Dr. Sherry Wren received the Olga Jonasson Distinguished Member Award from the Association of Women Surgeons during the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Washington, DC this past October. She was joined at the reception honoring her award by Dr. Mary Hawn and a number of Stanford faculty.
Match day is over and we’re excited to welcome our new Stanford Surgery residents soon! With new residents coming, that also means we will be saying farewell to our current chief residents. They are off to exciting new adventures; three in pediatric surgery, one endocrine surgery, one surgical oncology and one colorectal surgery. We are looking forward to their next accomplishments and I know that while they will be leaving Stanford, Stanford will never leave them.

The hospital continues to be full and our new facilities cannot open soon enough! In addition to the increased capacity in beds, we will have more ICU and OR capabilities allowing for further programmatic growth. In anticipation, we have requested and were granted an additional resident beginning this academic year.

Resident research day and the Holman Lectureship will be held Friday June 9th in the MacKenzie building on the engineering quad. Dr. Gerard Doherty, Chair of the Department of Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital is our Visiting Professor. Drs. Geoff Gurtner and Arden Morris have made several changes to the program to allow for more broad participation in the day.

Dr. Ralph Greco will be retiring from Stanford later this summer. Dr. Greco’s legacy and impact on the Stanford Surgery training program is remarkable. We look forward to honoring his contributions at his retirement party this June and am thrilled that many former trainees will be able to make it back to the farm for this wonderful event!

Warm regards,

Mary Hawn, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine

Tom Krummel named Chair of APSA Foundation

Dr. Thomas Krummel, the Emile Holman/Chair Emeritus of the Department of Surgery, was selected to become the Chair of the Foundation of the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA). He had previously served as a member of the board as well as having served as President of APSA. He currently serves as the Co-Director of the Stanford Byers Center for Biodesign, one of the national leaders bringing innovation to healthcare technology.

Dr. Krummel earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin followed by his surgical residency at the Medical College of Virginia (now Virginia Commonwealth University). He completed a research fellowship in pediatric surgery with Dr. Michael Harrison at the University of California, San Francisco and his clinical pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. He was recruited to the Pennsylvania State University where he rose to the rank of Professor and Chair of the Department prior to being recruited to Stanford in 1999.

In addition to serving as Chair of Surgery at Stanford, Dr. Krummel was also Surgeon-in-Chief of the Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital. During his tenure, he was responsible for incorporating surgery into the Biodesign program, which has become the model for teaching medical innovation. He was also the founding Director of the Goodman Simulation Center, and helped promote the use of simulation in surgical training. He has received numerous awards for his work including the John Henry Collins Award and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching. He was elected as a Fellow in the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

APSA is the primary society of pediatric surgical specialists. Their focus is to promote excellence in providing optimal care for pediatric patients and their families, and foster a vibrant community of pediatric surgeons. The APSA Foundation serves as the source of essential funds to promote education and biomedical research in pediatric surgery.
Notable Publications

Selected peer-reviewed publications by Stanford surgeons as noted in bold.


Deshka Foster, MD, MA received two related awards. The American College of Surgeons awarded her a Resident Research Scholarship beginning in July, 2017. She will be working in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Longaker studying the role of Engrailed-1-positive fibroblasts in scar formation. The scholarship provides $30,000 per year for two years in support of her research. The ACS was founded in 1913 and is the largest surgical society in the world. Its mission is to improve the care of the surgical patient and to safeguard standards of care. The ACS Resident Research Scholarship is highly competitive and considered one of the most prestigious scholarships for resident research given by any surgical society. Stanford residents have routinely been honored with this award. Past winners among the residents include Geoff Krampitz (PGY5), Peter Than (PD), and Clem Marshall (PD).

