Welcome to the University of Oklahoma Department of Surgery’s Newsletter. The department has had a very successful 2018 year as we head into 2019. Our department’s mission of clinical excellence, research prowess, and educational leadership will be demonstrated in the first portion of this newsletter. The clinical volume for the department continues to grow and is the engine that drives our department and campus into the future with 22,145 operations.

This clinical growth will continue as our department grows with the addition of outstanding new faculty. This year Natalie Banks-Grisham, M.D. (General Surgery), Scott Blair, D.O. (Trauma/Critical Care), Besem Betek M.D. (Vascular Surgery) and Juan Claros- Sorto, M.D. (Breast Surgery) have joined the department. In addition, in this issue, we will highlight our pediatric ECMO program and the now newly formed adult ECMO program. These programs have been extremely successful thanks to the leadership of Drs. Bob Letton, Ryan Kennedy and Harold Burkhart.

We would also like to introduce the OU Center for the Advancement of Research and Excellence in Surgery (OU CARES) as a new program in the department to help position us as leaders in academic surgery nationally. I hope our students, residents, and faculty will take advantage of this tremendous resource we now have in our department.

I would like to also introduce new leadership in our educational mission. Jeremy Johnson, M.D. and Alex Raines, M.D. will be medical student clerkship co-directors. In addition, Amanda Celli, M.D. will be the new fourth-year medical student director. Finally, in the surgical residency, we have appointed two new Associate Program Directors, Kristina Booth, M.D. and Alisa Cross, M.D.

Our staff also continues to impress me with their accomplishments. SuAnn White, the general surgery residency coordinator, has the distinct honor of becoming the President of the Association of Residency Administrators, one of the highest honors in the field. Jessica Johnson, billing manager, accomplished the tremendous honor of being awarded as OU medicine’s 2018 Volunteer of the year. These are just a few examples of all the accomplishments and awards that will be in this issue.

It is my distinct honor to see all these accomplishments, awards and growth in our department this year. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

- Barish Edil, MD
Department Mission Statement

To improve the health of all people, to deliver excellent, innovative patient care, and to educate physicians and surgeons for the future.

Providing Excellent Clinical Care...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget Location</th>
<th>GENERAL SURGERY</th>
<th>TRAUMA / CRITICAL CARE</th>
<th>PEDIATRIC SURGERY</th>
<th>PLASTIC SURGERY</th>
<th>SURGICAL ONCOLOGY BREAST</th>
<th>SURGICAL ONCOLOGY GI/COLORECTAL</th>
<th>CARDIAC</th>
<th>THORACIC</th>
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Data Collected July 2017 thru June 30, 2018 from all facilities services are rendered

On Board:
- Faculty - 35
- Advance Practice Providers - 30
- Residents - 41
- Research - 7
- Administration/Billing - 39

Department Statistics

- # Patents Filled: 3
- # Active Grants: 3
- # Active Clinical Trials: 6
Teaching the Surgeons of Tomorrow...

Chief Residents
Ben Axtman  Chris Henry  Mary Lindemuth  Cullen McCarthy  Emily Switzer

Fourth Year Residents
Cresci Butler  Jesse Conner  Sjaard Johannesen  Paul McGaha II  Omar Qutob  Noah Rozich  Oscar Talledo  Kayla Watkins

Third Year Residents
Arthur Grimes  Heidi Mahnken  Chance Nichols  Moe Sidani  Kiran Venincasa

Second Year Residents
Franki Boulos  Jackie Isabella  Aditi Jalla  Bailey Kleis  Samara Lewis  Maureen Mannas  Rachael Palumbo

First Year Residents
Dominic Campano  Andi Gaddes  Tyler Leiva  Lindsay Lindsey  Taylor Martin  Andrew Murphy  Areej Sami  Jimmy Tran

Urology First Year Residents
Alek Blubaum  Philip Fish  Thomas Lowrey

Pediatric Surgery Fellows

Plastic Surgery Residents
Adam Nicholas Franklin  Plastic Surg Fellow 7  George Mallaras  Plastic Surg Fellow 6  Matthew Isaiyan  Plastic Surg 6

Katie Wiggins-Dohlin  Ped Surg Fellow 7  Rodrigo Interiano  Ped Surg Fellow 6
OU CARES is designed to facilitate teamwork and increase medical research efficiency and effectiveness. OU CARES will provide physicians with support in areas such as study design, statistical analysis, regulatory compliance, and grant proposals.

With the added support of OU CARES, attending physicians, residents and medical students will be empowered to pursue their research across a broad range of important topics. Specific areas of research within our department currently span the full spectrum of translational science - bench research to outcomes studies- including:

- Novel therapeutics development
- Disparities in delivery of surgery care
- Patient safety/quality improvement

"OU CARES seeks to accelerate the translation of great ideas into groundbreaking science that will benefit our patients," said surgical oncologist Dr. Katherine T. Morris. "The level of support for research in our department is outstanding and is a major reason we will continue to lead the region in the care of complex surgical patients."

