



Message from the Chair: As we reflect on an extraordinary year, I am excited to share the highlights of 2024 and give you a glimpse of the year ahead. From groundbreaking surgeries and research advancements to a deeper commitment to our patients and community, the UVA Plastic Surgery, Maxillofacial and Oral Health Department has had a year of growth, renovation, visibility, innovation and success. Please enjoy reading about the many ways our department has evolved.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Hollenbeck, MD, FACS



1. Growth:

-Clinical: Like many of the clinical areas within UVAHealth, the Department of Plastic Surgery has had tremendous growth in productivity the past year. Our case volume and complexity has increased thanks to the addition of more faculty and support staff. This fall we welcomed two new clinical faculty members to our department. Dr. Luke Poveromo joined us after completing a microsurgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering and the integrated Plastic Surgery residency program at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Poveromo has brought his skills and expertise to UVA to further enhance our microsurgical reconstruction program. Dr. Ava Chappell joined us after completing the Mayo Clinic Hand Fellowship and the integrated Plastic Surgery residency program at Northwestern. Dr. Chappell will perform a variety of Hand Surgery and Plastic Surgery procedures as she builds her practice. When she is not fixing broken bones, she has an interest in peripheral nerve surgery, abdominal wall reconstruction and body contouring surgery. Both Dr. Poveromo and Dr. Chappell will serve as associate program directors for the UVA Plastic Surgery integrated residency program.



-Residency: This past year our integrated Plastic Surgery residency program was approved to expand from 12 to 18 residents. We are preparing to match 3 residents into the program this year and will further expand in a staged manner as our clinical volumes continue to grow. This expansion will increase our capacity to not only expand our clinical services but enhance our educational offerings. This might include new rotations in the Northern Virginia area at affiliate hospitals as well as increased capacity for courses, meetings, research and global outreach trips.

-Student Research Fellows: In order to build a sustainable clinical research program, we have opened up several positions for medical student researchers. This year we have 3 medical students doing a dedicated year of plastic surgery research with the hopes of entering the plastic surgery residency match in 2025. Hibo Wehelie is a UVA medical student focusing her research on outcomes and disparities in breast cancer reconstruction. Her work entitled “Aesthetic Flat Closure; Assessing the financial and clinical viability of an emerging post-mastectomy option” has been accepted for a prestigious podium presentation at the upcoming AAPS meeting in Austin, TX. She has also begun an exciting project to develop a machine learning driven patient decision aide for post-mastectomy reconstruction. Emily Yanoshak is a medical student from Thomas Jefferson University with an interest in craniofacial surgery and global outreach. She is working with our cleft and craniofacial team to review outcomes for pediatric patients at UVA. She will also accompany the UVA Plastic Surgery team for their 13th global outreach visit to Giridih, India this winter. Jennifer Goldman is a medical student at George Washington University and UVA alum. She has been focusing on outcomes and care pathways for patients undergoing gender affirming surgery. These research fellowships are made possible in part, by the generosity of Dr. Mark and Charlotte Constantian as well as grateful patients looking to support our program.

