Clyde Barker’s 80th Birthday

On September 22, 2012 at the Merion Cricket Club, two hundred and thirty of Dr. Barker’s colleagues, friends and family met for dinner to celebrate his 80th birthday (pictures on pages 6-7).
This issue of the Newsletter provides an opportunity to con-
gratulate several Penn Surgery Society members for unusual accomplish-
ments. The first is Jeff Drebin for his Presidency of the Society of Clinical Surgery. Dr. Drebin presided over the Society’s 169th meeting held at UCLA November 1-2, 2012. This Society is one of academic surgery’s most distinguished. It was founded in 1903 by Harvey Cushing. Because Cushing intended the Society to be for young surgeons, members must be elected before the age of 45, a rule that has excluded some of the country’s famous surgeons. The Society has the unusual tradition that during its meetings which are held in the hospital of a Society member, the members enter the operating rooms to watch their hosts operate. This usually, but not always goes well (see Dr. Barker for details). Before Dr. Drebin, 3 other HUP sur-
geons were President: Charles Frazier, Jonathan Rhoads and John Waldhausen. Currently, 8 of the Society’s 52 active members are Penn Surgery Society members and 10 are senior members (over 55).

The second special accomplishment is Joel Cooper’s recogni-
tion as the 2013 winner of the Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Immunology and Surgery (see page 8). Only 16 others have been honored with this award, including 2 Nobel Prize Laureates and 2 Lasker awardees. It should also be mentioned that in 1986 Dr. Cooper was selected as the 3rd individual to be designated by the American College of Surgeons as the Jacobson Innovation Awardee. Francois Dubois and Tom Starzl were the first two. Remarkably of the 17 winners of this prestigious award, 5 have been Penn Surgeons: Judah Folkman (trained in Pediatric Surgery by Chick Koop) for angiogenesis; Stan Dudrick (HUP Chief Resident, 1966-67) for his work in parenteral nutrition; William Pierce (HUP Chief Resident, 1968-69) for development of an artificial heart; Bernard Fisher (HUP resident under I.S. Ravdin, also Lasker Awardee) for changing concepts of cancer metastases leading to breast conservation surgery and Dr. Cooper for lung transplantation and lung volume reduction surgery.

The third unusual accomplishment by a Penn Surgery Society Member is Dan Kriesel’s election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation. This Society’s membership is comprised almost exclusively of academic internists with strong research credentials. No more than a handful of surgeons have ever been elected, not including Dr. Ravdin, Dr. Rhoads, myself or to my knowledge any other Penn surgeon. Congratulations, Dan!

Finally I should mention how grateful I was to Jeff Drebin and the Department of Surgery for the wonderful fuss made over my 80th birthday. I owe special thanks to Ron Fairman, Jim Markmann and Mary Hamburg for their work in organizing it. I was especially proud of the symposium speakers. The quality of their presentations was at the level of a first rate national or international meeting (see page 4 and 5). I was overwhelmed that so many former HUP residents returned. They, my family and current Penn faculty and friends, a total of more than 200 attendees over filled the ballroom at the Merion Cricket Club. I was especially pleased that Howard and Joe Mehl were there. They were the donor and recipient of my first kidney transplant 47 years ago. The kidney is still working! Tom Starzl, a special friend and mentor, had to make a special effort to attend since until late the night before he had been in New York where he was receiving the Lasker Award. The list of after dinner speakers included Dr. Drebin, former Dean Bill Kelley, Jim Mullen, Ron Fairman, Ali Naji, Jim Markmann, Tom Starzl, Pat McPherson of the American Philosophical Society and my son Fred. Fortunately their remarks were not too serious. In my own remarks I noted that while my generation of residents was training at HUP under Dr. Ravdin and Dr. Rhoads we thought it was a special time. In fact, it was. But the quality of the presentations at the birthday symposium and the quality of today’s HUP residents assure me that the special time of Penn Surgery continues and improves under Dr. Drebin’s leadership.

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In Memory of

Donald Liu, M.D.

At age 50, Don Liu was in the prime of his life as a devoted family man, an accomplished clinical surgeon, and prominent leader in academic pediatric surgery. Circumstances of his tragic death on August 6, 2012 were summarized in a terse ABC news-bite:

“Dr. Donald Liu, Ryerson Professor of Surgery and Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Chicago’s Comer Children’s Hospital saw two boys who were friends of his family swept into the rough waves of Lake Michigan. Despite protests from his own children, who were scared about the dangerous conditions, Liu went in to save them. The two boys made it back to the shore but Dr. Liu did not survive the 6-foot swells and treacherous currents, despite his physician wife’s desperate efforts to resuscitate him.”

