



AUGUST 2018

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



In the past few months we have been busy people. Celebrations abound as our Graduates move on and we welcome a new group of residents and fellows.

New appointments are taken as Dr. Duncan Wilcox is named Surgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital Colorado; Dr. Martin McCarter is named Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development for the Department of Surgery, and I am now the Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center, in addition to continuing as Chair for the Department of Surgery.

The trauma center at Denver Health is renamed after Dr. Ernest “Gene” Moore and a number of new faculty and staff join our ranks.

We celebrated our patients with the publication of “The Art of Healing” and enjoyed an

evening at the Fulginiti gallery with the patients and the artist responsible for the artwork. It was a very moving night of hearing their stories and seeing their responses to the portraits Arturo painted of them.

Our Burn team represented well at the American Burn Association in Chicago with congratulations going to Devin Boe, recipient of the Best Overall Poster Award.

Dr. Rony Marwan will continue his research of Neural Tube Defects in relation to myelomeningocele (spina bifida) with a 200K Research Scholar Award.

We are also excited to announce the roll out of a new Advanced Practice Provider Surgical Fellowship to begin classes in January 2019.

Additionally we were honored to host David B. Hoyt, MD

for the Sarah V. and Ernest E. Moore Trauma Lectureship and Sean C. Grondin, MD, MPH for the 13th Annual Marvin Pomerantz Lectureship in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

As always it continues to be my privilege to share our successes and upcoming events with you. I hope you enjoy the newsletter that follows.

Richard D. Schulick

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA
Professor & Chair of the University of Colorado Department of Surgery
Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Gústí Chair

Improve Every Life

Innovating Surgical Care

Curing through Discovery

Enlightening Tomorrow’s Leaders

Daring to be Exceptional



Duncan Wilcox, MD

SURGEON-IN-CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S SURGERY

Dr. Wilcox joined Children's Colorado in 2008 as the Chief of Pediatric Urology. He practices at the hospital's Anschutz Medical Campus location, as well as Children's Colorado South Campus in

Highlands Ranch. He has served as a trustee of the Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation board since 2015, and

was recently named The Ponzio Family Chair for the Surgeon-in-Chief by the Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation.

"Duncan Wilcox has proven himself to be an outstanding leader during his tenure as interim surgeon-in-chief," noted Jena Hausmann, president and CEO of Children's Colorado. "With his vision, passion and strategic mindset, in addition to his highly regarded medical expertise and research background, he was a natural choice to fill this role on our

medical leadership team. I have every confidence that he will lead our already outstanding Center for Children's Surgery to even greater heights in the future."

"I am deeply honored to accept this new position and look forward to working closely with my colleagues to create a collaborative environment upon which to further build our world-class Center for Children's Surgery,"

- Dr. Wilcox.

Dr. Wilcox's primary clinical interests include reconstructive urology, incontinence and patients with bladder disease and complex bladder anomalies. He has led and/or been involved in a number of clinical outcome studies specifically involving hypospadias, undescended testicles and patients with hydronephrosis, or the swelling of a kidney due to a build-up of urine.

He attended medical school at the University of London, trained in pediatric urology and pediatric surgery at the University of London, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and was an attending physician in London and UT Southwestern in Dallas.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENT



Martin McCarter, MD, FACS

Martin McCarter, MD, FACS

Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Martin McCarter, MD on his appointment as the Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development of our department.

As the new Vice Chair for Strategic Planning and Program Development, Dr. McCarter will work closely with department leadership to develop both long and short term strategies, while maintaining an understanding of current market conditions.

He will work in close collaborative relationships with CU Medicine, Children's Hospital Colorado and UHealth to maintain an understanding of future expansion programs, marketing strategies and clinical initiatives.

Dr. McCarter will serve on the Department of Surgery Executive Committee and work individually with Division Heads to understand the strategic goals of their subspecialties. He will serve as a resource as they develop business proposals for new clinical opportunities both

on the Anschutz Campus and within outlying facilities.

Dr. McCarter attended the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his surgery residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He went on to complete a surgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Program.

He began in the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in 2001 and is currently a Professor and the Surgical Director of the Esophageal and Gastric Cancer program.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. McCarter to the department's leadership team!

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Giustí Chair
Professor & Chair



WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF!

Faculty



Serenity Banden, NP
Instructor
Surgical Oncology



Austin DeRosa, MD
Senior Instructor
Urology



Lynette Driscoll, PAC
Instructor
Transplant Surgery



Donald Jacobs, MD
Professor & Division Chief
Vascular Surgery



Paige Kack, NP
Instructor
Pediatric Surgery



Kristen Lowe, DDS
Assistant Professor
Plastic &
Reconstructive Surgery



Vera Sekula, PAC
Instructor
Urology



David Sobel, MD
Senior Instructor
Urology

Staff



Lara Casey
Patient Affairs Coordinator
Surgical Oncology



Kiran Dyamenahalli
Post Doc Fellow
GI, Trauma &
Endocrine Surgery



Amy Fortner
Executive Assistant
Surgical Oncology



Holly Hulsebus, MPH
Research Assistant
GI, Trauma &
Endocrine Surgery



Allie Ivar
Administrative Assistant III
Vascular Surgery



Bryce Jones
Laboratory Support
Specialist
Center for Surgical Innovation



Kayla Lang
Academic Services
Professional
Office of Education



Hao Liu, MD, PhD
Post Doc Fellow
Surgical Oncology



Norma Ochoa
Program Assitant
Urology



Rachael O'Donnell
HR Professional
Finance & Administration



Jason Owens
Division Manager
Urology



Jessie Robinson
Division Manager
Plastic &
Reconstructive Surgery



Christian Scott
Division Manager
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Sarah Smith
Business Support Specialist
Transplant Surgery

HONORS :: AWARDS :: ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Kayla Lang

*For information on
the awards
presented at
Graduation please
see page 5.*

Congratulations on earning
your "Stop the Bleed"
certification! Way to go!



