

Letter from the Chair, Department of Surgery



Dear Members of the Department of Surgery:

Certainly, the 2017-2018 academic year has seen many wonderful achievements by all the members of the Department of Surgery. From the numerous manuscripts, talks, and grants, to the superb performance of our residents across three specialties, to the “epic” efforts of our members through the implementation of EPIC, the efforts of each and every member have been instrumental to the vitality of the Department of Surgery.

Over the coming academic year, we have so much to look forward to, including the opening of the UMass Outpatient Surgical Center, the ongoing growth of Global Surgery, and an increasing collaboration with hospitals across our community.

I do hope you will enjoy this “end of academic year” newsletter as a tribute to the wonderful things that you contribute each day, and I look forward to working with you for an even better 2018-2019.

Demetrius Litwin, MD, MBA

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Jonathan Green, MD (PGY3)**, who married Jenna Leavitt (now Green) on May 27 at the Fairmont Copley in Boston.



Congratulations to **Michael Winton, MD (PGY5)** and Estefanny, who were married on Memorial Day weekend in Newport, RI.



Congratulations to **Kate Dinh, MD (PGY5)** and Geoff Findlay, who were married in a beautiful ceremony on Saturday, June 9.

Congratulations!

- **Dr. Stacy Sanders and Dr. Chau Hoang** recently graduated from the Surgical Research Scholars (SRS) Program. Dr. Sanders successfully completed the institution's Quality Scholars Program and is a leader in the residency's commitment to Quality and Patient Safety. Dr. Hoang completed her MSCI from UMMS under the mentorship of Dr. Karim Alavi and members of the Division of Colorectal Surgery. She excelled in the development and conduct of clinical outcomes studies and the implementation and conduct of clinical trials, including the COLOR III trial, of which UMass is a lead US site.
- **Ulises Torres, MD** received his Master's in Education in May 2018. Great job!
- **Paulo Martins, MD, PhD** (Division of Transplantation) served as an editor and chapter author for the book "Advances in Experimental Surgery," a two volume, 36-chapter book of nearly 1300 pages. In March, he also published three manuscripts in high impact journals:
 - Impact of the new kidney allocation system A2/A2B → B policy on access to transplantation among minority candidates. (Am J Transplant)
 - Donor pretreatment with nebulized complement C3a receptor antagonist mitigates brain-death induced immunological injury post-lung transplant. (Am J Transplant)
 - Ischemia augments alloimmune injury through IL-6-driven CD4₊ alloreactivity. (Sci Rep)

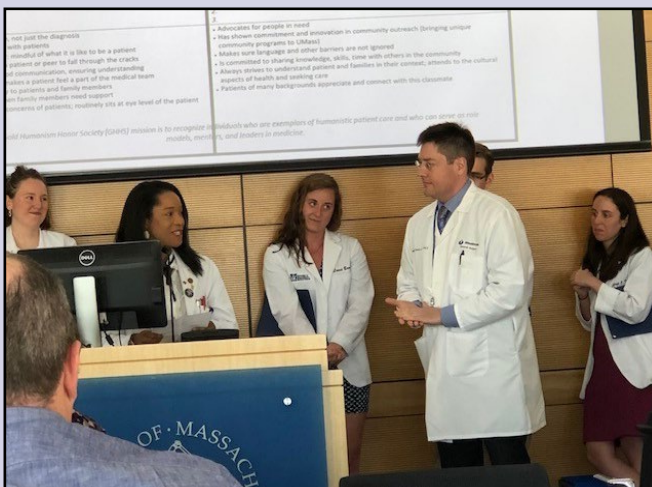
- **Mike Hirsh, MD** (below) served as a visiting professor at the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA. He was hosted by former General Surgery resident and current Pediatric Surgeon, Maggie McGuire, MD.



- **Stephanie Pepi** (below) from the Division of Trauma & Critical Care hosted a table outside of the pharmacy that offered information on concussions, the Stop the Bleed program, as well as simulation concussion and alcohol impaired goggles.