Dr. Foster was also notified that she was accepted into the Advanced Residency Training at Stanford (ARTS) Program. The program is designed to prepare residents for a career that combines basic science research with clinical training to foster the development of physicians with comprehensive scientific training. Being a member of ARTS will give Dr. Foster the ability to earn a PhD during the course of her residency. Previously, Drs. Arghavan Salles (‘15) and Geoff Krampitz (PGY5) participated in the ARTS Program. Dr. Salles earned her PhD from the School of Education. She went on to a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at Washington University in St. Louis where she stayed on as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Krampitz earned his PhD in cancer biology and will be joining the surgical oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston after graduating later this year.

Dr. Foster is originally from Philadelphia but came west to Stanford where she earned her BA in Human Biology. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study malarial disease in Borneo, and subsequently earned an MA in African Studies from Stanford for research on malarial disease in Tanzania. She returned to Philadelphia to earn her MD at the Drexel University College of Medicine prior to returning to Stanford in 2015 as a general surgery resident. Please congratulate Dr. Foster on these singular achievements.
The Department of Surgery is proud to announce these new additions to the Stanford Surgery family. In addition to residents arriving through the match, categorical positions have been offered to Drs. Titan and Javadi. Dr. Jaramillo returns to Stanford from the Brigham and Women’s Hospital to complete his general surgery residency. We will have short bios of our new residents in the next Op Report.
The ACS Clinical Congress is always a significant event with multiple presentations and the chance to meet up with Stanford alumni.

1. Clem Marshall (PD), Cindy Kin ('11), Blake Read (PGY5), Marc Melcher ('04), and Arden Morris at the Scientific Forum Poster Session
2. Dr. Hawn hosting dinner for faculty and residents
3. Marc Melcher ('04) and Kevin Helling ('14)
4. Scott Perryman ('09), Erika Lu-Rangel, Venita Chandra ('11), Bethany Slater ('11), Shawn Rangel ('06), Marc Melcher ('04)
5. Kasper Wang ('02) and Shawn Rangel ('06)
6. Arghavan Salles ('15) and Sepideh Gholami ('15)
7. Irene Wapnir, Arghavan Salles ('15), Sepideh Gholami ('15), Stephanie Chao ('13), and Mediget Teshome ('13)
8. Cindy Kin ('11), Marc Melcher ('04), David Spain, and Bethany Slater ('11)
The residents demonstrate that all of that surgical skills teaching did not go to waste. Halloween was the inspiration for a gathering of the residents to show off their mad carving skills. It was also a chance for the department to promote the collegiality and warmth that have made our residency program a good place to learn. The department continues to support events like this that support resident wellness and camaraderie.
The holidays were celebrated by multiple parties over the month of December
1  Marc Melcher, Tami Daugherty, and Mary Hawn
2  Derick En’Wezoh and his date in appropriate attire
3  Brian Nuyen, Ken Perrone, Ioana Baiu, Anna Luan, Jason Qian, Michael Chang, Lauren Wood, Ashley Titan and Charles Liu
4  Ashley Titan and Ioana Baiu
5  A familiar occurrence for all surgeons, on call for the holidays
6  Cornelius Regan and Dave Worhunsky
7  Katie Blevins and Esteban Valenzuela
8  Graeme Rosenberg and Katie Blevins
9  Raja Narayan and Ruby Gill
10 Joe Forrester and Hilary Bagshaw
11 Ioana Baiu, Ashley Titan, Charles Liu and Ken Perrone
12 Ali Rashan, Liudmila Muraveika, Cornelius Regan and Anna Luan
Joe Forrester visits Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland

Dr. Joe Forrester (PGY4) was selected by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to serve as an International Fellow in an exchange with the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI). International Fellows are competitively selected by the ACS. The RCSI is based in Dublin and is one of the oldest surgical training organizations in the world having been founded in 1784. In addition to visiting the RCSI, Dr. Forrester also had a chance to visit Beaumont Hospital, one of the largest public hospitals in Ireland. Because of his interest in global surgery, he spent much of his time learning about collaborations between the RCSI and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), and other initiatives at the RCSI for training and education of future surgical practitioners.

As noted later in this newsletter, Dr. Forrester has been selected as an Administrative Chief Resident for the next year.

