Kudos

Congratulations to General Surgery Chief Resident, **Lina Hu**, for matching into the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at Columbia University. Well done, Lina!

**Amanda Labora** has been selected for a JCCC Fellowship Award, for her project entitled “Exploring therapeutic targets in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma through STING-dependent IFN signaling”. She’ll be featured in an upcoming issue of JCCC’s newsletter. Congratulations, Amanda!

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Residency News

**General Surgery 2021-2022 Class Representatives**

R1: Brittany Robinson  
R1: Hiro Sparks  
R2: Young-Ji Seo  
Lab 1: Amanda Labora  
Lab 2: Zachary Weitzner

R3: Danielle Graham  
R4: Alex Moore  
R5: Ben DiPardo  
R5: Jill Dworsky  
R5: Yas Sanaiha

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**Dr. Catherine Lewis and Dr. James Wu Transition to New Roles within the Department of Surgery**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Catherine Lewis** as an Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program. Dr. Lewis will serve along with Dr. Timothy Donahue, Program Director, and Dr. Vatche Agopian, Associate Program Director.

**Dr. James Wu** will serve as the Associate Director for Surgical Education in the Department of Surgery. Please join us in congratulating Drs. Lewis and Wu on their new roles!

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**Michael and Gabe did it again!**

**Michael Mederos** and **Gabe Oland**, UCLA Clinical third year residents, were finalists in the Intuitive Surgical 2021 AATS SimNow games and earned 3rd and 5th place respectively. See details and pictures from the competition on page 4.

Congratulations Michael and Gabe!
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

In memoriam:
Ronald K. Tompkins, MD,
Emeritus Professor of Surgery

“We are saddened to announce the passing of Ronald K. Tompkins, M.D., who died on August 17, 2021 at the age of 86. Dr. Tompkins, a key figure in UCLA surgery and surgical education, joined the UCLA faculty in 1969 and rose through the ranks to become full Professor in 1979. He was chief of the Division of General Surgery from 1982 to 1988 and Chief of the Section of Gastrointestinal Surgery from 1988 to 1997. In the realm of education, Dr. Tompkins served as Director of the Basic Surgical Training Program from 1970-80, Director of the General Surgery Residency Program from 1982 to 1988, and inaugural Director of Surgical Education from 1999 through 2004, having retired to emeritus status in 2000. Dr. Tompkins received the Golden Scalpel Award for Teaching Excellence in 1986, and the Department of Surgery recognized his extraordinary contributions to surgical education in 2004 with naming of the annual Ronald K. Tompkins Golden Apple Award, honoring a surgical resident selected by medical students for outstanding student teaching. Known to his trainees and colleagues as “RKT”, Dr. Tompkins is remembered as a fine clinician and an inspired educator, mentor and leader.”

-Jonathan R. Hiatt, M.D.
Professor Emeritus

(Adapted from the Departmental announcement)

Residents Mentoring Pre-Clinical Medical Students

This DGSOM mentorship program pairs residents with 1-2 UCLA medical students. The resident would act as a “big sib” and provide career advice, information about research opportunities, tips for success during clinical rotations etc. Mentors and mentees will meet at least once every 3-4 months. Sign up now to be a resident mentor: https://forms.gle/5Gn23FnMLjEhq8y6
The Fourth Annual Surgery Kickball Game Returned in 2021 at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Group Photo from the 2021 Fourth Annual Surgery Kickball Game at Rustic Canyon

Cuteness Corner

Ivy Huang, 2nd year UCLA lab resident, and her husband Michael Son tied the knot this past weekend! Congratulations Ivy and Michael!

