

Department of Surgery

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery Update by Dr. David Meyer

The Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery has had a very productive several months. First, we congratulate our Division Chief, **Dr. Justin Maykel**, who was recently promoted to Professor of Surgery and awarded the inaugural endowed Joseph M. Streeter and Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Surgery, which “supports research that advances our understanding of gastrointestinal disease and offers innovative pathways to treatment.” We also congratulate **Dr. Jennifer Davids** for her promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery and for being appointed as an Editorial Board member for *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, the primary journal of our society. We also congratulate **Dr. Karim Alavi** on his appointment as Section Editor for the Current Status Review section of the *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*.

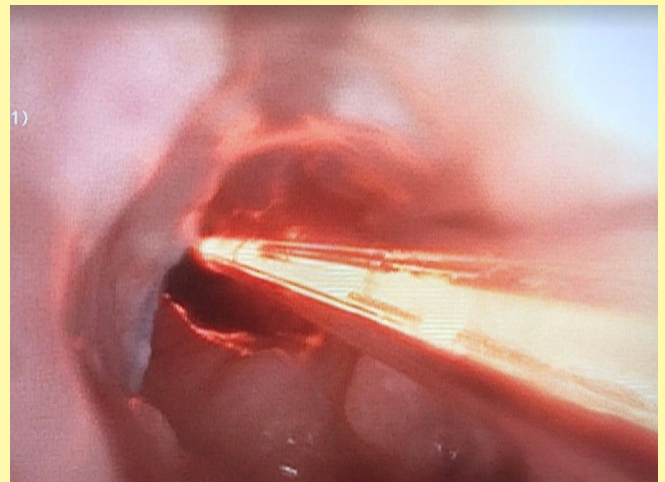
Our 2019-2020 clinical fellow (our 8th fellow!), **Dr. Sue Hahn**, who has been a great addition to our team, has recently accepted a position at her home institution, Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, which surely will mark the beginning of a very successful academic career.

Under the direction of Dr. Alavi, the Division maintains a strong commitment to quality and outcomes research. Our research has garnered attention at regional and national meetings with 12 podium presentations and eight poster presentations over the past year. We have also had eight accepted manuscripts in 2019. Additionally, we recently submitted 10 abstracts for the 2020 ASCRS Annual Scientific Meeting which will be held in Boston, MA.

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First Airway Photodynamic Therapy Procedure

Karl Fabian L. Uy, MD, Chief, Division of Thoracic Surgery, performed the first airway photodynamic therapy procedure on September 25, 2019 at Health Alliance Hospital. This is the first PDT of the airway in UMass history.



PDT laser fiber in the airway

UMass Presents at Annual TQIP (Trauma Quality Improvement Program) Meeting in Dallas, TX

The Division of Trauma recently presented our Quality work at the annual TQIP meeting in Dallas. The poster was titled “SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment 101.” As a Level 1 Trauma Center, we are required to screen 80% of our admitted patients for alcohol use and those that screen positive need 100% intervention and referral to treatment. With the help of everyone on the Trauma Team, Hospital Administration, and the Social Work Department, we were able to develop a process that showed significant improvement with a target to surpass the 80% goal with 100% intervention.

Deborah Gleason, Trauma Registrar, presented several topics at the conference including Substance Disorder and Trauma Jeopardy.

Research

- Liu D, MD and Chung S, MD are General Surgery residents. Their grant proposal, “Walk with the Doc - An Initiative to Increase Postoperative Ambulation,” has been selected for funding and prioritization by the Enterprise Clinical Oversight Group, who was very impressed with their initiative to improve outcomes of patients in the perioperative setting. The group was supportive of the concept of having residents ambulate eligible patients, to improve their mobility/outcomes and to increase the level of satisfaction of the patients and the provider. They will be provided with \$3,375. We also congratulate Drs. Liu and Chung as this is the first resident-driven application to be funded through this program.