Karl Sylvester appointed Associate Dean

Dr. Karl Sylvester, Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, was appointed Associate Dean for Maternal and Child Health Research by Dean Minor. His role will focus on aligning the pediatric and maternal research portfolios as a Co-Leader of Spectrum Child Health along with Dr. David K Stevenson, Senior Associate Dean for Maternal and Child Health, and Dr. Mary Leonard, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Sylvester earned his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He went on to complete his general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania along with a research fellowship at Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital. He completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He was recruited to Stanford after his training.

John Morton given Gold Humanism Award

Dr. John Morton, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, was given the Arthur P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery ASMBS of which he is a past-President. He was selected among 15 nominees for the award for his sensitivity to patients’ psychological well-being as exhibited by his research on the impact of adverse childhood events and emotional needs upon weight loss. He received the award at the ASMBS Foundation LEAD Awards that took place during ObesityWeek in New Orleans on November 1, 2016. ObesityWeek is the annual combined meeting of the Obesity Society, an organization of scientists and practitioners looking to better understand and treat obesity through research, education and advocacy, and the ASMBS.
Arden Morris, MD, MPH recently joined the faculty as Vice Chair for Clinical Research and Director of Health Services Research for the Department of Surgery. She is already having an impact here by initiating a course on professional development for residents. The course is designed to guide residents as they prepare for a career in academic surgery. She is also the Course Chair for the American College of Surgeons Health Services Research Methods Course designed to provide a primer on core methodologies used in outcomes and health services research. In addition, the course serves to provide direct feedback on specific research ideas and interests with the goal of supporting attendees in obtaining extramural funding. This past year’s course was also attended by several Stanford surgery residents interested in health services research.

Stanford hosts international humanitarian aid skills course

The Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health sponsored a course designed to teach skills in international humanitarian aid. The goal was to prepare international humanitarian aid volunteers for the conditions they might face in low resource environments. The course was directed by Dr. Sherry Wren, Professor of Surgery at Stanford, and multiple members of the department’s faculty also took part in teaching portions of the course including Drs. Paige Fox, Peter Johannet and Tom Weiser. Also participating in the course were a number of medical students interested in global health who assisted in the skills lab.
Dr. David Spain was elected a Director of the American Board of Surgery (ABS). The ABS was founded in 1937 to provide board certification to individuals who have met defined standards of education, training and knowledge in the field of surgery. The ABS administers the qualifying and certifying examinations that confer board certification as well as oversee recertification throughout the entire career of a surgeon.

Dr. Spain joins Drs. Mary Hawn and Mark Welton as Stanford faculty members on the ABS Board of Directors. He was nominated by the Surgical Critical Care Program Directors Society. He currently serves as the Ned and Carol Spiker Professor and Chief of Acute Care Surgery. He is also a member of the ACS Board of Governors.

Dr. David Spain elected Director of ABS

Drs. Joe Forrester and Tanya Rinderknecht were chosen by the residency program leadership to serve as the Administrative Chief Residents for the 2017-18 academic year. They succeed Drs. Zach Kastenberg and David Worhunsky in that role. The Administrative Chiefs serve a vital role in the residency in maintaining rotation and call schedules throughout all of the hospitals served by the Stanford general surgery residency. Drs. Kastenberg and Worhunsky have already begun the process of transitioning functions to Drs. Forrester and Rinderknecht.

Dr. Forrester was born in California and grew up in Colorado where he learned his love of the outdoors. He went to Colorado College for undergraduate studies prior to medical school at the University of Virginia. During his schooling, he also earned an MS in Infectious Disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He spent his professional development time as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the CDC, and is interested in pursuing a fellowship in trauma/critical care. He is engaged to Hilary Bagshaw, a radiation oncologist.

