Message from the Chairman

Much of our focus in recent years — but something that has always been a key part of our mission — is improving outcomes. Work toward improving safety outcomes continues throughout the year, and some projects come to fruition at the Annual Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness Symposium. Among the top projects this year were a demonstrated reduction of surgical site infections and a protocol to decrease readmissions for patients discharged on the weekend. Our Epic system went live, and we continue to improve access to a single record for every patient, enhancing patient care.

We also address community safety through outreach, a shining example of which is the effort to teach St. Louisans how to stop bleeding in gunshot and accident victims. This effort, led by trauma surgeon Laurie Punch, MD, is spotlighted in our newsletter.

Other efforts extend to translational research. We have added three scientists with promising fields of research: urology professor Nupam Mahajan, PhD, who is working on methods to suppress prostate cancer growth; assistant professor Kiran Mahajan, PhD, also active in prostate cancer research; and transplant professor Jae-Sung Kim, PhD, who is developing therapeutic strategies against ischemia/reperfusion injury in the liver, a major cause of transplant failure.

Our distinguished faculty members recently have received many honors, both internally and externally. Daniel Kreisel, MD, PhD, our lung transplant surgery director and a prominent researcher, received the inaugural G. Alexander Patterson, MD/Mid-America Transplant Endowed Distinguished Chair in Lung Transplantation. The chair, named after Alec for his distinguished career, is only the second to be named for a faculty member while still on the faculty. Andrew Gelman, PhD, a nationally recognized lung immunobiology researcher, received the Jacqueline G. and William E. Maritz Endowed Chair in Immunology and Oncology. Nicholas Kouchoukos, MD, is first John M. Shoenberg Emeritus Chair for his contributions to the department.

In education, Mary Klingensmith, MD, was named the inaugural director of the medical school’s Academy of Health Professions Educators, and Laurie Punch received the Loeb Fellowship to develop a curriculum helping trainees respond to gun violence.

Steven Strasberg, MD, and emeritus professor Gregorio Sicard, MD, also received the highest honors in their respective fields.

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD
William K. Bixby Professor of Surgery Chairman, Department of Surgery Director, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center

Daniel Kreisel is first Alexander Patterson/Mid-America Lung Transplant Chair

Daniel Kreisel, MD, PhD, a noted physician-scientist and the surgical director of lung transplantation at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, has been named the inaugural G. Alexander Patterson, MD/Mid-America Transplant Endowed Distinguished Chair in Lung Transplantation.

Dr. Kreisel, a professor of surgery and of pathology and immunology, was chosen for the honor based on his decades of innovative research and technological developments in transplantation biology, as well as for his compassion in treating patients and caring for their families.

The distinguished chair was established through a partnership among Mid-America Transplant, The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University’s Department of Surgery and Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery to honor world-renowned lung transplant surgeon G. Alexander Patterson, MD, the university’s Joseph C. Bancroft Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Patterson is known internationally for participating in the first-ever successful adult lung transplant in Toronto. He also helped to build the highly regarded lung transplant program at Barnes-Jewish, teaching surgical techniques and mentoring residents, fellows and young physicians.
Recognition

SVS recognizes Gregorio Sicard with Lifetime Achievement Award

Gregorio Sicard, MD, a professor emeritus of surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, has received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS). The award is the highest honor bestowed by the society each year.

Dr. Sicard was on the faculty for more than three decades at Washington University. He started the vascular surgery section in 1983, the first year the American Board of Surgery certification in vascular surgery became available. Under Dr. Sicard’s leadership, the section grew from performing fewer than 300 procedures annually to becoming a globally recognized center in endovascular patient care and research. He retired in 2015.

Founded in 1946, the SVS includes more than 5,800 vascular surgeons and health-care workers worldwide.

From WUSM press release

American Surgical Association honors Steven Strasberg

Steven Strasberg, MD, the Prueitt Professor of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, received the prestigious Medallion for the Advancement of Surgical Care from the American Surgical Association (ASA) on April 19 in Phoenix during the group’s annual meeting.

Dr. Strasberg was lauded for developing the “Critical View of Safety” in laparoscopic gall-bladder removal procedures. The approach increases patient safety by allowing surgeons to identify more clearly the cystic duct and cystic artery during operations. During the award ceremony, ASA’s president-elect, E. Christopher Ellison, MD, said the procedure is “without question one of the most important contributions in general surgery.”

Dr. Strasberg’s Critical View of Safety has helped to reduce bile duct injuries — and, as a result, deaths and disabilities — caused by misidentification of the cystic duct and cystic artery during surgery. His procedure is taught in general surgery training programs worldwide and has become the standard of care.

