Kudos

R3 Lab Residents, Kevin Blair, Razmik Ghukasyan, Linda Ye, Max Schumm, Rivafka Shenoy, Gabe Oland, and Michael Mederos presented their research work at Surgery Grand Rounds on January 6 and January 13. Congratulations to all for their amazing work and superb presentations! (More pictures on page 5)

Michael Mederos also ranked in the top 4 nationally, for the SimNow Virtual Games Qualification round! Subsequently, he competed for the title of Academic Surgical Congress 2021 SimNow Games champion LIVE during a 90-minute webcast competition on February 3, 2021 and won 3rd place in the nation!!

Gabe Oland has been selected, along with his team, as the winner of the UCLA Health Innovation – Med Tech – Challenge for their project entitled, “CranioView Noninvasive Brain Pressure Monitoring for Patients with Neurologic Injury”. The winning prize is a $20,000 funding contribution towards their idea.

Dr. Chen Named President of the Americas Hernia Society

This year, Dr. David Chen will serve as the President of the Americas Hernia Society, which is the premier organization leading many of the recent advances in hernia management. Dr. Chen is an international expert on hernia conditions and repairs. He is currently the Director of the Lichtenstein Amid Hernia Clinic at UCLA - one of the most recognized hernia programs in the world. Congratulations Dr. Chen!

Dr. Sha’Shonda Revels Awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant

Dr. Revels has been awarded a grant for her project titled “Producing Evidence Needed to Address Socioeconomic Barriers to the Public Health and Clinical Interventions for Vulnerable Populations During COVID-19”. The award is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Congratulations Dr. Revels!

ACGME Resident and Faculty Surveys are Now Open!

This year, the window for completing your survey is February 1 – April 1, 2021. Stay tuned for an email with a direct link to the required survey.
In Memoriam: J. Dennis Baker, MD

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that we announce the passing on January 26, 2021 of J. Dennis Baker, MD, Professor Emeritus of Surgery. Dr. Baker was a gifted surgeon, educator, mentor, administrator, and dedicated researcher in vascular physiologic testing and imaging. He was devoted to his patients and trainees and was a beloved UCLA faculty member since 1974. Dr. Baker was Assistant Chief of Surgery and Chief of the Vascular Surgery Section at the Sepulveda VA until the Sepulveda and West Los Angeles campuses merged in the mid-1990s. He then became the Associate Chief of Surgery and Vascular Chief for the Greater Los Angeles VA.

During his Sepulveda tenure, he served twice as Acting Chief of Surgery and then again from 1996-2000 for Greater Los Angeles VA. In 1994, Dr. Baker received a Commendation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for his loyal 20-year commitment and dedication to Veteran care. Dr. Baker officially retired from clinical activities in 2010 after 36 years, but stayed on at the VA as an administrative advisor and mentor until 2020. Dr. Baker was an early contributor to the field of vascular physiologic testing and ultrasound imaging, and a member of many national and international surgical societies and served on numerous committees for most of the organizations.

“Perhaps, most importantly, Dr. Baker was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Kay Baker, MN, retired Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the UCLA School of Nursing, two sons Mark and Chris, four precious grandchildren, and Magic, the most recent of his many Samoyed dogs. Dr. Baker always shared wonderful tales of his family’s international adventures. He will be dearly missed by all of those he trained and everyone whose lives he touched. His family will be having a small celebration of his Life later in the summer.”

(Adapted from the announcement by Drs. Peter Lawrence, Baker Chair and Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Jessica O’Connell, Acting Director, Surgical and Perioperative Careline, Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System)

In Memoriam: Bruce Stabile, MD

Dr. Bruce Stabile, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Surgery at Harbor UCLA, an incredible, technically gifted surgeon, and a superb educator, passed away on February 5, from cancer at the age of 76. Dr. Stabile was an accomplished researcher, publishing 280+ papers. Most notably, he described the Gastrinoma Triangle (named after his senior author Dr. Passaro). He published one of the first articles describing CT guided drainage for diverticular abscesses, in 1990. Early in his career, he was a practicing Vascular Surgeon too, and published a paper describing 109 consecutive aortic surgeries without a mortality. He was also an investigator and surgeon in the original NASCET study that demonstrated efficacy of carotid endarterectomy. Dr. Stabile was a member of the American Board of Surgery Board of Directors, the ACS Board of Governors, and President of numerous societies including San Diego Surgical Society, Los Angeles Surgical Society, Southern California Chapter ACS, and Pacific Coast Surgical Association.

