WINTER 2024 | NEWSLETTER

UVASURGERY

SCHOOL *of* MEDICINE

Department of Surgery

MISSION

Transforming health and inspiring hope for all Virginians and beyond.

VISION

To be the nation's leading academic department of surgery and a best place to work while transforming care, research, education, and engagement with the diverse communities we serve.

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

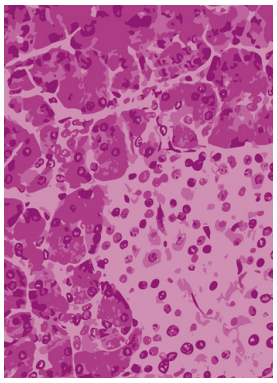
SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Department of Surgery

UVA DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
1300 Jefferson Park Ave
PO Box 801442
Charlottesville, VA 22908

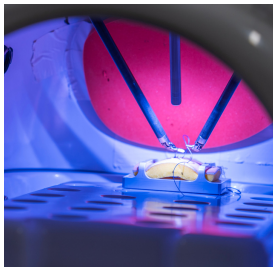
ON THE COVER
"Anesthesiologist's Eye View" by Holly Atkinson

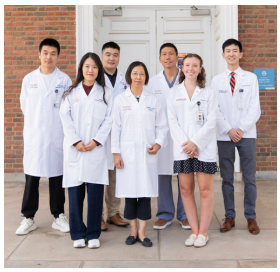
@uvasurgery
@uvagensurg
@uvasurgerydepartment

CONTENTS



FEATURED STORIES





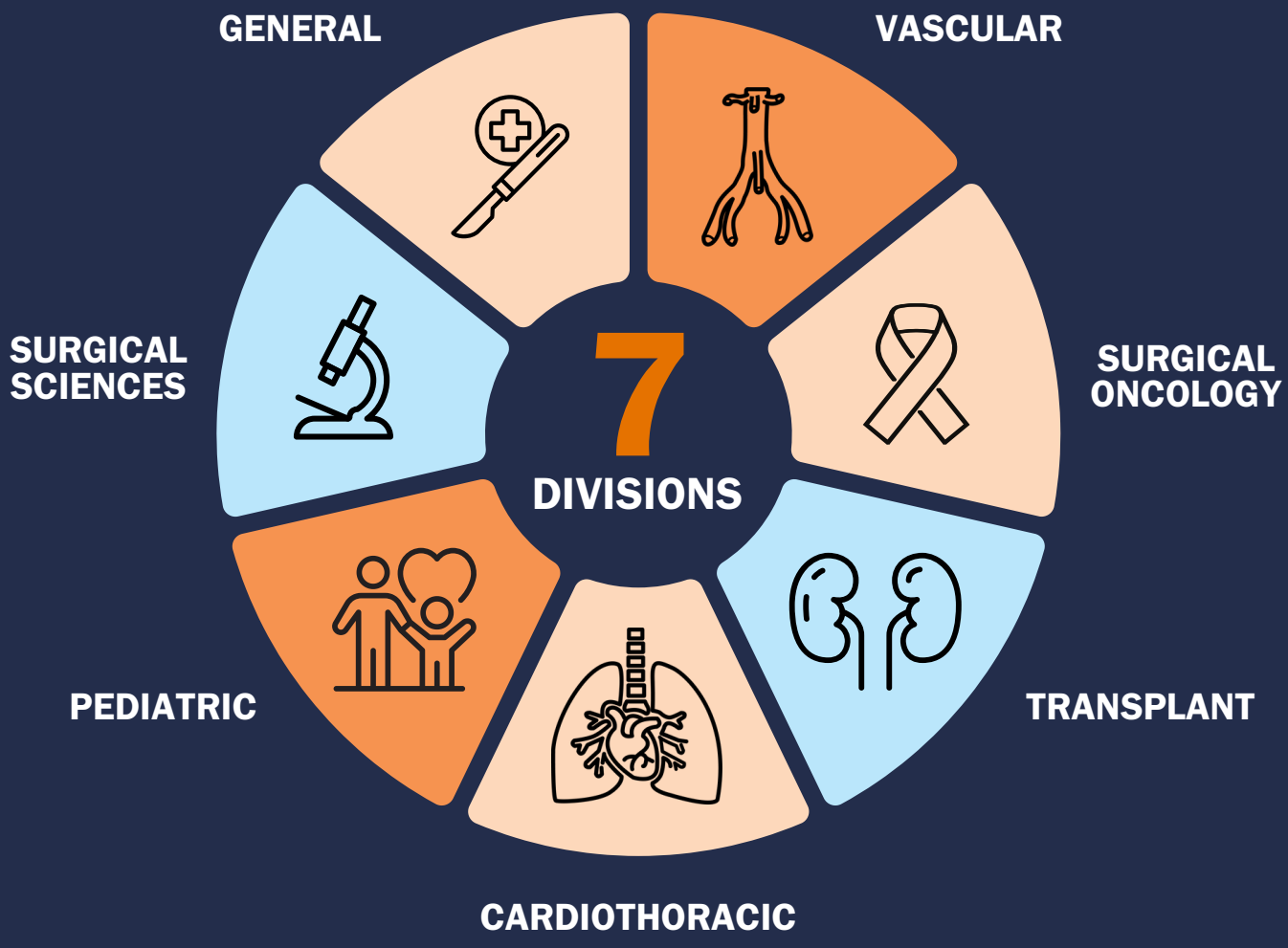
ALSO INSIDE

UVA SURGERY BY THE NUMBERS

77 Faculty Members

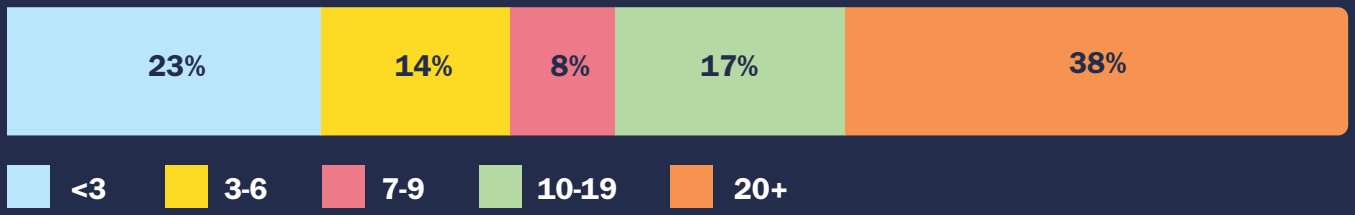
57 Residents & Fellows

#34 Doximity Ranking*



Information Based on Fiscal Year 2022
**Doximity Reputation Rank for General Surgery Residency*

Faculty Length of Service in Years



RESEARCH

439
Publications

$1.7M+
Philanthropic Gifts

$11.5M
Extramural Funding

#30
Blue Ridge (NIH) Rank

CLINICAL

$60.4M
Revenue

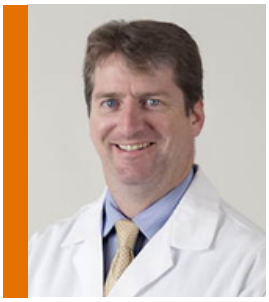
54K+
Encounters

330,666
wRVUs

9,732
Surgical Cases

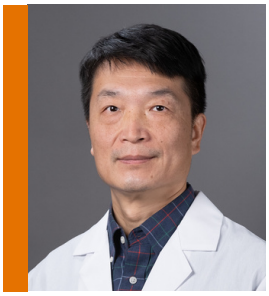
OUR PEOPLE

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



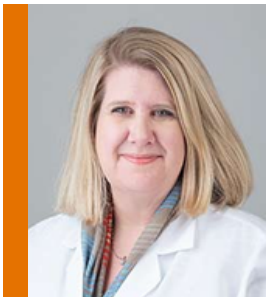
Shawn Pelletier, MD Appointed Chief of Transplant Surgery & Director of the Transplant Service Line

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Shawn Pelletier, who was recently appointed Chief of Transplant Surgery & Director of the Transplant Service Line. Dr. Pelletier has been on faculty at UVA for 12 years, currently as Professor and serving as Interim Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery. Dr. Pelletier was selected for this role after a very competitive national search, and it's always exciting to learn the best fit for leading our continued growth and success comes from within our own team!