Dr. Tanya Rinderknecht was born in Switzerland, but grew up in California. She went to high school in the Bay Area in San Carlos where she was a three-sport athlete in soccer, basketball and volleyball. She went on to attend undergraduate at Brown University where she was also a member of the volleyball team. She remained at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown for her MD. She spent her professional development years in a design fellowship at IDEO, one of the leading device design companies in the world. She will be pursuing a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery. She is married to Allen Taylor.

Administrative Chief Residents chosen for 2017-18
Dr. Lisa Moody is joining the Stanford Department of Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery. She obtained her schooling in Florida where she attended the University of Central Florida for undergraduate and the University of South Florida for medical school. She was accepted into the integrated plastic surgery residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston before coming to Stanford where she has completed two separate fellowships in microsurgery and hand surgery. Dr. Moody will have her primary responsibilities building the plastic surgery program at ValleyCare in Pleasanton. Additionally, she will contribute to the clinical programs at Stanford and at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Her practice will encompass all aspects of plastic surgery including breast reconstruction and hand surgery.

Miquell Miller (PGY3) has been one of the main organizers of an effort by the medical center to increase diversity in the medical workforce. This was from a dinner sponsored by the Office of Graduate Medical Education for residents at the medical center in under-represented minorities and was supported in part by the Department of Surgery.

Amy Gallo ('09), Aleah Brubaker (PGY3) and medical student Matt Stoltz at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) 2017 Winter Symposium where their poster won a Top Poster of Distinction Award. Also prominent in the program were a number of Stanford faculty and alumni including Drs. Oscar Salvatierra, Carlos Esquivel, and Daniela Ladner ('06).

Graeme Rosenberg (PD) has been productive during his professional development time. He presented abstracts at the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) Annual Meeting (above) and at the Pacific Coast Surgical Association (PCSA).

Adam Sang (PD) received the Young Investigator Award for the American Transplant Congress (ATC) in 2017. The ATC is the joint meeting of the ASTS and the American Society for Transplantation (AST), and will take place in Chicago. Award winners were chosen for their abstract’s degree of excellence. Dr. Sang performs his research with Drs. Carlos Esquivel and Olivia Martinez.
From the Program Director

Thanks to enthusiastic participation from the staff, faculty, and residents, we have successfully recruited an outstanding and diverse class of interns who will be our future colleagues. I have complete confidence that they will be as successful as our outstanding graduates of 2017 are. Speaking of whom, I look forward to celebrating their accomplishments at the annual graduation dinner on June 16, 2017. In the next issue, we will share the bios of the incoming interns and celebrate the success of our upcoming graduates.

Recognizing the growing number of surgical educational opportunities at Stanford, the ACGME Residency Review Committee has approved our expansion to seven categorical residents per year. I would like to give credit to the general surgery faculty as a group for dramatically increasing their volume and the number of educational opportunities over the past several years. We will undergo this expansion thoughtfully to ensure that our residents continue to get outstanding training preparing them to be leaders in our field. Therefore, next year only the PGY-1 and PGY-2 classes will expand to seven. The senior years will be filled in subsequently in future years as we consider further incorporating some early specialization in our program.

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you at the various year-end celebrations!

Sincerely,

Marc L. Melcher, MD, PhD
Program Director
General Surgery Residency
Stanford University

Other Notable Events of Residents, Faculty and Alumni

Cindy Kin (‘11) gave birth to Romy Yuling Gheorghe on March 10.
Blake Read (PGY5) matched in the colorectal surgery fellowship at Mount Sinai in New York.
Stanford Residency Alumni

We take this opportunity to ask you to reengage with the place where you trained. The Stanford Department of Surgery has a long, rich heritage of which you are an important part. Please take the time to fill out the response form below to let us know where you are now and how you are doing. Email the information below to anita.hagan@stanford.edu. Alternatively, send the form via mail, or fax to:

Stanford Surgery Training Program
H3691
300 Pasteur Dr.
Stanford, CA 94305
FAX: 650-724-9806

Last name:
Maiden name (if applicable):
First name:
Home address:

Work address:

Email address:

Year of residency completion:
Current practice or position: