UVASURGERY





Message from the Chair

It is with great pleasure and pride that I reflect upon the remarkable journey of our Department over the past year. It feels like just yesterday that I started here as a Wahoo, and yet here we are, a year later, celebrating a series of profound accomplishments our team has achieved across all of our missions.

This year, UVA Health expanded into three community hospitals in Northern Virginia. We were named the No.1 Children's hospital in Virginia and attained a Comprehensive Cancer Center Designation by the National Cancer Institute. These achievements have empowered our department to elevate clinical care across the region and solidified our position as a leading surgical institute.

Advancing surgical research also remains core to our mission. As such, we created a new Division of Surgical Sciences and welcomed numerous world-class scientists and surgeon investigators to our team. Through their collaborative efforts, our department has secured over \$10 million in funding and made strides in preventative and regenerative treatments and new surgical techniques.

I am also incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our residents and fellows, many of whom have received awards and recognitions at the national level. I am grateful for our faculty and staff for equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their academic careers. Through mentorship, hands-on training, and a culture of continuous learning, we are shaping the next generation of surgical leaders who will carry our legacy forward.

Looking ahead, I am excited about our future and honored to lead this exceptional team as we strive for even greater heights! With this edition of the UVA Department of Surgery Newsletter, I invite you to join us in celebrating these achievements and to share in our vision for the Department.

Allan Tsung, MD, FACS

S. Hurt Watts Professor and Chair of Department of Surgery



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Al-Generated Artwork: Watercolor painting of surgeons working in an operating room.

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SUBMIT



Awards & Recognitions

Traci Hedrick, MD Receives Phenomenal Women Award

In celebration of Women's History Month, UVACCC staff nominated their colleagues for the Phenomenal Women Award. Dr. Hedrick was among 11 women selected for the award, with colleagues describing her as "patient, kind, thoughtful, and a strong leader. She speaks up for equity in conferences and other public settings and actively works to improve gender equality in our field. Her commitment to mentoring and supporting junior faculty, residents, and medical students has made a significant impact on the future of women in oncology." Congratulations Dr. Hedrick and thank you for all that you do!

Dr. Jeff Gander Awarded for Excellence in Public Service

Dr. Jeffrey Gander and his colleagues from the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Amy Wrentmore and dietitian Tegan Medico, won the 2023 UVA Excellence in Public Service Award for their work to combat food insecurity in their pediatrics patients and families. Dr. Gander originally noticed that many of his patients were suffering from diet-related diseases at a young age. In 2020, his team set up a collaboration with a nonprofit called Local Food Hub that provides facing families food insecurity with fresh fruits and vegetables. Through initial fundraising efforts, they were able to support 60 families. The team recently received a \$500,000 grant USDA to study from the effectiveness of the program and enroll more families. Additionally, the team established a healthy food pantry in 2021 at the Pediatrics Battle Building Clinic where any with food insecurity receive non-perishable food items. The pantry regularly has 50 visits per month.



Irving Kron, MD Receives Scientific Achievement Award

Dr. Irving Kron received the Scientific Achievement Award at the American Society for Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting this May. The Award serves to honor individuals who have achieved scientific contributions in the field of thoracic surgery worthy of the highest recognition the Association can bestow.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kron has published over 500 manuscripts, including 160 articles in The Annals of Thoracic Surgery, making him the most prolific author published in the STS journal's 50-year history. He also has made nearly 250 presentations on cardiothoracic surgery in the U.S. and internationally. He has published about 30 books and chapters, and has been the principal investigator for more than 20 funded research grants.

Dr. Kron's specialty interests include mitral valve and aortic valve surgery, surgery of the aorta, carotid artery surgery, coronary artery surgery, and heart transplantation.



Dr. Gander and collaborator, Olivia Obertello, RDN, in the healthy food pantry

UVA Vascular Surgery Receives Highest Rating From the SVS Vascular Quality Initiative

UVA Vascular Surgery was rated 3 out of 3 stars by the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative, a collaboration of the Society for Vascular Surgery Patient Safety Organization (SVS PSO), 18 regional quality improvement groups organized under the SVS PSO, and Fivos, its commercial technology partner. This is a huge accomplishment.

