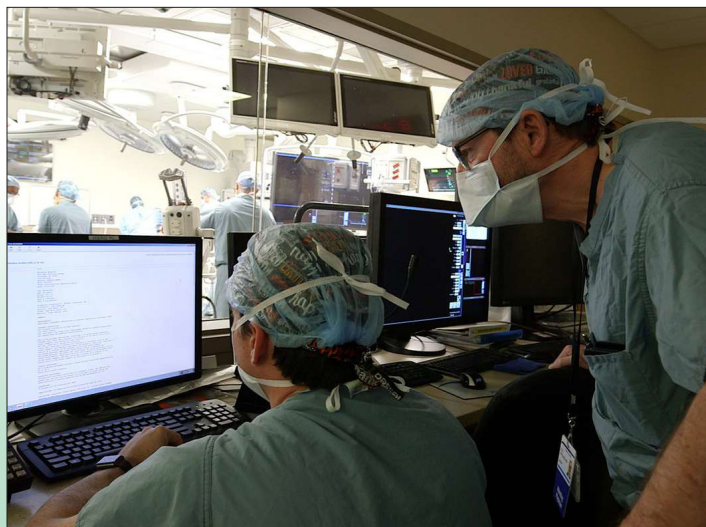
After completing my training, I spent three years in private practice followed by three years at the Mayo Clinic. This intensive clinical experience is not the typical path toward future academic success, but it helped me to understand more about

the problems that needed to be solved. I also gained exposure to several new technologies that were being introduced to address some of the most significant clinical challenges we were facing at the time.

It wasn't until I embarked on an Executive MBA program at the University of Chicago that I really began to connect the dots between problem identification, hypothesis formation, and translational research (also known as commercialization). An example of this "reverse engineering" approach to hypothesis formation can be found in our recent work on a VAD maintenance system. One of the most dangerous and dreaded operations in cardiac surgery involves the exchange of an LVAD. Patients, surgeons, and cardiologists are all in complete agreement that a less invasive alternative to this problem would be highly desirable. Coming up with a catheter-based treatment for this problem was definitely out of my wheelhouse, but I managed

to put together a team that could work to find a solution to this problem. Without question, this is the single most gratifying part of doing research—running smack dab into a brick wall that you have no way to get around, only to discover what can happen with a little help from your friends.

To make a long story short, Hoplon (the startup company that was founded through this process) recently submitted a Direct to Phase II SBIR \$1.8 million grant to the NHLBI after completing animal studies that were supported through We Care and Therapeutic Accelerator Program seed funding at MCW. Our device has been featured at ASAIO, STS, the Polsky Center New Venture Challenge, the Early-Stage Symposium, and the Wisconsin Governor's Business Competition. Although we are still a long way from clinical trials, our entire team has gained tremendous confidence from the process of working through the NIH and FDA.



Dr. David and Lyle Joyce in the OR.



**Christian
Kastrup, PhD**

Professor, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery; Secondary appointments in the Departments of Biochemistry, Biomedical Engineering, and Pharmacology and Toxicology, *Medical College of Wisconsin*; Senior Investigator, *Versiti Blood Research Institute*

Research Interests:

- Hemostasis*
- biochemistry*
- RNA therapy*
- Nanomedicine*
- Materials engineering*
- Bioengineering*

I earned my degrees in Chemistry, receiving my B.S. in 2003 from the University of New Hampshire and my Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Chicago. My PhD thesis focused on blood clotting, and uncovered biochemical and biophysical mechanisms that allow coagulation to seal injuries and prevent blood loss without spreading throughout our vasculature. I did my postdoctoral fellowship at MIT with Robert Langer, where I developed soft biomaterials to coat the inside of vessels. I also began working on RNA-based therapeutics and lipid nanoparticles. I started

my independent research group at the University of British Columbia, and from 2011-2021 I trained over 75 postdocs, graduate, undergraduate, and medical students in my laboratory. In Fall 2021, I moved my research program to the Versiti Blood Research Institute (BRI) and MCW, where I am a Senior Investigator and Professor.

My primary research interest is advancing fundamental understanding of the biochemistry of blood coagulation, and engineering innovative therapies to control it. Research in my laboratory bridges hemostasis biochemistry, RNA therapy, nanomedicine, materials engineering and bioengineering. I am passionate about controlling blood clotting because hemorrhage is a leading killer of young people, and thrombosis is a serious risk in the days and weeks after trauma. My laboratory creates drug delivery systems and RNA therapeutics to address these issues. There are three main directions in my research program. The first is developing hemostatic materials for hemorrhage control, which includes powders and devices for non-compressible abdominal hemorrhage; we test these in models of severe hemorrhage. The second direction is developing RNA therapies for thrombotic and bleeding disorders, such as for



versiti™

understanding the role that specific proteins play in severe hemorrhage, and creating therapies to prevent post-trauma thrombosis. The third direction is creating a new cell therapy platform by engineering platelets to express exogenous proteins, which has many potential applications within and outside of trauma and surgery. We collaborate closely with the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and the Canadian Armed Forces for these studies.

We have several projects on the brink of creating new medicines. We are nearing clinical trials with multiple technologies and have strong confidence that the results we are seeing in our advanced models will be translated to people. Both the device technologies we are developing to halt hemorrhage in trauma, and the RNA-based gene therapy approaches we are developing for hemostasis, are working extremely well in models and have relatively clear paths to clinical trials and approval. I am excited about the possibility of creating new approaches to extend survival after the most serious types of traumatic injuries. I want to help civilians and military

service members buy time after severe injuries, so that they have the best chance of reaching a surgeon and receiving definitive care. With our technologies based on RNA gene-therapies, I see nearly limitless potential for gene therapy in modulating diseases of the blood and beyond. These are similar RNA and lipid nanoparticle therapies to those in the COVID-19 vaccines, and while I was not directly involved with the vaccine development, it has been exciting to see close colleagues and friends have such a huge impact on local and worldwide health. In addition to vaccines, these lipid-based nanomedicines can be used to knockdown almost any blood protein made in the liver and can also be used to express proteins in the liver – turning the liver into a bioreactor. Since most coagulation proteins are made in the liver, there is tremendous opportunity to create agents that modulate hemostasis, thrombosis and many other diseases.



**Joohyun Kim,
MD, PhD**

Associate Professor,
Division of Transplant
Surgery

Specialties:

*Hepatobiliary surgery
Solid organ*

transplantation

*Live-donor liver
transplantation*

Research Interests:

Liver regeneration

Organ preservation

Liver cancer biology

My research interest lies in liver injury and its repair. For example, cholestasis, which is dysfunctional bile production, always underlies the pathophysiology of various forms of liver surgery-associated hepatic dysfunction, such as post-hepatectomy liver failure, early allograft dysfunction after liver transplantation, or small-for-size syndrome in living donor liver transplantation.

I initiated collaborative studies during my fellowship at Seoul National University Hospital. We reviewed the immunohistochemistry staining of samples from liver transplantation recipients with pathologists and conducted an animal experiment study using MRI with hepato-

cyte-specific contrast with radiologists. Both studies suggested a strong association between liver injury and the function of hepatocyte membrane transporter proteins, which are responsible for cholestasis.

Since I joined MCW, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with outstanding scientists on this topic. The localization of transporter proteins along the cell membrane could be captured using a novel digital imaging analysis technique with Dr. Suresh Kumar (Pathology). The kinetics of fluorescent markers through transporter proteins could be monitored in real time using multispectral cameras with Dr. Amit Joshi (Bioengineering). Computational models were developed to determine the factors associated with the clearance of markers with Dr. Ranjan Dash and Dr. Said Audi (Bioengineering). The physical characterization of fluorescent dyes has

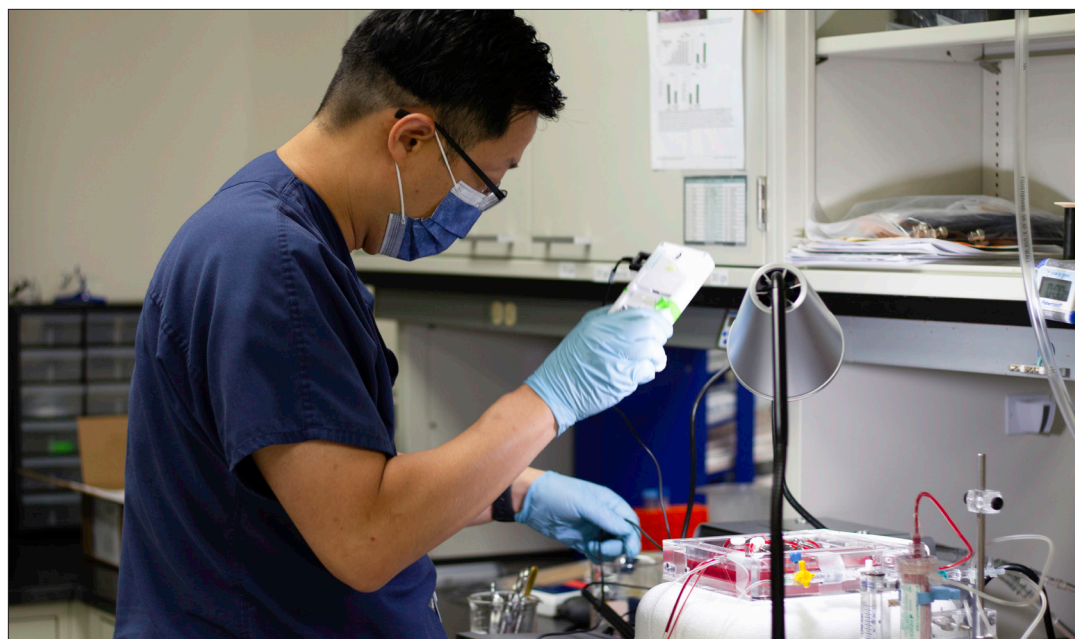
been studied with Dr. Jacek Zielonka (Biophysics).