Richard D. Schulick; Alex Morton; Mara Additon; Aidan Hamm; Shelly Wilson; Aline Rau; Nicole Christian; Doug Hirth; Ken Howell; Neil Venardos; Mark Nehler

CONGRATULATIONS DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GRADUATES

It is with much pride and appreciation that the Department of Surgery wishes our graduating residents and fellows much success in their continued training and careers!

General Surgery Residents

Mara Additon, MD
Private Practice
Pocatello, Idaho

Nicole Christian, MD
Breast Surgical Oncology
Fellowship
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center, New York

Aidan Hamm, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Carolinas Medical Center
Charlotte, North Carolina

Douglas Hirth, MD
Private Practice
Grand Junction, Colorado

Kenneth Howell, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Fellowship
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Alexander Morton, MD
Assistant Professor
University of Colorado
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver, Colorado

Aline Rau, MD
Plastic Surgery Residency
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Neil Vernardos, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Fellowship
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Shelly Wilson, MD
Abdominal Transplant Surgery
Fellowship
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Cardiothoracic Fellowship



Charles Cole, MD
Private Practice
Washington Regional
Medical Center
Fayetteville, Arkansas



Brendan Dewan, MD
Private Practice
Austin Texas

Congenital Cardiac Fellowship



Harma Turbendian, MD
Assistant Professor
Wolfson Children's Hospital
Jacksonville, Florida

Pediatric Colorectal Surgery Fellowship



Emma Hamilton, MD

Pediatric International Surgery Fellowship



Raphael Vuille-dit-Bille, MD, PhD
Pediatric Surgeon,
University of Basel
Switzerland

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship



Karen Lo, MD
Private Practice
Denver, Colorado



Seth Tebockhorst, MD
Hand Surgery Fellowship
University of Texas Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

Pediatric Surgical Critical Care Surgery Fellowship



S. Christopher Derderian, MD
Pediatric Surgery Fellow
Children's Hospital Colorado



Improve Every Life

Pediatric Urology Fellowship



Amanda Saltzman, MD
Assistant Professor
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Trauma Acute Care Surgery Fellowship



Gregory Borst, MD
Acute Care Surgeon
UHealth Memorial Hospital
Colorado Spings, Colorado

Vascular Surgery Fellowship



Kathryn Bowser, MD
Assistant Professor
Christiana Care Hospital

Reconstructive Urology Fellowship



Michael Avallone, MD
Private Practice
San Luis Obispo, California

Transplant Surgery Fellowship



Muhammad Khan, MBBS
Transplant Surgeon
Karachi, Pakistan

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Michal Radomski, MD
Trauma Acute Care
Surgery Fellowship
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Urology Residents



Michael Maccini, MD
Private Practice
Spokane, Washington



Aaron Richman, MD
Assistant Professor
Boston Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts



Trevor Wild, MD
Private Practice
Des Moines, Iowa

RESIDENCY AWARDS

Ernest E. Moore Award for Basic Science

Alison Halpern, MD
PGY 3 General Surgery Resident

Frederick Grover Award for Clinical Research

Julia Coleman, MD
PGY 3 General Surgery Resident

Ben Eiseman Basic Science Research Award

Piyush Sharma, MD
PGY 2 General Surgery Resident

Ben Eiseman Clinical Research Award

Hunter Moore, MD,
PGY 4 General Surgery Resident

J. Cuthbert Owens Award

Brandon Chapman, MD
PGY 4 General Surgery Resident

CHIEF RESIDENT AWARDS

Faculty Teacher of the Year

Ana Gleisner, MD
Faculty

Intern of the Year

Laura Leonard, MD

MEDICAL STUDENT AWARDS

Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award

Nicole Christian, MD
Resident

Christopher Raeburn, MD
Faculty

Alden Harken Clinical Research Award

Aleksander Blubaum
Medical Student

Owens-Swan Award

Helen Madsen
Medical Student

George Packard Award

Andrea Geedes
Medical Student

Kristen Ohe
Medical Student

Medical Student Eiseman Award

Clay Cothren Burlew, MD
Faculty

DeLauro Scholarship

Joshua Mares
Medical Student

WELCOME!