A special shoutout to Mary Baldwin, Marion Lawson and the HVC quality team.



Dr. Charles Friel Admitted to **American Surgical Association**

Congratulations to Dr. Charles Friel, who was officially elected a Fellow of the American Surgical Association in April 2023, Dr. Friel will introduced to the membership at the ASA 144th Annual Meeting Washington, D.C.

Three Faculty Members Awarded for Excellence in Performance Assessment

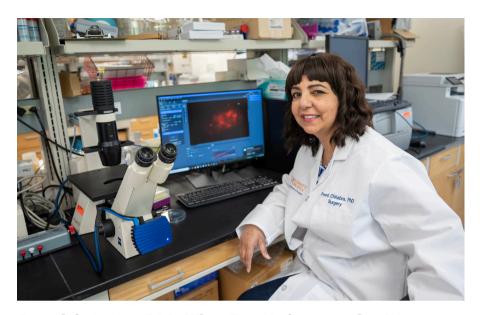
Three UVA Surgery faculty members were awarded for Excellence in Performance Assessment based on the quantity and quality of their EPA Assessments. Congratulations Drs. Sook Hoang, Jeff Gander, and Christopher Scott.

Dr. Nick Teman and Colleagues Receive Hoos Building Bridges Award

The Hoos Building Bridges Award acknowledges the cross-disciplinary partnerships and projects of staff and team members. It is given to a group who has demonstrated leadership and built thoughtful collaborations and relationships across units and departments. Their efforts increase efficiency and streamline critical processes at the hospital.

Nicholas Dr. Teman, Kathleen Henahan, Dustin Money, Michelle Dawson and Garry Gellert were recently chosen to receive this award. Their collaboration resulted in the development of comprehensive guidelines to provide progressive mobility for femorally cannulated ECMO patients.

President Ryan presented their award at a reception in June.



Preeti Chhabra, PhD Wins Fourth Consecutive Non-**Resident Award at Resident Research Day**

Preeti Chhabra, PhD, who has worked in the Department of Surgery since 2005, has won consecutive nonresident awards at the Resident Research Day meeting in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (no poster awards were given in 2020). This is a remarkable accomplishment as the award selection is peer reviewed.



Dr. Teman and colleagues at Award Ceremony in June

2023 Promotions & Advancements

Congratulations to the following faculty members for receiving a well-deserved promotion during the 2022-2023 promotion and tenure cycle. Thank you so much for all that you do to make UVA a better place.

Promoted to Professor



TRACI HEDRICK, MD Professor General Surgery Division Chief



LINDA MARTIN, MD Professor Cardiothoracic Division

Awarded Tenure



LEORA YARBORO, MD Associate Professor Cardiothoracic Division



VICTOR ZAYDFUDIM, MD, MPH Associate Professor Surgical Oncology Division

Promoted to Associate Professor



NICHOLAS TEMAN, MD Associate Professor Cardiothoracic Division



BEHZAD FARIVAR, MD Associate Professor Vascular Division



CHRISTOPHER SCOTT, MDAssociate Professor
Cardiothoracic Division

Events



Left to right: Lena Turkheimer, MD; Christopher Cramer, MD; Edith Tzeng, MD; Craig Slingluff, MD; Allan Tsung, MD

Resident Research Day 2023

This year's Resident Research Day was held on Thursday, May 18. Oral abstracts were presented in Pinn Hall Auditorium, and posters were on display throughout Pinn Hall. The department also had the honor of hosting Dr. Edith Tzeng from the University of Pittsburgh who delivered an outstanding talk on "Working Toward Ideal Vascular Conduits: The Role of Vascular Surgery". This year's event was a huge success and a fascinating showcase of the impactful work being led by our department members. Thank you to the organizers, all those who presented their work, and all those who attended.

Congratulations to the following winners, each of whom received a framed award and monetary prize.

Oral Abstract Presentations

- 1. Lena Turkheimer
- 2. Vina Chhaya
- 3. Chris Cramer

Poster Presentations

Junior: Steven Young Lab: Radhika Rastogi Senior: Max Meneveau

Non-Resident: Preeti Chhabra



Resident Research Day 2023

AWARDS DAY

The 2023 Awards Day celebration was held on Wednesday, June 7th. Congratulations to the following Awards Day winners, each of whom exemplifies accountability, stewardship, professionalism, integrity, respect, and excellence to the highest degree.

