New Klassen Chair

The Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery welcome Jianjie Ma, PhD, as Professor and Karl P. Klassen Chair in Thoracic Surgery in the Department of Surgery as well as a Davis Heart Lung Research Institute Investigator. Dr. Ma comes to Ohio State from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) where he was chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, as well as Chief of the Division of Developmental Medicine and Research.

Dr. Ma is an NIH-funded researcher, prominently and widely published on the topics of muscle physiology, aging, cardiovascular disease, cystic fibrosis, apoptosis and cancer biology. He has authored more than 130 publications, holds 10 patents and has assembled an international team of collaborators working on translational research.

Dr. Ma received his bachelor’s degree in Physics from Wuhan University in China and received his Ph.D. at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Ma has trained numerous graduate and postgraduate students, who have become leaders in academia, industry, medicine and law firms. He was an established investigator for the American Heart Association (AHA). He is an outstanding mentor and educator, and we are delighted to have his knowledge and experience as part of our team.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ma as the Karl P. Klassen Chair in Thoracic Surgery.

From The Director

As it is with most things in medicine these days, we continue to be challenged by the number of regulatory and oversight expectations that govern our specialty. The ACGME accreditation body that is responsible for maintaining standards in thoracic surgery residency programs provides direct feedback about the quality and strength of training programs through surveys and direct observations from members of their field team on a regular basis. While these site visits are intended to establish clear goals, objectives and priorities for training programs around the country, they do increase the level of attention to the finer details focusing on educational priorities as the foundation of our training programs.

The OSU thoracic surgery residency program recently underwent an intensive survey which hopefully will identify the strengths of our very active clinical and educational programs as well as opportunities for advancement in the future. We congratulate Corey Ferguson, Steve Cotter and the faculty for their contributions to this intensive and thorough review process.

We continue to be optimistic that our comprehensive training program in cardiac, thoracic and congenital surgery meets the standards of the ACGME. We anticipate the development of an integrated 6-year cardiothoracic training program. This program focused on recruiting the best and the brightest medical students from around the country, will require an intensive investment of time and energy in the educational curriculum of early career surgeons not only in the surgical disciplines but also in the fields of cardiovascular medicine and general surgery. If our Summer Scholars Program is any indication, there is a growing interest in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. Integrated cardiovascular programs require a coordinated training schedule that includes progressive exposure to general surgery, critical care, vascular surgery, cardiology and a variety of interventional rotations. There are 15 programs currently approved programs around the country and we look forward to applying for consideration in the coming months.

As we consider this exciting new and innovative chapter in our programs history, we want to underscore our commitment to create an environment of educational inquiry that promotes the acquisition of the knowledge and skills to become a safe and competent cardiothoracic surgeon. We appreciate the support of our nursing staff, physician extenders, perfusionist and administrative staff as we develop these programs.
Clinical & Translational Research in Cardiac Surgery

As one of its core missions, the division of cardiac surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC), is actively involved in surgical research at all fronts. In translational research, we have set up a cross-disciplinary effort in studying ex-vivo organ perfusion. The major focus of the laboratory is in using novel techniques in reconditioning marginal organs for use in transplantation. In addition to fostering relationships between disciplines, the molecular insights that are gained will hopefully lead to better outcomes in liver, lung and heart transplantation. The inflammatory cascade leading to ischemia-reperfusion injury and ultimately organ rejection is being studied using a unique model at OSUWMC. These findings have been presented at the Columbus Surgical Society by one of our surgical residents, Tyler Spata MD.

In clinical research, an integrated advanced pulmonary disease/lung transplant clinical database and tissue repository has been activated. The internal database and repository are a collaboration of our lung transplant surgical team and transplant pulmonologists. These multidisciplinary efforts are bringing researchers from across the University together in a Lung Transplant Research Group. This group’s aim, organized by Drs. Whitson and Pope-Harman, is to raise awareness across disciplines regarding end stage lung disease.