- **Jim Carroll, MD** (left) received the Gold Humanism in Medicine Faculty Award, a true reflection of the humanism in medicine he brings to the care of each patient he treats.

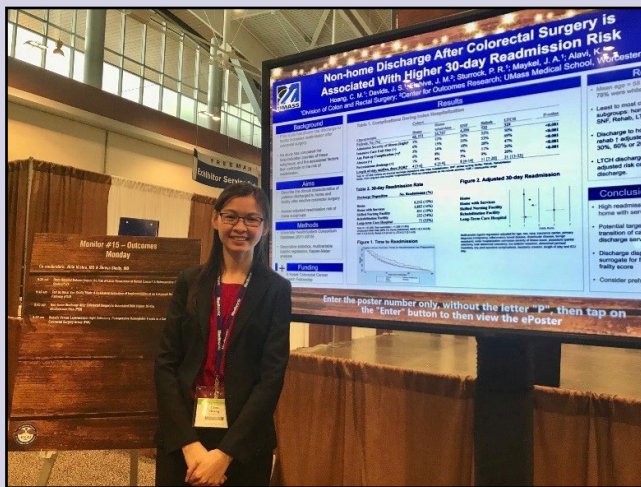


Congratulations!

Congratulations to the members of the Division of Colorectal Surgery as well to residents **Dr. Viji Daniel** and **Dr. Chau Hoang** for their work presented at the recent Annual Meetings for the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) in Nashville and Digestive Disease Week (DDW) in Washington DC.



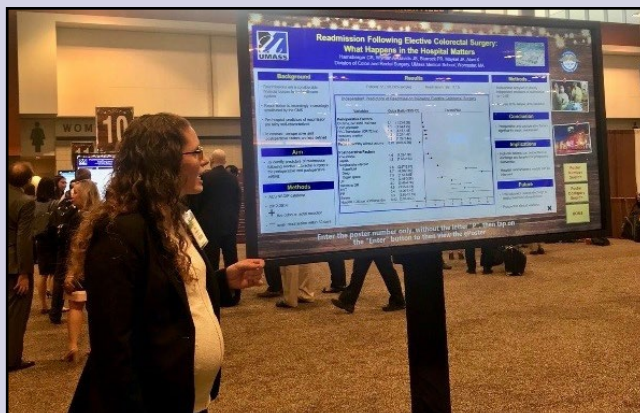
Members of the Division of Colorectal Surgery (above) with current and former residents and fellows



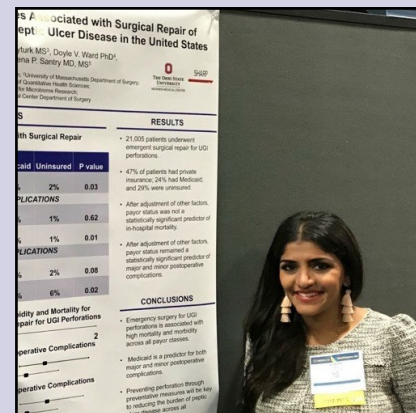
Chau Hoang, MD



Viji Daniel, MD at ASCRS



Cristina Harnsberger, MD, colorectal fellow



Viji Daniel, MD at DDW

Department of Surgery Graduates 2018

Vascular Surgery Graduate



Kimberly T. Malka, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Maine Medical Center
Portland, ME

Plastic Surgery Graduates



Sana Bhatti, MD
Miami Children's Hospital
Craniofacial Fellowship



Sean Figy, MD
The Ohio State University
Microsurgery Fellowship

General Surgery Graduates



Brandon Colvin, MD
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Pediatric Trauma and Research
Fellowship



Kate Dinh, MD, MSCI
Magee-Women's Hospital of UPMC
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship

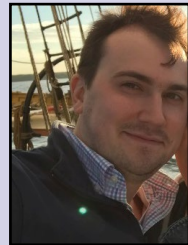
General Surgery Graduates *(continued)*



Daniel Hetherman, MD
Northeast Surgery
Eastern Maine Medical Center



**Soleil Niknam-Bienia, MD,
MBA, MHA**
University of Southern California
Plastic Surgery Fellowship



Michael Winton, MD
Monocacy Health Partners
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Frederick, Maryland