From WUSM press release

Laurie Punch named Loeb Teaching Fellow by medical school

Laurie Punch, MD, associate professor of surgery in the Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery, was named a 2018-2020 Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Teaching Fellow.

The fellowship program was established in 2004 with a gift from Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb to advance clinical education. The program also is supported by The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital. The two-year fellowship provides recipients extra time to focus on implementing innovative ideas to enhance the education of medical students and residents.

Dr. Punch said she will develop a curriculum exploring “the anatomy of gun violence” as a disease and public health issue. Her plan allows for lessons to be taught during all four years of medical school through a combination of lectures, simulations and real-time experiences.

“As a trauma surgeon, I provide care to patients and families who experience gun violence,” Dr. Punch said. “My hope is to improve this care, reduce the impact of gun violence and prevent gun violence in the first place. Education of medical trainees is a critical step in this mission.

From WUSM press release

Andrew Gelman named Maritz Chair

Cardiothoracic Surgery Division Chief Ralph Damiano Jr., MD, Surgery Chair Timothy Eberlein, MD, and Andrew Gelman, PhD

Andrew Gelman, PhD, a nationally recognized lung immunobiology researcher, was installed as the Jacqueline G. and William E. Maritz Endowed Chair in Immunology and Oncology, on March 26, 2018.

Dr. Gelman joined the faculty in 2006 after completing a doctorate degree in molecular and cellular immunology from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His research focuses on the role of innate immunity in pulmonary injury in order to develop new diagnostic approaches and treatments for lung transplant rejection. Dr. Gelman and collaborator Daniel Kreisel, MD, PhD, the G. Alexander Patterson, MD/Mid-America Transplant Endowed Distinguished Chair in Lung Transplantation, have made significant discoveries toward the understanding of lung transplant failure.

The Chair is supported by The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital.
Mary Klingensmith named Health Professions Academy director

Department of Surgery Vice Chair for Education Mary Klingensmith, MD, has been named the inaugural director of the Washington University School of Medicine Academy of Health Professions Educators.

The creation of the Academy at the School of Medicine is part of an initiative to help Washington University faculty become better educators. The concept of an academy of health profession educators has been adopted by other medical schools and hospitals across the nation and in Canada, including Harvard Medical School and Johns Hopkins University. At Washington University School of Medicine, faculty may apply to become an Academy member.

“In order to be elected, you have to have demonstrated dedication and excellence in education, but also a desire to learn more and to teach what you know to those who are coming behind you,” says Dr. Klingensmith.

M. B. Majella Doyle in executive leadership scholarship program

Washington University transplant surgeon Maria B. Majella Doyle, MD, MBA, recently participated in the Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Dr. Doyle was one of 18 U.S. surgeon leaders chosen through an American College of Surgeons’ scholarship to participate in the program.

Open to mid-career surgeons in good standing of both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA), the scholarship is offered by the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and covers the costs of a one-week, intensive program in the latest in national health policy and management frameworks. Program scholars agree to provide one year of health policy-related assistance to the ACS and the AHPBA upon completion of the program.

The program’s focus is to teach health leaders the skills to create innovative solutions to improve the quality and efficiency of health care service delivery, and to participate in health care policy and reform. Approximately 35 attendees participated in the program, with topics including the economics and financing of U.S. health policy, management of change and conflicts, and effective leadership styles.

Dr. Doyle is professor of surgery and director of the Transplant HPB Fellowship Program in the Transplant Surgery Section. Her areas of academic focus include clinical outcomes research as well as teaching residents and fellows, with a particular focus on surgical techniques.

Moon named vice president of thoracic surgery association

Marc Moon, MD, chief of the Section of Cardiac Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, has been named vice president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. He was elected this spring during the association’s annual meeting.

Dr. Moon will serve a one-year term as president of the organization in 2020. He previously served as secretary.

The John M. Shoenberg Professor of Surgery, Dr. Moon specializes in reoperative coronary and valvular surgery and diseases of the thoracic aorta. He treats patients at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He is also director of the Center for Diseases of the Thoracic Aorta and the Thoracic Surgery Residency Program.

The 101-year-old association focuses on clinical care, research and leadership in the field. It includes 1,300 cardiothoracic surgeons worldwide.

From WUSM press release

Bettina Drake named Siteman associate director of community outreach

Bettina Drake, PhD, MPH, associate professor of surgery in the Division of Public Health Sciences, has been named associate director of community outreach and engagement for Siteman Cancer Center.

