DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

2006 SURGERY AWARDS BANQUET

WEDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006
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Program

Welcome
Presented by E. Christopher Ellison, M.D., the Robert M. Zollinger Professor of Surgery; Chairman, Department of Surgery; Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and Vice Dean of Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine

General Surgery Internship
July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006
Presented by Mark W. Arnold, M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of General Surgery; Vice Chairman for Surgical Education; Program Director, General Surgery

Craig P. Assenmacher, M.D.
Andrew O. Crockett, M.D.
Mary E. Dillhoff, M.D.
Bryan T. Fisher, M.D.
Kristan D. Guenterberg, M.D.
Andrew J. Hendershot, M.D.
Stacey R. Hindy, M.D.
Gregory J. Lowe, M.D.
Mun Jye Poi, M.D.
Michael B. Richardson, M.D.
Asha D. Shah, M.D.
K. Roxanne Taylor, M.D.

General Surgery Specialty Residency
July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006
Presented by Mark W. Arnold, M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of General Surgery; Vice Chairman for Surgical Education; Program Director, General Surgery

Liza S. Kim, M.D.
Ergun Kocak, M.D.
Patricia H. Sandholm, M.D.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Benjamin Sun, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Program Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Lucian Lozonschi, M.D.
Alexandru M. Vaida, M.D.
General Surgery Residency
Presented by Mark W. Arnold, M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of General Surgery; Vice Chairman for Surgical Education; Program Director, General Surgery

Michael R. Go, M.D.
Bryan W. Tillman, M.D., Ph.D.
Gregory W. Walker, D.O.

General Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Patrick S. Vaccaro, M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery; Chief, Division of General Vascular Surgery; Program Director, General Vascular Surgery

Kenneth J. Wright, M.D.

Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship
Presented by W. Scott Melvin, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of General Surgery; Director, Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery; Program Director, Minimally Invasive Surgery

Vimal (Raaja) Narula, M.D.
William C. Watson, M.D.

Pediatric Surgery Residency
Presented by Donna A. Caniano, M.D., the H. William Clatworthy Jr. Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery; Program Director, Pediatric Surgery

Shahab F. Abdessalam, M.D.

Plastic Surgery Residency
Presented by Robert L. Ruberg, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery; Senior Vice Chairman for Academic and Administrative Affairs, Department of Surgery; Program Director, Plastic Surgery

Andrew Jimerson, II, M.D., M.B.A.
Sarah E. McMillan, M.D.
Sarah E. Nargi, M.D.

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Presented by Larry C. Martin, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of General Surgery; Program Director, Surgical Critical Care

Scott B. Armen, M.D.
Jason W. Smith, M.D.
Surgical Oncology Fellowship
**Presented by William B. Farrar, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology; Program Director, Surgical Oncology**

Mark Bloomston, M.D.

Transplantation Fellowship
**Presented by Mitchell L. Henry, M.D., Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Transplantation; Program Director, Transplantation**

Anatolie A. Usatii, M.D.

Urology Residency
**Presented by Kamal S. Pobar, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Urology**

Geoffrey N. Box, M.D.

Special Awards
**Presented by E. Christopher Ellison, M.D., the Robert M. Zollinger Professor of Surgery; Chairman, Department of Surgery; Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and Vice Dean of Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine**

Bestowed by Faculty Judges
11th Annual Resident Research Conference Awards

Bestowed by Medical Students
Faculty Teaching Award
Resident Teaching Award

Bestowed by Pediatric Surgery Faculty and Fellows
Resident of the Year Award

Bestowed by Surgery Faculty
Intern of the Year Award
Resident of the Year Award

Bestowed by Surgery Residents
Fellow Teaching Award, bestowed by the residents in General Surgery
Faculty Teaching Award, bestowed by all residents and fellows in Surgery
John L. Robinson Award, bestowed by the chief residents in General Surgery

Residents and fellows completing their programs are encouraged to take the floral centerpieces home at the end of the evening.
Shahab F. Abdessalam, M.D.