Jason Wiseman, MD, MPH
The Ohio State University
Surgical Oncology Fellowship

*Best Wishes
Graduates*

Department of Surgery Global Surgery Programs

HAITI

March 2018 saw the first UMass global surgery mission trip to Bernard Mevs Hospital in Port au Prince, Haiti. Calling ourselves Team Broken Earth/UMass, our group represented a collaborative effort between UMass and the Canadian charitable effort Team Broken Earth (TBE). TBE is a consortium of mostly Canadian Orthopedic Surgical groups who have been doing mission trips to Bernard Mevs since the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010. Our participation represents the first primary general surgery group and the first from the U.S. to offer much needed services to this hospital, one of the largest in Port au Prince.



In keeping with TBE's philosophy, we hoped to contribute to a model of sustainable surgical support while offering mutual cultural and educational sharing with local healthcare trainees. Our UMass group included three surgeons (**Drs. Demetrius Litwin, John Kelly, and Nora Fullington**), two surgery residents (**Drs. Christopher Schlieve and Stacy Sanders**), two anesthesiologists (**Drs. Peter Foley and Chandra Joshi**), an anesthesia resident (**Dr. Colin Foley**), three nurses (**Kathleen Sheridan, Mandy Rainville, Caroline Ventola**), and a fourth year medical student (now **Dr. Brandon Smith**). We operated for four days and performed over 27 successful surgeries, all while integrating and sharing care with the local professionals. Our success was only possible through the hard work and organizational efforts of our team. We were able to gather a large amount of necessary supplies and significant unused supplies were left to sustain the charitable mission of this hospital. UMass/TBE wish to acknowledge the generous financial support of individuals from the team and from the community both within UMass and beyond. Without donated supplies and financial support, these efforts would not have been possible. Going forward we plan on providing surgical and educational exchanges on at least a yearly basis. If you wish to help with our next effort, please visit our UMass/TBE website at <https://www.gifttool.com/athon/OurTeam-Page?ID=2250&AID=3708&TID=25713>

Department of Surgery Global Surgery Programs

ECUADOR

Two charitable surgical teams with plastic surgery as their focus, and with their core group from the UMass Memorial Health Care, went to Ecuador in 2018. These trips have been servicing Ecuador annually since 1991. The initial trip began when **Dr. Harvey Clermont** asked **Dr. Douglas Rothkopf** to go as part of Dr. Clermont's charitable non-profit organization C.H.A.N.G.E. That first trip consisted of a team of six: Dr. Rothkopf, his chief resident Richard Silverman, two nurses and two anesthesiologists. Through more contacts in Ecuador, a second trip was developed with Dr. Silverman as the lead. As C.H.A.N.G.E. is no longer, Dr. Rothkopf started a dedicated fund through the UMass development office.

And, alumnus **Steve Pap** started the nonprofit *Hands Across the World* which funds **Dr. Silverman's** trips. Both trips have, as part of their mission, a commitment to educate residents and students from both countries. Both trips are eternally grateful for their 25+ year relationships with local physicians, charitable hospitals and service-based organizations in Ecuador that provide local support.

In February, the Hands Across the World group (Silverman) went to Latacunga, in the Ecuadorian Andes, south of Quito. They treated children and adults with cleft diagnoses, hand deformities, burns and foot anomalies.