Combining all our efforts, objective quantification for the function of transporter proteins in livers became feasible. This research topic is timely, as ex vivo machine perfusion is now available in the clinical arena for liver transplantation. Currently, no device is available to assess liver function in an objective and reproducible manner. Based on the science and technology described above, it is possible to develop a liver function monitoring device for liver grafts before transplantation. Consequently, we established an ex vivo rat liver perfusion device with Dr. Yongqiang Yang (Transplant Surgery).

This novel approach could change clinical practice in liver transplantation by accurately predicting the outcome, so graft failure or unnecessary organ discard can be minimized. Furthermore, ex vivo machine

perfusion gives an opportunity to resuscitate marginal organs to be transplantable by pre-transplantation targeted chemotherapy. We have investigated pharmaceutical interventions targeting cell survival signal pathways with Dr. Jong-In Park (Biochemistry). To develop this, a primary hepatocyte culture model with warm and cold hypoxia was established with Dr. Seung-Keun Hong (Transplant Surgery). In addition, the role of innate immunity and platelets during machine perfusion is also under study with Dr. Benjamin Gantner (Immunology) and Dr. Karin Hoffmeister (Versiti Blood Research Institute).

There is a consensus that the organ resuscitation technique is a paradigm shifter of liver transplantation practice. I am hopeful that we can contribute to this critical problem of our time, so we can open the next era of liver transplantation.



Joohyun Kim, MD, PhD in the lab.



**Anai N. Kothari,
MD, MS**

Assistant Professor,
Division of Surgical
Oncology
Lab Director, AN.AI Lab

Specialties:

*Gastrointestinal cancer
Appendix cancer
Peritoneal disease
Liver cancer
Sarcoma*

**Treatments &
Services:**

*Cytoreductive surgery/
HIPEC
Liver resection
Robotic surgical oncology*

Research Interests:

*Machine learning/
predictive analytics
Deep learning
Precision medicine
Electronic health data
integration
Cancer surveillance and
survivorship
COVID-19*

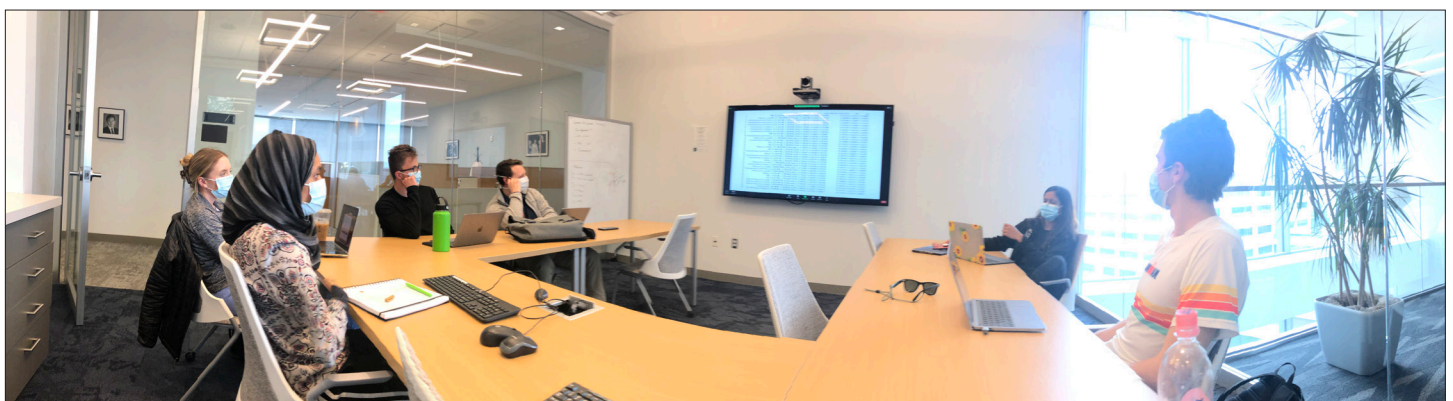
My interest in pursuing research started early as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison investigating the fundamental properties of RNA polymerase. It served as a foundation for understanding the scientific process and the necessary rigor of experimental design to advance a research mission. During medical school, I gained my first exposure to clinical and health services research during a mentored summer fellowship in the Division of Thoracic Surgery at UW–Madison. This included experience with large-scale databases, database development, and predictive modeling. I further developed this foundation during a T32 research fellowship at Loyola University Chicago in the Oncology Institute. Through a partnership with DePaul University College of Computing and Digital Media, we developed a surgical analytics program that integrated data across multiple sources with the broad goal of understanding how to improve surgical care. During this time, I obtained a Master of Science degree in epidemiology with a fo-

cus on predictive analytics and machine learning.

I began developing the concept for the “Accelerating INsight. Augmented Intelligence Laboratory” (AN.AI Lab) during my clinical fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson. There is tremendous excitement in many industries to identify ways to leverage artificial intelligence to improve common processes and advance society. Our lives are already impacted by the embrace of this kind of technology – for example, Apple, Google, Amazon, Netflix, and countless others use vast quantities of user-generated information to support a variety of applications we interact with throughout our day. Medicine and surgery, however, have been slow to adopt despite the massive amount of data generated through routine health care that includes electronic health records, registries, wearable devices, and other similar sources that could be used to support these efforts. With a push towards precision and personalized medicine, this is likely to change quickly

(and already is). In cancer care, this has included a heavy reliance on augmented intelligence – which, unlike traditional artificial intelligence (that attempts to replace humans), emphasizes improving human abilities through the power of machine-generated insights. The overarching goal of AN.AI Lab is to improve health care delivery through clinical augmentation using data science approaches.

Currently the lab has 3 main areas of focus: (1) using real-world data (including the All of Us Research Workbench and National COVID Cohort Collaborative Data Enclave) to predict clinical outcomes; (2) developing an integrated data resource to support cancer research across the state; (3) applying deep learning methodologies to better utilize intraoperative data. Ultimately, findings from these efforts (and others) will be paired with informatics-based tools to help directly impact patient care.



The AN.AI Lab Team at work.

Committee for Accelerating Research Discovery in Surgery (CARDS)

Fostering interest in and promoting research opportunities

The charge of the committee is to foster interest in research by faculty members and trainees, to review promising extramural funding applications for stimulus grants, to promote Department participation in internal and external research forums, and to communicate the availability of research opportunities. Furthermore, this standing committee is to function in an advisory role to the Division of Research and to identify mechanisms that will enhance the national reputation of the Department of Surgery in basic, translational, clinical and outcomes/health services research.

Inaugural Members (2021-2024)



*Kyle Van Arendonk,
MD, PhD
Chair*



*Callisia Clarke,
MD, MS*



Brian Craig, MD



*Tammy Kindel,
MD, PhD*



Gwen Lomberk, PhD



Neel Mansukhani, MD



Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD



Rachel Morris, MD



Medical College of Wisconsin YouTube

Visit the Medical College of Wisconsin YouTube channel to learn more with two informative video series featuring the MCW Surgery faculty. Search *MCW Medical Moments* for educational discussions with our providers! Each episode covers a different medical topic, from varicose veins to heart surgery. Get to know the personal side of the surgeons with our second series, *MCW Faculty Focus*, that introduces recent additions to the Department!



New Faculty

October 2021



Daniel N. Holena, MD, MCSE
Associate Professor, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery



Katie Iverson, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery



Christian J. Kastrup, PhD
Professor, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery

November 2021



Timothy J. Geier, PhD
Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery



Stefano Schena, MD, PhD
Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

February 2022

September 2022



Adrienne Cobb, MD, MS
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology



John W. Haeberlin, MD
Assistant Professor, Section of Community General Surgery, Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery



Mitchell R. Dyer, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery



Alexandra Istl, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

October 2022

*Wen Hui Tan, MD*

Assistant Professor, Division of Minimally Invasive & Gastrointestinal Surgery

*Tracy R. Geoffrion, MD, MPH*

Assistant Professor, Division of Congenital Heart Surgery

*Nikki K. Lytle, PhD*

Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology

Farewell to our Retiring Colleagues

*Allan M. Roza, MD*

Allan M. Roza, MD, retires after 35 years at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Roza joined the Division of Transplant Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in 1987. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992, then again to Professor of Surgery in 1999. Dr. Roza served in this role until his retirement.

*Keith T. Oldham, MD*

Keith T. Oldham, MD, retired after more than 20 years at MCW and Children's Wisconsin. Dr. Oldham served as Surgeon-in-Chief and the Marie Z. Uihlein Chair in Pediatric Surgery at Children's Wisconsin, and as Professor of Surgery at MCW. During his tenure, Dr. Oldham played a pivotal role in the development of the pediatric surgery programs at MCW and Children's. He was also highly involved in the process to verify Children's as a Level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and in the creation of Children's Specialty Group.

*Thomas T. Sato, MD*

Thomas T. Sato, MD, joined the Pediatric Surgery Division at MCW and Children's Wisconsin in 1997. Dr. Sato served as the Program Director for the Pediatric Surgery Training Program and Medical Director for the Physician Assistant Program, and as President and CEO of Children's Specialty Group from 2014-2020. Dr. Sato was a founding member of the Midwest Pediatric Surgery Consortium, established in 2013, which comprises pediatric surgeons from 11 children's hospitals that collaborate in research endeavors.

In Memoriam

*James S. Tweddell, MD*

James S. Tweddell, MD, internationally renowned congenital heart surgeon and former Chief of our Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, passed away at the age of 62 after a battle with cancer. Dr. Tweddell joined the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1993. He would go on to become Professor and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the S. Bert Litwin Chair in Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery over his 22-year tenure at MCW. Jim's legacy in Milwaukee is survived by his countless thankful patients and families, and the impact he had on all of us in the Department of Surgery. He was a great surgeon and an even better person.

Department of Surgery Vice Chairs

The five program-specific Vice Chair and two Associate Vice Chair positions in the Department of Surgery further advance our missions of excellence in education, research, and clinical care. Since the inception of the Vice Chair leadership positions in 2017, our program has made advances in surgical quality and patient safety, professional development and faculty diversity, community care, surgical patient experiences, and surgical services for veterans.



