

Department of Surgery

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024



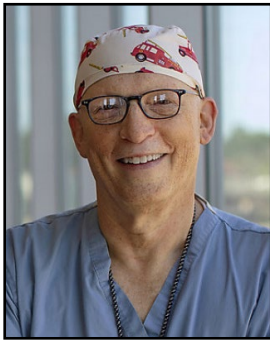
Letter from the Chair

The highlight of the Fall season has been the successful match of our residents to outstanding fellowship programs across the country in a variety of subspecialties in surgery. The programs to which our residents have matched are simply outstanding, and one of our intrepid chief residents is going into rural practice as well. Also, our residency program did extraordinarily well at the American College of Surgeons Skills Competition where we were runners up, and the Surgical Jeopardy Program which we won. (all of this is covered later in the newsletter) I couldn't be prouder of our surgical residents and our surgical residency training program. From my vantagepoint, I revel in your success, and I believe that echoes the sentiment of the entire faculty. As we move into November, I wish all of you, faculty, residents and staff a Happy Thanksgiving with friends and family.

Demetrius

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY





Letter from the Editor

This is Mike Hirsh, retired pediatric surgeon, Chief Surgical Quality Officer, and Assistant Vice Provost for Health and Wellness Promotion over at the UMass Chan Medical School. This is my first attempt working with Ms. Pappas-Fillmore to create what will be a biannual newsletter.

We had a lot of information to put in this one and I think you'll find that the overall wellness of our department is pretty darn good. We are thriving academically, with technical education, publications, DEI education and recreation. We are doing wonderful things with Global Surgery, injury prevention, and working on quality projects that revolve around health disparities.

I am asking for your help in keeping our content fresh and vital. Please let us know if there are academic achievements, publications, transitions, blessed events, or just plain cool social events. You can email this content to themia.pappas-fillmore@umassmed.edu or contact me directly at michael.hirsh@umassmed.edu.

Fall in New England is arguably the most beautiful season in our country. Please enjoy and be well.

Mike Hirsh

Passing of Peter Gentile, PA/C Integral Provider and Beloved Team Member

(Left) Peter Gentile, PA/C with Michael Hirsh, MD



The Children's Medical Center and particularly the Division of Pediatric Surgery mourn the loss of **Peter Gentile, PA/C** who, for more than 20 years served the division as an integral provider and beloved team member. He also was the Pediatric Trauma program manager from 2005 until 2020. He was treasured by patients, parents, referring physicians, medical students, and residents alike. His partner, Cathleen Corcoran, has established a fund in the Office of Philanthropy in his honor, the proceeds of which will be given to the **UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center Injury Prevention Fund**. [Donate here](#). Over \$2000 has already been collected in Peter's name. We thank you Peter for your many gifts in life and in passing.

Mike Hirsh

UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE

National Injury Prevention Day at WAMS in Worcester

Join us at the Worcester Area Mission Society ([WAMS](#)) in Worcester on Saturday 11/16/2024 from 12-3p for an impactful National Injury Prevention Day event dedicated to enhancing safety on our roads. This free, informative and family-friendly event will provide valuable insights and practical tips to help prevent injuries and keep everyone on our roadways safe. Don't miss out on our raffles! See more about the event and the UMass Memorial Prevention Department on page 11.

Annual Goods for Guns Buyback Day, City of Worcester, Saturday, December 14th, 2024

Receive a groceries gift card for each operable gun! Dr. Michael Hirsh, medical director for Worcester's Division of Public Health, as well as a pediatric trauma surgeon and longtime gun safety advocate. "This isn't just about crime; it's about health," said Dr. Hirsh. "An unsecured weapon in the home is a public health danger that leads to more frequent homicides, burglaries, lethal domestic violence, accidental shootings and suicide in the home."

American College of Surgeons Skills Competition

Dallas Walter, MD, PGY-2 and **Sasank Kalipatnapu, MBBS, PGY-4** won 2nd of all programs as this years American College of Surgeons annual surgical skills.

