From The Director

This continues to be a dynamic and exciting time in the OSU Wexner Medical Center. Among the most extraordinary news was my appointment as Chairman of the Department of Surgery effective April 1, 2013. I will succeed Dr. E. Christopher Ellison who assumed the role of CEO of the OSU Faculty Group Practice Plan at OSU. Dr. Juan Crestanello has assumed the role of Vice Chair for Clinical and Academic Affairs during the transition and he will assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the cardiac program. We continue to be optimistic that these leadership changes will only strengthen our resolve to sustain outstanding educational programs in each mission area.

In this context, the Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic surgery continue to meet the challenges of the modern day healthcare environment excelling in patient care, teaching and research. In spite of increasing patient acuity and complexity, the surgical teams continue to provide outstanding patient care in the Ross Heart Hospital. Key to this success is the outstanding support provided by the operating room staff, RNFA/PAs, perfusion and nursing. The cardiac program performed close to 900 open heart procedures including: heart transplants, LVAD’s, aortic dissections and complex aortic and mitral valve procedures with better than expected outcomes.

The thoracic residency program also completed an external review by the Residency Review Committee of the ACGME. While there are opportunities to enhance the educational program with additional physician extender staff collaboration and teambuilding, the program achieved a continued accreditation status. We look forward to improving our training program through curricular enhancements such as case based learning modules, simulation and establishment of a Committee on the Resident Experience.

Critical to the success of academic cardiothoracic surgery programs is the ability to engage in clinical and translational research. Led by senior investigators Drs. Juan Crestanello and Sai-Sudhakar, Drs. Ahmet Kilic and Bryant Whitson were extremely productive this spring co-authoring over 20 original papers and abstracts as well as efforts to build a translational lab experience. Our division continues to develop innovative programs evaluating the impact of serum hyponatremia and heart failure on surgical survival, PTEN-TRIC signaling and pulmonary hypertension in a mouse knock out model, and microRNA expression in a sheep infarction model. Dr. Whitson has been actively involved in the establishment of the Collaboration for Organ Perfusion, Protection, Engineering and Regeneration (COPPER). Each of these activities represents significant time and effort in pursuit of our academic mission and the faculty should be congratulated.

I am proud to note these accomplishments by the faculty and staff in a time when academic surgical programs are increasingly challenged to excel in each of their mission areas. We look forward to our team’s continued success on the academic journey with the support of the Heart and Vascular leadership, the Department of Surgery and the OSU Health system.

Robert S. D. Higgins

Robert S. Higgins, MD, MSHA
Program Director

In honor of Dr. Williams’ legacy in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Training Program, an annual award will be given in his honor to a faculty member of the fellows’ choosing that displays an outstanding commitment to teaching in Cardiothoracic Surgery. This inaugural year of this award has resulted in a tie! Congratulations to Dr. Ahmet Kilic & Dr. Chittoor Sai-Sudhakar for being the first recipients of the Thomas E. Williams Excellence in Teaching Award.

Thomas E. Williams
Excellence In Teaching Award

Thomas E. Williams, MD, PhD, OSU Cardiothoracic Surgery graduate of 1970, has been a staple of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Training Program for more than 40 years as an invaluable member of faculty, compassionate physician, dedicated colleague, and exceptional educator. In addition to his commitment to the fellowship program, Dr. Williams also was constantly engaged with medical students and subsequently helped develop the Summer Scholars Program. During an eight week session during the summer, 1st year medical students rotate on the cardiac, thoracic and congenital services, while also spending a quarter of their experience participating in research, or another CT Surgery rotation of their choosing. His time, commitment, and investment in this program has proved priceless to the students who have been fortunate enough to participate.

In Search of the Best & Brightest: Cardiothoracic Surgery at OSU
CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY TRAINING PROGRAM
Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University
Divisions of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery

Summer 2013
The 2013 Summer Scholars Program has experienced another great year! This engaging 8 week program integrates first year OSU Medical School students into cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, and congenital surgery, while also allowing a 2 week optional/research rotation in which they can choose which service they would like more time on or participate in research. This year, after sifting through applications and interviews, the Divisions of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery welcomed Neeraj Chimani, Anupama Joseph, Dian a Wieser and Courtney Yong to our Summer Scholars Program. It has been a very rewarding summer with these Scholars and each presented excellent case presentations on August 8, 2013 before faculty, fellows, Wexner Medical Center CEO Dr. Steven Gabbe and Dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Charles Lockwood to conclude their summer experience in CT surgery.

Our Summer Scholars Program continues to receive exceptional reviews from participants who are tremendously excited about and thankful for their early exposure to Cardiothoracic Surgery!

Noteworthy News

♦ Dr. Juan Crestanello, has been named Vice Chief for Clinical and Academic Affairs for the Division of Cardiac Surgery. Congrats, Dr. Crestanello!

♦ Faculty Members Dr. Juan Crestanello, Dr. Ahmet Kilic, Dr. Robert Higgins, Dr. Bryan Whitson and Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruc all participated in the 2013 Tri Fit Challenge, a triathlon that took place right here on the OSU campus. Congrats to these faculty members!

Academic Achievements

♦ Faculty members Dr. Bryan Whitson & Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruc, along with Fellows Dr. Katie O’Keefe and Dr. Jennifer Worth each attended the American Association of Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting as poster/podium presenters.

♦ Dr. Juan Crestanello was selected and participated in the American Association of Thoracic Surgery Leadership Institute.

♦ Dr. Moffatt-Bruc was inducted as a full member of the American Association of Thoracic Surgery- the disciplines most prestigious academic society. Congrats Dr. Moffatt-Bruc!

♦ Dr. Patrick McConnell, Cardiac Surgery Faculty member at Nationwide Children’s Hospital & OSU CT Surgery Training Program graduate, is Board Certified in Congenital Cardiac Surgery. Dr. McConnell achieved this on his first try for both his written and oral exams, which is quite a task since there has been a very high failure rate. He received certificate #138 to join a very small club. Congratulations, Dr. McConnell!

♦ Fellow Dr. Katie O’Keefe received the Robyn D. Howson Housestaff Humanism Award. This award is given to a member of the housestaff who is widely regarded by faculty members, housestaff, nurses, medical students, and other healthcare professionals as routinely exhibiting attributes of: ethics and integrity; caring and compassion for patients and patients’ family members; effective communication with patients, physicians, and other healthcare professionals; and excellent customer service. Congrats, Katie!

♦ Faculty member Dr. Bryan Whitson successfully completed his ABTS Oral Examinations and is now Board Certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery! Congratulations Dr. Whitson!

♦ Faculty member Dr. Ahmet Kilic was nominated as a candidate for the 2013 TSRA McGoon Award, a national award recognizing an outstanding young faculty member in recognition of his commitment to resident education & mentorship. Congrats Dr. Kilic!