2. Renovations:

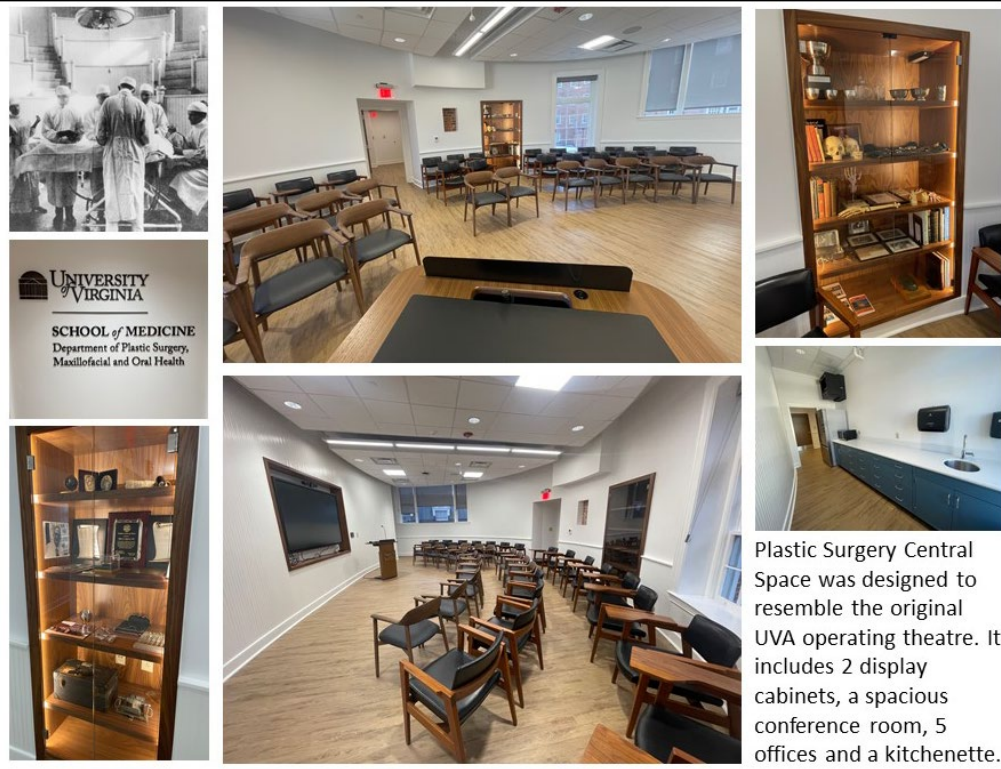
- **Clinic Space:** This past year has seen a transformative process unfold within the UVA Plastic Surgery facilities. In September, we opened the doors of our fully renovated and expanded Plastic Surgery clinic in the West Complex Medical Center. With support of the hospital and guidance from our clinical team, the new clinic has additional space for our nurses, APP's and surgeons as well as new flooring, exam tables, walls and cabinets for the clinical areas.

- **Department Space:** After 2 years of planning, demolition and building, the Plastic Surgery Department Central Space has opened. This space includes 5 offices, a kitchen and a

Hospital Clinic Renovation Completed Sept 2024!



lecture hall. The space happens to be some of the oldest space remaining in the medical center dating back to the end of the 18th century. In fact, our space once housed the original UVA Operating Theatre which over time had been turned into offices and a small lecture room. With the help of the UVA historic renovations team, we have restored many of the original elements of the Operating Theatre into our new conference center. The new space also has two display cabinets which allow us to showcase numerous historically significant items including many of Dr. Edgerton's career awards and works. This space is frequently visited by members of the UVA community and is now a source of reflection and pride within our institution.



Plastic Surgery Central Space was designed to resemble the original UVA operating theatre. It includes 2 display cabinets, a spacious conference room, 5 offices and a kitchenette.

- **New Clinic Space:** We are now embarking on our next project which centers around an off-site clinic featuring easily accessible parking, spacious rooms, 2 procedural rooms and modern fixtures with abundant natural light. The space is located within the Pantops region of Charlottesville which is a 10-minute drive from the University. The Plastic Surgery Suite will service patients seeking aesthetic treatments, breast surgery and a variety of other specialized services. We plan to open the doors to this clinic in the fall of 2025!



Pantops Plastic Surgery Suite to open in FY 2025!

3. Visibility:

- The 11th annual **Oncologic Reconstruction Course** was held on the UVA medical grounds in December of 2024. I encourage you to read an excerpt of the article that was published by the School of Medicine.

Medicine in Motion News

Department of Plastic Surgery Hosts National Plastic Surgery Oncologic Reconstruction Course

January 8, 2025 by jta6n@virginia.edu

The Department of Plastic Surgery hosted the 11th annual Oncologic Reconstruction Course (ORC) in Charlottesville, VA at the University of Virginia School of Medicine December 6-7, 2024. The ORC brings experts in reconstructive surgery together once a year for a cadaver-based teaching course designed for senior residents in plastic surgery.



Course co-directors J.T. Stranix, MD, and Amanda Silva, MD.

