



**Message from the Chair:** As I am writing this update on July 4th, 2024 I cannot help but reflect on the importance of independence. The ability to make decisions and pursue interests is uniquely tied to fulfillment and happiness. This concept has come up time and time again in my role at the University of Virginia as we pursue excellence within our department. We are quite fortunate, and I cannot help but be grateful to Dr. Edgerton and those that were instrumental in creating the first Department of Plastic Surgery in the country here at UVA. Over the past year we have put a significant effort into investing in our future. Much of this incredible growth would not be possible as a division. Still, aligning our missions with the UVA Health System and the UVA School of Medicine is critical to gaining widespread support and buy-in. In this update I hope to outline the current state of the department and the plans for another exciting year.



Last year I laid out our goal and our mission to achieve excellence, to be outstanding and in line with University of Virginia’s mission to be good and great! Perhaps it’s obvious, but some might ask why do you want to be outstanding? Why not settle for average or the status quo? Why bother with all the extra time and effort needed to be recognized as outstanding? To be brief, there are two simple reasons. First, we are in fact in a privileged position. Caring for patients struggling to overcome disfigurement or functional impairment warrants an obligation to be excellent at what we do. I can assure you that there are many who would eagerly trade positions with us. Second, developing the habits needed to be part of an outstanding team can be challenging, but it is significantly more fulfilling than settling for mediocrity. Getting up in the morning to be part of a highly functional, impactful and supportive team just feels good. Being surrounded by peers dedicated to delivering quality work ignites a certain type of inspired motivation that is hard to artificially create. To paraphrase football coaching legend

Nick Saban, *“people that settle for mediocracy don’t get along with high achievers and high achievers don’t get along with people that settle for mediocracy. If everybody doesn’t buy into the same high standards, you are never going to have a successful team”*.



We celebrated the Plastic Surgery administrative team in March, with Admin Appreciation Day. Destiny Dolan, Veronica Givens, Colleen McDowell, Amy Morris and Carla Mackey-Cooks are shown along with residents, faculty and APP’s.

Speaking of highly functional teams; I want to recognize our administrative support team and our clinical support teams. This past year we were charged with converting our clinical operations to a centralized health system wide model. I want to thank **Destiny Dolin, Veronica**



Colleen McDowell and Amy Morris take a rare break from work to view the near total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024.

**Givens, Ashley Wimberly, Cassidy Robbins and Derek Long** for their help in this very challenging process. I also want to recognize **Amy Morris**, our Director of Operations and **Colleen McDowell**, our Director of Education for their continued leadership within the department and for holding us all

accountable for pursuing excellence. Our clinic nurses have had to endure this change to a centralized Access system as well as a number of additional changes. Thank you to **Bonnie Carey, Dianna Gibson, Lindsey Craft, Quincey Edwards, and Andria Smith** for being that glue that has held everything together during all this transition. Welcome to our new clinic manager, **Brandon Eves**, who joins us from a longtime role on the in-patient side at UVA University Hospital. Brandon joined us at a challenging and exciting time as we are now 2 months into a major clinic renovation project. The operating room has been an area of incredible scrutiny and attrition. We are very fortunate to have **Tracy Bennett** continuing to lead our Plastic Surgery team in the main operating room. Finally, I want to recognize our faculty leader in operations **Dr. JT Stranix**. To say that JT has gone above and beyond with the Access and Clinic projects



**JT Stranix, MD**  
Director of Clinical Operations

this past year would be a vast understatement - JT; thank you and well done! Dr. Stranix also completed the inaugural UVAHealth Leadership Development Program this past year and had his most productive clinical year to date!

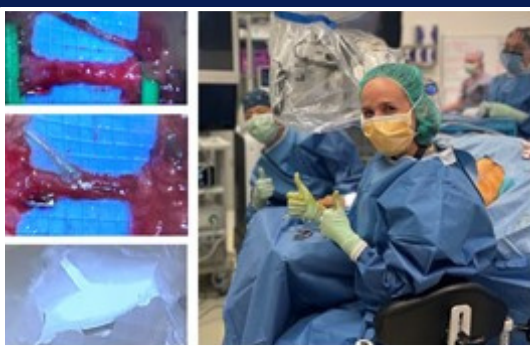
Our team is still growing and I wanted to recognize some of the new people we have added this year. At the administrative level, we are delighted to have recently added **Madison Stoltz and Arianna Jones**, who will help our administrative team members and our faculty in day-to-day academic operations. In research, we welcomed **Dr. Xin Li** as the Edlich Endowed Professor and Director of Research and **Dr. Wenbo Yan** as an instructor in the medical school and departmental liaison for academic courses. Dr. Li is bringing a large team of researchers with her from NYU. Upon her arrival we will be the most highly NIH funded plastic surgery program in the country. We have other exciting additions to our research team that I will share in the next update! We will also be welcoming **Dr. Olivia Ford** from Harvard Plastic Surgery in the Haymarket / Prince William Community Hospitals and **Dr. Luke Poveromo** from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as an additional reconstructive microsurgeon. This past year we welcomed **Marcelle Zimcosky-Murray** as our inpatient NP and she has already made a huge impact and has helped get us a little bit closer to outstanding. At the resident level, we welcomed **Jess Pawly** from the General Surgery program into a PGY-2 position and we are excited to move **Danielle Harlan** and **Colby Newson** up to the PGY-2 level. This time of year, we welcome 2 new resident members to our team; first **Dr. Annie Glenney**. Annie completed her undergraduate degree at UVA and her