Program
Pediatric Surgery Residency, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate Degree
B.A., B.S., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1991

Medical Degree
M.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1995

Other Training
• Resident in surgery, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, 1995–2000
• Fellowship in surgical oncology, The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio, 2000–2003
• Fellowship in surgical critical care, Columbus Children’s Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, 2003–2004

Specialty Interests
Pediatric surgical oncology

Research Interests
Tumor immunology

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
• Surgical House Officer of the Year, Columbus Children’s Hospital, 2004
• Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, 2006

Publications while at Ohio State
Twelve

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Abdessalam finishes our residency in pediatric surgery with exceptional technical skills. The medical students have recognized his teaching abilities by inducting him into Alpha Omega Alpha. His future associates at the Children’s Hospital of Nebraska are fortunate to have recruited such an accomplished surgeon. We wish Shahab and his family every success and much happiness in Omaha!
Scott B. Armen, M.D.

Program
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate Degree
B.A., Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, 1996

Medical Degree
M.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 2000

Other Training
• Residency in general surgery, Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, Ohio, 2000–2005
• Chief administrative resident in general surgery, Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, Ohio, 2004–2005

Specialty Interests
Trauma, critical care, emergency surgery

Research Interests
Acute care surgery, shock, trauma, critical care

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Surgeon in trauma and surgical critical care

Program Director’s Comments
Scott clearly received an excellent, comprehensive education in surgery which, thankfully, he brought to our institution. We have all benefited from his knowledge, judgment, and skill, as he has been an outstanding role model for every resident and faculty member in our program. I have never worked with a more dedicated, responsible, or motivated surgeon. He inspires excellence in those with whom he works because of his great strength of character and personal integrity. Scott plans to pursue a career in trauma and surgical critical care. He will certainly be a tremendous leader and make a significant contribution to the field.
Mark Bloomston, M.D.

Program
Surgical Oncology Fellowship, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Tampa, Florida

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 1992

Medical Degree
M.D., University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 1997

Other Training
Residency in general surgery, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 1997–2004

Specialty Interests
Hepatobiliary malignancies

Research Interests
Molecular biology of pancreatic cancer

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
• Basic Science Research Award, Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons, 2005
• Resident Research Award, Columbus Surgical Society, 2005
• Best Clinical Research Paper, 59th Annual Cancer Symposium, Society of Surgical Oncology

Publications while at Ohio State
Eight

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Program Director’s Comments
Mark did an outstanding job, both in clinical care and research. We are delighted that he is joining us as a faculty member in the Division of Surgical Oncology.
Geoffrey N. Box, M.D.

Program
Urology Residency, July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Toledo, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1997

Medical Degree
M.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 2001

Specialty Interests
Minimally invasive urologic surgery

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Fellowship in endourology, UCI (University of California, Irvine) Medical Center, Orange, California

Program Director’s Comments
After 13 years at Ohio State, Geoff has secured an outstanding two-year fellowship in endourology at the University of California, Irvine, which will prepare him for an impressive career in urologic surgery. We will miss him, and we wish him well.
Michael R. Go, M.D.

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Brooklyn, New York

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 1996

Medical Degree
M.D., University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2000

Other Degrees
M.S., The Ohio State University Department of Surgery, Columbus, Ohio, 2003–2005

Specialty Interests
Vascular surgery

Research Interests
Gastrointestinal surgery, vascular surgery

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
Resident of the Year, Columbus Children’s Hospital, 2005

Publications while at Ohio State
Three

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Fellowship in vascular surgery, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Program Director’s Comments
Michael is one of the hardest-working, most conscientious residents we have in our program. He excels in everything he does. In six short years, he has not only mastered surgery, but also published three peer-reviewed papers and earned a Master of Medical Science degree. We know he will continue to excel as he pursues a career in vascular surgery.
Andrew Jimerson, II, M.D., M.B.A.

Program

Place of Birth
Cleveland, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, 1996

Medical Degree
M.D., Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, 2000

Other Training
M.B.A., Weatherhead School of Business, Cleveland, Ohio, 2000

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Private practice, Atlanta, Georgia

Program Director’s Comments
“Hi. How’s it going?” That phrase, accompanied by an ever-present smile, is the standard greeting from Andrew Jimerson. We usually call him “Andrew” or just plain “Jimerson,” but never “Andy” (he’s definitely not an “Andy”), even though his family calls him “Drew” most of the time.

Andrew grew up in Cleveland, the son of a physician and a nurse. In his former life, he was a Michael Jackson impersonator (where are those videotapes, Andrew?) and a model (where are those pictures?). But then he met his very talented physician-wife, Tracy — had a daughter, Lauren — and everything changed.

