Department of Surgery
NEWS

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VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY WEB SITE

Newsletter contact: Jo-Ann.Dugdale@hitchcock.org
Colleagues:

I am pleased to present this issue of our Department of Surgery newsletter. As you will see, our dynamic and diverse faculty and residents are actively engaged in projects that have impact here at home and across the world. Whether it is studying and defining the cost of surgical care and its effectiveness, or understanding the epidemiology of the burden of surgical disease, our trainees and faculty are actively advancing surgical care. You will also see the numerous intra- and extra-mural awards that our faculty continues to receive.

In addition, as you will see from the applications to our residency programs, word of the excellent training that our programs provide has gotten out. We expect an outstanding match season and look forward to welcoming our new trainees this spring.

Please let us know where you are practicing and any update you want to share with your fellow Dartmouth Surgical alums. And please consider a donation to help support these, or any of our other exciting Departmental activities.

Thank you.
Dr. Abhishek Chatterjee, current Chief Resident in Plastic Surgery, has participated and published extensively in cost analysis research. His interests early in his surgical training days involved looking at cost savings analysis and efficiency in the operating room with respect to endoscopic versus open carpal tunnel surgery in the clinic and operating room settings. His publications were one of the first to define and use opportunity cost in the surgical literature as an efficiency metric. In an effort to expand and improve upon cost analysis, Dr. Chatterjee began later to use cost utility analysis to study cost effectiveness in surgical techniques common in general and plastic surgery. With this, his research led to several publications analyzing surgical decision making and techniques such as one that supports the use of synthetic mesh with components separation for complex ventral hernia repairs in non-contaminated fields. His cost utility analysis has also studied and evaluated the economics and appropriate use of modern technologies. With his research on intraoperative indocyanine green angiography using the “SPY” technology, Dr. Chatterjee produced the first ever cost utility paper that supported the use of “SPY” technology when performing free autologous tissue transfer for breast reconstruction. Dr. Chatterjee’s enthusiasm and dedication to research grows from his commitment to patient care which is what he deems as the underlying motivation for his persistence in research. By the end of his residency, he will have at least 17 publications in high impact surgical journals with all of his publications being first, second or senior author.

Dr. Chatterjee will continue on after Dartmouth at the University of Pennsylvania where he embarks on a one year breast surgical oncology fellowship that is accredited by the Society of Surgical Oncology. He will continue to be an excellent doctor, prolific researcher, avid patient advocate and outstanding surgeon, and plans to practice plastic surgery and breast surgical oncology in the near future.
By Tim Dean

Each year, the Surgical Outcomes Club—a national group of top health science researchers that is committed to improving the practice of surgery—typically convenes just before the American College of Surgeons.

It was while attending this meeting last fall in Washington, DC, that Stefan Holubar, MD, heard a name that gave him pause.

“There was a doctor, Stephen Bickler, from the University of California at San Diego, who was presenting on international health initiatives for surgery,” recalls Holubar. “And out of the blue, he mentions the work of Peter Bendix, one of our senior residents at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. I was aware that Peter was doing pretty interesting research, but to be on the radar at a national level already—that’s impressive.”

Project in Mozambique

Dr. Bendix received funding from the National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center Clinical Research Fellowship, to take part in a two-year research project studying surgical care within rural health systems in Mozambique, Africa.

“It was a highly collaborative endeavor, led by the Mozambique Institute for Health Education and Research,” says Bendix. “Drs. Emilia Noormohamed and Steve Bickler were the principle investigators that I worked under.”

His primary research focus involved trying to estimate the burden of surgical disease in Mozambique’s rural settings. “The idea was to understand how much surgical care is needed for a population, to quantify that and place it in relation to other conditions, like HIV/AIDS and malaria, that currently receive a lot of attention in developing countries,” he explains.

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In the Field

With a research team of 10 field workers and three support staff, Bendix traveled long distances to rural districts to collect over 6,000 patient interviews. “We went door to door, asking a sort of ‘head to toe’ questionnaire, trying to determine if people needed surgical care or if they’d had surgery in the past,” he says. “We also took pictures to verify our findings, if they let us.”

While Bendix found the work rewarding, the experience was not without its challenges. “I had to buy a used 1986 Land Rover and maintain it on my own, so I learned a lot about car repair in Africa,” he says, laughing. “We relied on smart phones to collect data, so I had to engineer these ‘lock boxes’ that also served as charging stations and internet hubs, so we could upload our data each night. And relating well to our very poor and relatively uneducated field workers, who had to be trained on smart phones, was essential—they helped us translate the questionnaire into 5 different local languages.”