OU CARES embodies the department's vision of leading the region in clinical trials, high impact science, ethical industry partnerships, and extramural grant funding. Led by a team of three scientists in the Department of Surgery,
**Katherine Morris, MD, FACS, FRCP Edin**  
**Director, OU CARES**  
- Develops translational research goals in coordination with Surgery Department Leadership  
- Point of Contact for Leadership PIs  
- Mentors residents and faculty in developing their research portfolios  
- Reviews pilot grants  
- Assists with Annual Resident Research Day  
- Assists Ms. Lander with development of departmental auditing process for trials under IRB over next 3 years

**Tabitha Garwe, PhD**  
**Director, OU CARES Outcomes Research**  
- Develops outcomes research goals in coordination with Surgery Department Leadership  
- Mentors residents and faculty in outcomes research projects  
- Assesses and distributes requests for study design and data analysis  
- Reviews pilot grants  
- Assists with Annual Resident Research Day

**Min Li, PhD**  
**Vice Chair for Research, and Director, OU CARES Surgical Bench Sciences and Education**  
- Develops quarterly visiting research scientist program  
- Runs pilot grant program with annual awards  
- Reviews pilot grants  
- Assists with Annual Resident Research Day

**William Berry, PhD**  
**Director, OU CARES Preclinical Experimental Therapeutics**  
- Mentors residents and faculty in designing bench science projects  
- Provides pre-submission review for new and renewing IACUC and IBC protocols  
- Assists with IACUC/IBC regulatory questions  
- Leads Annual Resident Research Day  
- Reviews pilot grants  
- Assists with novel therapeutic target discovery and therapeutic screens incorporating oncoimmunology, small molecules development, and gene correction (e.g. CRISPR) techniques
**Theresa Lander**  
*Research Regulatory Specialist III*  
**Lead Regulatory Support**  
- Assists with IRB applications and iRIS uploads  
- Notifies and assists PI with upcoming IRB renewal/reporting requirements  
- Assists PI with management and reporting of IRB protocol violations  
- Leads assurances of departmental IRB compliance  
- Assists with grants routing  
- Industry trials liaison and budget officer  
- Leads development auditing process for trials under IRB over next 3 years

**Megan Lerner, HT (ASCP)**  
**Lead specimen management and publication support**  
- Lead specimen management and publication support  
- Tissue processing, paraffin microtomy cutting, H&E, Immunohistochemistry, special stains, and figure generation  
- Collaborative bridge between OUHSC, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and non-surgical PIs  
- Assists Lander/McEwen with regulatory adherence, consenting, and sample management  
- Point of contact for requesting medical editor/medical illustrator assistance

**Karla McEwen, RN**  
**Lead Research Nursing support**  
- Point of contact for potential new industry trials  
- Provides clinical nursing support for specimen management and regulatory compliance  
- Provides documentation support and management for clinical trials  
- Assists with clinical trial audit  
- Leads research documentation in inpatient EMR coordination  
- Assists Ms. Lander with development of departmental auditing process for trials under IRB over next 3 years
Dr. William Berry is a Cellular and Molecular Biologist in the Department of Surgery. While he has only been in the department for a short time, he has a very long history with the University of Oklahoma. A native, Dr. Berry grew up in Warr Acres and attended the University of Oklahoma where he received his bachelor degree in both Health & Sports Sciences and Microbiology. He went on to complete both his graduate and post-doctoral fellowship at OUHSC in the Department of Cell Biology. His post-doctoral work involved looking at several transcription factors and their role in myofibroblast formation during cutaneous wound healing and post-operative adhesion formation.

Dr. Berry receives funding from both Presbyterian Health Foundation and Oklahoma Center for Adult Stem Cell Research. He currently has 3 active studies:

1- Looking at the role of myocardin-related transcription factors A and B (MRTF-A and MRTF-B) and Yap1 in Prrx1+ cells during both cutaneous wound healing and cancer-associated fibroblast formation during tumorigenesis.

2- PDGF signaling in the development of abdominal fibrosis. Examining the contribution and requirement of platelet-derived growth factor receptors alpha and beta (PDGFRa and PDGFRb) during the formation of intra-abdominal fibrosis following intra-abdominal surgery. PHF Funded.

3- Enabling technology for the generation of transgenic mice by manipulating the male...
Dr. Berry collaborates with a few surgeons; two of which are Dr. Jeremy Johnson and Dr. Jason Lees. Their collaboration is on the PDGF signaling in the development of abdominal fibrosis. Dr. Johnson helps to procure infant adhesion tissues and Dr. Lees helps to provide adult adhesion tissue. Surgeon involvement is important as they provide critical clinical knowledge of the findings made in the lab and how that may translate in patients. Residents are also integrated into research projects. This allows them an opportunity to learn basic science approaches to better understand human disease and potentially new ways to treat those diseases.

