

# Department of Surgery

## NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023



### Letter from the Chair

As fall approaches and we start the new academic year, we welcome the new residents and faculty that have joined our department. We are thrilled to have you here.

As we look forward, the ever-evolving landscape of academic surgery will present both challenges and opportunities. We continue to recover from the aftereffects of COVID, and despite workforce and supply chain limitations, the department continues to forge ahead with its commitment to deliver outstanding patient care and technical innovation.

All of you will play a key role in fulfilling our commitment to excellence, and your engagement will be essential over the coming year.

Demetrius

### 2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

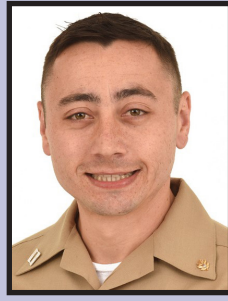


# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING CHIEF RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

## General Surgery



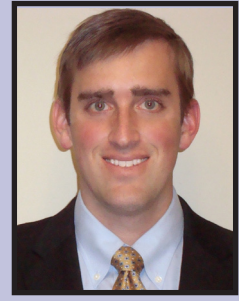
Kaitlan Ahrens, MD  
General Surgeon  
Lawrence General



Daniel Baldor, MD  
General Surgeon  
Naval Medical Center Camp Lajeune



Emily Mackey, MD  
Advanced MIS Fellowship  
UMass Chan Medical School



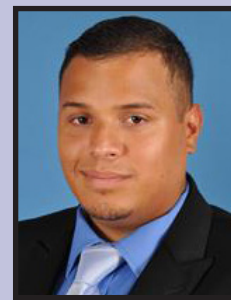
David Meyer, MD  
Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship  
Cleveland Clinic Florida



Niti Shahi, MD  
MIS and Robotic Surgery Fellowship  
University of Colorado

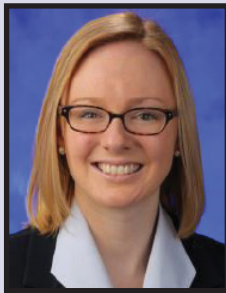


Christopher Strader, MD, MPH  
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship  
Baylor College of Medicine

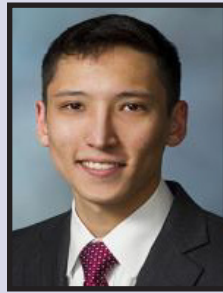


Samuel Vazquez, MD  
General Surgeon  
OSF St. Mary Medical Center

## Plastic Surgery



Alannah Phelan, MD  
Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship  
Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital



Alex Pong, MD  
Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship  
CaloAesthetics Plastic Surgery Center



Emily Fan, MD  
Vascular Surgeon  
UMass Memorial Health

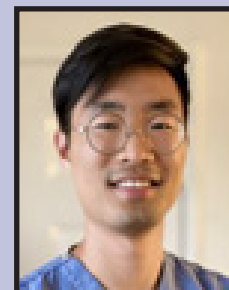
## Vascular Surgery

## Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellow



Gil Freitas, MD  
Minimally Invasive, Bariatric, and General Surgeon  
UMass Memorial Health

## Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow

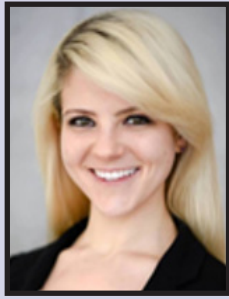


Dong (Don) H. Yoon, MD  
General and Colorectal Surgeon  
St. Jude Medical Center



# WELCOME NEW 2023 - 2024 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESIDENTS

## General Surgery - PGY-1



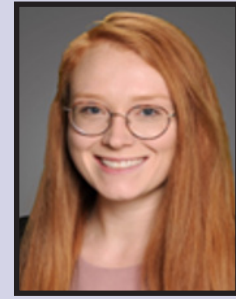
Camille Briskin, MD  
NY Medical



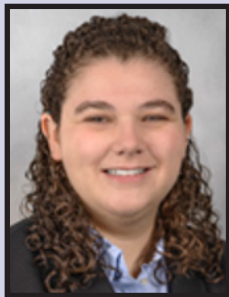
Javier De Jesus Diaz Collante, MD  
NY Medical