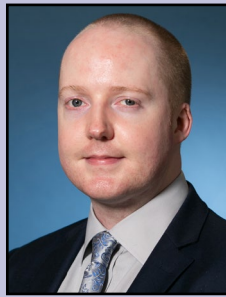
Alanna Hickey, MD, PGY-5 and **Sasank Kalipatnapu, MBBS, PGY-4** won 1st of all programs at the same meeting in surgical jeopardy. Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING CHIEF RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

General Surgery



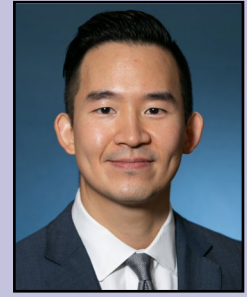
Hannah Buettner, MD
Complex Surgical Oncology
Fox Chase Cancer Center



Andrew Gillooly, MD
Abdominal Organ Transplantation
University of British Columbia



Max Hazeltine, MD
Complex Surgical Oncology
City of Hope Cancer Center



Edward Kim, MD, PhD
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Tufts University School of Medicine



Kaye Lu, MD
Breast Surgical Oncology
University of Southern California



Larissa Pamen, MD
Breast Surgical Oncology
Rutgers Cancer Institute



Giulia Rizzo, MD
Minimally Invasive Surgery
UMass Chan Baystate Medical Center

Plastic Surgery



Kevin Johal, MD
Hand Surgery Fellowship
UT Southwestern Medical Center



Shirley Shue, MD
Breast Surgery Fellowship
Massachusetts General Hospital



Thomas Creeden, DO
Vascular Surgeon
Mercy Hospital

Vascular Surgery

Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellow



Emily Mackey, MD
Foundation Medical Partners
General and Bariatric Surgery

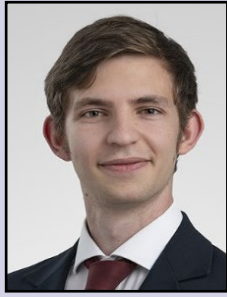
Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow



Samantha Rivard, MD
Boston Medical Center

WELCOME NEW 2024 - 2025 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESIDENTS

General Surgery - PGY-1



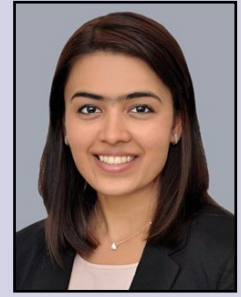
Mikhael Belkovsky, MD
Universidade de Sao Paulo Faculdade
de Medicina



Denis de la Flor, MD
Drexel University



Camille Dirago, MD
Boston University



Nethra Jain, MBBS
Grant Government Medical
College, India



Anqi (Angie) Liu, MD
Boston University



Lucas Lyons, MD
State University of NY
Upstate



Joy Mohnot, MD
Boston University



Marcus Vinicius Padilha, MD
Pontificia Universidade Catolica
do Parana



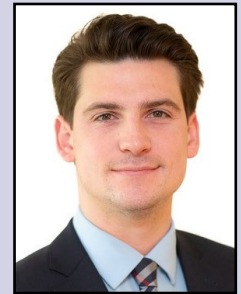
Benjamin Palleiko, MD
UMass Chan Medical School



Haley Perkins, MD
Tufts University



Troy Sanders, MD
University of California, Los Angeles,
Geffen School of Medicine



Brian Shaw, MD
University of Vermont

General Surgery PGY-2



Chanell Bourne, MD
Ross University



John Slate-Romano, MD
Warren Alpert Medical School
at Brown University

WELCOME NEW 2024 - 2025 DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESIDENTS

Plastic Surgery PGY-1



Avery Schnell, MD
Tufts University



Lindsay Talemal, MD
Temple University

Vascular Surgery PGY-1



Nathaniel Forrester, MD
Emory University School of
Medicine



Katherine Salley, MD
University of Massachusetts
T.H. Chan School of Medicine

WELCOME DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY NEW FELLOWS

Advanced Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellow



Theresa Krawiec, MD
Christiana Care General Surgery

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow



Frances Hu, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Congratulations on Recent General Surgery Resident Fellowship and Practice Matches for 2024-2025

Sebastian Chung, MD
Complex Surgical
Oncology Fellowship
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Jonathan Durgin, MD
Advanced GI MIS Fellowship
UMass Chan School
of Medicine

Erin Scott, MD
Trauma, ACS, & Critical
Care Fellowship
Emory University/Grady
Memorial

Catherine Beauharnais, MD
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Fellowship
University of Minnesota

Gabriel De la Cruz Ku, MD
Plastic Surgery Fellowship
Temple University

Alanna Hickey, MD
Breast Surgery Fellowship
Yale University

James Stevenson, MD
Surgical Critical Care
Fellowship
Valleywise Health

Timothy Jenkel, MD
Surgical Critical Care
Rural General Surgery Practice
Appalachian Regional
Healthcare

Calling for Submissions!