But luck also played a huge role. “A week after we finished collecting data at one of the field sites, there was a major flood that displaced basically our entire survey population,” Bendix says.

Looking Ahead

With data on the 6,000 patients complete, the research team is preparing to publish its findings on this, as well as related studies on current surgical care rates and research done to date on surgical care in low and middle income countries. “It looks like about 25 percent of all the patients that we surveyed currently need or has needed surgical care,” says Bendix. “That’s a high number, and it reflects the prevalence of traumatic injury and medical complications in developing countries. Many people work outside doing physical labor, and they don’t have the injury-prevention and preventative care measures in place that we have here.”

He hopes to demonstrate that there is an epidemiologically proven need for surgical care in these settings. “It’s the first step in making a policy argument down the road to what needs to be done,” Bendix says. “My goal is to continue this type of research in the future and to do it through work as an acute care surgeon, both in the U.S. and for populations in places like Mozambique.”

Thinking back to the Surgical Outcomes Club meeting, Holubar says, “We’re very lucky to have someone like Peter, not just because he’s a good surgeon and doctor but also because he’s helping to maintain the international reputation in health sciences outcome research that Dartmouth already has.”

Peter Bendix, MD
**RESIDENT INTERVIEWS**

**Dermatology** had 28 candidates interview, 7 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from Hawaii.

**General Surgery** had 85 candidates interview, 27 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from California.

**Neurosurgery** had 30 candidates interview, 6 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from Utah.

**Otolaryngology** had 20 candidates interview, 8 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from Washington State.

**Plastic Surgery** had 15 candidates interview, 7 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from California.

**Urology** had 37 candidates interview, 6 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from California.

**Vascular Surgery** had 18 candidates interview, 9 faculty members participated in the interview process. One candidate traveled from Washington State.

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**STARS SYMPOSIUM**

**Surgical Trainees Advancing Research Symposium**

**When:** Friday, April 25, 2014, 7:00-9:00am

**Who:** Any Dartmouth-Hitchcock trainee in any surgical sub-specialty

**How:** Submit an abstract to Terri Nicholson, Department of Surgery, by March 15th, 2014. (Terri.Nicholson@Hitchcock.org). Abstracts are limited to 300 words and may include one table or figure, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

**Eligible abstracts:** Basic science, translational, or outcomes not previously presented. An abstract submitted for a meeting after 5/16/13 is acceptable for submission. Eight abstracts (8) will be selected for podium presentation.

**Symposium Co-Directors:** Philip P. Goodney, MD MS; Stefan D. Holubar, MD MS

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**STARS SYMPOSIUM**

Why be a STAR? Fame. Glory. Cash. $500 first place $250 second place $100 third place
A number of impressive poster presentations, highlighting efforts to provide patient-centered, value-based care, were on display at the Department of Surgery’s third annual Care Path Award event, held on Nov. 26, in Auditorium F. The $25,000-award, presented by Executive Vice President for Population Health and Chief Clinical Officer Gregg Meyer, MD, MSc, was given to the section of Vascular Surgery for its REVAMP (RE-admissions from Vascular Minimization Project) poster.

“Readmissions are a big issue for vascular surgery patients nationally—our focus has been to determine what our true readmission rate is here at D-H, and to develop ways to reduce it,” explained Emily Spangler, MD, a vascular surgery resident who led the REVAMP project. “This was truly a team effort. We’re still learning from it and making changes to improve patient care.”

The REVAMP project team included: Emily Spangler, MD, Phil Goodney, MD, Tammy Wilson, RN, Teri Walsh, RN, Wanda King, RN, Kathy Kushmerek, RN, Carey Stillman, APRN, Wendy Aarnio, RN, Joy Nicolay, RN, Barb DeCelle, Ann Vella, Beth Drown, RN, AJ Horvath, Jesse Columbo, MD, Tom Simone, MD, Claire Griffin, MD, Kalei Walker, MD, David Stone, MD, and Richard Powell, MD.

In total, five sections developed six care paths to submit for 2013—Vascular Surgery (REVAMP and Chronic Venous Disease), Plastic Surgery (Breast Reconstruction after Breast Cancer), Ophthalmology (Cataract Care), Dermatology (Mohs Surgery), and General Surgery (Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery).

