DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

2015 SURGERY AWARDS BANQUET

WEDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015
Program

Welcome
Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery; John H. and Mildred C. Lumley Medical Research Chair; Surgeon-in-Chief, Wexner Medical Center; Director, Comprehensive Transplant Center

General Surgery Internship
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
Presented by Alan E. Harzman, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery; Program Director, General Surgery Training Program

Clifford Akateh, MD
Robert D. Brown, MD
Diana C. Dinh, MD, MPH
Joseph D. Drews, MD
Joshua J. Ebel, MD
Kristin M. Ebert, MD
Anahita Denise Jalilvand, MD
Chidimma M. K. Kalu, MD
David B. Koller, MD
Michael D. McKee, MD
Magarya S. Waitara, MD
Joseph C. Wan, MD

Master of Medical Science Program
Presented by Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery, Division of Transplantation; Associate Dean for Research Education, College of Medicine; Director, Master of Medical Science Program, Department of Surgery

Kara M. Keplinger, MD, MS
Nicholas V. Latchana, MD, MS
Sara A. Mansfield, MD, MS
Sylvester N. Osayi, MD, MS
Terrence M. Rager, MD, MS
Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy and Gastrointestinal Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Jeffrey W. Hazey, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Interim Chief, Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery
Edward L. Jones, MD, MS

Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Bradley J. Needleman, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery; Medical Director, Comprehensive Weight Management & Bariatric Surgery Center; Program Director, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship
Matthew R. Pittman, MD
Jennifer S. Schwartz, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA, Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery; John H. and Mildred C. Lumley Medical Research Chair; Surgeon-in-Chief, Wexner Medical Center; Director, Comprehensive Transplant Center
George C. Christensen, III, DO
Stephen Leonard Noble, MD
Emily Rebecca Smeltzer, MD

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Presented by Steven M. Steinberg, MD, Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn; Program Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Ankur P. Bhakta, DO, MBA
Brent J. Goslin, MD
Teresa S. Jones, MD
Thanh V. Nguyen, DO, MSHS

Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Presented by Mark Bloomston, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology; Program Director, Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Jill K. Onesti, MD
Neil D. Saunders, MD

Transition to Practice Fellowship
Presented by E. Christopher Ellison, MD, Distinguished Professor of Surgery; Interim Dean, College of Medicine; Senior Associate Vice President for Health Sciences; Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs
Lauren A. Licata, MD
Transplantation Fellowship
Presented by Mitchell L. Henry, MD, Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Transplantation; Program Director, Transplantation Fellowship
Ahmad A. Zaoura, MD

Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Presented by Patrick S. Vaccaro, MD, MBA, Luther M. Keith Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery and Diseases; Program Director, Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Loren L. Masterson, MD, MBA

Pediatric Surgery Residency
Presented by Benedict C. Nwomeh, MD, MPH, Professor of Clinical Surgery; Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Program Director, Pediatric Surgery Residency
Rajan Krishnakant Thakkar, MD

Pediatric Surgery Intern of the Year Award, bestowed by the pediatric faculty and fellows in recognition of an intern who has demonstrated outstanding ability in clinical care

Pediatric Surgery Resident of the Year Award, bestowed by the pediatric faculty and fellows in recognition of a PGY3 resident for the OSU College of Medicine who has demonstrated outstanding ability in clinical care

Golden Apple Teaching Award, bestowed by the medical students in recognition of a pediatric surgery faculty for excellence in teaching and dedication to surgical education and mentoring

General Surgery Residency
Presented by Alan E. Harzman, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery; Program Director, General Surgery Training Program
Ellen A. Carraro, MD
Jon C. Henry, MD, MS
Alistair J. Kent, MD, MPH
Tyler C. Spata, MD, MS
Mark Randall Wendling, MD, MS
Jon R. Wisler, MD, MS
Special Department of Surgery Awards

20th Annual Surgery Research Conference Awards, bestowed by the conference faculty judges, for outstanding research presentations

Resident Teaching Award, bestowed by the medical students, in recognition of a resident who has demonstrated excellence in teaching and dedication to surgical education. Presented by Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA

Michael J. Walker, MD Teaching Award, bestowed by the medical students in recognition of a surgery faculty for excellence in teaching and dedication to surgical education. Presented by Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA

Intern of the Year Award, bestowed by the Surgery faculty, in recognition of an intern who has demonstrated outstanding ability in clinical and academic endeavors. Presented by Alan E. Harzman, MD

Resident of the Year Award, bestowed by the Surgery faculty, in recognition of a resident who has demonstrated outstanding ability in clinical and academic endeavors. Presented by Alan E. Harzman, MD

Surgical Support Staff of the Year Award, bestowed and presented by the chief residents in General Surgery, for exemplary dedication to the care of surgical patients

John L. Robinson Award, bestowed and presented by the chief residents in General Surgery, for outstanding teaching by faculty or staff from another department

Fellow Teaching Award, bestowed by the residents in General Surgery, in recognition of a fellow who has demonstrated excellence in teaching. Presented by the Chief Residents

Faculty Teaching Award, bestowed by the residents and fellows in Surgery, for excellence in teaching and dedication to surgical education. Presented by the Chief Residents

Other Miscellaneous Awards

Closing Comments by Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA

Residents and fellows completing their programs are encouraged to take the floral centerpieces home at the end of the evening
Ankur P. Bhakta, DO, MBA

Program
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Dublin, Georgia

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Microbiology, Cum Laude, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 2005

Medical Degree
DO, Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa, OK, 2011

Other Training
- MBA, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 2011
- General surgery residency, Doctor’s Hospital, OhioHealth, Columbus, OH (to be completed in June 2016)

Specialty interests
Trauma, critical care, general surgery

Research interests
Trauma and critical care

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Completion of general surgery residency at Doctor’s Hospital, Columbus, OH

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Bhakta, or “Ank”, is a “Boomer Sooner” from Oklahoma. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma. His doctorate in osteopathic medicine is from the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine where, he also received a Master of Business Administration degree simultaneously. He came to Columbus for the general surgery residency at Doctor’s Hospital and will complete that program at the end of this next academic year. Ank is an excellent clinician who performed at a level beyond his years of residency experience. It really was not possible to distinguish his abilities compared to the other fellows who all had completed their residencies. He is very thoughtful in his approach to clinical problems, never became flustered in stressful situations and was a very good leader. We look forward to hearing great things from and about Ank as he completes his residency and progresses into his career.
Ellen A. Carraro, MD

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Cincinnati, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Molecular biology/genetics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, The Ohio State College of Medicine. Columbus, OH, 2009

Other Training
Surgical critical care fellowship, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Columbus, OH, 2013

Specialty Interests
Reflux disease and foregut surgery, minimally invasive general surgery, surgical critical care