Service Awards 15 Years of Service

Elizabeth Martin, NSQIP Clinical Data Abstractor

30 Years of Service

Hope Hite, Senior Certified Coder Analyst

R. Scott Jones Award

Emily Rabinovich

Academic Achievement Award

Evan Rotar

Hugh S. (Skip) Warren Award

Aimee Zhang

Curtis G. Tribble, M.D. Award

Andrew Hawkins

The William Dion Award

Emily Jordan

"The Most Trauma Non-Operative Cases Performed by a General

Surgery Resident"

Aimee Zhang

"The Most Critical Care Cases Performed by a Chief Surgical Resident"

Sindri Viktorsson

The Advanced Practice Provider of the Year Award

Markus Delung

Faculty Above & Beyond Citizenship Award

Charlie Friel

Staff Member Above & Beyond Citizenship Award

Tammy Proffit

Fellowship Excellence in Teaching Award

Todd Robinson

Faculty Excellence In Mentoring Award

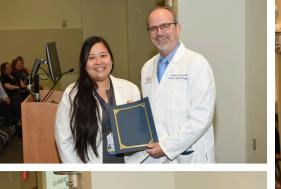
Leora Yarboro

Excellence in Promotion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

Anneke Schroen

The Bruce Schirmer Master Educator of the Year Award

Bruce Schirmer















Society for Vascular Surgery: Vascular Annual Meeting 2023

UVA Vascular & Endovascular Surgery was well represented by our division experts at the SVS Vascular Annual Meeting.

Dr. Tracci discussed effective advocacy and why payment reform matters. Dr. Farivar was a content expert during the aortic dissection course discussing open hybrid repair of chronic Type B dissection.

Catherine Ratliff, RN, PhD talked on features of patients admitted for major amputation at the Society for Vascular Nursing meeting.

Dr. Weaver spoke three times including on preparing for practice for the vascular fellows, the choice of AV graft materials, and a plenary presentation entitled "Scaled performance on the Vascular Qualifying Exam does not correlate with Vascular Certifying Examination first attempt pass in a national cohort of residents and fellows." Her presentation was also featured in the Vascular Specialist, the SVS digital news outlet.

Moreover, UVA medical student Quang Le participated in the interactive poster competition, looking at long-term outcomes of hybrid type II thoracoabdominal disease reconstruction.







AATS Annual Meeting

UVA Surgery participated extensively in the recent Mitral Conclave and AATS Annual Meeting. The Mitral Conclave was held on May 4-5 in New York City, and the AATS Annual Meeting was held May 6-9 in Los Angeles. Drs.Ourania Preventza and Linda Martin were Program Chairs for the AATS meeting, and numerous faculty members and residents gave presentations throughout the event. It was quite a tremendous showing for UVA Cardiothoracic Surgery!

View a sampling of the UVA talks below:



Mitral Conclave | May 4-5, 2023

- The Effect of Diastolic Arrest on Outcomes in Tricuspid Valve Surgery | Poster Presenter: Steven Young
- Is Tricuspid Annuloplasty Falling Out of Favor During Mitral Surgery | Poster Presenter: Alex Wisniewski