Lian-Wang Guo, PhD Elected Fellow of the American Heart Association

Dr. Lian-Wang Guo was recently elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA). Fellowship is a prestigious distinction that recognizes members for excellence, sustained contributions in the areas of scholarship, practice and/or education, and volunteer service within the AHA/ASA. Congratulations Dr. Guo, and thank you for all you do!



Traci Hedrick, MD Selected for Membership in the Southern Surgical Association

Congratulations to Dr. Traci Hedrick for being selected for membership in the Southern Surgical Association (SSA), positioning her among a distinguished group of surgical practitioners! Dr. Hedrick was inducted at the most recent SSA annual meeting in Hot Springs, VA.

Todd Bauer, MD Elected to Stephen Hurt Watts Endowed Professorship in Surgery

Todd Bauer, MD has been elected to the endowed Stephen Hurt Watts Professorship in Surgery. Over the course of his 18-year career at UVA, Dr. Bauer has transformed UVA's High Risk Pancreatic Cancer Clinic into a national success story, achieving remarkably high rates of early cancer detection and patient survival. His research lab has blossomed into a multidisciplinary program spanning 10 departments. An accomplished researcher, a dedicated mentor, and a leader in several national surgical organizations, Dr. Bauer's election to this professorship is a testament to his profound contributions to medicine!

Eugene McGahren Receives Master Clinician Award

Dr. Eugene McGahren was honored with a Master Clinician Award, awarded by the UVA School of Medicine Dean‘s Office. This award is given to physician faculty members “with the reputation of being the ‘doctors’ doctor‘; the physicians to whom their colleagues turn to assist in managing complicated patients, care for family members, or serve as their personal physician.“ Congratulations Dr. McGahren, and thank you for all you do!

Libby Weaver, MD Selected for CEE Scholars Program

Dr. Weaver was selected to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) Scholars Program, which aims to advance training in educational scholarship among clinician-educators. Dr. Weaver's proposal was based on prior work she had published in Annals of Surgery that demonstrates gender bias in the use of Artificial Intelligence in surgical education.

Pete Hallowell, MD Named Vice Chair of Clinical Operations

Congratulations to Dr. Pete Hallowell for being appointed as Vice Chair of Clinical Operations for the Department of Surgery.

Pete Hallowell, MD Named President-Elect for the Midwestern Surgical Association

Peter Hallowell, MD was named President-Elect for the Midwestern Surgical Association. The MSA is a surgical organization composed of 600+ surgeons who have established reputations as practitioners, authors, teachers, and/or original investigators. Dr. Hallowell will become president of this association in 2024.

Shayna Showalter, MD Selected to Join the Society of Clinical Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Showalter for her recent induction into the Society of Clinical Surgery (SCS)! The Society of Clinical Surgery is a prestigious organization that aims to encourage innovation in surgical practice and teaching methods through collaboration. Dr. Showalter was inducted during the 2023 Annual Meeting of the SCS at Harvard Medical School.

OURANIA PREVENTZA, MD
AWARDED 2023 PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD BY THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY

This December, Ourania Preventza, MD, MBA, cardiovascular surgeon and chief of UVA's Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was honored with the 2023 Physician of the Year Award from the Hellenic Medical Society of New York.

Dr. Preventza's recognition holds historical significance as she is the first female physician to receive this honor from the society since its foundation and marked a moment of progress and inclusivity within the medical community.

Dr. Preventza, in her acceptance speech, expressed gratitude to her mentors, teachers, and family, emphasizing the importance of resilience, humility, and the pursuit of scholarship to inspire and guide the younger physicians present. Congratulations, Dr. Preventza, on this well-deserved accomplishment!

IN THE NEWS

Xinyu Xhou, PhD Featured in Research in Motion Interview

Xinyu Xhou, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery was recently featured in a Research in Motion interview with the UVA School of Medicine. Dr. Xhou researches the role of ion channels in the calcium homeostasis in the heart. He is passionate about basic science research that could uncover new treatments for disease.

Chuanxi Cai, PhD Featured in Research in Motion Interview

Dr. Chuanxi Cai was recently featured in a Research in Motion interview with the School of Medicine. He discusses his research on the biology of molecule MG53, its role in tissue repair, and anti-inflammation in stress-induced heart failure and its function as a tumor suppressor.

Shayna Showalter, MD Featured in Interview with the Journal of the American College of Surgeons

Dr. Shayna Showalter was recently interviewed on the podcast, The Operative World by the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. She discusses her research on precision breast intraoperative radiation therapy (PB-IORT) which uses customized CT-based treatment plans for high-dose-rate brachytherapy. Interim results show that PB-IORT has an acceptable breast cancer recurrence rate, minimal side effects, and excellent cosmetic outcomes.

Drs. Chris Scott and Chrissy Papageorge Featured on NBC 29 News

Drs. Chris Scott and Chrissy Papageorge were recently featured on a NBC 29 News special called “Community Conversations”. This series allows UVA Health providers to raise awareness for various health topics and UVA’s role in addressing them. In these episodes, Dr. Scott discusses chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH), and Dr. Papageorge discusses living donor kidney donation.

CLINICAL

#1

Hospital in Virginia

UVA Health University Medical Center was ranked as the #1 Hospital in Virginia by Newsweek. This ranking was based on data from surveys of healthcare professionals, surveys of patients, and quality metrics from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

UVA Achieves 3-Star Distinction for Lung Cancer Lobectomy from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery earned a 3-star rating from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for Lung Cancer Lobectomy. This is the highest rating given, placing UVA among the top 5% of providers in the United States. The STS star rating measures quality in health care using a variety of patient outcome metrics over a period of three years. This data is drawn from the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD), the largest clinical thoracic surgical database in the US and Canada. This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to the outstanding care provided by our Cardiothoracic team!

UVA ECMO Program Awarded "Platinum Level" for 2nd Consecutive Year

The UVA ECMO program has been awarded "Platinum Level" for the second consecutive evaluation cycle. This is the highest level of award given by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). Thank you to all the team members who have contributed to this great achievement. Without the numerous invested services and providers, this recognition would not have been achievable.

UVA Health University Medical Center Earns WebMD Patient & Medscape Provider Choice Awards

UVA Health Earned the WebMD Patient Choice and Medscape Provider Choice Awards for its cancer, heart, orthopedics, neurology and digestive health care.

UVA Health University Medical Center Recognized Nationally as a 2023 Top Teaching Hospital

UVA Health University Medical Center has earned a national award for patient safety and high-quality care, being recognized as a 2023 Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, a national healthcare safety nonprofit. Award criteria include patient outcomes and implementation of safe surgical practices.

INNOVATION IN TRANSPLANT

Auto Islet Transplant for Diabetes Prevention

Auto Islet Transplantation (AIT), performed in conjunction with a total pancreatectomy (pancreas removal), offers a cutting edge solution for chronic pancreatitis while minimizing the risk of surgically induced diabetes. The University of Virginia's AIT program, directed by Kenneth Brayman, MD, PhD, is one of only a few programs of its kind in the United States, making UVA a leader in advanced pancreatic disease management.