Recent Publications

General Surgery

- Fazzalari A, Srinivas S, Pozzi N, Schlieve C, Green J, Litwin D, Cave D, Cahan MA. Intraoperative Enteroscopy: A Fast and Safe Technique for Localization and Treatment of Small Bowel Lesions. *World J Surg Surgical Res.* 2019;2:Article1179.
- Fazzalari A, Pozzi N, Alfego D, Erskine N, Shi Q, Tourony G, Mathew J, Litwin D, Cahan MA. Treatment of appendicitis: Do Medicaid and non-Medicaid-enrolled patients receive the same care? *Surgery.* 2019 Nov;166(5):793-799.
- Fazzalari A, Pozzi N, Alfego D, Shi Q, Erskine N, Tourony G, Mathew J, Litwin J, Cahan MA. Treatment of Acute Cholecystitis: Do Medicaid and Non-Medicaid Enrolled Patients Receive the Same Care? *J Gastrointest Surg.* 2019 Dec 10.

Colon and Rectal

- Hoang CM, Maykel JA, Davids JS, Crawford AS, Sturrock PR, Alavi K. Distribution of Elective Ileal Pouch-Anal Anastomosis Cases for Ulcerative Colitis: a Study Utilizing the University Health System Consortium Database. *J Gastrointest Surg.* 2019 Nov 25.
- Davids JS, Hill SS, Lu P, Melnitchouk N. Progress Towards Reducing Implicit Bias – A 2019 American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery Annual Meeting Update. *Dis Colon Rectum.* 2019;62(12):1411.
- Hill SS, Chung SK, Meyer DC, Crawford AS, Sturrock PR, Harnsberger CR, Davids JS, Maykel JA, Alavi K. Impact of pre-operative care for rectal adenocarcinoma on pathologic specimen quality and post-operative morbidity: a NSQIP analysis. *J Am Coll Surg.* 2020;230(1):17-25.
- Hill SS, Hoang CM, Cheraghi SN, Shabo MR, Resnick AJ, Crawford AS, Melnitchouk N, Harnsberger CR, Alavi K, Sturrock PR, Maykel JA, Davids JS. Data Accuracy and Predictors of High Ratings of Colon and Rectal Surgeons on an Online Physician Rating Website. *Dis Colon Rectum.* 2020;63:226-232.
- Hill SS, Davids JS. Resident’s Corner: Surgical Evaluation and Management of Constipation. *Dis Colon Rectum.* 2019; 62(6):661-4.

Vascular Surgery

- Dossabhoy SS, Simons JP, Crawford AS, Aiello FA, Judelson DR, Arous EJ, Messina LM, Schanzer A. Impact of acute kidney injury on long-term outcomes after fenestrated and branched endovascular aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg.* 2019 Dec 13. pii: S0741-5214(19)32495-4.
- Murray CR, Bluemn EG, Judelson DR, Messina LM. Acute Limb Ischemia in a 26-Year-Old Man Presenting with an Idiopathic Thrombosed Popliteal Artery Aneurysm. *Ann Vasc Surg.* 2020;62:498.e7-498.e10.
- Simons JP, Podder S, Dossabhoy SS, Wyman AS, Arous EJ, Judelson DR, Aiello FA, Schanzer A. Fenestrated/Branched Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair Using a Supraceliac Aortic Proximal Seal Zone Versus an Infraceliac Aortic Proximal Seal Zone. *Ann Vasc Surg.* 2020;62:213-222.
- Nguyen TT, Simons JP, Podder S, Crawford AS, Judelson DR, Arous EJ, Aiello FA, Schanzer A. Imaging Obtained Up To 12 Months Preoperatively Is Adequate for Planning Fenestrated/Branched Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair. *Vasc Endovascular Surg.* 2019;53(7):563-571.
- Tenorio ER, Oderich GS, Farber MA, Schneider DB, Timaran CH, Schanzer A, Beck AW, Motta F, Sweet MP; U.S. Fenestrated and Branched Aortic Research Consortium Investigators. Outcomes of endovascular repair of chronic postdissection compared with degenerative thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms using fenestrated-branched stent grafts. *J Vasc Surg.* Dec 2019.
- Alqaim M, Puri AS, Vaezi AE, Schanzer A. Carotid body tumor resection utilizing a covered stent graft to enable resection of the tumor en bloc with the internal carotid artery. *J Vasc Surg Cases Innov Tech.* 2019;5(4):481-484.