While some of these studies do involve collecting intra-abdominal adhesion tissue from both adults and infants, much of the work is performed on animal models such as mice. However, working with mice does not always adequate replicate human disease. It is critically important to use human samples to validate what is found in the animal models.

Dr. Berry anticipates being in a position to publish the first 2 studies in high impact journals in the next 1-2 years and presenting at several research conferences within the next year. He is working to obtain intellectual property protections on novel technologies or therapeutic approaches using recombinant viruses and CRISPR/Cas9 based gene editing.

When asked what he loves most about research; Dr. Berry responded, "The best part of research is being able to use advanced technologies to discover new things that may one day lead to better treatments." It is really important to have a good collaborative relationship between scientists working at the bench and clinicians working at the bedside. This relationship can greatly increase the chances of a new discovery found at the bench being utilized in the patient.

OCASCR Funded.
Dr. Beteck completed a vascular surgery fellowship at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, and completed a general surgery residency at St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore. Dr. Beteck is board eligible in vascular surgery and specializes in limb salvage surgery for peripheral arterial disease and in treating patients for carotid disease, thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms, dialysis access and chronic venous disease including deep vein thrombosis.

Dr. Claros-Sorto is a fellowship-trained breast surgeon and completed his fellowship at Texas Tech University. He graduated from the William Paterson University with a B.S. in Biology and has a Doctor of Medicine from Meharry Medical College. He completed his general surgery residency at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Banks-Grisham graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in Human Biology and has a Doctor of Medicine from Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She completed her general surgery residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia.

Dr. Blair is a fellowship-trained surgical critical care surgeon and completed his fellowship at the University of Alabama. He also completed his general surgery residency at the University of Alabama. He attended the University of Washington and graduated with a B.S. in Molecular & Cellular Biology as well as a B.A. in Economics. He continued on to Kansas, Missouri where he graduated with a Doctor of Osteopathy, D.O. Dr. Blair also served in the United States Air Force and was a member of the 92nd Civil Engineering Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base.
New Staff & Advance Practice Providers

Sarah Cross  
Nurse Coordinator  
Pediatric Surgery

Heather Files  
Staff Accountant  
Administration

Christy Moslander  
Nurse Practitioner  
Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery

Katherine Opalka  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
Trauma/Critical Care

Courtney Stampley  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
Surgical Oncology-Breast

Shelsea Turner  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
General Surgery

Brandy Vermillion  
Clinic Nurse Navigator  
Pediatric Surgery
Dr. Alex Ruiz-Elizalde was featured on 9News in July 2018 for saving an Oklahoma newborn. The newborn had a congenital diaphragmatic hernia, a birth defect where the diaphragm doesn't form properly allowing her intestines to move into her right lung. Due to the pressure on her lungs, she developed pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Alex Ruiz put her on an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation machine or ECMO. ECMO gives the heart and lungs a break by pumping the blood through a chamber to give it oxygen and then back into the body. The ECMO machine is one of two in the state that can be used for pediatric care.
SuAnn White has been with the Department of Surgery for 10 years as the Senior Resident Program coordinator. She has done an amazing job building the resident program at OU and is leading the way as the new **President of the Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery.**

SuAnn became the President of ARAS in April of 2018. ARAS currently has 312 members. The **Association of Residency Administrators in Surgery** is an organization established as an educational resource, a method for encouraging in the exchange of ideas, and the support network for persons in the position of managing surgery residency programs. ARAS supports and promotes the certification process of training administrators of graduate medical education. SuAnn applied to be a member of the ARAS Executive Committee in Fall of 2014 and was notified of her acceptance in the Spring of 2015. She first held the position of Mentor-Mentee Chair and ACS Liaison then President-Elect and now current President of ARAS.

As President of ARAS, SuAnn recently attended the 5th Annual Surgery Summit Meeting along with members of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS). They met with key members from the American Board of Surgery (ABS), Residency Review Committee (RRC) and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) including John Potts, MD - ACGME Senior Vice President, Surgical Accreditation (OU Graduate) and Jo Buyske from ABS.

SuAnn is working hard and shows no signs of slowing down!
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I am originally from East Texas, but received my Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University. I returned to Texas to obtain my medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston. I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Sciences through OU Graduate College while completing my general surgery residency. I am a father of three children, Hadley and Hailey, twin 6-year-old girls, and a son Hayden who is 2. My wife and I will be married for 10 years in May of 2019.

What brought you to OU Department of Surgery Residency?
My goal upon completion of my general surgery training is to continue into a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Program. OU has a strong clinical program that allows you to work closely with faculty. I wanted to be around the best mentors and advisors for my field. It was a perfect fit for me.