*T. Clark Gamblin,
MD, MS, MBA*
Vice Chair, Off-Campus
Clinical Operations



Peter J. Rossi, MD
Associate Vice Chair,
Off-Campus Clinical
Operations



Kellie R. Brown, MD
Vice Chair, Perioperative
Services



*Jon C. Gould,
MD, MBA*
Vice Chair, Quality



*Carrie Y. Peterson,
MD, MS*
Associate Vice Chair,
Quality



*Tracy S. Wang,
MD, MPH*
Vice Chair, Strategic
and Professional
Development



*Philip N. Redlich,
MD, PhD*
Vice Chair, VA Surgical
Services

Department of Surgery *Endowed Chairs*

As one of our institution's permanent and sustaining assets, an Endowed Chair is one of MCW's most important faculty honors. Endowed Chairs are awarded solely for the purpose of recruitment, retention, and/or recognition of nationally and internationally distinguished faculty at MCW.



Marc A. de Moya, MD
Milton & Lidy Lunda
Arahamian Chair



Douglas B. Evans, MD
Donald C. Ausman Family
Foundation Chair



*Jon C. Gould,
MD, MBA*
Alonzo P. Walker Chair



*T. Clark Gamblin,
MD, MS, MBA*
Stuart D. Wilson Chair



Johnny C. Hong, MD
Mark B. Adams Chair



Gwen Lomberk, PhD
Joel & Arlene Lee Chair
for Pancreatic Cancer
Research



Kirk A. Ludwig, MD
Vernon O. Underwood
Colon Cancer Research
Chair



Michael E. Mitchell, MD
S. Bert Litwin Chair in
Cardiothoracic Surgery,
Children's Wisconsin



Keith T. Oldham, MD
Marie Z. Uihlein Chair
in Pediatric Surgery,
Children's Wisconsin



*Philip N. Redlich,
MD, PhD*
Gerald L. Schmitz,
MD Chair



Susan Tsai, MD, MHS
Douglas B. Evans Chair
for Surgical Research

Secondary Faculty by Specialty

Meena Bedi, MD
Radiation Oncology

Michael B. Dwinell, PhD
Microbiology and Immunology

Beth Erickson Wittmann, MD
Radiation Oncology

Juan Felix, MD
Pathology

James W. Findling, MD
Medicine, Endocrinology,
Metabolism and Clinical
Nutrition

Jennifer Geurts, MS, CGC
Genomic Sciences and Precision
Medicine Center

James B. Gosset, MD
Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine

Mary Beth Graham, MD
Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Jaime S. Green, MD
Medicine, Infectious Diseases

Michael O. Griffin Jr., MD, PhD
Radiology, Diagnostic Radiology

William A. Hall, MD
Radiation Oncology

Robert A. Hieb, MD, RVT
Radiology, Vascular and
Interventional Radiology

Eric J. Hohenwarter, MD
Radiology, Vascular and
Interventional Radiology

Bryon D. Johnson, PhD
Microbiology and Immunology

Mandana Kamgar, MD, PhD
Medicine, Hematology and
Oncology

John A. LoGiudice, MD
Plastic Surgery

Veronica Loy, DO
Medicine, Gastroenterology

Peter J. Mason, MD, MPH, RPVI
Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine

**Stacy D. O'Connor, MD, MPH,
MMSc**
Radiology, Diagnostic Radiology

Jong-In Park, PhD
Biochemistry

Parag J. Patel, MD, MS
Radiology, Vascular and
Interventional Radiology

Evan Robinson, DO
Emergency Medicine

2021 Faculty Professional Awards

Marc de Moya, MD
2021 MCP Lee A. Biblo Excellence in
Professionalism Award

John Densmore, MD
2021 Milwaukee Business Journal
Health Care Champion Innovator of
the Year Award

Douglas B. Evans, MD
2021 Honorary Member Award from
the American Society of Radiation
Oncology
Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association
Second-Place Award, Best
Pandemic-Related Service to the
Community Program – Latest Word
on Medicine (WISN 1130 AM)

Rana Higgins, MD
2021 Medical College of Wisconsin
Edward J. Lennon Endowed Clinical
Teaching Award
Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association
Second-Place Award, Best
Pandemic-Related Service to the
Community Program – Latest Word
on Medicine (WISN 1130 AM)

Amanda Kong, MD, MS
State Chair Outstanding
Performance Award from the
American College of Surgeons
Commission on Cancer

Michael Malinowski, MD, MEHP
Student Excellence Award in Master
of Education in Health Professions
from the Johns Hopkins University
School of Education


Michael E. Mitchell, MD
2021 Milwaukee Business Journal
Health Care Champion Innovator of
the Year Award

Kyle Van Arendonk, MD, PhD
Enrichment Award from the Central
Surgical Association

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@MCWTraumaACS
@MCWPancreasProgram

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@MCWEndoSurg
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@MCWTraumaACS
@MCWVascSurg
@MCWSurgResearch
@MCWPancProgram
@MCWPedSurg
 @MCWSurgery
@MCWGenSurg_Residents

 #LeadingTheWay
#MCWSurgLegacy
#WhyMCWSurgery
#MCWMedicalMoments

 mcw.edu/surgery

2021 Faculty Professional Honors and Professional Organization Leadership Positions

Leading the way in academic surgery

Kellie R. Brown, MD

Chief of Staff, Froedtert Hospital
President, Midwestern Vascular
Surgical Society
Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society
Representative to the Vascular
Surgery Board
Editorial Board, *Journal of Vascular
Surgery: Cases and Innovative
Techniques*
Section Editor, *Rutherford Textbook
of Vascular Surgery*
Section Editor, *Rutherford Textbook
of Operative Techniques in Surgery*
Section Editor, VESAP 5

Casey Calkins, MD

Secretary, American Pediatric
Surgery Association Board of
Governors
Board Liaison to the American
Pediatric Surgery Association
Program Committee and Quality/
Safety Committee
Steering and Executive Committee
Member, Pediatric Colorectal &
Pelvic Learning Consortium
Associate Editor, *Pediatric Surgery
International*

Callisia Clarke, MD, MS

Recorder of the Association for
Academic Surgery
Chair, Association for Academic
Surgery Scientific Program
Committee
Executive Council Member,
Association for Academic Surgery
Nominating Committee Member,
Society of Surgical Oncology
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary
Association Leadership Academy
Member
Chair, Americas Hepato-Biliary-
Pancreato Association Diversity
Equity and Inclusion Committee
Executive Council Member, Americas
Hepato-Biliary- Pancreato
Association
Chair, North American
Neuroendocrine Tumor Society
Mentorship & Early Career
Development Committee
Consultant to the American Board of
Surgery Complex General Surgical
Oncology Recertifying Examination
Committee

Marc de Moya, MD

Certificate of Recognition from
the Academy of the Asian
Collaboration for Trauma
Treasurer, Association for Surgical

Education Foundation
Manager-at-Large, Surgical Critical
Care Program Directors Society
Chair, Association of Surgical
Education Program Committee
Chair, Western Trauma Association
Publication Committee
Chair, Surgical Critical Care Program
Director Society Education
Committee
Co-Director, Cuban Society of
Surgery International Symposium
Chair, Pan-American Trauma Society
Disaster Response Committee
Consultant to the American Board of
Surgery General Surgery Certifying
Exam Committee

Terri deRoos-Cassini, MS, PhD

Grant Reviewer, National Institute of
Mental Health, First in Human and
Early Stage Clinical Trials of Novel
Investigational Drugs or Devices for
Psychiatric Disorders
Lead, Trauma Quality Improvement
Program, Best Practices Guideline
for Screening for Mental Health
Disorders and Substance Abuse in
the Acute Trauma Patient

Christopher Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA

Treasurer, Association of Academic
Global Surgery
Chair, Association for Academic
Global Surgery Governance
Committee
Chair, Association for Academic
Global Surgery Rules and
Regulations Committee
Co-Chair, Association for Academic
Global Surgery Advisory Board
Co-Lead, American College of
Surgeons Operation Giving Back
Hawassa Training Hub Initiative
Trauma Workgroup and Research
Workgroup
ACS Board of Governors Surgical
Volunteerism and Humanitarian
Awards Workgroup, Young Fellows
Association Liaison Representative
Representative, Association for
Academic Surgery to the Global
Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric,
Trauma and Anesthesia Care (G4)
Editorial Board, *American Journal of
Disaster Medicine*

Sophie Dream, MD

Chair, Society of Asian Academic
Surgeons Communications
Committee

Francisco Durazo, MD

OPTN/UNOS National Liver Review
Board

T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS, MBA

National Board of Directors,
American Liver Foundation

Mario Gasparri, MD

Chest Wall Injury Society Board of
Directors
Chair, AO Technical Commission
Thoracic Surgery Expert Group

Matthew I. Goldblatt, MD

Board of Governors, SAGES
Chair, SAGES Hernia Committee

Jon Gould, MD, MBA

Board of Governors, American
College of Surgeons
Recorder, Central Surgical
Association
Board of Governors, SAGES
Co-Chair, SAGES Foregut Committee
Executive Council, Central Surgical
Association

David Gourlay, MD

Site Reviewer, American Academy
of Pediatrics NICU Verification
Program
Site Reviewer, American College
of Surgeons Trauma Verification
Program

Joseph Hart, MD, MHL

Distinguished Fellow of the Society
for Vascular Surgery
Board of Directors, Society for
Vascular Surgery Foundation
Executive Committee, Society for
Vascular Surgery Community
Practice Section
Steering Committee, Society for
Vascular Surgery Foundation
Vascular Volunteers in Service to
All (VISTA) Program
Chair, ACS Wisconsin Surgical
Society Policy Planning and
Government Relations Committee

Rana Higgins, MD

Examination Consultant for the
American Board of Surgery
General Surgery Certifying Exam
Committee for Hernia

