Welcome to the University of Oklahoma Department of Surgery's semiannual newsletter. I hope that you enjoy looking through all the events but, most importantly, take pride, as I did in our many accomplishments these last six months.

In the realm of education, we have had two visiting professors: Marco Del Chiaro, M.D. and Steven Hughes, M.D.. Both professors were extremely informative and inspirational to our faculty, residents and students. In addition, both visiting professors commented on how impressed they were with the energy, focus and culture of education our department exudes. I would like to thank everyone for being such gracious hosts.

The last six months have also been incredibly productive academically. Every division has nationally and, even internationally shared their discoveries through research, presentations and publications. We have had some of the highest volume of publications in peer reviewed journals in our history. Some of this work was highlighted at our inaugural OU Surgery Research Symposium where the breath and quality of research in our department was highlighted. Congratulations to Andrea Geddes, M.D. for winning first place with “Women have increased CD4+/infiltration in the tumor micro environment of colorectal cancer.”

We are pleased to announce the addition of six new faculty members. Dr. Ajay Jain, Dr. Steven Carter and Dr. Teresa Shavney have joined Surgical Oncology. Dr. Gozde Demirlap and Dr. Luis Daniel Velazco Davila have joined Cardiac/Thoracic/Vascular. Dr. Gang Shi has joined Plastics. We continue to grow clinically and academically in all departments.

As always I would like to thank Jessica Capetillo and Jennifer Clark for putting this newsletter together. I would also like to congratulate the entire department for their hard work and continued success. I look forward to finishing 2019 with this positive momentum.

Barish H. Edil
Professor & Chair
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On The Cover
Dr. Barish Edil performing first laparoscopic whipple in Oklahoma
Inaugural Research Symposium Spotlight
On May 31, 2019, the Department of Surgery held the Inaugural OU CARES (OU Center for the Advancement of Research Excellence in Surgery) Research day to highlight the high-quality research performed by our trainees and faculty. Dr. Edil gave the opening remarks, followed by Drs. Li and Garwe, who provided an excellent overview of the breadth and depth of our Department’s science from the bench to bedside. The entire department came together to put the day on, with several faculty serving as moderators (Drs. Dooley, Berry, Fischer and Stewart) and as our panel of judges (Drs. Edil, Hughes, Dooley, Mantor and Lees). After the presentations, the judges awarded five cash prizes sponsored by the Department. Then Visiting Professor, Dr. Steven J. Hughes, delivered an inspiring lecture which told the story of incredible collaborative bench science. The talk titled, Paracrine Signaling in the Pancreatic Cancer Microenvironment: Novel Therapeutic Targets and Clinical Opportunities, also served to inspire young surgeons to consider a career in translational research.

The following awardees, who won cash prizes, were chosen out of the 14 outstanding research presentations we had from medical students, surgery residents, fellows, and post-doctoral fellows:

**Grand Prize**

Dr. Andrea Geddes for her presentation titled: *Women have increased CD4+ infiltration in the tumor microenvironment of colorectal cancer.*

**First Prizes**

Dr. Katie Wiggins-Dohlvik for her presentation titled: *Melatonin inhibits hemorrhagic shock induced fluid leak and microvascular endothelial derangements.*

Ms. Rachel Davies, MSII, for her presentation titled: *The impact of time to surgery on pathologic upstaging of invasive breast cancer.*

**Second Prizes**

Dr. Samara Lewis for her presentation titled: *Diffuse optical non-destructive organ risk (DONOR) indexing of significant fibrosis and necrosis in liver parenchyma for pre-transplant evaluation.*

Dr. Minyang Liu for her presentation titled: *ZIP4 promotes pancreatic cancer chemoresistance through activating integrins signaling axis by EMT transcription factor ZEB1.*
Surgeons in the Spotlight
Dr. Alisa Cross was on call as a Trauma Surgeon when she was alerted about a car accident. The driver, a personal trainer from Edmond, ran off the road and was rushed to OU Medical Center. The accident was severe and Dr. Cross had to amputate his leg above the hip including half his pelvis bones. There was also internal damage with the torso being nearly destroyed. Due to the severity of his injuries, the driver was put in an induced coma for two months. During his six month inpatient stay, he had a CT scan to check on his progress. The scan showed something unusual about his kidneys. He was diagnosed with Birt-Hogg-Dube syndrome, a rare hereditary condition associated with kidney cancer. A year after the accident, Dr. Brian Cross (Urologic Oncologist), removed 11 tumors from the right kidney. Six months later, he removed seven tumors from the left kidney. The Edmond fitness trainer still requires assistance to move around but he is back at work. On Friday May 10, 2019, he was awarded the OU Medicine Trauma Survivor Award for his courage and strength through adversity.