What are your current research interests?
At OUHSC I have been able to participate in a variety of research opportunities. I spend about a lot of my time working with Dr. William Berry. This research involves different aspects of wound healing and creating transgenic mice for specific models in wound healing. I also spend time with Dr. Robert Letton working on Pediatric Trauma research. Currently, I am working on process improvement within pediatric triage. Finally, I have several projects related to surgical education research both locally at OUSHC and on a national scale with the Surgical Curriculum on Resident Education (SCORE) team where we are looking at ways to improve surgical education delivery.

What’s your favorite and most challenging part of research?
My favorite part is discovery. Even if the area has been previously studied research allows consideration of a different perspective which may improve the current standard of practice. The most challenging piece is waiting on results. In surgery, results are seen quickly, but research is very different. I’ve had to learn patience within the research realm.

What is the most helpful advice you’ve received?
Regarding one of our teams’ manuscripts, one of my mentors recently told me to take all critiques with an open mind, and that revisions are there to make your work better. I find this can be applied not only to my current research endeavors but many areas of life.
Which authors or books have influenced you the most?
Prior to medical school, I read Better by Atul Gawande and Complications also by Atul Gawande which influenced me to continue to pursue a career in medicine. Recently, I have been reading Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care by Kenneth M. Ludmerer which has piqued my interest in academic medicine specifically surgical education.

In your free time, what do you like to do?
I enjoy spending time with my family. I also enjoy music and sports. In my free time, I play golf, the guitar, and piano. I have enjoyed coaching my daughter's soccer team a few seasons.

Last Words:
I am grateful for the opportunity to share information about the research opportunities available here at OUHSC for residents. I believe our productivity of research can continue to grow with the new Research Outcomes Unit.

Recent Publications
- McGaha, Paul; Johnson, Jeremy; Garwe, Tabitha; Motghare, Prasenjeet; Daly, William; Letton, Robert “Incidence of Acute Kidney Injury in Severely Injured Pediatric Trauma Patients is not Affected by Receiving IV Contrast”, Accepted July 2018 The American Surgeon, In Press

-Paul McGaha, MD, Prasenjeet Motghare MPH, Zoona Sarwar, MS, Nilda M Garcia, MD, Karla A Lawson, PhD, Amanda Barczyk, PhD, Crystal S Langlais, MPH, Maria E. Linnaus, MD, R. Todd Maxson, MD, James W Eubanks III, MD, Adam C. Alder, MD, David Tuggle, MD, Todd A. Ponsky, MD, Daniel J Ostlie, MD, Shawn D. St. Peter, MD, David M. Notrica, MD, Amina M. Bhatia, MD, Charles M. Leys, MD, Robert Letton, MD, “Negative FAST exam predicts successful non-operative management in pediatric solid organ injury: A prospective ATOMAC study”, Accepted July 2018, Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, PMID:30247443

-Paul McGaha, II, MD; William Vanlandingham, MD; John Maple, DO; Jeremy Johnson, MD “Management of a Traumatic Common Bile Duct Avulsion with an Endoscopic and Transhepatic Rendezvous Procedure” Accepted August 2018, ACS Case Reviews in Surgery, In Press

The OU Live to Give program consists of physicians and staff who donate their time to make Oklahoma a better place. Billing Manager Jessica Johnson and her husband Ricci Johnson have been volunteering with Live to Give for 5 years. They've volunteered countless hours spreading acts of kindness throughout the community. "Those small acts of kindness are part of who I am now. I feel that it is only right to give back when I am able." The Johnson's are building a culture of compassion and volunteerism within their family. "It's important not only to give back to the community, but also raise our children to be aware of circumstances and situations around us and remain open-minded".

You are truly an inspiration and we are grateful to have you as a member of the Department of Surgery.
American College of Surgeons 2018 Initiate

'Attending the convocation for ACS this year was my first time to attend the ACS Congress. I was impressed with the international spread of the ACS and also with the wide range of programming. The convocation was impressive as I was inducted with thousands of other surgeons.'

- Alexander Raines, M.D.

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500th Robot Case

Dr. Raines and his team celebrated their 500th robot case on Tuesday, November 20, 2018. The first robot case was on Dec 1, 2016. "It’s been a fun journey so far,” said Dr. Alex Raines.
'Herding the Unicorn of Culture Change'

Department of Surgery Business Administrator Warren Churchill was invited to speak at the Association of Academic Surgical Administrators meeting in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons meeting in Boston, MA. Mr. Churchill discussed the challenges of a hospital system ownership change in concert with a new department chair and a change in department culture.

Attendings and Residents participate in Geekapalooza

Girl Scouts Western Oklahoma and Metro Family Magazine hosted the annual Geekapalooza: A STEAM Festival for Kids at Oklahoma School of Science & Mathematics. The event encourages kids to learn about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) topics. The Department of Surgery volunteered for the "I look like a surgeon" table at the event.
**CLINICAL**

**Cardiac Service** has a large variety of adult cardiac surgery cases that have increased in number over the past year. They have started having 2 third-year medical students on service every two weeks. Cardiac has also started Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR).