We would like to highlight your achievements! Please send all submissions including high-resolution photos to Michael Hirsh, MD or Themia Pappas-Fillmore in the Department of Surgery
michael.hirsh@umassmed.edu or themia.pappas-fillmore@umassmed.edu

2023-2024 GRADUATION AWARDS

Max Hazeltine, MD

Resident Teacher of the Year Award

The Resident Teacher of the Year Award is given to a senior member of the Surgical Residency Program who best exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding teacher by sharing knowledge with fellow residents and students, and exemplifies the qualities everyone seeks in a surgeon: patience, conscientiousness, organizational ability, knowledge, technical skill.

Gazi Rashid, MD

Resident Leadership Award

The Resident Leadership Award was created in 2020 and is awarded annually by the Chair and Program Director to the resident who epitomizes leadership in the General Surgery Residency. This year's recipient was selected considering her superior commitment to residents and patients. From her work caring for the sickest of patients during COVID to her efforts as a resident advocate, Dr. Mackey brings her insight, empathy, and integrity to every person and to every encounter. Her extraordinary leadership has been an example to all in our Department and Residency.

Muriel Cleary, MD

Brian E. Bednarz, MD Faculty Award

Presented annually to a surgical faculty member selected by the graduating Chief Residents for his or her extraordinary influence and dedication in mentoring residents.

Katherine Palmer Loveluck, MD

The Iron Intern 2023-2024

For outstanding service during Internship in General Surgery. When called upon The Iron Intern is at all times poised to accomplish all duties and challenges with aplomb without bending or breaking, meeting the day's challenges successfully, and helps their colleagues without hesitation.

Benjamin Gallant MD

JCREW Award 2023-2024

For outstanding service as a consult resident. For consistently going above and beyond for patients and colleagues, having a positive attitude, and demonstrating exceptional clinical acumen.

Hannah Buettner, MD

The H. Brownell Wheeler Award

This award is presented annually to a surgical resident, who by mutual agreement of faculty and residents has best demonstrated those human values which are desirable in a surgeon. The individual, though early in his or her career, demonstrates the ability to comfort and encourage patients and families, elicit trust and confidence, work cooperatively with colleagues, and treat all others with respect, dignity, and kindness.

This award is made in order to recognize not only the professional achievements of our residents, but also their human and caring qualities, which may at times be difficult to express. In honoring this individual, we also seek to honor all other residents in the program who display the same characteristics.

Paul Arcand, MD

Frederick J. McCready, MD

Teacher of the Year Award

The Frederick J. McCready, MD Teacher of the Year Award honors the memory of Dr. McCready, a member of the staff at Saint Vincent Hospital, who found joy in teaching residents and students.

Each year, an attending is honored with his or her name engraved on a trophy which is displayed in the office of the recipient for the year. A plaque is also given to the award winner to keep in his or her office. It is engraved with the name of the winner and these thoughts from Gibran's The Prophet: "The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness. If he is indeed wise, he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind."

Jonson Yee, MD

Most Engaged Resident Evaluator 2023-2024

To the faculty member who is most active in conducting resident assessment in support of competency-based education.

Tracy Zhang, MD

Most Engaged Resident Seeking Evaluation Award 2023-2024

To the resident who is most active in seeking operative feedback in support of the individual's progress towards independent practice.

RESIDENT UPDATES

2023 - 2024 Residents of Excellence Award

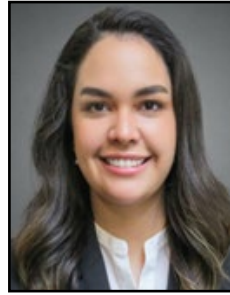
Resident of Excellence Award is awarded quarterly to a surgical resident from the three Department of Surgery residency programs. We encourage all to submit names of residents for this honor at: <https://forms.gle/6LzJ5juQCpizhhF99>.



Desmond Bennett, MD , Integrated Plastic Surgery Resident (PGY-4) Winter 2023

Desi is so deserving of this award; the nomination put forward by his Chief residents. He was a star as a UMass Chan Medical School student, and his star continues to shine brightly as an integrated plastic surgery resident.

One of the quotes from our then senior resident when he was a sub-intern “he lives and breathes team player” has foretold his residency performance. And a more recent anecdote: Urology asked if we could cover cases during their program’s interviews and this is the email we received back from Michael Kurtz, pediatric urologist at Boston Children’s Hospital (also faculty at UMass), “Just a note to say Desi was a superb resident yesterday. Engaged in OR, eager to learn, technically very good. He’s also just a good person. On my way out, he was jump-starting a patient’s car for him.” Desi’s trajectory is toward Hand focused Plastic Surgery, and we are so proud to help him get there.