Research Interests
Ventilator associated pneumonia, transfusion practices, pain management in gastric bypass

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Resident Teaching Award, Department of Surgery, Columbus, OH, 2011
• Intern of the Year, Department of Surgery, Columbus, OH, 2010
• Dean’s Scholarship, OSU College of Medicine, Columbus, OH, 2005-2009

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• Carraro E, Evans D, Philips G, Stawicki SP, Postoev A, Olcese V, Cook CH, Eiferman D. Portable Chest X-rays Add No Predictive Value in the Diagnosis of Ventilator Associated Pneumonia. Podium presentation. AAST. Chicago, IL 2011 and The Ohio State University Resident Research Day. 2011

Publications Accepted While at Ohio State
• Carraro E, Muscarella P. Esophageal Replacement for Benign Disease. Techniques in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. (Accepted for publication)

• Carraro E, Firstenberg M, Papadimos T, Phieffer L, Abel E, Eiferman D. Definitive femur fracture management while on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for trauma related respiratory failure. *Mechanical Circulatory Support* 2013, 4: 21589


**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Minimally invasive surgery fellowship, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Carraro has been a strong role model and confident leader throughout her residency. She was voted as Intern of the Year by surgery faculty in 2010 and received a Resident Teaching Award from the medical students in 2011. She has also distinguished herself this year by coordinating the weekly ABSITE Review Conference for our general surgery residents. During her residency she also gave birth to two children, Cece and Julian. Ellen completed our Surgical Critical Care Fellowship and will be staying at OSU to complete a fellowship in Advanced Bariatric & Minimally Invasive Surgery. We look forward to working with her in 2015-2016.
George C. Christensen, III, DO

Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship,
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate Degree
BA, Chemistry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 2000

Medical Degree
DO, Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine, Pikeville, KY, 2008

Other Training

Specialty Interests
Cardiac and general thoracic surgery, heart failure, cardiac critical care

Upon Completion of Program
Cardiotoracic surgeon, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati Region

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Christensen is an outstanding fellow from Michigan State University. He distinguished himself as a highly motivated, eager to learn and enthusiastic young surgeon. Once George became acclimated to the environment, he quickly became the “Gunga Din” of the program taking on any assignment or task to ensure the patient’s well-being and the program’s success. Dr. Christensen will be taking his considerable skills and “can do” attitude to a private practice opportunity in Northern Kentucky. We are proud to see George’s progress and accomplishments during his training and we look forward to continued success in the future…. “Tho we’ve belted you and flayed you…you’re a better man than I, Gunga Din!”
Brent J. Goslin, MD

Program
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Saginaw, Michigan

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Biology, *Magna Cum Laude*, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine, Grand Rapids, MI, 2009

Other Training
General surgery residency, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Michigan State University, Grand Rapids, MI, 2014

Specialty Interests
Trauma resuscitation, surgical critical care, elective abdominal surgery

Research Interests
Outcomes after emergency general and trauma surgery

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Staff surgeon, General surgery & surgical critical care; Ohio Health, Riverside Surgical Associates, Columbus, OH

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Goslin grew up in the State Up North but don’t let that fool you...he dislikes the School Up North as much as we do. While Brent's undergraduate degree is from Aquinas College, he otherwise is a Spartan. His medical degree is from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and he completed his general surgery residency at the Michigan State University program in Grand Rapids. Brent has done an outstanding job this year. His clinical abilities are superb. There were no clinical problems in the SICU that he was unable to handle. He was always one step ahead in his analysis of the situation and development of a treatment plan. He also did a great job of teaching the more junior residents and medical students. Brent’s wife will be completing her residency in Ophthalmology at OSU next year. Brent will be practicing general surgery and surgical critical care in Columbus.
Jon C. Henry, MD, MS

Program

Place of Birth
Geneva, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Biology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2004

Medical Degree
MD, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH, 2008

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2012

Specialty Interests
Vascular surgery

Research Interests
MicroRNA, liver cancer, vascular surgery, clinical outcomes, vascular lab utilization, cost-effective medicine

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Resident Teacher of the Year for Medical Students, Department of Surgery, 2014
• Traveling Scholar, Society of Vascular Surgery, Annual Meeting Boston, MA, 2014
• Outstanding Surgery Resident Award, Columbus Surgical Society Annual Meeting, 2013
• First Place, 16th Annual Ohio State University Department of Surgery Research Day, 2011
• Best Abstract Clinical/Translational Science, Ohio State University College of Pharmacy Research Day, 2011
• Second Place, American College of Surgeons, Ohio Chapter, Holzer Medical Center Award, 2011
• Platinum (1st-place) Award, Columbus Surgical Society, President’s Symposium, 2011
• Travel Award, The Ohio State College of Medicine Research Day, Trainee Presentation Day, Resident Category, 2010
• Intern of the Year, Department of Surgery, 2009

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• Calf Vein DVTs are Not a Major Health Concern. Debate lecture, The Ohio State University Division of Vascular Surgery, Vascular Symposium, Columbus, OH, November 7-8, 2014
• Clinical and Ultrasound Sequelae of Non-Visualized Calf Veins on Duplex Ultrasonography for Suspected Deep Vein Thrombosis. Plenary session oral presentation, Midwest Vascular Society Annual Meeting, Coralville (Iowa City), IA, September 4-6, 2014
• Case Presentation. Ellison Post-Graduate Course – 2013. Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Columbus, OH, September 27-28, 2013

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• MicroRNA from Pancreatic Duct Aspirate Differentiates Cystic Lesions of the Pancreas. Oral presentation, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 23, 2013
• MicroRNA from Pancreatic Duct Aspirate Differentiates Cystic Lesions of the Pancreas. Oral presentation, Society of Surgical Oncology Annual Cancer Symposium, Washington DC, March 6-9, 2013
• MiRNA are Differentially Expressed in HCC. So What? Master of Medical Science presentation, Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Columbus, OH, June 7, 2012
• Predictive Scoring System for Outcomes from Malignant Bowel Obstruction. Oral presentation, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 25, 2012
• It Takes More Than One miRNA to Treat HCC. Poster, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 25, 2012
• It Takes More Than One miRNA to Treat HCC. Poster, College of Pharmacy Research Day, Columbus, OH, May 17, 2012
• A Scoring System for Prognosis and Treatment of Malignant Bowel Obstruction. Oral presentation, Central Surgical Society Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, March 1-3, 2012
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation of CD44 positive hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines. Oral presentation, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, June 14, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation of CD44 positive hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines. Poster presentation, Ohio State College of Pharmacy Research Day, Columbus, OH, May 14, 2011
• Albumin is the key factor in outcome from malignant bowel obstruction. Oral presentation, American College of Surgeons, Ohio Chapter Annual Meeting Cincinnati, OH, May 5-7, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation of CD44 positive hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines. Poster presentation, Ohio State College of Medicine Research Day, Columbus, OH, April 12, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation of CD44 positive hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines. Poster presentation, American Association of Cancer Researchers Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, April 2-6, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation and invasion of CD44 positive hepatocellular cell lines. Oral presentation, Columbus Surgical Society, Columbus, OH, March 15, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation and invasion of CD44 positive hepatocellular cell lines. Oral presentation, Edward F. Hayes Graduate Forum Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, March 6, 2011
• miR-199a-3p targets CD44 and reduces proliferation of CD44 positive hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines. Poster presentation, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center Annual Research Day, Columbus, OH, February 27, 2011