FELLOWS

Burn Surgery Fellowship



Jessica Hard, MD
University of Colorado

Cardiothoracic Fellowship



Vicente Valero, MD
Johns Hopkins University



Neil Venardos, MD
University of Colorado

Congenital Cardiac Fellowship



Matthew Stone, MD
University of Virginia

Pediatric Colorectal Surgery Fellowship



Andrew Trecartin, MD
Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship



Mohammed Ageel, MD
University of Toledo

Pediatric Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Brian Blackwood, MD
Rush University Medical Center

Pediatric Urology Fellowship



Sarah Hecht, MD
Oregon Health Science University

Plastic Surgery Fellowship



Aline Rau, MD
University of Colorado



Jhade Woodall, MD
University of Maryland

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship



Amy Gore, MD
Rutgers University



Alexander Schwed, MD
Harbor, UCLA Medical Center

Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Fellowship



Michal Radomski, MD
George Washington University Hospital



Nicole Werner, MD
University of Michigan

Transplant Surgery Fellowship



Hillary Yaffe, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Montefiore Medical Center

Vascular Surgery Fellowship



Sammy Siada, DO
UCSF - Fresno

RESIDENTS

General Surgery Residency



Danielle Abbitt, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Central Florida



Samuel Antoine, MD
Urology - Preliminary
Columbia University College



Michael Atwell, MD
Urology - Preliminary
University of Illinois



Sara Chiochetti, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Rowan University



Dylan Coughlin, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Colorado



Kevin Choy, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Florida State University



Improve Every Life



Margot DeBot, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Rush Medical College



James Dunbar, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
West Virginia University



Adam Dyas, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
University of Alabama



Tiffany Hsiao, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Virginia Commonwealth



Daniel Kissau, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Wayne State University



Anna Kotlarz, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Florida State University



Alexander Kurth, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Texas - SW



Thien Le, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Colorado



Janet Lee, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Virginia Commonwealth



Helen Madsen, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
University of Colorado



Lea Matthews, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Thomas Jefferson



Amber Moyer, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Temple University



Vivian Nguyen, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Colorado



Carson Petrash, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Texas - SA



Miguel Rodriguez-Homs, MD
Urology - Preliminary
University of Iowa



Paul Salazar, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Indiana University



Daniel Sassoon, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Indiana University



Tarek Shihab, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Texas Tech Odessa



Michaela Sljivich, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Texas MB



Keval Tilva, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Emory University



Kathleen Turner, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Wayne State University



Ryan Venor, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
New York Medical College



Connor Wiles, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Oregon Health and Science



Matthew Winn, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Medical College of Georgia



Dor Yoeli, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Baylor College

Plastic Surgery Residency



Ryan Constantine, MD
Texas A&M University, COM



Leela Mundra, MD
University of Miami, SOM



Becky King, MD
University of Colorado

Urology Residency



Rodrigo Rodrigues Pessoa, MD
University of Colorado



Jeffrey Morrison
University of Colorado



Nadia Halstead, MD
University of Colorado



Arturo Garcia's self portrait.

THE ART OF HEALING

Arturo Garcia's passion was painting, but he had fallen back on a job as a bartender to pay the bills. During a shift at Tres Margaritas, the restaurant in Lakewood where he worked, he was stricken with abdominal pains that proved to be signs of a rare form of cancer.

At University of Colorado Hospital, Arturo received a state-of-the-art surgery called the Whipple procedure, which halted the cancer's progress, but he still had to fight for his life as his weakened body battled a life-threatening infection for weeks in the hospital. Then came 12 rounds of chemotherapy.

Arturo made it through the ordeal, and the experience changed his life. Distractions and mundane concerns dropped away, and the essentials of his life came into sharper focus: his love for his family, his need for meaning and purpose, and his passion for painting. He vowed to find a way to make art central to his life, and to help others find healing and meaning through art.

Fast-forward three years to 2016, when the Department of Surgery was working on a Surgical Care Report to keep stakeholders informed of the Department's growth and progress. Dr. Richard Schulick, Chair of the Department, wanted the report to go beyond financial figures and lists of accomplishments. Through discussions with faculty and staff, the decision was made to include the personal stories of several patients to illustrate the heart of the work we do in our department. Our team is large, and our activities are complex, but the ultimate goal is simple: Improve Every Life.

To illustrate the patients' stories—in a literal sense—the Department reached out to Arturo, who was busily engaged with his new life, painting in a bold new style and selling his work at galleries in Denver. Arturo loved the idea, and the Department, together with UCHHealth, commissioned him to paint eight portraits



of patients whose lives had been changed by the work of our surgeons. (One of those patients was Arturo himself.)

The paintings are featured, in digital form, in the Department's 2017 Surgical Care Report, *The Art of Healing*.

This summer, Arturo's paintings went on display in the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. On June 22, 2018, the Department of Surgery held a reception to celebrate the exhibition. Arturo had previously "met" his fellow patients only through photographs, but now he had the opportunity to meet them in person. At the reception, he movingly described how these human connections were the "last stitch" in his healing process, which began in the hospital, continued at home and through his work in the studio finally came full circle into the community.



Christine Befort and Arturo Garcia



Maurisa and Ashleigh Mounger



Arturo Garcia and Steven Zeelau



"Art helps sick people. The very least that I can do is try to give back what was given to me."

- Arturo Garcia



Improve Every Life



Sara Landis



Jena Stiles



Arturo Garcia and Family



ARTURO'S STATEMENT ON THE ART OF HEALING

Those of us who have confronted the sudden possibility of death or faced a health or physical threat in our lives have one thing in common: a bigger appreciation for life than we had before and a new awareness.

When I was asked to do a series of portraits of people who had been in some sort of health distress, perhaps even facing the possibility of dying, I immediately became interested. The whole experience was too familiar to me: I had been there.

So I took on the project, moved especially by one common denominator that outweighed all the rest: the experience of survival, of recovery, of healing. In short, the experience of life on a different level; one that has a new meaning and a new purpose.