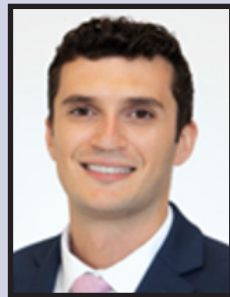
Minghui (Jennifer) Huang, MD  
University of Virginia



Rachel Huselid, MD  
Quinnipiac University



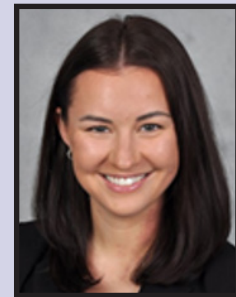
Katherine Palmer Loveluck, MD  
Wayne State



Klair Lubonja, MD  
University of Connecticut



Jonah Poster, MD  
Mt. Sinai University



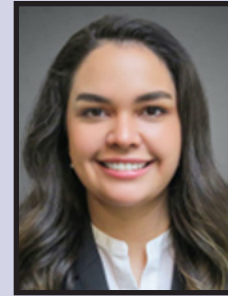
Sarah Roberts, MD  
SUNY Upstate



Arvin Saremi, MD  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine



Trenton Taros, MD  
UMass Chan Medical School



Dallas Walter, MD  
Tufts University



Monica Zewdie, MD  
University of Virginia

## Congratulations on Recent General Surgery Resident Fellowship Matches

**Hannah Buettner, MD**  
Complex Surgical Oncology  
Fox Chase Cancer Center

**Andrew Gillooly, MD**  
Abdominal Organ Transplantation  
University of British Columbia

**Max Hazeltine, MD**  
Complex Surgical Oncology  
City of Hope Cancer Center

**Giulia Rizzo, MD**  
Minimally Invasive Surgery  
UMass Chan Baystate Medical Center

**Larissa Pamen, MD**  
Breast Surgical Oncology  
Rutgers Cancer Institute

**Kaye Lu, MD**  
Breast Surgical Oncology  
University of Southern California

**Edward Kim, MD, PhD**  
Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Tufts University School of Medicine

## WELCOME NEW 2023 - 2024 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESIDENTS

### General Surgery PGY-2

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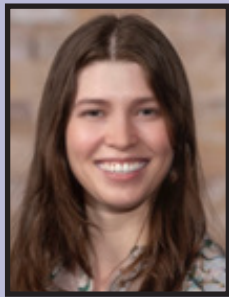
Julia Specht, MD  
Medical College of Wisconsin



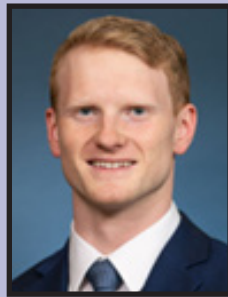
Kabir Torres, MD  
University of Missouri

### Plastic Surgery PGY-1

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Rachel Lister, MD  
UMass Chan Medical School



Jan Sjoquist, MD  
UMass Chan Medical School

### Vascular Surgery PGY-1

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Yancheng Dai, MD  
University of Pittsburgh



Dominique Dockery, MD  
Alpert Medical School  
Brown University

## WELCOME DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY NEW FELLOWS

### Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellow

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Emily Mackey, MD  
UMass Chan General Surgery

### Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow

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Samantha Rivard, MD  
University of Michigan, General Surgery

### Calling for Submissions!

We would love to highlight your achievements! Please send all submissions including high-resolution photos to Themia Pappas-Fillmore in the Department of Surgery (Surgical ASG) [themia.pappas-fillmore@umassmed.edu](mailto:themia.pappas-fillmore@umassmed.edu)

## 2023 GRADUATION AWARDS

### Kaitlan J. Ahrens, MD

Resident Teacher of the Year Award

The Resident Teacher of the Year Award is given to a senior member of the Surgical Residency Program who best exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding teacher by sharing knowledge with fellow residents and students, and exemplifies the qualities everyone seeks in a surgeon: patience, conscientiousness, organizational ability, knowledge, technical skill.

### Emily E. Mackey, MD

Resident Leadership Award

The Resident Leadership Award was created in 2020 and is awarded annually by the Chair and Program Director to the resident who epitomizes leadership in the General Surgery Residency. This year's recipient was selected considering her superior commitment to residents and patients. From her work caring for the sickest of patients during COVID to her efforts as a resident advocate, Dr. Mackey brings her insight, empathy, and integrity to every person and to every encounter. Her extraordinary leadership has been an example to all in our Department and Residency.