Don came to HUP as a surgical intern in 1991 after obtaining his PhD along with his MD at Thomas Jefferson. While at HUP Don met and married Dana Suskind, an ENT resident. She is now Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics of the University of Chicago.

As a resident, Don won several teaching awards. He was well liked by all, technically superior, totally conscientious in patient care and according to my note one of the hardest working people I had ever seen. Dr. Mullen, never given to hyperbole, described him in such glowing terms that he felt compelled to add that his assessment of Don “was almost too good to be true.”

After finishing his residency at HUP and a two year fellowship in pediatric surgery at the University of Michigan he moved directly to the position of Chief of Pediatric Surgery at LSU. In 2001 he was recruited to the University of Chicago where after 4 years, he was appointed Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Chicago, Chief of the Section of the Pediatric Surgery at the University of Chicago and Surgeon-in Chief of Wyler Children’s Hospital. In 2007 he was appointed Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Chicago’s Comer Hospital and Director of the Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Program of the University of Chicago.

In the early years, Dr. Liu’s extensive bibliography focused on immunology and T-cell biology. Later it documented his innovations in minimally invasive surgery for conditions such as gastroesophageal reflux, his extensive experience with the treatment and prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis and his seminal work on transanal mucosectomy in children with Hirschprung’s Disease. In addition Don wrote about his activity in trauma surgery and experience as founder and Chief of the ECMO Services at LSU and the University of Chicago.

Don’s research interests included the study of genetic diseases and his NIH funded investigation of the interplay of diet and the metabolome in the juvenile gut microbiome. He also conducted clinical trials on cellular immunity in childhood obesity and gene therapy in the treatment of diabetes.

He had been visiting professor or invited speaker at more than 100 academic institutions and national or international symposia. He was particularly proud of his work in China where he developed a collaboration and formal affiliation with Shanghai Medical Center. He had the distinction of holding an endowed chair at the Jiao Tung University in Shanghai. He was recently awarded the “1000 person of distinction” by the Shanghai government which was accompanied by a $2 million dollar grant for his continuing work in China.

In a personal statement I found in Don’s HUP residency file he wrote that the art of medicine is best practiced by those who desire to serve others. He added that “the special beauty of surgery is in the translation of abstraction and fact into delicate finger music.” Years later, when asked to summarize his surgical philosophy he wrote, “I may be old fashioned but I continue to believe in achieving and maintaining a quadruple threat status in academic surgery, excellence in teaching, research, clinical productivity, innovation and administrative leadership.” The extensive accolades of his colleagues in Chicago leave little doubt that he succeeded in this rare accomplishment.

Don’s friends of the HUP Surgical Society are deeply saddened by his premature demise but proud that he was able to accomplish so much in a life that was much too short. He was truly one of our finest.
Dr. Barker’s 80th Birthday Scientific

During the morning and afternoon of September 22, 2012 Dr. Barker’s former trainees put on a scientific symposium in the auditorium of Penn’s new Translational Research Center (shown right). The quality of the presentations was worthy of a national or international meeting.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Session

Moderators:
John C. Kucharczuk,
Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief Thoracic Surgery Division, University of Pennsylvania
Joseph E. Bavaria,
Brooke Roberts Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania

Speakers:
Joseph H. Gorman,
Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“Catheter Based Strategies for Mitral Valve Replacement”
Daniel Kreisel,
Associate Professor of Surgery, Chief of Lung Transplantation, Washington University, St. Louis
“Immune Responses after Lung Transplantation”
W. Roy Smythe,
Former Chair of Surgery, Texas A&M Medical Center
“Every New Theory As A Danger”
Robert C. Gorman, Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“Therapeutic Biomaterials for Heart Failure”
Y. Joseph Woo, Associate Professor of Surgery, Univ. of Pennsylvania
“Rebuilding the Heart from Within”

General Surgery Surgical Oncology/Pediatric Surgery Session

Moderators:
Daniel T. Dempsey,
Professor of Surgery and Chief of GI Division, Univ. of Pennsylvania
Hansell H. Stedman,
Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania

Speakers:
Ronald P. DeMatteo, Professor of Surgery, Chief of General Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
“Inducing Intolerance”
Michael A. Choti, Professor of Surgery, Chief of Surgical Oncology, Johns Hopkins University Medical Center
“Advances in Image-Guided Liver Surgery”
Kenneth W. Liechty,
Chief of Surgery, Nemours Children’s Hospital, Orlando, Florida
“Fetal Regeneration”
Steven J. Fishman, Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard University, Boston Children's Hospital,
“Management of Complex Vascular Malformations”
Noel N. Williams, Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“Robotic Bariatric Surgery: Service and Education”

Vascular Surgery Session

Moderators:
Ronald M. Fairman, Clyde F. Barker Professor of Surgery, Chief of Vascular Surgery Division, University of Pennsylvania
Jeffrey P. Carpenter,
Professor and Chair of Surgery, Cooper University Medical Center

Speakers:
Ross Milner, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Univ. of Chicago
“Emerging Technologies to Treat Aortic Arch Aneurysms”
Edward Y. Woo, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“Indication and Contraindications for Intervention in TEVAR Type B Dissection”
Benjamin M. Jackson, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“Biomechanical Modeling of Thoracic Aortic Disease: Why Bother?”
David H. Deaton, Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief of Vascular Division, Georgetown University
“Early Days of EVAR and an Eye Towards the Future”
Marc E. Mitchell, Chairman of Surgery, University of Mississippi
“Emergent Endovascular Repair of the Descending Thoracic Aorta”
In June, 2012, Kim Olthoff, was elected President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Dr. Olthoff is the second female President and the third Penn Surgeon to be elected in the Society’s 38 year history. Becoming President of this important society is one more step in Dr. Olthoff’s distinguished career. She was educated at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Her internship and residency were served at the University of California, Los Angeles where she finished as Chief Resident in Surgery in 1993. From 1993-95 she was a fellow in Transplantation Surgery at the same institution. In 1995, she was recruited to the University of Pennsylvania where she rose rapidly through the ranks to Professor of Surgery with tenure in 2008. In 2011, she became Donald Guthrie Professor. She is Director of the Transplant Center at CHOP and since 2004, she has been Director of the Liver Transplant Program of the Transplant Institute at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Kim has won a number of awards including the ASTS Faculty Development Award, the Physician of the Year Award of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Liver Foundation, the Rhoche/American Society of Transplant Surgeons Presidential Travel Award. She has held many important committee, leadership and administrative positions including Secretary of the ASTS, 2008-2011 and Chairmanship of the Liver-Intra-Abdominal Committee of the American Society of Transplantation. She has been on the Board of Directors and has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation of the Association for Academic Surgery and as Secretary of the Association for Academic Surgery. She is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the Surgical Biology Club II, the International Pediatric Transplant Association of which she has been a councilor and the United Network for Organ Sharing which she has served as a member of the Board of Governors and as Chair of the Liver and Intestinal Committee.

Kim’s editorial board memberships include those of Liver Transplantation, Journal of Surgical Research and the Journal of Pediatric Transplantation. She has published over 120 peer reviewed articles and chapters. In her NIH supported laboratory she studies liver regeneration, and immunologic monitoring of transplant recipients.
To view more images from the Celebration visit the Penn Surgery Society Alumni web site at https://surgery.uphs.upenn.edu/
Alumni News

♦ Professor of Surgery Joel D. Cooper, M.D. former Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery has been named the recipient of the 2013 Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology. This prestigious award is bestowed upon “international leaders who have made significant contributions to the field of organ transplantation and immunology.” Dr. Cooper is widely acknowledged as the individual whose surgical innovations ushered in the modern era of lung transplantation. In 1983, at the University of Toronto, Dr. Cooper performed the world’s first successful single lung transplantation. Prior to this, 44 attempts at lung transplantation had been made in the world all of which failed within a few weeks. In 1988, Dr. Cooper moved from Toronto to Washington University in St. Louis as head of the section of General Thoracic Surgery. There in 1988 Dr. Cooper performed the world’s first successful double lung transplant. From 1997-2005 he was Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Evans Graham Professor of Surgery. In 2005, Dr. Cooper moved to Penn where he was Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery until 2010.

Dr. Cooper is also recognized for a variety of contributions such as tracheal surgery, esophageal surgery, pulmonary surgery and volume reduction surgery for emphysema. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine, of the National Academy of Sciences, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Belgian Royal Society of Surgery and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He is author of more than 400 peer reviewed papers. His clinical and basic research was funded by grants from the NIH for 18 consecutive years.