This year over 125 people attended the course which included residents and faculty from top U.S. Plastic Surgery programs including UVA, Washington University, Harvard, Duke, Colorado, University of Chicago, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, Michigan, Emory, Wisconsin, University of California San Francisco, Kansas, VCU, and Virginia Tech. Cutting-edge techniques in breast, head and neck, extremity and torso reconstruction were demonstrated along with an array of new devices and innovative wound products entering the market.

"The hands-on aspect and partnership with industry is what is so unique about the ORC and what has allowed the course to grow so much over the past 10 years," stated course co-founder Scott Hollenbeck, MD, chair of UVA Plastic Surgery.



- **American Society of Plastic Surgeons** – Dr. Hollenbeck assumed the role of President of the worlds largest Plastic Surgery organization (ASPS) in October of 2024. During his 1-year presidency, Dr. Hollenbeck will travel the US and the world to discuss issues that plastic surgeons are facing. These issues include scope creep, decreasing reimbursement and establishing the value that plastic surgeons bring to hospital systems. Please read an excerpt from the ASPS announcement.

ASPS President

Scott Hollenbeck, MD



Scott Hollenbeck, MD, University of Virginia (UVA) chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery, Maxillofacial and Oral Health, has been named president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the world's largest organization of board-certified plastic surgeons. Dr. Hollenbeck took office at Plastic Surgery The Meeting, the Society's annual scientific meeting, on Sept. 29, 2024, in San Diego. Dr. Hollenbeck will serve in the position for one year.

"I am honored to serve as the president of ASPS and uphold the knowledge that plastic surgeons can be leaders within their health systems and add value to their communities through innovative and inspired problem-solving," said Dr. Hollenbeck. "I will continue to work toward unifying the specialty and organization toward critical missions, such as ensuring access to plastic surgery services, continued advancement in patient safety, and reinforcing the importance of consulting a board-certified plastic surgeon when considering cosmetic or reconstructive procedures."



Dr. Hollenbeck became ASPS President in October of 2024. His is shown above in Korea, San Diego and Peru.

Dr. Jesse Chou presents his data at PSTM in San Diego and receives and award at the SESPRS meeting in Georgia (upper and lower left). Dr. Rachel Park receives the Commonwealth Cup (upper right) and Dr. Rob Devito presents at the AAPS meeting in Boston (lower right).

- **Presentations:** It was a banner year for the Plastic Surgery residents and conference attendance. Dr. Rachel Park was the winner of the Commonwealth Cup; the award given for the best resident presentation at the Virginia Society of Plastic Surgeons meeting. The meeting was held in combination with the North Carolina Society at the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia and was a tremendous success. We had two residents (Rob Devito and Lee Kilmer) participate in the Glancy competition at the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons meeting this summer and had several other residents presenting in the general sessions. Among these, Dr. Jesse Chou was recognized for his excellent presentation on Early Neuroma management. Many of our faculty, residents, students and APP's also attended the annual Plastic Surgery The Meeting (PSTM)



The University of Virginia Plastic Surgery team at PSTM (above) and the VASPS (lower left) the SEPSRS meeting (lower center) and the ASRM meeting (lower right).

Hospital was our Coleman lecturer. We had numerous other visitors throughout the year give insightful lectures and speak with our residents about career decision making. We have also been fortunate the past two years to have Dr. Mark Constantian visit us to teach rhinoplasty techniques to the residents.

-Outreach: The Global Health Leadership Program continues to thrive within UVA Plastic Surgery. The interest in the program has never been greater thanks to the long-time dedication and commitment of Dr. Tom Gampper and Dr. Jon Black. This past year they led a trip to the Philippines with two of our residents accompanying them to participate in cleft care in an underserved region. This year they will lead a trip back to Giridih, India for the 13th time!



Drs. Kristen Stephens, Tom Gampper, Rachel Park and Jon Black provide needed care in the Philippines as part of the Global Health program.