Dallas Walter, MD, Integrated General Surgery Resident (PGY-2) Summer 2024

Congratulations to Dr. Walter on being awarded the General Surgery Resident Excellence Award for Summer 2024 in light of her contributions to the residency training program. Over the year, Dr. Walter has demonstrated her excellence in technical skill through

her contributions to the program’s winning MA-ACS Top Gun championship and ACS Skills competition. Dr. Walter has a passion for teaching, and as such, she designed and implemented an incredibly successful inaugural FLS training for her peers. Clinically, Dr. Walter has been praised by faculty and trainees for her thorough understanding and care for complex patients.



DEI Certificate of Recognition 2024 Award

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEI) Certificate of Recognition 2024 Awarded to Olajumoke (Jummy) Megafu, MD, PGY-3 resident, for her tireless efforts, her unwavering support, and dedication to the DEI Mission. Jummy’s hard work and commitment are truly appreciated.



Inductees in UMass Chan Medical Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Delta Chapter

Catherine Beauharnais, MD
PGY5 General Surgery

Gabriel de la Cruz Ku, MD
PGY5 General Surgery

Andrea Castaldo, MD
PGY6 Plastic Surgery

Jennifer Grauberger, MD
PGY5 Plastic Surgery

AΩA Housestaff Inductees



Boston Surgical Society Presentation

At the Boston Surgical Society meeting on April 1, 2024, members gathered for the annual “Case of the Year” meeting. A resident representative from seven of the Boston area schools presented an interesting case from the past year. One of our PGY-3 general surgery residents, **Julie Thomann, MD**, presented a hepatobiliary case of a young woman with situs inversus who was diagnosed with a rare type of liver cancer of which there are less than two dozen case reports. Supporting her in the audience was one of our transplant surgeons, **Dheera Reddy, MD** and colorectal surgeon, **Justin Maykel, MD**, who also served as one of the judges. This was UMass’ first time participating and it certainly won’t be the last!



(Left photo) An outstanding and inspiring visit on May 8, 2024 by Robert Thompson, MD with a slide showing one of the most impressive case volume histograms over 3 decades of commitment—growing the program to 250-300 Thoracic Outlet Syndrome (TOS) cases per year!

**Surgery Grand Rounds
Futility in Surgical Care: Are All Operations Grounded and Necessary?**

Surgical futility is an ethically important and an incredibly interesting topic. We learned all about it from visiting professor from Argentina, Alberto Ferreres, MD, PhD, JD, MPH.

Our residents had the privilege of a private ethics session after the lecture as well!

(Right photo) Dinner with visiting professor from Argentina, Alberto Ferreres, MD, PhD (Far right).



Pediatric Surgery Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

(Above left to right) **Melanie Jung, Family NP, Zachary Ballinger, PGY-3, Research, General Surgery, and Muriel Cleary, MD, from Pediatric Surgery.** Congratulations to **Lindsay Sobin, MD from Pediatric ENT, who won first place for her Dunkin' Spice Latte Pumpkins.**



Successful welcome BBQ at Polar Park, June 27, 2024. Our new general surgery intern class is all settled in Worcester and were officially all on service July 1, 2024.



Congratulations to grandmother Geri Reilly, Department of Surgery, Perioperative Coordinator. Welcome twin brother, Dalton William Weyde and twin sister, Laney Rose Weyde, born October 4th, 2024.



Congratulations to Jessica Simons, MD, Named President of New England Society for Vascular Surgery (NESVS) - First Women President of NESVS

UMass Memorial Medical Center Vascular Surgeon, **Jessica Simons, MD**, has been named president of the New England Society for Vascular Surgery (NESVS) and will be its first woman president!

“I am incredibly honored and excited about the opportunity to lead NESVS,” said Dr. Simons. “Having attended the meeting almost every year since 2004, I know firsthand how important this society is for its members.”

As president, Dr. Simons will lead surgeons with the goals of achieving the highest level of patient care in the field, encouraging mentorship and education of those entering the field, and staying at the forefront of research and technology.

NESVS is the oldest regional vascular society in the country and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Dr. Simons will assume her role in 2025.



Physicians LEAD – Lean, Engagement, Access, Diversity
Congratulations to **Muriel A. Cleary, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery and **Babak Movahedi, MD, PhD**, Chief and Assistant Professor of Solid Organ Transplantation for successfully completing the 2022-2023, Physicians Leadership Development Program.



Tammy Nguyen, MD, PhD has Been Awarded the Fuller Term Chair

A five-year commitment totaling \$375,00 by the George F. Sybil H. Fuller Foundation in support of the Diabetes Center of Excellence.

