The quarterly newsletter of the Stanford University General Surgery Residency Program for members, alumni and friends.

Stanford Surgery’s version of the now iconic New Yorker cover. Susan Pitt, MD, MPHS, an endocrine surgeon at the University of Wisconsin, encouraged women in surgery throughout the world to replicate the photo to show how many there were in the field.
Another new academic year brings many new plans for Stanford Surgery and some bittersweet departures. This year we celebrated our 6 wonderful chief residents who will all receive advance training in pediatric surgery, surgical oncology, endocrine surgery and colorectal surgery. I’m excited to follow their careers as I know they will all make substantive contributions to our field.

Dr. Mark Welton has taken a position as the Chief Medical Officer for Fairview Health System, headquartered in Minneapolis MN and including the University of Minnesota Hospital where he will have a faculty appointment. We are so proud of Dr. Welton’s accomplishments at Stanford as Section Chief of Colorectal Surgery as well as the immediate past-Chief of Staff for Stanford Healthcare. I know he will put his amazing talents to great use for Fairview and he will be sorely missed!

Dr. Ralph Greco, a Stanford legend will be retiring August 31. Thank you to all the alumni who were able to make it back for the wonderful celebration of Dr. Greco this spring. I can’t tell you how meaningful it was to see Dr. Greco’s trainees en masse – he certainly has had an impact here at Stanford and beyond!

Another Stanford legend has also retired effective June 30th. Dr. David Gregg, the consummate surgeon and educator has contributed so much to training our surgeons to be great technical, professional and effective surgeons. His contributions to the Acute Care Surgery Service will be missed day and night!

We welcome Dr. Brooke Gurland from the Cleveland Clinic to the Colorectal Section. Dr. Gurland will lead our Pelvic Floor Clinic and strengthen the Colorectal Section’s clinical programs in anticipation of a Stanford colorectal fellowship.

Dr. Aussama Nassar, has joined the Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Section as a critical care/trauma surgeon. Dr. Nassar trained at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON and has a strong interest in surgical education. He received his Masters of Science in Health Science Education from McMaster university and is already having an impact on surgical education at Stanford.

Thank you for staying engaged in Stanford Surgery and we welcome you back anytime!

Warm regards,

Mary Hawn, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine
Meet the Incoming Residents

Categorical Interns

Auriel August, MD - Dartmouth University

Auriel grew up in Florida and studied biomedical engineering at Duke, where she also competed on the equestrian team. She went to Dartmouth for medical school where she received a grant to study the impact of HIV infection on pulmonary function in East Africa, and developed her interests in global health.

Carlos Ayala, MD, PhD - University of Minnesota

Carlos was born in Puerto Rico and went to college at the University of Puerto Rico. He was accepted to the MSTP program at the University of Minnesota where he studied starvation-induced autophagy in Drosophila for his PhD. His current interests are in surgical oncology.

Peter Cha, MD - University of California, Los Angeles

Peter grew up in Los Angeles and earned a degree in business economics at UCLA. He started first in the investment world working for a hedge fund before finding his true calling and returning to medical school at UCLA. He worked on the role of stem cells in tissue repair, and learned to enjoy surgery during his trauma rotation.

Jeff Choi, MD - Stanford University

Jeff was born in Korea and has lived most recently in Canada. He attended Cornell for undergraduate where he studied policy analysis and management. He came to Stanford for medical school where he also was a senior partner in the Stanford Healthcare Consulting Group.

Sue Fu, MD - Case Western Reserve University

Sue grew up locally in Palo Alto and went to Gunn High School. She completed a double major in neuroscience and economics at Williams College and spent several years as an investment banker in New York before returning to medical school at Case Western. She has found her finance skills very helpful in understanding healthcare policy.

Alfred Song, MD, PhD - Baylor University

Alfred grew up in Texas and stayed in there for undergraduate at the University of Texas in Austin. He also earned a PhD in biomedical engineering before he realized seeing patients would help in designing new therapies. This led him to medical school at Baylor where he hoped to find a way to translate his ideas.

Kirbi Yelorda, MD - University of Missouri, Kansas City

Kirbi is from the Midwest having been born in Michigan and raised in Kansas City. She was accepted to the combined BA/MD program at the University of Missouri from which she just graduated. She performed research in quality improvement programs while a medical student. She also has the distinction of being the only resident with a black belt in taekwondo.

Preliminary Interns

Wilson Alobuia, MD - University of Arkansas

Wilson was born and raised in Ghana. He came to the US 8 years ago to attend the University of Central Arkansas followed by medical school at the University of Arkansas.
Notable Publications

The following selected peer-reviewed publications were authored by Stanford surgeons as noted in bold.