“On a personal note, Dr. Stabile was a great role model to me (and many of our senior faculty). He epitomized what a surgeon leader should be. His office was situated only a few doors away from mine, and his door was always open (literally). When I barged in, unannounced, he would immediately drop what he was doing, and listen attentively, never once saying he was pressed for time, and would allow me to say everything that I wanted. As a research mentor, he helped me early in my career to solidify research ideas. When I presented him with a draft of a paper or abstract, one day before the due date, he never complained and somehow found the time to fill the draft full of red ink. This showed he cared. Dr. Stabile will be greatly missed, but he will never be forgotten. His legacy, as a gentleman, master educator, superb surgeon scientist, leader, and as someone who was passionate for the underserved, will live on. He cared deeply for Harbor-UCLA. For the thousands of medical students, residents and faculty who had the pleasure of knowing him, there will always carry a special place in our hearts for Dr. Bruce Stabile. May he rest in peace.”

(Adapted from the announcement by Dr. Christian de Virgilio, Chair of the Department of Surgery at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center)
New Book Alert: Thoracic Outlet Syndrome,Edited by Dr. Hugh Gelabert

UCLA Vascular surgeon, Dr. Gelabert, was named editor of Thoracic Outlet Syndrome, which just released its second edition. Michael Mederos co-authored one of the chapters.

SECOND Trial Mentorship and Networking Opportunity

The SECOND Trial is a national collaborative effort of multiple institutions including UCLA that aims to improve our learning environment and the well-being of surgery residents. Mentorship is a critical component of the program; however, some home institutions are unable to fulfill this need, due to lack of diversity on faculty or a general fear in discussing sensitive topics. In an effort to overcome this, The SECOND Trial group collaborated with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce of the Association of Academic Surgeons and its partner organizations, the Society for Black Academic Surgeons, Latino Surgical Society, Society for Asian Academic Surgeons, Association of Out Surgeons and Allies, and Society of University Surgeons, to build a national mentorship network. Currently, almost 100 mentors have been identified to support residents in a variety of issues like family planning, career planning, being a minority in surgery, and work-life balance!

Resident Wellness

In need of some motivation? Look no further than the Motivation app. Positive reminders are a powerful tool for mental growth. This app will send you daily quotes and encouragements to help you get through the day. Available on iTunes and Google Store, for free.

Welcome to the Surgery Education Office, Amie!

Please welcome Amie Phan, new member of the Surgery Education office. She will work closely with the Core Surgery Residency Program (R1 and R2s). Amie graduated from UCLA in 2019 with a degree in Biology. As an undergraduate student, she was a frequent visitor of CHS (particularly Bio Med library) and is excited to be back and working with the Department of Surgery. She loves movies; so if you have any recommendations, let her know!

Multi-Institutional Education Research Collaborative

In order to promote high quality surgical education research, the Association for Surgical Education has created a Multi-Institutional Educational Research Collaborative to support multi-institutional research projects. Proposals can be submitted until February 26, 2021. Selected proposals will be presented during the ASE Annual Meeting.

https://www.surgicaleducation.com/mergresearchcollaborative/

The DGSOM Gold Humanism Honor Society Invites You to A Night of Storytelling

This year’s story theme is “Bending the Arc: Stories at the Center of the Fight for Justice”. The Honor Society is calling for applications from all members of the DGSOM community including students, residents, fellows, faculty, staff, patients, and family members to submit their interest in speaking by February 18, 2021 at this link: bit.ly/3ni8muQ. Contact gayer@mednet.ucla.edu for questions. This event takes place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7pm PST.
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Quality Improvement (QI) Initiative of the Month - Pediatric Surgery

Quality Improvement
The Division of Pediatric Surgery has created clinical pathways to help standardize the work-up and management of specific disease processes in children such as appendicitis, G-tubes, C-Spine Clearance, TBI, Analgesia/Anxiolysis, and VTE. These pathways can be found on the UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital website at: Pathways - VallU Care Redesign - UCLA Health, Los Angeles, CA. The appendicitis pathway is the most commonly used and has been adopted at our sister institutions and community partners resulting in a higher antibiotic adherence and lower cost.