PROMOTIONS

Douglas Jones MD, Vascular Surgery, promotion to Associate Professor

Dejah Judelson MD, Vascular Surgery, promotion to Associate Professor

Joyce McIntyre MD, Plastic Surgery, promotion to Associate Professor

John Madore, MD, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, promotion to Medical Director, 3ICU



Passing of Dorothy Liu, MD Talented Surgeon, Kind Soul, and Incredible Friend

It is with great sadness that we announce that one of our former surgery residents, **Dorothy Liu, MD**, passed away suddenly on the morning of February 22, 2024.

Dorothy was diagnosed with

hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia many years ago which led to multiple health issues, including pulmonary hypertension and heart failure, which she dealt with for many years, including much of her residency training. Even with this chronic illness, she continued to excel as a surgeon, completing fellowship at Temple last year and most recently working as a trauma and critical care attending at Jefferson hospital in Philadelphia. She was a talented surgeon, kind soul, and incredible friend. She was beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

Nicole Cherng, MD

<https://www.forevermissed.com/dorothy-liu/about#|gallery|photo>

Vascular Surgery Celebrates Another Milestone. 600 Complex F/BEVAR Aortic Repairs

Celebrating
600 Cases
Congratulatory Vascular Surgery

UMass Memorial Center for Complex Aortic Disease
Celebrates Another Milestone
600 Complex F/BEVAR Aortic Repairs

UMass Memorial Health
UMASS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Michael Iannamorelli, DO, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care

The Division of Trauma and Critical Care is pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Iannamorelli, DO, has joined the division as a new faculty member. Dr. Iannamorelli did his undergraduate studies at The Pennsylvania State University and is a graduate of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his general surgery residency at the University of Massachusetts, Berkshire Medical Center and his trauma /critical care fellowship at the Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Iannamorelli will function as attending in trauma, critical care and general surgery. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Iannamorelli back to Massachusetts.



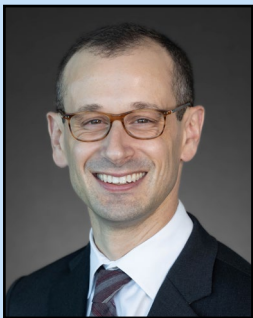
Thomas Peponis, MD, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Peponis completed medical school at the University of Athens in Greece as his class Valedictorian, served as a Green Beret in the Greek Special Operation Forces, completed his general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, and most recently graduated from the Mayo Clinic colon and rectal surgery fellowship in Rochester, MN. We were thrilled to recruit him to UMass where he will begin his career as an academic colorectal surgeon, passionate about clinical care, research, education, and community service. While he will be seeing patients with the spectrum of colorectal conditions, he has a particular interest in rectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease and arrives with a skillset that has been honed to take on complex, open, redo surgeries as well as advanced minimally invasive and robotic cases. Welcome Thomas, his wife and his newborn son to our UMass community!



Kaitlyn Oldewurtel, DO, Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Kaitlyn Oldewurtel D.O. graduated medical school from Rowan University in 2019. She completed her General Surgery residency at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, NJ. While at Morristown, she was awarded the Hughes Dougan Award for dedication to patient care and excellence in surgical technique. She is interested in colorectal surgery, particularly colorectal cancer. She is very enthusiastic on promoting the importance of screening colonoscopies.



William Phillips, MD, Division of Thoracic Surgery

The Division of Thoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery welcomes William Phillips, MD to their practice. Dr. William Phillips is originally from Chicago, IL and is a graduate of Rush Medical College. He subsequently completed his General Surgery residency and Cardiothoracic Surgery fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital. His training included a postdoctoral research fellowship through the American College of Surgeons, where he focused on patient care pathways, clinical trials, and translational device applications in lung cancer. Dr. Phillips' clinical practice is focused on the multidisciplinary care of both benign and malignant thoracic and foregut diseases. Dr. Phillips looks forward to participating in the education and mentorship of medical students, residents, and fellows. In his free time, He enjoys skiing, playing tennis, and exploring New England with his wife and 4 children.



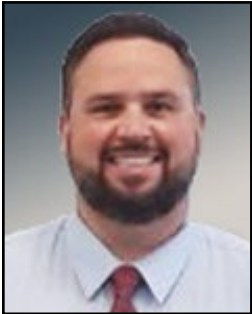
Randolf L. Schaffer, III, MD, Division of Organ Transplantation

The Division of Organ Transplantation is thrilled to announce that Dr. Randy Schaffer joined our team this past September. Dr. Schaffer brings a wealth of experience, having completed his medical school and residency at Baylor in Houston, followed by a transplant fellowship at the University of Chicago in 2003. Since then, he has served as an attending transplant surgeon at Scripps Green Hospital. Please welcome Randy to our transplant family!