Johnny C. Hong, MD

Editorial Board, Transplantation
Proceedings
OPTN/UNOS National Liver Review
Board

David Joyce, MD, MBA
Board of Trustees, The American Society for Artificial Internal Organs
Editorial Board, *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

Andrew S. Kastenmeier, MD
Vice Chair, Association of Surgical Education/Education Taskforce
Co-Counselor of the Medical College of Wisconsin AOA Chapter

Joo Hyun Kim, MD, PhD
Editorial Board, *Transplantation Proceedings*
OPTN/UNOS National Liver Review Board

Tammy Kindel, MD, PhD
Co-Chair, SAGES Guidelines Committee
Co-Chair, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee

Amanda Kong, MD, MS
Vice Chair, Society of Surgical Oncology Training Committee

Dave Lal, MD, MPH
Chair, American Pediatric Surgical Association Nominating Committee
Secretary and Founding Member, Midwest Pediatric Surgery Consortium

Brian Lewis, MD
President, Wisconsin Surgical Society
Co-Chair, Midwest Vascular Surgical Society Mock Orals/Education Committee

Gwen Lomberk, PhD
Grant Reviewer, ZCA1 SRB-K M1: NCI Program Project, NCI/NIH
Grant Reviewer, SEP-7: NCI Clinical and Translational R21 and Omnibus R03, NCI/NIH
Grant Reviewer, MCT2 Study Section, NCI/NIH
Grant Reviewer, ZRG1 DKUS-H: Gastrointestinal Immunology and Diseases, NIDDK/NIH
Grant Reviewer, R13 Conference Grants Review, NCI/NIH
Reviewer, Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, United Kingdom
Editor-in-Chief, *Case Reports in Gastroenterology*
Associate Editor, *Clinical Epigenetics*
Editorial Board, *Epigenomes*

Ugwuji Maduekwe, MD, MMSc, MPH
Director-at-Large, Surgical Outcomes Club
Executive Council, Association for Academic Surgery

Michael Malinowski, MD, MEHP
Inducted to the Medical College of Wisconsin Society of Teaching Scholars
Associate Member, Academy of Master Surgeon Educators for the

American College of Surgeons
Ambassador for the Johns Hopkins University School of Education
Master of Education in Health Professions Program
Co-Editor, Curriculum module for the Association of Program Directors of Vascular Surgery National Medical School Curriculum Committee

Neel Mansukhani, MD
Associate Medical Director, Upper Midwest Vascular Network
Steering Committee, SVS/VQI/FDA Medical Device Epidemiology Network's (MDEpiNet) Vascular Implant Surveillance and Interventional Outcomes Coordinated Registry Network (VISION CRN) – Data Core Council

David Milia, MD
Chair, Trauma Center Association of America Civilian-Military Committee
State Vice Chair, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma
Co-Chair, American College of Surgeons Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program Committee
Co-Chair, American College of Surgeons SESAP 18 Committee

Michael E. Mitchell, MD
Member and Scientist Reviewer for Pre-Congenital Heart Disease Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program, U.S. Department of Defense

Member and Scientist Reviewer for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Discovery Award panel on congenital heart disease, U.S. Department of Defense

Invited Reviewer, NIH, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Clinical Trial Pilot Study R34

Invited Reviewer, NIH, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Anatomic and Physiologic Surgical Planning in Single Ventricle Patients Utilizing 3D Printing

Invited Reviewer, NIH, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Special Emphasis Panel Opportunities for Collaborative Research at the NIH Clinical Center (U01), PAR-18-646]

Invited Reviewer, NIH, SRO, Bioengineering, Technology and Surgical Sciences (BTSS)

Patrick Murphy, MD, MSc, MPH
Selected Fellow of the Medical College of Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Delivery Service
Lead, Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) Injury Prevention Guidelines Committee
Communications Committee Liaison,

The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Keith Oldham, MD
Medical Director and Verification Committee Chair, American College of Surgeons Children's Surgery Verification Program
Board Member, Global Initiative for Children's Surgery
Executive Committee and Editorial Board, Pediatric Surgery International

Carrie Y. Peterson, MD, MS
Vice Chair, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Young Surgeons Committee

Timothy J. Ridolfi, MD, MS
American College of Surgeons Governor, State of Wisconsin

Peter J. Rossi, MD
Chair, Society for Vascular Surgery Pain Management Task Force
Chair, Midwest Vascular Surgical Society New Horizons Committee
Secretary, Milwaukee Surgical Society

Thomas T. Sato, MD
Certifying Examiner, American Board of Surgery General Surgery and Pediatric Surgery

Mary Elizabeth (Libby) Schroeder, MD
Editorial Board, *American Journal of Surgery*
Lead, American College of Surgeons Operation Giving Back Hawassa Training Hub Initiative Research Workgroup

Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD
Invited Reviewer, Eunice Kennedy Shriver NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Susan Tsai, MD, MHS
Professor of Surgery
President-Elect, Society of Asian Academic Surgeons
Society of Asian Academic Surgeons Representative to the Association of Women Surgeons

Raul Urrutia, MD
Grant Reviewer, NIH/NCI MONC; Grant Reviewer, NIH/NIDDK Special Emphasis Panel ZGR1 DKUS-M
Member, NIH/NIDDK, DDK-C
Chief Scientific Officer, Cancer Epigenetics Society
Omics Committee Member, NIH All of Us Research Program
Editor, *Case Reports in Gastroenterology*

Amy J. Wagner, MD
Professor of Surgery
Principle Investigator, National RCT Gastroschisis Outcomes of Delivery Study

Board of Directors and Scientific Review Committee Member, North American Fetal Therapy Network

Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH

Elected Fellow of the American Surgical Association (among the most competitive appointments in American surgery)
 President, Society of Asian Academic Surgeons
 Councilor/Member, Executive Council, Central Surgical Association
 Chair, Social and Legislative Issues, Society of University Surgeons
 Treasurer, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons
 Editorial Board, *World Journal of Surgery*
 Editorial Board, *The Oncologist*
 Editorial Board, *VideoOncology*
 Editorial Board, *Journal of Surgical Research*
 Associate Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*
 Co-Chair, SESAP 18® Advanced Edition, Endocrine Section
 Endocrine Head & Neck Content Expert, Society of Surgical Oncology SCORE Committee for SCORE curricula for the Complex General Surgical Oncology and Breast Fellowships
 Local Arrangements Chair, 2022 Central Surgical Association Annual Meeting
 Chair, International Association of Endocrine Surgeons Program Committee for the International Society of Surgery

Travis Webb, MD, MHPE

Associate Editor, *Journal of Surgical Education*
 Editorial Board, *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*
 Editorial Board, *Geriatric Fast Facts*
 Chair, American College of Surgeons General Surgery Review Course
 Co-Chair, SESAP 18 Planning Committee

Ronald K. Woods, MD, PhD

Associate Editor-Congenital, *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

Tina W. F. Yen, MD, MS

Editorial Board, *American College of Surgeons Case Studies in Surgery*



Society of University Surgeons

Casey M. Calkins, MD
 Callisia N. Clarke, MD, MS
 Marc A. de Moya, MD
 Christopher M. Dodgion, MD, MSPH, MBA
 Douglas B. Evans, MD
 T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS, MBA
 Matthew I. Goldblatt, MD
 Jon C. Gould, MD, MBA
 David M. Gourlay, MD
 Rana M. Higgins, MD
 Daniel N. Holena, MD
 Johnny C. Hong, MD
 Christopher P. Johnson, MD
 David L. Joyce, MD, MBA
 Joohyun Kim, MD, PhD
 Tammy Kindel, MD, PhD

Amanda L. Kong, MD, MS
 Dave R. Lal, MD, MPH
 Kirk A. Ludwig, MD
 Michael E. Mitchell, MD
 Keith T. Oldham, MD
 Mary F. Otterson, MD, MS
 Carrie Peterson, MD, MS
 Timothy J. Ridolfi, MD
 Allan M. Roza, MD
 Gary R. Seabrook, MD
 Gordon L. Telford, MD
 Susan Tsai, MD, MHS
 Amy J. Wagner, MD
 Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH
 Travis Webb, MD, MHPE
 Stuart D. Wilson, MD
 Tina W. F. Yen, MD, MS



American Surgical Association

Marc A. de Moya, MD
 Douglas B. Evans, MD
 T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS, MBA
 Jon C. Gould, MD, MBA
 Johnny C. Hong, MD
 Kirk A. Ludwig, MD
 Michael E. Mitchell, MD
 Keith T. Oldham, MD

Mary F. Otterson, MD, MS
 Gary R. Seabrook, MD
 Gordon L. Telford, MD
 Tracy S. Wang, MD, MPH
 Stuart D. Wilson, MD
 Tina W. F. Yen, MD, MS

Residency Program

Preparing students for community practice as a *general surgeon*, a *research-focused academic career*, or *advanced fellowship training*

The MCW Department of Surgery five-year residency program enables residents to develop a strong scientific and procedural foundation and benefit from exposure to diverse patients while training alongside expert faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin's affiliated hospitals. The program is framed by ACGME Core Competencies of patient care, medical knowledge, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal communication skills, systems-based practice, and the achievement of operative expertise a surgeon needs in order to make a difference in the lives of their patients and families.