In 2016-17 I painted eight portraits of people of all ages, genders and cultures, including one of myself. All I had were their photos and the spirit carried by their powerful stories which related to mine in the sense that we all seemed to have one thing in common: we wanted to live.

From personal experience I have discovered that anything is possible when you want it badly enough and work towards achieving it. The universal power of intent is immense. In our case, the universe conspired, and we had the willingness, the thirst for

life, the means, and when the doctors appeared, the medicine. We were ready. We wanted to live. Life showed up.

The colorful faces, the different hues, the explosion of color, are all parallel to the universe: we are all one and moving as one. The cells move, the stars and the galaxies move, the thick ubiquitous strokes of oil paint are frozen as they move, propelled by the pallet knives onto the canvas like meteorites in the vast universe.

In my pallet, color is beauty, and beauty is life itself. The warmth of humanity makes itself evident in the canvas. Our true nature is not abstract as our brain sketches it. Our true nature comes from the deepest silence within, from happiness, from love. The spirit thrives on our true nature.

The portraits painted for the "Art of Healing Surgical Care Report" are a eulogy to our true human nature, to the light of our beautiful spirit and to its healing

To view more of Arturo's artwork visit:

www.arturogarciafineart.com



DENVER HEALTH RENAMES TRAUMA CENTER TO HONOR DR. MOORE

Denver Health is thrilled and honored to announce the renaming and dedication of its Trauma Center as the Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health, after Denver Health Director of Surgical Research Dr. Ernest E. 'Gene' Moore. The dedication came at a special ceremony on July 10. During his more than four decades of continued service at Denver Health, Dr. Moore has achieved international recognition as a "godfather" in the field of trauma. Under his leadership, Denver Health pioneered the state's first Level 1 Trauma Center – an academic commitment to advance the study of trauma care and research worldwide.

Countless current and former Denver Health patients credit Dr. Moore with saving their lives, including Denver Police Sgt. Tony Lopez and Jourdan Block.

Dr. Moore began his career at Denver Health in 1976 and served as the Chief of Trauma, Chief of Surgery and the first Bruce M. Rockwell Distinguished Chair in Trauma Surgery before his current role as Director of Surgical Research. He also serves as Vice Chairman for Research and is a Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University of Colorado Denver, a Denver Health partner hospital.

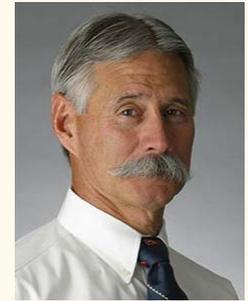
Dr. Moore is co-author of Trauma and the editor of the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, both leading publications in the field of trauma.

The Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health is one of the nation's leading Level 1 Trauma Centers. With one of the highest survival rates in the country (98 percent) for the most severe injuries, the Center is both nationally and internationally recognized for innovative care of the injured patient. Denver Health's skilled and specialized trauma surgeons have written much of the key literature in trauma today.

Denver Health is the leading trauma referral hospital in Colorado and serves six neighboring states in the Rocky Mountain Region, managing all types of trauma cases for both adult and pediatric patients. Denver Health's trauma research laboratory has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for 30 consecutive years.

As the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the city of Denver, some 18,000 trauma patients

come through the Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center annually. More than 2,700 trauma patients are admitted



Ernest E. Moore, MD

annually and the Center receives transfers from more than 60 regional hospitals.

Denver Health has a long history of providing the most advanced trauma care. Since 1860 (our first trauma patient arrived by horse after a gunshot wound from a duel), the trauma center has remained a pioneer in trauma care. As the first Trauma Center in Colorado, Denver Health was just re-verified and designated as a Level 1 Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons and the State of Colorado, continuing a long legacy of providing care for the most severely injured.



Gene Moore, MD; Charles Fox, MD; Barry Platnick, MD; Ryan Lawless, MD; Mitch Cohen, MD; Clay Cothren Burlew, MD; Frederic Pieracci, MD; Eric Campion, MD



Improve Every Life

DR. SCHULICK NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO CANCER CENTER



Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA, a renowned cancer surgeon and accomplished administrative leader, has been named director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center to lead a \$100 million investment in the program over the next five years.

BRONCOS STADIUM EMPLOYEES GIVEN LIFE SAVING TRAINING BEFORE SEASON

By: Dillon Thomas, CBS4, July 16, 2018

Every Sunday, during Denver Broncos season, ticket holders trust stadium employees to take them to their seats, or to even serve them fresh food. But, after the training they received Sunday, Broncos fans can now trust many with their lives.

Thanks to a partnership with UHealth, hundreds of stadium employees were given training on how to stop life threatening bleeding situations.

“It gives them more skills to help people if they are in need”, said Dr. Robert McIntyre, Medical Director of Trauma Services at University of Colorado Hospital.

McIntyre said the training the staff members received was needed, especially as critical responses increase in frequency. “This course is all

“We are incredibly fortunate to have a leader as talented as Dr. Schulick already on our faculty and ready to enhance the high-quality research and care provided by the faculty and staff of the CU Cancer Center,” said John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, dean of the School of Medicine. “Dr. Schulick will be implementing an impressive plan to extend the reach of the cancer center, further integrate our research and clinical programs and improve the quality of life for the patients we serve.”

about teaching people how to recognize bleeding that might be life threatening,” McIntyre said.