AATS SimNow Games (continued from page 1)

Intuitive Surgical sponsored the annual SimNow Virtual Games as part of the 2021 American Association of Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Extended Virtual Meeting. The event featured a simulation skills competition among top residents and fellows in the country using the DaVinci Surgical Robot. Performance is based on speed, accuracy, and efficiency.
Dr. Steven Dubinett was appointed as the Interim Dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA for up to two years, effective September 1. Dr. Dubinett is the founding director of the UCLA Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI); Associate Vice Chancellor for research at UCLA and senior associate dean for translational research at the DGSOM; and chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine and Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

### Robotic Skills Course for Surgery Residents

CASIT in collaboration with Intuitive Surgical will sponsor daily robotic skills courses in the Surgical Science Laboratory, on October 25-29, 2021. Each day, we will offer two 4-hour training sessions for residents, fellows and interested faculty. Initial plans include beginner (docking and bedside assistance) and intermediate (console training) level classes. Each half-day training session can accommodate a maximum of 4-5 learners and will be scheduled on a first come first served basis.

Participants must be relieved from all clinical duties for the 4-hour block and will need to complete online training prior to the session. Deadline for enrollment is October 1st. The course is offered free of charge to UCLA residents and faculty. Check your email for details.

As a reminder, below are the requirements to obtain an equivalency certificate:

1. Online course work on the Intuitive website
2. In person robotics training (course above)
3. Case log including 30 robotic cases (20 console, 10 bedside)
4. A letter signed by the Program Director or Chair

### New DGSOM Interim Dean

### Catherine Williamson receives WTS Scholarship

Our third year medical student, Catherine Williamson has received the prestigious **Women in Thoracic Surgery (WTS) Thistlewaite Scholarship** from the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. Catherine has worked with Dr. Benharash and his group for the past three years.

The award is named for Dr. Patricia Thistlewaite, 43rd President of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association (WTSA) and former leader with Women in Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Thistlewaite is a nationally-recognized cardiothoracic surgeon. “The WTS Scholarship was conceived to allow young women in medical school, surgical training and women postdoctoral candidates in a research or other gap year who have graduated medical school who are committed to cardiothoracic surgery the opportunity to attend the WTSA Annual Meeting, and to be mentored throughout the meeting by a WTS/WTSA member.”

Congratulations, Catherine!

### UCLA Simulation Instructor Course

A two-day UCLA Simulation Instructor Course is scheduled for October 25-26, 2021

**Topics covered**

- “Administrative - how to start/run a simulation center; directing, recruiting personnel/instructors, training, coordinating, scheduling
- Technical - hands-on troubleshooting, software programming, running the simulation controls
- Instructional - teaching and debriefing with simulation
- Research - conducting educational/simulation-based research”

**Registration**

Nominal fee of $200 for UCLA affiliated faculty and staff (non-UCLA participants pay $2,000). Register at: [www.sim.ucla.edu/simpay](http://www.sim.ucla.edu/simpay)
UC Library Search is Live

All members of the University of California Community now have access to this expansive online resource, which allows users to conduct system wide searches for materials across all UC campus libraries. Learn more about how it works here.

2020-21 Upcoming Events (dates are subject to change)
Wed, September 1: Match 2022 Virtual Information Session
Wed, November 17: General Surgery Interviews
Wed, December 1: General Surgery Interviews
Wed, December 15: General Surgery Interviews
Fri, March 18: NRMP Match Day

Wednesday Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>“Risk Factors for Thyroid Cancer”</td>
<td>Avital Harari, MD, MSc, FACS Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Endocrine Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>Joint Emergency Medicine &amp; Surgery Grand Rounds “Policing Implications for Patients”</td>
<td>Ji Seon Song, JD, Assistant Professor of Law, University of California Irvine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>“Massive Transfusion and Trauma Resuscitation”</td>
<td>Angela Neville, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Trauma &amp; Critical Care, Program Director, General Surgery, Residency, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Joe Crompton, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>7 am</td>
<td>Joint Anesthesia and Surgery Journal Club “What is New in Surgical Critical Care”</td>
<td>Moderator: Christopher Ortiz, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</td>
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Zoom Link: https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/571420558