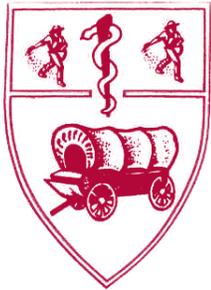




University of Oklahoma

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

SURGERY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2006



Chairman's Message

This is the first volume of a new publication from the University of Oklahoma Department of Surgery. The purpose is to keep our alumni informed about the department and updated on the activities of the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society. We hope you will find it informative and enjoyable.

Much activity is going on in the department related to changes that are occurring, The OU MEDICAL CENTER. In October 2005, all of the adult services, including the Trauma Center and the Surgical Services, were relocated to either new or renovated areas in Presbyterian Tower. The existing Everett Tower will be renovated and become the Women and Children's Pavilion. The old Children's Hospital eventually will close. A new overhead walkway now connects Presbyterian and Everett. Additional construction will include an atrium off the west end of Everett and a Continuing Medical Education building that will be built alongside Everett adjacent to the walkway. Construction has already begun on a new Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, which will be completed within 18 months. The Trauma Center includes an all new emergency room as well as trauma rooms with a CT scanner just 20 feet down the hall from the resuscitation rooms. Also opened is a new 34-bed ICU available to the Trauma Center and Cardiac Surgery Services. In addition, four new operating rooms have opened, two of which are dedicated to minimally invasive surgery.

The department continues to grow and has almost doubled in size in the past eight years. In July, we will have an additional surgeon in both Pediatric Surgery and Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. We are actively recruiting in Vascular Surgery

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THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY TURNS 50

Where were you 50 years ago? Some of you may not have been born yet. Others were adapting to the new changes in economics, politics, education and technology brought on by the post war years.

Significant changes were taking place in medicine as well. Doctors Andre Cournand, Werner Forssmann and Dickinson Richards received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their discoveries concerning heart catheterization and pathological changes in the circulatory system.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education notified universities across the country that they must hire a full-time faculty if the medical school wanted to maintain its accredited status. Until this time, the OU Department of Surgery chairman and faculty were members of the Oklahoma City surgical community. They considered the University Hospital service as part of their private practice, and this included teaching students and residents. Although the residency program had existed since the



1920s, it was not officially approved as a "one year" program until 1930 and, by 1952, it was a four-year program.

What is more important, 50 years ago this July, the Department of Surgery hired a young man just 38 years old, John A. Schilling, M.D., as the first full-time chairman of the Department

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as well. Most of you know that Alex Jacocks, M.D. is now primarily full-time at the VA developing the endovascular surgery program.

Dr. Jacocks continues to serve as the Director of the Residency Program which recently received an outstanding review and five year approval from the Residency Review Committee. We continue to recruit excellent residents, and they are thriving in our program. We have made a number of changes to comply with the residents' 80-hour work week requirements, including the development of a dedicated night call team and hiring physician extenders. The newest challenge is to make sure there is solid communication between the day and night teams. One of the benefits of the new work hour restrictions is a renewed interest in surgery as a career among graduating medical students. In recent years there had been several unfilled Surgical Categorical positions and we feel that the change in the work hours has helped eliminate this problem.

Our research program continues to grow, and provides us with a strong outlet for our surgical residents. We average two residents per year who spend one or two extra years in basic research and are kept quite productive. Daniel Brackett, our research director, will become the president of the Shock Society in June. This is a great honor, and we are all very proud of Danny's accomplishment. We have hired an additional basic scientist, Brenda Smith, Ph.D., who is actively working in a number of areas new to our lab.

The American Board of Surgery recently held its Certifying Examination (oral exam), which is the last step toward board certification in surgery, in Oklahoma City. This exam is to evaluate a candidate's clinical skills in organizing the diagnostic evaluation of common surgical problems and

determining appropriate therapy. Emphasis is placed on the candidate's ability to use background knowledge and training to adequately manage a broad range of clinical problems. We had one of the largest groups of candidates ever and the exam went off without a hitch. Oklahoma City with its changes and improvements was a very pleasant surprise for the American Board of Surgery members and associate examiners who had come from throughout the country to participate. Joni Scott, M.D. ('89) from Springfield, Mo., and Tim Hepner, M.D. ('94) of Tulsa, as well as most of our faculty served as associate examiners. Thanks to Rebecca Andrews, my administrative assistant, for her help.

The most recent G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium was held in October 2005. Many of you participated. We were pleased with the program. The support of the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society for the department and its activities is critical to our continued success. A note from Dr. Dancer, the current OUSS president is included in this edition.

We hope you enjoy reading about the news from the department. We invite you to visit our department offices and the OU MEDICAL CENTER if you are in the Oklahoma City area.

Sincerely,



Russell G. Postier, M.D.

John A. Schilling
Chair in Surgery



The Campus Today

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of Surgery. This marked the beginning of the long, enriching traditions of our surgical education and training program as we still know it today in our department. Now, 50 years later, this is cause for celebration.

Our goal is to celebrate not a set number of years, but rather the accomplishments, trends and innovations of all residents and faculty who have influenced our department during the past five decades. We plan to keep you better informed and welcome your input of news items and anecdotes about your residency or practice today.

A lot has changed since Dr. Schilling first stepped foot in Oklahoma City in 1956. The total Department of Surgery budget on July 1, 1956, was \$35,000. He began recruiting faculty members in 1957, including Merlin K. "Monte" DuVal from Cornell and Rene B. Menguy from the Mayo Clinic. The following year, Gilbert S. Campbell from the University of Minnesota and G. Rainey Williams from Johns Hopkins University joined the Department of Surgery faculty.

When Dr. Schilling became the chair in July 1956, he had two chief residents working beside him in the operating room. They were Karl K. Boatman, M.D. ('57), who is still practicing in Oklahoma City today, and H. Carter Moody, M.D. ('57) who practiced for 30 years in Oklahoma City until his retirement in 1990. Dr. Moody died in 1995.

During the past 50 years, 259 residents completed training in the Department of Surgery.

149	general surgery
44	general and thoracic surgery
4	general and plastic surgery
1	general and pediatric surgery
10	thoracic surgery
39	plastic surgery
12	pediatric surgery
259	total

As part of the College of Medicine Alumni Association meeting this spring, Dr. Ronald Elkins gave a talk on the history of the Department of Surgery. His presentation "Fifty Years of Heritage Building, 1956-2006" focused on the history of the university and the role surgery played from the early days to today. The lecture was videotaped. Please call the Department of Surgery Library, (405) 271-5506, for more information.



Life in 1956...

If you were old enough to own a home, it was probably a little house with two bedrooms that you bought for \$22,000. With your average income of \$4,454, you were able to buy one car for about \$1,750 and the gasoline you put in the car was 23 cents a gallon. This little house had only one phone attached to the wall in the kitchen, and you had one television set with maybe two channels.

At the grocery store, you used cash to buy bread for 18 cents, milk for 97 cents, coffee for 69 cents a pound, eggs for 45 cents a dozen and chuck roast for 33 cents a pound. Beer with six glass bottles was \$1.20.

Headlines in the 1956 newspaper, centered around the political campaign for the presidential election between Dwight Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson. Appearing for the first time was a new column, "Dear Abby."

You could mail your letters with a postage stamp that cost 3 cents.

The Oklahoma Sooners were 10-0 and National Champs for the second year in a row (some things never change). ■

The 12th G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium 2005

POST-SYMPOSIUM REVIEW

Organized in 1984 to honor the career of Dr. G. Rainey Williams and his dedication to surgery and surgical education, the symposium continues his legacy by providing a forum for the members of the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society to continue their surgical education. In 2005, former residents, surgeons and faculty gathered in Oklahoma City from September 28 to October 1 to participate in the 12th G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium.

The symposium opened on Wednesday with a golf tournament at River Oaks Golf Club and a welcome reception. Over the next two and a half days 39 papers were presented and discussed. We had a number of outstanding guest speakers including Dr. Tom Russell, executive director of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Frank Lewis, executive director of the American Board of Surgery, Dr. John Potts ('82), associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Texas Medical School, Houston, and Dr. Chris Ellison, chairman of the Department of Surgery at Ohio State University. The cardiothoracic surgery speakers included Doctors John Chaffin ('80), Scott Cook ('86), Nate Grantham ('75), Robbie Johnson ('83), Michael Pasque, Harold Urschel Jr. and Myron Wheat Jr. This year we added a plastic surgery session that included three guest speakers, Doctors Sam Hamra ('68), David Larson and Norman Schulman.

Both the Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society had business meetings and elected new officers for the upcoming year. Jack T. Dancer, M.D. ('66) is the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society president. If you would like copies of the minutes for these meetings, please contact us.

The symposium concluded on Saturday with a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Tom Russell and Dr. Frank Lewis on the Maintenance of Certification initiative and the Fifth G. Rainey Williams Lecture "The Other Whipple," delivered by Dr. John Potts III, M.D. ('82). Both were excellent. We were pleased that Mrs. Williams and her family joined us for the lecture.

The former resident who traveled the farthest to attend this year's symposium was Bo Johnson ('98) from



Cody, Wyoming, 1,161 miles. John Kessinger ('77) from Panama City, Fla., and Bob Letton ('99) from Charleston, W. Va., also traveled quite a distance. The "youngster award" goes to Don Carter, who finished his general surgery residency in 1965. Dr. Carter was happy to see a couple of his junior residents, Jack Dancer ('66) and Sam Hamra ('68). We had two "newbies," Brady Hagood and Sara Suthers, returning for their first symposium as private practice doctors since finishing their residency in July 2005. Residents from 1984 were the "best group" as Doctors Mark Bodenhamer, John Frame, Teresa Shavney and Rene Willis all returned this year.

The Department of Surgery would like to thank all the guest speakers, faculty and participants for making this year's symposium a success!

While we can't make up for the missed networking opportunities if you were unable to attend the symposium, we can offer you access to presentations by many of the speakers. They are available on the department's Web site.

On the Web site (http://w3.ouhsc.edu/surgery/G_Rainey_Williams_Surgical_Symposium.asp) you will find speaker presentations, the conference brochure and other information relating to the symposium.

The G. Rainey Williams Lecture, "The Other Whipple," given by John R. Potts III, M.D., was videotaped. Please call the Department of Surgery Library, (405) 271-5506, for more information. ■

Highlights Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

The Section of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery maintains its active residency training program, having our full complement of two residents and having received full accreditation at last year's site visit. The American Board of Thoracic Surgery together with the Residency Review Committee have initiated new pathways of training for board qualification and certification, including a specific General Thoracic track and the more traditional Cardiothoracic track. Each track has specific index case number requirements, with emphasis on the focus of the track. In addition, a subspecialty certification for pediatric cardiac surgery, involving a third year of training, has been approved nationally and is being considered here. A new combined seven-year program integrating general surgery and thoracic-cardiovascular surgery training with a transition from the fourth year of general surgery residency into the thoracic surgical program has been approved nationally and is in preparation stages for our program. This allows for earlier selection and more time to acquire broader experience in thoracic and cardiovascular residency.

The Section of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Oklahoma maintains an active program in both adult and pediatric clinical all activity as well as residency training. This includes adult services at Presbyterian Tower and Veterans Administration Hospital and the pediatric program at Children's Hospital. The section is served by five active faculty members and several physician extenders. The pediatric service is particularly involved in the care of all complex congenital

cardiac concerns. The adult service is involved with myocardial revascularization with off-pump and beating heart techniques, complex valve and great vessel reconstruction, and procedures for the surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation. In addition, ongoing activities in clinical and laboratory research for concerns of systemic inflammation in both cardiac and pulmonary disease are a specific focus.

Dr. Chris Knott-Craig recently accepted a prestigious position at the University of Alabama-Birmingham as the chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and will be moving in July. For 15 years, Dr. Knott-Craig has had a remarkable career in Oklahoma having saved the lives of many critically ill infants. We wish him continued success in Birmingham. Thanks and best wishes from us all.

*Marvin D. Peyton, M.D. ('76/'78)
Chief of Thoracic and
Cardiovascular Surgery
Paul and Doris Travis Chair in
Thoracic Surgery*

Highlights Pediatric Surgery

M. Ann Kuhn, M.D. ('05) finished her pediatric surgery residency in June 2005 and started her new career at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va., where she is the heir apparent to the Nuss Empire. If you are not familiar with a Nuss pectus excavatum repair, it is a minimally-invasive approach to repairing pectus defects. Dr. Nuss, her senior partner, developed the technique but is near retirement. We have been performing Nuss repairs successfully since the mid 1990's at our hospital.

New chief resident Jenna Garza, native of McAllen, Texas started in July. Dr. Garza completed her general surgery residency at St.

Louis University where her surgery chairman is a man many of us know, Robbie Johnson, M.D. ('83/'85). Six degrees of separation?

In late August 2005 the pediatric surgery service received approval from the RRC for an additional pediatric surgery resident, one every year instead of every-other year. Sean Skinner, M.D., will be the new pediatric surgery resident starting this July. Sean completed his general surgery training at Ross University. We also were able to lure Bob Letton (Ped-S '99) back to Oklahoma from West Virginia to be our fourth pediatric surgeon starting in July.

Minimally invasive surgery continues to be a focus for our section. We recently performed the third reported laparoscopic excision of an insulinoma in a child.

We are looking forward to our new faculty and resident additions in 2006. We hope to see you all at the next G. Rainey Williams Symposium.

*David W. Tuggle M.D. (Ped Surg '87)
Chief of Pediatric Surgery
CMRI/Paula Milburn-Miller
Chair in Pediatric Surgery*

Highlights Plastic Surgery

The section had a few changes in 2005 that involving both leadership and work space, including the residents' clinic. Dr. Jayesh Panchal moved to private practice in Edmond. Kamal T. Sawan, M.D. was appointed the new section chief. Christian El Amm, M.D., joined the plastic surgery section from Medical College of Wisconsin to care for the pediatric population and manage the craniofacial program. The residents and fellows now have a dedicated resident office in the section. The resident clinic was moved to an

CLASS NOTES

1956-1965 Class Notes

Ernesto M. Espaldon, M.D., who completed his general surgery training at OU in 1959, is now a plastic surgeon and six-term Guam senator. Dr. Espaldon also found time to write a book in 2003 called "The Beloved of God," which discusses the challenges of his medical career in the Philippines.

1966-1975 Class Notes

Has anyone seen or talked to Fritz Johnson, M.D. ('70)? Each time we send mail to him, it is returned. We'd just like to say hello and keep him up to date on what's happening at the OU Department of Surgery.

Only once in the past 50 years have we seen both a father and son as residents in the OU Department of Surgery. Fred Gauthier, M.D. ('70), is a general surgeon practicing in Ardmore, Okla. His son Stephen, completed his general surgery residency in 2004. Stephen will finish a plastic surgery fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina this year and plans to join a plastic surgery group in Oklahoma City this summer.

1976-1985 Class Notes

Terry M. Schroeder, M.D. ('78), recently retired from clinical surgery and plans a new career in service to people within the healthcare community. He and his wife, Paulette, live in Sanford, N.C.

Even though it has been a few years ago, many of you may not know that S. Larry Schlesinger, M.D. (Plastics '80), received the Hawaii Medical Association's Physician of the Year 2000 award.

Lynn H. Harrison Jr., M.D., who served on our faculty from 1979 to 1984, was named Academic Physician of the Year by the OU Medical Alumni Association in 2005. Dr. Harrison was named chief of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Hospital, having moved from New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.

1986-1995 Class Notes

If you should happen to watch the Tennessee Titans football games, watch the sidelines for John C. Austin, M.D. ('88), who is the team physician.

After a second tour of duty in Iraq, John W. "Bucky" Buckner, M.D. ('90) returned safely to his family and friends in Springfield, Mo. Welcome home and thanks, Bucky, for taking care of our soldiers in Iraq.

1996-2005 Class Notes

Robert W. Letton Jr., M.D. (Ped Surg '99) served two tours of duty, one in Iraq and the second in Germany. After Dr. Bob completed his pediatric surgery residency, he served on the faculty at Wake Forest University Medical Center and West Virginia University - Charleston. Now, after a bit of arm twisting from our pediatric surgery staff, Bob has returned to OU.

Missing the early morning rounds of his residency, Randy J. Irwin, M.D. ('99), has picked up a new way to train, namely triathalons. The family Christmas card from Indianapolis this year showed the Irwin's crossing the finish line in the Panama City, Fla. Ironman competition.

Congratulations to Anna K. Clark ('05) and Michael F. Gibson (T.S. '05) who got married in late December 2005. Anna had moved to St. Joseph's, Mo. to start her general surgery practice, while Mike joined a thoracic surgery group in Wichita, Kan. After thinking about it, Anna decided to move to Wichita.

Staff Notes

For the last 39 of the 50 years: Sharon Gammill has been at work in the department. Sharon actually started to work at the Health Sciences Center in 1962 in the nursery for employees children. When the nursery was closed in 1967, Sharon moved to the Department of Surgery as Dr. Williams' secretary. Sharon is now secretary to Doctors Albrecht, Carter, O'Hare and Kulvatunyou. If we are lucky, maybe she will stay around for the next 50 years too. (Not to worry; she has yet to find the bottom of the stack on her desk).■

GUESS WHO?



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upgraded facility on the sixth floor at the Presbyterian Professional Building. In June of 2005, Plastic Surgery was one of the first services to consolidate and move all adult services to Presbyterian Hospital. The faculty clinic moved to the OU Physicians building in December 2005. In terms of technology, we recently installed mirror imaging software to allow a unified database for all patient photos and to practice morphing photos. The outlook for 2006 includes recruiting more faculty to join the section and expansion in areas such as hand surgery and microsurgery. Additional changes will take place in resident education to meet the new competencies set by the ACGME.

*Kamal T. Sawan, M.D.
Chief of Aesthetic and
Reconstructive Surgery*

Highlights Transplant Surgery

The Transplant Section of the Department of Surgery has active programs in kidney and pancreas transplantation. Doctors Larry Pennington and Ron Squires ('94) of General Surgery and Puneet Sindhvani of Urology perform the surgical procedures and manage patients in the early post transplant period. Doctors Pennington and Squires and Ben Cowley Jr. of Nephrology participate in a VA transplant clinic, which meets on Thursday afternoons. Patients with heart, liver, lung, kidney and pancreas transplants are seen in the VA clinic. The OU MEDICAL CENTER hospitals continue to refine and remodel the basic structure of the transplant program with the goal being additional strength. We look forward to expanding the clinical activities of the adult program and developing a closer working relationship with the

pediatric program over the next year. Doctors Squires and Pennington continue to expand their clinical activities outside transplantation with areas of expertise in breast cancer and liver tumors respectively which add to the overall strength of the department. Recent initiatives in basic science research on hepatomas were added this past year.

*Larry R. Pennington, M.D.
Section Chief, Transplant Surgery
G. Rainey Williams Research
Professor*

Highlights Trauma/Surgical Critical Care

The trauma program at OU MEDICAL CENTER was reverified by the American College of Surgeons and recertified by the state of Oklahoma in November of 2004 as the only Level I trauma center in the state. The trauma service has continued to increase yearly and for the reporting year included more than 2,500 patients in the trauma registry and over 1,700 trauma alerts. The large clinical load has not affected outcome. Comparison data to the National Trauma Data Bank has revealed excellent outcomes compared to other Level I trauma centers. The members of the trauma program have been instrumental in trauma system development within the state and the region. The state trauma fund has seen significant improvement in the past year with the passage of several fees and fines bills and a tobacco tax. The disbursement of this fund includes payment to physicians for uncompensated care of trauma patients. The trauma service at the University of Oklahoma moved in October of 2005 (on OU-Texas weekend) to a new floor, ICU and emergency department/trauma

center in Presbyterian Tower. The new facility includes larger trauma resuscitation rooms, a CT scanner within the emergency department and a dedicated elevator directly to the OR. These upgrades have allowed rapid resuscitation and evaluation of the trauma patient. The renovation of Presbyterian Tower also included a new 16-bed trauma intensive care unit on the same floor as the operating area and a 36-bed floor dedicated to trauma and orthopaedics. This has allowed standardization of trauma care as we continue to strive for improved outcomes. New faculty also joined the staff in the Department of Surgery and Anesthesiology to support the trauma and surgical critical care programs. Dr. Narong Kulvatunyou has joined the trauma and surgical critical care faculty. The surgical critical care service has also expanded by adding faculty from the Department of Anesthesia. These two young, well-trained energetic faculty have been added to aide in resident and medical student teaching. Residents from general surgery, anesthesia, emergency medicine and orthopaedic surgery and fourth-year medical students now participate in a teaching rotation in the trauma surgical critical care unit. The future holds further faculty development and expansion of the rotation to include participation in the care of surgery subspecialty and general surgery patients. Jason Lees, M.D. ('05), has signed a letter of intent to return to OU following his Surgical Critical Care training at the University of Miami. We look forward to his return.