In this newly formed position, Dr. Drake will work to promote cancer disparities research that impacts Siteman patients and the larger community. She will also support clinical and community-based outreach, and provide leadership to strengthen partnerships with external healthcare organizations. Dr. Drake will work with clinicians and researchers to address regional health disparities through innovative research, and will be responsible for sharing the results with Siteman leaders. In this role, she will collaborate with Lee Ratner, MD, PhD, a professor of medicine at the School of Medicine and a Siteman research member, to integrate health disparities education throughout unique training opportunities on Siteman’s campus.

From Siteman press release
Michael Awad new surgery clerkship director, Moley Mentorship awardee

Michael Awad, MD, PhD, has been named Integrated Surgical Disciplines Clerkship director. He will oversee the 12-week integrated surgical clerkship for third-year medical students, as well as curricular and career development efforts for all medical students in surgery. Dr. Awad will build upon the current success of the surgery clerkship and plans earlier and more frequent exposure to different surgical specialties and subspecialties. Dr. Awad follows John Kirby, MD, who had held the clerkship director position since 2009.

Michael Awad receives Jeffrey Moley Mentorship Award

The General Surgery Residency faculty mentorship award has been renamed the Jeffrey Moley Faculty Mentorship Award. The award’s new name honors its first recipient, Jeffrey Moley, MD, former chief of the Section of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, who died in October 2017. Dr. Moley was admired among residents for his mentorship and took great pride in receiving the award when it was established in 2015 to honor the faculty member whom chief residents feel is most impactful to them. Minimally invasive surgeon Michael Awad, MD, PhD, was the first to receive the award under its new name in June 2018.

Emily Onufer wins Tools of Trade Award from program directors association

Pediatric surgery research resident Emily Onufer, MD, MPH, won the 2018 Tools of the Trade award from the Association of Program Directors in Surgery. With this award, Dr. Onufer was recognized for her contributions in creating a high-quality surgical training curriculum of SAVE 1.0 (Surgery for Abdomino-thoracic Violence). Along with senior author trauma surgeon Laurie Punch, MD, Onufer developed the SAVE 1.0 curriculum to address the anatomy of gun violence and to help identify and repair gun violence trauma.

In addition, Dr. Onufer was accepted into the Surgical Education Research Fellowship program of the Association for Surgical Education. Residents Darren Cullinan, MD, and Jennifer Yu, MD, graduated from that fellowship in 2017.

J. Chris Eagon named chief of staff at BJWCH

Bariatric surgeon J. Chris Eagon, MD, has been named chief of staff at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital. Dr. Eagon is director of the bariatric surgery program and co-director of the minimally invasive surgery fellowship program at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Eagon has been performing surgical treatment of obesity at Barnes-Jewish Hospital since 1997 and at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital since 2004. Construction of a new building for Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital began in May 2017, and it is expected to open in 2019. The Washington University Weight Loss Surgery Program sees many of its patients at the Creve Coeur facility, and the program will be expanding its presence on the new campus.

Ying Liu receives NIH grant to study follow-up care for patients who relocate

Ying Liu, MD, PhD, assistant professor of surgery, has received a three-year, $1,075,887 grant from the National Institutes of Health. The project, Residential Mobility, Treatment Quality and Survival in Low-Income Women with Breast Cancer, will study how relocation after a cancer diagnosis impacts follow-up care for low-income patients, and thus, affects their treatment.

Dr. Liu and colleagues will utilize the Missouri Cancer Registry and Medicaid claims to analyze patient relocation information, continuation and completion of treatment, and patient outcomes in low-income breast cancer patients. This project will also address racial disparities in cancer treatment and outcomes.

Nicholas Kouchoukos first John M. Shoenberg Emeritus Chair

Nicholas Kouchoukos, MD, is the first John M. Shoenberg Emeritus Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery, recognizing his leadership in the field.

He has spent 44 combined years with BJC and Washington University School of Medicine, serving as surgeon-in-chief of Jewish Hospital from 1984 to 1996 and later establishing a successful practice at Missouri Baptist Hospital. A Washington University School of Medicine and General Surgery Residency graduate, Kouchoukos also edited “Cardiac Surgery,” a definitive textbook in the field.
Jeffrey Blatnik named associate residency program director

Jeffrey Blatnik, MD, has been named associate program director of the General Surgery Residency and will serve as a member of the Program Evaluation and Clinical Competency committees. Dr. Blatnik is an assistant professor in the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery and serves on the Board of Governors of Americas Hernia Society. In the new role, Dr. Blatnik will oversee the patient safety and quality improvement efforts with the residents. He will replace Jason Wellen, MD, who had served in the role since 2013.