medical school education at Drexel along with a 1-year research fellowship at Pittsburgh.

Second, **Dr. Luke Juckett**. Luke completed his BA at Cambridge and BS at UW Madison and joins us from Jefferson Medical School. Luke also completed a 1-year research fellowship at Ohio State. Finally, we added another faculty member – **Dr. Amanda Silva**. I think it's safe to say that we are delighted with Dr. Silva and all she has added to our program.



Brand new PGY-1's Luke Juckett and Annie Glenney find the best spot to get some fresh air at UVA Hospital.



Dr. Amanda Silva performs the first lymphatic - venous bypass at UVAHealth University Hospital on July 3rd, 2024 for a patient with severe arm lymphedema.

Surgery as she completes an Aesthetic Fellowship and looks to settle in Houston. I also want to congratulate **Dr. Jon Black** on being promoted to tenure status and receiving the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and the associated \$5,000 academic stipend. The annual **Raymond F. Morgan** resident research day showcased the broad array of academic productivity coming from the residents and faculty. **Dr. Rob DeVito** received the Best Overall Body of Work award and **Dr. Jesse Chou** received the Best Individual Presentation award. Both residents receive a \$500 prize for their work. Congratulations again to **Dr. Kirsten Stephens** on the highest in-service score and being selected to lead our

Finally, a few highlights from graduation weekend. First, **Dr. Shannon Kuruvilla** was the guest of honor as we celebrated her completion of the integrated Plastic Surgery residency. Dr. Kuruvilla will join Basu Plastic



Shannon Kuruvilla, MD graduates from the UVA Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program. She will join the Basu Practice for an Aesthetic Fellowship.



The annual Raymond F. Morgan resident research day was a great success. Winners of Best Overall Body of Work and Best Individual Presentation were PGY3's Rob DeVito, MD and Jesse Chou, MD respectively.

Resident Bowl team again at PSTM in San Diego. We also had a strong showing at the SESPRS meeting with multiple presentations including 2 in the Glancy Competition (**Lee Kilmer and Rob DeVito**). I would also like to recognize **Dr. Mark Constantian and his wife Charlotte**, who through their generosity have established The Mark and Charlotte Constantian Research Fellowship, to further the study of conditions that effect our patients physical and mental well-being. Mark and Charlotte were able to join us for a Rhinoplasty teaching session in the cadaver lab, the Morgan Research Day, and for graduation.



This year we said goodbye to **Dr. Brittany Behar**. Dr. Behar joined UVA Plastic Surgery in 2019 and was one of the Plastic Surgery Hand attendings. She also served as our Residency Associate Program Director and was loved by the residents and staff. She organized the first two annual DEI lectures in the department and was actively engaged in local and national efforts to expand plastic surgery training to under-represented students. Dr. Behar and her family moved to California where she will pursue a new career opportunity and be closer to extended family. On behalf of the department, we thank Dr. Behar for her service and commitment to education, DEI and compassionate patient care.



Dr. Mark Constantian teaches the residents the techniques of Rhinoplasty in the lab. Mark and Charlotte enjoy lunch with the residents to discuss career planning and life goals.

And finally, we wanted to congratulate our PGY-5 resident **Dr. Lee Kilmer** on matching into Microsurgery at Penn. She will follow in Dr. Stranix's footsteps in the Penn fellowship position. Lee is interested in an academic career and will be looking for job opportunities in the Northeast where her family resides.

**Renovation update:** We continue to make progress on the much-needed renovations and



Lee Kilmer, MD has matched into the highly competitive Penn Microsurgery Fellowship. She is currently starting her PGY-6 year and is expecting her first baby soon. Congratulations Lee!