*Roxie M. Albrecht, M.D.
Director of Trauma and
Critical Care*

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Highlights Surgical Oncology

During the past year, Dr. William C. Dooley has kept busy with a variety of clinical projects and research. The OU MEDICAL CENTER now offers hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy and isolated hyperthermia limb perfusion for patients with complex advanced tumors. In conjunction with radiation therapy, we are using tissue expanders to develop ideal radiation portals for retroperitoneal and pelvic tumors and similar efforts have been made in breast irradiation. A recent publication in the American Journal of Surgery (2005;190:918-923) which was illustrated by the noted illustrator, Leon Schlossberg, reviews Dr. Dooley's 15 year skin sparing mastectomy procedure. With the renewed vigor of the clinical trials program, enrollments in the surgical oncology trials have exceeded 800 this year and it is expected that more studies will be added in the coming years.

*William C. Dooley, M.D.
G. Rainey Williams Chair in
Surgical Breast Oncology*

Highlights Residency Program

The general surgery residency program continues to attract excellent candidates into the program with a large number of applications for the residency. Appealing features are training in trauma and surgical critical care and the efforts of the faculty to manage the residents' time. Residents can work no more than 80 hours a week, get one day in seven off, and can work no more than 30 hours at a time. Increased numbers of physician extenders and changes in expectations by the faculty and

hospital have allowed the program to become more education driven vs. service driven, including some "elective" time in the fourth-year to tailor the residents' experience to their anticipated practice future. The research opportunities also are an attractive feature of our program and we continue to have two residents at a time doing basic science research. Of the four chiefs who are finishing in June of 2006, two are going into private practice. Glenna D. Caton, M.D. is going into private practice in Cushing and Phil Moyer, M.D., is going to Duncan. Barish Edil is heading to Baltimore, where he will be a Halsted Fellow in general, hepatobiliary and trauma surgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Hamilton S. Le, M.D., was promised "sun and sand" years ago by his Army recruiter and thus he is heading to Fort Irwin, Calif. as the only general surgeon at the base. Hamilton won the 2006 Lloyd and Ruth Rader Trust Award, given to the resident with the most outstanding promise in clinical medicine or research at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. He is the 16th surgery resident to receive this award since 1984.

*M. Alex Jacocks, M.D. ('82)
Residency Program Director
Robert D. Gordon Jr. Chair in
Surgery*

Highlights Surgery Research Lab

Dr. Larry Pennington is involved in a research project with the Surgical Research faculty and residents in collaboration with Dr. Jay Hanas to determine if there are molecules in serum that are unique to liver cancer patients. There are

approximately 100 liver cancer patients per year in Dr. Pennington's clinical practice and one-third of these have primary hepatic tumors (hepatomas) and the others have metastatic disease. This project is focused on the group of liver cancer patients with primary cancers. Under the supervision of Dr. Pennington, sera is collected from liver cancer patients and stored at -80° C. Dr. Hanas, professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and adjunct professor in the Department of Surgery, uses mass spectrometry methodology to process thousands of peptides/small molecules simultaneously in the sera of these liver cancer patients, creating a proteomic profile. This profile is then compared with the profiles of sera from healthy subjects and sera from patients with hepatitis using statistical software to determine if there are significant differences that are associated with the sera from liver cancer patients. If this association is made, this will be the first step in developing a serum-based assay that can be used to screen populations that are at high risk for liver cancer. The availability of such an assay will lead to early detection and treatment for liver cancer, followed by increased survival and improved quality of life.

*Dan Brackett
Director of Surgery Research*



Another ongoing translational research project in the Surgical Research Section of the Department of Surgery is focused on the role of chronic inflammation in vascular and skeletal disease. Recent evidence has shown that low bone density is associated with increased atherosclerosis and peripheral vascular disease and that inflammatory processes may be responsible. To study this connection, Dr. Brenda Smith, in collaboration with Megan Lerner and Daniel Brackett in the Surgical Research Laboratories, has developed an animal model of chronic inflammation that closely mimics the human condition. The model provides the opportunity to follow the development of the vascular and bone pathology (e.g., coronary artery disease and osteoporosis) that occurs over time in response to a very low-grade, chronic inflammatory situation with no apparent signs of the pathologic turmoil that is occurring internally.