Kin C, Kate Bundorf M. As infliximab use for ulcerative colitis has increased, so has the rate of surgical resection. J Gastrointest Surg. 2017. Epub ahead of print.


Lynne Martin, MD - Boston University

Lynne grew up in Arizona and was a competitive gymnast until derailed by injuries. She switched to diving where she was team captain at Trinity University. She went to Boston for medical school and will join the interventional radiology residency here at Stanford after this year.

Sarah Cheng, MD - Stanford University

Sarah grew up in Southern California and came to Stanford for college. She spent a year doing research in neuroscience at the NIH prior to returning to Stanford for medical school. After her internship, she begins ophthalmology at UCLA with plans to complete a neuroscience PhD during her clinical training.

James Hui, MD, PhD - University of Pennsylvania

James lived in Xi’an, China until age 12 when he moved to Los Angeles. He earned his undergraduate degree at UCLA. During medical school, he also earned his PhD in bioengineering studying biomedical imaging. He will enter residency in interventional radiology after his internship.

Stephan Leung, MD - Penn State University

Stephan grew up in Oregon and the Bay Area before heading to UCSF for undergraduate where he conducted research in microbiology. He went on to medical school at Penn State.

Allen Young, MD - Johns Hopkins University

Allen lived in rural China until age 6. He has lived throughout the US, mostly in the Midwest. He attended college at UAB where he also obtained an MPH based upon his experiences in global health. He went to Johns Hopkins for medical school where he did further research on healthcare disparities.

Joshua Jaramillo, MD - Stanford University

Josh returns to Stanford after completing his internship at Brigham and Women’s so he and his family could be closer to friends and support. He went to medical school here and performed research with Drs. Bruzoni and Weiser. He went to undergraduate at BYU.

Michael Chung, MD - University of Kentucky

Michael was raised in Southern California where he was an undergraduate at UCLA. He subsequently went to the University of Kentucky for medical school. He completed his internship at Duke University prior to doing two years of research at the University of Michigan and coming to Stanford.

Hamid Alipoiur, MD - Kermanshah University

Hamid was born and raised in Karaj, Iran. He subsequently came to the United States to perform clinical research at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He subsequently completed his internship in general surgery at Harbor-UCLA and is excited to continue his surgical training here at Stanford.
Jeong Hyun, MD graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He is heading to a pediatric surgery fellowship at the Mercy Children’s Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

Zach Kastenberg, MD, came to Stanford from Harvard Medical School. He will be going to the pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Utah. He was one of the administrative chiefs for the year.

Hadiza Kazaure, MD, was a graduate of the Yale School of Medicine. She is headed to the endocrine surgery fellowship at Duke University Medical Center.

Geoff Krampitz, MD, PhD completed medical school at Stanford and obtained his PhD during residency as part of the ARTS program. He is headed to a surgical oncology fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Blake Read, MD, graduated from Jefferson Medical College prior to coming to Stanford. He is headed to a colorectal surgery fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

David Worhunsky, MD, graduated from Harvard Medical School. He is headed to the pediatric surgery fellowship at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He was one of the administrative chiefs for the year.
At the end of every academic year, the last Departmental Grand Round has been reserved for the graduating chief residents. It gives them an opportunity to reflect upon their time at Stanford, and to lampoon the faculty, their fellow residents and themselves. It is always highly anticipated and is by far the most highly attended Grand Round of the year. These presentations serve as the valedictory of the chiefs, and are both humorous and inspiring. The Grand Round was prefaced by the annual department photo as everyone gathers to celebrate another graduating class.
2017 Chief Residents’ Dinner

1. The graduating class of 2017 with Marc Melcher: (l to r) Geoff Krampitz, Dave Worhunsky, Blake Read, Hadiza Kazuare, Jeong Hyun, and Zach Kastenberg.

2. Mark Welton, Betty Oberhelman, Mary Hawn, and Marc Melcher

3. Marc Melcher, Zach Kastenberg and Tom Krummel

4. Andy Shelton with Tanya Rinderknecht

5. Blake Read and his family

6. Mary Hawn chatting with guests

7. Clem Marshall, Cindy Kin (’11) and JoAnn Smithson

8. Joy Chen and Micaela Esquivel

9. The incoming intern class: (l to r) Peter Cha, Sue Fu, Jeff Choi, Auriel August, Albert Song, Kirby Yelorda, and Carlos Ayala
2017 Chief Residents’ Dinner