Dr. Brittany Behar says goodbye to the UVA Plastic Surgery residents. Dr. Behar was known for her dedication to teaching and compassionate care for her patients. She served as our Associate Program Director. We wish her the best in California!

expansion of the West Complex Plastic Surgery Clinic. There remains ongoing discussions of additional off-site clinic space in Charlottesville. Still, the area I am most excited about is the Central Wing! Many of you may recall this area contained the faculty meeting room, conference room and several small offices. This area is a historic portion of the original UVA Hospital and included the original UVA operating room. With support of the University and the Historic Renovations team, the room has been taken back to its original bones and restored to include some of the elements of the original operating room. This is turning out to be an exceptionally exciting project for all those involved. Many of the original windows, once covered over, have been revealed to bring in natural light and the 180-degree views once present in the original design. The area will house our new conference room, chair's office, and several adjacent administrative offices.

Sincerely,

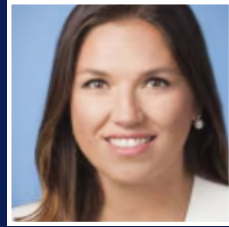
Scott T. Hollenbeck, MD, FACS  
 Chair; Department of Plastic Surgery,  
 Maxillofacial and Oral Health  
 University of Virginia

The Central Wing of the West Complex building. This area was the original UVA Hospital Operating Room. It is currently being restored with original elements and will serve as the central location of the Plastic Surgery Department offices and conference room.

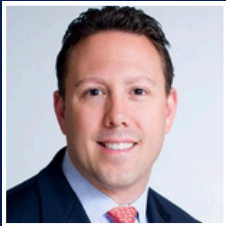




Jason Spector, MD



Magdalena Soldanska, MD



Kyle Eberlin, MD



Tamara Rozenthal, MD

**Upcoming Department Events:** On **September 11, 2024** we begin with our annual **Ronald Barton Visiting Professor Lectureship**. **Jason Spector, MD** Chief of Plastic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine will join us for a day of lectures and pearls. UVA Plastic Surgery will be holding a reception at **Plastic Surgery the Meeting 2024** in San Diego on **September 28th** from 6pm-8pm. We look forward to seeing our Alumni and Friends at the Hilton Bayfront in Aqua 307. On **December 6th- 8th** our department will host the **11th Annual Oncologic Reconstruction Course** followed by our **Annual Claude C. Coleman Lectureship** on **December 13th**. **Magdalena Soldanska, MD** will join us from Emory and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta to discuss pediatric craniofacial surgery. On **February 5, 2025** we will welcome our **PRS Visiting Professor, Kyle Eberlin, MD** Program Director from Harvard University for Grand Rounds followed by a cadaver dissection of local and regional Hand Flaps. In addition, we continue the tradition of our joint **Morgan McCue Visiting Professor** with the Department of Orthopedics on **April 16, 2025**. **Tamara Rozenthal, MD** from Harvard University has accepted the invitation to speak. Finally, we will wrap up the spring with our **Raymond Morgan Research Day** on **April 30, 2025**.

**Alumni Updates - Please update us with your news and activities! We want to hear if you have taken a new job, retired to the beach, or had a new baby. Stay connected and email Colleen McDowell “[ej4kh@virginia.edu](mailto:ej4kh@virginia.edu)”.**



UVA Plastic Surgery Alumni gather at the DaVinci Museum in front of an old wooden ship in Italy while attending the European Federation of Microsurgeons. Patrick Garvey ('08), Chris Campbell ('09), Angela Cheng ('11), and Dan Murariu ('16).



UVA Surgery Alumni gather at the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (SESPRS) meeting in Sea Island, Georgia at the Cloister Hotel in June 2024. Lee Kilmer (PGY5), Anthony Capito ('12), Brent DeGeorge ('16), Chris Campbell ('09), Ben McIntyre ('10), Scott Hollenbeck (current faculty), Adam Katz (former resident and faculty), David Drake (former faculty), Peter Arnold ('10), Wes Thayer (former Surgery resident), Rob Devito (PGY3), Tae Chong (former Surgery resident), Kristen Stephens (PGY4).

**Join us for Education and CME – Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds!**

The Department has launched a CME based program for Plastic Surgery grand rounds. UVA provides the ACCME accreditation and our department welcomes our alumni and friends to participate gratis. The majority of these presentations are in-person, but we can offer livestream via Zoom. If you would like to learn more, please contact Colleen McDowell at “[ej4kh@virginia.edu](mailto:ej4kh@virginia.edu)”.



**Follow us on Instagram @uvaplasticsurgeryresidency and @uvaplasticsurgerydept**

As we continue our efforts on Doximity to promote/optimize our plastic surgery residency program, we are encouraging you to be active and grow your network. Every time you are mentioned in the press or publish an important article in a peer reviewed journal, Doximity automatically announces that info to your Doximity network, helping you and our program.

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