As one of I.S. Ravdin’s residents it is hard for me to conceive that with the passing decades this fascinating character’s fame has largely faded from memory. Certainly he was the most colorful of Penn Surgery leaders. And he was the most powerful: He could accomplish more with one word on the table than any of his successors could through consensus building and a dozen committee meetings. Born and raised in Indiana, Ravdin spent his entire professional life at the University of Pennsylvania, except for three important years (one in Europe and two in India). At Penn he leveraged surgery under three famous professors: John B. Deaver, Charles Frazier and George Muller. These crusty surgeons functioned autonomously. Much of the time they were not even on speaking terms. The political savvy which was Ravdin’s stock in trade made him the favorite of all three. But remembering their rivalry years later when he became Surgery’s chairman he made sure there would be no private fiefdoms in his department.

In 1927 the 33 year old Ravdin went abroad for a year of research under Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, the physiologist who pioneered studies of pituitary and other hormones, and Sir Henry Dale, the Nobel Laureate, who was then England’s top scientist. From them Ravdin learned laboratory techniques and more importantly the value of collaborating with basic scientists.

Returning to Penn where he was appointed Director of the Department’s Research, Ravdin then focused on laboratory investigation with the energy that characterized his life. Over the next 14 years he averaged a publication approximately every 30 days, many of them in basic science journals. He defined the capacity of the gallbladder to concentrate and alter bile. He reproduced syndromes of malnutrition in animals showing that hypoproteinemia delayed gastric emptying and impaired wound healing. And he began to study methods of nourishing patients who couldn’t eat.

He stimulated the research of his colleagues and trainees in shock, blood substitutes, surgical infection, antibiotics and wound healing. Two of the Department’s projects which began their gestation during this time would change the care of patients around the world. John Gibbon, working in Penn’s Harrison Department of Surgical Research from 1935 to 1942, demonstrated in animals the feasibility of cardiopulmonary bypass. Ravdin’s own interest in nutrition after years of further research in Jonathan Rhoads’ laboratory culminated in the landmark report by Dudrick et al on parenteral hyperalimentation.

In 1936 Eldridge Eliason became Penn’s senior surgeon and was appointed Chairman of the Department. By then Ravdin also held a professorship, so in keeping with the Penn tradition there were now two separate and quite different hospital services (one headed by Eliason and the other by Ravdin). These services functioned autonomously, selecting and training their own separate group of residents. Eliason, a technical virtuoso, encouraged his residents to focus on operative skills. In contrast Ravdin’s residents were expected to spend time in the laboratory and to consider every operation an exercise in abnormal physiology and biochemistry. Ravdin trainees became the country’s leaders in academic surgery. But in technical expertise they were no match for Eliason’s residents.

Underlying the superficial collegiality of the 2 chiefs was a keen rivalry, which sometimes approached enmity. As the Director of Research, Ravdin was in complete control of the 2.7 million dollars that came to the Department in 1935 for surgery (continued on page 3)
In police such as biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, etc. In some instances his scientists instead of collaborating with the department’s surgeons conducted their own independent research. But Ravdin saw to it that his department always got the credit since their appointments were in Surgery.

Under Dr. Ravdin’s chairmanship and later in Dr. Rhoads’ this group of fundamental investigators grew to a large number. Older members of our society will recognize the names of many of these scientists. Otto Rosenthal, K.C. Tsou, Sidney Levin, Henry Parkins, Harry Vars, Benjamin Miller, Heinz Schleyer, Henry Stover, Rudi Eisenhart, Adair Rogers, Elizabeth Miller, Joe Touchstone, Sidney Wolfsion and David Cooper. Only Cooper and Wolfsion had surgical training but these researchers had primary or secondary appointments in Surgery. Surgery also had the continuing responsibility for their funding.

In several instances this model paid off handsomely. These included David Cooper’s important studies of cytochrome P-450 enzymes (in which Otto Rosenthal, Heinz Schleyer, Shakhunthalaraasimihlu and Sidney Levin all collaborated). Another example was the landmark study in total parenteral nutrition by Drs. Rhoads and Dudrick. A crucial role in the TPN was played by the Department’s biochemist Harry Vars, who concocted the complex nutritional solutions the dogs received intravenously. Even more importantly he devised the harness the harnesses that were worn to protect the central lines necessary for chronic IV therapy. Also during the 1960s Adair Rogers, one of the Department’s surgeons, was trying with Kirkley Williams, a faculty surgeon, to develop a fully implantable artificial heart. In parallel work Bill Pierce as a student and surgical resident was doing his pioneering work with a blood pump, which years later culminated in his successful mechanical heart which is now in clinical use.