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• Surgical Management of Malignant Bowel Obstruction. Oral presentation, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 21, 2010

Publications Accepted While at Ohio State


• Henry JC, Azevedo-Pouly AC, Schmittgen TD. microRNA Replacement Therapy for Cancer. *Pharm Res*. 2011, August 31


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Research Grants Awarded While at OSU
• NCI R21, Serum miRNA Signature of HCC in HCV-positive Individuals. Assisted with design, writing, and submission. PI: Thomas Schmittgen PhD, 2012
• NIH, Loan Repayment Program Recipient, 2010-2012
• NIH T32, Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Oncology. Awarded from the Oncology Department at Ohio State University, 2010-2012

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Vascular Surgery Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh Medical College, Pittsburgh, PA

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Henry is a Buckeye through and through, having completed undergraduate school and medical school at OSU. Jon is an enthusiastic, hardworking resident who has distinguished himself by his leadership and stellar work ethic, serving as administrative chief resident this past year. He completed two years of research in the middle of his residency earning a master’s degree in medical science. During his training, Jon managed to have 20 abstracts and 16 publications accepted for publication and received three grants. He was voted as Intern of the Year by surgery faculty in 2009 and received a Resident Teaching Award from the medical students in 2014. He also became a father to an energetic daughter, Harper, now four. Jon has matched into the prestigious Vascular Surgery Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, finally crossing state lines. Dr. Henry will represent OSU well in Pittsburgh and we look forward to following his career in the future.
Edward L. Jones, MD, MS

Program
Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy & Gastrointestinal Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Conrad, Montana

Undergraduate Degree
BA, Environmental Science and Public Policy, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 2009

Other Training
• MS, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 2009
• General surgery residency, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, 2014

Specialty Interests
Surgical endoscopy and foregut

Research Interests
Endoscopy, surgical energy use

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State

(Continued on next page)


• Overbey D, Jones EL, Townsend NT, Stiegmann GV, Robinson TN. Complications after Endoscopy: Electrosurgical Device Injury or Death as Reported to the FDA. Poster presentation, 2015 SAGES Scientific Session, Nashville, TN, April 2015


Publications Accepted While at Ohio State


• Jones EL, Meara MP, Pittman MR, Hazey JW, Perry KA. Prior Treatment Does Not Influence the Performance or Early Outcomes of per oral Endoscopic Myotomy for Achalasia. Surg Endo. (Submitted 4/18/15)

• Schwartz JS, Jones EL, Meara MP, Hazey JW, Perry KA. Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy Relieves Dysphagia and Improves Disease-Specific and Global Quality of Life. Gastrointest Endosc. (Submitted 4/1/15)


• Overbey DM, Townsend NT, Chapman BC, Bennett DT, Foley LS, Rau AS, Yi JA, Jones EL, Stiegmann GV, Robinson TN. Surgical Energy-Based Device Injuries and Fatalities Reported to the Food and Drug Administration. JACS (Accepted 3/1/2015)

• Hirth DA, Jones EL, Rothchild KB, Mitchell BC, Schoen JA. Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy: Long-Term Weight Loss Outcomes. Surg Obes Relat Dis. (Accepted 2/17/15)


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Research Grants Awarded While at OSU
2015 SAGES Research Grant, $29,940

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, General Surgery, Denver VA Medical Center, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Jones was an active member of our minimally invasive surgical team, completing a large number of operative cases and advanced endoscopic procedures including ERCP. He was an active participant in our educational conferences and training programs as well as our research program. This year, he was presented with the SAGES Researcher in Training Award at SAGES in April 2015 and received a $29,940 grant for a project entitled “Characterizing Unintentional Energy Transfer during Endoscopy.” Dr. Jones was an excellent member of our team and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.
Teresa S. Jones, MD, MS

Program
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Houston, Texas

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Biology, minor in Writing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 2009

Other Training
• MS in Applied Anatomy, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 2009
• General surgery residency, University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Center, Aurora, CO, 2014

Specialty Interests
General surgery, critical care

Research Interests
Geriatrics, critical care

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• Jones TS, Stovall RT, Jones EL, Knepper B, Pieracci FM, Fox CJ, Biffl WL, Burlew CC, Jurkovich GJ, Moore EE. A Negative Urinalysis is Associated with an Extremely Low Likelihood of Intra-abdominal Injury after Blunt Abdominal Trauma. Southwestern Surgical Congress, April 2015

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, General Surgery, Denver VA Medical Center, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Jones joined us as a surgical critical care fellow after completing her surgical residency at the University of Colorado. She is originally from Houston and received her undergraduate degree from MIT and her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. Teresa has had a terrific year. She has been highly engaged in all aspects of the surgical intensive care unit. As a clinician, she is superb and her judgment is outstanding. Teresa is a team player

(Continued on next page)
and an excellent leader. She and her husband, Eddie (who is completing a MIS fellowship at OSU) and their young daughter will be moving back to Denver where she will be an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Colorado. We expect big things from Teresa and we hope she carries fond memories with her of her time at Ohio State.
Alistair J. Kent, MD, MPH

**Program**

**Place of Birth**
Little Rock, AR

**Undergraduate Degree**
BS, Mathematics, chemistry, Harding University, Searcy, AR, 2004

**Medical Degree**
MD, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, 2008

**Other Training**

**Specialty Interests**
Trauma, critical care, acute care surgery

**Research Interests**
Severe time-sensitive illness, health care systems, healthcare policy

**Honors and Awards While at Ohio State**
- Best poster presentation, OSU Department of Surgery Research Conference, 2013
- Chairman’s Scholarship – George Washington University Department of Health Policy, 2010

**Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State**

**Publications Accepted While at Ohio State**

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**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship; Johns Hopkins University Medical Center; Baltimore, MD