2021-2022 Chief Residents

AY 2021-2022 Chief Residents



Christina Bence, MD
Administrative
Chief Resident



Kelly Boyle, MD



Bonnie Chow, MD, MA



Emma Gibson, MD



Andrew Goelz, MD



Katherine Hu, MD



Zoe Lake, MD
Rural



Matthew Madion Jr., MD
Administrative
Chief Resident



Erin Strong, MD, MPH
Administrative
Chief Resident

PGY IV Residents



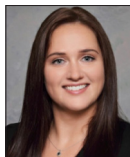
Alexis Bowder, MD



Erin Buchanan, MD



Paul Dyrud, MD



Kyla Fredrickson, MD
Rural



Christina Georgeades, MD
Research



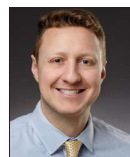
Ashley Krepline, MD



John Marquart, MD
Research



Nathan Smith, MD

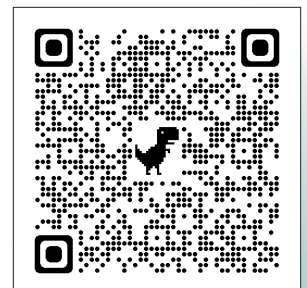


Samih Thalji, MD
Research



Amanda Witte, MD
Research

Scan the QR code to learn more about our residency program:



PGY III Residents



Elise Biesboer, MD



Melissa Drezdson, MD
Research



Colleen Flanagan, MD



Taylor Jaraczewski, MD, MS
Rural



Xavier Jean, MD



Zarina Markova, MD



Kent Peterson, MD



Katherine Scheidler, MD
Research



Benjamin Seadler, MD



Monica Seadler, MD



Arielle Thomas, MD, MPH
Research

PGY II Residents



Emmanuel Abebrese, MD



Eric Anderson, MD
Rural



Jonathan Bacos, MD
Plastics



Jaelyn Gellings, MD



Michael Josephson, MD



Jennifer Kaiser, MD



Adhitya Ramamurthi, MD



Timothy Stoddard, MD
Plastics



Halen Turner, MD



Danielle Wilson, MD

PGY I Residents



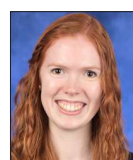
Fayrouz Abu-Hamdan, MD



Sayeh Bozorghadad, MD
Prelim



Hannah Holland, MD



Samantha Leonard, MD



Allison Linehan, MD
Plastics



Isaac Melin, MD
Urology



Patrick Moran, MD
Prelim



Megan Paradzinsky, MD
Urology



Kelley Park, MD
Plastics



Sarah Park, MD



Ujval Pathak, MD
Urology



Santiago Rolon, MD
Rural



Sarah Suh, MD



Anna Tatakis, MD



Brexton Turner, MD



Brigitte Vanle, MD
Prelim

It's a Match! Welcome to our AY22-23 PGYI Resident Class



**Abdul-Rahman
Abdel-Reheem,
MD**
Prelim



**Arya Anvar,
MD**
Urology



**Kwesi
Asantey, MD**
Urology



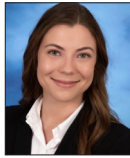
**Carissa
Battle, MD**
Urology



**Michael
Brinton, MD**



**Allison
Couillard, MD**



**Sarah Fisher,
MD**



**Matthew
Henry, MD**
IR



**Alice Lee,
MD**



**Alexa
Lisevick, MD**



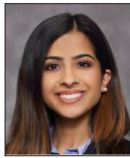
**Tara Mather,
MD**
Plastics



**Ayokunle
Olowofela,
MD**
Prelim



**Michael
Rabaza, MD**



**Aishwarya
Ramamurthi,
MD**
Plastics



**John
Shepherd III,
MD**
Prelim



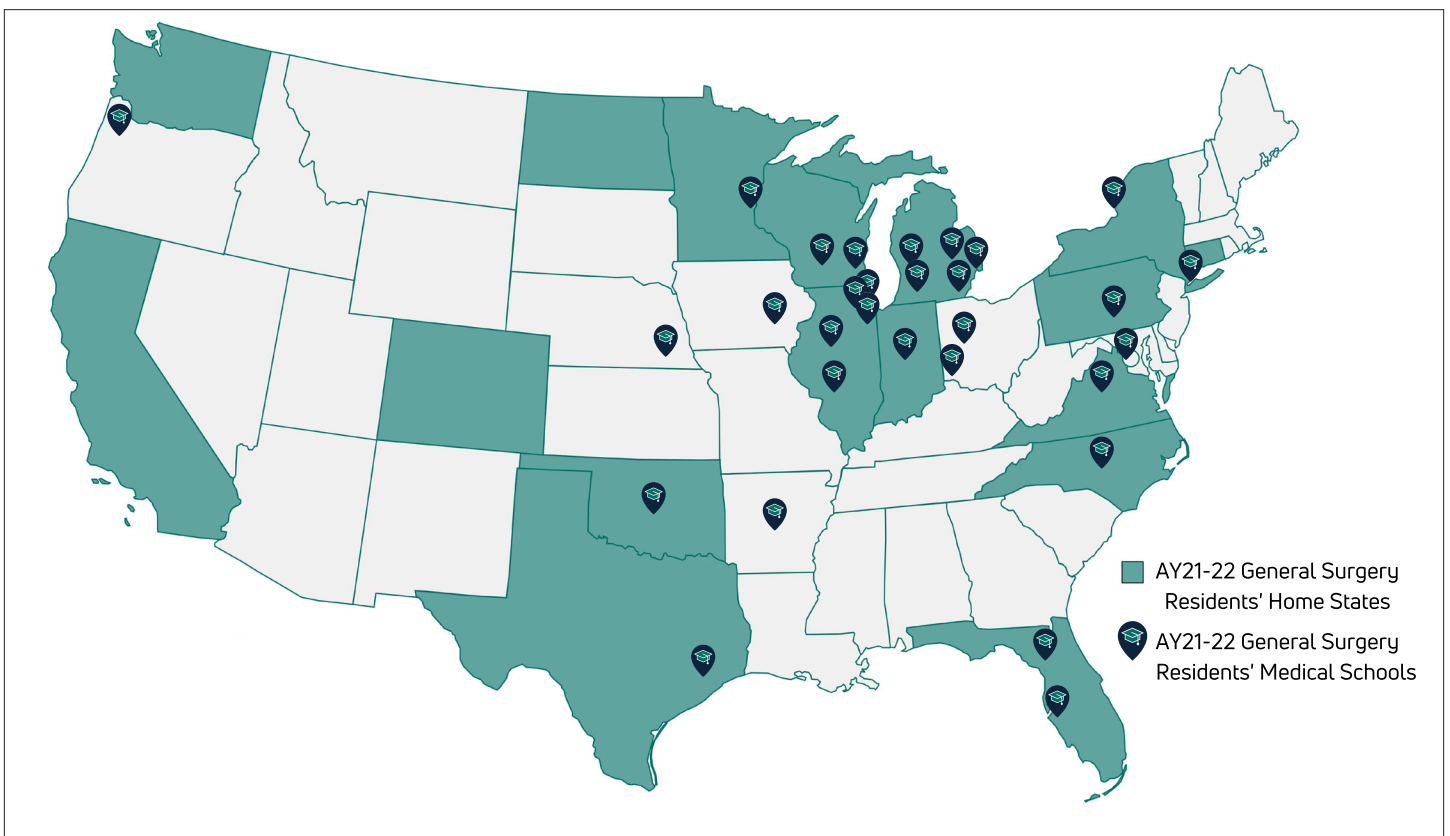
**Kaitlyn
Sonnentag,
MD**
Rural



**Gesina Thiry,
MD**



**Shanita
Thomas, MD**



Our AY21-22 residents hail from 18 states and 31 medical schools across the United States.

Department of Surgery Rural Residency Track

There is an increasing need for general surgeons in rural areas of Wisconsin. With this need in mind, a Rural Track was established at MCW in 2017. Rural Track residents spend 2 months of each year at Aspirus Medical Center in Wausau, Wisconsin. During their time at Aspirus, the rural resident is the only surgical resident at the hospital, and so participates in varied surgical specialties. The opportunity to combine this experience with 10 months of rotations each year at Froedtert and MCW, ensures that our residents finish the program prepared to deliver the highest standard of care to patients in rural settings.

Rural Residency at Aspirus Wausau Hospital



Zoe Lake, MD
General Surgery
Chief Rural
Resident

Five years ago, I became the first resident in the rural track and would represent MCW on a new endeavor. I knew Wausau, WI. I grew up in a similar community 90 miles

west in Eau Claire. I lived in New York City for 10 years, but the more time went by, the more I longed to come back to the Midwest. This was why the rural track appealed to me. I wanted to live and work in a community similar to where I grew up and give back by caring for those people close to home. When I arrived at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, the staff were extremely welcoming and excited to have a surgical resident on campus.

The surgeons embraced their new role as educators and proved to be quite natural at it; however, the experience was not without its difficulties as we all adapted to our new roles. It was a humbling but extremely rewarding experience; and through these difficulties, we worked together to create an even better track for the residents who were to follow.

Now 5 years later, the rural track is complete with residents of each year and a newly matched intern who will not know me personally. I will only be the first and as time goes on, my name will fade. What I wish to leave behind is an improved track. I hope the residents learn to value the independence that the time away provides, and through this experience, grow in their technical skills but also

as clinicians and humans. I hope that they learn to connect with people of different backgrounds and bridge the gap between them. It is one thing to learn an operation, but it's a whole different challenge to establish a trusting relationship in the span of a clinic visit. In these ways, I hope to leave a legacy on this program that will endure for many years to come.

I would like to thank Dr. Douglas Evans and Dr. Matt Goldblatt for entrusting to me the responsibility of being the first rural resident. I would also like to thank Dr. Gary Sweet, Dr. Steve Weiland, the rest of the Surgical Associates group as well as the entire staff of Aspirus Wausau Hospital from the surgical first assists to the APPs who have contributed more to my education than words can describe.

Resident Research Fund

Robert Condon, MD was Chair of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin for a quarter of a century and had an enormous impact on the school as well as surgery locally, nationally and internationally. He initiated a system which allowed surgical residents to do research during their training based on his own experience with Dame Sheila Sherlock in London. He believed that research allowed residents to become an expert in a field, present their work and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the medical literature. Research enhanced resident education, and allowed them to improve their job prospects and fellowship opportunities. He considered himself to be a talent scout as he strove to match those he taught with opportunities.

Since Dr. Condon's time, resident funding mechanisms have changed and, to continue this tradition at MCW, an endowed resident research fund has been established. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the

education of the next generation of surgeons and to give forward. This fund enables residents to focus on the future, whether they choose to utilize research time to establish an academic career, learn about an aspect of surgical science in depth, or have a less stressful break in a very busy schedule. We hope that you will consider a pledge or donation to the Resident Research Fund.