Pediatric Surgery

- McLoughlin RJ, McKie K, Hirsh MP, Cleary MA, Aidlen JT. Impact of Nutritional Deficiencies on Children and Young Adults with Crohn's Disease Undergoing Intraabdominal Surgery. J Pediatr Surg. Oct 2019.
- McLoughlin RJ, Stetson A, Green J, Hirsh MP, Cleary MA, Aidlen JT. Toy Guns, Real Danger: An Update on Pediatric Injury Patterns Related to Nonpowder Weapons. J Pediatr Surg. 2020;55(1):146-152.

Surgical Oncology

- Shaw SM, Middleton J, Wigglesworth K, Charlemagne A, Schulz O, Glossop MS, Whalen GF, Old R, Westby M, Pickford C, Tabakman R, Carmi-Levy I, Vainstein A, Sorani E, Zur AA, Kristian SA. AGI-134: a fully synthetic α -Gal glycolipid that converts tumors into in situ autologous vaccines, induces anti-tumor immunity and is synergistic with an anti-PD-1 antibody in mouse melanoma models. Cancer Cell Int. 2019;19:346

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT - Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery *(continued from page 1)*

Multiple clinical trials are ongoing, including departmental studies, multicenter studies, as well as industry sponsored trials. The Division's early adoption of the transanal total mesorectal excision (TaTME) procedure has allowed us to become involved in studies on TaTME outcomes including the international "COLOR III Trial: Transanal vs Laparoscopic TME", the multicenter "US TaTME Multicenter Phase II Study of Transanal Total Mesorectal Excision (TaTME) with Laparoscopic Assistance for Rectal Cancer," and a departmental study of "TaTME Functional Outcomes." We have also compiled a UMass TaTME database that will help provide internal quality and safety analysis. Additionally, we are involved in two clinical trials addressing surgical management of fistula-in-ano: a departmental pilot study, a collaboration by **Dr. Alavi** and a patient, evaluating the efficacy of laser ablation of the fistula tract. We have also recently launched an industry sponsored study on the efficacy of stem cell injection for the treatment of complex fistula-in-ano disease in the setting of Crohn's disease. We are excited to begin enrollment soon for another industry sponsored study that utilizes fluorochrome-labeled anti-CEA monoclonal antibodies as an intra-operative imaging agent for tumor visualization in patients undergoing resection for T4 and metastatic colorectal neoplasms.

Our group has launched a pilot study assessing the feasibility and satisfaction of postoperative telemedicine and web-based "E-visit" for initial post-operative follow-up after colectomy. We continue our collaboration with **Dr. Alok Kapoor** (Internal Medicine) in a prospective study of a "pre-habilitation" exercise prescription for frail, older adults undergoing major surgery. Finally, we have initiated two division-wide quality improvement projects related to instituting opioid prescribing guidelines for both anorectal surgery and major resections and for a second evaluating early urinary catheter removal after colovesical fistula repair.



(left to right) Karim Alavi, MD, Jennifer Davids, MD, Justin Maykel, MD, Paul Sturrock, MD

We are proud of our recent accomplishments and our commitment to advancing clinical care for patients with colorectal diseases. Under the leadership of **Dr. Paul Sturrock**, Chair of the UMass Memorial Robotics Committee and Director of Robotics for the division, we were excited to have contributed to the Memorial Campus milestone of having completed the first 150 cases on the new DaVinci Xi robot.

Finally, we are particularly proud of our research residents **Dr. David Meyer** and **Dr. Susanna Hill** (Albany Medical Center, our second Kusek Fellow in Colon and Rectal Surgery). We are grateful for the generosity of the Kusek family in supporting this position. We are grateful for our team of UMass Medical School students who are gaining skills and experience in surgical research. We are grateful for the support we receive from **Dr. Litwin** and the Department of Surgery, specifically research nurse **Sharon Balcom**. We look forward to continuing our collaborative research efforts over the next year with colleagues at UMass, partnering institutions, and industry sponsors.