This story is so unique, it has been shared across the country: Philadelphia, Cleveland, Sacramento, St. Louis, San Diego, Hartford, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Norfolk, Greensboro, Richmond, and New Orleans. Full interviews can be viewed online: https://kfor.com/2019/05/09/edmond-man-loses-leg-in-car-wreck-but-says-what-doctors-found-in-hospital-saved-his-life/ or https://ouhsc.edu/News/Article/trauma-survivor-defies-the-odds-twice-with-help-of-ou-medicine-husband-and-wife-surgeons
Division Chief of Surgical Oncology, Dr. Ajay Jain may be new to the University, but he is not afraid to tackle some pretty heavy cases. He removed a 65 pound Retroperitoneal Liposarcoma.

Retroperitoneal Liposarcomas are rare slow growing tumors that usually average about 7 kilos (15 pounds). These tumors develop in the back of the abdomen, next to the kidneys, in a relatively “hidden” location.

This particular Oklahoman, a 65 year old man, presented in the emergency room with a tumor since 2014. It was slow growing only to accelerate over the past few months. CT images confirmed the tumor needed to come out.

“I’m very grateful to be a part of the OU Department of Surgery. Without the multidisciplinary team approach, excellent critical care, and dedication of the surgical residents, his very satisfying outcome would not have been possible.

Dr. Jain successfully removed the tumor and patient is on the road to recovery and doing very well.
Valentine's Day was a special day for one Texas family. After a successful heart surgery, they were able to take their 4 month old son home.

The family chose to come to Oklahoma and see Dr. Burkhart after a well-baby check landed the family the ER for a murmur. Dr. Burkhart diagnosed the infant with William's Syndrome, a narrowed lung artery and a narrowed aorta.

Williams Disease is a rare genetic disorder that affects many parts of the body. Supravalvular Aortic Stenosis (SVAS) occurs frequently in patients with Williams Syndrome. It is the narrowing of the large blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body.

The size of an aorta is about 10mm (the size of a penny). The patient's aorta was smaller than the size of a pencil. Surgery was long at five and half hours and had many challenges.

This Texas boy has many doctor's visits still to come but his prognosis looks good. Dr. Burkhart believes he will be "a very active little boy, a very normal boy with regard to this heart".

Full interview can be seen online at: https://kfor.com/2019/02/15/4-month-old-texas-boy-goes-home-on-valentines-day-after-successful-heart-surgery-at-ou-childrens/
In The News - Pancreas Cancer

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, "Jeopardy" Host Alex Trebek announced he was diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer. Even with a poor prognosis, he has vowed to beat the low survival rates for this silent disease. The American Cancer Society states¹ "Pancreatic cancer accounts for about 3% of all cancers in the US and about 7% of all cancer deaths."

Unlike breast and colon cancer, pancreatic cancer does not have early detection. The pancreas lies deep in the body and tumors cannot be felt by a physician during a routine physical exam. Most patients will not have symptoms until the tumor is large or has spread to other organs. Symptoms include, pain in the back or stomach, jaundice, sudden weight loss and unexplained fatigue.

