

Welcome to 2018!

We hope that you and your loved ones have had a wonderful holiday season!

Departmental Updates



- **Soleil Niknam-Bienia, MD** and her husband Sebastian Bienia, MD welcomed their son, Marcus Niknam Bienia. Baby, mom and dad are doing great. Welcome, Marcus, to the UMass Surgery family!

- **Michael Hirsh, MD** recently received the Injury Free Coalition for Kid's Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize his truly remarkable work in the area of injury prevention. Congratulations!
- **Christina Vassileva, MD** was invited by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) to serve on the advisory planning committee for the ACC Patient Forum on Valvular Heart Disease, which took place in Washington DC in November 2017. Dr. Vassileva discussed the challenges in treatment recommendations for surgical versus percutaneous approaches to aortic and mitral valve disease.



- The 16th Annual Goods for Guns buyback program recently took place in 20 Massachusetts cities and towns. The program, co-founded by **Michael Hirsh, MD** (above), was also expanded nationally this year, speaking to its power to make our communities safer. Last year, nearly 260 firearms were surrendered; more than 3400 firearms have been surrendered since the program's inception.
- General Surgery residents (pictured left), **Nicole Cherng, MD (PGY4)**, **John Kelly, MD (PGY2)**, and **Samuel Vazquez, MD (PGY1)** recently won the Top Gun Competition at the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (MA-ACS) Annual Meeting, bringing home the cup again! This award truly speaks to the skill of our residents. Thanks also to **Don Czerniach, MD** for his ongoing efforts to put together our spectacular team each year!

Departmental Updates

- **George DeBusk, MD** was elected as a Councilor for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.
- **Richard Perugini, MD** was appointed as the Weight Center Director. Dr. Perugini is a leader in the field of bariatric surgery and is a dedicated practitioner and advocate for the care of the obese patient. He currently also serves as the Center's Surgical Director.
- **Christina Vassileva, MD** was awarded an unsolicited scholarship by the University of Michigan Department of Cardiac Surgery to attend the University of Michigan Women in Surgery Leadership Development Conference, which was held in Ann Arbor, MI in November 2017.
- **George DeBusk, MD** was recently elected as Vice Chair of the American College of Surgeon Massachusetts Committee on Trauma.
- **Jon Dorfman, MD** recently spoke at the Harvard Trauma and Critical Care Symposium in Boston in November 2017. He presented talks entitled: When to keep and when to transfer TBI patients and REACT-2 Trial.
- **Ulises Torres, MD** was an invited panelist at the MA-ACS, discussing Global Surgery and Health Care Disparities.
- **Deborah Gleason** spoke in a breakout session on TQIP Jeopardy for Trauma Registrars and Abstractors at the National Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) in Chicago, IL in November 2017.
- **Jon Dorfman, MD, Lisa McNamara, NP, Didem Ayturk, and Heena Santry, MD** recently presented a poster at the TQIP meeting entitled, "Quality Improvement Program of Real Time Review and Feedback about VTE Prophylaxis in Hospitalized Trauma Patients."
- **Jennifer LaFemina, MD** was recently featured in the *Worcester Business Journal* for her work with our surgical oncology patients.
- **Vijaya Daniel, MD**, under the mentorship of **Heena Santry, MD**, recently delivered an oral presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, entitled "The Current State of the Acute Care Surgery Workforce: Results of a National Survey."
- A number of members of the Department also had their work highlighted in poster form at the MA-ACS:
 - **Chau Hoang, MD, Jennifer Davids, Julie Flahive, Paul Sturrock, Justin Maykel, Karim Alavi:** "Readmission Risk Following Colorectal Surgery: Impact of Non-Discharge Home Disposition."
 - **Vijaya Daniel, MD, Stacy Sanders, MD, Didem Ayturk, Doyle Ward, Beth McCormick, Heena Santry:** "Gastrointestinal Perforations: Examining the Overlooked Unintentional Consequences of Our Nation's Epidemic."
 - **Chau Hoang, MD, Karim Alavi, Paul Sturrock, Jennifer Guertin, Brett Baker, David Meyer, Justin Maykel, Jennifer Davids:** "Feasibility and Impact of Follow-Up Phone Calls After Colon and Rectal Surgery: A Single-Center Experience."
 - **Stacy Sanders, MD, Heena Santry:** "Timing of Chemoprophylaxis Initiation in Trauma Patients Undergoing Spinal Fixation."



Upcoming Events

- 1. Friday, January 5:** Sponsored by the VA, First Friday Faculty Development presentations are held on the first Friday of the month at 12 pm EST and are available via online or audio conferencing. CME are available. This Friday, January 5, 2018, the topic is “Shaping the Future of Healthcare through Academic Practice/Partnership,” by Cecilia McVey, Chief of the Nursing Service at the VA Boston. Please contact Dr. LaFemina if you would like information on this event and/or be included on future mailings. Select [here](#) for link to conference information.
- 2. Saturday, January 27 and Sunday, January 28:** General Surgery ABSITE Examination.

Thank you for all of your submissions for the newsletter! Please continue to submit your accomplishments of any kind so we can highlight your successes!