1. A bunch of happy residents at the end of internship
2. Patricia Raines and Joe Forrester
3. Dave Worhunsky and Lou Salamone (‘14)
4. Natalie Kirilcuk (‘10), Tami Daugherty, and Mark Welton
5. Marc Melcher (‘04) and Mediget Teshome (‘13)
6. Graeme Rosenberg mingling
7. Marc Melcher (‘04), Paul Maggio, Andy Shelton, and Motaz Qadan (‘14)
8. Kristi Rumer and Jeff Jopling
9. Ryan and Anita Hagan
10. Gary Weissenfluh (‘10) and Mark Welton
11. Dave Worhunsky, Raja Narayan and Charles Liu
1 Hadiza Kazaure and Sherry Wren
2 A beautiful new venue on campus
3 Joe Forrester, Tom Weiser, Allen Taylor, and Tanya Rinderknecht
4 Lauren Wood, Ken Perrone, Jeff Choi, and Charles Liu
5 Lou Salamone (’14) in special attire to present Dave Worhunsky
6 Carmen and Brendan Visser, Matias Bruzoni, and Dave Worhunsky
7 David Gregg, Dave Worhunsky and Matt Mell (’92)
8 Neil Regan, Ken Perrone and Ali Rashan
9 Hadiza Kazaure seems happy
10 Auriel August, Kirbi Yelorda, Miquell Miller, and Mediget Teshome (’13)
11 Aleah Brubaker and Graeme Rosenberg photobomb the incoming interns
Doherty gave 2017 Holman Lecture

Dr. Jerry Doherty, Moseley Professor of Surgery at Harvard, Crowley Family Distinguished Chair of Surgery at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Surgeon-in-Chief of Brigham Health and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, gave the Holman Lecture during Holman Research Day. In addition to providing his insights on thyroid surgery for malignancy, Dr. Doherty also detailed the historic links between Stanford and the Peter Bent Brigham, where Emile Holman completed his surgical training.

Holman Research Day was coordinated by the Vice Chairs for Clinical and Basic Research, Drs. Arden Morris and Geoff Gurtner, and featured presentations and posters from individuals performing research within the department. Dr. Aleah Brubaker (PGY4, pictured above) was awarded Best Basic/Translational Research Presentation, and Dr. Ashley Titan (PGY2) was awarded Best Clinical Research Presentation. The award for Best Basic/Translational Research Poster went to Owen Marecic, who is just starting medical school at Stanford and Best Clinical Research Poster went to Dr. Jeff Choi, who just graduated and began residency at Stanford.

Stanford at the Northern California ACS Chapter Meeting

The Northern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons met on April 29 at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. Stanford was highly represented throughout the program by several speakers including Drs. Mary Hawn, Arden Morris, and Tim Browder. A number of faculty and alumni are officers including Tim Browder, Dan Eisenberg and Danagra Ikossi ('08).

Stanford residents also played a prominent role during the meeting. Drs. Ken Perrone and Clem Marshall (pictured above) won the laparoscopic skills competition. Dr. Marshall also serves as the Resident & Associate Society representative from the chapter. Dr. Adam Sang won the Thomas Russell Resident Research Award for the best presentation from the chapter meeting.
Every summer, we welcome in a new group of interns. In addition to categorical and preliminary residents in general surgery, our department also has interns from the ENT, orthopedic, plastics, cardiac and vascular residencies. Profiles of the new interns in general surgery are in the preceding pages of this newsletter.

Orientation began with intern bootcamp as shown below. Drs. Mary Hawn, Marc Melcher and James Lau represent the leadership in the department focused on the progress of the residency.

New interns were instructed on the basics including patient hand-offs, emergency situations, and placement of central lines. They also received training in the electronic medical record, got their identification badges, and received the white coats of the Stanford medical house staff.

A couple of faculty were recipients of major awards from the medical school. Dr. Stephan Busque (above left), Professor of Abdominal Transplantation, was given the Arthur L. Bloomfield Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Clinical Medicine. Dr. James Lau (above right), Professor of Minimally Invasive Surgery, received the Alvin B. Rambar-James B.D. Mark Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

Also winning an award, but not pictured was Dr. Martin Bronk ('84), Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery. He was given the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Pre-Clinical Teaching. Finally, Dr. Lindsay Sceats received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award for Humanism and Excellence in Teaching during her PGY2 year. She is now working on clinical research with Dr. Cindy Kin during her professional development time.
Dr. Ralph Greco came to the Stanford Department of Surgery in 2000 to serve as Chief of the Division of General Surgery and as Program Director of the general surgery residency. He served in those roles for a decade, and helped to train a generation of Stanford surgeons. A retirement party was held in celebration of his long career, and a large number of former trainees traveled from around the country to pay their respects to him.