**Thoracic Service** launched the Esophagus, Foregut and Heartburn Surgery Center in Edmond in November 2018. Thoracic recently held its 5th Annual Thoracic Oncology Conference in October. **Dr. Subrato Deb** has been the course director for the past 5 years alongside Dr. Karen Allen. Also in its 5th year is the Thoracic Oncology Multidisciplinary Tumor Board, recently held in October 2018. Since its inception, the tumor board has reviewed over 4,000 patients with emphasis on lung and esophageal cancer. It is the only such Multidisciplinary conference in the state. **Sigrid Johannesen, MD, PGY4** presented a video at the American College of Clinical Congress, Boston in October: Laparoscopic Epiphrenic Diverticulectomy and Myotomy.

Congenital Service has **Dr. Harold Burkhart** named as the Program Chair for the 2018 Annual Meeting for the Congenital Heart Surgeons Society. Patients will be enrolled in the CHSS studies. **Dr. Harold Burkhart** was an invited speaker at The First Cardiac Regenerative Symposium for Congenital Heart Disease presenting our preliminary results with stem cell therapy for HLHS.

**Dr. Jess Thompson** was awarded a grant through the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust. With this grant, he is beginning to examine tobacco use in parents caring for a child with congenital heart disease. His aim is to determine effective methods for having these parents stop using tobacco.

**RESEARCH**

**Dr. Subrato Deb** has been invited to submit a Department of Defense (DoD) proposal on lung cancer diagnosis and treatment after a successful “pre-proposal” was favorably reviewed.

**Dr. Joshua Gierman** recently completed a Phase 3 EVAR study with Trivascular. The “LUCY” study was designed to show that their Ovation® abdominal stent graft platform addressed the more challenging anatomy of female patients with AAA and would have a lower mortality rate with fewer having to convert to open repair over the one year follow-up period.

**Dr. Harold Burkhart** continues to enroll patients in a groundbreaking phase 1 study with Mayo Clinic’s Todd and Karen Wanek Program utilizing stem cell therapy for hypoplastic left heart syndrome. We have successfully enrolled and treated more patients than any of the other four centers involved. The next phase of the study (2B) will begin enrolling patients near the end of 2018 and University of Oklahoma will be one the centers included. **Dr. Jess Thompson** has discovered important information about how caring for a child with congenital heart disease affects the parents. He recently conducted a research project where it was discovered that on the day of their child’s operation, the parents have anxiety at a rate much higher than what is observed in the general population.

**NEW HIRE**: Faculty, Staff & Advanced Practice Providers
Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular welcome 1 new faculty member; **Dr. Besem Beteck**.
Divisional Updates

General Surgery/Trauma Surgery/Critical Care (GTS)

**CLINICAL**
The Department of Surgery established the Adult Extra-corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program in October 2018. ECMO is the process of providing cardiorespiratory support at the bedside in patients who are declining despite maximal medical therapy. The Co-Directors are Harold Burkhart, MD and Ryan Kennedy, MD.

Alisa Cross, MD was promoted to Associate Medical Director of Trauma/Surgical Intensive Care and Director of Emergency General Surgery. Dr. Cross is also the Vice Chair of the Oklahoma Chapter ACS Committee on Trauma. Ryan Kennedy, MD was promoted to Co-Medical Director of Adult ECMO and is the Associate Medical Director of Trauma/Surgical Intensive Care. He was recently inducted as a fellow of the ACS.

Amanda Celli, MD was promoted to Associate Director of Trauma Post-Acute Care. She is also the Associate Director of Trauma Outreach/Education EMS liaison. Jason Lees, MD is the Co-Chair of Wellness and Collegiality for OU Physicians. Alex Raines, MD is the Consultative General Surgeon for the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team. He is also Vice Chair of Surgery for OU Edmond.

**OUTREACH:** General Surgery & Trauma

Dr. Alex Raines presented at Sports Medicine Grand Rounds on November 2, 2018 on Sports Hernias and Athletic Pubalgia.

Dr. Roxie Albrecht presented at Geriatric Trauma Oklahoma EMS Annual Symposium in Norman, Oklahoma.

ATLS courses were held for all incoming surgery residents and numerous residents from other OUHSC programs and community programs. Stop the Bleed – OU Medicine Trauma Program has trained 1749 People since March of 2018 holding 64 classes. There are 5 more classes scheduled for December to hit a goal of 2000 trained by the end of 2019.

**RESEARCH**
GTS has been very busy with new research projects. Dr. Amanda Celli initiated a new project titled “Use of Surgical Fixation for Chest Wall Stabilization in Severe Traumatic Rib Fracture” and OUHSC is the lead center. So far, 4 other trauma centers (Loma Linda, West Virginia University, Spartanburg, SC, and ULV) have joined the study with a few more sites to follow.