Patrick Geraghty has most cited article in vascular journal for second time

Patrick Geraghty, MD, professor of surgery in the Section of Vascular Surgery, was co-author of an article in the Journal of Vascular Surgery that was the journal’s most cited article in 2017. The article, Society for Vascular Surgery practice guidelines for atherosclerotic occlusive disease of the lower extremities: Management of asymptomatic disease and claudication, appeared in the March 2015 issue; Anton Sidawy, MD, was senior author. It is the second time Dr. Geraghty has received the award.

Jeffrey Jim elected secretary of Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society

Jeffrey Jim, MD, MPHS, associate professor of surgery in the Section of Vascular Surgery, was elected as secretary of the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society (MVSS) for 2017-2010. He is also a member of the Executive Council.

The MVSS is one of the largest regional vascular societies, representing 12 midwestern states. It has more than 690 members and offers the opportunity for members to come together to discuss current trends and techniques, as well as special programs for vascular surgeon trainees.

Dr. Jim joined the faculty in 2010 and also serves as program director of both the Vascular Surgery Fellowship and Integrated Residency Programs.

Yin Cao Receives K Award

Yin Cao, ScD, MPH, assistant professor of surgery, has been awarded a four-year, $567,000 K07 grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Through the award, Optimizing the Impact of Aspirin for Chemoprevention, Dr. Cao and colleagues aim to optimize the impact of aspirin for chemoprevention through an integrated approach. They will first leverage a large clinical trial in Australia and the United States to define aspirin’s chemopreventative efficacy among the elderly.

They will then work with colleagues at NCI Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) to integrate these findings to recalibrate the current U.S. Preventive Services Task Force aspirin guidelines on cardiovascular and colorectal cancer prevention.

Jean Hunleth wins Skinner Award for her book on children as caregivers

Jean Hunleth, PhD, MPH, an instructor of surgery in the Division of Public Health Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine, has received the 2018 Skinner Award for her book, Children as Caregivers: The Global Epidemic, presents an account of the vital importance of caregiving and high impact. Dr. Hunleth’s book, which demonstrates the experiences of people who are typically left out of health research.

Michael Brunt named second vice president of Fellowship Council

Michael Brunt, MD, chief of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) and director of the Advanced Gastrointestinal/Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, has been named second vice president of the Fellowship Council. The council is an association of program directors and specialty societies that oversees non-ACGME fellowship training programs in advanced GI/MIS, GI, flexible endoscopy, bariatric, thoracic, colorectal and hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery. As second vice president, Dr. Brunt oversees the accreditation process for fellowship council programs in conjunction with the accreditation committee chair and co-chair.
Epic goes live, enhances sharing of medical records across systems

The ability to share medical records across hospitals addresses three major healthcare issues that have been challenges since the 1990s: patient safety, efficiency and cost. The Department of Surgery joined with Washington University School of Medicine and BJC HealthCare in being part of the solution: in June 2018, Washington University Physicians joined Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Children’s Hospital and Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital in launching a single electronic health record (EHR) system called Epic. The EHR system is now live in all but one of the BJC hospitals, with Belleville Memorial Hospital in Illinois to follow.

BJC and the Washington University healthcare system is one of the largest in the country to adopt Epic, which claims to hold medical records of 54 percent of patients in the United States. Records can be shared not only with BJC, but also SSMHealth and Mercy Hospital in the St. Louis area and with hospitals across the country. In the BJC/Washington University Physician system, it replaces more than 50 stand-alone electronic systems that were used by individual physician groups, specialty clinics, hospitals and even hospital departments.

“A lot of patients see different physicians in multiple different areas,” says Sam Bhayani, MD, chief medical officer of Washington University Physicians and urologist in the department. “This is particularly beneficial since we draw patients from hours away who have complex problems and see multiple physicians. We now have all their information in one place.”

Epic also helps in investigating safety events, allowing the department’s safety officers to do more effective chart reviews. Surgery schedulers are using the system to communicate surgical plans to system hospitals.

“The Epic record gives you the whole picture of the patient’s health, which is important for surgical planning and optimal outcomes,” says Vicki Peck, RN, BSN, MHS, CURN, who coordinates the department’s patient safety activities.

Information Systems Clinical Coordinator Tammy Stotler and Senior Project Manager Hannah Beckmann led the team’s rollout on June 2 and continue to resolve any issues. “With the implementation of Epic, our clinical operations team will focus on efficiency, improving quality of patient care and creating a successful practice,” says Stotler.