Employees at UHealth volunteered their time to train the staff. “It was very informative, just to be able to save somebody’s life if you are put in that situation,” said Jeremiah Holmes, a stadium employee.

Mile High Stadium is already equipped with AED’s throughout the concourses. The stadium pledged to implement kits throughout the building as well, that will help employees stop the bleed in the future.



AFTER BEATING HER HEROIN ADDICTION, THIS WOMAN NOW HOPES TO KEEP HER LEGS

By: Ryan Hearer, 9News, May 29, 2018



Tae Chong, MD

AURORA - When we think of heroin addicts in recovery we think of counseling and methadone clinics. What we don’t often see are the physical scars, the destruction that sticking yourself with a needle can have over time.

Blair Hubbard, unfortunately, knows all too well what kind of damage a heroin addiction can do. Her journey started after receiving a prescription for opioids at a dentist’s office. After six years of abusing pills, she turned to heroin.

“When you start using needles, the obsession to get a hit becomes - it takes over,” said Hubbard.

She got clean in 2011. She said she recalls struggling to find a place that she hadn’t already stuck herself with a needle.

“I know people, myself included, that have cried over not being able to find a hit,” she said. “So, you start looking everywhere. Everywhere you can. I am essentially scarred from head to toe.”

Some wounds scar. Others fester. Both of Blair’s legs have had open wounds that became infected.

“When I first started shooting heroin, whatever the heroin was cut with essentially ruined my skin,” she said, lying in a hospital bed at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Two years after she stopped using heroin, doctors agreed to skin grafts that close up the wounds.

“The skin and soft tissue get infected. It falls apart. If it is overlying a tendon or nerve or bone, it becomes a real problem,” said Dr. Tae Chong, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at UHealth. “If you can’t clear the infection and give her some new tissue to cover it, she is going to lose that leg. She’s going to get an amputation.”

Blair’s had a handful of surgeries to make this happen. It’s pushed her into debt. She spends more time in hospitals than she ever expected. But she knows she’s one of the lucky ones.

“There are a large number of users who are living with open wounds and abscesses, that are really, really sick. And I don’t think society really understands that,” she said.

This stage of her life is about getting back to being Blair. A person she once lost and has found again.





Front Row: Tyler Smith, Anne Wagner, John Twomey, Liz Kovacs, Arek Wiktor; Second Row: Sonja Hersch, Charlotte Larger, Catherine Gaudreault, Amber Kohler; Third Row: Laura Madsen, Linda Staubli, Samuel Michel, Ketti Sloan, Brenda Curtis, Amy Kuehn; Back Row: Devin Boe

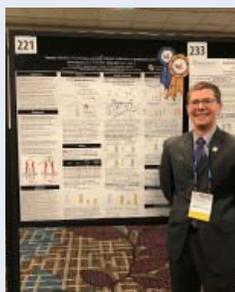
BURN TEAM PRESENTS AT AMERICAN BURN ASSOCIATION IN CHICAGO

The University of Colorado Burn team had a very successful trip to the American Burn Association (ABA) meeting in Chicago. The team had a total of 12 podium and poster presentations. Dr. Wiktor's podium presentation on "Multi-regional Utilization of a Mobile Device App for Triage and Transfer of Burn Patients" was presented in the Top 5 abstract session. Devin Boe's poster "Specific Inhibition of IL-6 Trans-signaling Reduces Expansion of Peripheral Blood Granulocytic Gr-1+CD11b+ Cells after Burn Injury" won the best overall poster award. Devin is a MD/PhD candidate at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

This work was funded by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and completed in the lab of Elizabeth Kovacs PhD. This success comes on the heel of their recent successful re-verification by the ABA as the only verified Burn Center in the Rocky Mountain region.

Targeting Immune Suppression after Burn Injury

Research into the function of the immune system after burn injury has shown that the systemic inflammatory response to severe tissue damage induces a state of dysfunctional immunity, including the production of immune-suppressive leukocytes with the potential to inhibit responses against pathogens.



Devin Boe, recipient of Best Overall Poster Award

In our mouse model of burn injury, we were able to reduce expansion of these suppressive cells by inhibiting a particular aspect of the inflammatory response to injury, the soluble interleukin-6 receptor pathway. These studies suggest that targeting specific components of the initial inflammatory response to injury could restore or improve suppressed immunity not only in burn-injured patients, but potentially in other critically ill patients suffering from similar immune dysfunction.

200K RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENT - DR. MARWAN



Rony Marwan, MD

Neural tube defects (NTDs) are the leading cause of central nervous system malformation in humans and a devastating birth defect that produces progressive damage to the developing spinal cord. The health care cost of these defects amounts to \$1,400,000 per child affected by a NTD, specifically myelomeningocele (spina bifida), over a 20-year life span

The landmark NIH-sponsored Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMs) led to a paradigm shift in the management of NTDs and has established that prenatal repair of these defects results in a significant reduction in the need for postnatal ventriculoperitoneal shunting. However, prenatal repair comes with significant risks to both mother and baby; with increased risk of premature rupture of membranes, preterm delivery and uterine scar complications. Furthermore, it is offered relatively late (23-24 weeks) in relation to formation of the delicate nervous system.

Innovative approaches are needed to offer protection of the nervous tissue along with minimizing risks of the procedure. All recent investigations focus on utilizing 2-3 incisions that may prove

beneficial in reducing uterine and maternal complications but will not change the age of application and unfortunately require prolonged operative times with potential neurodevelopmental and physiological risks to the fetus.

Using our unique and successful NTD mouse model, we have developed a novel Reverse Thermal Gel (RTG) patch to protect the neural tube defect from the amniotic fluid early in gestation (16-18 weeks), while minimizing the size and number of chorioamniotic membrane violations and the prolonged maternal and fetal anesthesia.

Having performed the necessary preparatory work in our NTD mouse model, we now aim to apply our approach to the sheep model prior to human translation.

This approach has the potential to revolutionize the current management of NTDs and will be essential before clinical trials can be translated to humans. Not only will the development of a needle-based approach allow a paradigm shift in the timing and method of repair, but it will also minimize surgical and anesthetic risks by shortening operating room time thus further improving maternal and neonatal outcomes beyond open repairs.

The research scholar award will provide sufficient funds to obtain the required preliminary data for a larger NIH RO1 study.



Improve Every Life

NEW ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP

The Department of Surgery and UHealth are excited to announce a new 12-month Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Surgical Fellowship. This program will provide extensive training and experience in the pre-, intra-, and post-operative settings across a variety of clinics and surgery divisions at both the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora and at the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado. The fellowship is ideal for new graduates who wish to pursue a career in surgery or practicing APPs who wish to change career focus.

The APP fellowship will provide surgical didactic and clinical experience to both Physician Assistants and Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioners across the continuum of care for surgical patients. Didactic education includes a comprehensive training orientation, skills labs, and weekly education lectures. The clinical rotations will occur across a variety of surgical specialty teams including but not limited to trauma and acute care, surgical oncology, breast surgery, urology, and intensive care. The fellowship will provide opportunities for these fellows to engage in research and quality improvement initiatives within the hospital, with the support of UHealth faculty and staff.

The program will begin accepting applications September 2018 with a start date of our first class on January 2019.

For more information contact: Christan Bartsch, PA-C
christan.bartsch@ucdenver.edu.

2ND ANNUAL SARAH V. AND ERNEST E. MOORE TRAUMA LECTURESHIP



David B. Hoyt, MD

We were honored to host David B. Hoyt as the second annual Sarah V. and Ernest E. Moore Visiting Professor. Dr. Hoyt is a nationally recognized trauma surgeon and currently serves as the Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Dr. Hoyt attended Amherst College for his undergraduate studies and received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his surgical residency at the UC San Diego School of Medicine (UCSD) in 1984 and joined the faculty at UCSD where he served as a Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. He was appointed Professor of Surgery in 1995 and awarded The Monroe E. Trout Professorship in Surgery in 1996.

In 2006, he was recruited to the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine (UCI) where he was named the Chairman of the Department of Surgery and the John E. Connolly Professor of Surgery and was later appointed the Vice Executive Dean in 2008.

Dr. Hoyt has authored over 480 publications. Dr. Hoyt's research interests involve

basic and clinical work in a variety of important areas related to trauma patients and trauma care systems, including cytokine regulation, the isolation of trauma active peptides, trauma registries, violence prevention, crash investigation, and long-term outcomes research. Dr. Hoyt holds membership on the editorial boards of The World Journal of Emergency Surgery, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Journal of Trauma, Shock, and Open Access Emergency Medicine.

13TH ANNUAL MARVIN POMERANTZ LECTURESHIP IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY



Sean C. Grondin, MD, MPH

We were pleased to host Dr. Sean C. Grondin as this year's speaker for the 13th Annual Marvin Pomerantz lectureship. In 1998, Dr. Grondin completed his thoracic surgery residency at the University of Toronto. He subsequently completed a thoracic oncology fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and a Master's Degree in Clinical Effectiveness at the Harvard School of Public Health. From 1999 to 2000, Dr. Grondin finished a second fellowship in Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Grondin began his clinical practice at Northwestern University in Chicago prior to moving to Alberta, Canada in 2002. Currently, Dr. Grondin is Professor and Head, Department of Surgery, University of Calgary and President of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons. He also serves as the Canadian Director on the Board of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Secretary of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. Dr. Grondin has received several awards including the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada "Mentor of the Year" award as well as the 2016 King James IV Canadian Traveling Fellowship award.

Dr. Grondin's particular areas of interest include all aspects of thoracic oncology (lung and esophageal cancer, mediastinal malignancies, and mesothelioma) and minimally invasive thoracic surgery. Dr. Grondin is also interested in research related to surgical workforce planning and the development of educational programs that assist in the enhancement of leadership skills for faculty members and trainees.



Jim Eastman, left, and Scott La Point have bonded like brothers since La Point donated one of his kidneys to Eastman. Photo by Cyrus McCrimmon for UCHealth

DUO BOUND FOR TRANSPLANT GAMES AFTER BRAIN INJURY AND KIDNEY CONNECTIONS

By: Katie Kerwin McCrimmon, UCHealth, July 17, 2018

Early on a summer morning, the prairie grass is wet with dew, the birds are singing and the snow-capped Indian Peaks shimmer to the west as two men pedal up a hill near Boulder while training for the Transplant Games of America.

The incline grows steeper. The cyclists pedal harder, and the younger man rides up beside his friend. He reaches over, grips the back of his buddy's bicycle seat and gives him a little boost up the hill.