AATS 103rd Annual Meeting | May 6-9, 2023

- Evolving Controversies in Acute Type A Dissection | Moderators: Ourania Preventza, Douglas Johnston (Cleveland Clinic)
- State of the Art Thoracic ERAS, Where Are We? | Speaker: Linda Martin
- 21st Century Models of Thoracic Organ Recovery | Speaker: Leora Yarboro
- ELSO Center of Excellence Award Associated with Lower Failure to Rescue After Cardiac Arrest | Invited Discussant: J.W. Hayanga (WVU); Abstract Presenter: Raymond Strobel
- Analyses of the Situational Awareness Scoring System as a Triage Tool in Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit | Invited Discussant: Kenan Yount; Abstract Presenter: Orkun Baloglu (Cleveland Clinic)
- Unplanned Catheterization After Coronary Bypass Is Neither Cheap Nor Benign, But May Rescue Patients | Abstract Presenter: Anthony Norman
- Cardiac Rumble: Every Patient Undergoing Cardiac Surgery Should Have an LAA Occlusion/Exclusion/Obliteration | Moderator: Irving Kron; Speakers: Ralph Damiano (WashU), Thoralf Sundt (Massachusetts General Hospital)
- Prevalence and Predictors of Venous Thromboembolism Following Coronary Bypass Surgery | Invited Discussants: Richard Shemin (UCLA); Abstract Presenter: Alex Wisniewski
- Renal Recovery in Cardiac Surgery Patients Requiring Postoperative Renal Replacement Therapy | Invited Discussant: Subhasis Chatterjee; Abstract Presenter: Raza Ahmad
- Delirium is Associated with Failure to Rescue After Cardiac Surgery | Invited Discussant: Rakesh Arora (Cleveland Medical Center); Abstract Presenter: Andrew Young

UVA Surgery Leads "Tour of the Town" with City of Promise Students

Surgery Resident, Dr. Elana Maccou, recently led a partnership with City of Promise, a local organization that promotes student achievement. Their series, "Tour of the Town," provides an opportunity to expose students to various careers and high functioning positions held by Black and other historically excluded persons in the greater Charlottesville area. Twelve 5th-8th grade students joined UVA Surgery for a tour of the new OR suites, Radiological Imaging, Emergency Department, SICU and acute care surgical floor. The students learned about the path to surgical residency, anesthesia, intraoperative imaging, endovascular procedures, aortic valve replacement, health screening, and diagnostic imaging techniques.

City of Promise is interested in continuing a dynamic relationship with the UVA Departments Surgery and Anesthesiology, with discussions of future tours highlighting the DaVinci robot, suturing, anatomy, radiology, OR nursing, and more.









Muller-Jones-Kron Surgical Society Alumni Speaker Series

Choosing a Specialty and Applying for Fellowship

Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 8 – 9 a.m. (ET)

Diversifying Revenue Streams – Income Outside the OR

Wednesday, December 13, 2023: 8 – 9 a.m. (ET)

Academic Versus Hybrid Versus Community Surgical Practice: How Do We Choose Our Path?

Wednesday, January 10, 2024: 8 – 9 a.m. (ET)

First Job, Contract Negotiation, and Paths for Advancement Wednesday, April 10, 2024: 8 – 9 a.m. (ET)

SIGN UP HERE ➤

OUR PEOPLE





Christina Papageorge, MD Appointed Kidney Living Donor Surgical Director

Dr. Papageorge was appointed Living Donor Kidney Surgical Director on May 31, 2023. She will join forces with Medical Director, Dr. Angie Nishio-Lucar.

Their team will be responsible for evaluating and potential donors ensuring outcomes for patients. The program currently completes around 35-40 living donor kidney transplants per year, and one of Dr. Papageorge's primary goals is to increase the volume and accessibility of donations through patient education. She is spearheading initiatives to address biases misconceptions surrounding living donation and to increase awareness of Kidney Paired Donation (KPD). Kidney Paired Donation is a program that allows incompatible kidney donors and recipients to exchange organs with other pairs, increasing the chances of finding a

suitable match and facilitating more kidney transplants.

Discussing the motivations behind organ donation, Dr. Papageorge highlighted the diverse range of reasons prompting individuals to donate. While many donors give selflessly to family members or friends, oftentimes cases emerge where an acquaintance or a neighbor comes forward after seeing a post on social media. A smaller, yet significant, group also engages in non-directed donations, generously donating a kidney to candidates on the waitlist.

Dr. Papageorge expressed her enthusiasm for the role, her collaboration with Dr. Nishio-Lucar, and the potential to grow the program, increase donations, and provide exceptional patient care.



Dr. Nick Teman Takes Part in Multi-Institutional Surgical Mission Trip to Zambia

Surgical teams from the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan recently came together for a surgical mission trip. The group traveled to the National Heart Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia to help with the cardiac surgery program. They performed five surgeries over the course of the week, including several operations that had never been done before in the country.