KOKH Fox News reached out to Surgical Oncologist and Division Chief Dr. Ajay Jain to see what patients can do when facing a similar diagnosis. Surgery offers the only chance for a cure. "Although pancreatic cancer is among the more rare cancers, it is among the leading causes of death in the United States because it’s an incredible difficult cancer to treat. We are able to offer the laparoscopic whipple for appropriate patients." Dr. Edil is the first in the state for this approach to removing parts of the pancreas affected by cancer. “It is a big procedure, and if we can do it using a minimally invasive keyhole surgery approach, recovery is generally better.”²


¹) https://www.cancer.org/cancer/pancreatic-cancer/about/key-statistics.html
³) Image: Dr. Ajay Jain
⁴) Image: Laparoscopic whipple performed by Dr. Barish H. Edil
New Faculty

Steven Carter, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology, Colorectal

Teresa Shavney, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology, Breast

Gozde Demiralp, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Division of Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery

Gang Shi, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Ajay Jain, MD
Professor of Surgery
Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology

Luis Daniel Velazco Davila, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery
FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery

Harold Burkhart, M.D. was named to the "Best Doctors in America" list and Castle Connolly Top Doctors list for 2019. He was also named the outstanding editorial board member for the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery and appointed as Chair on the Ad Hoc Tenure Review Committee. Recipient of the Brandon Weeden Endowed Research Program.

Beteck Besem, M.D. Vascular Surgery Board Certification.

Joshua Gierman, M.D. was a recipient of the Russell Postier Award for Excellence in Resident Education 2019.

Subrato Deb, M.D. was promoted to Professor of Surgery effective July 1, 2019. He was also nominated for the 2019 Aesculapian Award for Excellence in Teaching in the category of Faculty-Clinical Sciences.

Jess Thompson, M.D. was named Director of ECMO at Children's Hospital. He will also continue to serve on the Faculty Board for the 2019-2020 year.

Luis Daniel Velazco Dávila, M.D. American Board of Thoracic Surgery Certification.

Pediatric Surgery

Jeremy Johnson, M.D. was named Pediatric Trauma Medical Director.

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Christian El Amm, M.D. was named Castle Connolly Top Doctor – Plastic Surgery 2019.

Suhair Maqusi, M.D. was promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery effective July 1, 2019.

Research

Tabitha Garwe, PhD was promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor of Surgery effective July 1, 2019.

Surgical Oncology

Juan Claros-Sorto, M.D. youngest man inducted into the 2019 Susan G. Koman Pink Tie Guys.
Surgical Oncology Cont’d
William Dooley, M.D. was named Castle Connolly Top Doctor for Surgery 2019.

Gary Dunn, M.D. was named Castle Connolly Top Doctor – Colon and Rectal Surgery 2019.

Katherine Morris, M.D. will serve as the new Vice Chair of Academic and Research Advancement effective July 1, 2019. She was also named Chair of the Committee on Cancer Committee at the Stephenson Cancer Center. She was also inducted into the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Amanda Celii, M.D. General Surgery Board certification. She was honored as the Oklahoma City Thunder OU Medicine Healthcare Champion. She was also inducted as an Academy of Teaching Scholars Associate Member.

Ronald Squires, M.D. was re-appointed to serve on the Promotion and Tenure Committee of the College of Medicine and serve as co-chair of the committee for the 2019-2020 year.

Trauma & Critical Care
Roxie Albrecht, M.D. was recipient of the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Medical Service.
Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery


Colorectal

**General Surgery**


**Pediatric**


**Plastic & Reconstructive**


Plastic & Reconstructive Cont'd


Surgical Oncology
Booth, K., Lecture SIMPL, Instruction to faculty 1/11/19


Edil, B. H., "Can immunotherapy and vaccination be a turning point in the pancreatic cancer therapy?", Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology of Czech Republic Conference, Czech Republic, Prague, Oral Presentation. April 5, 2019.


Edil, B. H., "Management of Pancreas Cancer", 21st Annual Primary Care Update at OU, April 30, 2019


Trauma


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

**Trauma Cont'd**


Bryant, C., Mannas, M., **Lees, J., Albrecht, R.**, "Hitting the nail on the head: Diagnosis and management of penetrating neck injuries", 71st Annual Meeting, Southwestern Surgical Congress, Huntington Beach, CA, Poster. April 2019.