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Kent has chosen a unique path through residency, taking two years out after his PGY2 year to move to Washington D.C. to earn his MPH in Health Policy at George Washington University School of Public Health. He has a keen interest in the politics of medicine, especially health care systems and policies related to his field of critical care. Alistair has matched into the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Johns Hopkins, and so will be returning to the east where he will be able to get involved in policy issues at the federal level. We will miss his quiet, stoic confidence and look forward to following his dual career paths (surgeon/policy wonk) in the years ahead.
Kara M. Keplinger, MD, MS

Program
Master of Medical Science, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Columbus, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2007

Medical Degree
MD, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH, 2011

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015

Specialty Interests
Surgical oncology, endocrine surgery

Research Interests
Signaling mechanisms and therapeutic strategies in thyroid cancer

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Sigma Xi, Associate Member, Ohio State Chapter, Columbus, OH, 2015
• Second Place, Resident Research Presentation. P21 Activated Kinase as a Therapeutic Target in Papillary Thyroid Cancer, 19th Annual Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 2014
• James King Award, Department of Surgery, 2013
• Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society, Gamma Chapter of Ohio, Columbus, OH, 2013
• Intern of the Year, Department of Surgery, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, 2012

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• “P21 Activated Kinase as a Therapeutic Target in Papillary Thyroid Cancer” Podium presentation at the Columbus Surgical Society, Columbus, OH, 2014

Publications Accepted While at Ohio State

Research Grants Awarded While at OSU
Pelotonia Postdoctoral Research Grant

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**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Continue general surgery residency, The Ohio State University

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Keplinger fulfilled all requirements for the COM Master of Medical Science degree and completed two years of research in the laboratory of Matt Ringel MD. Dr. Ringel is Professor of Medicine, Director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism and PI of an NCI Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant for thyroid cancer research. Kara’s research training was supported by a prestigious Pelotonia Postdoctoral Fellowship Award. During her research fellowship, Kara successfully established an orthotopic thyroid cancer xenograft model to study the efficacy of novel therapeutic compounds targeting inhibition of P21 Activated Kinase. She presented promising results and cutting edge novel techniques for monitoring and quantifying tumor growth at her DOS MMS Grand Rounds presentation in the Spring of 2015. Kara’s achievements and experiences provide an excellent foundation for a future career in academic endocrine surgery.
Nicholas V. Latchana, MD, MS

Program
Master of Medical Science Program, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Undergraduate Degree
BMSc, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, 2006

Medical Degree
MD, Albany Medical College, Albany, NY, 2010

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015

Specialty Interests
Colon cancer

Research Interests
MicroRNAs and melanoma

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• First Place- Oncology, American College of Surgeons Ohio Chapter Resident Research Forum, Dayton, OH, May 2015
• First Place, Resident Research Presentation. 19th Annual Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 2014

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU

(Continued on next page)

Publications While at Ohio State

(Continued on next page)
• Hall NC, Nichols SD, Povoski SP, James IAO, Wright CL, Harris R, Schmidt CR, Muscarella P, Latchana N, Martin EW, Ellison CE. Intraoperative utilization of a portable large field of view gamma camera and handheld gamma detection probe for radioguided localization and prediction of complete surgical resection of gastrinoma. *JACS.* Epub 2015 Apr 1


• Latchana N, Peck JR, Whitson B, Henry ML, Black SM. Preservation Solutions for Abdominal Donor Grafts: A Review of the Literature. (Submitted)


(Continued on next page)
• Latchana N, Ganju A, Carson WE. Melanomas an microRNA Dysregulation. (In Preparation)
  (Accepted for submission)
  (Complete, finalizing for submission)
• Peck JR, Latchana N, Hinton A, Mumtaz K. Trends in outcomes of morbidly obese liver 

Research Grants Awarded While at OSU
NIH T32 Cancer Immunology Grant- 5 T32 CA 90223-10

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Continue general surgery residency, The Ohio State University

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Latchana fulfilled all requirements for the COM Master of Medical Science degree and 
completed two years of research training in the laboratory of Dr. William Carson. He studied 
mechanisms of miR-21 over-expression in malignant melanoma and the relationship of 
microRNA profiles to pathologic classification of melanocytic lesions. Nick has had the 
opportunity to present results of his research at many local, regional and national forums. He is 
the recipient of first place research awards at the 2014 OSU DOS Annual Research Conference 
and at the 2015 American College of Surgeons Ohio Chapter Research Forum. He has been 
prolific in publishing original research, reviews, case reports and book chapters. To date he 
has 9 publications, an additional 4 manuscripts submitted, and another 5 in preparation. His 
research training was supported by a prestigious NIH T32 postdoctoral training award.
Lauren A. Licata, MD

Program
Transition to Practice Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
New York, New York

Undergraduate Degree
BS, French/Chemistry, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, 2001

Medical Degree
MD, New York Medical College, New York, NY, 2005

Other Training
General surgery residency, Cooper University Hospital, Camden, NJ, 2005
Surgical oncology research residency, Roger Williams Medical Center, Providence, RI, 2013

Specialty Interests
General surgery, surgical critical care, surgical oncology

Research Interests
Surgical education, teaching

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
General surgeon, North Shore Southside Hospital, Bay Shore, NY

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Licata joined the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn and General and Gastrointestinal Surgery as a transition to practice fellow. She grew up in New York and graduated from Bryn Mawr College and received her medical degree from New York Medical College. Lauren completed her general surgery residency at Cooper University Hospital of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey. After that, she spent two years as a surgical oncology research fellow in Providence, Rhode Island and then did a year of missionary work in Cameroon, West Africa. Having been out of clinical surgery for three years, Lauren took advantage of the American College of Surgeons Transition to Practice Fellowship. She has done a wonderful job. She worked hard, did an excellent job teaching residents and students, and honed her clinical skills to the point where she was adept at dealing with surgical problems... from the smallest to the most complex. Lauren will be moving back to New York where she will join a practice in general surgery on Long Island.
Sara A. Mansfield, MD, MS

Program
Master of Medical Science Program, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Athens, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2007

Medical Degree
MD, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 2011

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015

Specialty Interests
Acute care surgery, endoscopy, global health

Research Interests
Virology, immunology

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• First place, Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, 2015
• Third Place, Resident Research Presentation, 19th Annual Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 2014
• Finalist, Society of University Surgeons Research Fellowship, Chicago, IL, 2013
• Intern of the Year • Department of Surgery, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, 2012

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Martin del Campo SE, Mansfield SA, Suzo AJ, Hazey JW, Perry KA. Poster presentation. Laparoscopic Redo Fundoplication Improves Disease-Specific and Global Quality of Life Following Failed Laparoscopic Open Fundoplication. SAGES, Nashville, TN, April 2015
• Mansfield S, Dwivedi V, Byrd S, Trgovcich J, Cook CH. Podium presentation. Cytomegalovirus DNA in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid indicates acute infection or viral

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reactivation. at The 15th International Conference on CMV, Brisbane, Australia, April 2015