4. Innovation:

- Dr. Xin Li and her team have begun work in their newly renovated research laboratory in the MR4 building. Ironically, this research space had once belonged to the plastic surgery department but had been transitioned to another department in recent years. We are delighted to see Dr. Li bring this space back to plastic surgery for her cutting-edge bench research. As the Edlich Endowed Professor, she has also been instrumental in facilitating the growth of our other basic science research programs and will focus on mentoring others in grant writing and collaboration building.

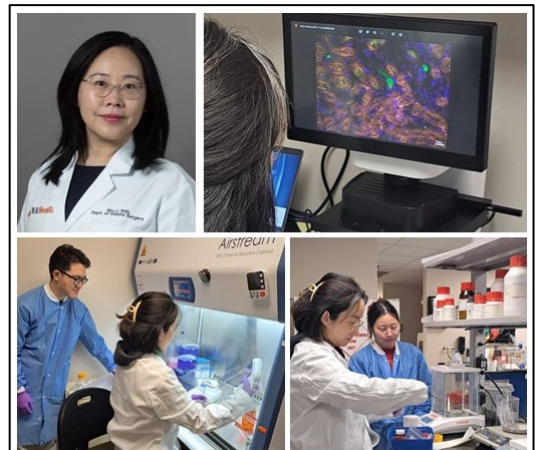
- Dr. Sara Al-ghadban has joined us to start a new research program at UVA. She will work alongside Dr. Hollenbeck, Dr. Silva, and Dr. Campbell to study inflammatory conditions within adipose and soft tissue. We have built a unique multidisciplinary program at UVA designed to uncover the basic pathobiology of Lipedema and Lymphedema. This also aligns with our growing clinical program in these disorders. Dr. Al-ghadban will also work on projects related to adipose engineering and inflammatory conditions related to breast implants. This work will include a robust patient sample collection protocol and leverage collaborations from around the world.

event in San Diego. We had a great showing in the Resident Bowl and in many panels and concluded the event with a nice reception for alumni and friends.

-Visitors: One of the ways we can exchange ideas and learn from other surgeons is through our Visiting Professor program. We are fortunate to have several sponsored events including the Barton Lectureship and The Coleman Lectureship. This year Dr. Jason Spector from New York Presbyterian Hospital was our Barton lecturer and Dr. Magdalena Soldanska from Atlanta Children's



Dr. Jason Spector (top left) and Dr. Magdalena Soldanska (top right) served as the annual Barton and Coleman lecturer respectively. ASRM President-elect Dr. Bauback Safa visited the Hand Service for an anatomy dissection session and Dr. Young Chul Suh from South Korea visited to speak about super-thin flaps.



The Li Laboratory led by Xin Li, PhD (upper right), focuses on the metabolic pathways associated with tissue inflammation. Dr. Yuki Guo works on her experiments in the new facility.

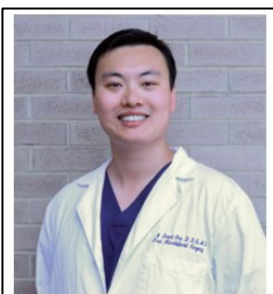
- Coulter Awards: We had an unusually productive year with 3 of our clinical faculty receiving Coulter awards. The Wallace H. Coulter Foundation partners with academic institutions nationally to identify and support promising biomedical innovations. These projects must include a biomedical engineer and a partnering clinician. Dr. Jon Black and his team received an award for their work entitled “Improvement of Surgical Outcomes for Children with Cleft Palate”. Dr. Chris Campbell and his team also received an award for their work entitled “Nanofiber Hydrogels for Tissue Engineering”. Finally, Dr. Brent DeGeorge and his team received a third award for their work entitled “Microporous Scaffold for Osteochondral Defects”, which has also received a follow-on Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation award. As there are only 6 awards given per cycle per university, this is an amazing accomplishment by our faculty.



5. Success:

As mentioned, there have been many accomplishments and accolades for the department, however the most important part of any program is always the people. We continue to grow with our administrative staff both within the department and within the hospital. Our residency and APP programs are growing as are our faculty compliment. We continue to strive to add the highest quality people that are passionate and inspired to engage with the department and health system to make a positive impact.