In addition to the surgeries, Dr. Teman spent time in the ICU, working on developing protocols and standardizing the hospital's handoff of care.

The UVA team included Dr. Teman and cardiologist Sula Mazimba, MD. From Michigan, there was another surgeon, a physician assistant, a cardiac anesthesiologist, two perfusionists, and an ICU nurse.

IN THE NEWS



In Race Against the Clock, UVA Lung Transplant Team Unites for Lifesaving Surgery

From UVA Health, the story of Kevin Beale and the lung transplant team whose quick work saved his life. Watch Video >

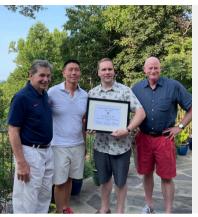


Bariatric Surgery Program Accredited and Expanding to Meet the Needs of Our Community

From UVA Connect, the UVA Health Bariatric Surgery Program is one of the longest-running and most comprehensive programs of its kind in Central Virginia. With a 100% increase in surgical volume since 2018, Drs. Peter Hallowell and Bruce Schirmer are expanding the program to meet the needs of our community with compassionate, well-rounded care.

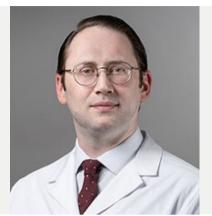
Read More

Education CONGRATS 2023 GRADS!



MIS FELLOWSHIP
Congratulations to Dr.
Nick Levinsky on the
completion of his MIS
Fellowship. A wonderful
graduation ceremony
was held to honor his

accomplishments.



TRANSPLANT FELLOWSHIP
Congratulations to Dr.
Todd Robinson for
completing his
Abdominal Transplant
Surgery Fellowship.



CARDIOTHORACIC FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Drs. Mickey Ising and Jared Beller for completing their Cardiac Surgery fellowships, and to Dr. Kunal Patel for completing his thoracic surgery fellowship. Jared (left) will be staying at UVA, Mickey (middle) will be joining a private practice group in Cincinnati, and Kunal (right) will be joining the faculty at Duke. We wish them the best!



VASCULAR FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Asha Khachane, MD and Michelle Moe-Aiken, MD for graduating from the Vascular Surgery Fellowship program! The Vascular Surgery division hosted a wonderful evening celebrating these two alongside their families.



GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY

We are so proud of our graduating general surgery Chief Residents and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. From left to right, Dr. David Grabski will be moving on to Northwestern for a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship. Dr. Sindri Viktorsson will be going to Washington University for a Trauma and Critical Care Fellowship. Dr. Matthew Byler will be staying at UVA for a MIS Fellowship (Clinical Instructor). Dr. Aimee Zhang will be going to Ohio State for a MIS Fellowship. Congratulations to each of you; we have no doubt you will achieve incredible things!

MATCH2023

Incoming General Surgery Interns

CATEGORICAL TRACK



Tamriage Martin Wake Forest University



Adishesh Narahari (I6) University of Virginia



Chase Phillips
Virginia
Commonwealth
University



Emily Rabinovich University of



Amrita Sarkar University of Maryland



Olivia Sears University of Massachusetts

PRELIMINARY TRACK



Kenneth Darcy Washington State University



Aqiyl Mills
Florida
International
University



Robyn Moraney University of South Carolina



Trent Ogaz University of Virginia



Anna Osment University of North Carolina

Incoming Fellows

VASCULAR



Erin Buchanan Medical College of Wisconsin



Amos Zimmermann University of New Mexico Hospital

MIS



Matthew Byler University of Virginia

CARDIAC

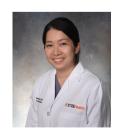


Marissa Mayor Boston University

THORACIC



Lyndsey Wessels Uniformed Services University



TRANSPLANT

Rei Matsumoto Columbia University

Welcoming New Residents

We are thrilled to welcome our newest residents to the UVA family. Introductions began with our annual Resident Welcome Picnic, setting the stage for new connections. Following this, the interns began an immersive orientation program on Grounds, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive at UVA.