“The effort that has gone into these projects is amazing and is especially impressive because it was accomplished with less departmental support than in the past,” said Department of Surgery Chair Richard Freeman, MD, who established the award three years ago to help bring greater standardization and measurement to the surgical care process. “In 2014 we will have more departmental support for Care Path projects and I look forward to seeing what the sections choose to work on to continue to enhance the care we provide for our patients.”
NEW FACULTY

**Audiology**

Catherine Rieke, AuD  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** AuD, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, 2009

**Cardiothoracic Surgery**

Daniel J. Chentorycki, PA  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** MPAS, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2011  
**Board Certification:** Physician Assistant, 2011

**General Surgery**

Katelyn Husband, APRN, MSN  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** MSN, Rivier College, Nashua, NH, 2013  
**Board Certification:** Family Nurse Practitioner, 2013

**General Surgery**

Deborah Upton, APRN, MSN  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** MSN, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, 2004  
**Board Certification:** Family Nurse Practitioner, 2005

**General Surgery**

Rachael Sargent, APRN, MS  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** MS, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 2006  
**Board Certification:** Adult Nurse Practitioner, 2006
### New Faculty

#### General Surgery

**Katherine Kovacs, APRN, MSN**  
Instructor in Surgery  
**Education:** MSN, New York University, New York, NY, 2008  
**Board Certification:** Adult Nurse Practitioner, 2008

**Nancy Yazinski, APRN, MSN**  
Instructor in Surgery and in Medicine  
**Education:** MSN, Simmons College, Boston, MA, 1999  
**Board Certification:** Adult Nurse Practitioner, 1999

#### Neurosurgery

**Robert J. Singer, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery and of Radiology  
**Medical School:** MD, University of Nebraska College of Medicine, Omaha, NE, 1992  
**Internship:** Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, General Surgery, 1992-93  
**Residency:** Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, Neurosurgery, 1993-98  
**Fellowship:** Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, CA, Interventional Neuroradiology, 1995-96  
**Fellowship:** Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, Neurovascular Surgery, 1998-99  
**Board Certification:** Neurosurgery, 2003, 2013

**Robert M. Schertzzer, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
**Medical School:** MD, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada, 1988  
**Education:** M.Ed., University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, Adult Education, 2005  
**Internship:** Dalhousie University Affiliated Hospitals, Halifax, NS, Canada, Rotating, 1988-89  
**Residency:** McGill University Hospitals, Montreal, QC, Canada, Ophthalmology, 1989-94  
**Fellowship:** Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, Glaucoma, 1994-95  
**Board Certification:** Ophthalmology, 1995, 2006

#### Ophthalmology

**Perry A. Ball, MD** has been promoted to Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology.

**Louise Davies, MD** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery and The Dartmouth Institute.

**Rajan Gupta, MD** has been awarded a scholarship from The Dartmouth Institute to the Master’s Degree program.

**Stefan D. Holubar, MD** has been appointed to the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons Quality Improvement Committee and also as the Chairperson of the Electronic Medical Record for ASCRS Taskforce.

**Daniel H. Morrison, Jr., MD** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.

**Rachel A. Moses, MD** received first place for the Max K. Willscher Resident Research Award Competition at the New England AUA section meeting in September, 2013.

**Daniel B. Walsh, MD** was named president of the Vermont Medical Society during the 200th annual meeting held October 19th at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, VT.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department of Surgery Grand Rounds

3/14/14 Otolaryngology
  Ryan McCool, MD
  VA Medical Center

3/21/14 General Surgery

3/28/14 Dermatology

4/4/14 Residency Program Directors

4/11/14 Pediatric Surgery

4/18/14 Plastic Surgery
  Amy S. Colwell, MD
  Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

4/25/14 STARS II
  Philip M. Goodney, MD
  Stefan D. Holubar, MD

5/2/14 Residency Program Directors

5/9/14 Dept. of Surgery
  Liane Feldman, MD
  Chief, General Surgery, McGill University Health Care

5/16/14 Neurosurgery
  Robert Singer, MD

5/23/14 General Surgery
  Amer Zureikat, MD
  UPMC Cancer Pavilion

5/30/14 Vascular Surgery
  Paul Harrington
  Executive Vice President VT Medical Society

GIVING BACK: DONATIONS

With a gift to the Department of Surgery at D-H, you can make a resident’s dreams come true and advance a young doctor’s career in real and meaningful ways. To make a gift today, go online to http://dartmouth-hitchcock.org/surgery_donate or make a check out to MHMH with “Dept. of Surgery” in the memo line and mail it to:

Office of Development
D-H and the Geisel School of Medicine
One Medical Center Drive, HB 7070
Lebanon, NH, 03756-0001

For more information, contact Rick Peck, Director of Gift Planning, at (603) 653-0735. Our residents and faculty thank you for your generosity.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Alumni News: We are interested in what you are up to now and any individual accomplishments. Send a quick note and your contact information to Jo-Ann.Dugdale@Hitchcock.ORG