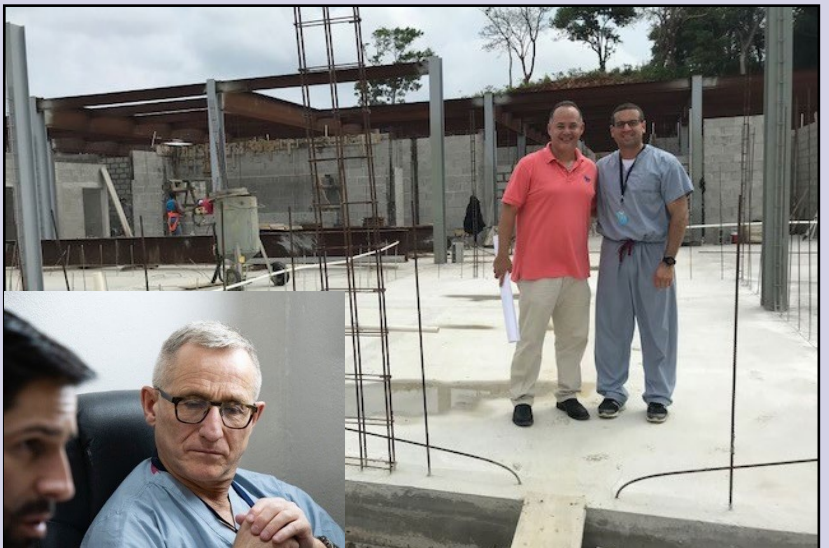
From May 19-27, 2018, the Rothkopf led team of 17 went on its 26th Annual UMass Plastic Surgery volunteer trip to Salinas, on the Ecuadorian coastline where they performed cleft lip and palate and congenital hand surgery on the children of the Salinas area.



Department of Surgery Global Surgery Programs

HONDURAS

Lead by **Ulises Torres, MD, MEd**, the UMass team recently completed a trip to Roatan, Honduras. Among other UMass team members, Department of Surgery members included **Dr. Torres, Dr. Litwin**, and General Surgery Residents, **Abe Jaffe, MD (PGY4)** and **Josh Scurlock, MD (PGY3)**.

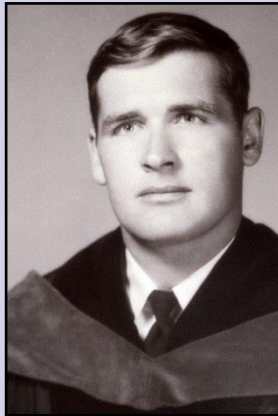


The team is helping with design of the new hospital construction and will be donating materials and equipment in addition to continuing distance-blended education and service.

Department of Surgery Global Surgery Programs

THE BEDNARZ GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Consistent with the Department of Surgery's commitment to global surgery initiatives combined with the dedication to providing surgical residents the tools to help bring health care and sustainability to underserved communities internationally, the General Surgery Residency Program established the Bednarz Global Scholars Program in 2016.



Brian Bednarz, MD

Now completing its second year, the Bednarz Global Scholars Program allows PGY3 and PGY4 residents to take part in trips to either Haiti or Honduras with funding generously provided by the Bednarz Family, on behalf of Dr. Brian Bednarz. Prior to travel, residents learn how to coordinate medical teams, mobilize resources, and organize supplies.

During this preparation time, they define their vision for the mission trip and incorporate values of Humanism, Philanthropy, Sustainability of Care, Service, and Education.

During and after travel, residents continue to refine their vision and identify ongoing ways to achieve these goals in a longitudinal manner, either with scholarly activity and/or future visits.

In 2016, with the development of the Bednarz Global Scholars Program, the Department also co-established the Bednarz Lectureship in Surgical Education, an interdisciplinary lecture sponsored by the Departments of Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology. In its inaugural year, we were delighted to welcome Dr. Andrew Furey, who originally founded Team Broken Earth, our collaborator in the Haiti experience. This series continues to thrive with internationally recognized leaders in Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2018, we will welcome Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH from the University of Wisconsin on Wednesday, November 28, who will discuss Gender Disparities in Surgery.

In Memoriam

Shubjeet "Shubi" Kaur, MD, Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, passed away on May 17, 2018 after a courageous fight with a serious illness. It is without a doubt that Dr. Kaur defined the standard for achieving excellence in patient care and safety. She was immensely committed to the education of faculty and residents and was a champion of interdisciplinary and interprofessional relationships to achieve these goals. She set the standard for "the level of compassion, dedication, humanity, and integrity" to which we should all aspire. She will be greatly missed and was a true friend to the Department of Surgery.