• Mansfield S, Dwivedi V, Byrd S, Trgovcich J, Cook CH. Podium presentation. Cytomegalovirus DNA in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid indicates acute infection or viral reactivation. Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, February 2015


• Mansfield SA, Dwivedi V, Byrd S, Trgovcich J, Cook CH. Podium presentation. Detection of Cytomegalovirus in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid. The Ohio State University Department of Surgery Research Day, Columbus, OH, May 2014


Publications While at Ohio State

• Mansfield SA, Dwivedi V, Byrd S, Trgovcich J, Cook CH. Cytomegalovirus DNA in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid indicates acute infection or viral reactivation. (Submitted April 2015)


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**Research Grants Awarded While at OSU**
• NIH T32 Training grant in tumor Immunology, The Ohio State University, $42,877
• University Fellowship Research Grant, The Ohio State University, $20,400

**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Continue general surgery residency, The Ohio State University

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Mansfield fulfilled all requirements for the COM Master of Medical Science degree and completed two years of research training. She started her training in the laboratory of Dr. Charles Cook, a Professor of Surgery and expert in CMV infection. However, when Dr. Cook relocated, she joined the laboratory of Robert Baiocchi MD PhD, an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine. The project Sara undertook in Dr. Cook’s laboratory focused on the immunology of CMV infection. Dr. Baiocchi’s laboratory focuses on experimental therapeutics and immunotherapy of EBV lymphoma. Consequently Sara has gained an extraordinary expertise in immunology and virology during her two years of research training. She has been involved with the preparation of three IRB approved clinical research protocols. Her DOS MMS Grand Rounds presentation entitled “Virology for Surgeons” represented a culmination of her training in research applied to clinical medicine. Her research training was supported by a competitive OSU University Fellowship and a prestigious NIH T32 “Tumor Immunology” postdoctoral fellowship award. She was also a 2013 SUS Research Fellowship finalist, an award winner at the 2014 OSU DOS Annual Research Conference and was selected for a first place award at the 2015 Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium. Sara currently has 9 publications, and another 4 submitted publications in review. Overall Sara’s research productivity has been remarkable and a model for other surgical residents to emulate.
Loren L. Masterson, MD, MBA

Program

Place of Birth
Cleveland, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Chemical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2001

Medical Degree
MD, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH 2007

Other Training
• Master of Business Administration, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2002
• General surgery residency, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, IN, 2013

Specialty Interests
Abdominal aortic aneurysms, carotid disease, outcomes management

Research Interests
Health care administration and cost containment, carotid disease, complications and outcomes research

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• Masterson L, Kudlaty E, Veerman B, Starr J, Go M, Satiani B. Significant cost savings for Medicare can result from accurate coding of carotid duplex indications and elimination of inappropriate tests. Society of Vascular Surgery, June 2015
• Inaccurate Coding of Non-Invasive Tests May Call into Question Clinical And Policy Recommendations Based on Administrative Databases, Columbus Surgical Society, February 2015
• Axillary-Femoral Bypass May Provide Inadequate Distal Perfusion Compared to In-Line Large Diameter Aortic Reconstruction, Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society, January 2015
• Access site complications are commonly found on femoral artery duplex ultrasound and associated with age and manual pressure. Midwest Vascular Surgical Society, September, 2014

Publications While at Ohio State
• Masterson L, Vaccaro P, Go MR. Axillary-Femoral Bypass May Provide Inadequate Distal Perfusion Compared To In-Line Large Diameter Aortic Reconstruction (Submitted, pending review)
• Masterson L, Starr J. Options for treatment of Giant Splenic Artery Aneurysms: A case series and review of literature. (Submitted, pending review)

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• Masterson L, Corby T, Haurani M, Yu L, Starr J. Access Site Complications Are Commonly Found on Femoral Artery Duplex Ultrasound and Associated With Age and Manual Pressure. (Submitted, pending review)

**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Vascular Surgeon, Akron General Hospital, Akron, OH

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Masterson came to us from William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oaks Michigan in July of 2013. Prior to that she had done her undergraduate training at the University of Notre Dame and while obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering she also received her M.B.A. During her fellowship she has had one publication with three others submitted for publication. She has had three meeting presentations including the Midwestern Vascular, the Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society and the Columbus Surgical Society. This year Loren is presenting a poster at the Society of Vascular Surgery Meeting in Chicago in June. She has worked extremely hard during her two years and has developed into an excellent vascular surgeon. Loren has been a good role model for our other residents in the program. She has accepted a job with a much respected vascular surgical group at Akron General and we look forward to hearing great things from her in the future. We wish her our very best and thank her for her dedication to our patients.
Thanh V. Nguyen, DO, MSHS

**Program**
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

**Place of Birth**
Vietnam

**Undergraduate Degree**
BS, Nutritional Sciences/Toxicology - Physiology & Metabolism, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 2004

**Medical Degree**
DO, Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Pomona, CA, 2009

**Other Training**
- General surgery residency, Doctors Hospital, Columbus, OH, 2014
- Pre-doctoral teaching fellowship, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA, 2009
- MS, Health Sciences, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA, 2009

**Specialty Interests**
Trauma, surgical critical care

**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Trauma Surgeon, Grant Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Nguyen grew up on the west coast and his undergraduate degree is from the University of California, Berkeley. He received his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific along with a Master of Science in Health Sciences. He completed his general surgery residency at Doctor’s Hospital last year. Thanh is a fantastic clinician. He is one of those rare individuals who is never flustered, never gets anxious, never gets tired...and never even raises a sweat when working hard. He has been a quiet but extremely effective leader. He is a superb teacher and his judgment is excellent. While his original plan was to go back to California, Thanh has become enthralled with the central Ohio weather and will be going into the practice of trauma, acute care surgery and surgical critical care at Grant Hospital.
Stephen Leonard Noble, MD, MS

Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Hayward, California

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, 2000

Medical Degree
MD, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, 2006

Other Training
MS, Medical Sciences, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN, 2002.