♦ On October 1, 2012, Danny Jacobs, M.D. joined the University of Texas Medical Branch as Executive Vice President, Provost, and Dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Jacobs, was formerly the David C. Sabiston Jr. Professor and Chair of surgery at Duke University Medical Center for 9 years. He completed his general surgery residency at HUP in 1986 and was honored with HUP Department of Surgery’s Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate Award in 2010.

♦ Two surgical faculty members were recently recipients of annual Penn Medicine Awards of Excellence. Patrick M. Reilly, Chief of the Division of Traumatology, Critical Care and Emergency Surgery received the Louis Duhring Outstanding Clinical Specialist Award. This annual award recognizes a physician in a clinical department who combines biomedical research with clinical insight and knowledge to provide leading-edge service and creative care to patients and colleagues. Y. Joseph Woo, Associate Professor of Surgery was awarded the Luigi Mastroianni, Jr. Clinical Innovator Award. This annual award is given for significant contributions toward the invention and development of new techniques, approaches, procedures, or devices that change medical practice and are of major benefit to patient care.

♦ On September 20, 2012 Kenneth R. Feinberg delivered the annual Gordon P. Buzby Surgery Leadership Lecture. Mr. Feinberg, an attorney, whose lecture was entitled “Unconventional Responses to Unique Catastrophes: Tailoring the Law to Meet the Challenges” is known for directing the BP oil settlement and the 9/11 family compensation fund.

Dan Kreisel was recently elected to membership in the American Society of Clinical Investigation. This is an unusual honor. Only a few surgeons have ever been members.

Dan was HUP Chief Resident in 2002-2003. He obtained his PhD in immunology at Penn in 2003. He was the winner of the 2003 Jonathan Rhoads Research Award. From 2003-2005 he was a fellow in CT surgery at Washington University and since this has been on the faculty at Washington University where he is now Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of the lung transplantation program. Dan’s NIH RO1 supported research is focused on the immunogenicity of lung transplants. He also has the unusual distinction for a surgeon of serving on an NIH study section.
♦ The third annual Ernest Rosato/William Maul Measey Endowed Lecture in Surgical Education took place on Thursday, October 18th. The subject: “What Made John Wooden the Man That He Was” was predicated on a 50 year relationship between the guest speaker, UCLA and NBA basketball star Keith Erickson and UCLA Coach John Wooden.

♦ In October 2012, Peter R. McCombs, M.D retired from the PENN Health System. Dr. McCombs received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his M.D. from Tufts University. Dr. McCombs was HUP chief resident in 1976-1977 and remained here for his Fellowship in Vascular Surgery. He was appointed to the faculty in 1978. In 1987 Dr. McCombs joined the medical staff at Abington Hospital. He returned to Penn in 2001 as Chairman of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital for five years. His leadership was crucial during the merger of the HUP and PAH surgical residency programs. In 2006, Dr. McCombs became Chief of Surgery at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He served as Interim Chief of Staff from 2009-2010. The McCombs plan to live in Florida, where he will have a part-time position in a VA hospital, allowing him to improve his golf handicap.

♦ Howard Song HUP Chief Resident in 2001 has been appointed Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Oregon Health and Sciences University. He obtained his PhD at Penn in 2001 and finished his chief residency at HUP the same year. After a fellowship in CT surgery at Emory (2002-2004) he was recruited to the University of Oregon where he has since then been Director of the Mechanical Circulatory Assist, Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Programs. Howard and Sally’s three children, ages 13, 10 and 7 are enjoying growing up in Portland.

♦ Roy Smythe after serving from 2004-2012 as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center College of Medicine has become Senior Vice President, Institute Development and Medical Director of Innovation for the Scott White Healthcare System. This health system is one of the nation’s largest. Dr. Smythe remains the Rita K. Roney Professor of Surgery and Professor of Molecular Medicine at Texas A&M. Roy was HUP Surgery Chief Resident, 1995-1996, CT Resident at HUP, 1996-1998. While a resident he won the Jonathan Rhoads Research Award, the William Inouye Teaching Award and the Philadelphia County Medical Society Award for Humaneness in Medicine. In 2011 he was named the Department of Surgery’s Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate of the Year.