The division is also participating in several multi-center studies with Western Trauma Association including: “Current Management of Suspected Retained Common Bile Duct Stones in Gallstone Pancreatitis and Cholelithiasis” and “Blunt Bowel and Mesenteric Injury: A WTA Multi-center Prospective Observational Study” (Dr. Celli) and “Current Diagnosis and Management of Pancreatic Injuries – Western Trauma Association Multi-center Trial” (Dr. Lees).
Dr. Alex Raines is participating in 2 multi-center studies with Southwest Surgical Congress: "Syncope and Falls: Utility of work Up in Patients with Traumatic Injury" and "Approaching Perforated Peptic Ulcer: A Multi-center Survey of Different Treatment Modalities."

Dr. Roxie Albrecht currently has one active industry-sponsored study regarding an antibiotic lock system for salvage of infected long-term central venous catheters.

**NEW HIRES: Faculty, Staff & Advanced Practice Providers**
GTS welcomes 2 new faculty members and 2 new administrative assistants; Dr. Scott Blair, Dr. Natalie Banks-Grisham; Katie Opalka and Shelsea Turner.

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### Divisional Updates

**Pediatric Surgery**

**CLINICAL**
The Division of Pediatric Surgery has just graduated our 25th pediatric surgery fellow this past summer, Dr. Michael Megison, who has moved to San Antonio, TX to start his career. Mike is the nephew of Dr. Steve Megison, who also trained here in 1991 and practices at Dallas Children’s.

Our current fellows are Dr. Katie Wiggins-Dohlvik, who has recently agreed to join the Children’s Hospital of Colorado in Colorado Springs; and Dr. Rodrigo Interiano, who is in the first year of his fellowship. Dr. Alessandra Landman will be returning to OKC next summer to start her pediatric fellowship after finishing her critical care fellowship at Milwaukee Children’s.

Carol Shock has recently retired after many years of service to the pediatric surgery division, to our patients and helping to educate our fellows.

Dr. Jeremy Johnson, our most recent addition to the faculty, has just been named to the role of Co-Director for the 3rd year medical student clerkship for general surgery. Dr. Alex Ruiz has been with the division for the past 4 years and now serves as the Medical Director for pediatric surgery within OUCP. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Ruiz have also recently trained on the DiVinci surgical robot.

Dr. Niki Puffinbarger has been a member of our team for the past 20 years and recently joined the development team who manages the Qualifying Exam for Pediatric Surgery. Dr. Robert Letton has also been with us for the past 20 years and has been very busy with our Level 1 Pediatric Trauma service as its new director ad as the past President of the Pediatric Trauma Society. Dr. Robert Letton also serves as our ECMO program director and as the Associate Program Director for our pediatric surgery fellowship.

Dr. Cameron Mantor serves as our Division Chief, Vice-Chair of General Surgery, fellowship program director, and as the Chief Medical Officer for the Children’s Hospital. Our Children’s Hospital has seen significant growth this decade in the volume of patients cared for in almost all surgical and medical specialties. We have recently opened our new children’s dialysis unit and plan on opening the new 35 bed medical pediatric ICU next spring. This will be followed by the renovation of our surgical ICU’s.
**RESEARCH**

Dr. Robert Letton is participating in several pediatric trauma studies sponsored by ATOMAC (Arizona-Texas-Oklahoma-Memphis-Arkansas Consortium) Pediatric Trauma Research Network including: “A Contemporary Review of Injuries Resulting from ‘Air Guns’ in the Pediatric Population” and “Tablet Based Firearm Safety Project”.

**NEW HIRES:** Faculty, Staff & Advanced Practice Providers

Pediatric welcomes 2 new advanced practice providers; Sarah Cross, RN and Brandy Vermillion, RN.

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**Divisional Updates**

**CLINICAL**

2018 has been a busy year for the division of plastic surgery. We’ve welcomed a new division chief, Dr. Anthony Tufaro from the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Tufaro’s reputation as a world-renowned plastic and reconstructive surgeon with expertise in head and neck oncology, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, thoracic reconstruction and reconstruction after facial trauma have made him one of the leaders in modern plastic surgery. He was awarded the 2018 Castle Connelly Top Doctors for Cancer Care.

Program director, Dr. Suhair Maqusi, who completed her fellowship in hand/microsurgery at the prestigious Kleinert & Kutz Hand Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, allows us the opportunity to care for some of the most challenging surgical patients ranging from reconstructions following devastating hand trauma, to the reconstruction and restoration of function for patients actively involved in numerous research projects involving breast and thoracic reconstruction.