PANCREATITIS & DIABETES

In the pancreas, specialized groups of cells called islets maintain a healthy blood sugar level by producing glucose-regulating hormones. Alpha cells produce glucagon to increase blood sugar, while beta cells produce insulin to reduce blood sugar as needed.

Chronic pancreatitis can be caused by a number of issues, including congenital anomalies, cancer, gallstones, autoimmune disorders, genetic conditions, and alcohol use. The condition is associated with severe abdominal pain that often leaves patients reliant on or addicted to pain medication.

When other treatments have failed, a total pancreatectomy can be an effective option to relieve pain. However, removing the pancreas causes diabetes by eliminating the body's source of glucose-regulating hormones. These patients must intensively monitor their blood sugar and administer regular insulin injections. Many develop brittle diabetes, a severe and difficult-to-manage form of diabetes where glucose levels swing rapidly between

high and low extremes. These patients are also at an increased risk of developing hypoglycemic unawareness, a condition where a patient does not feel the physical symptoms of a severe hypoglycemic episode before its onset. This condition is extremely dangerous because patients may lose consciousness without warning while performing daily activities.

HOW TPAIT CAN HELP

TPAIT offers a definitive solution to this problem by preserving islet cell function, thereby preventing postoperative diabetes or mitigating its severity if it does develop. During a TPAIT procedure, the patient's pancreas is removed and sent to a laboratory where the islet cells are isolated, processed, and ultimately infused back into the patient, usually into the liver.

Once the cells have been transplanted, they continue to produce glucose-regulating hormones, effectively replacing the endocrine function of the pancreas.

The procedure has a very high success rate, with up to 80-90% of patients experiencing a significant reduction in pain that allows them to stop or reduce their use of pain medication. This is a monumental step forward for patients struggling with addiction. A patient's postoperative reliance on insulin is dependent on several factors, but in some cases, patients do not require any insulin administration following the procedure.

ONGOING EFFORTS

Research is ongoing to better understand islet cell function and to increase the success rate of the procedure. Strategies include increasing transplant success by promoting cell engraftment and increasing the long-term durability of islet grafts. Learn more about this research here.

The University of Virginia is one of about 12 programs in the United States that focuses on managing advanced pancreatic disease in this way to control pain, preserve islet

Researchers in Dr. Brayman's Lab (Left to Right): Jack Cook, Dr. Kenneth Brayman, Dr. Preeti Chhabra, and Mingyang Ma.

function, and avoid diabetes. UVA conducted its first islet transplant in 2005 and its first TPAIT procedure in 2007. UVA has completed about 60 of these cases since then.

TPAIT is a highly technical procedure that requires significant infrastructure, including an FDA-approved GMP facility to process tissues and specialized expertise on the part of laboratory technicians. Dr. Brayman emphasized that UVA's multidisciplinary team approach plays a large role in the TPAIT program's success. Patients are often referred to Surgery by Gastroenterology and receive ongoing support from Endocrinology, so they are carefully monitored by UVA physicians during every stage of their care.

UVA Performs Its 1st Liver Transplant To Treat Liver Metastasis

This story was originally written by Holly Ford and published by UVA Health. We invite you to read the full-length version here.

“Colorectal cancer tends to travel, and the liver is one of its favorite destinations. A surgeon may be able to resect or remove the part of the liver invaded by cancer cells. But not always.

‘In some cases, you cannot eradicate the disease, so patients are put on what we call palliative chemo,’ says transplant surgeon Nicolas Goldaracena, MD. ‘Survival for these patients on palliative chemo is around 10% at five years.’

In an effort to improve these odds, the UVA Health Transplant Oncology team has begun offering eligible patients an alternative treatment: liver transplant.

‘This is a bit of a change in our mentality and how we tackle things. Before, we were always worried about eliminating the disease. Now, we’re approaching it as a chronic disease and we’re more concerned about survival in general,’ says Goldaracena. ‘With this approach, the cancer may come back, but it appears somewhere that’s easier to treat like the lungs. It can change the survival rate to 80% at five years.’

One of only a handful of transplant teams in the country offering this novel treatment, UVA Health performed its first liver transplant to treat nonresectable liver metastasis in February. Nine months later, the patient remains cancer-free and in good health.” Read More

EDUCATION

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

RESIDENT ALEX WISNIEWSKI, MD RECEIVES HIGHEST SCORE IN THE COUNTRY ON THORACIC SURGERY IN-TRAINING EXAM

Earlier this years, Dr. Alex Wisniewski received the highest score in the United States for his PGY year on the thoracic surgery in-training exam. Congratulations, Dr. Wisniewski, on this impressive accomplishment!

RESIDENT COURTNEY LATTIMORE, MD SELECTED FOR UVA HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Courtney Lattimore for being selected for the Dr. Henry Harrison Wilson, Jr. Everyday Humanism in Medicine Award. This award, provided by the UVA School of Medicine & UVA Medical Alumni Association and Medical School Foundation, is aimed at celebrating positive examples of compassion and humanism in the clinical setting. Dr. Lattimore was nominated by a medical student.

RESIDENT MARKIE FLEMING, MD RECEIVES 2023 JAMESON L. CHASSIN AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Dr. Markie Fleming has been awarded the 2023 Jameson L. Chassin Award for Professionalism in General Surgery by the American College of Surgeons. This is a tremendous honor that reflects his tireless work for our residency, our institution and our community. He represents the 2nd UVA resident in 3 years to win this national award.

RESIDENT MOHAMAD EL MOHEB, MD AWARDED A ΑΩΑ POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Mohamad El Moheb was recently awarded a 2023 Post Graduate Fellowship by the national medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ). This highly competitive award is given to outstanding residents and fellows for their research. Dr. El Moheb's current project is focused on studying sociodemographic disparities in the quality of life of cancer patients across the United States.

RESIDENT EVAN ROTAR, MD INDUCTED INTO ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA

Congratulations to Dr. Evan Rotar for being inducted into the national medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA). This election signifies an outstanding record of professionalism, leadership, scholarship, research, and community service.

RESIDENT RADHIKA RASTOGI, MD RECEIVES 2024 ESTHER TSAI SUGG AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY OF ASIAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS

Congratulations to Radhika Rastogi, MD, who recently received the 2024 Esther Tsai Sugg Award from the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS) for her research. Dr. Rastogi's abstract, "Inhibition of IFN-I Production Improves Post-MI Cardiac Function in a Murine Model", received the highest score amongst her fellow SAAS members. She will be awarded during the upcoming Academic Surgical Congress and will present her work at next year's SAAS annual meeting in New Orleans, LA.

YITAO HUANG COMPLETES PHD THESIS DEFENSE

Congratulations to Yitao Huang, a researcher in Dr. Lian-Wang Guo's lab, for successfully defending his thesis. The submission of his paper, titled "The BRD4-DOT1L axis promotes vascular smooth muscle cell phenotypic transitions and cardiovascular diseases", officially marks Dr. Huang as a PhD graduate from UVA's Biomedical Sciences program!

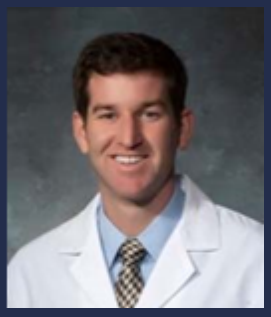
RESIDENTS RAY STROBEL, MD; MARK FLEMING, MD; AND WILLIAM KANE, MD RECEIVE 2023 MULHOLLAND TEACHING AWARDS

Congratulations to three of our residents – Drs. Strobel, Fleming, and Kane – for receiving Mulholland Teaching Awards this year. Each spring the Mulholland Society and Graduate Medical Education office call for nominations from the graduating and rising 4th year medical student classes for the Mulholland Society Teaching Award for residents and fellows. These awards serve to recognize excellence in medical student teaching that occurs formally and informally during clerkships and 4th year electives.