Francesca Izzo, MD, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care

The Division of Trauma and Critical Care is pleased to announce that Dr. Francesca Izzo is joining the division as a new faculty member starting the week of September 23rd. Dr. Izzo did her undergraduate studies at Colby College and is a graduate of New York Medical College. She completed her general surgery residency at Baystate Medical Center and her surgical critical care fellowship at Jacobi Medical Center. Dr. Izzo will function as an attending in trauma, critical care, and general surgery. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Izzo to the Department of Surgery.



Zachery Garcia, MD, Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care

The Division of Trauma and Critical Care is pleased to announce that Dr. Zachery Garcia is joining the division as a new faculty member starting the week of September 23rd. Dr. Garcia did his undergraduate studies at University of Maine and is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed his general surgery residency at Hofstra/Northwell Staten Island University Hospital, Staten Island, New York, and his surgical critical care fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Garcia will function as an attending in trauma, critical care, and general surgery. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Garcia to the Department of Surgery.

UMass Memorial Injury Prevention Center Participates in National Injury Prevention Day at WAMS in Worcester

Join us at the Worcester Area Mission Society ([WAMS](#)) in Worcester on Saturday 11/16/2024 from 12pm-3pm for an impactful National Injury Prevention Day event dedicated to enhancing safety on our roads. This free, informative and family-friendly event will provide valuable insights and practical tips to help prevent injuries and keep everyone on our roadways safe. Don't miss out on our raffles!

Highlights of the Event

- **Engaging educational tables:** Learn essential tips for safe driving and pedestrian practices. Our experts will cover topics like defensive driving, safe crosswalk behavior, and the importance of following traffic laws.
- **Bike Safety Demonstrations:** Discover best practices for bike safety, safe riding techniques, and the importance of wearing a helmet. Participants will also have the chance to engage in interactive demonstrations and learn how to properly fit a helmet.
- **Helmet Safety Stations:** Get hands-on experience with helmet fitting and learn about the latest advancements in helmet technology. We'll be offering free helmet checks and adjustments to ensure a perfect fit for all ages.
- **Car Seat Safety:** Our certified technicians will provide car seat safety education and offer advice on the correct installation and usage of car seats for children of all ages. Bring your own car seat in for any specific questions.

This event is perfect for families, caregivers, and anyone interested in improving their safety knowledge. Enjoy engaging activities, interactive displays, and the opportunity to ask questions from safety professionals.

About our Injury Prevention Programs

Our injury prevention programs cover the lifespan, including safe sleep, child passenger safety, 5th grade [Safety Quest](#) program, teen driving, gun violence prevention and older adult fall prevention. We collaborate with schools, police, fire, EMS, Senior Centers and other community organizations to provide education and resources to as many as possible to prevent injuries in our community. Reach out to injuryprevention@umassmemorial.org with any questions.

UMass Memorial's Injury Prevention Department
Lisa McNamara, MS, RN, ACNP, Adult Trauma Manager
Jonathan Green MD, MSCI, FAAP, Pediatric Surgery
Asia Simpson, CPSTI, Injury Prevention Coordinator
Dominick Dunbar, CPST Injury Prevention Specialist
Leah Goteiner-Harrist, CPSTI Injury Prevention Specialist



21st Century Tale of the Oregon Trail

Dear JK (John Kelly, MD)

I cannot thank you enough for the help and support that you have provided Riverside for Suicide Prevention which, as you know, hits home for me. I wanted to share with you a bit of that journey to give you a glimpse into the world of ultramarathons when it comes to running 100 miles. As you may or may not know, an ultramarathon is a distance longer than a marathon, but most folks consider a 50K (31 miles) the first true ultramarathon distance. For nearly every 100 miler, one has to have run at least a 50 miler within the last year to year and a half or so. Training for that distance requires a lot of regular running and there are different training programs to get one ready. For me, I would typically have a 4 mile run on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a variable run on Wednesday that was anywhere between 6 and 15 miles. Weekends were the long runs: Anywhere from 20-50 miles on Saturday with ½ of that distance done on Sunday as a general rule. This would go on for at least 3 months before the race date.

For the week before the race, I was on call during which time, I thankfully did not have OR cases in the wee hours of the morning which would have added insult to injury for what undoubtedly is a long run with sleep deprivation. I flew out early Friday morning to Portland, Oregon and got into my rental car to drive deep into Mount Hood National Forest where there was zero cell phone service. Thankfully, I was able to navigate to the start location where I could pick up my bib and have the pre-race pasta meal Friday night. Since most of the tent sites were taken and I did not want to get lost the next morning, I slept in my rental car that night which was cold and uncomfortable (temp was 35 degrees). Thankfully, I had my sleeping bag which helped a bit. Being on East Coast time, I woke up around 3AM PCT and didn't fall back asleep. I took that time to say some prayers and get my stuff ready for the long run ahead of me at 8AM.