Reaching out to help comes naturally to Scott La Point, 54, who met Jim Eastman, 68, through support groups for survivors of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Years earlier, each had suffered devastating injuries: La Point when he was cycling and a truck plowed into him and threw him 72 feet, and Eastman in a car crash that sent his SUV tumbling end to end, then nearly twice side to side.

The men had met before, but weren't close when Eastman

needed some help with his Longmont TBI support group...

After the meeting, as the men walked to their cars, La Point saw a sign on the back of Eastman's wife's silver Subaru. It read: "HUSBAND NEEDS KIDNEY."

On the spot, La Point offered to donate one of his. "Jesus gave his life for me. I can give you a kidney," he said....

Dr. James Pomposelli and Dr. Kendra Conzen teamed up for the surgeries. Conzen removed La Point's kidney and Pomposelli transplanted it into Eastman's abdomen...

"Altruistic donors perform a selfless act that enables many more people to have transplants than otherwise would," said Pomposelli,....

View the complete story at:
<https://tinyurl.com/UCTransplant>

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DEEP BREATH THANKS TO SUBGLOTTIC STENOSIS SURGERY

By: Todd Neff, UCHealth, July 5, 2018



John Mitchell, MD

We tend to associate the term "elite" with athletes, but it also applies to Lindsey Williams. She's among one of fewer than 500 board-certified veterinary technician specialists in emergency and critical care in the world. That's about the same number of people who play NBA basketball.

For a couple of months, she had noticed that she was having a harder time breathing. She wondered if allergens or forest fires in the region had something to do with it. A visit to Nashville, Tenn., for a conference answered those questions. "They were not having forest fires, and there was completely different plant life, and it was worse," she said.

Then, about three weeks into the fall semester, she woke up barely able to breathe. Williams's husband Zachary took her to the emergency room, and her work-at-home day turned into a day at the local hospital. Her breathing problem had nothing to do with her lungs; rather, it was caused by a narrowing of her airway at

the base of her larynx and just below it. The diagnosis was a rare condition called idiopathic subglottic stenosis.

The "idiopathic" in idiopathic subglottic stenosis means the narrowing was of unknown cause, arose spontaneously or both. (Sometimes the cause of the stenosis is understood – it can happen after intubation or as a reaction to a tracheostomy tube that's damaged the airway, or because of an illness called Wegener's granulomatosis.)...

She had to sleep sitting up, so she slept poorly. It was hard to eat. Her daughter Olivia, 3, was having a hard time adjusting to this new reality. "She didn't understand why I couldn't speak, couldn't read her stories,



Lindsey Williams

couldn't sing to her at night," Williams said. "And I couldn't physically bend over, so there was less physical contact."...

But there was hope. It

arrived in the form of Dr. John Mitchell, the University of Colorado School of Medicine's chief of general thoracic surgery who practices at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital. Mitchell is among the few surgeons in the country with deep experience in the challenging surgical repair of idiopathic subglottic stenosis.

View the complete story at:
<https://tinyurl.com/UCMitchell>

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Improve Every Life

DENVER HEALTH WILL SOON OFFER LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY FOR TRANSGENDER PATIENTS

By: Sara Fleming, Westword, July 9, 2018



David Khechoyan, MD

Two years ago, when Stacia Hoskins came out as transgender at age thirty, her entire life was upended. Most of her family, who are deeply religious, stopped talking to her completely. Her marriage ended, though her wife and kids remain supportive. She lost a good job at a software company — she presumes because she is transgender. She had to change her name, her birth certificate and her driver's license. But the emotional stress of the change was worth it, she says, for the sense of freedom she finally felt.

But in order to really feel like herself, she needed to change her appearance. While living as a man, Hoskins had a beard so thick that it was impossible to shave every day. She feared that even if she started dressing and introducing herself as a woman, people would see her as a “man in a dress.” She wanted to like who she saw when she looked in the mirror. It wasn’t just her body hair, the clothing she wore, or her sexual organs that Hoskins was concerned about; it was the bone structure of her face. Hormones helped to redistribute the fat in her face to make it look more feminine, but she knew that the bones in

her face had already developed and that it was “rough and masculine.”

Hoskins’s next step in transition is to undergo facial feminization surgery, a procedure she says she’s wanted since before coming out. Although the surgery is well known within the transgender community, it is not yet widely available. But that’s changing, and Colorado will be at the forefront of the surgery’s newfound popularity.

The LGBT Center of Excellence at Denver Health, which opened in 2017, will begin to offer facial feminization surgery this summer, making Denver Health one of only three public hospitals in the nation to offer it, according to Trans Health Care’s surgeon directory. “Denver Health’s mission is Level One Care for All, and the organization realized we could do better to serve the LGBTQ population of Denver. We believe that no matter who you are that we are here to provide care through a person’s life span,” Kari Kuka, the center’s administrative director, wrote in an email.

According to Kuka, Denver Health has long provided the LGBTQ community with services such as HIV prevention and care, but patients wanted local access to gender confirmation surgeries, for

which patients frequently have to travel to other states.

Facial feminization surgery is a combination of various plastic surgeries, usually performed at the same time, meant to soften and feminize masculine bone structure. In the procedure, the brow line is lifted, the forehead is made shorter, the Adam’s apple is reduced, the nose is made smaller. According to Sable Schultz, transgender program manager at the GLBT Community Center of Colorado, a majority of transgender women now consider facial feminization surgery as a step in their transition.