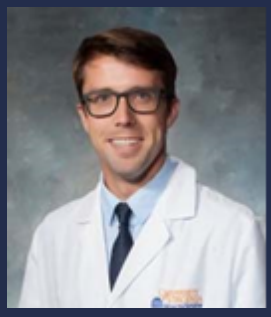
CHIEF RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP MATCHES

We are proud to announce that all of our chief residents have matched into their top fellowship choices! This remarkable accomplishment is evidence of the extraordinary dedication, skill, and leadership exhibited by this class of residents. We can't wait to see what you accomplish next!

Mark Fleming, MD
Boston Children's Hospital
Pediatric Surgery Fellowship



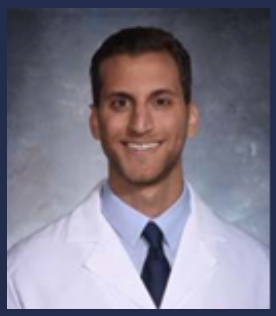
Nathan Haywood, MD
University of Tennessee
Minimally Invasive Surgery
Fellowship



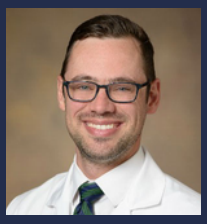
William Kane, MD
University of Minnesota
Colorectal Surgery
Fellowship

Kevin Lynch, MD
Duke University
Minimally Invasive
Surgery Fellowship

Max Meneveau, MD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center
Breast Surgery
Fellowship



Zeyad Sahli, MD
Wake Forest University
Minimally Invasive
Surgery Fellowship

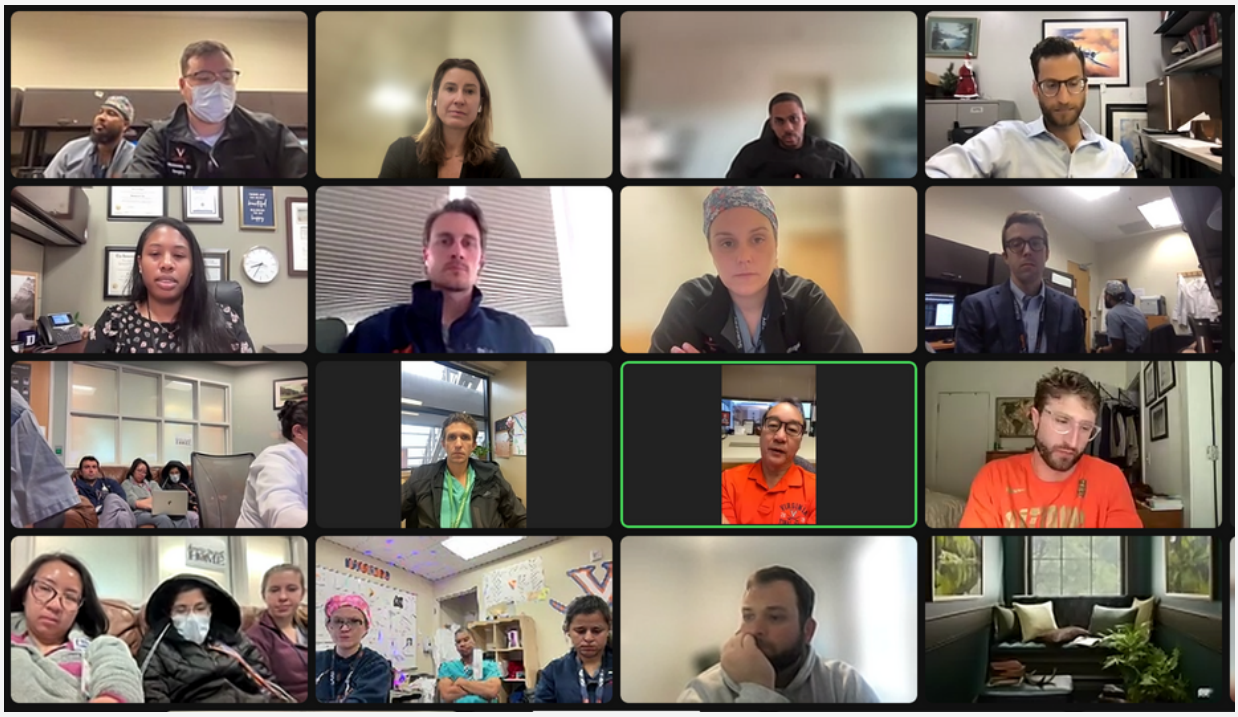


ALEX JUDD, MD MATCHED TO UVA'S 2024 ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANT FELLOWSHIP

We are excited to announce Alex Judd, MD matched for our 2024 Abdominal Transplant fellowship program. He completed Medical School at the University of Utah in 2019 and will complete his residency at the University of Arizona.

DR. PATRICK MCCARTHY MATCHED TO UVA'S 2024 VASCULAR SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

We are excited to announce that Dr. Patrick McCarthy will be joining us for his vascular surgery fellowship in August 2024. Patrick is a graduate of Rice University and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and is completing his surgical residency at the Brooke Army Medical Center/San Antonio Military Medical Center.



MULLER-JONES SURGICAL SOCIETY ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES

This year, the Muller-Jones Surgical Society is hosting a series of virtual panels featuring UVA alumni speakers. These panels are tailored for residents, addressing important topics pertaining to advancing their education and surgical career. Past topics included, “Choosing a Specialty and Applying for Fellowship” and “Diversifying Revenue Streams: Income Outside of the OR”. We invite residents and alumni to participate in our upcoming panels, listed below. Please contact Dr. Lynn Dengel with any questions.

Jan 10, 2024
Academic Versus Hybrid Versus Community Surgical Practice:
How Do We Choose Our Path?

April 10, 2024
First Job, Contract Negotiation, and Paths for Advancement

A LOOK INTO UVA'S NEW ROBOTICS BOOTCAMP

The University of Virginia's commitment to advancing surgical education is exemplified by its latest initiative, the Robotic Surgery Bootcamp. This boot camp is part of a revamped curriculum designed to provide all residents and fellows with the skills necessary for proficiency in robotic surgery. Dr. Christopher Scott, the director of the program, sheds light on this new initiative and the technology that is transforming the future of surgical practice.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE ROBOTICS BOOT CAMP?

UVA has had a comprehensive robotic surgery training program in place for several years; however, as robotic surgery has evolved and grown, there was a need to modify and improve upon the existing curriculum. I was appointed to lead a team of UVA robotic surgeons to "revamp" this curriculum. As director of the program, my role involved planning and putting together the curriculum and educational activities, as well as working with our partners at Intuitive Surgical to secure the necessary resources, i.e. robotics training platform, animal tissue models, cadaveric supplies, and simulation models. We took important feedback from our residents and fellows when implementing this most recent change in curriculum.

WHAT SKILLS ARE TAUGHT?

This is a comprehensive course built to the needs of each particular level of training. For the most junior level trainees, we cover the basics of robotic surgery, including the basic components of the robotic system, handling the robot, docking and undocking procedures, and beside assisting. For intermediate level trainees, we focus on simulation-based training and simulation models to practice skills such as economy in instrument motion and basic suturing and knot tying. For our more advanced trainees, we perform tissue and cadaveric-based training in which we simulate routine robotic operations, i.e. hernia repair, bowel anastomosis, and anatomic pulmonary resection.

Christopher Scott, MD is an Associate Professor at the University of Virginia who specializes in robotic-assisted, minimally invasive thoracic surgery, as well as end-stage lung disease, lung transplantation, and pulmonary thromboendarterectomy for CTEPH.