Minimally invasive surgeons use incisionless surgery to treat gastric emptying

Minimally invasive surgeons Michael Awad, MD, PhD, and Jeffrey Blatnik, MD, continue growing the natural orifice surgery program and are now offering the per oral pyloromyotomy (POP) procedure. The POP is a completely incisionless method of relaxing the pylorus through upper endoscopy and is used to treat patients with gastroparesis and other conditions with delayed gastric emptying. Patients typically have little to no pain, shortened hospital stays and quicker recovery than with traditional laparoscopic approaches.

This is the first and only center in Missouri offering this incisionless approach for gastroparesis patients. The POP procedure adds to the existing repertoire of incisionless natural orifice options offered to patients that began in 2013 with Dr. Awad and colleagues introducing the per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) procedure for treatment of achalasia.

Resident Christian Frye wins STS travel scholarship

Resident Christian Frye, MD, has been selected to receive one of the “2019 Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Looking to the Future” scholarships. This scholarship will cover registration fees and help support travel expenses for the STS 55th Annual Meeting, January 2019, in San Diego.
Promotions & Appointments

Promotions
Maria B. Majella Doyle, MD, MBA
Maria Bernadette Doyle, MD, MBA, was promoted to the rank of professor of surgery in the division of general surgery. Dr. Majella Doyle is director of liver transplant at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children’s Hospital. She joined the faculty in 2007 after completing fellowships in hepatobiliary, pancreatic and abdominal organ transplant at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She received her medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and completed her residency in Ireland prior to beginning fellowships in the United States. She received her MBA from Washington University in 2012. Dr. Majella Doyle’s specialty areas include abdominal transplantation in adults and pediatric liver transplantation, clinical living donor transplantation, and hepatobiliary and pancreas surgery for benign and malignant disease. Her research interests include clinical outcomes and cost analysis of organ donation and liver cancer.

Amy Moore, MD
Amy Moore, MD, is now an associate professor of surgery in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Moore attended medical school at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in Richmond, Va., and completed a general surgery residency and plastic and reconstructive surgery residency, as well as a peripheral nerve research fellowship, at Washington University School of Medicine. She went on to an orthopedic hand fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and joined the faculty in 2012. Her specialty areas include plastic and reconstructive surgery and peripheral nerve injury, and her clinical interests include complex wrist, hand, peripheral nerve and brachial plexus surgery for adults and children. Dr. Moore performs nerve transfer surgery on children with acute flaccid myelitis.

Jingqin Luo, PhD
Jingqin Luo, PhD, was promoted to associate professor of surgery, associate professor of medicine and associate professor of biostatistics in the Public Health Sciences Division. Dr. Luo joined the faculty in 2006. Her primary appointment is in the Department of Surgery. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in statistics at Renmin University in Beijing, China, and a master’s and doctorate degree in statistical science from Duke University in Durham, N.C. She has had various teaching appointments in bioinformatics and statistics at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Luo’s research interests include statistical summary measures of diagnostic tests and longitudinal data modeling. She has extensive expertise in genetic data analysis. Dr. Luo’s current projects focus on biomarkers for patient outcome prediction in cancers and for the onset of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Appointments
Division: Cardiothoracic Surgery Section: Cardiac Surgery

Kunal Kotkar, MD
Instructor of Surgery
Fellowships: Mechanical circulatory support devices and heart transplant, Washington University School of Medicine; advanced cardiac surgery, Mayo Clinic

Clinical Interests: Coronary artery disease, coronary artery bypass surgery, valvular heart disease, mitral valve repair, mitral valve replacement, aortic valve replacement, aortopathies, root, ascending, hemiarch replacement, heart failure surgery, ventricular assist devices implantation, heart transplantation, extracorporeal life support

Research Interests: Heart failure

Section: General Thoracic Surgery

Ruben G. Nava-Bahena, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Residency: General surgery, Washington University School of Medicine; general surgery, University of Washington, Seattle

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic surgery, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Clinical Interests: General thoracic surgery, lung transplantation, lung cancer, esophageal cancer, benign esophageal disease, minimally invasive thoracic surgery (VATS, robotic surgery), mediastinal masses

Research Interests: Lung transplant

Promotions
Jun Guo, PhD
Jun Guo, PhD, has been named associate professor of surgery in the Pediatric Surgery Division. Dr. Guo studied at Shanghai Medical University in China and did his postgraduate work at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. Dr. Guo formerly held the position of assistant professor of research at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. He joined the Washington University faculty in 2007 and is a research associate with Pediatric Surgery Chief Brad Warner, MD. Dr. Guo is a co-investigator for ongoing research involving angiogenesis in intestinal adaptation and bile acid metabolomics and metagenomics in short bowel syndrome.