Subsequent projects involving surgery research residents Drs. Daniel Morgan, Kent Denson and Kristi Prejeant, have begun to evaluate the hematological and histological features, circulating and tissue levels of cytokines and other inflammatory molecules, and the role of bone marrow cell subpopulations in the etiology of these disease processes. As key mediators are identified in the animal model, these same indicators can be evaluated in at-risk patient populations such as those with chronic pancreatitis or hepatitis, diabetes and vascular disease. In addition to providing insight into the disease process, this animal model will provide a system for developing and testing therapeutic interventions.

*Brenda J. Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Director of
Surgery Research*

Highlights Department of Surgery Library

The Department of Surgery Library, as part of the Department of Surgery for the past 30 years, continues to meet the needs of faculty and residents with the latest technologies. Scanning services, electronic transmission of articles, and maintaining the Department of Surgery Web pages enable the Surgery Library to keep in touch directly with faculty, residents and alumni from their own computers. We were pleased the university honored the Harris Foundation, Judy and Don Garrett ('73), for their many contributions to the Department of Surgery. The recognition, as the Distinguished Medical Institution, took place at the Evening of Excellence dinner this past January.

*Linda R. O'Rourke, M.L.S.
Harris Foundation Professor in
Surgery Library Science*

New Faculty

Joining the Section of Plastic Surgery in August 2005, **Christian A. El Amm, M.D.**, assistant professor, Section of Plastic Surgery, received his medical training at the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, with advanced courses in microsurgery at St. Joseph University and in Beirut. In 2003-2004, Dr. El Amm completed a specialized fellowship in craniofacial surgery at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Dr. El Amm is involved in developing a facial trauma unit for the hospital. Previously, Dr. El Amm was on the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin.



Christian A. El Amm, M.D.



Narong Kulvatunyou, M.D.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital. He joined the OU faculty in September 2003. His interests include breast reconstruction, melanoma skin cancers, and facial and body cosmetic surgery.

He joins Kamal T. Sawan, M.D., assistant professor, recently appointed as section chief of plastic, Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Sawan received his doctorate from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He completed both his general surgery residency and fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery at

Dr. Narong Kulvatunyou joined the Department of Surgery as an assistant professor in trauma and surgical critical care. He is board certified in general surgery with a certificate of added qualifications in surgical critical care. Originally from Bangkok, Thailand, Dr. Kulvatunyou graduated from Berry College in Georgia and received his medical degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He completed his general surgery residency at New York Methodist-Cornell Hospital. He completed two fellowships, one in surgical critical care at the University of Massachusetts, and a research fellowship at the University of Minnesota. Before joining our staff in September 2005, he served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota.

The University of Oklahoma Surgical Society

In September 1984, the Department of Surgery hosted the first G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium to honor Dr. Williams for his loyalty and dedication to the Department of Surgery as a faculty member and chairman. The same year, the University of Oklahoma Surgical Society was established as a fellowship for faculty who served in the Department of Surgery and residents who trained in surgery at the University of Oklahoma and who are an integral and vital part of Oklahoma's surgical traditions. The society's role is to enrich the surgical tradition at OU by supporting surgical research and education and to bind together those who have been a part of the development of the Department of Surgery through the years. The University of Oklahoma Surgical Society has helped raise money for endowments named in Dr. Williams' honor, the G. Rainey Williams Research Professorship and the G. Rainey Williams Chair in Surgical Breast Oncology, and more recently, the endowment of the Department of Surgery Library Professorship honoring the Harris Foundation. Each year the OU Surgical Society provides an award for a research paper presented by our residents at the Research Forum (formerly known as Intern Resident Day). In 2003, Dr. Donald R. Carter ('65), then president of the Society, designed a crimson and cream tie for members. Today, the Society includes 170 members. The current officers are:



Jack T. Dancer, M.D. ('66).
President, Stillwater, Okla.

Mason P. Jett, M.D. ('78)
Vice President, Oklahoma City, Okla.

M. Alex Jacocks, M.D. ('82)
Secretary-Treasurer, Oklahoma City, Okla.

At the October business meeting of the OUSS, the members present launched a fund-raising campaign to raise an additional \$170,000 for the G. Rainey Williams Research Professorship so the endowment can be elevated to an endowed chair for surgical research honoring Dr. Williams and his appreciation for the value of medical research.