At the start of the race, the temperature rose to a whopping 47 degrees which was certainly better than the 35 overnight, but still chilly nonetheless. Thankfully, the run got some heat going. In the early part of the course, we trekked along the Pacific Coast Trail which was burned extensively back in 2020 and it was quite eerie running along the trails surrounded by dead trees. The first aid station brought us back to the start after a 12+ mile loop. The aid stations essentially provide us with some food to eat and a spot to refill our bottles that we run with to maintain our hydration/electrolytes between aid stations. From this point, we basically had a 45 mile out and back running along trails that took us towards Mount Hood. For the first part of this, I felt great!!! I was keeping my pace in check and not pushing too hard or too fast as I did that last year

when my legs “fell off” at mile 70 which made the last 30 miles pure torture. After getting to the turn around point around mile 54.5 when it was already dark and was reliant upon my headlamp for vision, the pace definitely slows down. It is harder to see the rocks and roots that need to be avoided to keep from wiping out. For many of the miles after the 72nd mile, the course seemed to perpetually go uphill! At this point, my legs were tired for sure and the prolonged uphills (sometimes 5 miles of uphill) was slowing me down considerably. My pace on the downhills was not making up for time lost slogging the slow and steady uphills.

Somewhere around 3AM or so, I could see an aid station in the distance and I was so sleepy at this point which is where hallucinations can start to come into play!! As I trudged closer to the aid station, my brain kept on seeing it move further away from me!!! Thankfully, this one was not long lived unlike the hallucinations from a couple of years back. Fortunately, I made it to the aid station without veering off into the woods. Once I arrived there, I got in the most needed 30 minute nap which was exactly what I needed to continue on. Following that, I continued along the ups and downs which once again seemed to have more ups than downs. The sun came up and started to warm me up again which was a pleasant feeling from the darker and cooler night. Finally, I trudged across the finish line at 26 hours, 23 minutes and 18 seconds. Thankfully, the website has my finishing time since I forgot to stop my watch for another 9 minutes. One more belt buckle to add to the collection but more importantly, many lives saved by your help in supporting Riverside!!! For as long as my legs will carry me, I will continue to support Suicide Prevention and cannot thank you enough for your help and support.

I know that my father, my deceased mother and I are grateful for your help.

Most sincerely,
Patrick McEnaney

[Learn more about Riverside for Suicide Prevention](#)

More than a Game

Thanks to the fast action of **Jennifer LaFemina, MD**, and medical assistant **Emily Lutfy**, who helped revive home plate umpire Corey Pontbriand on July 11, 2024, after he stopped breathing and lost consciousness in the wake of being struck by a ball during a Little League game, Pontbriand is alive. [Read story](#)



Updates from the Department of Surgery Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force (DEI)

By **Muriel Cleary, MD**
Department of Surgery
DEI Task Force Chair



Annual “A Day in the Life of a Surgeon Event”

The University of Massachusetts Department of Surgery hosted its 2nd Annual “A Day in the Life of a Surgeon Event” April 15, 2024 led by **Sudie Robinson, MD, Jummy Megafu MD, and Emily Fan, MD**. The goal is to give college students who are underrepresented in medicine the opportunity to gain exposure to surgical specialties and seek mentorship. Over the course of the day, students heard from our keynote speaker **Gil Freitas MD**, Division of General Surgery, listened to a panel of specialists across the surgical sub-specialties, observed a livestream of a surgical case, toured the Medical School and surgical facilities and received fun hands-on experience in the simulation lab.



2024 DEI Undergraduate URiM Summer Internship Program



DEI Undergraduate **URiM Summer Internship Program**. (Left to right) Ruth Opare-Darko, Lori Armstrong, Emily Fan, MD, Vascular Surgery Attending, Emely Salazar-Bernal and Clarissy DaSilva



Ruth Opare-Darko
UMass Lowell
senior



Clarissy DaSilva
Worcester State
junior



Emely Salazar-Bernal
UMass Lowell
junior



Lori Armstrong
Ithaca College
sophomore

This summer, the Department of Surgery welcomed 4 amazing students as part of the DEI Undergraduate **URiM Summer Internship** program. Led by **Emily Fan MD**, this competitive program was created in 2023 with the goal of supporting a surgical workforce that reflects the diversity and needs of the population we serve in Worcester. Students rotated through various surgical specialties during their 4 week internship and gained exposure to the operating room as well as the in-patient and out-patient care of the surgical patient.