Innovation
Pectus Excavatum repair is one of our more common operations performed by our Division of Pediatric Surgery. Routine use of intercostal nerve cryoablation has improved outcomes of this previously very painful operation (see table below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Cryoablation</th>
<th>Post-Cryoablation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of Hospitalization (days)</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge Opioids (# of tablets)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>4**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meet Robin the Robot
Robin has helped pediatric patients cope with isolation during this COVID pandemic. This video says it all: https://youtu.be/IQyuNRLu9Rs

Many thanks to Dr. Steven Lee, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at UCLA, for the sharing this content and beautiful pictures!

Internal Funding Opportunity: Academic Senate COR Bridge Research Grants
The UCLA Academic Senate’s Council on Research (COR) announced its grant opportunity for UCLA Senate faculty — the Bridge Research Grant — with funding available during 2021-2022. This new program is being offered temporarily for 2021-2022 in lieu of the previous Research Enabling Grant and Faculty Research Grant programs. Members of the Academic Senate could be awarded up to $2500.

The Bridge Research Program Grant is designed to assist Senate faculty who need a relatively small amount of grant support to conduct their research. Faculty members whose total research support exceeds $75,000 for the 2020-2021 academic year are not eligible to apply to the BRG Program. Funding will be merit-based and dependent on available funds. The application submission deadline is Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5pm. https://www.senate.ucla.edu/committee/cor/fgp
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

General Surgery Resident Research Presentations – January 6 and January 13

The role of low-dose metformin in pancreatic cancer
Linda Ye, MD
Psp: Guido Ebr, MD, Joe Hines, MD
UCLA Surgery Grand Rounds
January 13, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UP COMING EVENTS

ACGME Tips for Psychosocial Well-Being of Health Care Staff in the Midst of Crisis

- Practice self-care and engage in healthy coping strategies.
- Take microbreaks.
- Practice sleep hygiene.
- Partner with colleagues.
- Stay connected.
- Stay informed of reliable information.
- Check in with yourself.
- Resilience in post-crisis recovery

Facts of the Heart

The first open-heart surgery occurred in 1893. It was performed by Daniel Hale Williams, who was one of the few black cardiologists in the United States at the time. He founded Provident Hospital and Training School for Nurses (one of the first black owned hospitals in America) in 1891. Many years later, in 1964, previous First Lady, Michelle Obama, was born there. In addition, Dr. Williams founded the National Medical Association, which extended admission to African American doctors, and he was the first African American physician admitted to the American College of Surgeons. Read more about him: https://www.facs.org/~/media/files/archives/shg%20poster/2017/04_daniel_hale_williams.ashx
Tell us a random fact about yourself.
I was in the US Navy for 9 years and was the only Medical Doctor on a Navy Tender doing a deployment to the Western Pacific to include Japan, Korea, and the Philippine Islands in 1985. I left the US Navy in 1992 as a Lieutenant Commander.

A favorite quote, motto, or piece of advice.
There are two rules in life: 1) Don’t sweat the small stuff 2) Everything is small stuff.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you.
I grew up in Scranton, PA in a motel that my father owned and learned the business at a young age. It makes for very interesting stories!

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
Walking cancer patients through the journey of recovery through understanding and compassion.

What does a typical day look like for you? What do you do?
I am the Breast Program Director and one of four Executive Directors of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment at St. Joseph Hospital of Orange. I routinely meet with my Cancer Navigators and Cancer Center Director on a weekly basis but start my day with patient care and that includes surgery, office visits, and lots of phone calls.