### James E. Carroll, MD

Brian E. Bednarz, MD Faculty Award

Presented annually to a surgical faculty member selected by the graduating Chief Residents for his or her extraordinary influence and dedication in mentoring residents.

.....  
 • Alumnus from the Division of Plastic Surgery Residency  
 • Program 2016-2022, **Jorge Lujan Hernandez, MD**,  
 • will be joining the Division of Plastic Surgery at  
 • Boston Medical Center and Boston University School  
 • of Medicine after completing an adult and pediatric  
 • craniofacial surgery fellowship at Stanford.  
 • .....

### Kaitlan J. Ahrens, MD

The H. Brownell Wheeler Award

This award is presented annually to a surgical resident, who by mutual agreement of faculty and residents has best demonstrated those human values which are desirable in a surgeon. The individual, though early in his or her career, demonstrates the ability to comfort and encourage patients and families, elicit trust and confidence, work cooperatively with colleagues, and treat all others with respect, dignity, and kindness.

This award is made in order to recognize not only the professional achievements of our residents, but also their human and caring qualities, which may at times be difficult to express. In honoring this individual, we also seek to honor all other residents in the program who display the same characteristics.

### Kaitlyn E. Wong, MD, PhD

Frederick J. McCready, MD  
Teacher of the Year Award

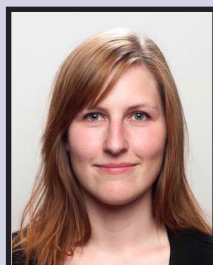
The Frederick J. McCready, MD Teacher of the Year Award honors the memory of Dr. McCready, a member of the staff at Saint Vincent Hospital, who found joy in teaching residents and students.

Each year, an attending is honored with his or her name engraved on a trophy which is displayed in the office of the recipient for the year. A plaque is also given to the award winner to keep in his or her office. It is engraved with the name of the winner and these thoughts from Gibran's The Prophet:

“The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise, he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.”

## Congratulations Department of Surgery Residents on Your Acceptance into Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) at UMass Chan

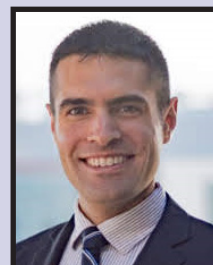
Congratulations to Hannah Buettner, MD and Max Hazeltine, MD, PGY-5, from General Surgery and to Thomas Cervantes, MD, PGY-5, Kevin Johal, MD, PGY-6 from Plastic Surgery, on your acceptance into AOA at UMass Chan. This is a much deserved honor and reflects your talent.



Hanna Buettner, MD  
General Surgery



Max Hazeltine, MD  
General Surgery



Thomas Cervantes, MD  
Plastic Surgery



Kevin Johal, MD  
Plastic Surgery



## RESIDENT UPDATES

### Spring 2023 Residents of Excellence Award

Resident of Excellence Award is awarded quarterly to a surgical resident from the three Department of Surgery residency programs. We encourage all to submit names of residents for this honor at:

<https://forms.gle/6LzJ5juQCpizhhF99>.



**Shirley Shue, MD, Plastic Surgery Resident (PGY-6)**

Shirley Shue, MD, an Integrated Plastic Surgery resident finished her fifth year, and entered her sixth and last year. She will be doing a Breast Reconstruction Fellowship at Mass General next year.

Shirley is a consummate and caring clinician who has also moved the gender diversity surgical outcome research needle for UMass into the national spotlight. One of our faculty calls her “the quiet powerhouse of the residency.” But the best compliment one can give came from her co-resident. He said to a medical student who was complimenting him, “If you really want to grow up and be someone, you want to grow up and be like Shirley Shue.”



**Sebastian Chung, MD, General Surgery Resident (PGY-4)**

Sebastian Chung, MD, was nominated by his peers as an example of a surgeon-in-training who epitomizes superiority in so many realms. Dr. Chung demonstrates an incredible library of medical knowledge and

technical skill. Dr. Chung was essential to the General Surgery program’s Top Gun championship this year at MA-ACS. Further, he brings to patients and teams an extraordinary work ethic, teamwork, and professionalism. Further, Dr. Chung has a passion for education, which shines through daily in his teaching of peers and students. Thank you for your excellence.