During his decade in charge of the residency, Dr. Greco would have a major impact on the residents recruited to the program and on their path afterwards. His influence could be seen in the diverse group of former trainees that gathered to celebrate his career.
Dr. Mark Welton left Stanford after over a decade as Chief of Colorectal Surgery. To celebrate his accomplishments at Stanford, a farewell reception was held in his honor.

1 Andy Shelton, Mark Welton, Mary Hawn and Irene Wapnir
2 Dave Worhunsky and Blake Read
3 It was not easy for Mark Welton to give his farewell to Stanford
4 Jeff Norton making comments on Mark Welton’s accomplishments as Chief of Colorectal Surgery
5 Arash Momeni, Geoff Gurtner and James Chang
6 The band
7 Mark Welton and Andy Shelton
8 Andy Shelton, Zach Kastenberg, William Kethman
9 Larry Shuer and Mark Welton
10 Mary Hawn and David Spain
11 As a parting gift, Mark Welton receives appropriate gear for his new job in Minneapolis
Gordon Lee receives Program Director Award

Dr. Gordon Lee, Associate Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, was named the 2017 recipient of the Stanford Health Care Program Director Award. He serves as the Program Director for the integrated plastic surgery residency at Stanford.

Dr. Lee was selected by multiple peers at the medical center and was the overwhelming choice of the award committee. During his tenure as Program Director, he has positively influenced it in multiple ways.

Dr. Lee completed undergraduate at UCLA before coming to Stanford for medical school. He returned to UCLA to complete their combined general and plastic surgery residency followed by a fellowship in microsurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Mark Welton is now CMO of Fairview Health System

Dr. Mark Welton left his position as the Harry Oberhelman Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Section of Colorectal Surgery to become Chief Medical Officer for the Fairview Health System. Fairview is an 11 hospital system based in Minneapolis, MN and includes the University of Minnesota Hospital. In addition to his leadership roles within the department, he has also served as the Medical Director for the Stanford Cancer Center and Chief of Staff for the Stanford Medical Center.

Dr. Welton attended undergraduate at the University of California, Davis followed by medical school and residency at UCLA. He completed his colorectal surgery fellowship at Washington University, and was faculty at UCSF prior to coming to Stanford.

2017 Kountz Diversity Fellow

Mignote Yilma was selected to be the 2017 Samuel L. Kountz Diversity Fellow at Stanford. She is currently in her final year of medical school at the David Geffen School of Medicine/Charles Drew in Los Angeles. She was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she lived until the age of 14.

Mignote succeeded here in the US and came to Stanford for her undergraduate degree in human biology. After spending several years working, she entered medical school in Los Angeles. She has done clinical research in the Department of Surgery at UCLA with Michael Yeh, an endocrine surgeon, and Elaine Cheng, a transplant surgeon, for which she earned the Viola Hyde Scholarship. She is excited for a chance to return to the Farm. Please welcome her when she rotates in the fall.
Year-end Events

The end of the year brings along a number of events designed to allow everyone to socialize and enjoy time together outside of the hospital. Every year, there is a faculty-resident softball game, and this year’s took place on campus on the Sand Hill fields adjacent to the medical center. Resident Appreciation Day takes place on the same day as the Chiefs’ Dinner. Residents are excused from work after the completion of morning rounds and take part in various activities. Always popular is the women’s spa day hosted this year by Sherry Wren and Mary Hawn. Equally popular has been paintball where residents are allowed to shoot attendings without reprisal.

1 The women of Stanford Surgery
2 Resident-faculty softball game at the Sand Hill fields
3 Aleah Brubaker and Graeme Rosenberg get their game faces on
4 Micaela Esquivel is wondering if she can use her feet instead of her hands
5 The dogs of war cry havoc
6 The skills of the resident softball team were markedly improved when they brought in a dog to be head coach
Intern graduation has been a far more informal event. The Tied House in Mountain View has served as the venue for this event for over 15 years, and serves as a casual place to celebrate the end of a long and challenging year.

The event is hosted by the department, but the true hosts are the outgoing and incoming chief residents. It is a chance for them to acknowledge the people who formed the backbone of all the surgical teams. It is here that the graduating interns receive their certificates from their chief residents.