In time the effectiveness of this research model began to decline. During the 1970s and 80s extramural grant support became more difficult to sustain while the Department remained responsible for supporting its aging basic science faculty. Eventually the Department’s basic scientists retired or moved into the preclinical departments of their fundamental disciplines. By the 1990s only a few tenured ones remained in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Ravdin’s conviction that surgeons need collaboration with basic scientists is even more valid today in the era of molecular biology than it was in his time. But it probably needs to be accomplished by a different model.

While we miss Mary Hamburg’s activity in keeping in touch with alumni, I anticipate help from the class representatives. This group now includes: Ben Jackson (2006), Giorgos Karakousis (2008), Hoonman Noorathalin (2011) Clay Brister (2012), Bob Redfield (2013), Ed Savage (1992) and Rachel Kelz (2004). Please communicate news either to them or directly to me. I still need more volunteers.

Charles A. Heisterkamp III, died on August 12, 2012. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1958 and finished his HUP surgical residency in 1963 as Chief Resident at Lancaster General. During the Vietnam War he commanded the surgical Research Team of the Army Institute of Research, at a mobile surgical and research hospital. Later he established and directed the Biomedical Engineering Program in the Research and Development Command of the US Surgeon-General, where he assisted in evolving national trauma treatment protocols. He served as Commander of the 103rd Medical Battalion of the 28th Infantry Division, headquartered at Stahr Armap. He practiced general and vascular surgery, and consulted in biomedical engineering and the use of computers in medicine. He was a pioneer in the use of computers in medical offices and customized software for doctors’ use. He introduced the first computerized doctor’s office in Lancaster. His advocacy of the use of computers in medicine led the Australian and Canadian governments to consult with him. A fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he was the first chairman of the Emergency Medical Council in Lancaster County and directed the training of more than 300 ambulance personnel. Dr. Heisterkamp also served as medical commander of the Lancaster County Civil Defense during the Three Mile Island crisis. He published extensively in the fields of surgical techniques, bioengineering, ambulatory surgery, computers and medical office applications. He is survived by Diane his wife of 54 years.

Upcoming Events

The 10th Annual Gordon P. Busby Surgical Leadership Lecture will be held on October 3, 2013 at 7:15 am in the Flyers/76ers Surgery Theatre. The speaker will be Arthur H. Rubenstein, MB, BCH, Professor of Medicine, Former Executive Vice President of the UPHS and Dean of the School of Medicine. The title of his lecture is “The Evolution of Penn Medicine During the Decade 2001-2011”.

The 4th Annual Ernest F. Rosato / William Maul Measey Endowed Lectureship in Surgical Education lecture will take place on October 17, at 7:15 am in the Flyers/76ers Surgery Theatre. The speaker will be John R. Potts III, M.D., Senior Vice President, Surgical Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Chicago, Illinois. His lecture title is “Flying Solo: Preparing Residents for the Unsupervised Practice of Surgery”.

The 2013 Penn Trauma & Critical Care Conference will be held on Monday, October 28 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm in Houston Hall, Hall of Flags on the Penn campus. The keynote Speaker will be Dr. Phillip Dellinger, MD, FACC, FACP, Professor of Medicine, Cooper University Health Care. His lecture title will be “The 2013 Surviving Sepsis Guidelines on the Management of Severe Sepsis/Septic Shock”. For more information and to register for the conference go to www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Education/traua/OLSE/courses/OLSE_TS.html.

I. S. Ravdin (continued from front page)

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Ravdin was asked by the Secretaries of the Army and Navy to fly to Hawaii to report on the care being given to the wounded. He carried with him a large supply of albums, a jar of the new drug sulfanilamide and a bottle of Jack Daniel’s whiskey, none of which he feared would be readily available in the islands. He found that the care being given American soldiers by army doctors such as Leonard Heaton was excellent.

His next assignment was to recruit and staff an army hospital largely from Penn personnel. For the first time he would be fully in charge of his own show. I believe his extraordinary...
Within months his staff and some native recruits had somehow strung electric lines, dug drainage ditches, built roads, an airstrip, a power plant and dozens of buildings that soon accommodated a census of 2500 patients. The 20th General Hospital became a town occupying 40 acres. Ravdin described himself as its mayor. General Vinegar Joe Stillwell (Commander of American Forces in the CBI) who regularly made rounds with Rav on Sunday mornings described it as “the best God damn hospital in the army.”

Spreading the offensive in Burma was an elite group of volunteer jungle fighters, which soon became famous as “Merrill’s Marauders.” General Merrill led his men in a series of commando raids through jungles, over mountains and across rivers often as much as 100 miles behind enemy lines. The famous actor Jeff Chandler played Merrill in a major Hollywood movie in 1962. Food and ammunition could reach his men only by airdrop. Crucial to their moral was Merrill's promise that the wounded would be evacuated by small planes to Rav's 20th General Hospital. In 3 months of action the Marauders sustained casualties of 80%. On a single day 63 of them were admitted to the 20th General. Merrill himself was twice hospitalized. He and Rav became lifelong friends. It was Merrill who would deliver the star that would make Ravdin the only general to command an overseas hospital in wartime. Ten years later he got a second star, making him the only person on non-active military service to be promoted to major general.

Another important patient of the 20th General was Queen Victoria’s grandson, the Supreme Allied Commander in Southeast Asia, Lord Louis Mountbatten. One day as Mountbatten was riding in his jeep through the jungle his left eye was pierced and blinded by a piece of bamboo. He was flown to the 20th General for treatment. A week later with his vision still at risk, Mountbatten insisted on leaving to deal with a Japanese counter offensive which was threatening to cut the Allies' supply lines. Ravdin sent Captain Harold Scheie, later Penn's ophthalmology chair, with Mountbatten to complete the treatment, which was ultimately successful.

Always the consummate politician, Ravdin used his influence with these powerful friends to secure resources for his hospital and patients. Scrub typhus was a common ailment, which caused fever to be uncontrollable in the tropical climate and carried mortality as high as 20%. Ravdin persuaded General Stillwell to remove the air conditioners from his officers quarters at the Imperial Hotel in New Delhi and install them in the 20th General Hospital. Lord Mountbatten flew in to dedicate the new air-conditioned intensive care unit where the mortality of scrub typhus soon fell to less than 1%.

As the war ended and General Ravdin started for home he was asked to succeed Eliaos as Penn's chairman of surgery, to the delight of Jonathan Rhoads (seen in the photo below at the party celebrating his return). He accepted only on condition that he become the one and only surgical chief. From now on there would be only one surgical service and Ravdin would call all the shots.

I. S. Ravdin (continued from page 3)
In 1956, a perceived national crisis brought Ravdin to public
attention. While chairing a meeting of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons, Ravdin was interrupted ... the President, Ravdin advised immediate surgery for intestinal
obstruction. Walter Reed’s chief of surgery, General Leonard Heaton, and Rav carried out a successful bypass procedure. This
and his subsequent friendship with Eisenhower increased public
awareness of him. His frequent appearances with celebrities, such as Gregory Peck and the Pope made him almost a cult figure. As
winner of the Philadelphia Award he was considered the City’s
best known and respected citizen.

Like the President, Rav’s less famous patients almost always
did well, more because of his superb judgment than his technical
skill. In the operating room he was fast and somewhat
judgmental, scolding them for presumed infractions only to rein-
state them minutes later and praise them for reasons equally
obscure.

Outside the operating room Rav was warm and his sense of
humor often disarming. His residents and faculty simultaneously
loved and feared him. In return, he protected and cherished them
as though they were his own children using his incredible political
influence to foster their academic careers.

Something of Rav’s style was captured by the famous car-
toonist, Milton Caniff, who stated: “Ladies and gentlemen, this
episode is sponsored by W.C. Fields.”

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of 5 foreign surgical colleges.