Cardiac, Thoracic & Vascular Surgery


General Surgery

Pediatric Surgery

Research
Garwe, Tabitha, PhD | Manuscript Publication | Prehospital Emergency Care | Survival Benefit of Treatment at or Transfer to a Tertiary Trauma Center among Injured Older Adults


**Edil, B. H., Jain, A.** (2019). How many cases are required to learn how to perform minimally invasive pancreaticoduodenectomy? (3rd ed., pp. 22). Laparosc Surg. DOI: 10.21037/ls.2019.05.03


PI: Katherine Morris, M.D. (PI, Pilot Grant)
Granting Agency: NIH-National Institute of General Medical Sciences
**Grant Amount: $50,000**
Title: The role of granulocyte colony stimulating factor in metastatic colon cancer
Award date: 01/01/2019 – 12/31/2019

PI: Harold Burkhart, M.D.
Granting Agency: Presbyterian Health Foundation
Team Science Grant Year 1 (collaborative grant with OU-Norman School of Engineering and Iowa State University Mechanical Engineering). (Potential for Year 2 additional funding based on Year 1 progress).
**Grant Amount: $100,000**
Title: Probabilistic In-Silico Modeling-Guided Management of Tricuspid Regurgitation in Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.
Award date: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020

CO-PIs: David Sparling, MD, PhD (Pediatric Endocrinology)[team lead], Anne Louise Olson, PhD (Biochemistry), Laura Fischer, MD, MS (Surgery)
Granting Agency: HHDC/PHF (Harold Hamm Diabetes Center / Presbyterian Health Foundation)
Year One Team Science Grant Award
*GRF00002923*
**Grant Amount: $100,000**
Title: The role of CRISPLD2 in adipose function
Award date: June 20, 2019
Funding date: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020

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CARES

The Department of Surgery has set in motion OU CARES - OU Center for the Advancement of Research and Excellence in Surgery - to assist faculty, fellows, residents, and medical students who are conducting research. The OU Cares program provides a wide menu of services such as:

- Study Design
- Statistical Analysis
- Regulatory Compliance
- Grant Proposals

REDCap

REDCap is a secure web application to support online or offline data capture for research studies and operations. Visit the link below to take you to the intake form that allows you to request help for a variety of research support from IRB to Study Design and Analysis plans.

https://redcap.ouhsc.edu/redcap/survey/?s=8DCMJAC488
General Surgery Resident, Dr. Kayla Watkins made history at OU Medical Center as the first resident to be certified in robotic surgery. OU is one of the few institutions in the country that offer this training. The curriculum has been created by General Surgeon Dr. Alex Raines.

To obtain a certification, residents must first begin their training online. They will then start using the robot for small tasks and eventually will find themselves in the operating room with surgeons.

Robotic surgery, similar to laparoscopic surgery, offers post operative benefits compared to traditional open surgery. Those benefits include reduced infection risk, less pain and discomfort and shorter hospital stay. Robotic surgery requires the use of the da Vinci robot. The robot is considered another surgical tool that needs to be mastered.

Dr. Watkins says of robotic surgery, "It's technology is changing the industry." The visualization on the robot in comparison to laparoscopic surgeries is much improved allowing the surgeon to view 3D images in the console.

Graduating Fellows & Residents

Matthew Isakson, MD
Hunstad/Kortesis/Bharti-Charlotte, NC
Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship

Katie Wiggins-Dohlvik, MD
Children’s Hospital-Colorado Springs, CO
Pediatric Surgery

Benjamin Axtman, MD
University of Texas-San Antonio, TX
Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship

Christopher Henry, MD
Baylor University-Dallas, Tx
Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Mary Lindemuth, MD
Johns Hopkins-Baltimore, MD
Breast Surgery Fellowship

Cullen McCarthy, MD
Wake Forest University-Winston-Salem, NC
Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Emily Switzer, MD
University of Southern California-Los Angeles, CA
Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship
General Surgery Interns

Taylor Burt  
OU College of Medicine

Christopher Jeffery  
OU College of Medicine

Lily Nguyen  
Texas A&M

Jacob O’Dell  
Chicago Medical School

Joy Trimble  
University of Tennessee

Conner Wilkinson  
OU College of Medicine

Jacob Keeling  
OU College of Medicine  - Prelim

John Maxwell  
OU College of Medicine  - Prelim

Jordan Miller  
OU College of Medicine  - Prelim
RESIDENT PRESENTATIONS

14th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC)
Houston, TX - February 5-7, 2019
- Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2) Sterile Pyuria an Indication of Acute Appendicitis in Children

2019 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Surgical Congress
Charlotte, NC - February 23-26, 2019
- Sigrid Johannesen, MD (PGY4) Modifications to Traditional Clagett Procedure for Reduction in Postoperative Pain and Morbidity.
- Maureen Mannas, MD (PGY2) Alternative Management Options For Pneumomediastinum in Bullous Emphysematous Disease.
- Chance Nichols, MD (PGY3) Early implementation of inhaled pulmonary vasodilators in post-pneumonecтомy acute respiratory distress syndrome.