What made you choose your specific specialty or the surgery field in general?
I love to “fix” things and surgery is all about making things better (removing the bad and improving the “new normal”). Breast surgeons take care of the whole patient and continue their care beyond surgery and in some cases are their advocates.

How long have you been a member of UCLA? Why work at UCLA?
2.5 years. Breast Cancer treatment has been researched at UCLA for many years and I love the fact that I can be associated with such an outstanding leader in the field of breast cancer treatment.

What advice do you have for current residents and prospective residents?
Don’t be afraid to try new things. Follow your heart but understand that it is ok to change your mind. I once thought I would be a pediatrician but surgery stole my heart.

Read more about Dr. Carpenter here: https://www.uclahealth.org/michele-carpenter

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
I really enjoy making a personal connection with my patients. Breast cancer is such a stressful diagnosis for patients when they first get their news. But breast cancer is also extremely treatable in the majority of cases and I love that I can help put each patient’s mind at ease and walk them through their treatment plan. I also get to know patients’ long-term during their follow up appointments. My patients feel like an extended family.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?
My main hobby is hanging out with my kids! They are 6 and 7 and keep me on my toes! During the week we’re keeping up with all their school assignments and on the weekends we’re usually on a hike or at the park.

What motivates you to wake up and go to work?
I feel so lucky to have a job I really love. Breast surgery is such a gratifying field. Having a physical job is very fulfilling. The patients are so wonderful and appreciative. And I love the team work and comradery of working with my colleagues in oncology, radiology, plastic surgery, and anesthesia.

What made you choose your specific specialty or the surgery field in general?
I wanted to be a surgeon after my first year of medical school’s gross anatomy class. I enjoy working with my hands and the full focus during surgery. I enjoy the practical, problem-solving personality that surgeons have. Breast surgery is also a great field because of the personal connection that is made with the patients and the long-term relationship over the years.

How long have you been a member of UCLA? Why work at UCLA?
I joined UCLA in 2018 and prior to that I was in private practice. I’ve been so impressed with the phenomenal support staff since joining UCLA…from the clinic staff, to IT, to the ease of interaction between departments…I really feel like all of that is so important in making each patient feel that they’re getting excellent care.

Read more about Dr. Houterman here: https://www.uclahealth.org/anna-houterman
Meet Dr. Gregory Senofsky

A random fact about yourself.
I have a black belt.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
Using my hands to save lives.

What does a typical day look like for you? What do you do?
I operate and/or see patients Monday through Friday.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy?
Boating, playing Chess, scuba diving.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you.
I’m a very spiritual person.

What motivates you to wake up and go to work?
I enjoy removing breast cancer with good margins and making the breast look good. I also enjoy my clinical research on breast telomeres.

How long have you been a member of UCLA? Why work at UCLA?
I have been full time at UCLA for over three years and served as voluntary faculty for 17 years prior to that. UCLA is the best organization I have seen.

What advice do you have for current residents and prospective residents?
Keep your head down and drive. Learn all you can. It’s a good life 😊

Read more about Dr. Senofsky here:
https://www.uclahealth.org/gregory-senofsky

UCLA Bio Design – Accelerator Track

Building on the success of UCLA Biodesign’s inaugural year, a new Accelerator Track was added to the Biodesign Fellowship program. This track requires five hours per month and enables clinical entrepreneurs or technical innovators at UCLA with established concepts to complete their work at an accelerated trajectory with the guidance of industry mentors and Biodesign faculty. Application deadline: Feb. 14, 2021.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dhejleaq-kvmDMXolGRb2qAeVQfBqUQmkUYO5hE/viewform?edit_requested=true

2021 Innovation Challenge Deadline March 3

UCLA Health Innovation Challenge provides faculty, staff, trainees, patients, caregivers, volunteers, and UCLA students, the opportunity to help advance long-lasting health and wellness solutions in two submission categories: “Invent Health tech” and “Submit your greatest idea”. Invent Health tech is an opportunity to submit an early state idea, design, prototype that solves a clinical or patient care need. Awards up to $50,000. https://myforms.uclahealth.org/s3/Help-Advance-Technologies-MedTech. Greatest Idea is an opportunity to submit ideas that will create operational efficiencies that reduce waste, cost, and generate revenue. https://myforms.uclahealth.org/s3/Greatest-Idea-Submission

