

Departmental Updates

Welcome!



- **Dr. Francesco Aiello** (Division of Vascular Surgery) and his wife, **Sandy**, welcomed their beautiful daughter, Maeve Marie, in December 2017 (above).



- **Dr. Brett Baker** (General Surgery Resident, PGY3) and his wife, **Lindsey**, recently welcomed their beautiful daughter, Lucy Madeline, on February 16, 2018 (top left).



- Recent General Surgery Residency graduates, **Drs. Aneel and Rachelle Damle**, recently welcomed their first (very handsome) son, Henry Arvind Damle. Since graduation, Aneel is completing his colorectal surgery fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis and has now accepted an offer to stay in St. Louis as faculty. Rachelle matched in a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis (bottom left).

- We mourn the passing of Dr. Stuart Bentkover. Dr. Bentkover, known to many as "Dr. B," recently passed on February 26 after a courageous battle with multiple myeloma. Dr. Bentkover was widely recognized as one of the most experienced and awarded ENT and facial plastic surgeons in New England. After graduating from Princeton University, he completed his medical education at Mount Sinai School of medicine and his residencies in General Surgery at Harvard Medical School and in Otolaryngology and Facial Plastic Surgery at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. After a much respected career at Fallon Clinic, he opened his own practice—Bentkover Facial Plastic Surgery

and Laser Center—in 2002, here in Worcester. His legacy will be forever remembered by all of us whose lives he touched, both personally and professionally.



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- Headed by **Dr. Nora Fullington**, the UMass Department of Surgery continued its ongoing commitment to global surgery with a trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti during the week of March 4. This year, our team has joined forces with Team Broken Earth. In addition to Dr. Fullington, UMass team members included **Drs. Demetrius Litwin, John Kelly** (Division Chief, General Surgery), **Christopher Schlieve** (General Surgery PGY3), and **Stacy Sanders** (General Surgery Research Resident). The Bednarz Global Surgery Program for the General Surgery Residency supports funding of the residents' global experience and was started in 2017. It is generously funded by the Bednarz Fund on behalf of **Dr. Brian Bednarz**.



- Congratulations to faculty members with recent promotions or appointments:
 - **Francesco Aiello, MD**: Promotion to Associate Professor of Surgery
 - **Dejah Judelson, MD**: Appointment to Assistant Professor of Surgery
- Congratulations to **Drs. Paulo Martins, Adel Bozorgzadeh, and Hazel Marecki** (PGY1, Vascular Surgery Residency Program) on their recent publication entitled "Liver ex situ machine perfusion preservation: A review of the methodology and results of large animal studies and clinical trials," which was published in the journal, *Liver Transplantation*.
- In collaboration with our pathology colleagues and headed by GI pathologist, Dr. Xiaofei Wang, the Division of Surgical Oncology and **Dr. Jennifer LaFemina** recently published the manuscript "The Diagnostic Value of FNA Biopsy in Grading Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors." The manuscript was selected as the cover article for the March volume of *Cancer Cytopathology*. Also, in collaboration with the Dartmouth Department of Surgery, division members **Giles Whalen, MD** and **Jennifer LaFemina, MD**

published the manuscript "Short-Term Preoperative Diet Decreases Bleeding After Partial Hepatectomy: Results from a Multi-Institutional Randomized Controlled Trial" in *Annals of Surgery*.

- In collaboration with our GI colleagues, **Drs. John Green** (General Surgery PGY3), **Christopher Schlieve** (General Surgery PGY3), **Demetrius Litwin**, and senior author, **Mitch Cahan**, recently published a manuscript entitled "Approach to the Diagnostic Workup and Management of Small Bowel Lesions at a Tertiary Care Center" in the January volume of *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.
- **Dr. Vijaya Daniel** (General Surgery Research Resident) recently presented two QuickShot talks at the Academic Surgical Congress in Jacksonville, FL. These talks included:
 - The Current State of the Acute Care Surgery Workforce: Results of a National Survey (Vijaya Daniel, Didem Ayturk, Catarina Kiefe, Heena Santry)
 - Gastrointestinal Perforations: Examining the Consequences of Antibiotics among Medicare Beneficiaries (Vijaya Daniel, Stacy Sanders, Didem Ayturk, Doyle Ward, Beth McCormick, Heena Santry)

Upcoming Events

1. **March 12-16.** Resident Appreciation Week. Events will be held throughout the week! See flyers on the resident rooms for details.
2. **Match Day: Friday, March 16.** Please help celebrate our students' and residents' success on March Day, March 16. The Medical School's Match Ceremony will be at the lunch hour in the Medical School Lobby at Friday, March 16. Details TBD.
3. **Saturday, March 24.** The Arts and Humanities Initiative at Harvard Medical School is hosting a day-long, free event entitled "Cultivating Humanism: Fostering Well-being in Healthcare through the Arts." This will take part on Saturday, March 24, 9 am-3:30 pm, at the Countway Library, 10 Shattuck Street at Harvard Medical School. Information and registration may be found at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqSnnNw65ac4OHvoJQkadN5ThdCzYFN0HHvAAe43k-t0UmQtA/closedform>
4. **Wednesday, April 11.** The 2018 Gregory Pinkus Memorial Medal and Lecture will feature the renowned pediatric surgeon, **Dr. Patricia Donahoe**, who will discuss "Protection of Reproductive Function." This free event will take place at 4 pm in the Albert Sherman Auditorium.
5. **Saturday, April 21.** The 2018 Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)-New England Regional Conference will take part at UMass Medical School on Saturday, April 21. This year's theme will be "Scientists as Advocates and Agents for Social Change." This free program is open to all trainees, staff, and faculty. Information and registration can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcKeBasPfVV7FW-J24NB0fwwGW3LSyd66Hp4Q7j7TKpcPuOvA/viewform>.
6. **Sunday, May 27.** The 14th Run to Remember Race will take place at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston on Sunday, May 27. Please sign up to join the MA-ACS team, "Cut to the Chase." Registration can be found at: <http://www.bostonsruntoremember.com/boston/index.html>
7. **Saturday, June 16.** Please save the date for the General Residency Welcome/Goodbye BBQ on the afternoon of Saturday, June 16, rain or shine.
8. **Saturday, June 23.** Please save the date for the General Surgery Change Show and Graduation. Graduation will take place at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, MA. Details to follow.

Calling for Submissions!

We will be publishing our annual Department Newsletter this summer.

We are hoping to include submissions from any member of the department —**across all professions**—to submit works (such as essays, poems, artwork, anything...) to highlight your talents, perhaps with a connection to why you come to work every day and what brings you passion. For those interested in video submission, we also would love these and will highlight yours submissions on our Department website.

If you would like to contribute, please forward to Jennifer LaFemina.