**Emily Fan, MD, Vascular Surgery Resident (PGY-5)**

Emily Fan, MD, who graduated this past June from the Vascular Surgery residency, possesses all of the very best traits of a competent, compassionate surgeon. She is an exemplar for others of how to push

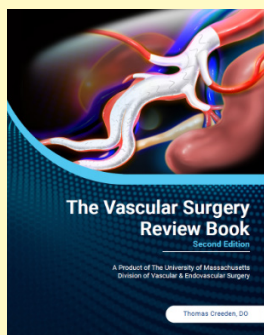
oneself to always be the best they can. She has made countless contributions to the residency during these last five years!



**Max D. Hazeltine, MD, MSCI, PGY-5** General Surgery resident, was awarded both the **Outstanding House Staff Award**, and **Resident/Fellow Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education** from UMass Chan Medical School graduating Class of 2023 at the 2023 Educational Recognition Awards.



**Student Star Award**  
**Trent Taros, MD, PGY-1** General Surgery, received the **Student Star Award** at the 2023 Educational Recognition Awards from UMass Chan.



### Vascular Surgery Review Book is in its 2nd Edition

After selling 1200 copies of the 1st edition of this book over the last year, **Thomas Creeden, DO, PGY-5** Vascular Surgery resident, has built out a second edition with additional figures, tables, chapters, and more technical steps for procedures. Our faculty have served as chapter editors for each chapter, but Tom did all the heavy lifting. In its first weekend, it sold 60 copies:

<https://thevascularsurgeryreview.com/>

It’s been amazing to see Tom carry this project forward and to see his success.

Andres Schanzer, MD

*2nd edition now sold on amazon.com*

## Injury Prevention Office Presents Trauma Prevention and Awareness Month

May was National Trauma Prevention Month as well as National Trauma Awareness Month. The Injury Prevention Office educated on elderly falls, concussions, substance abuse and disaster planning for your home. Several events were planned by the Injury Prevention Office and the trauma team. Several Stop the Bleed courses were offered in the hospital as well as in the community. There was a two-month Senior Fall Prevention and Wellness Series offered at the Worcester Senior Center. Informational tables were set up in the hospital lobby to highlight road safety and senior fall prevention.

### 11th Annual New England National Trauma Registry Conference

Deborah Gleason, CSTR, CAISS, CPC, Trauma Registrar, recently spoke at the 11th Annual New England National Trauma Registry Conference. The conference was sponsored by the New England Regional Level 1 Trauma Program Committee. She presented: **How Your Data Can Enhance your Trauma Program**. This program will be a dynamic and interactive exchange among interested professionals that deal with trauma registry issues on a daily basis. It is meant to fill a gap in knowledge and experience that primarily comes from working in regions and centers to compare experiences, backgrounds and best practices.



(Left to right) Barbara A. Braccio, MSN, RN, Trauma Quality/PI Nurse, Deborah Gleason, CSTR, CAISS, CPC, Trauma Registrar, and Lisa McNamara MS, RN, ACNP, Adult Trauma Program Director.



### A Mobile Classroom Experience - Safety Quest

UMass Memorial Health partners with MAPFRE Insurance on Injury Prevention. Together, we have launched the SafetyQuest mobile classroom experience to bring attention to injury prevention and safety awareness. This vehicle will attend community events in Central Mass as well as schools in Worcester and surrounding towns.

### Many thanks to our Fellowship Coordinators from the Department of Surgery



Thank you for your commitment to graduate medical education. (Left to right) Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship Coordinator, Soraya Takoulas and Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship Coordinator, Kinga Laska-Bostock, MBA.



### Division of Plastic Surgery Hosts Visiting Professor, Sonu Jain, MD

This spring the Division of Plastic Surgery had the pleasure of hosting Visiting Professor Sonu Jain, MD (above center). He lectured on his practice as a hand surgeon at Ohio State, and he led the residents in an upper extremity anatomy lab dissection.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS, APPOINTMENTS, AND PROMOTIONS



### Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award

Congratulations to our Chair **Demetrius Litwin, MD, MBA**, on being awarded the 2023 SAGES Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award. This award recognizes Dr. Litwin's lifelong, significant contributions to surgical endoscopy.



The AOA members of UMass Chan have nominated **Anne C. Larkin, MD**, to membership in the UMass Chan chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society as Faculty of the UMass Chan Medical School.