An important part of this event is to remind us of the link between the most senior and junior residents on the team. It is a reflection of one of the strengths of the program, the mutual respect and affection of fellow residents throughout the years.
Year-End Awards

Best Service Award (voted by each PGY year)
PGY1 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, general surgery
PGY2 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, general surgery
PGY3 - Surgical Oncology 3
PGY4 - Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, general surgery
PGY5 - Surgical Oncology 2

Top ABSITE Scores
Travis Miller
Tanya Rinderknecht
David Worhunsky

Intern of the Year (voted on by PGY4+5s)
Albert Pedroza

Consult Resident of the Year (voted on by attendings)
Francesca Salipur

Best Teacher Award (voted on by medical students)
Laura Mazer

Resident Research Award (voted on by faculty committee)
Recognizing the best research work from the past year
Tiffany Sinclair

Kountz Humanitarian Award (nominated by residents and faculty)
Recognizing compassion, professionalism and dignity for all
Tanya Rinderknecht

Chief Resident Award (voted on by graduating chief residents)
Recognizing the attending most of service to the residency
Mark Welton

John Henry Smith Award (voted on by residents)
Recognizing the resident most admired by their peers
Zach Kastenberg

John Collins Award (voted on by residents)
Recognizing the attending contributing most to resident education
Lou Salamone

1 Mark Welton given Chief Resident Award
2 John Sherck and David Gregg receive awards in recognition of their years of service to Stanford
3 Tiffany Sinclair had best research paper
4 Lou Salamone wins Collins Award
5 Tanya Rinderknecht wins Kountz Award
6 Zach Kastenberg is the Smith Award winner
7 Laura Mazer wins Best Teacher Award
8 Francesca Salipur is Consult Resident of the Year
9 Albert Pedroza is Intern of the Year
New faculty join the department

Two new faculty members have recently joined the department. Dr. Aussama Nassar comes to Stanford from Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Prior to that he was at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He completed medical school at Al-Mustansiriya College of Medicine in Iraq before a residency in general surgery followed by a critical care fellowship at McMaster. Additionally, he obtained an MSc in Health Science Education at McMaster. He will be joining the Section of Trauma and Critical Care. His academic interests are in surgical education, specifically on the use of simulation for developing interpersonal collaboration and patient safety.

Dr. Brooke Gurland comes to Stanford from the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio where she had been on faculty for over a decade. She earned her MD at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She completed her general surgery residency at Mount Sinai in New York followed by a colorectal surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida. She has a clinical interest in pelvic floor dysfunction in elderly women. She will be heading the new Stanford Pelvic Health Center that will be opening on the Redwood City campus.

Stanford at the SNMA

The Stanford Department of Surgery is strongly committed to promoting diversity in the field of surgery and especially within academic surgery. Members of the department actively recruit members of under-represented minorities to consider coming to Stanford for their surgical training. This year, Miquell Miller, PGY4, and Anita Hagan, residency coordinator, attended the annual meeting of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The SNMA is the oldest medical student run organization in the country and is focused on improving minority representation in the medical community. This year, Wilson Alobuia, one of our new interns visited them at their booth.
From the Program Director

Let us welcome our new interns to the general surgery program including: Wilson Alobuia, Auriel August, Carlos Ayala, Peter Cha, Sarah Cheng, Jeff Choi, Sue Fu, James Hui, Stephan Leung, Lynne Martin, Alfred Song, and Kirbi Yerlorda. In addition, I would like to welcome the PGy-2 residents new to our program, Hamid Alipour, Michael Chung, and Joshua Jarimillo. We are privileged to be able to recruit this talented and dedicated group, and I look forward to working with all of them.

The Stanford General Surgery Residency has recently benefited from generous gifts that we are putting to use. A donation from Drs. Anjani and Vijaya Thakur has enabled us to establish a fund that will purchase of surgical loupes for our categorical residents entering their second year. The Li Ka Shing foundation has also made a generous donation to fund the Li Ka Shing Surgeons Scholar Program. This year’s awardee, Dr. Miquell Miller, will use the grant to pursue a Masters in Health Services Research under the mentorship of Dr. Arden and Dr. Kin. Such contributions allow us to be even more innovative as we strive to train future leaders in surgery.

Finally, with great appreciation, we thank JoAnn Smithson for her dedication to our program over the past 19 years. She has on boarded nearly 500 surgical interns and guided 102 chief residents through graduation. Among other qualities, I will miss her positivity, insight, and attention to detail, but we are very fortunate to have hired Perteek Gill Mohar to take on the many duties that JoAnn performed so well. Please give a warm welcome to Perteek when you see her around.

Sincerely,

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

Join us at the 2017 ACS Clinical Congress

Dr. Mary Hawn, Chair of the Stanford Department of Surgery cordially invites all members, alumni and friends of the Department to attend a cocktail reception at the 103rd Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

Monday, October 23, 2017
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel
1 Market Pl., San Diego, CA 92101
Regatta A-B
No RSVP required
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: