Earlier this quarter, our community faced many discussions and challenges related to the nursing strike—we sincerely appreciate your patience, strength, and dedication to our patients. We are one community, and with the nursing strike beyond us now, we are eager to continue serving our patients and their families.

Spring was an exciting time for our colleagues and friends to come together at major academic conferences. We had robust participation from our faculty and residents who participated in the AATS 102nd Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in May.

Last month, we celebrated five individuals who completed their fellowships and residency: Drs. Irmina Elliott (Thoracic Fellow), Kevin Goodwin (Cardiac Fellow), Brandon Guenthart (Transplant Fellow), Sumanth Kidambi (I6 Resident), and Melissa Medina (Cardiac Fellow). We are excited by their future endeavors, including two who will transition to full-time faculty. Five new residents and fellows will join our department: Drs. Ioana Baiu, Kelly Higa, Hannah McMullen, Alexander Reed, and Matthew Wingo.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ngan F. Huang for her recent promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. As one of the few research-only faculty in our department, we value her extensive background in bioengineering and cardiovascular medicine.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Louise Sun as the new Division Chief of Cardiac Anesthesiology, starting Fall 2022. We look forward to our collaboration.

Thank you all for your many contributions to our mission and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Joseph Woo, MD
Norman E. Shumway Professor and Chair
Stanford Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery

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In the News

**Stanford Health Care receives 2022 Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award**

The American Heart Association and the Mitral Foundation have recognized Stanford Health Care as a reference center for mitral valve repair surgery. This is the third consecutive year that Stanford has achieved this recognition. [Read more](#).
Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford named among top 10 children’s hospitals in the nation
Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford has been named among the top 10 children’s hospitals in the nation, according to the U.S. News & World Report 2022–23 Best Children’s Hospitals. Read more.

Stanford Health Care ranked top hospital in 2022 Healthgrades Award Ranking
Stanford Health Care is ranked among the top hospitals for cardiac surgery according to the 2022 Healthgrades State Hospitals Ranking. Stanford is ranked #1 in California for cardiac surgery. Read more.

Stanford heart transplant: Exceptional growth, outcomes and accomplishments
Stanford Health Care continues to distinguish itself as a national leader in heart transplants for its high volumes, innovations, and expertise. Read more.

Toddler takes on jungle gym after life-changing heart reconstruction
A multidisciplinary team of cardiovascular surgeons, cardiologists, and congenital heart disease specialists at Stanford Children’s Health helped save Liam who was born with a congenital heart defect. Read more.

Stanford's successful heart transplantation using COVID-19 positive donor
A team of heart surgeons and health care specialists from the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery recently performed their first reported heart transplant on a patient using a COVID-19 positive donor. Read more.

Dr. Leah Backhus named 2022-2023 ELAM Executive Leadership in Health Care Fellow
The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine has selected Leah Backhus, MD, to its Executive Leadership in Health Care. Read more.
Department welcomes four new clinical faculty
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery is excited to welcome four clinical faculty to the department. Please welcome Drs. Irmina Elliott, Brandon Guenthart, and Yihan Lin, who will join as Clinical Assistant Professors, and Dr. Pierre Theodore as Clinical Associate Professor.

Dr. Ngan F. Huang promoted to Associate Professor
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery congratulates Ngan F. Huang, PhD, for her recent promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Huang has built her extensive research career in bioengineering, stem cell biology, and cardiovascular medicine. Read more.

Dr. Ngan F. Huang receives 2022 CVI Seed Grant Award
CVI awarded Ngan F. Huang, PhD, the 2022 Seed Grant Award for her project entitled, “Engineering protease-guided drug delivery to implanted stem cells for treatment of peripheral arterial disease.” Read more.

Dr. Kiah Williams receives two distinguished scholarships
Cardiothoracic surgery resident Kiah Williams, MD, was recently awarded the 2022 Women in Thoracic Surgery Thistlethwaite Scholarship and Dartmouth National Implementation Science Scholarship. Read more.

Heart transplantation over five decades
Hear from experts in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery on a study that found long-term survival after heart transplantation has improved over the last 50 years at Stanford. Watch video.
Assessment of bias in patient safety reporting systems
Stanford researchers, including Elan Burton, MD, MHA, examined whether bias exists in patient safety reporting systems based on demographic characteristics of physicians who are the subject of the event report. Read more.

The next frontier in thoracic surgical oncology
In this piece co-authored by Natalie Liu, MD, intraoperative molecular imaging is a promising technology with several potential applications in thoracic surgical oncology. Read more.

Children's Fund Researcher Spotlight: Dr. Michael Ma
Michael Ma, MD, was featured in the Children's Fund Update published by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. He received a Pilot/Early Career Award from Stanford Maternal & Child Health Research Institute. Read more.

Biomechanical engineering analysis of an acute papillary muscle rupture disease model
Findings from a study on the simulation and biomechanical analysis of acute papillary muscle is featured as Editor’s Choice in the European Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Read more.

Department celebrates graduating residents
In June, the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery celebrated five individuals who completed the Traditional Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship and Integrated Cardiothoracic Surgical Training Program. Congrats to our trainees! Read more.
New residents and fellows join department starting summer 2022
We are excited to welcome the newest residents and fellows to the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery! Please welcome Ioana Baiu, Kelly Higa, Hannah McMullen, Alexander Reed, and Matthew Wingo. Read about our residents and fellows.

Department welcomes new cardiothoracic surgery fellows
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery is thrilled to welcome two new fellows to the Traditional Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship! Katherine Giuliano Verde and Lillian Tsai will start their training in August of 2023. Read more.

AATS 102nd Annual Meeting features department faculty and residents
The American Association for Thoracic Surgery 102nd Annual Meeting featured the latest clinical and research expertise from the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in May 2022. Read more.

Department clinical and research expertise showcased at WTSA 48th Annual Meeting
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery showcased its clinical and research expertise at the Western Thoracic Surgical Association 48th Annual Meeting in June 2022. See program.

The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery is dedicated to conducting cutting-edge research. Check out more of our faculty publications.


**Biomechanical engineering analysis of an acute papillary muscle rupture disease model using an innovative 3D-
Invited commentary: the choice between mechanical versus biologic mitral valves is becoming clear. What next?

Generation of a dual edited human induced pluripotent stem cell Myl7-GFP reporter line with inducible CRISPRi/dCas9.

Biomechanical analysis of neochordal repair error from diastolic phase inversion of static left ventricular pressurization.

Ex vivo biomechanical analysis of flexible versus rigid annuloplasty rings in mitral valves using a novel annular dilation system.

Newsletter ideas, feedback, or comments? Email Roxanna Van Norman.

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