“Stop the Bleed” wins 2019 Arthur Ellenberg Award for Excellence in State Advocacy

George DeBusk, MD, Division of Trauma and Critical Care, has been nominated by our state chapter to receive the 2019 Arthur Ellenberger Award for Excellence in State Advocacy for his Stop the Bleed work at the state and national levels. This nomination letter goes to Washington, DC to the State Affairs Associate in the Division of Advocacy & Health Policy.

Dr. DeBusk (right) teaching the Surgical Administrative Services Group (ASG) his award winning class, “Stop the Bleed.” For information on training, call the Division of Trauma at 508-856-1168.



Congratulations to (left to right) **Drs. Josh Scurlock** (PGY5), **Max Hazeltine** (PGY2, Research Resident) and **Edward Kim** (PGY1) and their mentor, **Don Czerniach**, for winning the Top Gun Competition at the MA-ACS Annual Meeting in Boston on Saturday, December 7, 2019. A true example of the technical skill of our General Surgery Residents!

Worcester Stop the Bleed wins MLK Semester of Service Student Award

Four teams of UMass Medical School students have been awarded Martin Luther King Jr. Semester of Service Awards to implement community service programs. They will use the \$500 awards to help improve access to cervical cancer screening, train youth in a lifesaving emergency intervention, integrate medical health records into free medical care, and expand tutoring opportunities for high school students.

The MLK Semester of Service Student Award program is a community service initiative that enhances health care education for UMMS students as they expand the institution’s impact and reach in the communities that surround the Worcester campus.

This project is being spearheaded by 1st year medical student, **Michael Wang**, SOM ‘23 with the help of **Lucinda Chiu**, SOM ‘21; and **Elya Reznichenko**, SOM ‘22. Lucinda and Elya also won the UMass AOA grant competition for their community Stop the Bleed project after committee selection headed by **Dean Flotte**. It is through their efforts that the Stop the Bleed program is this year’s Tatnuck House Legacy Project and integrated into the incoming freshman Transition to Medical School curriculum!

“I’m incredibly happy to let you know three of our superstar medical students won the MLK Service Award for their ‘Worcester Stops the Bleed’ initiative! Please congratulate all three as their successes with the UMass Stop the Bleed initiative is truly a consequence of their dedication and hard work! I’m ecstatic to see them doing so well!”

George DeBusk, MD

The Inaugural Vascular Surgery Pre-Thanksgiving Charity Pie Eating Contest

Participants were asked to donate \$5 minimum to participate. If you chose to donate \$20 or more, you were allowed to pick a “pie proxy” – this proxy will eat the pie on your behalf.

Those who participated were challenged to eat 1 slice of pie in the quickest amount of time. Participants were NOT allowed to use their hands! The individual with the fastest time won!

Congratulations to **Francesco Aiello, MD**, who took first place by eating his piece of pie in 42 seconds. Proceeds were donated to Toys for Tots.



Geri Reilly, perioperative coordinator for the Department of Surgery, was nominated as a finalist for the 2019 Admin Awards for the Greater Boston area. Many refer to this as the “Academy Awards for Admins.” It’s more than a competition. It’s a celebration of the invaluable contributions of every administrative professional who attends. Congratulations Geri!

The Department of Surgery - Newest Edition



Natalie Godfrey, MD (PGY6 Plastic Surgery) and **Andrew Godfrey**, welcomed their first child on January 6, 2020. Welcome **Nora Elizabeth Godfrey**, 6lbs 5oz, 19”. Congratulations!

Pain Management and Opioids CME - A Free Online CME Course for Medical Professionals

Pain management is evolving, and medical professionals need to be aware of current guidelines and clinical best practices. The new CME course is offered FREE to medical professionals. To claim your CME credits, you must answer all 62 case-based questions. Once you have seen the completion pop-up message, you can go to the MOC/CME or Accreditation Center within the product to download a transcript of your credits.

This opportunity would apply to the MA Board of Registration Opiate CME requirement.