Shubjeet "Shubi" Kaur, MD

DIVISION “SPOTLIGHT”

As we move into 2018-2019, we hope to “spotlight” the different divisions within the Department of Surgery, to help celebrate their successes and to glean a better sense of community and understanding about the amazing activities being performed in our Department. With this edition, we wish to highlight the **Division of Vascular Surgery**, and their truly impressive clinical and research efforts that have earned them national and international recognition.

Division of Vascular Surgery

Over the last 24 months, the Division has successfully published 47 manuscripts and presented at 66 regional, national, and international meetings. They currently have 5 open investigator-initiated studies, of which two are NIH-funded (Schanzer, Messina), one is funded by the New England Society of Vascular Surgery (Simons), one is funded by the UMMHC QICI Grant (Simons), and one is funded by UMMHC (Schanzer). The group has 14 open industry-sponsored trials, led by Drs. Schanzer, Aiello, Doucet, and Edward Arous.

To understand the truly remarkable activities our colleagues, attached is a summary of clinical and research highlights about division members.



Andres Schanzer, MD

Dr. Schanzer is the Division Chief of Vascular Surgery. He is also the founding Director of the UMass Memorial Center for Complex Aortic Disease, which has become one of the leading programs in the country for the treatment of complex aor-

tic disease. His primary research focus is the development of novel endovascular therapies for complex aortic disease and the rigorous evaluation of patient outcomes when using these devices. Dr. Schanzer is the principal investigator of the CARPE-CMD (Complex Aortic Repair using Physician Modified Endografts and Custom Made Devices) trial, a physician-sponsored investigational device exemption (IDE) trial. He also serves as site principal investigator, co-investigator, or DSMB member for multiple other clinical trials.



Louis Messina, MD

Dr. Messina is a Professor of Surgery and was recently awarded Tenure by the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts. This honor reflects the tremendous impact Dr. Messina has had clinically and in his research

program over his illustrious career. In addition to a busy vascular and endovascular clinical practice, Dr. Messina has been a leader in research that is truly interdisciplinary. His work has led to the identification of a novel unifying mechanism by which risk factors induce epigenetic reprogramming of hematopoietic stem cells. This work subsequently led to identification that hypercholesterolemia increases the incidence of colorectal cancer and identification of pathways responsible for impaired wound healing associated with type 2 diabetes. Dr. Messina was also recently awarded the Johnnie Ray Cox Term Chair in Biomedical Research.

Division of Vascular Surgery



Jessica Simons, MD, MPH

Dr. Simons is the Vascular Surgery Residency Program Director and the Division of Vascular Surgery Quality Officer. Her work focuses on clinical outcomes for patients with peripheral artery disease.

Specifically, in her desire to

define high quality care for patients with peripheral artery disease, she is interested in transforming decision making and outcomes measurement in patients with intermittent claudication to ensure the appropriateness of intervention and align it with patient-centered goals.



Francesco Aiello, MD

Dr. Aiello serves as the health care system's Medical Director of Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) and Coding and the physician executive for revenue cycle performance.

On a national level, he is the alternate delegate for the relative value update (RUC) committee and a member

of the SVS health policy and APM committees. He is also active at the national level on the MACRA Episode-Based cost measure clinical subcommittee. He is on several UMass committees including the Enterprise clinical oversight committee, Medicaid supplemental fund committee, the utilization review committee, and the billing, collections, and compliance committee. His primary research interests center around health care economics, reimbursement, and assessing quality metrics.



Robert Steppacher, MD

Dr. Steppacher is the Associate Clinical Informatics Officer and director of the UMMHC Epic physician builder program. In this role, Dr. Steppacher serves as a consultant to numerous ongoing efforts to improve patient safety, reduce costs,

and improve quality of care. His primary research interest is how to leverage EHRs (electronic health records) to improve quality of care, reduce cost of care, and improve patient experience. Since 2011, this has primarily revolved around integrating the Epic EHR with the SVS Vascular Quality Initiative. In addition to this work, he has championed several projects aimed at leveraging peri-procedural computer physician order entry to meet quality of care goals before, during, and after surgical procedures.



Edward Arous, MD

Dr. Edward Arous is the Director of the Multidisciplinary Limb Preservation Center. His research interests include investigation of the threshold for intervention for patients with asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis. He has

completed previous publications regarding national standardization thresholds for asymptomatic carotid artery interventions. He is working to advocate for national criteria for the classification of high-grade stenosis. Additionally, he has an interest in surgical education and has investigated the training pathways for medical student applicants to vascular surgery. As the director of the Limb Preservation Center, Dr. Arous has been working on developing a clinical model to reduce the rates of 30-day readmission and surgical site infections. Dr. Arous will complete his MPH degree at the Harvard School of Public Health this semester by completing his Master's thesis.

Division of Vascular Surgery



Elias Arous, MD

Dr. Elias Arous has had an enormously productive and successful clinical career in the Division of Vascular Surgery, a faculty member widely respected by peers and the community. He is now the Vice President of Operative

Services. In this role, he has been responsible for all operating rooms across the system. His involvement has led to many key patient safety initiatives, including the development and implementation of safety briefings and timeouts at UMMHC, initiatives to reduce the risk of wrong side surgeries and retained foreign bodies, and certainly, initiatives aimed at improving OR processes with the introduction of EPIC.



Danielle Doucet, MD

Dr. Doucet share times between UMMHC and Milford Hospital and is the Medical Director of the newly opened full service outpatient Vein Center located at Northborough Crossing. This new offering provides all diagnostic and

therapeutic options for venous care, opening access to excellent care for members of our community.



Dejah Judelson, MD

Dr. Judelson shares time between UMMHC and Milford Hospital. She, along with Dr. Edward Arous, have been instrumental in reinitiating the Vascular Surgery lecture series for the General Surgery Residency Program—a

series that is widely loved by the residents and key to their training in Vascular Surgery. Her primary research interests are two-fold: resident education and better definition of a consensus for non-invasive vascular testing interpretive criteria. She is working towards developing an educational curriculum for the 0+5 vascular residency, including simulation/hands-on training and research the efficacy of new curriculums. Additionally, Dr. Judelson is interested in refining vascular practice patterns, specifically regarding the widespread national variability in the non-invasive vascular testing criteria used.

For more information about the Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery:

https://www.umassmed.edu/surgery/divisions-and-programs/vascular-surgery/vascular_aboutus/

The Complex Aortic Disease Team Members Celebrates 200 Cases in April 2018

<https://ournewsandviews.org/2018/04/17/center-for-complex-aortic-disease-celebrates-200-cases/>



Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatrics Surgery

“Tikkun olam.” The Hebrew phrase for “repairing the world” or “healing the world,” suggests humanity’s shared responsibility to heal, repair, and transform the world. It is the mission that **Michael P. Hirsh, MD** lives by every day, for every patient, in every encounter, and for our community.



The son of Holocaust survivors, Dr. Hirsh was raised by two incredibly hard-working parents, learning English from shows like the “Miracle on 34th Street.” Even at a young age, his passion for caring for children was evident, spending summers taking part in children’s summer camps.

After completion of his BA with Summa Cum Laude from Columbia College at Columbia University, he attended Harvard University and was awarded his MD in 1979. With matriculation to medical school, his intent was to pursue a career in Pediatrics. At that time, the curriculum was designed in such a way that you “ended” the third year of training with the specialty of desire, so his rotations were organized in such a way that he first took part in surgery, followed by pediatrics. He found that during his Pediatric Oncology rotation, he was struck by the dismal outcomes of the children suffering from cancer and felt that his calling was to make a “significant impact on the children’s lives via a surgical approach.”

He matched into General Surgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. Prior to his start, he spent his last two weeks of medical

school under the tutelage of a surgical intern, who at that time was on a pediatric surgery rotation. Here Dr. Hirsh found what he describes as “his epiphany,” the perfect blend of his desire to care for children and the desire to “make a significant impact.”

As Dr. Hirsh progressed through his training program, he found “true joy” in helping children, whose illnesses many times were not their own doing and who demonstrated a resilience and joy that was remarkable. Years later, this joy continues to resonate daily, particularly as he continues to meet the children he has cared for, and their families, realizing the impact that a physician and care team can make in both the short and long term.

There is no doubt that Dr. Hirsh’s impact on our community as a pediatric surgeon has been immense. However, his role in advocacy, and the impact not only on the individual, but on the population, has been equally as tremendous.

The impetus for advocacy began on the night of November 2, 1981. It was a “usual” night of call during his surgical residency at Columbia.

Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatrics Surgery



John C. Wood II, MD

was covering, went off. Dr. Wood was the patient in the bay, shot and killed outside the hospital in a robbery.

Impeccably well trained at institutions ranging from Juilliard to Columbia, Dr. Wood was instrumental to Dr. Hirsh's training at Columbia. In what at that time was a pyramidal program, Dr. Wood ensured that each surgical resident was collegial and focused on teamwork, a challenge when each year you wonder "which resident is next." He taught Dr. Hirsh "the ropes" of residency, allowing him to thrive. After returning from his research time focusing on hyperalimentation, Dr. Wood returned as Dr. Hirsh's junior resident, a position he found himself in that night in November.

Dr. Hirsh, at this point, was in a leadership position within the residency and had ultimately been appointed to the Columbia Board of Trustees, representing the residents at the institution. Considering Dr. Wood's murder, he held an open mike session at the Audubon Ballroom, across the street from Columbia and ironically, the location of Malcolm X's assassination. Here, Dr. Hirsh was instrumental in delving into issues that the residents faced regarding their safety. Unknown (and unreported), most residents had been the victims of violence, due to guns, knives, rapes...the list goes on. Even Dr. Hirsh himself

Dr. John C. Wood II was the junior resident on call for Trauma Surgery. Stuffing his pockets full of crackers, Dr. Wood asked Dr. Hirsh to cover the pager so he could run to give snacks to his pregnant wife, Diana. Moments later, the trauma pager that Dr. Hirsh

had been a victim at the age of 13, being stabbed in the buttock, an injury triaged by the trauma surgeons at the program he now found himself.

During this time, Dr. Hirsh met Sarah Brady, the wife of former White House Secretary James Brady (who was paralyzed after the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan) and a vocal and influential gun control advocate, who with her husband, established the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. She also served leadership roles in organizations such as Hand-



Sarah Brady

gun Control, Inc (HCI) and the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Their work led to the passage of important regulations, such as the requirement for background checks prior to the handgun purchase. In this chance encounter, Dr. Hirsh and Mrs. Brady discussed that while physicians cannot necessarily understand and control the social situations around violence, they do have the ability to identify and control the "vector," much like Walter Reed identified the mosquito as the vector of Yellow Fever and subsequently implemented means by which to limit the mosquito and Yellow Fever incidence in the military.



Barbara Barlow, MD

Also, around this time and in the caravan of 32 buses to Dr. Wood's funeral, Dr. Hirsh met Barbara Barlow, MD, the Founder and Executive director of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids. Their discussion at that time revolved around

Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatrics Surgery

other opportunities to improve safety to children, such as with the use of bike helmets and prevention of falls from windows. However, given the recent town meeting and the very clear message that residents and the community were facing issues related to lethal means such as guns, Dr. Hirsh found his passion in control of the “vector” these populations were facing: the gun. Dr. Barlow, over the years, remained profoundly invested in supporting Dr. Hirsh in what ultimately developed into gun buyback programs.

Living by *tikkun olam* and taking an example from the show he grew up watching, “Miracle on 34th Street,” together with the events of above, Dr. Hirsh and his surgical resident peers started to collect weapons during patient intakes. Putting these huge stockpiles of weapons on gurneys that were rolled in during his presentation to the hospital, Dr. Hirsh and his colleagues successfully worked with the hospital to implement positive solutions for resident safety: improved lighting, improved security services when walking to and from work, improved hospital food to limit the need to go off-site, and improved resident space to foster a sense of community.

Over these years, Dr. Hirsh’s and Dr. Wood’s surgical resident peers remained very connected with Diana Wood and their new baby. Diana went on to become anesthesiologist, now at the Lahey Clinic. Together, they established the John C. Wood II Memorial Foundation (<https://www.woodfdn.org/>) a not-for-profit foundation aimed to “free communities from gun violence.”

After completing his General Surgery Residency

in 1984, Dr. Hirsh went on to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. He initially took a position at the University of Massachusetts in 1992, and later Pittsburgh in 1996, focusing on his expertise in pediatric trauma. In 2000, Dr. Hirsh returned to UMass as a Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics and Associate Director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. In 2009, he became the Surgeon-in-Chief of the UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center and Director of the Injury Free Worcester Program.

Clinically, Dr. Hirsh’s work has impacted families too great in number to estimate. Similarly, he has



Dr. Hirsh (second from left), Dr. Phil Cohen (fourth from left) with this year’s graduating General Surgery Chief Residents.

been profoundly influential on the futures of our UMass faculty, students, and residents, mentoring countless in their careers, be it Surgery or Pediatrics. In the words of recent graduate, Rebecca Kasper, MD, on Capstone Presentation Day:

“Mike Hirsh is a celebrated educator and public health advocate...It is no surprise that he has been a tireless advisor for our own [...] students. In highlighting Dr. Hirsh today, I thank him for his tremendous service to the school, his patients, our community, our healthcare system and the future.”

Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatrics Surgery

This has further been reflected in numerous teaching awards, including but not limited to receipt of the Bednarz Award for Mentorship in Surgery (2006) and the Frederick McCready Surgical Award for Outstanding Medical Educator from the Department of Surgery (1992, 2006, 2007).



Dr. Hirsh

His humanism in patient care was organizationally reflected in 2006, when he was awarded the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award from the UMass Medical School. Ironically, Dr. Hirsh had previously worked with Dr. Gold. It was the receipt of this award in 2006 that was the impetus for Dr. Hirsh and others, such as Dr. Mike Ennis, to develop and implement the Gold Humanism Award here at the University of Massachusetts.

With regards to advocacy, Dr. Hirsh's early work at Columbia has translated to a lifelong commitment to "controlling the vector" and helping our children and communities live in a safer world. Much of this effort has been directed at harnessing access to guns, reflected in his regional and national presence in developing gun buyback programs. 2018 saw the 16th Annual Goods for Guns buyback program, which was expanded to 20 Massachusetts cities and towns. Furthermore, on December 16, 2017, the program was expand-

ed nationally, called "National Gun Buyback Day," taking place in at least 12 states with plans to expand to all 50, speaking to the power of this program for the safety of the community. Since inception, more than 3400 firearms have been surrendered, along with distribution of a countless number of gun locks.

While gun buyback reflects only a small part of his advocacy resume, Dr. Hirsh has leveraged



2018 Guns for Good Program

his leadership roles as Medical Director for the Department of Public Health, member of the Public Health and Executive Committees of the Worcester District Medical Society, and Board Member of the Injury Free Coalition to advocate for child and population safety at local and national levels. For this work, Dr. Hirsh has received countless accolades, too vast to properly inventory here. However, recently, these

Michael P. Hirsh, MD, Chief, Division of Pediatrics Surgery



Dr. Hirsh

awards have included the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Service (2017), the Massachusetts Medical Society's Men's Health Award (2017), the WDMS A.J. Fitzpatrick Community Service Award (2016), among many, many others.

Thank you, Dr. Hirsh, for all that you do. I am sorry that it is impossible to properly summarize all of your truly remarkable professional accomplishments here in this brief highlight. Your example, exemplified in your commitment to your patients, our trainees, the entire community, epitomizes tikkun olam. At least for me, I wish one day to take one small page from your



The Hirsh Family at the WDMS Award Dinner

playbook because it has provided me the faith and example that one person can single handedly change the lives of many.

Jennifer LaFemina, MD, FACS

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 23. Please save the date for :

- The Annual General Surgery Change Show will take place at 10 am in Amphitheatre III.
- The General Surgery Residency Graduation will take place at 6 pm at the Publick House Historic Inn, Sturbridge, MA.

Calling for Submissions!

If you would like to contribute news or highlight an upcoming or past event, please forward to Jennifer LaFemina.