Our pediatric craniofacial specialist, Dr. Christian El-Amm, is one of the busiest craniofacial surgeons in the country. Dr. El-Amm had the privilege of training under Dr. Paul Tessier, who is considered the father of modern craniofacial and cleft surgery. Dr. El-Amm’s robust practice grants us ample opportunities to learn about and care for some of the most complex craniofacial anomalies, and participate in life-changing surgeries for these young patients. Dr. El-Amm also has many exciting research projects underway. His research interest includes craniofacial anomalies and the development and implementation of techniques in virtual surgical planning.

**RESEARCH**

The future of plastic and reconstructive surgery at OUMC is exciting indeed. As we enter 2019, we look forward to the recruitment of additional faculty, the expansion of our program, and the opportunity for additional scholarly activity with the establishment of our own basic science research lab.

**NEW HIRE:** Faculty, Staff & Advance Practice Providers

Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery welcomes 1 new advance practice provider; Christy Moslander, NP.
Divisional Updates

**Surgical Oncology**

**CLINICAL**
The division of Surgical Oncology will have a new division chief, **Dr. Ajay Jain** in February 2019. Surgical Oncology also welcomes a new breast surgeon, **Dr. Juan Carlos Claros-Sorto**.

**Dr. Barish Edil** performed the first laparoscopic Whipple in the state of Oklahoma. Dr. Edil was also invited to speak at the 16th Chinese Pancreatic Surgery Congress, Chinese Society of Surgery in Beijing, China and for OUHSC Heme/Onc Grand Rounds.

**Jan Gamble** will retire as a Senior Administrative Assistant after 25 years of service. She supported Dr. Gierman, Dr. Fischer, Dr. Raines, and Dr. Squires (just to name a few). **Courtney Stampley** joins the division of Surgical Oncology as the new Senior Administrative Assistant for the breast service.

**RESEARCH**
**Dr. Katherine Morris** is the PI on a collaborative pilot project with Baker Hughes GE Oil & Gas Technology Center to evaluate the utility of their imaging software to generate augmented reality/virtual reality images for the OUHSC investigator to view and manipulate to see if the imaging might have a potential application in medical imaging.

**NEW HIRE: Faculty, Staff & Advanced Practice Providers**
Surgical Oncology welcomes 1 new faculty member and 1 new administrative assistant; **Dr. Juan Claros-Sorto** and **Courtney Stampley**.
Resident Updates

Awards and Honors

Sigrid Johannesen, MD (PGY4)
Inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Paul McGaha, II, MD (PGY4)
Awarded the Oklahoma Chapter American College of Surgeons (ACS) Resident Winner

Presentations

Midwest Surgical Association
2018 Annual Meeting
Mackinac Island, MI
8/5/2018 - 8/7/2018
Cressi Bryant, MD (PGY4)
It’s not all hot air: significant pneumoperitoneum without abdominal injury (Oral)

Oklahoma Chapter of ACS Annual Meeting
Tulsa, OK
9/21/2018
Paul McGaha II, MD (PGY4)
Regulation of Myocardin Related Transcription Factors Play a Significant Role in Intestinal Anastomosis Healing (Poster)

Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2)
Sterile Pyuria an Indication of Acute Appendicitis in Children Diffuse optical non-destructive organ risk (DONOR) indexing of significant fibrosis and necrosis in liver parenchyma for pre-transplant evaluation (Poster)
77th Annual Meeting of American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery & 4th World Trauma Congress San Diego, CA 9/26/2018 - 9/29/2018
Noah Rozich, MD (PGY4)
Blame it on the Trauma: Injury is an independent risk factor for pancreatic fistula following distal pancreatectomy compared to elective resection (Poster)

ACS Clinical Congress 2018
Boston, MA
10/21/2018-10/25/2018
Sigrid Johannesen, MD (PGY4)
2018 Video VS2018-74052
Laparoscopic Epiphrenic Diverticulectomy and Esophageal Cardiomyotomy (Video Presentation)
Cressi Bryant, MD (PGY4)
2018 Video, VS2018-77701 Operative Fixation of Rib Fractures Utilizing CT Biopsy Grids for Preoperative Localization of Traumatic Rib Fractures (Video Presentation)

The Liver Meeting® of American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
San Francisco, CA
11/9/2018 - 11/13/2018
Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2)
Diffuse Optical Non-Destructive Organ Risk (DONOR) Indexing of Significant Fibrosis and Necrosis in Liver Parenchyma for Pre-Transplant Evaluation (Poster)

5th Annual Meeting of Pediatric Trauma Society
Houston, TX
11/8/2018 - 11/10/2018
Paul McGaha, II, MD (PGY4)
Pre-hospital factors that predict the need for early surgeon presence in the setting of pediatric trauma (2 Posters)

2018 Annual Scientific Meeting Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP)
Anaheim CA
11/15/2018 - 11/18/2018
Mary Lindemuth, MD (PGY5)
Regulation of Myocardin Related Transcription Factors Play a Significant Role in Intestinal Anastomosis Healing (Oral)