Now Andrew is a devoted father and a dedicated student. He still laments the limited opportunities to go out to movies and shows, but he has settled nicely into his new roles in life: father, husband, and PLASTIC SURGEON.

Good luck, Drew — or Andrew — or Jimerson — whatever you like to be called!
Lucian Lozonschi, M.D.

Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Iasi, Romania

Undergraduate Degree
B.A., Emil Racovita National College, Iasi, Romania, 1987

Medical Degree
M.D., G. T. Popa University of Medicine, Iasi, Romania, 1995

Other Training
• Clinical and research fellowship in surgery, Tohoku University School of Medicine, Sendai, Japan, 1996–1999
• Internship in general surgery, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York, 1999–2000
• Residency in general surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York, 2000–2004

Specialty Interests
Endoluminal aortic and cardiac surgery

Research Interests
Therapeutic modulation of angiogenesis

Publications while at Ohio State
Two in preparation

Occupation upon Completion of Program
To be announced

Program Director’s Comments
Lucian came out of the blocks fast and maintained a torrid pace throughout his training. He is an extraordinarily talented academic surgeon who will help define the future of the field.
Sarah E. McMillan, M.D.

Program

Place of Birth
Albion, Michigan

Undergraduate Degree

Medical Degree
M.D., Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 2001

Specialty Interests
General plastic surgery

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
Resident Research Day Award, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio, 2004

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Private practice, Seattle, Washington

Program Director’s Comments

Sarah finally has come to recognize what most of us knew all along: she has a wealth of talent, and can do anything she sets her mind to do. She is bright, attractive, and skilled in the OR. Her friends, her colleagues, and her patients love her. And underneath that very proper exterior is just enough “bite” to make sure that no one takes advantage of her.

Someone told her, “Go West, young woman.” And she listened. We know that she will do well. Go, SMAC!
Sarah E. Nargi, M.D.

Program

Place of Birth
Dover, New Hampshire

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., University of California, Davis, California, 1994

Medical Degree
M.D., Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Virginia, 2001

Specialty Interests
General plastic surgery

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
Resident Research Day Award, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, 2004

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Private practice, Whitefish, Montana

Program Director’s Comments
Has anyone ever seen Sarah Nargi sitting and doing nothing?

How does she do it all? Wife, mother, friend, physician, surgeon, horseback-rider, jeweler, decorator — the list goes on and on. Maybe Sarah is as fast as she is in the OR because she just has to get on quickly to that next activity. And whatever she does, she does well.

Sarah will move her husband, Jason, her daughter, Nadia, her horses, and her talents to Whitefish, Montana, and continue to show the world how a woman can do everything. Who is she really? Superwoman?
Vimal (Raaja) Narula, M.D.

Program
Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
India

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1995

Medical Degree
M.D., Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1999

Other Training
Residency in general surgery, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1999–2005

Specialty Interests
Laparoscopic, foregut, and hepatobiliary surgery

Research Interests
Minimally invasive techniques, robotic surgery

Publications while at Ohio State
Three

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Fellowship in surgical endoscopy, Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Narula had an extremely busy clinical year, completing more than 400 advanced laparoscopic surgeries and therapeutic and diagnostic endoscopies. He participated in a number of research projects that led to three publications and two oral presentations at both the national and international levels. He was an outstanding member of our team and was appreciated by his residents, students, and partners.
Jason W. Smith, M.D.

Program
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Dayton, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, 1998

Medical Degree
M.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 2002

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Continuation of residency in general surgery, The Ohio State University Department of Surgery, Columbus, Ohio

Program Director’s Comments
Jason is the person you would want to take care of a critical patient. His knowledge and judgment are excellent, and he knows how to act decisively in any situation. Committed to exceptional patient care, Jason always “steps up to the plate” to do what others shy away from. As Jason completes his residency in general surgery, he will continue to be a valuable contributor to the surgery program.
Bryan W.
Tillman, M.D., Ph.D.

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Lubbock, Texas

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington, 1994

Medical Degree
M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, 2001

Other Degrees
Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, 1999

Specialty Interests
Vascular surgery and upper GI surgery

Research Interests
Tissue engineering and gene therapy

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
Co-intern of the Year, Division of General Surgery, 2001

Publications while at Ohio State
One

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Fellowship in tissue engineering and general surgery, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Program Director’s Comments
From the beginning, Bryan has been extraordinarily professional in everything he has done. He has worked hard to become a superb surgeon and physician. We are confident that he will be successful in integrating his interest in tissue engineering and surgery, as he looks forward to a bright and unique future.
Anatolie A. Usatii, M.D.