Specialty Interests
Robotic thoracic surgery, transcatheter aortic valve replacement, mechanical circulatory devices, heart failure

Research Interests
Cardiac physiology and pathology in athletes, racial and socioeconomic disparities in cardiovascular disease, mechanical circulatory devices, TAVR in aortic stenosis

Publications Accepted While at Ohio State
• Ekeke C, Noble S, Mazzaferri E, Crestanello JA. Myocardial bridging over the left anterior descending artery: Myotomy, bypass, or both? Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, September 1, 2014

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Staff Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Noble is a dedicated, hardworking and committed resident who joined our program from Oregon. Stephen is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy and his disciplined background served him well as a cardiothoracic resident. His work ethic was unparalleled among his peers, yet he had the emotional intelligence to treat his “subordinates” with respect and professionalism – a sign of a true leader. LTC Noble will be assuming a post as staff cardiothoracic surgeon at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. We want to congratulate him and thank LTC Noble for his dedicated service to OSU and to our Country. We are all better because of his interactions in our program.
Jill K. Onesti, MD

**Program**
Surgical Oncology Fellowship, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

**Place of Birth**
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**Undergraduate Degree**
BA, Chemistry and BA, Spanish, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 2003

**Medical Degree**
MD, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS, 2008

**Other Training**
General surgery residency, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Grand Rapids, MI, 2013

**Specialty Interests**
Breast cancer, surgical oncology

**Research Interests**
Clinical outcomes in surgical oncology

**Honors and Awards While at Ohio State**
Best Poster Presentation, Regional Therapies Conference, Colorado, 2013

**Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State**
- Onesti J, Blazer M, Williams T, Goldberg RM, Bekaii-Sabb T, Bloomston M. Poster presentation. Radiographic response to neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX for advanced non-metastatic pancreatic cancer is not required to proceed with planned resection, Society of Surgical Oncology, Phoenix, AZ, March 12-15, 2014

**Publications Accepted While at Ohio State**

(Continued on next page)
Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Medical Director of Surgical Oncology, Mercy Health Physician Partners, Grand Rapids, MI

Program Director’s Comments
During her time at OSU, Dr. Onesti not only became an expert in all aspects of surgical oncology, but she also fostered collaborative relationships with members of other medical disciplines and several researchers. She is a great leader, gifted surgeon, caring physician, and amazing mother of three. We tried very hard to keep her at OSU but are proud that she will be returning to Michigan where she will focus her practice on gastrointestinal cancers. She will be missed.
Sylvester N. Osayi, MD, MS

Program
Master of Medical Science Program, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Nifor, Edo, Nigeria

Undergraduate Degree
BS, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, 2007

Medical Degree
MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, 2011

Other Training
• Post-doctoral research fellow, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH, 2014
• MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015

Specialty Interests
Minimally invasive surgery

Research Interests
Minimally invasive surgery, surgical education

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Second place, oral presentation. Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, 2014
• First place clinical science oral presentation. Ohio Chapter of the American College of Surgeon Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, 2014

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Personality Traits Common Among Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeons and their Relationship With Job Satisfaction. Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association Annual Meeting, Miami Beach, FL, March 11-15, 2015
• Near-Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography Facilitates Identification of Biliary Anatomy During Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy. OSUWMC Department of Surgery Research Conference, Columbus, OH, May 16, 2014
• Near-Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography Facilitates Identification of Biliary Anatomy During Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy. 13th Annual OSUWMC Trainee Research Day, Columbus, OH, April 10, 2014
• Personality Traits and Job Satisfaction Among Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeons. Ohio ACS 59th Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, May 9-10, 2014

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• Personality Traits and Job Satisfaction Among Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeons. Columbus Surgical society Presidential Symposium, Columbus OH, March 1, 2014
• Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography for Biliary Imaging During Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy. SAGES 2014 Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, April 2-5, 2014

Publications While at Ohio State
• Drosdeck JM, Osayi SN, Peterson LA, Yu L, Ellison EC, Muscarella P. Surgeon and Non-surgeon Personalities at Different Career Points Journal of Surgical Research. J Surg Res. 2015 Feb 18 (Epub ahead of print)

Research Grants Awarded While at OSU
Fundamental of Endoscopic Surgery (FES). Submitted to SAGES

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Continue general surgery residency, The Ohio State University

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Osayi fulfilled all requirements for the COM Master of Medical Science degree and completed one year of clinical research training with Dr. Jeff Hazey. During his professional development year, Sylvester was involved with the conduct of a clinical trial evaluating the use of near infra-red fluorescence cholangiography (NIRF-C) during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. He presented results of this novel study at local and national meetings and is working on a manuscript for publication. Sylvester also worked on a number of other clinical and educational research projects during this time including an analysis of personality characteristics and job satisfaction among hepato-pancreato-biliary surgeons. In addition, he assisted with the writing of a grant application to study simulation training on Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery performance.
Matthew R. Pittman, MD

Program
Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship,
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Phoenix, Arizona

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Biology, Loyola University, Chicago, IL, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 2009

Other Training
General surgery residency, Loyola University Hospital, Chicago, IL, 2014

Specialty Interests
Bariatric surgery, advanced foregut surgery, hernia surgery

Research Interests
Metabolic effects of bariatric surgery, reflux disease

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Early Postoperative Outcomes of Magnetic Gastroesophageal Junction Reinforcement Compared to Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication Digestive Disease Week, Washington, DC, May 16, 2015
• LOL: A Novel Technique for the Complicated Incisional Hernia. World Hernia Society, Milan, Italy, April 25, 2015
• Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication and Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication Provide Similar Improvements in Reflux Disease-Specific Quality of Life: A 1 Year Case Control Study. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, Nashville, TN, April 15, 2015
• Prior Treatment Does Not Influence the Performance or Early Outcomes of Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy for Achalasia. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, Nashville, TN, April 15, 2015

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Publications While at Ohio State

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Director of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Northwestern Medicine, Delnor Hospital, Geneva, IL

Program Director's Comments
Dr. Pittman has had a very busy clinical year, completing a large number of advanced laparoscopic procedures in bariatric, hernia and foregut surgery. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, he was very active in our educational programs and training labs. This year, he also presented our research work at the 1st World Conference on Abdominal Wall Hernia Surgery in Milan, Italy in April 2015. Dr. Pittman has been an outstanding member of our team and was appreciated by his residents, students and patients.
Terrence M. Rager, MD, MS

Program
Master of Medical Science Program, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Life Science, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, 2002

Medical Degree
MD, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hersey, PA, 2010

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2015

Specialty Interests
General surgery

Research Interests
Tissue engineering, necrotizing enterocolitis, growth factor biology, exosome-mediated cellular communication

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Best Research Paper Award, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital Annual Research Retreat, Columbus, OH, September 17, 2014
• Finalist, 2014 Society of University Surgeons (SUS) Resident Scholar Award, Chicago, IL, June 9, 2014
• Best Poster Presentation Award, 19th Annual Department of Surgery Research Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 15, 2014
• James D. King Research Award, The Ohio State University Department of Surgery, Columbus, OH, September 10, 2013
• Alpha Omega Alpha, Ohio Gamma Chapter, 2012

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State

(Continued on next page)
Incorporation into Polyglycolic Acid (PGA) Scaffolds Enhances the Formation of Tissue Engineered Intestine. American Academy of Pediatrics, San Diego, CA, October 10, 2014