2019 SAGES Annual Meeting
Baltimore, MD - April 3-6, 2019
- Jesse Conner, MD (PGY4) Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome, Case Series and Review of the Literature.

Southwestern Surgical Congress Annual Meeting
Huntington Beach, CA- April 14-17, 2019
- Benjamin Axtman, MD (PGYS) Prehospital Needle Thoracostomy: What are the indications and is a post-trauma center arrival chest tube required?
- Benjamin Axtman, MD (PGYS) Laparoscopic Repair of Bilateral Morgagni Hernias
- Cressilee Bryant, MD (PGY4) Team Activation For Same Level Falls--Is It Getting Old?
- Cressilee Bryant, MD (PGY 4) Hitting the Nail on the Head: Diagnosis and Management of Penetrating Neck Injuries
- Jesse Conner, MD (PGY4) Retrospective Comparison Of Open Versus Laparoscopic Jejunostomy Tube Placement With Utilization Of T-fasteners.
- Sigrid Johannesen, MD (PGY4) Management and Outcomes of Traumatic Aortic Transection at a Level 1 Trauma Center in a Rural State.
- Cullen McCarthy, MD (PGY 5) Modern Management of Extremity Vascular Trauma: Can we bypass the Vascular Surgery consult?
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) So You Need a Surgeon? Need for Surgeon Presence as an Alternative Metric to Predict Mortality and Assess Triage in the Pediatric Trauma Population
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) Helicopter Transport in Pediatric Trauma: A New Methodology Using Need for Surgeon Presence to Evaluate the Necessity of Air Transport
- Oscar Talledo, MD (PGY4) Hand Motion Analyzer: A Novel Technique in Robotic Surgery Education
- Kiran Venincasa, MD (PGY3) Surviving a broken heart: a traumatic blunt cardiac rupture.

Western Trauma Association  Annual Meeting
Snowmass, CO - March 3-8, 2019
- Oscar Talledo, MD (PGY4) Vancomycin dosing in critically ill trauma patients: The VANCTIC study.

OU Nursing "Partners in Quality: Innovations in Quality Care at the Bedside
Oklahoma City, OK - March 19, 2019
- Maureen Mannas, MD (PGY2) A Real Pain In The Neck: Combatting Delays In Cervical Spine Imaging Clearance. 
  Dr. Mannas won first place for the poster competition.

2019 Southern GEA Spring Meeting
Orlando, FL - March 28-30, 2019
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) GRIT and Medical Student Specialty Preference: Does GRIT Matter in Selecting a Specialty in Medicine?
RESIDENT PRESENTATIONS

OU Medicine Trauma Symposium
Oklahoma City, OK - April 26, 2019
- Mary Lindemuth, MD (PGY5) Socioeconomic Factors Paralyze Thoroughfare of Trauma Spinal Cord Injuries.
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) Helicopter Transport in Pediatric Trauma: A New Methodology Using Need for Surgeon Presence to Evaluate the Necessity of Air Transport.
- Chance Nichols, MD (PGY3) CT Chest with IV Contrast to Replace CT Chest Angiogram for Diagnosing Major Vascular Injury Following Blunt Trauma.

APSA 2019 Annual Meeting
Boston, MA - May 19 - 22, 2019
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) Examination of the Role of Myocardin-Related Transcription Factors in Intestinal Anastomotic Healing

OU CARES Inaugural Research Symposium
Oklahoma City, OK - May 31, 2019
- Cressilee Bryant, MD (PGY4) Team Activation for Same Level Falls-Is It Getting Old?
- Andrea E. Geddes, MD, MS (PGY1) Women have increased CD4+ infiltration in the tumor microenvironment of colorectal cancer.
- Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2) Retrospective Cohort Review of the Prevalence of Sterile Pyuria in Pediatric Acute Appendicitis Patients.
- Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2) Diffuse optical non-destructive organ risk (DONOR) indexing of significant fibrosis and necrosis in liver parenchyma for pre-transplant evaluation.
- Cullen McCarthy, MD (PGY5) Modern Management of Extremity Vascular Trauma: Can We Bypass the Vascular Surgery Consult?
- Cullen McCarthy, MD (PGY5) Human-Like Hypertrophic Scars in Loose Skinned Animals Via Dynamic Circumferential Mechanical Tension.

- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) Factors That Predict the Need for Early Surgeon Presence in the Setting of Pediatric Trauma.
- Paul McGaha, II, MD, MS (PGY4) Helicopter Transport in Pediatric Trauma: A New Methodology Using Need for Surgeon Presence to Evaluate the Necessity of Air Transportation.
- Chance Nichols, MD (PGY3) CT chest with IV contrast to replace CT chest angiogram for diagnosing major vascular injury following blunt trauma.
**RESIDENT AWARDS AND HONORS**

- **OU General Surgery** got to battle head to head with 9 other Academic Institutions doing a Simulator NCAA bracket style competition. This being OU’s 4th year attending, they took home the “W” thanks to one PGY4 Dr. Jesse Conner!

- Congrats to PGY4 **Kayla Watkins, MD** on winning the Trauma Outstanding Resident Award!
- **Kayla Watkins, MD** is the first in the hospital’s history to be certified in robotic surgery.

- **Maureen Mannus, MD** (PGY2) won 1st place award for a performance improvement project - *"Real Pain in the Neck. Combating delays in Radiological Cervical Spine Clearance"* | OU Partners in Quality: Innovations of Quality of Care at the Bedside (3/13/19)

- **OU CARES Inaugural Research Symposium**
  Oklahoma City, OK - May 31, 2019
  
  **Grand Prize** | **Andrea E. Geddes, MD, MS (PGY1)**
  Women have increased CD4+ infiltration in the tumor

  **First Prize**
  Katie Wiggins-Dohlvik, MD (PGY7)
  Rachel Davies, MSII

  **Second Prize**
  Samara Lewis, MD (PGY2)
  Minyang Liu, PhD

- **Auditorium**

- **1st Place Poster Presentation**

- **Awards Ceremony**
The endowment fund was created by Oklahoma Native, Brandon Weeden, former OSU and NFL quarterback, after a close friend’s newborn son was born with a complex heart defect and was forced to seek treatment out of state. The goal is to raise awareness about pediatric heart care and give Oklahoma heart patients the opportunity to stay in Oklahoma for their heart treatment needs. The journey to raise 1 million dollars started in 2012 with the Swing from the Heart Golf Challenge. The funds go to support the Brandon Weeden Research Program in Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Burkhart stated they are "aiming to make a single-pump heart last a lifetime." An accomplishment like this would eliminate the need for pediatric heart transplants.

Dr. Burkhart joined OU Children’s Physician in 2014. Before his arrival, families had to travel to states like Texas, Arkansas and Missouri for heart surgery. Now the can stay in-state and receive state-of-the-art care.

In April 2019, we had Visiting Professor Dr. Marco Del Chiaro meet with our research department to develop a Partnership with UC Health University of Colorado to create a National Research Group. Two other institutions have shown interest in joining the collaborative; SUNY Upstate and University of Maryland. We are working on a database project and possible manuscript.
EDUCATION
Time to stroke: A Western Trauma Association multicenter study of blunt cerebrovascular injuries was published in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery November 2018 which included authors Dr. Amanda Celii and Tyler Zander. The study focused on blunt cerebrovascular injuries (BCVIs) – injuries to the blood vessels of the neck. These are commonly caused by the force of a seat belt or fractures in the neck. This specific study aimed to determine how soon strokes occur after an injury to the blood vessels, and how soon blood thinners should be given in an effort to prevent stroke.

Trauma centers across the country have treated patients in slightly different ways, so the study was conducted in order for care to be standardized, Celii said. OU Medicine contributed its patient data concerning BCVIs to the study, which included more than 30 such institutions around the country.

The study results showed that the majority of patients who suffer a BCVI-related stroke do so in the first 72 hours after the injury occurs. That means blood thinners – often aspirin – should be given to the patient immediately, Celii said.