Promotions
♦ Peter L. Abt, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery

♦ Brian J. Czerniecki, MD, PhD
Promoted to Professor of Surgery

♦ Holly L. Hedrick, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery

♦ Peter Mattei, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery

♦ Noel N. Williams, MD
Promoted to Professor of Clinical Surgery

New Faces
♦ Phillip Mucksavage, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Urology in Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital.
Residency: University of Pennsylvania
Fellowship: University of California, Irvine

♦ William H. Peranteau, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Pediatric Surgery, at CHOP
Residency: Brigham & Women’s Hospital
Fellowship: Children’s Hospital of Phila.

♦ Robert E. Roses, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery at HUP
Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery
Residency: University of Pennsylvania
Fellowship: M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

♦ Prashanth Vallabhajosyula, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery at HUP
Cardiac Surgery
Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital
Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania
Reception of Penn Surgery Society at the Clinical Congress of the ACS

The American College of Surgeons launched its yearlong centennial celebration at the Clinical Congress, September 30-October 4 in Chicago. Penn surgeons have been prominent in the history of the College, nine have served as President: 1921 John B. Deaver; 1940 George P. Muller, (later Chairman at Jefferson); 1960 I. S. Ravdin; 1971 Jonathan E. Rhoads; 1974 Charles W. McLaughlin, Jr. (later University of Nebraska); 1980 James D. Hardy (Chairman, University of Mississippi); 1999 James Thompson (Chairman, University of Texas, Medical Branch); 2001 R. Scott Jones (Chairman, University of Virginia); 2006 Edward Copeland (Chairman, University of Florida).

As usual, Penn Surgical Society members were active at this year’s Clinical Congress. We are especially proud that a record number (23) of their papers were presented at the Surgical Forum (see page 11).
Mathematically-engineered stromal cell-derived factor 1alpha stem cell cytokine analogue enhances mechanical properties of infarcted myocardium: J.W. MacArthur, A. Trubelja, D. Beason, W. Hiesinger, P. Atluri, J. Woo

Donor T lymphocytes induce the maternal adaptive immune response following in utero hematopoietic cell transplantation: E. Pearson, J. Vrecenak, A. Flake

Regeneration of fetal sheep myocardial infarction occurs by recruitment of cardiac progenitor cells via a stromal-derived factor-1a dependent mechanism: M. Allukian, L. Zhang, M. Morris, J. Xu, R. Caskey, B. Herdric, W. Dorsett-Martin, J. Gorman III, R. Gorman, K. Liechty

Validation of the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS-NSQIP) new readmission variables: M. Sellers, R. Merkow, A. Halverson, K. Hinami, R. Kelz, D. Bentrem, K. Bilimoria

Simulation-based team training improves outcomes during real peri-operative emergencies: N. Martinez, G. Motuk, G. Kall, J. Lahm, K. Dumon, A. Resnick

Overcoming evasive resistance from vascular endothelial growth factor A inhibition in sarcomas by genetic or pharmacologic targeting of hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha: B. Schmidt, Y. Kim, A. Zhang, K. Kim, T.S. Karin Eisinger-Mathason, P. Park, M. Simon, S. Yoon, H. Lee

Rate and predictors of thyroid malignancy in patients with follicular lesions of undetermined significance (FLUS) classification: P. Shab, K. Shab, G. Karakousis, R. Kelz, D. Fraker

Charateristics of ductal carcinoma in situ found in BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers: R. Yang, H. Graves, P. Zhang, K. Nathanson, S. Domchek, B. Czerniecki, R. Kelz

Acute graft vs host disease (GVHD) induced by in utero hematopoietic cell transplantation is reversed by a regulatory response resulting in a potent graft vs hematopoietic effect without clinical GVHD: M. Watanabe, J. Vrecenak, J. Tsai, J.A. Sulkowski, E. Timpo, Y. Li, H. Li, A. Flake

Collagen production is dysregulated at both the transcriptional and post-transcriptional level in the progression from acute to chronic diabetic wound: R. Caskey, J. Xu, M. Allukian, M. Morris, W. Dorsett-Martin, W. Wu, M. Mitchell, K. Liechty

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In August of this year the 5th Annual Surgery Golf Outing was held at Overbrook Golf Club. This year’s event was named in honor of Dr. Ernest Rosato and the Rosato Bowl was won by Dr. Joe Bavaria. Also playing were Drs. Larry Levin, Clarke Hargrove, Noel Williams, Peter Quinn, Ken Murayama, Carter Paulson and Peter McCombs. Dr. Rosato’s son Gerard represented his family.