To donate, scan the QR code or visit mcwsupport.mcw.edu/resident-researchfund. For questions regarding philanthropic donations, please contact Jason Kraiss, jkraiss@mcw.edu.



Mary F. Otterson, MD, MS
Professor, Division
of Colorectal
Surgery



Division of Education



MCW Hub For Collaborative Medicine

Our Mission

Our programs and curriculum have four major objectives of surgical education:

1. To foster development of positive humanistic attitudes as essential ingredients of excellence in surgical patient care;
2. To assure acquisition by each resident of appropriate technical surgical skills and an appreciation of surgical anatomy and physiology;
3. To provide opportunity for each resident to develop mature surgical judgment based both on theoretical considerations and on practical experience;
4. To develop in each student and resident an inquiring mind, tempered by appropriate skepticism, by means of vigorous and candid review of one's surgical work and by exposure to the problems of basic and clinical research.

Faculty

Andrew Kastenmeier, MD
Chief

Anu Elegbede, MD, MSc
Associate Chief, Division of Education
Director, M4 Clerkship

Thomas Carver, MD
Co-Director, PGY 2-5 Curriculum

Christopher Davis, MD, MPH
Associate Director, Residency Program

John Densmore, MD
Associate Director, Residency Program

Matthew Goldblatt, MD
Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Rana Higgins, MD
Associate Director, Residency Program

Kathleen Lak, MD
Assistant Director, PGY 2-5 Curriculum

Paul Linsky, MD
Associate Director, M3 Clerkship

Michael Malinowski, MD, MEHP
Associate Director, Residency Program
Director, PGY 1 Curriculum

Jacob Peschman, MD, MSPE
Associate Director, Residency Program
Co-Director, PGY 2-5 Curriculum

Caitlin Patten, MD, MS
Director, M3 Clerkship

Carrie Peterson, MD, MS
Associate Director, Residency Program

Philip Redlich, MD, PhD
Chair, Mentoring Committee

Abby Rothstein, MD
Assistant Director, PGY 2-5 Curriculum

Staff

Nicole Dixon
Education Program Coordinator III

Catie Fihn, MBA
Program Manager, Surgical Education

Shirelle Jenkins
Administrative Assistant

Theresa Krausert
Education Program Coordinator III

Theresa Neitzel
Program Manager, Faculty Development

Lisa Olson, MBA
Program Manager, General Surgery Residency

Department of Surgery Visiting Professors

The Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Surgery sponsors eight annual lectures, each honoring the lectureship's namesake for their significant contributions to education, research, and patient care. In addition, we are honored to host visiting faculty from across the nation for our Grand Rounds.

AY 2021-2022 Named Lectureships

13th Annual Jonathan B. Towne Lectureship

Jean Starr, MD

Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery
The Ohio State University College of Medicine

5th Annual Mark B. Adams Transplant Lectureship

Marwan S. Abouljoud, MD

Chief, Division of Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery
Benson Ford Chair in Transplantation
Henry Ford Hospital

34th Annual C. Morrison Schroeder Lectureship

John R. Liddicoat, MD

Executive Vice President and President Americas Region
Executive Vice President and President of Enterprise Technology and Innovation
Medtronic

6th Annual Gale L. Mendeloff Lectureship

Benjamin T. Jarman, MD

General Surgeon
Program Director, General Surgery Residency
Gundersen Health System

49th Annual Edwin H. Ellison Memorial Lectureship

Jennifer F. Tseng, MD, MPH

James Utley Professor and Chair of Surgery,
Boston University School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief
Boston Medical Center

14th Annual Jonathan B. Towne Lectureship

Audra A. Duncan, MD

Professor and Chair/Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
The University of Western Ontario
Surgeon, Division of Vascular Surgery
London Health Science Centre

21st Annual Marvin Glicklich Lectureship

Alan W. Flake, MD

Ruth and Tristram C. Colket, Jr.
Endowed Chair of Pediatric Surgery
Director of the Center for Fetal Research
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

61st Annual Carl W. Eberbach Memorial Lectureship

Carla Pugh, MD, PhD

Thomas Krummel Professor of Surgery
Director, Technology Enabled Clinical Improvement (T.E.C.I.) Center
Stanford University School of Medicine

41st Annual Milton A. Lunda Memorial Lectureship

Karen J. Brasel, MD, MPH

Professor, Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery
Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Residency Program Director
Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine



Audra Duncan, MD with Vascular & Endovascular Surgery faculty



Matthew Goldblatt, MD, Eberbach Visiting Professor Carla Pugh, MD, PhD, Andrew Kastenmeier, MD, and Douglas Evans, MD



Marc de Moya, MD, and Karen J. Brasel MD, MPH, Lunda Visiting Professor

AY 2021-2022 Visiting Professors

Global Health Week Speaker

Sudha Jayaraman, MD, MSC

Professor of Surgery, Division of General Surgery
Director of the Center for Global Surgery
University of Utah

Grand Rounds Visiting Professor

Gretchen Schwarze MD, MPP

Morgridge Endowed Professorship in Vascular Surgery
Chair, University of Wisconsin Hospital Ethics Committee
University of Wisconsin Madison

Grand Rounds Visiting Professor

Shanu N. Kothari, MD

Jean & H. Harlan Stone Chair of Surgery
Professor of Surgery
University of South Carolina - Greenville

Division of Surgery Administration

The Department of Surgery employs over 400 people in 11 divisions and countless roles, but all work to support our mission of leadership and excellence in education, research, patient care, and community service. Teamwork makes the dream work! From our surgical faculty and APPs, to our research scientists and postdoctoral fellows, our administrative professionals and program managers, our finance and IT teams, our clinical research assistants and data analysts and the plethora of other valued team members working in all areas of the Department each day. The stories in this report reflect the effort and dedication of the people of MCW Surgery.

Faculty

Douglas B. Evans, MD
Professor and Chair

Philip Redlich, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief (VA)

Staff

Jon Mayer, MBA
Chief Administrator

Wendy Behrs
Administrative Associate

Samantha Breidenbach
Financial Analyst

Jason Dickson
Desktop Support Technician II

Andrew Eades
Program Manager I

Mary Halverson
Senior Financial Analyst

Jeff Hauswirth
Associate Department
Administrator

Patty Hoath
Administrative/Credentialing
Specialist

Linda Klagstad
Administrative Associate

Karen Larson
Financial Analyst

Ruthie Lewis
Senior Administrative Assistant

Cyndi Nebel
Financial Assistant II

Janet Peschek
Administrative Associate

Tom Sisson
Desktop Support Technician III

Lillian Ubovic
Reimbursement Manager

Katie Wilant
Senior Reimbursement Manager

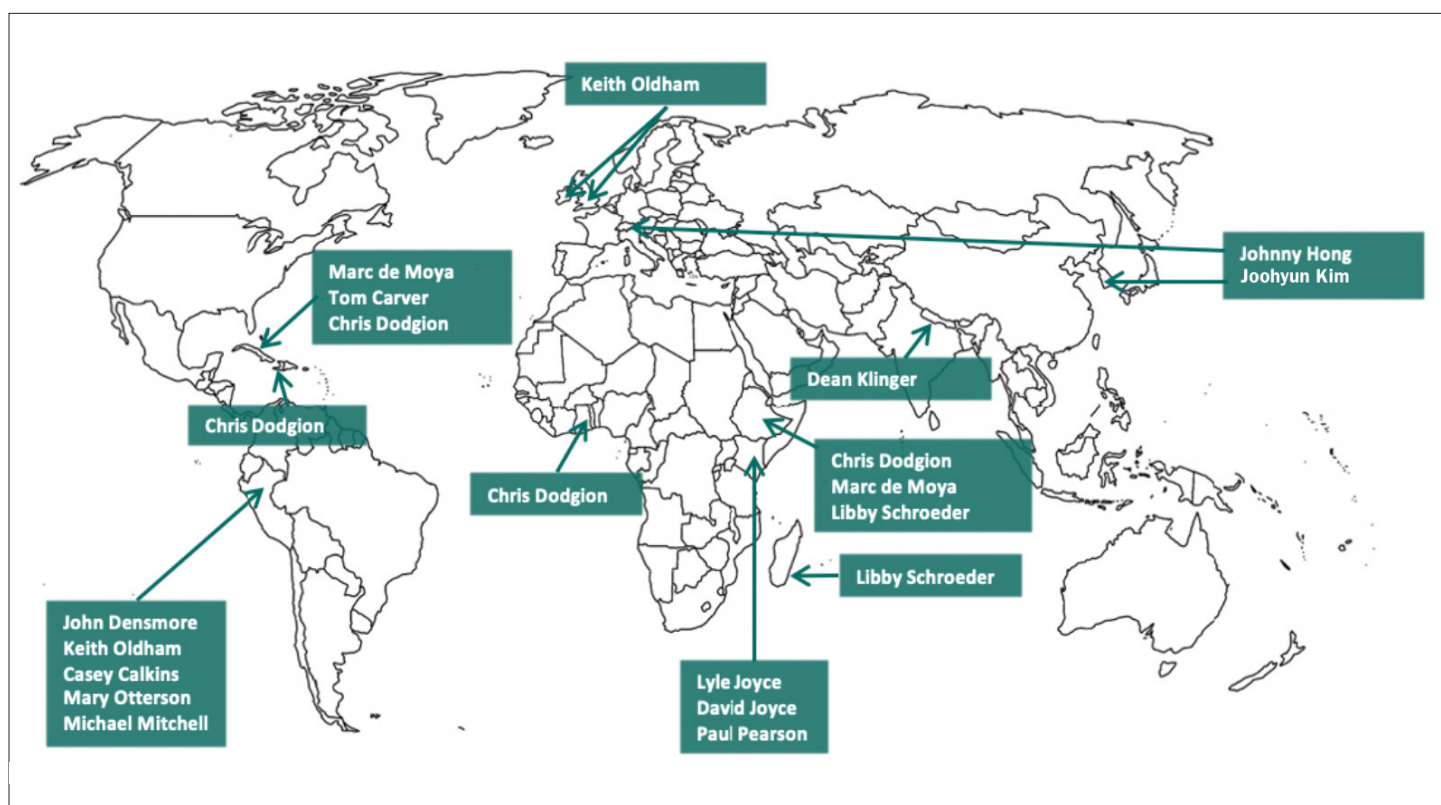


MCW Hub For Collaborative Medicine Interior.