Publications Accepted While at OSU

- Pepper V, Rager T, Diefenbach K, Raval M, Teich S, Michalsky M. Robotic vs. Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy in Adolescents: Reality or Hype. *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*. (Currently in resubmission with revisions)


Occupation Upon Completion of Program

Continue general surgery residency, The Ohio State University

Program Director’s Comments

Dr. Rager fulfilled requirements for the COM Master of Medical Science degree and completed two years of research training in Dr. Gail Besner’s laboratory. He took on the challenging research project of engineering intestinal tissue on a biodegradable scaffold. During this time he has been a member of a collaborative interdisciplinary team and has developed an in-depth understanding of the challenges and promise in this exciting new field. In addition to the intestinal engineering project, Terry pursued research to determine the therapeutic efficacy of mesenchymal stem cell exosomes for necrotizing enterocolitis and generated some very promising results. He is the recipient of the 2013 James King Research Award and was a finalist for the 2014 SUS Resident Scholar Award.
Neil D. Saunders, MD

Program
Surgical Oncology Fellowship, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, 2003

Medical Degree
MD, University of Illinois, Peoria, IL, 2008

Other Training
General surgery residency, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 2013

Specialty Interests
Malignancies of the thyroid, adrenal glands and pancreas

Research Interests
Quality improvement, surgical outcomes

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
Second Place, Best Oral Presentation, Presidential Symposium Columbus Surgical Society, Columbus, OH, 2015

Abstracts Accepted While at Ohio State
• Saunders ND, Sipos JA, Shirley LA, Phay JE. Initial Surgical Experience with Gene Expression Classification of Thyroid Nodules. Presidential Symposium Columbus Surgical Society, Columbus, OH, February 28, 2015.
• Saunders ND, Haverick E, Howard JH, Abdel-Misih S, Bloomston M, Schmidt CR. Elevated Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) in Gastric Cancer Portends Poor Prognosis Regardless of stage. 66th SSO Annual Cancer Symposium. Washington, DC, March 6-9, 2014

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Publications Accepted While at OSU


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**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**

Assistant Professor of Endocrine Surgery, Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA

**Program Director’s Comments**

Dr. Saunders is the epitome of the gentleman surgeon. His quiet confidence reflects his outstanding surgical skills. While at OSU, he was incredibly prolific with multiple national presentations and peer-reviewed publications. Under the mentorship of Dr. Schmidt, he contributed to a multi-institutional gastric cancer collaborative on OSU’s behalf. This has resulted in over 25 publications-to-date. Dr. Saunders will be returning to the south, where he trained in General Surgery, as Assistant Professor at Emory University doing endocrine and gastrointestinal surgical oncology. Being recruited back to his home institution is the ultimate testament to Dr. Saunders’ character and skills. They will be lucky to have him on faculty.
Jennifer S. Schwartz, MD

Program
Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship,
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Neuroscience, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2005

Medical Degree
MD, State University of New York Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, 2009

Other Training
General surgery residency, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2014

Specialty Interests
Bariatric surgery, hernia surgery

Research Interests
Bariatric and foregut surgery

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Schwartz JS, Meara M9, Hazey JW, Perry KA. Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) Improves Patient Symptoms and Quality of Life. Academic Surgical Congress, Las Vegas, NV, February 3, 2015

(Continued on next page)
- Schwartz JS, Meara MP, Hazey JW, Perry KA. Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) Improves Patient Symptoms and Quality of Life. Columbus Surgical Society 2014 Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, March 1, 2014

Publications While at Ohio State

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Program Director's Comments
Dr. Schwartz has had a very busy clinical year, completing a large number of advanced laparoscopic procedures in bariatric, hernia and foregut surgery. She actively participated in a number of ongoing research projects that led to publications and presented our research work at the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery in November 2014 resulting in a nomination for the John Halverson Young Investigator Award. In addition, Jen was very active in our educational programs and teaching labs. She was an outstanding asset to our team and we look forward to working with her next year as she joins our division at OSU Hospital East.
Emily Rebecca Smeltzer, MD

Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Edmonds, Washington

Undergraduate Degree
BA, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, 2004

Medical Degree
MD, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond, VA, 2008

Other Training
General surgery residency, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI, 2013

Specialty Interests
Cardiac surgery

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
To be determined

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Smeltzer joined us after completing her general surgery training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Steadfast and hardworking Emily has become a solid performer on the cardiothoracic surgery service. She has excellent patient care and technical skills and we look forward to her continued success as she matures as a young cardiothoracic surgeon. Dr. Smeltzer is still developing a plan to join an academically oriented teaching environment in the future. As she considers her options, we wish her much success in the future.
Tyler C. Spata, MD, MS

Program

Place of Birth
Spring, Texas

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Business Administration/Management Information Systems, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, 2003

Medical Degree
MD, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, TX, 2008

Other Training
• Master in Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2013
• Cardiovascular Research, The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Houston, TX, 2004
• Cardiovascular Surgery/Anesthesia Research, Texas Heart Institute, Houston, TX, 2004

Specialty Interests
Cardiothoracic surgery

Research Interests
Cardiac ischemia, cardiac transplantation, mechanical cardiac-assist devices, and revascularization techniques

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
Travel Award, 12th Annual OSUWMC Trainee Research Day, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH, 2013

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Regional Gene & Protein Changes in an Ovine Model of Acute Myocardial Infarction. Oral Presentation. OSUWMC Department of Surgery Research Day, Columbus, OH, May 2013
• Regional Gene & Protein Changes in an Ovine Model of Acute Myocardial Infarction. Oral presentation. 24th Annual Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, March 16, 2013

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• Surgical Clinical Correlates in Anatomy: A link to Medical Students’ Residency Matching Choices. Poster presentation. Center for Education and Scholarship “Celebration of Educational Scholarship”, Columbus, OH, November 2012

• Novel Large-Animal Model to Study Acute Myocardial Infarction Using Platelet-Induced Thrombus. Poster presentation. OSUWMC Department of Surgery Research Day, Columbus, OH, May 2012

• Novel Large-Animal Model to Study Acute Myocardial Infarction Using Platelet-Induced Thrombus. Poster presentation. 11th Annual OSUWMC Trainee Research Day, Columbus, OH, April 2012

• Novel Large-Animal Model to Study Acute Myocardial Infarction Using Platelet-Induced Thrombus. Oral presentation. 23rd Annual Columbus Surgical Society Presidential Symposium, Columbus, OH, March 3, 2012

Publications While at Ohio State


Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship at The University of Minnesota

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Spata, who hails from Texas, will be traveling even farther north next year with his wife, Beth, to begin a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Minnesota. Even during medical school, Tyler did cardiovascular research at the Texas Heart Institute. During residency, he spent two years earning a master’s degree and doing further cardiothoracic research which resulted in many published abstracts and publications. Tyler is the consummate gentleman and we are excited that he has matched into such a prestigious training program.... and hope he and Beth stay warm.
Rajan Krishnakant Thakkar, MD