**Jennifer LaFemina, MD, Surgical Oncology**, was named to the NRMP Board of Directors. Dr. LaFemina's term started July 1, 2023.



**Kate H. Dinh, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, will become a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons during the Convocation Ceremony on Sunday, October 22, 2023.



**Jessica Simons, MD**, Vascular Surgery, has been promoted to Professor of Surgery.



**Nicole Cherng, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, is our next Fellowship Director of the UMass Advanced GI MIS Fellowship. Dr. Cherng is a graduate of our UMass surgical residency and fellowship. Since her fellowship, she has matured to the highest level of surgical skillset within a very short period of time. Her passion for clinical excellence and teaching combined with outstanding skills make her the obvious candidate to join our short list of previous program directors. Dr. Cherng is well positioned to influence for many years the UMass tradition of producing outstanding chief residents and MIS fellows with top MIS skills.



**Kaitlyn E. Wong, MD, PhD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Surgery from Pediatric Surgery, began her role as Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program starting July 1.

After completing her BS in Biochemistry at SUNY Stony Brook and her MD/MPH at Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Wong completed her General Surgery Residency at Baystate Medical Center. She additionally earned her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, studying alternative therapies for chemo-resistant cancers. Dr. Wong joined our Department's Division of Pediatric Surgery in 2021 following completion of her Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

From mentoring and coaching, assisting with recruiting, and serving as the Rotation Director of the Pediatric Surgery rotation, Dr. Wong has been instrumental in the education of our residents since her arrival. In light of her excellence, the residents honored Dr. Wong with the Frederick J. McCready MD Teacher of the Year Award.

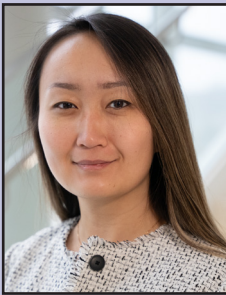
As APD, Dr. Wong will Chair the Clinical Competency Committee, serve as the residency's lead for the Quality Improvement pillar, and lead our preliminary resident recruitment efforts.





### 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Winner

Congratulations to **Justin Maykel, MD**, Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery, who was recognized as a 2023 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner at an awards luncheon held at Gillette Stadium. The award is presented by the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation to volunteers who go above and beyond to give back to their communities. The Colon and Rectal Surgery Division plans to use the \$10,000 award to support its community outreach initiatives, specifically an expanded program targeting socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals facing barriers to care.



**Emily Fan, MD**, Vascular Surgery, got re-funded with the prestigious Remillard Grant for her work to promote a diverse workforce in surgery. Congratulations.

### UMass Women in Surgery Group Initiative Gets a Re-start with a Potluck Dinner

Special thanks to **Hayley Reddington, MD** and **Julie Thomann, MD**, for helping to coordinate a potluck Sunday dinner on Sunday, July 30th at Green Hill Park which kickstarted the UMass Women in Surgery Group initiative back up at UMass. Look out for an email for a fall event. Please let us know if you have any interest in partaking, planning or any suggestions and ideas you may have! Contact **Kaitlyn E. Wong, MD, PhD, MPH** at [Kaitlyn.Wong@umassmemorial.org](mailto:Kaitlyn.Wong@umassmemorial.org) for more information.

### Safety All-Star Team Award

The CQS Awards Committee and the organization awarded **Jennifer LaFemina, MD**, Surgical Oncology, **Mustafa Akyurek, MD**, Plastic Surgery, **Nicole Hays, MD**, PGY-3 Research Year, General Surgery resident and **Thomas Cervantes, MD**, PGY-5 Plastic Surgery resident the FY23 Q1 Safety All-Star Team Award! This award is intended to encourage, recognize, and reward those who support and strengthen our culture of safety by preventing harm to our patients and caregivers.

## Thoracic Surgery

### Intuitive Foundation Grant for Feiran Lou, MD and Her Research Team

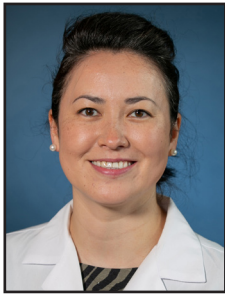
**Feiran Lou, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Thoracic Surgery, and her research team were approved for an education grant from the Intuitive Foundation to continue their work on emergency robotic undocking protocols for thoracic surgeries. They will form a multi-institutional collaborative group that will design and implement a universal thoracic surgery emergency undocking protocol and develop an interactive team-based educational video to be incorporated in a continuous educational process for all team members that are involved in robotic thoracic surgeries. Simulations are planned in iCELS at in UMass Chan Medical School and labs in Massachusetts General Hospital.