Global Surgical Programs

Improving global surgical care by investing in the *global solution* to build a *common learning environment* and *surgical workforce* in low and middle-income countries

Over five billion people in the world lack access to basic essential and emergency surgical care (Lancet Commission Report). The World Health Organization report from 2010 indicates that more than material shortage, the lack of trained surgical workforce is critical. MCW surgeons across each of our subspecialties engage globally to advance global surgical care. Our surgical faculty are collaborating within five continents and across twelve countries.



GME Global Health Scholars & Global Surgery Fellowship

The GME Global Health Scholars academic enrichment program is available to any surgery resident or fellow who wants to advance their global health knowledge and leadership skills. This two-year training program gives them exposure to trainees in other specialties and networking opportunities with MCW's globally-en-

gaged faculty who provide interactive didactic seminars across the Consortium of Universities of Global Health competencies. Currently 37 trainees across 14 subspecialties are enrolled. This educational effort culminates in a global health away rotation where surgery trainees can witness surgical services in another part of the world.

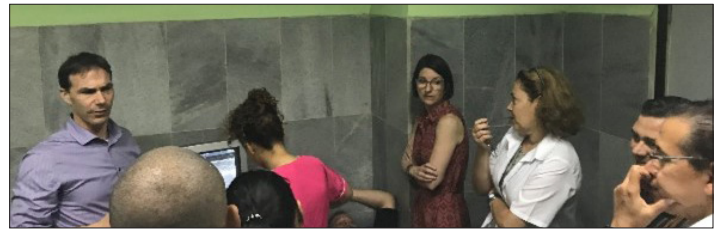
The new Global Surgery Fellowship is a two-year training program for the already globally-engaged resident to have advanced practice as an educator and surgeon, collaborating with in-country partners to build surgical capacity, as well as research, education and quality improvement efforts.

Havana, Cuba

Dr. Marc de Moya has been traveling to Havana, Cuba, since 2010 to develop bidirectional relationships to research and improve care for trauma and acute care surgery. Our group introduced an Advanced Trauma Life Support course in partnership with Brazil, and have worked with the surgeons and nurses there to propagate other trauma training courses on an annual basis. MCW medical students have performed research in the country as Kohler Scholars, studying the introduction of new technologies in low-resourced centers and improving the culture of safety in the operating rooms. The program has been a great success and MCW is now in the process of developing a more formal Memorandum of Understanding for academic collaboration with the University of Havana. Dr. de Moya will be given an adjunct academic position this coming year. Drs. Marc de Moya, Chris Dodgion, Katie Iverson, and Libby Schroeder traveled to Cuba to reconnect with our partners this summer.



Trauma Operative Skills training with Coordinator having fun.

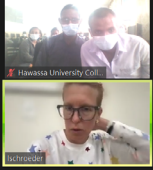


Dr. Carver provides Ultrasound Training for Surgeons.

Hawassa, Ethiopia

MCW remains engaged in Hawassa, Ethiopia, as a founding member of the academic medical center consortium organized by the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Operation Giving Back. The goal of this partnership is to strengthen Hawassa University's surgical workforce, research capacity, and quality improvement initiatives. In spite of COVID travel restrictions, MCW faculty continue to participate in nearly weekly educational activities. Drs. Marc de Moya, Chris Dodgion and Libby Schroeder have participated in virtual journal clubs and Mortality and Morbidity conferences, designed and implemented a research mentoring program and further proliferated the ACS Trauma Evaluation and Management (TEAM) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses as they support Hawassa as a regional leader and center of excellence for over 4 million people. The research team, led by Drs. Schroeder and Dodgion, have presented and published their research and mentorship education model with the goal of providing a framework for other bidirectional partnerships to create their own programs.

• A 48-year-old man is brought to the emergency department (casualty room) after being involved in a motor vehicle crash. The patient's blood pressure is 90/60 mm Hg, heart rate is 100 beats per minute, and respiratory rate is 24 breaths per minute. His respirations are noisy. He has bruising over the face and what appears to be rhinorrhea. He withdraws to painful stimuli and opens his eyes to commands. His only verbal response is moaning. He has bruising over both iliac crests. Questions for discussion include the following items:



Dr. Libby Schroeder reviewing a trauma case with Hawassa participants in a virtual Trauma Education and Management Course.



Dr. Marc de Moya giving a lecture to Hawassa faculty and residents.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Dr. Alexis Bowder along with representatives from UMREP, CIFAS and Info-CHIR at the inaugural meeting of the research training partnership.



Drs. Alexis Bowder, Michelle Joseph and Jean Wilguens work with research curriculum participants to develop their initial project ideas.

Haiti is home to over 11 million people, many of whom face significant barriers accessing safe, timely, and affordable surgical care. Drs. Chris Dodgion and Alexis Bowder have continued ongoing collaborative efforts to identify and address these barriers with their Haitian colleagues. Over the last two years, they have established a multi-organizational collaborative (IMPART project) with the Centre d'Information et de Formation d'Administration de la Santé (CIFAS - Ministry of Health partner for education and training development), Unité Médicale de Recherche et de formation Permanente (UMREP - Haitian non-profit dedicated to epidemiological and clinical research training), and Info-CHIR (Haitian Journal of Surgery and Anesthesia) to design and implement a sustainable research curriculum and local mentorship network. This collaborative has completed their inaugural course with participants' initial projects nearing completion and the next cohort to begin in late 2022.

Medanta Hospital, New Delhi, India

Drs. David and Lyle Joyce traveled to Medanta Hospital in New Delhi, India, in February 2022 to teach local surgeons how to implant the first Protek Duo percutaneous ECMO circuit in a patient who had been placed emergently on peripheral ECMO for COVID in Nepal and transported by air ambulance to Medanta Hospital in India for further care. He had been at bed rest for 3 months due to the peripheral cannulation. This hospital has been running up to 58 ECMO patients at a time with only peripheral cannulation. They had seen the articles published by Dr. David Joyce with his early use of the percutaneous system in order to get immediate ambulation and requested introduction to the technique. The patient was successfully converted and was able to be transferred back to Nepal to be with his family. Dr. Naresh Trehan (world-renowned heart surgeon and CEO) has requested Dr. David Joyce to return to assist in establishing an implantable ventricular assist and heart/lung transplant program at their mega hospital system soon.



Dr. David Joyce in an operating room in India, mentoring the first implant of a Protek Duo for COVID.

Tenwek Hospital, Kenya

The first Kenyan cardiothoracic surgery resident has graduated and is now full time faculty at Tenwek Hospital. In October 2021 and March 2022, Drs. David and Lyle Joyce completed visiting trips where they taught surgical techniques such as repair of ventricular aneurysms, triple valve replacements, MAZE procedures, septal myectomies for hypertrophic cardiomyopathies, and the latest surgical approaches to ECMO. The new cardiothoracic hospital will be completed in December 2023 at which time they will have multiple cardiac ORs and Cath Labs to further expand the program. With each trip, they have had the pleasure of taking Froedtert/MCW nurses or medical students to assist. Mohammed Kamalia was this year's



Dr. Lyle Joyce teaching left ventricular aneurysm repair at Tenwek.

recipient of the Joyce Global Health Scholarship created by MCW faculty members, Drs. David Joyce and Joyce Sanchez. This fund supports a global health educational experience at their global partner's institution, Tenwek Hospital. The infrastructure for the



Mohammed Kamalia (4th year MCW medical student and recipient of the *Joyce Global Health Scholarship*) operating at Tenwek Hospital.

ICU education and staffing is led by Dr. Sheri Crow, a pediatric and cardiac intensivist from the Mayo Clinic and daughter of our very own Dr. Lyle Joyce.

The Kathmandu University Hospital, Nepal

Prior to the pandemic Dr. Robin Karmacharya, from The Kathmandu University Hospital in Nepal, came to MCW and Froedtert Hospital. He returned to Nepal and with the help of philanthropic funding was able to start a vascular lab to include the ability to do ankle brachial indices and duplex scanning. Drs. Dean Klinger, Michael Malinowski, Andrew Goelz and Matthew Madion, traveled to

Nepal to expand on collaborative efforts between our two institutions. Unfortunately, the prevalence of COVID-19 began to surge, and the faculty came home after just two weeks. In that short time, Dr. Malinowski assisted Dr. Robin with the first-ever angioplasty procedures at the hospital. Since then, the hospital has built out a catheterization lab for Dr. Robin to expand his interventional

skills and provide more current therapy for vascular disease. MCW faculty participated in the organization and delivery of the First International Vascular Symposium in Nepal. This year we had the conference via Zoom and had about 100 participants. We continue to have monthly Zoom case conferences to discuss interesting or difficult to manage cases.

Kathmandu, Nepal

Drs. David and Lyle Joyce have previously made surgical teaching mission trips to Nepal between 2009-2017. As a result of the COVID patient that they treated in New Delhi, they have been requested to return to Kathmandu in November 2022 to teach local surgeons how to use the Protek Duo percutaneous ECMO system and to build a citywide service that would include governmental and private hospitals. The infrastructure for the ICU education and staffing will be led by Dr. Sheri Crow.



First International Vascular Symposium in Nepal.

Philanthropy can be the greatest form of flattery

MCW Department of Surgery Community Giving

Advancing the work of the Department of Surgery by supporting research and patient care



Ken Swan at Swan's Pumpkin farm.

Ken Swan is not just a pumpkin farmer, he is THE pumpkin farmer in Racine County, Wis.