WHO RECEIVES THIS TRAINING?

All residents and fellows within the Department of Surgery receive this training, including general surgery residents, transplant fellows, traditional cardiothoracic fellows, I-6 integrated cardiothoracic residents, and urological surgery trainees.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR BECOMING PROFICIENT IN ROBOTIC SURGERY?

The UVA Robotic Surgery Boot Camp runs for an entire week, Monday through Friday, so that we can accommodate the large number of residents and fellows in small groups to maximize the learning environment. At the time of their graduation from the General Surgery program, our trainees are proficient in performing robotic surgery independently and are granted a certificate that allows them to continue performing robotic surgery in their future practice.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO OPERATE THE DAVINCI ROBOT?

In some ways, it feels similar to participating in a very high-level augmented reality experience. The visualization is superb, with the ability for 3-dimensional high-definition optics. The hand controls are incredibly precise and engineered for quick adaptation. While there is no tactile feedback provided through the instrument controls on the DaVinci robot, your eyes quickly learn to perceive and interpret what your hands are typically doing during conventional open surgery.

“

[Within] Thoracic Surgery, we have quintupled the volume of robotic cases since 2021.”

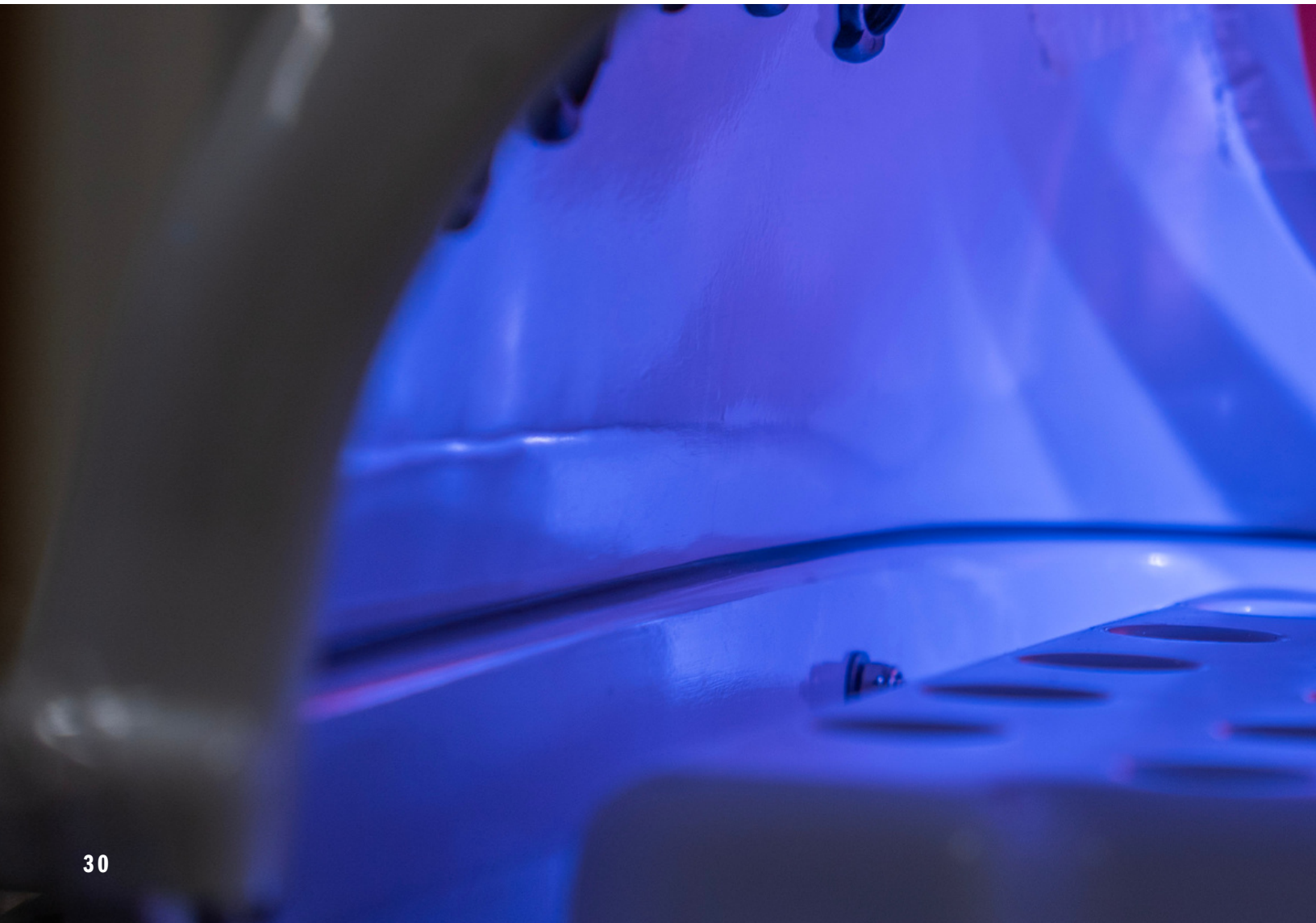
Chris Scott, MD

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ROBOTIC SURGERY?

The advantages of robotic surgery are the ability to expand the capability of minimally invasive surgery to increasingly more complex cases – the superior visualization and precision of movement are important aspects of this. Furthermore, it is an excellent tool in our mission to educate and train the next generation of surgeon leaders. The disadvantages involve the limitations of minimally invasive surgery – there will always be situations in which minimally invasive surgery is not safe and/or feasible to perform and it will be important for surgeons to understand these implications and have the training/foundation to provide safe alternative approaches when necessary.

WHAT SURGICAL SPECIALTIES HAVE BEEN MOST IMPACTED BY ROBOTICS?

Robotic surgery is currently impacting every field of surgery. Recently, it has seen particularly explosive growth in the field of general surgery, transplant surgery, surgical oncology, and thoracic surgery. For example, in my field of Thoracic Surgery, the robotic approach has now become the most common approach to performing a lobectomy, which is removal of one of the lobes of the lung, usually due to cancer. This is unique in that since the inception of lung surgery in the US nearly 100 years ago, the open approach has always been the most common approach to lung cancer surgery. This has changed just within the past few years as a result of robotic technology.