We hope you have your calendar marked for the G. Rainey Williams Surgical Symposium and Reunion in September 2007 at the Waterford Hotel in Oklahoma City. Contact us if you have suggestions on how we can make the symposium more enjoyable for you.

Jack T. Dancer, M.D. ('66)
OUSS, President

Legendary Tales

No OU Department of Surgery newsletter would be complete without a Legendary Tales contribution from Dr. Robbie Johnson's little book of miscellaneous information. He sends us a Dr. Schilling story that occurred a few years after Dr. Schilling arrived in Oklahoma.

It was 1961 and the Dow-Jones average hit a high of 732. John F. Kennedy had severed relations with Cuba and advised the "prudent family" to have a bomb shelter. Young Dr. Don Carter was beginning his residency in surgery on July 1, but he hardly expected to be called at 4 a.m. by the Emergency Room with the explanation that he was the "thoracic surgery resident on call." An inebriate with a stab wound to the chest was in need of his services. Dr. Carter recalls that "not only didn't I know that I was on call, I didn't know that I was a thoracic surgeon."

Nevertheless, he rushed to the ER, where he indeed found an intoxicated fellow with a stab wound to the chest. A chest tube was inserted and the emergent nature of the situation was lessened, but there was still the need to do a thorough exam of this trauma victim. The victim's stuporous neurologic state made the evaluation difficult for a resident seasoned only by a few hours of training. Sometime around 6 a.m., he was still trying to rouse the fellow and was pressing to complete the abdominal exam when he felt a tap on his shoulder. He turned to see Dr. Schilling in his long, starched white coat saying, "Ahem, Don, a surgeon must develop gentle hands." ■

In Memoriam

Since we have not had a newsletter for a while, we wanted to include a list of members of the Department of Surgery family we have lost over the years. We would like to remember the following:

<i>David P. Campbell, M.D., faculty</i>	1936-2001
<i>James A. Carson, M.D. ('81)</i>	1947-1998
<i>Thomas H. Henley, M.D. ('62)</i>	1920-2002
<i>William M Holcomb, M.D. ('61)</i>	1931-1992
<i>William T. Johnson Jr., M.D. ('59)</i>	1921-1971
<i>Roy D. Kelly Jr., M.D. ('60)</i>	1928-1992
<i>Kemper C. Lain, M.D. ('71)</i>	1940-1984
<i>Robert Y. Lambert, M.D. ('58).</i>	1926-1997
<i>Wilbur C. Lewis, M.D. ('67)</i>	1930-2004
<i>Edward A. McCune, M.D. ('60)</i>	1930-2005
<i>James A. McLaughlin, M.D.</i>	1924-2005
<i>H. Carter Moody, M.D. ('57)</i>	1921-1995
<i>Edward R. Munnell, M.D., faculty</i>	1921-2005
<i>Carl Behr Nagel, M.D. (64)</i>	1932-1994
<i>Robert T. Nichols, M.D. ('69)</i>	1938-1995
<i>Claude H. Organ Jr., M.D., faculty</i>	1928-2005
<i>William Richardson, M.D., faculty</i>	1921-1994
<i>John A. Schilling, M.D., faculty</i>	1917-1999
<i>E. Ide Smith, M.D., faculty</i>	1924-2003
<i>John J. Stamatis, M.D. ('72)</i>	1941-2001
<i>Thomas C. Sumners, M.D. ('65)</i>	1932-2000
<i>James A. Webb, M.D. ('59)</i>	1925-2002
<i>G. Rainey Williams, M.D., faculty</i>	1925-1997
<i>C.C. Young, M.D. ('68)</i>	1932-1997

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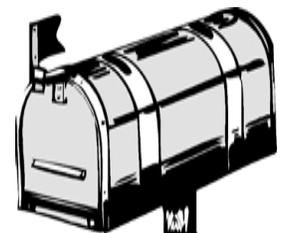
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OU SURGERY ALUMNI

We value your friendship and your personal accomplishments. We hope you will keep in touch and let us know what you would like to hear about or what is important to you. With this newsletter, we plan to keep connected and create stronger ties with our alumni. We do not want this to be exclusively about Department of Surgery campus news, but a forum for news from everyone. So please share your news and let us know what is happening with you, your practice or your family. We welcome your input for the newsletter.



Send your stories or comments to Surgery@ouhsc.edu or call (405) 271-5506.