The study was also an important experience for Zander, who, as a third-year student. Receiving author credit on a research publication is unusual for a medical student, but Zander has a particular drive, Celii said. When students are part of that process and develop mentors with faculty members, they tend to learn the intricacies of surgery better, she said. Zander has already worked on eight studies at OU Medicine concerning surgery protocols. The process of clinical research especially interests him as he progresses in his journey toward becoming a physician.
EDUCATION AWARDS

Outstanding Student Award
Elaine Griffeth

Russell Postier Award for Excellence in Resident Education
Joshua Gierman, M.D.

Aesculapian Award
Emily Switzer, M.D.

Outstanding Teacher Award for Academic Year 2017-2018

These Faculty and Residents exhibited excellent teaching skills and were rated very highly by the medical students. Awardees received a letter of commendation from the Assistant Dean of Clinical Curriculum - LaTasha Craig and a lapel pin to showcase their excellence in education.

- Jeremy Johnson
- Katherine Morris
- Christopher Pirko
- Alexander Raines
- Mohamad Sidan
- Ronald Squires
- Emily Switzer
- Kiran Venincasa
- Oscar Talledo
Staff Spotlight
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

NASHONA RAGLAND

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT OUHSC?

I TRY TO MAKE THE LIVES OF THE PEDS CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS AND PRACTITIONERS EASIER BY MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE A FULL SCHEDULE AND PLENTY OF INK PENS.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED FOR OUHSC?

7 1/2 YEARS

WHAT ARE 3 WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOUR DEPARTMENT?

BUSY, ENTERTAINING, AND FUN!

YOU’RE HAPPIEST WHEN?

I’M CREATING SOMETHING AND THERE IS PEACE IN MY HOME. ALSO WHEN THE DISHES ARE CLEAN AND THE LAUNDRY IS PUT AWAY.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING?

CRAFTING, SPENDING TIME WITH MY FAMILY, AND SERVING

WHAT’S SOMETHING YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE THAT WE MAY NOT KNOW?

I AM AN AIR FORCE VETERAN. PROUDLY SERVED MY COUNTRY FOR ALMOST 12 YEARS. I ALSO ENJOY SUMO WRESTLING, AND WATERMELON EATING CONTESTS

STAFF RECOGNITION

The following staff were recognized for their years of service with OUHSC

Brittney Earnest (5 years)
Jessica Johnson (5 years)
Carmen Taylor (10 years)
Teresa Buckley (15 years)
Theresa Lander (35 years)
New Hires

Advance Practice Providers

Klayton Buckley, RN, CCP | Perfusion Chief
Cody Fields, PA | Adult Cardiac
Stephen Frazee, PA | Trauma
Chester Hendershot, PA | Trauma

Basic Science

Shaoxuan (Shawn) Guo | Research Assistant II

Administrative Staff

Anne Vidaurreta | Administrative Assistant II Pediatric Surgery
Asaleigh Moses | Sr. Administrative Assistant Surgical Oncology

Billing

Tia Clayton | PAR III - Charge Entry
Ruth Nichols | Patient Service Representative I
Kara Shoff, CPC | Coder II: Trauma
Melissa Layman, CPC, CPMA, CGSC | Coder II: General Surgery
Stop the Bleed

11th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

OKC Safe Kids Day

Play4Kay 2019

Trauma Survivors Reception 2019
GET CONNECTED

https://www.oumedicine.com/department-of-surgery

https://www.facebook.com/OUsurgery/

https://twitter.com/OU_Surgery

#OUsurgery or #OUtrauma
2018 Christmas Party
The Harn Homestead
2019 Evening of Excellence
Giving

Surgeons at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center are dedicated to excellence in education, research and patient care. We appreciate the generous support of patients and their families, alumni, physicians, friends and businesses.

Your gift can help improve a child’s health, award a resident a scholarship, or provide funds for research, equipment, computers, library materials and more. Every gift we receive makes a difference, and we sincerely thank you for your generosity.

Development Office
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
P.O. Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK 73126
405-271-2300

If you would like to contribute an article, news item or event notice for our newsletter, please email:

jessica-capetillo@ouhsc.edu
or
jennifer-d-clark@ouhsc.edu

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