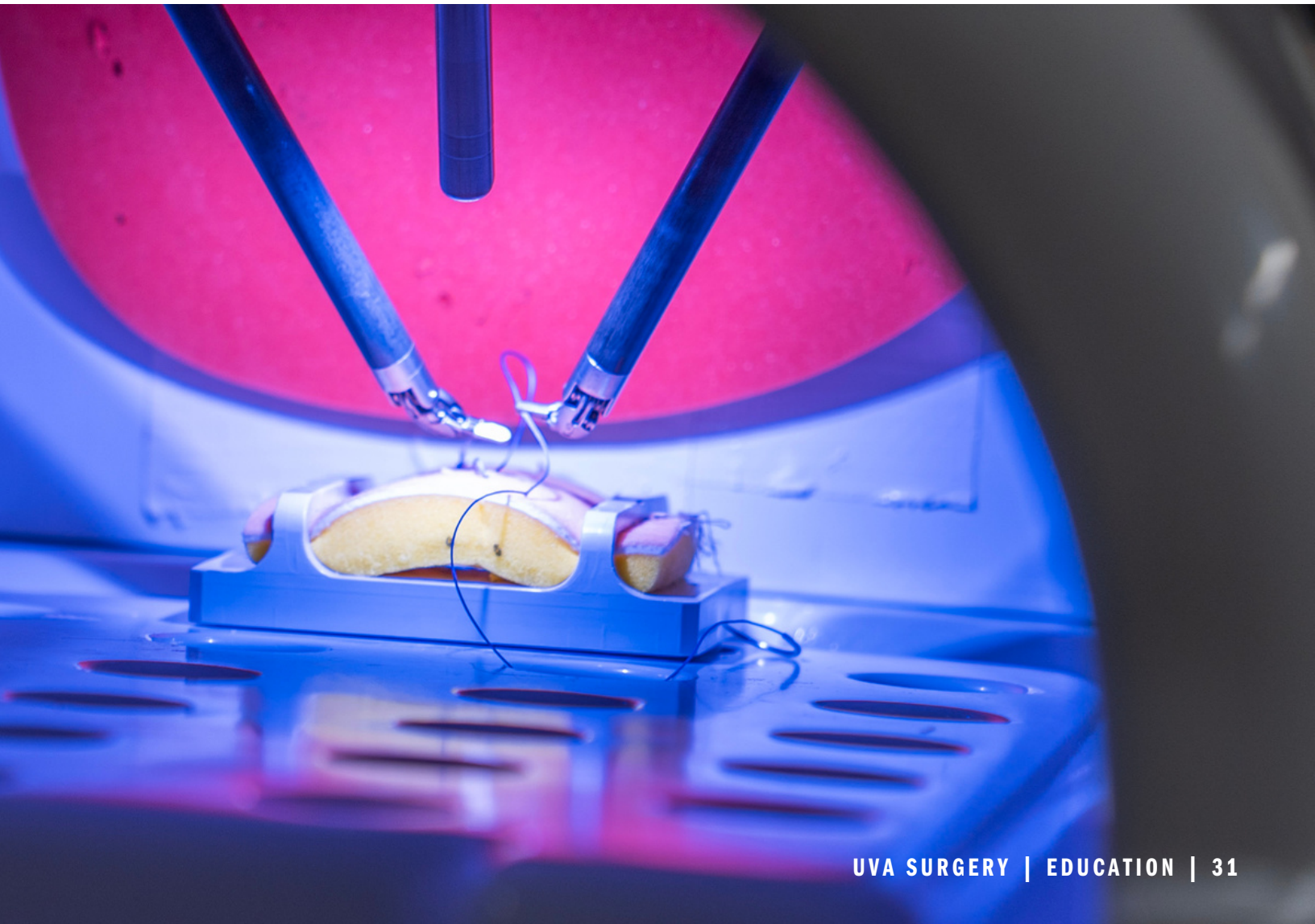


HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE FIELD OF SURGICAL ROBOTICS TO EVOLVE?

We are currently on the 4th generation of the DaVinci robot. Like all technology, there is continued ongoing refinement in instrumentation, ultimately enabling less invasive approaches. We are currently understanding the use of a single port robotic system in which the surgery is performed through a single incision. Furthermore, with the advancement of artificial intelligence and machine learning, the field is poised to explore how these technologies can improve patient safety, reduce errors/complications, and increase the ability to teach and train.

HOW HAS ROBOTIC SURGERY IMPACTED SURGICAL CARE AT UVA?

For my particular program, Thoracic Surgery, we have quintupled the volume of robotic cases since I was recruited here to UVA in 2021. Although it's not completely linear, the amount of open/conventional surgery has decreased. Less open surgery typically means less time in hospital, fewer complications, less pain, and a quicker return to life for patients. From my practice perspective, there are many stories of patients having complex robotic surgery and quickly getting back to work, to their families, and to their passions.



VOTE UVA!

PLEASE SUPPORT UVA SURGERY BY VOTING IN THE DOXIMITY RESIDENCY NOMINATION AND SATISFACTION SURVEY IN 2024

The Doximity Residency Nomination and Residency Satisfaction Surveys allows users to nominate up to five programs that they feel provide the best clinical training. This annual survey is open to Doximity members who have completed at least one year of residency or have completed their program within the last 10 years.

Votes for the UVA Department of Surgery Residency Program have a substantial impact on residency rankings, which inform and empower future medical students in their residency decisions. Please vote UVA if you are eligible and encourage others to vote as well!

The survey typically opens in the springtime. Please stay tuned for more information and future announcements regarding Doximity!

RESEARCH

A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY: The Willie Hsu Foundation's Impact on Medical Education

WILLIE HSU FOUNDATION

This year, Kuang and Susan Hsu, founders of the Willie Hsu Foundation, made a generous donation of $10,000 to Dr. Allan Tsung's research lab. The foundation is named for their son, Willie Hsu, who passed away during his junior year of college at Ohio State University.

Mr. Hsu remembers Willie as friendly, trustworthy, altruistic, and admired by his friends and peers for his honesty. Mr. Hsu recalled a time when Willie bumped into a car in a parking lot and waited over three hours for the owner to return. Another time, Willie learned that a roommate was struggling to pay rent and immediately jumped into action, offering anything he could to help.

When Kuang and Susan Hsu learned of Willie's passing, they were devastated, but in the year that followed, Mrs. Hsu had the idea of establishing a charitable foundation in Willie's honor. The foundation would be aimed at helping students continue their education, as Willie never hesitated to assist a fellow student in need.

In 2021, Kuang Hsu was diagnosed with liver cancer and was treated successfully by Dr. Allan Tsung. The Hsu family decided they would dedicate the foundation to supporting medical students, especially those interested in pursuing cancer research.

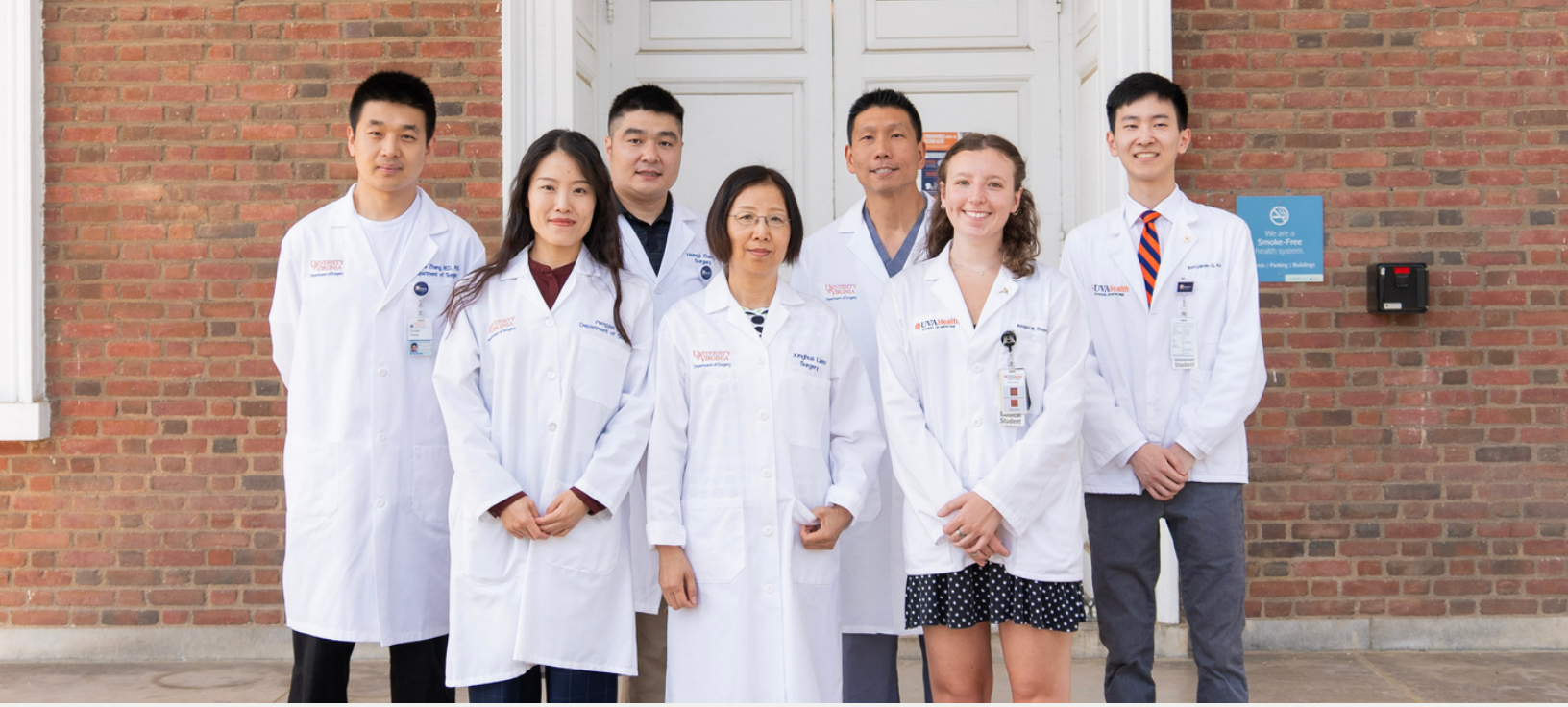
The Willie Hsu Foundation's most recent contribution provided funding for three medical students to work in Dr. Tsung's cancer research lab over the summer.