"We are in our 45th season as a destination pumpkin farm; we get thousands of people through here every year."

It was during the 40th season of Swan's Pumpkin farm when Ken received difficult news — he had pancreatic cancer. "Nobody ever told me how long I had to live or anything like that. I didn't even want to know. I'm not a big going-to-the-

doctor kinda guy, but I knew this was serious. They said I needed this thing called a Whipple procedure to treat my cancer." It's a complicated surgery that removes all or part of the pancreas, cuts out the cancer, and still allows you to digest food after surgery.

"We went to a few hospitals but then a friend of mine told me I needed to go see Douglas Evans, MD, at Froedtert (Hospital). We found out that some really well-known hospitals only do a Whipple a few times a

year and that Dr. Evans does it a few times every WEEK! He's the top pancreatic cancer surgeon in the world!"

Dr. Evans is the Donald C. Ausman Family Foundation Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Internationally recognized for treating patients with pancreas cancer, patients throughout the country and around the world have sought him out for treatment.

Ken says the surgery was really, "no big deal," for him. The chemotherapy, he says, was another story. "Chemo wasn't easy ... it wasn't fun. But, one day at a time. One chemo at a time. We got through it. When you're fighting cancer, you do what's recommended, because you want the best outcome."

Ken and his family got about the best outcome anyone could hope for. He just had his five-year scan, and he's still cancer-free. "It's Dr. Evans, and it's the team. If they're doing these surgeries three or four times a week, well, you certainly feel a lot more comfortable knowing that this team, headed by Dr. Evans, is doing the surgery. That's what really sold us."

Now, out here among

the pumpkins, Ken is focused on his farm. He says he and Dr. Evans became friends and that he stops here to visit when he's in the area. Farmer Ken thinks they have something in common. "When you're the best pancreatic cancer surgeon in the world ... I guess it is like selling pumpkins, you see new people every week. But Dr. Evans is so personable! What a guy! I know he likes sailing, I don't know why he likes pumpkin farms, but he really thinks this is the greatest thing!"

Ken and his family have graciously chosen to give back, making gifts to the We Care Fund for Medical Innovation and Research, which supports physicians and scientists dedicated to finding new treatments and cures for cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

And even though Ken's attention is on the pumpkins, he always remembers how fortunate he is. "They are relentless. Such wonderful people. And they ... they saved me. And I'm sure other people at other hospitals may tell the same story, but Froedtert is our number one choice if we're going to have anything done."

We Care Fund for Medical Innovation and Research

Accelerating the development of life-saving treatments



Melissa Irwin
Chair, We Care
Fund Committee

At its core, the We Care Fund for Medical Innovation and Research in MCW's Department of Surgery is about the hope for a future with better treatments. We Care has awarded 21 grants since it was founded in 2010. These grants are instrumental in launching new and innovative pilot projects that gather preliminary data and investigate hypotheses to pursue competitive federal awards. Grants from We Care have launched projects that have received multi-million-dollar funding from institutions such as the National Institutes for Health, the American Heart Association and NASA.

Kirkwood Pritchard Jr., PhD, Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Cardiovascular Pharmacology, received a Recovery grant from We Care during the COVID-19 pandemic to support his research on how patients with sickle cell disease suffer from poor vascular function, which increases vaso-congestion. As he shares, "The We Care grant made it possible for me to complete the experiments lost due to the pandemic. Without We Care funding, the loss to my lab concerning data and publications would have been immense. I was able to replace the sickle mice lost earlier, set up our previous experiments, and perform the studies. We are now submitting manuscripts and grants based on data generated from the We Care award that paid for the

"We Care is dedicated to giving hometown access to world-class treatment...this care would not be possible without your support and the support of organizations like the Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin's We Care Fund"

- Bob Uecker

replacement experiments. Thank you very much for your generosity."

Gwen Lomber, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology & Toxicology, received a Recovery grant to investigate windows of opportunity for providing novel targets and treatment approaches for pancreatic cancer. As she shares, "We thank We Care for their tremendous support during these challenging times! The Recovery grant allowed us to replenish key reagents that had expired during the COVID-19 mandated shutdown of the lab and had to be thrown away, as well as re-purchase some pancreatic cancer cell lines that were not coming out of cryopreservation very well. Due in part to this help, we were able to acquire the necessary additional preliminary data to successfully re-submit our NCI (National Cancer Institute) R01 grant in October 2020, which was funded. We also published a manuscript, which utilized reagents supported by the Recovery grant."

2021 We Care Grant Recipients



William Hall, MD
Associate Professor of
Radiation Oncology

Dr. Hall's project, Optimal Immunotherapy for Improving Pancreatic Cancer Survival, looks to compare different types of radiation therapy and evaluate the resulting immune response.



Thomas Carver, MD
Associate Professor, Division of
Trauma and Acute Surgery

Dr. Carver's project, Clinical Trial to Identify Best Treatment Approach for Traumatic Injuries to the Spleen, focuses on studying splenic trauma to improve the success rate of non-operative management.



The Mission

To provide patients and families with hope through advanced treatments for cancer, organ failure and complications from trauma, and cardiovascular diseases. The We Care Fund helps accelerate the development of advanced, life-saving treatments, and serves as a catalyst to engage the local community to ensure we have the healthcare we deserve in our region.

We Care Fund Committee

Melissa Irwin, *Chair*
 Arlene Lee, *Founder*
 Carrie Raymond Bedore
 Aletha Champine
 Betsy Evans
 Deb Gollin
 Sandra Hansen Harsh
 Ruth Joachim

Jennifer La Macchia
 Joel Lee
 Liza Longhini
 Darren Miller
 Mary Ann Miller
 Brian Neuwirth
 Abigail Barnes Schroeder, PA-C
 Peggy Schuemann

Brian Trexell
 Aaron Valentine
 Liza Zito
 Roger Caplinger
 Ashley Brunner
 Gerry King

Scientific Review Committee

Douglas B. Evans, MD
 Guan Chen, MD, PhD
 Chandler Cortina, MD
 Michael Dwinell, PhD

Aron Geurts, MD
 David Gourlay, MD
 Andrew Kastenmeier, MD
 Christian Kastруп, PhD

Gwen Lomberк, PhD
 Hershel Raff, PhD
 Mary Sorci-Thomas, PhD
 Michael Zimmermann, MD

Statistics

2010

The year We Care launched

21

of research grants funded

\$2.4M

Amount raised from over 2,000 donors

\$1,305,000

Amount awarded

9

of COVID-19 research recovery grants distributed in 2020

19

investigators who have received We Care grants

Donate Now

Philanthropic support plays a vital role in launching pilot studies and research that would not otherwise be funded for months. Throughout the pandemic, We Care has maintained its dedication to the important and life-saving work at Froedtert & MCW by continuing its support. Every penny raised supports research and clinical programs that can't wait for traditional funding sources. Your gift will help our researchers and physicians translate new medical discover-

ies from the laboratory to the operating room, bedside, and clinic. With your support, we can bring new hope to patients in Wisconsin and throughout the world. Scan to donate or visit <https://mcwsupport.mcw.edu/wecarefund>.



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**This list attempts to recognize all Department of Surgery donors during the 2020-21 fiscal year. If you notice any errors, please contact Jason Kraiss.*

Acknowledgements

This Annual Report would not have been possible without the incredible commitment and dedication of the faculty, APPs, residents, and staff of the MCW Department of Surgery, and our current and former patients who inspire us to keep improving day by day! We would like to thank the Division Chiefs, Division Administrators, and administrative assistants who provided information and data for the report. Tracy Wang, MD, MPH and Jon Mayer, MBA, Chief Administrator, advised on the content and provided vital data and resources. The report was edited by Douglas B. Evans, MD, Tracy Wang, MD, MPH, Jon Mayer, MBA, Wendy Behrs, and Theresa Neitzel. Our sincerest thanks to Elizabeth B. Chen, designer extraordinaire, for pulling together all the content into one cohesive and beautifully designed report.

Thank you to the staff at Children’s Wisconsin and Froedtert Health who graciously allowed their patient stories to be reprinted in this year’s report, and to the many faculty, APPs, and staff listed below who contributed their original stories. These stories were coordinated with assistance from Sharon Fischer, Laura Haas, RN, BSN, Victoria James, Alicia Martin, Lindsay Morris, APNP, and Kerry Short, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC.



Summerfest (Photo by Timothy Fenske MD).



Milwaukee Skyline View (Photo by Timothy Fenske, MD).

Patient Stories

All stories have been edited for length and clarity from their original versions.

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Original story authored by Alan Betensley, MD

Colorectal Surgery

Original story authored by Kirk Ludwig, MD

Congenital Heart Surgery

“How two Herma Heart Institute doctors changed donor organ rejection testing forever” by Evan Solochek, Writer, Children’s Wisconsin, <https://childrenswi.org/newshub/stories/new-organ-transplant-rejection-blood-test>

General Surgery

Original story authored by Abigail Schroeder, MPAS, PA-C, and Keri Blaszczynski

Pediatric Surgery

“Second opinion brings relief to teen suffering with GI issues” by Nicole Sweeney Etter, Writer, Children’s Wisconsin, <https://childrenswi.org/newshub/stories/gi-second-opinion-brings-relief>

Surgical Oncology

Original story by Dominic Harris, edited by Elizabeth B. Chen

Transplant Surgery

Original story by Johnny C. Hong, MD

Trauma & Acute Care Surgery

“Former race car driver overcomes life-changing injuries” by Froedtert Newsroom, <https://www.froedtert.com/stories/former-race-car-driver-overcomes-life-changing-injuries> © 2018 Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. Reprinted with permission.

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery

Original story by Ali Kusch, APNP

Philanthropy

“Innovative Cancer Surgery Gives Pumpkin Farmer New Lease on Life” by Froedtert Newsroom, <https://www.froedtert.com/stories/innovative-cancer-surgery-gives-pumpkin-farmer-new-lease-life> © 2021 Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. Reprinted with permission.

Information in this report is current through June 2022.

2022

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