Alumni Connection

Seasons change. Time passes. Life happens. Oftentimes, as we move onward and upward, we lose contact with the people and joys of yesteryear. These joys, and colleagues who share them, need not be forgotten, particularly in the small niche of Cardiothoracic Surgery. It’s time we get back to the root of where we are today. Let’s reconnect. Let’s reminisce. Let’s share. Let’s invigorate the joy encompassed as OSU CT Surgery Alumni!

I trust the content of these quarterly newsletters will be of your interests and allow you to remain in contact with training partners as well as the faculty within our Cardiac and Thoracic divisions.

Yet, the focus of this circular is all about you. Please submit stories to include in this newsletter. Moreover, share any insight you have about the stories or information you want covered. Let’s share the camaraderie of OSU Cardiothoracic Surgery together!

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the years ahead. In the meantime, enjoy the alumni connection and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer!

Kind regards,

Corey F. Ferguson
Editor; Corey.ferguson@osumc.edu

From The Director

It is with pleasure that I write to update you on the progress of the Cardiothoracic Surgery training program at The Ohio State University Medical Center. As you may know, I joined the program in July of 2010 and I continue to be impressed with the outstanding opportunities at the Ross Heart Hospital and our cardiothoracic surgery program. Our goal is to become one of the top academic cardiothoracic surgery training programs in the region and among the top programs in the country. We have assembled our faculty to help accomplish this educational mission. In partnership with our outstanding faculty including Dr. Pat Ross, the division head of thoracic surgery, Dr. Ed Kassis, Dr. Juan Crestanello, Dr. Michael Firstenberg, Dr. Chittoor Sai-Sudhakar, Dr. John Sirak, Dr. Susan Moffatt-Bruce, Dr. Vincent Daniel, Dr. Thomas Williams, Dr. Sampath Parthasarathy and Dr. Pawel Kwiatkowski, as well as our academic partners, Dr. Mark Galanowitz, Dr. Alistair Phillips and Dr. Patrick McConnell at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, this program is in a position to take a leadership role in cardiothoracic surgical education in the near future. The program continues to accept two residents each year in categorical positions for a two year residency.

As I am sure all of you are aware, these are challenging times in the field of cardiothoracic surgery with the evolution of percutaneous, minimally invasive and innovative cardiovascular therapies. We are dedicated to identifying the Best and the Brightest candidates for training in the field. We hope that with our outstanding training program here at The Ohio State University Medical Center, our residents will continue to be leaders in the field in the future. Our educational program is focused on not only the clinical and patient care aspects of training, but also the research and academic elements of cardiothoracic surgery. We welcome your interest and support and look forward to working with you as our program continues to pursue our vision for the Best and the Brightest Cardiothoracic Surgery in the future.

Robert S. D. Higgins

Robert S. D. Higgins, MD, MSHA
Program Director

In March 2011 the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education appointed Robert S. D. Higgins, MD to the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery. Congratulations Dr. Higgins on your appointment!
Fixing the Future: CT Surgery Summer Scholars Program

Research published in *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, which derived directly from faculty within our departments, demonstrates tremendous challenges ahead within the availability of CT surgeons in the years to come. It is estimated that in 2030, 5,169 CT surgeons will be required to care for the estimated number of patients requiring treatment while projections demonstrate that merely 3,200 CT surgeons will be in practice. It is vividly imperative we increase an interest and opportunities in CT surgery to meet the needs of generations to come.

The Divisions of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at OSU are working hard to cultivate the best and the brightest CT surgeons of the future. In part, our Summer Scholars Program lays the foundation for our success.

Established in 2010 the Summer Scholars Program exposes students to CT surgery during the summer between their 1st & 2nd years of medical school. Scholars scrub in operations, round with house staff, as well as partake in clinics and office hours. At the end of the program scholars raved about their experience; and faculty mentors appreciated the opportunity to work with students.

We certainly have a ways to go, but the Summer Scholars Program has proven to be a critical step in the right direction, planting a seed to grow future outstanding cardiothoracic surgeons.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Gerard Kakos

Jerry Kakos was born in New York in 1943. His family subsequently moved to Toledo, Ohio. He entered The Ohio State University as a freshman and graduated in the Class of 1964 and graduated from medical school in 1967. He was then an Intern of Surgery and Assistant Resident of Surgery from 1967 until 1973. He then was appointed Assistant Professor here in 1973 and an Associate Professor in 1979. He was Acting Director of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery from 1984 to 1986. He then went into private practice at Grant Hospital for about seventeen years. He rejoined the faculty here in 2004 and practiced until his retirement in 2008. He now lives in Columbus, Ohio and continues his hobbies of golfing and hunting.

Current Residents: The Future of CT Surgery

◊ **Dr. Shelly Bansal** (2012)
  Med Ed: Sint Eustatius School of Medicine • Surg Res: University of Arizona
  Research/Clinical Interests: Surgical Outcomes; VAD

◊ **Dr. Dana Booth** (2012)
  Research/Clinical Interests: Surgical Outcomes

◊ **Dr. Karen Nelson** (2011)
  Med Ed: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine • Surg Res: Botsford Hsptl
  • Dr. Nelson joins us in an Advanced Heart Failure Fellowship for further training in VAD and heart transplantation.

◊ **Dr. Sergio Carrillo** (2011)
  Med Ed: Universidad de San Carlos • Surg Res: University of Louisville
  • Dr. Carrillo will continue his practice with further advanced training upon completion of his training this summer. Congrats Dr. Carrillo!

◊ **Dr. C. Jason Rousseau** (2011)
  • Dr. Rousseau will be joining Spartanburg Regional Medical Center upon completion of his training this summer. Congrats Dr. Rousseau!

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with former classmates, colleagues, students and faculty:

- Update your current contact information and email address
- Contribute to our Summer Scholars CTS Early Experience Program
- Share your stories and achievements with us

Please forward stories, achievements, and updated contact information to Corey Ferguson at corey.ferguson@osumc.edu

CONTACT US:
Robert S.D. Higgins, MD, MSHA: Program Director - robert.higgins@osumc.edu / 614.293.4558
Corey Ferguson: Program Coordinator/ Newsletter Editor - corey.ferguson@osumc.edu / 614.293.0333
Steve Cotter: Division Administrator - steve.cotter@osumc.edu / 614.293.7727

www.cardiothoracicsurgery.osu.edu