Region 6 Paper Competition
Dallas Texas
11/30/2018-12/1/2018
Oscar Talledo, MD (PGY4)
Regulation of Myocardin Related Transcription Factors Play a Significant Role in Intestinal Anastomosis Healing (Oral)
Surgical Education

NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Jeremy Johnson, MD
MSIII Clerkship Co-Director

Alex Raines, MD
MSIII Clerkship Co-Director

Amanda Celii, MD
MSIV Director

NEW RESIDENT LEADERSHIP

Kristina Booth, MD
Associate Program Director

Alisa Cross, MD
Associate Program Director
**Basic Science**

**Berry, W. L.** (Contributor), Olson (Principal Investigator), "Enabling technology for generation of transgenic mice by manipulating the male germline,"  
Sponsored by OCASCR Enabling Technology, State  
Total Direct Costs: $45,000.00  
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

**Berry, W. L.** (Investigator), "PDGF signaling in the development of abdominal fibrosis,"  
Sponsored by PHF Team Science Grant, The University of Oklahoma (Institutional)  
Total Direct Costs: $50,000.00  
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

**Edil, B. H.** (Principal Investigator), "Presbyterian Health Foundation Grant"  
Current Funding (Total Cost per Year): $250,000.00  
January 2018 – Present

**General Surgery/Trauma Surgery/Critical Care**

**Celi, A.** (Principal Investigator), "Multicenter trial- Rib fracture fixation study,"  
Sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center  
2018 - Present

**Celi, A.** (Sub-Investigator) "Spinal cord injury study,"  
Sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center  
2018 – Present

**Surgical Oncology**

**Morris, K. T.** (Principal Investigator), 25% Effort, Berry, W. L. (Supporting Investigator), "The role of granulocyte colony stimulating factor in metastatic colon cancer," Promising Junior Investigator Project on CoBRE,  
Sponsored by NIH/NIGMS, Federal Grant/Contract Number: 2P20GM103639  
Total Direct Costs: $150,000.00  
Additional Information: The PI for the full grant is Dr. Dhanasekaran. The above information is regarding the PJI project for PI Dr. Morris.  
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2023


**General Surgery/Trauma Surgery/Critical Care**


**Pediatric Surgery**


**Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery**


**Surgical Oncology**

PRESENTATIONS

Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery


General Surgery/Trauma Surgery/ Critical Care


Lindemuth, M., Celii, A., Zander, T., Mannus, M., Cross, A. M., "The need for speed: Improving the time it takes to get trauma patients to the CT scanner", Annual Scientific Meeting and Training, Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP), Anaheim, CA, Oral Presentation. November 17, 2018.


Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery


Surgical Oncology


AWARDS & HONORS

Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery

Harold Burkhart, MD was named Program Chair for the 2018 Annual Meeting for the Congenital Heart Surgeons Society.

General Surgery/Trauma Surgery/ Critical Care

Roxie Albrecht, MD received Distinguished Medical Service Award by the College of Medicine Alumni Association.

Alex Raines, MD inducted as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Ryan Kennedy, MD inducted as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Alisa Cross, MD was named Editor for Score American Board of Surgery General Surgery Curriculum.

Jason Lees, MD was named Chair of the Committee on applicants, Oklahoma Chapter of American College of Surgeons.

Pediatric Surgery

Robert Letton, MD was named Vice-Chair of Pediatric Trauma Society Publications Committee.

Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery

Anthony Tufaro, MD was awarded the 2018 Castle Connelly Top Doctor for Cancer Care.
ACS 2018 Reception Photos

American College of Surgeons Reception

Co-Hosted by

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Department of Surgery

The University of Oklahoma - at Tulsa
School of Community Medicine
Department of Surgery

Dr. & Mrs. Barish H. Edil and the
The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Department of Surgery

Dr. & Mrs. C. Anthony Howard and the
The University of Oklahoma at Tulsa
School of Community Medicine
Department of Surgery

Monday October 22 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Clarendon Hall
Boston Marriott Copley Place
110 Harrison Ave | Boston, MA 02116
Department of Surgery Appreciation Day
Department of Surgery Appreciation Day
Stop the Bleed
Staff Photos

OUHSC Surgery Wacky Games Winners

Halloween Sweater Contest

Retirement for Sadie Marzett
HAPPY Retirement!

Beverly Talbert, MD
Associate Professor

Jeffrey Bender, MD
Professor

Carol Shock, RN
Pediatric Nurse Coordinator

Jan Gamble
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Sadie Marzette
Coding Specialist II
We value your friendship and your personal accomplishments. We hope you will keep in touch and let us know what you 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. So please share your news and let us know what is happening with you and/or your practice. We welcome your input for the newsletter.

Send your stories or comments to Jennifer-D-Clark@ouhsc.edu