Program
Transplantation Fellowship, July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Moldova

Medical Degree
M.D., University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chisinau, Moldova, 1993

Other Training
General surgery residency, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, 2000–2004

Specialty Interests
Living donor kidney transplantation

Research Interests
Mechanisms of humoral rejection

Honors and Awards while at Ohio State
Board-certified in general surgery, March 2005

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Medical Director of Transplantation, Sioux Valley Hospital, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Usatii is a top-tier surgeon who has contributed in many ways to the Division of Transplantation over the past two years. Anatolie is highly proficient in his surgical skills and has been a tremendous asset to the transplant team; he is a very caring physician who provides excellent clinical care for his patients; he is a talented artist who has illustrated anatomic events and procedures (some have been submitted for publication); and lastly, he has contributed to diversity within the Division by providing a uniquely Moldovan sense of humor and storytelling! We will miss Anatolie, his sharp wit, and his sharper skills, but we wish him all the best.
Alexandru M. Vaida, M.D.

Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, August 1, 2004 – July 31, 2006

Place of Birth
Bucharest, Romania

Undergraduate Degree
B.A., St. Sava National College, Bucharest, Romania, 1988

Medical Degree
M.D., University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Targu-Mures, Romania, 1995

Other Training
• Internship in cardiovascular surgery, Targu-Mures General Hospital, Targu-Mures, Romania, 1995–1996
• Acting intern, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, 1997–1998
• Internship in general surgery, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, Virginia, 1998–1999
• Residency in general surgery, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, Virginia, 1999–2004

Specialty Interests
Minimally invasive thoracic surgery, endoluminal techniques

Research Interests
New strategies for lung preservation in transplantation

Occupation upon Completion of Program
To be announced

Program Director’s Comments
“Mike” Vaida has blossomed into a fabulous cardiothoracic surgeon. He rose out of the shadow of his colleagues, and clearly has a bright future ahead.
Gregory W. Walker, D.O.

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Genesee, Michigan

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1993

Medical Degree
D.O., Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, Glendale, Arizona, 2001

Other Degrees
M.A., University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 1995

Specialty Interests
Vascular surgery

Publications while at Ohio State
One

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Fellowship in vascular surgery, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Program Director’s Comments
Greg is quiet, confident, and never rattled, no matter how difficult the task or constant the pressure. He has been an excellent role model for junior residents and students. He is an outstanding teacher and mentor, and we hope he continues to participate in resident and medical student education as he pursues a career in vascular surgery.
William C. Watson, M.D.

Program
Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Place of Birth
Gary, Indiana

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 1992

Medical Degree
M.D., Loyola University Medical School, Maywood, Illinois, 1999

Other Training
Residency in general surgery, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1999–2005

Specialty Interests
Minimally invasive surgery, bariatric surgery, foregut surgery

Research Interests
Bariatrics

Publications while at Ohio State
Three

Occupation upon Completion of Program
General surgeon, with primary focus on minimally invasive and bariatric procedures, with Libertyville Surgeons, Libertyville, Illinois

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Watson was a very active member of our team this year, completing more than 400 advanced laparoscopic and endoscopic procedures. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, he participated in ongoing research projects and publications. Dr. Watson was an asset to our team and is certain to do very well throughout his career. He, his wife, Bridget, and their two sons, Colin and Charlie, will be moving to the Chicago area, where Dr. Watson plans to focus on minimally invasive and bariatric surgery.
Kenneth J. Wright, M.D.

Program

Place of Birth
Columbus, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
B.S., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1996

Medical Degree
M.D., The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 2000

Other Training
Residency in general surgery, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, 2000–2005

Specialty Interests
Endovascular repair

Occupation upon Completion of Program
Vascular surgeon

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Wright has done an outstanding job as fellow for the Division of General Vascular Surgery. Midyear evaluation revealed that he had already nearly met the required number of cases for his fellowship, indicating a high level of competence, technical ability, and self-assurance in caring for a population of patients with complicated and life-threatening diseases. He has shown an ability to delegate authority and run our service, accommodating the demands of six very busy surgeons. Dr. Wright is a tireless worker and an excellent surgeon, and we have enjoyed working with him.