Laurie Punch, MD
Laurie Punch, MD, has been named associate professor of surgery in the Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery. Dr. Punch joined the faculty in 2016. She received a medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in Farmington, Conn. She completed a general surgery residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center and a surgical critical care fellowship at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, both in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Punch’s specialty areas include acute and critical care surgery and her areas of clinical interest include surgical management of invasive soft tissue infection and the utilization of damage control techniques for nontraumatic intra-abdominal emergencies. Dr. Punch is involved with curriculum development and community education of firearm injury treatment.

Jingqin Luo, PhD
Jingqin Luo, PhD, has extensive expertise in genetic data analysis. Dr. Luo’s current projects focus on biomarkers for patient outcome prediction in cancers and for the onset of Alzheimer’s Disease.
Division: General Surgery
Acute and Critical Care Surgery

Mark H. Hoofnagle, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

Fellowship: Surgical critical care, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Clinical Interests: Trauma, critical care

Research Interests: Vascular disease, DVT, gun violence

Piroska Kopar, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

Fellowships: Acute care, surgery, trauma and surgical critical care, Yale School of Medicine/Yale New Haven Hospital; surgical education, Association for Surgical Education; cardiac surgery, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center; medical ethics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Clinical Interests: Clinical ethics in surgery and in the intensive care unit, hemodynamic monitoring in shock

Research Interests: Director of Center for Humanism and Ethics in Surgical Specialties; ethical issues in surgery, resource allocation in clinical medicine, medical ethics education

Jennifer Leonard, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN

Fellowship: Trauma and surgical critical care, Hospital University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Clinical Interests: Acute care/trauma surgery, surgical critical care

Research Interests: Mechanisms of vascular endothelial inflammation, structure and function of the endothelial glyocalyx, in vitro models of hemorrhagic shock

Melissa K. Stewart, MD
Instructor in Surgery

Residency: General surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Fellowship: Critical care, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Clinical interests: Acute care surgery

C-STARS (Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills)

Bracken Armstrong, MD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: Surgery residency, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, NV

Fellowship: Trauma and surgical critical care, acute care surgery

and burn surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Clinical Interests: C-STARS training, surgical education, sepsis and septic shock, traumatic hemorrhagic shock, emergency general surgery, perioperative pain management, delirium, burns, elective general surgery

Research Interests: Perioperative trauma education and training

Major Charlie Srivilasa, MD
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC

Fellowship: Trauma/surgical critical care, San Antonio/Surgical Medical Center, San Antonio, TX

Clinical interests: C-STARS training, military trauma, deployment medicine, resuscitation science

Research interests: Blood glucose variability in the ICU, military vs. civilian chest trauma

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Aneel Damle, MD, MBA
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

Fellowship: Colon and rectal surgery, General surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Clinical Interests: Minimally invasive surgery, colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticulitis and anorectal diseases

Research Interests: Quality improvement and patient safety, cost reduction

Hepatobiliary-Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Surgery

Dominic Sanford, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, Washington University

Fellowship: Hepatobiliary, pancreatic and liver transplant surgery, Washington University School of Medicine; minimally invasive hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, Mayo Clinic Florida, Weston, FL

Clinical Interests: Minimally invasive surgery of the pancreas, including Whipple and pancreatostomy; surgery of the bile ducts, liver, spleen and adrenal glands

Research interests: Open and minimally invasive pancreas and liver surgery outcomes

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Sara Holden, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: General surgery, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Fellowship: Minimally invasive surgery, Washington University

Clinical Interests: Abdominal wall hernia repair, management of hernias and benign foregut disorders, gastroesophageal reflux disease, endoscopic treatment of achalasia, gallbladder surgery, solid organ surgery

Research Interests: Clinical outcomes of abdominal wall hernia repair, medical student/resident surgical education curriculum, patient education tools to facilitate shared surgical decision-making

Transplant Surgery
Appointments

Jae-Sung Kim, PhD
Professor of Surgery

Post-doctoral Education: PhD, Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Department of Cell & Developmental Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Previous Faculty Appointments: Professor and vice chair for research, Department of Surgery, Saint Louis University; Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Research Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology/Cell & Developmental Biology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Research Interests: Developing new therapeutic strategies against ischemia/reperfusion injury in liver

Division: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Mitchell Pet, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: Plastic and reconstructive surgery, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals, Seattle, WA

Fellowship: Hand and upper extremity surgery, Medstar Union Memorial Hospital, Curtis National Hand Canter, Baltimore, MD

Clinical interests: Free tissue transfer, other complex microsurgical reconstructive procedures; as part of cutaneous oncology multidisciplinary team, performs reconstruction after removal of cutaneous and musculoskeletal cancers, such as sarcoma, melanoma and basal or squamous cell carcinoma