PROPELLING RESEARCH FORWARD

One of these students was Benjamin Ke, a second-year medical student. Benjamin graduated from UVA as an undergraduate last spring. Prior to medical school, he hadn't considered a career in surgery, but the opportunity to shadow Dr. Tsung in the operating room opened him up to the possibility. He found that he really enjoyed the hands-on aspect surgical care and the tangible, immediate impact it had on patients. This experience helped inspire Benjamin to work in a surgical research lab for the summer.

Benjamin became involved with Dr. Tsung's lab through the Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) at UVA. He spent two months in the lab, assisting with various projects involving bench research, animal studies, wet lab experiments, and bioinformatic analyses.

One project he worked on was a study of the relationship between exercise and immune response following surgery. Benjamin explained, "Surgery is used to treat cancer, but the surgery itself creates inflammation that increases the likelihood of resurgence."



TSUNG LAB, JULY 2023

Back Row: Yunwei Zhang, MD, PhD; Hongji Zhang, MD, PhD; Allan Tsung, MD; Benjamin Ke, Student
Front Row: Pengyan Fa, Lab Specialist; Xinghua Liao, Lab Manager; Abigail Dupre, Student

The team hypothesized that exercise before surgery could mitigate this effect.

Their experiment involved simulating surgical stress and introducing cancer cells in mice, and then monitoring the progression of metastases. Measured against the sedentary control group, pre-operative exercise led to better outcomes and smaller tumors. The next phase of this study will seek to understand the biological mechanisms underlying this effect and its potential applications in surgery patients. Benjamin had the opportunity to present these findings at UVA's 22nd Annual Medical Student Research Symposium in November.

Another project he worked on focused on the relationship between neutrophil extracellular traps and liver disease. Working alongside lab specialist Pengyan Fa, medical student Abigail Dupre, Allan Tsung, MD, and Hongji Zhang, PhD, the team published a review article in Frontiers in Immunology.

Benjamin emphasized that he appreciated the experience because it exposed him to a wide variety of projects and research methods. It was a large scale overview of the inner workings of a lab, which provided a strong set of foundational skills and knowledge to help him hone in on his future research interests.

LEGACY

The Department of Surgery is incredibly grateful for the benevolence of the Hsu family and the Willie Hsu Foundation, which has magnified Willie Hsu's legacy of compassion. Their generous support has provided aspiring surgical and oncological researchers with invaluable experiences and insights into future career paths. The Willie Hsu Foundation not only honors Willie's memory but also serves as a beacon of hope by driving this important research forward and impassioning those determined to make a difference in the world of medicine.

DRS. KENNETH BRAYMAN, PREETI CHHABRA, AND JIANJIE MA RECEIVE LAUNCHPAD DIABETES AWARDS

Congratulations to Kenneth Brayman, MD, PhD; Preeti Chhabra, PhD; and Jianjie Ma, PhD for receiving 2023 LaunchPad Diabetes Awards. These awards provide $100,000 per year over two years to support translational research projects focused on improving care for patients with diabetes.

Drs. Brayman and Chhabra's project is titled "Pre-clinical Advancements in Polyclonal IgM Therapeutics: Targeting Type 1 Diabetes". This is Drs. Brayman and Chhabra's third LaunchPad grant.

Dr. Ma's project is titled “Controlling NETosis to Treat Diabetic Wound”. Dr. Ma is the principal investigator along with participating investigators Dr. Shayn Pierce-Cottler and Dr. Scott T. Hollenbeck. This is Dr. Ma's second LaunchPad grant.

Kenneth Brayman, MD, PhD

Preeti Chhabra, PhD

Jianjie Ma, PhD

EVENTS

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS

UVA Surgery made an impressive showing of faculty, residents, and medical students at this year's American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress! The meeting was held in Boston, MA from October 22-25.

SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS ANNUAL MEETING

Several UVA Surgery members attended and presented at the 8th Annual SAAS Meeting, held on September 14-15, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland. A sampling of UVA presentations are included below:

- Enterotoxins Effect on the Rhythmicity of the Murine Enteric Nervous System (ENS) | Presented by Dr. Chioma Moneme
- Topical Neck Cooling Attenuates Myocardial Ischemia: Reperfusion Injury in a Porcine Model | Presented by Dr. Radhika Rastogi
- Cancer Vaccine Plus PD-1 Blockade Promotes Infiltration of Melanoma Metastases by Vaccine-Induced T Lymphocytes | Presented by Dr. Christine Tran

SOCIETY OF BLACK ACADEMIC SURGEONS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A number of our residents attended the 23rd Annual Society of Black Academic Surgeons National Conference. This event was hosted by the University of Michigan Department of Surgery from September 28-30.

SOUTHERN THORACIC SURGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Numerous thoracic faculty members and residents presented and moderated at this year's Southern Thoracic Surgical Association Annual Meeting. The meeting was held from November 2-5 in Orlando, FL. A sampling of presentations is included below:

- Inhaled Hydrogen Gas Attenuates Neurologic Injury Following Warm Ischemia | Andrew Young, Raymond Strobel, Hari Prasad Osuru, Evan Rotar, Irving Kron, Victor Laubach, Robert Thiele, Mark Roeser
- Traveling Long Distances Does Not Impact Operative Mortality in Acute Type A Aortic Dissection | Anthony Norman, Raymond Strobel, Andrew Young, Alex Wisniewski, Raza Ahmad, Michael Mazzeffi, Alan Speir, Mohammed Quader, Jared Beller, Leora Yarboro, John Kern, Kenan Yount, Nicholas Teman
- Firefighting Is Associated With Lung-RADS 4 Nodules On Low-Dose CT Scan | Discussant: Philip Carrott, Jr.
- Adult Cardiac Breakout | Moderator: Ourania Preventza
- Fontan-Associated Liver Disease | James Gangemi

Halsted Society Members on the southern steps of the Rotunda.

UVA HOSTS 97TH ANNUAL HALSTED SOCIETY MEETING

The University of Virginia Department of Surgery had the honor of hosting the 97th annual Halsted Society meeting this year from September 6th-9th.

The Halsted Society is a prestigious national surgical society which aims to further scientific principles and encourage collaboration amongst its members. The annual meetings are an opportunity for the host institution to showcase its research and history.