As we continue to grow, we also say goodbye to some of our valued team members. This past fall Dr. Martin Hoard retired after many years of service as our oral and maxillofacial surgeon. I am delighted to report that we have hired a full-time Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon named David Guo, MD, DDS. David is completing a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology and will be a great addition to our team. We are also at the final stages of recruitment for a Chief of the Division of Craniofacial Surgery as well as an early career craniofacial surgeon. We are also looking to add another Hand surgeon, Microsurgeon and Aesthetic surgeon in the near future. We said goodbye to Shannon Kuruvilla when she graduated in June to eventually join Dr. Bob Basu in his practice in Houston. We are now preparing to launch our 2 current chiefs on to their

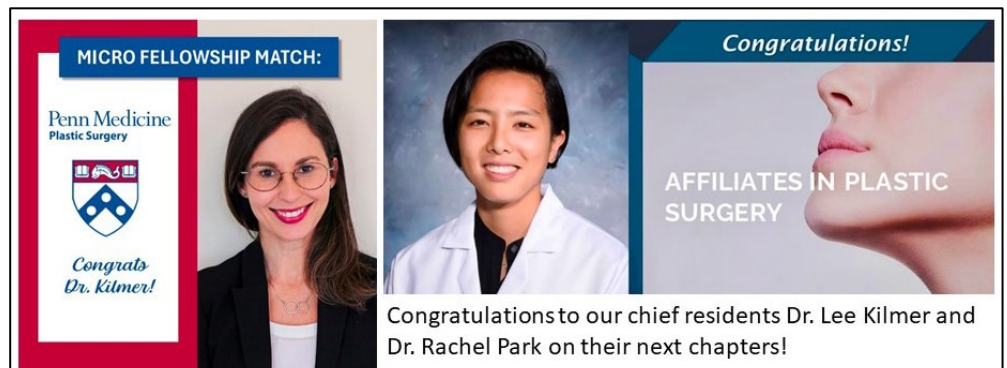


J. David Guo, DDS, MD



Dr. Martin Hoard (front row) is joined by residents and faculty from the Plastic Surgery and Dentistry divisions. We wish Dr. Hoard a wonderful retirement after so many years of service to the University of Virginia.

next chapters. Dr. Rachel Park will join a private practice in Northern Virginia and Dr. Lee Kilmer will pursue a microsurgery fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. We also added two new residents this year to our program and both Annie Glenney and Luke Juckett are off to a great start!



Congratulations to our chief residents Dr. Lee Kilmer and Dr. Rachel Park on their next chapters!

The Division of Dentistry has experienced remarkable changes over the past year. We kicked off 2024 by welcoming our new division chief, Dr. Kyle Vick and expanding our pediatric dental services with the addition of Dr. Benjamin Hughes. The residency program received outstanding recognition during a site visit, earning the highest rating from The Commission on Dental Accreditation thanks to the leadership of Program Director Dr. Matt Barrick.



Through our new partnership, dental residents now have the unique opportunity to learn alongside plastic surgery residents and collaborate with faculty in specialized areas such as cleft and craniofacial care, maxillofacial trauma, and reconstruction in the head and neck regions. This year also saw the completion of a long-awaited clinic renovation featuring the latest technology in instrumentation, intraoral digital scanners, and 3D imaging. Looking ahead, 2025 promises even more exciting developments, including the addition of three new dental faculty members.

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 "eja4kh@virginia.edu".



Drs. Jon Black, Derek Bell, Peter Arnold, and Ben McIntyre enjoy catching up at the AAPS meeting in Boston.



Dr. Larry Nichter at the ASPS / PSF Board Dinner in San Diego with Dr. Scott Hollenbeck (ASPS President elect and Chair of UVA Plastic Surgery). Dr. Nichter was named the 2024 Noordhoff Humanitarian Award Winner for his outstanding contributions to global outreach with Mission Plastics and national efforts with Re-shaping Lives America.



Current UVA faculty member, JT Stranix is joined by UVA Plastic Surgery alumni Daniel Murariu, Alex Mericli and Angela Cheng at the 2025 ASRM meeting in Hawaii.

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”.

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