Kiran Mahajan, PhD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Graduate Education: MSc, Master of Science in Biotechnology, MKU, Madurai, India; PhD, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Postgraduate Training and Fellowship Appointments: Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC, 1998 – 2004

Research Interests: Epigenetic regulators in metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer

Nupam Mahajan, PhD
Professor of Surgery

Graduate Education: PhD, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Post Doctoral Education: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC

Research Interests: Genitourinary oncology and other cancer-related disciplines

Arjun Sivaraman, MD
MBBS, MS, MCH Instructor in Surgery

Urology Residency: St. John’s Medical College Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka, India; General surgery residency, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Karnataka, India

Fellowship: Urologic oncology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; robotic urologic surgery and focal therapy, Institute Mutualiste Montsouris, Paris, France

Clinical Interests: Prostate cancer - PSA screening and prostate biopsy, robotic prostatectomy, HIFU, cryotherapy and IRE for prostate cancer; surgical treatment for kidney cancer, bladder, testis and penile cancer; benign prostate enlargement

Research Interests: Prostate cancer imaging, prostate biopsy methods, image-guided ablation of prostate cancer, treatment modalities for prostate cancer

Zachary Smith, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Residency: Urology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Fellowship: Urologic Oncology, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Clinical Interests: Urologic oncology; bladder, kidney, testicular, adrenal cancer; adrenalectomy

Research interests: Bladder cancer, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, penile cancer, perioperative optimization of patients, clinical trials

The Department of Surgery News at Washington University School of Medicine is published twice a year for faculty members and staff. Submit news items to Jeffrey Jim at jimj@wudosis.wustl.edu

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Curbing the impact of gun violence: Trauma surgeon and team reach out to St. Louisans

Laurie Punch wants community members to know they have the power to influence their own lives

Gun violence is a major cause of death in the United States, with the Centers for Disease Control reporting that firearm deaths (36,252) exceeded car accident fatalities (36,161) in 2015. Although mass shootings get headlines, the Washington Post reports these “account for a tiny fraction of the country’s gun deaths.” Guns injure and kill many more victims in large cities. In St. Louis, Washington University trauma surgeon Laurie Punch, MD, treats many of these victims at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and has launched a major initiative to help citizens respond to the crisis.

In 2016, Dr. Punch came from R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, already well-versed in treating gunshot victims. Since then, St. Louis homicides have risen to more than 200 annually*, making it a major epidemic. She had an interest in the medical manifestations of social problems when beginning medical school and took a first step toward changing the gun violence narrative as a participant in a panel discussion sponsored by Better Family Life (BFL), a community organization. But Dr. Punch found herself listening: it was clear people felt the hospital was disengaged.

“The discussion was really intense,” she says.

Dr. Punch reached out to James Clark, vice president for outreach of BFL, by offering to hold bleeding-control classes at gun violence deescalation centers. The idea did not gel until Dr. Punch asked first-year medical student Jane Hayes to write an analysis showing parallel interests between her project, Stop the Bleed, and the centers. Mr. Clark saw the benefit.

Stop the Bleed was adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security after the Sandy Hook school shooting. Punch, typically helped by Hayes and general surgery resident Erin Endrade, MD, MPH, uses an American College of Surgeons curriculum to teach bleeding control techniques such as using tourniquets and applying pressure. She held the first community session in March 2018 and now about 2,000 participants in bleeding control techniques.

Above: Trauma surgeon Laurie Punch, MD, has taken Stop the Bleed training into the St. Louis community to arm citizens with the knowledge and a toolkit to save victims of gun violence and accidents. Here she demonstrates a technique in a class at a St. Louis community center. Since March 2018, Punch’s team has trained about 2,000 participants in bleeding control techniques.

Right: General surgery resident Erin Andrade, MD, MPH

*Statistics from St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
Medical Schools of Incoming Residents:

General Surgery Residency
Sydney Beache, MD
Medical School: University of Pittsburgh, PA

Sandra Garcia, MD
Medical School: Universidad Complutense de Madrid Facultad de Medicina, Madrid, Spain

Britta Han, MD
Medical School: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Brendan Heiden, MD
Medical School: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Annie Hess, MD
Medical School: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Paul Kepper, MD
Medical School: Louisiana State University – New Orleans, LA

Xun Luo, MD
Medical School: Fudan University (Shanghai Medical College, China)

Where incoming fellows came from:

Breast Disease
Abigail Tremelling, MD
Surgical Residency: Cleveland Clinic, Akron General Hospital, Akron, OH