As part of its new transgender program, Denver Health will also offer chest reconstruction, hysterectomies, orchiectomies



Stacia Hoskins

and vaginoplasty. It will be the only hospital in the state and one of very few “safety net hospitals” in the country to offer comprehensive care with the needs of transgender patients specifically in mind, according to Kuka. Already, there is a two-year wait list for vaginoplasty, and fifteen patients have expressed interest in facial feminization, which involves extensive consultations before the procedure can take place. (Denver Health’s Dr. David Khechoyan, who specializes in cranial facial

plastic surgery for trauma patients, will begin consulting with patients next month.)

Though availability is expanding, transgender surgeries are still extremely expensive. According to the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, facial feminization surgery is particularly inaccessible because almost all insurance companies deem it a cosmetic procedure and refuse to cover it. Depending on what needs to be done, it can cost upwards of \$35,000 to \$50,000, according to Kuka. “This is a surgery that is really out of reach for the majority of the population,” Kuka says.

Hoskins expects an uphill battle with her insurance company before she can determine whether she’ll be able to undergo facial feminization procedures at Denver Health. She plans to argue that the surgery is not cosmetic but medically necessary in order to address gender dysphoria, the deep anxiety that transgender people feel when they aren’t recognized as the gender with which they identify.

“[Cisgender people] don’t understand how deep it goes and the problems it can cause when you wake up every morning and you feel like you look like a gender other than what you are,” says Hoskins. “It has really deep psychological repercussions that, especially over the course of time, can really wreak havoc on your mental health. It’s much different from just saying, ‘Oh, I wish my nose was a little bit thinner.’”



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20, 2018
Core Curriculum
7:00 am - 8:00 am

Critical Care II
Lisa Ferrigno, MD
Assist. Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital

Critical Care III
Lauren Steward, MD
Assist. Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital

August 27, 2018
Core Curriculum
7:00 am - 8:00 am

Critical Care IV
Jamie Coleman, MD
Assoc. Professor; GITES
Denver Health Medical Center

Critical Care V
Ryan Lawless, MD
Assist. Professor; GITES
Denver Health Medical Center

September 3, 2018
No Conferences

Labor Day

September 10, 2018
John H. & Cynthia H. Schultz
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Firearm Injury Prevention Strategy and Process form the ACS Committee on Trauma



Ronald M. Stewart, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery
UT Health Science Center
San Antonio, Texas

September 17, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Surgical Assets in Modern Warfare
Franklin Wright, MD
Assist. Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital

Evolution in Mechanical Circulatory Support
Jay Pal, MD, PhD
Assoc. Prof.; Caridothoracic Surgery
University of Colorado Hospital

September 24, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Title Pending
Haejin In, MD, MBA, MPH
Assist. Professor; Surgical Oncology
Montefiore Medical Center

Update in Breast Cancer
Colleen Murphy, MD
Assist. Professor; Surgical Oncology
Lone Tree Breast Center

October 1, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Traumatic Brain Injury & Beta-Blockade: Beneficial?
Thomas Schroepel, MD
Assist. Professor; GITES
Memorial Hospital Central

Traumatic Aortic Injury
Eric Peltz, DO
Assist. Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital

October 8, 2018
14th Annual Alan R. Hopeman
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Progress Toward a Tissue Engineered Heart Valve



John Mayer, Jr., MD
Professor of Surgery
Harvard Medical School
Tommy Kaplan Chair in
Cardiovascular Studies
Children's Hospital Boston

October 15, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Peritoneal Metastases
Steven Ahrendt, MD
Professor, Surgical Oncology
University of Colorado Hospital

Surgical Management of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence in 2018
Janine Oliver, MD
Assistant Professor; Urology
University of Colorado Hospital

October 22, 2018
No Conferences

American College of Surgeons
Annual Meeting

October 29, 2018
ACS Visiting Surgeons Symposium
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Kenichiro Araki, MD, PhD
Div. of Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery
Gunma University Graduate SOM, Maebashi, Japan

Carsten Kamphues, MD
Interdisciplinary Tumor Center
Charite University of Medicine Berlin

Marin Palavecino, MD
Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery
Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires

November 5, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Robotics in Thoracic Surgery
Christopher Scott, MD
Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Colorado Hospital

Pelvic Organ Prolapse
Eliza Birnbaum, MD
Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital

November 12, 2018
John R. Lilly Memorial Lectureship
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Long Term Quality of Life in Patients with Pediatric Surgical Disease



Marjorie J. Arca, MD
Clinical Director
Surgical Critical Care
Children's Hospital
Wisconsin
Professor, Medical College
of Wisconsin

November 19, 2018
No Conferences

Thanksgiving Week

November 26, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Anorectal Malformation
Andrea Bischoff, MD
Assoc. Prof.; Pediatric Surgery
Children's Hospital Colorado

Surgical and Endovascular Management of Vascular Trauma
Charles Fox, MD
Assoc. Prof.; Vascular Surgery
Denver Health Medical Center

December 3, 2018
Grand Rounds
6:30 am - 8:00 am

Measuring Craniosynostosis Surgery Outcomes in 3D
David Khechoyan, MD
Assist. Prof.; Plastic Surgery
Children's Hospital Colorado

Evaluating Quality of Care in an ICU
Lauren Steward, MD
Assit. Professor; GITES
University of Colorado Hospital