## Plastic Surgery

### Giorgio Giatsidis, MD, PhD

- Received a Remillard Family Community Fund award for a project on wound care.
- Elected Chair of the Technology Committee for the Plastic Surgery Research Council.
- Elected Chair of the Junior Working Group for the European Association of Plastic Surgeons.
- Elected Chair of the Social Media & Educational Resources Committee for the European Association of Plastic Surgeons.
- Received an NIH R01 from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) for \$700,000 for his work as Principal Investigator for a study titled “Smartphone-based Wound Infection Screener and Care Recommender by Combining Thermal Images and Photographs using Deep Learning Methods.”
- Received a grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) through the Reconstructive Transplantation Program for \$280,000 for a study entitled “Active Rejection Micropatch Surveillance (ARMS) System for Vascularized Composite Allografts”

## Updates from the Department of Surgery Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force (DEI)



By **Muriel Cleary, MD**  
Chair, DEI Task Force  
Division of Pediatric Surgery

This has been a productive quarter for our DEI Task Force as our faculty have supported hospital and medical school led initiatives, worked to improve our processes within the Department of Surgery and created new opportunities

for Underrepresented Minority in Medicine (URiM) students interested in the field of surgery.

We have partnered with **Robert Layne, MEd**, Dean of Outreach Programs and Worcester Pipeline Collaborative (WPC) and **Paul Charles, BA**, Director of Baccalaureate MD Pathway Program. Our surgical residents and faculty have worked with URiM undergraduate and high school students selected for the Summer Enrichment Program, BaccMD Program, High School Health Careers Program and Worcester Pipeline Collaborative to provide career mentoring,

preceptoring, mock-interviews and shadowing experiences.



**Paul Martins MD, PhD** from our UMass Division of Organ Transplantation was interviewed by Scripps National News and USA Today for his work as Chair of the UNOS Minority Affairs Committee for the Organ Procurement and

Transplantation Network. Under his leadership over the last 3 years, the committee has brought about important change in the national policy of kidney transplant allocation. The new policy eliminates the black race coefficient for estimated glomerular function rate (eGFR) calculations. This long awaited modification will increase transplant access and expedite transplantation for African Americans who have been historically disadvantaged by the previous allocation policy.

The University of Massachusetts Chan Department of Surgery hosted its inaugural DEI Undergraduate URiM Summer Internship in June 2023. Led by **Emily Fan, MD**, graduating vascular surgery resident and new attending vascular surgeon at UMass, the program was created with the goal of creating a surgical workforce that reflects the diversity and needs of the population we serve in Worcester.

The summer internship is one aspect of Dr. Fan's DEI in Surgery Initiative, which won a Remillard Family Community Service Grant. This newest internship is aimed to provide exposure and support to a Massachusetts college student underrepresented in medicine who is interested in the field of surgery through a paid 4-week immersive experience, including clinical, research, and mentorship opportunities.

Out of over 60 highly qualified college students across Massachusetts who applied, **Santiago Abrill-Zegarra** stood

out as exceptional and was chosen for the internship. Ellen Correa, PhD, in her recommendation letter, lauded Santiago as "amongst the best of students who choose to learn about and serve people belonging to historically oppressed groups, in addition to his analytical mind and deep-seated ethical values." Santiago is a recent graduate of UMass Amherst and plans to apply to medical school after a gap year.



Throughout his 4 weeks with the Department of Surgery, Santiago rotated with Vascular Surgery, Acute Care Surgery, Transplant Surgery, and Neurosurgery. He attended lectures, clinics, and watched numerous surgeries. Apart from clinical exposure and hands-on simulation experience, Santiago also wrote a case report on an innominate artery pseudoaneurysm and will contribute to a clinical research project on the management of popliteal artery aneurysms. He has left a positive impression on all who had the chance to work with him and we cannot wait to witness all of his successes as a future physician.