Over the course of this four-day event, over 20 UVA Surgery faculty members presented their research and had the opportunity to discuss their work with leaders in surgical innovation from across the country. Keynote speakers included UVA President James Ryan, as well as Drs. Melina Kibbe, Craig Kent, R. Scott Jones, and Allan Tsung.

In addition to the presentations, the department hosted numerous breakfasts and dinners for the attendees and their families. The department would like to extend its gratitude to Vicki Testerman, Dr. Anneke Schroen, Summer Lira, and Jenny Rector for organizing this fantastic event, as well as all of our department members for presenting their work.

A full program of the event can be viewed by clicking here.

1

4

5

1) Craig Ke
the UVA He
Halsted So

2) Allan Ts
Surgery Ch
remarks at
Scientific S

ent, MD, FACS, CEO of
ealth System addressing
ociety Members

ung, MD, FACS, UVA
air, giving opening
Halsted Society
Session

3) Shayna Showalter, MD, FACS presenting her research on breast oncology

4) Members from various institutions gathering ahead of the first scientific session

5) Linda Martin, MD, MPH, FACS presenting her research on lung cancer.

6) Halsted Society members following the first morning session

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Pictured below, a program for the 1977 Halsted Society meeting. This meeting was hosted by the University of Virginia in Cashiers, North Carolina.

Rock Mountain, High Hampton, N.C.

The Halsted Society

1977 Scientific Program and Annual Meeting
High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, North Carolina

Host Institutions
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA MEDICAL CENTER
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
November 3, 4, and 5, 1977

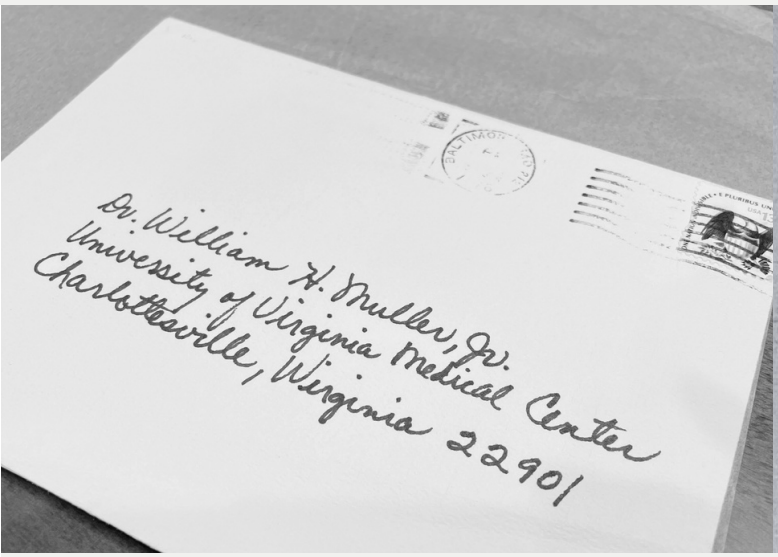
please bring this program with you

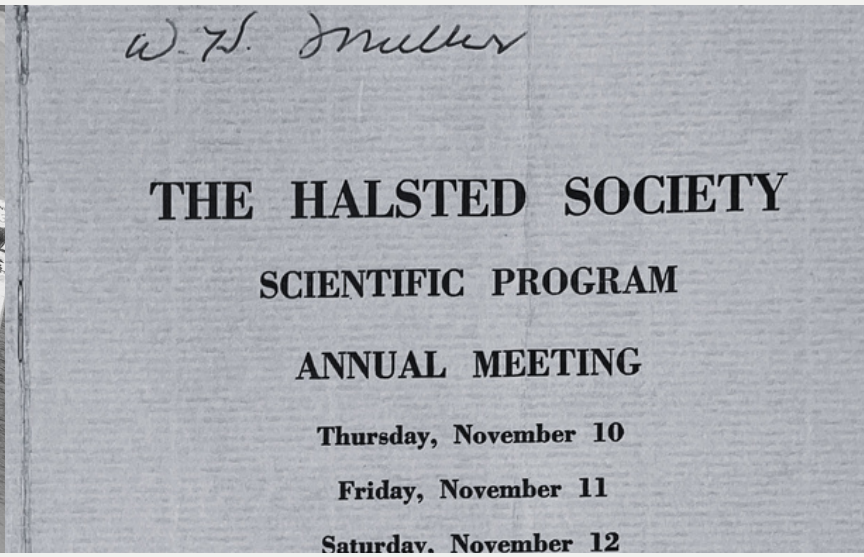
Pictured right, a group photo from the 1982 Halsted Society Meeting in Boston, MA.

November

Pictured above, a group photo from th
of the society. Dr. William H. Muller, J

he 1960 Halsted Society Meeting, hosted by New York University. This was the 35th meeting
Jr. is pictured in the third row, sixth from the left.





Pictured above, an envelope and program addressed to Dr. William H. Muller, Jr for the 1960 meeting of the Halsted Society. That year, Dr. Muller presented on “Prosthetic Valvular Replacement for the Treatment of Aortic Insufficiency”.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TRANSPLANT GOLF BENEFIT RAISES $55,000 TO SUPPORT THE TRANSPLANT PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

The 9th annual Transplant Golf Benefit tournament, held on Monday, September 25th, was a magnificent day of golf and goodwill! The event raised an estimated $55,000, which will go towards supporting patients and their families by eliminating obstacles to accessing care.


BIRDWOOD GOLF


THANK YOU
UVA SURGERY


TRANSPLANT GOLF BENEFIT

SURGERY & ANESTHESIA DAY CAMP

The UVA Housestaff Council for Diversity and Inclusion (HCDI) recently hosted the second annual "Surgery & Anesthesia Day Camp" with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Virginia.

Residents and faculty in the departments of Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and Anesthesiology guided local middle school students through hands-on simulation exercises. Activities included suturing using pigs' feet, a laparoscopy simulation game, a CPR workshop, and intubation practice. The event also included a Q&A panel, where students had the opportunity to ask the residents about their experiences, and a learning session about the path to residency and different specialty options.

HCDI was co-founded by General Surgery residents in 2017 and currently includes 3 of our residents on its leadership board. Their mission is to promote diversity and inclusion among UVA housestaff as well as in the greater Charlottesville community by partnering with organizations such as The Boys and Girls Club. HCDI also worked with the JEDI program, which aims to further diversity across UVA Health, to organize this event.


UVA Health


JOHNNY 5

UVA SURGERY STAFF VOLUNTEERS FOR UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

The United Way Day of Caring is one of the largest annual volunteer events in the country, during which more than 1,700 volunteers come together to complete various community service projects in the greater Charlottesville area.

This year, the Department of Surgery headed to Agnor Hurt Elementary School to help teachers make educational materials for students. Thank you so much to Mary Sims for organizing and to our staff members for their enthusiastic support and a job well done!

FALL PICNIC & DESSERT CONTEST

Congratulations to Ann Brown (right) for winning this year's dessert contest at the Department of Surgery Picnic. Her winning recipe was a delicious Lemon Cake!

SOUPS & SPOOKS!

Witches, wizards, and sour patch kids roamed the halls of the Department of Surgery this October, spreading merriment in celebration of Halloween. A huge thank you to Rishyne Gaines for organizing the Soups & Spooks social event for the department! Wnners of the Soups & Spooks costume contest are pictured.

Pictued above left, Tammy Proffit, Summer Lira, and Della Winstead as the Sanderson sisters from Hocus Pocus & Paul Hazelwood as Ted Lasso. Pictured above right, Paola Vargas, MD, Holly Atkinson, and Angela Fernandez-Pineros as Hermione, Dumbledore, and Snape from Harry Potter.

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA | SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Department of Surgery

UVA Department of Surgery
1300 Jefferson Park Ave
PO Box 801442
Charlottesville, VA 22908