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Matt Henn, MD
Surgical Residency: Washington University

Shuddhadeb “Shuddie” Ray, MD
Surgical Residency: Washington University

Colorectal Surgery
Tiffany Chan, MD
Surgical Residency: University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia

Sanjay Mohanty, MD
Surgical Residency: Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI

Hand, Nerve and Microsurgery Fellows
Jana Dengler, MD
Residency: University of Toronto, Canada

Plastic Surgery Residency
Danielle Brown, MD
Medical School: University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS

David Chi, MD, PhD
Medical School: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Rachael Payne, MD
Medical School: University of Illinois

Vascular Surgery Residency
Momodou Jammeh, MD
Medical School: Duke University, Durham, NC

HPB Surgery
Michael LeCompte, MD
Surgical Residency: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Minimally Invasive Surgery
Maria Altieri, MD
Surgical Residency: Stony Brook Hospital, Stony Brook, NY

Pediatric Surgery
Nicole Wilson, MD
Surgical Residency: Washington University

Surgical Critical Care
Cody Barnes, MD
Surgical Residency: University of Missouri, Columbia

Jonathan Chong, MD
Surgical Residency: University of California, Davis

Nabeel Habib Gul, MD
Surgical Residency: University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Jessica Kramer, MD
Surgical Residency: Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Transplant Surgery
Sueng Hee (“Suzie”) Lee, MD
Surgical Residency: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Vascular Surgery
Benjamin Szpila, MD
Residency: University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

MPHS students
Abby Cheng, MD, faculty, Orthopedic Surgery

Carrie Coughlin, MD, faculty, Medicine

Christina Herbosa, medical student

Adam Labore, MD, faculty, Orthopedic Surgery

William Padovan, medical student

Patrick Phelan, medical student
MPHS students
Derek Schloemann, medical student
Maria Schwabe, Orthopedic Surgery
Robert (Lucas) Thomas
Melanie Subramanian, MD, general surgery resident
Daniel Willis, MD, clinical fellow, Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology
Abigail Zamorano-Smith, MD, clinical fellow, OB/GYN Oncology

Fellows:

Breast Disease
Diana Hook MD
Texas Oncology, The Woodlands, TX

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Lindsey Saint, MD
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, IL
Ruben Nava, MD
Washington University Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Stephen Waterford, MD
Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

Colorectal Surgery
Chady Atallah, MD
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Aneel Damle, MD
VA Medical Center/Washington University Section of Colorectal Surgery
David Rosen, MD
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

HPB
Blaire Anderson, MD
Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship, University of Nebraska, Omaha

Minimally Invasive Surgery
Sara Holden, MD
Washington University Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery

Minimally Invasive Urology
Eric Kim, MD
Washington University Division of Urology
Kefu Du, MD
Washington University Division of Urology
Christopher Han, MD
Private practice, Newburgh, NY

Pediatric Surgery
Alice King, MD
Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, TX

Plastic Surgery Residency
Louis Poppler, MD, MSCI
Mayo Clinic Combined Hand Surgery Fellowship, Rochester, MN
Ali Qureshi, MD
Marina Rox Fellowship, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Alexandra Schmidt, MD
Aesthetic fellowship with Joe Hunstad, MD, H/K/B Plastic Surgery, Huntersville, NC

Pediatric Surgery
Kyle Rove, MD
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO
Bhalaje Meenakshi-Sundaram, MD
University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, OK

Plastic Surgery Hand Fellows
Hollie Power, MD
Traveling before beginning practice
Colin McInnes, MD
Plastic surgeon, Royal Columbian Hospital, British Columbia, Canada

Surgical Critical Care
Matthew Fultz, MD
Baylor Scott and White, Temple, TX
Antonio Lozada, MD
SIU School of Medicine, Carbondale Memorial Hospital, Carbondale, IL

Transplant Surgery
Leigh Anne Dageforde, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University, Boston, MA

Vascular Surgery
John Maijub, MD
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN
Claudiu Adrian Vlada, MD
Private Practice, Los Angeles, CA

MPHS Graduates
Alejandra Camacho – Soto
William Chapman Jr., MD, general surgery resident
John Chi
Kshitij Desai
Anjlie Gupta
Jessica Hao
Jessica Holttum
Seth Howdeshell
Amy Langdon
Jodi Lapidus
Adam Lewkowitz, MD
Deepak Lingam
Roheena Panni, MD, general surgery resident
Abby Rosenberg
Mikhail Roubakha
Ana Salazar Zetina, MD
Amar Shah
Sirish Veligati
Cynthia Wang