New DGSOM Faculty Development Website

Vice Dean of Education, Clarence H. Braddock III, MD announced the launch of UCLA’s Faculty Professional Development Portal. The aim of the portal is to connect faculty with resources they need related to teaching, research and creativity, clinical practice, and university service as well as career development, mentorship, leadership development, and work in support of justice, equity, and diversity inclusion. Link to Portal: https://medschool.ucla.edu/faculty-professional-development. Submit your comment and suggestions here: https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6R0u2VdFQx14o8
Welcome to the Cuteness Corner
To be featured in future issues, email the cute photos that capture the moments in your life to Chi at cquach@mednet.ucla.edu. Thank you to this month’s contributors: Dr. James Economou and Dr. Erik Dutson.

Introducing Drs. Erik and Erica Dutson!

The Economou Family Pose for their 2020 Holiday Photo
First Place Winners for Best Decked Out Hall in the Highlands!
Kudos to all UCLA surgery residents and faculty who presented at the virtual 16th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (February 2-4, 2021)


7. Outcomes and Readmissions following Cardiac Operations in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. J. Madrigal, V. Dobaría, Y. Sanaiha, J. Hadaya, P. Benharash

8. Impact of Hospital Volume on Resource Use following Elective Cardiac Surgery. J. Hadaya, Y. Sanaiha, Z. Tran, M. Gandjian, R. J. Shemin, P. Benharash


**2020-21 Upcoming Events (dates are subject to change)**

**General Surgery**
- Mon, Feb 1-4: American Board of Surgery In-Training Exam
- Fri, Mar 19: Match Day

**Thoracic Surgery**
- Mon, Feb 1: ACGME Surveys open
- Wed, Feb 3: Annual Retreat
- Sat, Feb 20: Thoracic Surgery Residency Interviews
- Sat, Mar 13: TSDA In-Training Exam
- Sat, Mar 20: Thoracic Surgery Residency Interviews
- Wed, May 12: Match Day

**Vascular Surgery**
- Wed, Feb 17: Fellowship Interviews
- Fri, Feb 19-10: VSITE In-Service Exam

---

**Wednesday Conferences**

**Feb 3**  
8 am Zoom  
(Combined Medicine-Surgery Grand Rounds)  
“Training, Workforce, and Burnout”  
Malachi Sheahan III, MD  
Professor of Surgery  
Dir, Vascular Surgery Residency & Fellowship Programs  
Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans

**Feb 10**  
8 am Zoom  
(Gold Humanism Honor Society Grand Rounds)  
“Pressing Forward with Passion and Purpose”  
Nuriya D. Robinson, MD, FACOG  
Assistant Professor  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

**Feb 17**  
7 am Zoom  
“Thyroid Surgery Updates”  
Michael Yeh, MD  
Professor of Surgery  
Section of Endocrine Surgery  
David Geffen School of Medicine

**Feb 24**  
7 am Zoom  
(Combined Medicine-Surgery Grand Rounds)  
“ARDS”  
Nida Qadir, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine  
David Geffen School of Medicine

---

**Counseling & Consultation**
The UCLA Staff and Faculty Counseling Center provides free counseling assessment, and referral services to faculty, staff, and their immediate family Members.
Contact: 310-794-0245

---

"The moment anyone tries to demean or degrade you in any way, you have to know how great you are. Nobody would bother to beat you down if you were not a threat."

Cicely Tyson - 1924-2021

---

From the Office of Surgical Education  
Department of Surgery  
UCLA School of Medicine  
10833 Le Conte Ave, 72-235 CHS  
Los Angeles, CA 90095  
310-825-6643  
http://surgery.ucla.edu/general-surgery-residency  
Constructed by Andrea Mclean

---

Zoom Link: https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/571420558