Resident Awards

Dr. Rick Vavolizza Selected For All-**University Teaching Award**

Congratulations to Dr. Rick Vavolizza for receiving an All-University Teaching Award. Colleagues and students alike have praised Dr. Vavolizza for his devotion to teaching, as well as his unique pen-andpaper teaching style that breaks complex pathologies down into easily digestible parts. His goal is to provide students with comprehensive understanding disease processes to improve patient care from beginning to end.

"Dr. Vavolizza demonstrates exactly what every physician should strive to do in how he integrates medical students into the team and how effectively he teaches. He deserves every award and recognition he has yet to receive."

Student Feedback Survey

Resident Markie Fleming, MD Matches to Boston Children's Hospital for Pediatric Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Fleming for such a huge accomplishment and a reflection of a lifetime of hard work.

Markie Fleming, MD Receives Arnold P **Gold Humanism Award**

In celebration of Thank A Resident Day, Dr. Markie Fleming received the 2023 Arnold P. Gold Resident Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award. This is awarded to six residents who have been recognized as outstanding humanistic role models and superb teachers by the classes of 2023 and 2024 in the School of Medicine.

Markie Fleming, MD Awarded for Excellence in Performance Assessment

Dr. Fleming was among four UVA Surgery team members who were awarded for Excellence in Performance Assessment based on the quantity and quality of their EPA Assessments.

Resident Alicia Eubanks, MD Awarded by APSA

Congratulations to Dr. Alicia Eubanks for winning the American Pediatric Surgical Association's Inaugural Eric B. Jelin Award for best abstract in fetal therapy and diagnosis.

Resident Michaela Cunningham, MD Awarded by Virginia Surgical Society

Congratulations to Dr. Michaela Cunningham for receiving the First Place Award for Best Poster Presentation at the Virginia Surgical Society on May 6th. Dr. Cunningham's abstract title was "Targeting the lipid droplet protein PLIN2 affects dormancy chemotherapy sensitivity in pancreatic cancer."



Yitao Huang Selected As Outstanding Graduate Student

Yitao Huang, a researcher from Dr. Lian-Guo's Wang lab. was selected Outstanding Graduate Student in Physiology and presented his work at the 31st Annual Graduate Bioscience Society Symposium.

Hong Quang Le Receives Student Research Fellowship Award

Hong Quang Le, a rising MS4 student currently working in Dr. Bowen Wang's lab, received the Student Research Fellowship Award from the Society of Vascular Surgery (SVS) Foundation. This award will support his research project on dietary restriction and post-thrombotic syndrome.

Faculty Grant Recipients

The Department of Surgery is excited to announce the recipients for the following grants.

Craig Slingluff, MD and Ileana Mauldin, PhD

Craig Slingluff, MD and Ileana Mauldin, PhD received a \$1 million coPl grant from the Department of Defense Melanoma Research Program for the Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. Their research will involve "approaches to enhance vaccine-induced tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (viTlLs) in melanoma". This is an RO1-equivalent grant and is Dr. Mauldin's first federal Pl/coPl grant.

Hongji Zhang, MD, PhD

Hongji Zhang, MD, PhD was awarded \$50,000 as part of the IDEA-Cancer Translational Research Team Pilot Project Awards. This grant will support his research on "The role of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) in the progression of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) to liver cancer".

Allan Tsung, MD

Allan Tsung, MD was awarded a 5-year, \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Health to study how exercise therapy before cancer surgery can improve outcomes.

Dr. Tsung's research team seeks to understand the significant mechanisms in surgery-induced metastasis to facilitate developing new targeted treatment modalities during the perioperative window. One such perioperative treatment is pre-operative exercise therapy. It is known that exercise confers beneficial effects on cancer outcomes by regulating multiple mechanisms, including alteration of quantity and function of immune cells in the tumor microenvironment. By reducing inflammatory responses from surgery, pre-operative exercise therapy can help sustain an anti-tumor immune microenvironment in the liver. This project will identify pre-operative exercise-induced transcriptional signatures in the local tumor immune microenvironment for the first time, which will be valuable to identifying potential pharmaceutical targets in colorectal cancer metastasis. These findings will provide the intellectual framework for devising new exercise therapies that are mechanism-based and effective in improving surgical outcomes of cancer patients.



SUBMIT NEWS