Program

Place of Birth
Parma, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BS, Biology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2002

Medical Degree
MD, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2006

Other Training
• General surgery residency, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI, 2013
• Research fellowship, Armand D. Versaci Research Scholar in Surgical Sciences/Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, 2010

Specialty Interests
Pediatric surgery, trauma, burns

Research Interests
Pediatric surgery, trauma, burns, immune response to injury and sepsis

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
Pediatric Critical Care and Trauma Scientist Development Program Travel Award, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Park City, UT, 2015

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU

Publications While at Ohio State
• Justin TH, Brigode W, Thakkar RK, Raval MV, Teich S. A case of pediatric cecal diverticulitis mimicking acute appendicitis. *International Journal of Colorectal Disease* 2015. (Accepted)

(Continued on next page)

• Rajan K Thakkar and Gail E. Besner. The Acute Abdomen. Everything Matters: In *Patient Care*. Spring 2014; 27(2)13-14


**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Associate Trauma Director, Associate Burn Director, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Thakkar will join our faculty in pediatric surgery here at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children’s Hospital an Assistant Professor of Surgery. He obtained his medical degree from The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and subsequently completed residencies in general surgery at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital and in pediatric surgery at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Dr. Thakkar plans to pursue a career in academic pediatric surgery, concentrating on the care of patients with traumatic injuries including burns. He will be appointed as the Associate Trauma Director and the Associate Burn Director at NCH. In addition, Dr. Thakkar will pursue his interest in translational research designed to evaluate the immune response in patients with perforated appendicitis, trauma, burns and other critical surgical illnesses. He also has a passion for education and will take a leading role in teaching our residents and medical students.
Mark Randall Wendling, MD, MS

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2008 – July 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Undergraduate Degree
BA, Biology, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, 2004

Medical Degree
MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 2009

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2013

Specialty Interests
Minimally invasive surgery

Research Interests
Endoluminal therapy for GERD

Abstracts Accepted While at OSU
• Near-infrared fluorescent cholangiography facilitates identification of biliary anatomy during laparoscopic cholecystectomy. SAGES 2014, Salt Lake City, UT, April 2-5, 2014
• P6 acupuncture reduced retching following laparoscopic fundoplication: Results of a randomized clinical effectiveness trial. SAGES 2013, Baltimore, MD, April 17-20, 2013
• Impact of transoral incisionless fundoplication on subjective and objective GERD indices. SAGES 2012, San Diego, CA, March 7-10, 2012
• Gastric ischemic conditioning increases neovascularization and reduces inflammation and fibrosis during gastroesophageal anastomotic healing. SAGES 2012, San Diego, CA, March 7-10, 2012
• ICG-loaded microbubbles for biliary imaging in cholecystectomy. BMES 2012, Atlanta, GA, October 24-27, 2012

Publications While at Ohio State

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**Research Grants Awarded While at OSU**
2012 SAGES Research Grant Award. Near Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography (NIRF-C) for Biliary Imaging during Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy. $30,000

**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**
Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Program Director’s Comments**
Dr. Wendling and his wife, Sarah, came to us from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Now, with a daughter Belle and son Miles, Mark’s family will soon be moving to Seattle where he will be starting a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Washington. Mark did a year of research in the middle of his residency which focused on endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery and earned a master’s degree that same year. He was also awarded a prestigious SAGES Research Grant in 2012. We will miss Mark’s quick wit and great work ethic. We wish him and his family well in the years ahead.
Jon R. Wisler, MD, MS

Program
General Surgery Residency, July 1, 2008 – July 30, 2015

Place of Birth
Columbus, Ohio

Undergraduate Degree
BA, Microbiology, Miami University, Oxford, OH, 2004

Medical Degree
MD, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 2008

Other Training
MS, Medical Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2012

Specialty Interests
Trauma and critical care

Research Interests
Sepsis, epigenetic signaling, firearms related trauma

Honors and Awards While at Ohio State
• Second place. 17th Annual Department of Surgery Research Conference, The Ohio State University, 2012
• The Ohio State University College of Medicine University Fellowship, 2010
• James D King Research Award, Department of Surgery, Ohio State University, 2010

Publications While at Ohio State
• Wisler JR, et al. Pre-injury neuro-psychiatric medication use, alone or in combination with cardiac medications, may affect outcomes in trauma patients. *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine* 2014

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• Wisler JR, Khoury PR, Kimball TR. The effect of left ventricular size on right ventricular hemodynamics in pediatric survivors with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr*. 2008 May;21(5):464-9

**Research Grants Awarded While at OSU**

- UL1RR025755 William H. Davis Endowment for Basic Medical Research, The Ohio State University. Targeting Aberrant Epigenetic Regulators in the Treatment of Sepsis. July 2012 - June 2013

- UL1RR025755 William H. Davis Endowment for Basic Medical Research, The Ohio State University. Microvesicles and MicroRNA as Mediators of Sepsis. July 2010 - June 2012

**Occupation Upon Completion of Program**

Fellowship in Surgical Critical Care, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH

**Program Director’s Comments**

Dr. Wisler is known for his confidence and ability to multi-task better than anyone we know. In the middle of his clinical residency training, he completed a master of medical science degree while simultaneously doing two years of research. All the while he ran a gun shop in his spare time and became a father to three children. He will be staying at OSU next year as a fellow in Surgical Critical Care and will continue to be owner and manager of Aumiller’s Gun Shop in Westerville, Ohio. Needless to say, he has a special interest in firearms-related trauma. We look forward to following his trajectory in the future.
Ahmad A. Zaaroura, MD

Program

Place of Birth
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Medical Degree
MD, Al Baath University Faculty of Medicine, Homs, Syria, 2005

Other Training
• Surgical fellowship, Clemenceau Medical Centre (affiliated with John Hopkins International), Beirut, Lebanon, 2013
• General surgery residency, Makassed General Hospital, American University of Beirut Medical Centre, Beirut, Lebanon, 2012

Specialty Interests
Liver, kidney and pancreas transplantation

Occupation Upon Completion of Program
Transplant Surgery/Hepatobiliary Fellowship, Duke University, Durham, NC

Program Director’s Comments
Dr. Zaaroura will be missed by all of us. As I sought thoughts from the team regarding his time with us, I heard quotes such as, “even-keeled”, “incredibly thorough and thoughtful”, “always willing to stop and help”, “very appreciative of others’ expertise” and “truly, an excellent physician and a surgeon; his technical skills are outstanding”. Ahmad, a father of four, brings his patience and understated good humor to work with him every day. We wish him all the best as he and his family move to North Carolina and start the next chapter in his successful career.