Global Surgery Updates

By Muriel Cleary, MD, Director, Global Surgery

Amon Ngongola, MD, Pediatric Consultant Surgeon at University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka Zambia was the recipient of our **2023 Cataldo Humanitarianism in Medicine Award**. He visited the UMass campus and gave Grand Rounds on October 17, 2023 in which he described the challenges to providing surgical care to pediatric patients in Zambia. His inspirational work is focused on creating a sustainable specialty training program and providing outreach and education to surgeons caring for children living in parts of rural Zambia.



Department of Surgery
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
2023 FELIX G. CATALDO, MD DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP
AND PRESENTATION OF THE
FELIX G. CATALDO, MD HUMANITARIANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD



Honoring:
Amon M. Ngongola, MD

Consultant Pediatric Surgeon
President of The Zambia Association of Pediatric Surgeons
Honorary Lecturer University of Zambia School of Medicine
Coordinator of Zambia Pediatric surgery Outreach Programs
Global Surgery Advocate

**“Doing What it Takes.
The Evolution of Surgical
Care in ZAMBIA”**



ACS-HOPE Initiative

In February 2024, **Muriel Cleary, MD, John Kelly, MD, Jummy Megafu, MD and Niharika Kareddy, MS4** traveled to Zambia for the 3rd trip in support of the Department of Surgery at University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. This ACS-HOPE initiative is part of a 10 institution collaboration.

During this busy week, Dr. Kelly worked with UTH general surgeons to perform laparoscopic surgeries providing intra-operative and peri-operative teaching and instruction. Together with our UTH hosts, we held Research in Progress meetings for trainees to present their clinical research projects, gave lectures on Pediatric Surgery and Trauma Surgery, and hosted an open skills and laparoscopic simulation workshop including suturing, central line placement, chest tube placement and lap skills using box sets and laptops. The trainees also participated in a laparoscopic simulation competition at the conclusion of the week.



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY EVENTS



Welcome Graham Murray Durgin, born to **Jonathan Durgin, MD**, Chief Resident of General Surgery and Mrs. Jonathan Durgin, Saturday, August 10, 2024. Congratulations to the family.



Welcome the newest addition to the Trauma Team. First child of **Gweniviere Capron, MD**, Trauma and Critical Care, and her husband Hongyi Hu. Einar Jianwei Hu was born December 5, 2023, 8lb 7oz.



March 5, 2024, **Dejah Judelson, MD**, Vascular Surgery, gave birth to her third child, Darcy. The bundle of love arrived only 6 pounds 4 ounces but was long at 20 inches! Congratulations to the family.



Congratulations to **Dr. and Mrs. Jon (Liz) Dorfman** on the birth of their Daughter:- Isabella Charlotte Dorfman was born on June 24th, 2024, 6 lb 8 oz, 19.” Welcome to the Department of Surgery Family, sweet girl.



Congratulations to **Emily Fan, MD**, Vascular Surgery, and her husband on the birth of their son, Wesley Fan Buckner, born on September 12, 2024, 7 lb 5 oz, Welcome beautiful baby boy.

UMass Memorial Medical Center-Children's Medical Center Helmet Distribution Program Aims to Increase Use of Safety Equipment

A recent 5-year review studying the incidence of helmet use in pediatric patients at our Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center revealed that over two-thirds of bicycle related trauma patients were un-helmeted. This led to a multidisciplinary injury prevention initiative to provide a bicycle helmet to every pediatric patient presenting with trauma secondary to a mechanism requiring helmet use.

The program began in June of 2024 with funds from the Rodman Ride for Kids. A multidisciplinary team consisting of pediatric surgery, pediatric emergency medicine, child-life and injury prevention, work together to provide helmets to pediatric trauma patients. When a child presents to the hospital with an injury related to a bicycle, scooter or other activity, in which a helmet is recommended, the team is notified. If the child was un-helmeted or damaged their helmet they are eligible. A team member will meet the patient, size them for a helmet and provide education about helmet safety. In addition, a pamphlet about helmet safety is provided and available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. The ultimate goal is to provide education and reduce preventable head trauma. [See Video](#)



If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please consider donating to Rodman Ride For Kids - proceeds go to fund programs in the UMass Memorial Medical Center Children's Medical Center. [Donate Here](#)



Jonathan Green MD, MSCI, FAAP
Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
Director of Injury Prevention for UMass Memorial Medical Center – Children's Medical Center