More Information:

<https://knowledgeplus.nejm.org/products/pain-management-and-opioids-cme/>

Let’s Tweet

To continue to highlight our Department’s and Institution’s great accomplishments, please follow and add @UMassSurgery and @UMassVascular when you Tweet. Get the word out quickly about the great things you do every day!

Promotions and Appointments



Congratulations to the following Department of Surgery faculty promotions. (left to right)

Jennifer LaFemina, MD (Surgical Oncology) Associate Professor

Jennifer Davids, MD (Colorectal) Associate Professor

Justin Maykel, MD (Colorectal) Professor

Congratulations to **Jennifer Davids, MD, FACS, FASCRS** was selected to be an Associate Examiner for the Colon and Rectal Surgery Boards.



Congratulations to **Douglas Rothkopf, MD**, Division of Plastic Surgery, who was named as Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

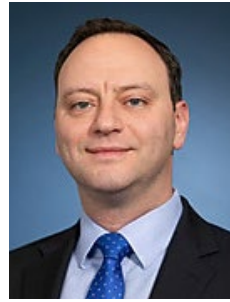


Congratulations to **Kelli Hickle, MD**, (PGY5 Plastic Surgery Resident). Kelli matched to Massachusetts General Hospital in a breast reconstruction fellowship.



Board of Directors of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare has appointed **Gazi Rashad, MD** (PGY1 General Surgery) as Vice Chair, Surgery SIG, Society for Simulation in Healthcare, 2020-2022.

Francesco Aiello, MD Appointed Chief Medical Officer of Revenue Management



Francesco Aiello, MD, Division of Vascular Surgery, was appointed Chief Medical Officer of Revenue Management. In this role, he can continue to identify opportunities in professional and hospital coding and reimbursement, documentation, denial management, level of care assignment, hospice contracting and numerous other areas which will continue to improve our financial health, as well as our ability to provide better clinical care for patients and improved quality metrics.

For several years, Dr. Aiello, has served in multiple positions involving revenue cycle performance. He is a recognized expert in the area of coding and billing and serves as a delegate on multiple national committees focused on coding and reimbursement working directly with the American Medical Association (AMA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and commercial payers. Dr. Aiello possesses a unique blend of financial acumen and clinical expertise.



Tim Emhoff, MD, iconic Trauma Director of UMass Division of Trauma Surgery, announced his retirement effective January 4, 2020. A great leader, great teacher, great surgeon, and great mentor. Always leading from the front! Thank you for your years of dedication and friendship.

Bruce Simon, MD, MHCM will be Interim Chief of the Division.



Timothy A. Emhoff, MD at his last CASS with surgery residents.



Welcome Giorgio Giatsidis, MD, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Giorgio Giatsidis, MD was hired in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He joins the UMass faculty from Brigham and Women's Hospital with Department of Defense funding.

Dr. Giatsidis' general area of investigation is tissue repair and regeneration. In particular his research is focused on soft tissue repair and regeneration using a combination of three approaches:

1. The development/refinement of scaffolds for skin or soft tissue (=adipose) engineering to reconstruct or repair soft tissue losses after trauma or oncologic surgery.
2. The use of mechanical forces to non-invasively induce angiogenesis in skin or soft tissues as a method to prepare these tissues for reconstructive surgeries.
3. The adoption as regenerative tool of Mesenchymal Stem Cells obtained non-invasively from adipose tissue and processed as a point-of-care source of stem cells without the need of cell factories or cell culturing.

Most of his research using these three approaches is focused on adipose tissue engineering and wound healing (in particular diabetic). He is also developing a new area of interest in skin aging and muscle repair after trauma.

With the rest of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery faculty, Dr. Giatsidis will be an integral part of the ongoing expansion of the divisions' research efforts.



Welcome Han Li, MD, Division of Organ Transplantation

Dr. Han Li, Assistant Professor, joined the Division of Organ Transplantation. Dr. Li is a multi-organ abdominal transplant surgeon. He performs liver, kidney and pancreas transplants as well as hepatobiliary and pancreas surgeries, including minimal invasive approaches, both laparoscopically and robotically.