In an effort led by Dr. Kilic, the national trends in donor and recipient selection are being investigated. In addition, OSUWMC’s experience with aortic dissections are being presented at the Southern Thoracic Surgery Association in November. A study evaluating the expansion of the lung donor pool utilizing the OPTN/UNOS Standard Transplant Analysis and Research database, led by Dr. Whitson, will be presented at this year’s Society of Thoracic Surgeon’s meeting. The ongoing evaluation and improvement of the Divisions’ already excellent care of end stage cardiopulmonary failure will continue to be a focus of our research efforts.

2012 Summer Scholars Program

After eight weeks of intensive engagement with the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery our 2012 Summer Scholars Program has come to a close. This year’s summer scholars, Chigo Ekeke, Kathleen Matic, Kevin Ricci, Richard Tang and Paul Tobias each completed 2 week rotations in adult cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, congenital surgery and research, and concluded their time with us by providing a case presentation of a case they had been a part of during their experience. The Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery have enjoyed another successful year in introducing medical students to cardiothoracic surgery. This year’s scholars shared the following:

“The summer program gave me great hands-on experiences that will be helpful throughout my career... I am both honored and thankful for the opportunity that was given to me this past summer, and I cannot thank everyone who was involved enough for their hard work and dedication to the program.”

“...Cardiothoracic Summer Scholars Program was a phenomenal experience. From didactic sessions to shadowing the many cardiac and thoracic surgeons, my learning experience was very enriching and applicable.”

“To get this much exposure to the field after only one year of medical school is truly amazing... I gained insight into the world of cardiothoracic surgery, experiencing the knowledge and passion that each of the surgeons had for the field. I am now more than ever interested in working in this exciting field.”

“My summer in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery has been nothing short of phenomenal... the summer research option in the department will likely be one of my best decisions made throughout my medical education. The program was an incredible learning experience. The clinical knowledge and skills I acquired were substantial.”

“I gained the knowledge and understanding necessary to support a reasoned decision about my potential future in cardiothoracic surgery. I got everything I could have hoped for from this program. Thank you for the opportunity and support in this incredible experience.”

Noteworthy News

◊ The Division of Thoracic Surgery welcomes Jerrilea Taylor to the team as the new Division Administrator. Jerrilea began at Wexner Medical Center September 1993 providing outstanding support, direction and service to our patients and medical community. We are delighted to now have her as part of our team! Welcome Jerrilea!

◊ The Division of Cardiovascular Surgery welcomes the following to our team: Pei-Hui Lin, Assistant Professor; Toshiharu Shinoka, Professor of Clinical Surgery, Hua Zhu, Assistant Professor; and Rachael Lewis, Office Administrative Support for Dr. Ma. We welcome each of you to our OSU team!

◊ The Cardiothoracic Surgery Training Program welcomes Dr. Nikhil Jaik to our team. Dr. Jaik joins us with training from St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt University. Welcome aboard the Wexner Medical Center team Dr. Jaik!

◊ On August 16, 2012 the American Council on Graduate Medical Education conducted a site visit of our training program. The visit went very smoothly! Thank you to all the faculty & staff who contributed their time and resources to facilitate a successful visit!

◊ Members of the Division of Cardiac Surgery participated in the Central Ohio American Heart Walk on August 25, 2012. Participants enjoyed activities in the new Columbus Commons and participated in 1 or 3 mile walks, which together raised more than $1.2 million for the American Heart Association. Thank you volunteers and participants!

◊ Congratulations to Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce for participation in the Pelotonia 2012! This grassroots cycling event raises funds to support the cutting-edge research at the Comprehensive Cancer Center, James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. Dr. Moffatt-Bruce’s efforts contributed as one of more than 6,000 riders this year! Congrats Dr. Moffatt-Bruce!

Academic Achievements

◊ Congratulations to Dr. Karen Nelson who completes her training with us this fall. Her outstanding patient care and unparalleled work ethic are sure to be missed! We wish her the very best in her career and in her new role as an attending at Holzer Medical Center in Southern Ohio. Congrats Dr. Nelson! You will be missed!

◊ Congratulations to first year fellow Dr. Kathryn (Katie) O’Keefe for successfully passing her General Surgery Boards this summer! Dr. O’Keefe is an excellent trainee and we are not surprised of this success. Congrats Dr. O’Keefe!