Dr. Emily Fan with  
Surgery Summer Intern  
Santiago Abrill-Zegarra

Dr. Fan believes that the DEI in Surgery Initiative has uncovered a huge need in our community for this type of exposure. Student participants and applicants have commented on how impactful and inspiring the opportunities are, and how these experiences are like no other. She hopes this internship will continue annually, and aims to expand our outreach. "As we gain more experience and data, we want to publish our work and inspire others across the country to pursue similar initiatives at their respective institutions."



## DEI in Surgery Summer Internship Reflection

by Santiago Abrill-Zegarra

“Through the DEI in Surgery Summer Internship, I have gained unparalleled experiences and mentorship within the field of surgery... This [experience] gave me an exciting and realistic perspective into the life of a surgeon. Furthermore, I made memorable connections with patients, particularly those with cultural backgrounds similar to mine. I often found that through shared experiences, I was able to better interact with these patients, making them feel more comfortable in the hospital setting. Beyond direct exposure to daily life as a surgeon, I fostered quality relationships and connections with medical students, residents, and even attendings, many of which have offered themselves as resources and as mentors throughout my journey to medical school and beyond. As a direct result of being involved in this remarkable experience, I have developed a strong interest in vascular surgery. I intend to matriculate into medical school with the goal of becoming a competitive applicant for a surgical residency. I am incredibly thankful for this experience, and I am eager to take the next steps towards my future in medicine.”

### Upcoming Events

- **October 18th, 2023:** Cataldo Grand Rounds  
Speaker Amon Ngongola, MD
- **November 10th, 2023:** Day in the Life of a Surgeon  
organized by **Emily Fan, MD** and **Olajumoke (Jummy) Akinsulire, MD**
- **March 27, 2024:** DEI Grand Rounds Speaker  
Dinee Simpson, MD



**Dinee Collings Simpson, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery;  
Vice Chair, Faculty Development  
and Diversity; Medical Director,  
Abdominal Transplant Inpatient  
Unit; Director, African American  
Transplant Access Program,  
Comprehensive Transplant Center,  
Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine



**Amon M. Ngongola, MD**  
Consultant Pediatric Surgeon,  
University Teaching Hospital  
Lusaka, Zambia

## Inspiring High School Students

**Anselm Wong, MD**, Division of Plastic Surgery, went back to his high school (Acton-Boxborough Regional High) for Career Day to talk to the high school students about his career path in plastic/hand surgery and about some of the things he sees and operates on.

## Operation Giving Back

**Joyce McIntyre, MD**, Division of Plastic Surgery and Clinical Director of SHARE (Surgeons in Humanitarian Alliance for Reconstruction, Research and Education), ASPS and PSF Global Surgery Program, traveled to Kigali, and the Rwanda Plastic Surgery residency training program as a Craniofacial Visiting Professor in March 2023.

While there, Dr. McIntyre lectured on interdisciplinary cleft care, pediatric reconstructive surgery, vascular anomalies, and craniofacial trauma.

SHARE is grateful to KLS Martin for their material support of the Craniofacial plating course (they develop and market medical technology solutions, such as implant systems, sterilization containers, and surgical instruments as well as Individual Patient Solutions.)

For more information: <https://www.the-psf.org/programs>

Dr. McIntyre operated with faculty and residents in partnership with the American College of Surgeons' Operation Giving Back.



Dr. McIntyre with faculty and residents of Kigali, Rwanda Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program.



## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY EVENTS



**Greta Thimi**, Surgical ASG Supervisor, gave birth to Emma Rose Thimi. Emma was born February 19, 2023.



**Candace Mooney**, General Surgery Program Administrator and her husband, Matt, welcomed their first son, Benjamin Robert Mooney on Monday, February 13, 2023.



**Alex Moskovitz**, MD, PGY-2, General Surgery and his wife, Emma, welcomed their first child, son Leonard "Leo" Moskovitz on February 11, 2023,



**Isabel Emmerick, PhD**, Division of Thoracic Surgery, gave birth to a baby boy, Albert Emmerick-Griffel, in December of 2022.



**Another Girl!**  
**Michael Hirsh, MD**, Division of Pediatric Surgery, and his wife became Grandpa and Grandma for the 2nd time on Fathers Day. Michaela (Mika) Hirsh born to Scott and Anastasiya Hirsh.



Mother of the groom **Jeanne Bigelow**, Executive Assistant to the Chair of Surgery with son, Matthew Bigelow. Matthew married Leah Johnson on May 19, 2023, at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC. Best wishes to the bride and groom.