Dr. Li received his medical degree and completed his general surgery residency training in China. He also received a Master of Surgery degree from Beijing Medical University (one of the top medical universities) in China. Dr. Li subsequently moved to the USA and trained in a transplant surgery fellowship program at Mayo Clinic Rochester, in both deceased and living donor kidney and liver transplants. He then completed his general surgery residency in the U.S.

Besides Dr. Li's passion for clinical work in deceased and living donor liver transplants, he also has extensive research experience, including both basic and clinical research. He has published more than 20 manuscripts; many of his works have been presented at national meetings.

UMass Presents at the American College of Surgeons Annual (ACS) Clinical Congress

Ryan J. Hendrix, MD, MSCI, under mentorship of **Jennifer LaFemina, MD**, presented "Correlation of Burnout and Depression in General Surgery Residents Using the PRIME-MD Questionnaire." The talk highlighted the similarities between depression and burnout and suggested the potential that burnout is just a socially more acceptable synonym for depression; one that is free of stigma. Ultimately, we showed that screening for depression was an effective way to identify residents who are at risk for burnout metrics of emotional exhaustion and depersonalization.

David Meyer, MD, presented work from the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery titled "Stop Over-Prescribing Opioids Following Colorectal Surgery: More than Half of Patients Don't Take Them." This study analyzed opioid prescribing and consumption patterns following major colorectal surgery. The most striking findings were that 53% of patients used no opioids in the 24 hours prior to hospital discharge and 51% consumed no opioids after discharge. We used these data to develop a practice guideline for discharge opioid prescribing that could reduce excess pills per prescription by 59%. The guideline is currently being studied prospectively.

General Surgery Residency - Holiday Party at Tavern in the Square



(left to right) Natalie Godfrey, MD (PGY6 Plastic Surgery), Joshua Scurlock, MD (PGY5 General Surgery), Kelli Hickle, MD (PGY5 Plastic Surgery), Stacy Sanders, MD (PGY4 General Surgery), Ashley Russo, MD (PGY4 General Surgery), Brett Baker, MD (PGY5 General Surgery), Brian Jao, MD (PGY4 Plastic Surgery), Erin Scott, MD (PGY2 General Surgery), Christine Van Horn, MD (PGY2 Urology)



(left to right) Salim Munoz, MD (PGY3 General Surgery), Ryan Hendrix, MD (PGY3 General Surgery), Jorge Lujan-Hernandez, MD (PGY4 Plastic Surgery)

2020 Grand Rounds

The Department of Surgery will host several internationally and nationally recognized speakers during Grand Rounds this year.

Some upcoming sessions include:

March 18: Department of Surgery Grand Rounds

Neil H. Hyman, MD, FACS

March 25: Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds

Gregory A Dumanian, MD

April 15: Wheeler Lecture

Pierre-Alain Clavien, MD, PhD, FACS

April 22: Department of Surgery Grand Rounds

Barbara Barlow, MD

May 13: Ellinwood Annual Lecture in

Vascular Surgery

Malachi Sheahan, MD

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR THIRD ANNUAL

Trainee QI Project Poster Day

Wednesday May 27, 2020 - Noon to 2:00pm

Faculty Conference Room

Medical School and clinical system leaders will be on hand to hear about your work. Contact Deb Rollo (Deborah. rollo@umassmed.edu) with questions or if you are a trainee and would like to present a project. The deadline for submission will be Friday, May 15, 2020.

DIVISION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

American Association of Plastic Surgeons Visiting Professor

Gregory A Dumanian, MD

Chief of Plastic Surgery in the Department of Surgery
Orion H. and Lucille W. Stuteville Professor of Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery, Northwestern University

March 24 - Dinner Lecture, Albert Sherman Center

Reconstructive and cosmetic abdominal wall closures made
simple—narrow meshes and mesh strips

March 25- Grand Rounds Lecture

Surgical treatment of the uber-painful injured nerve

Thank you for all of your submissions for the Department of Surgery Newsletter!

Send submissions to: Darius.Jagminas@umassmemorial.org