At HUP, he promptly appointed a geographic full time University
based faculty comprised entirely of men who were either his own
former residents or who had served under him in India. Ellison
trained surgeons were strangely missing (except for Julian
Johnson who had been on Rav’s 20th General Hospital’s team). Ravdin
ran his department and soon ran the entire University
Hospital and School of Medicine pretty much the same way he ran
the 20th General Hospital – as its commanding general. In fact,
his general’s flag was always kept at the side of the desk.
Somewhere, men who had worked for him in India were appointed
Dean of the Medical School, Chairman of Medicine, Chief of
Neurosurgery, ENT, Ophthalmology, Plastic Surgery and
Thoracic Surgery. Small wonder that Rav’s power went unchal-
lenched.

On July 1, 2013 Dr. Najjia Mahmoud succeeded Bob Fry as
Chief of the Department’s Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery.
Dr. Mahmoud received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin
and her M.D. from the Weill College of Medicine at Cornell. She
completed a General Surgery Residency at Columbia-Presbyterian
Hospital. During 2 years as a Research Fellow at Cornell, she
studied the effect of chemopreventive agents in a murine model
of familial adenomatous polyposis and also conducted a clinical
trial of oral sulindac in patients with colon polyps. Following this
she completed a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Mahmoud served briefly on the fac-
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joining the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as Assistant
Professor in 2002. She was promoted to Associate Professor in
2009.

Dr. Mahmoud is one of the most experienced colorectal sur-
geons in the Delaware Valley. She has a particular interest in
sphincter-saving procedures for rectal cancer, endorectal ultra-
sound, and in the treatment and diagnosis of inherited forms of
colorectal cancer. She also specializes in surgery for pelvic floor
disorders such as incontinence, rectocoele, enterocele, and rectal prolapse. Colonoscopy, both diagnostic and therapeutic, and
laparoscopic approaches to colorectal disease are also important
components of her practice. She is investigating the impact of
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Dr. Mahmoud is recognized as a leader within the colorectal
surgery community, having been elected to the American
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transplantation chimera model - William D Schweickert, Carrie A.
Sims, Jose L. Pascual, Daniel Holena

Minimally invasive mitral valve surgery utilizing an efficient,
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this was the uncanny ability to pick the right person for a job, a colorful personality and sense of humor and whatever it is that allows an occasional individual to be liked by many and respected by all. Call it leadership, call it charisma, I.S. Ravdin certainly had it.

After 15 years as chairman Dr. Ravdin arranged that Jonathan Rhoads succeed him in that job and moved into the office of the University’s Vice President for Medical Affairs. There he concentrated on raising funds for buildings, which replaced more than half of the old University Hospital. One of these was appropriately named the I.S. Ravdin Institute.

Eventually it became apparent that age and his incessant smoking were catching up with him. Although he was able to conceal angina and claudication by briefly pausing on rounds to tell one of his many stories, his conspicuously failing intellect and memory finally forced his retirement.

From the vantage of half a century it is now easy to see that I.S. Ravdin was a transitional figure between the geheimrat clinicians of the last century and the modern scientific surgeon. His legacy was not the buildings he built but the cohesive modern research oriented department he created, and the surgeons it trained. His influence was most easily recognized in the accomplishments of his 100 residents, many of whom became professors and a dozen of whom headed their own departments. Among this group was Jonathan Rhoads, whose stature eventually equaled or exceeded even that of his chief.
Najjia Mahmoud - Chief of Colon and Rectal

On July 1, 2013 Dr. Najjia Mahmoud succeeded Bob Fry as Chief of the Department’s Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Mahmoud received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin and her M.D. from the Weill College of Medicine at Cornell. She completed a General Surgery Residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. During 2 years as a Research Fellow at Cornell, she studied the effect of chemopreventive agents in a murine model of familial adenomatous polyposis and also conducted a clinical trial of oral sulindac in patients with colon polyps. Following this she completed a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Mahmoud served briefly on the faculty at Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine before joining the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as Assistant Professor in 2002. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009.

Dr. Mahmoud is one of the most experienced colorectal surgeons in the Delaware Valley. She has a particular interest in sphincter-saving procedures for rectal cancer, endoscopic ultrasound, and in the treatment and diagnosis of inherited forms of colorectal cancer. She also specializes in surgery for pelvic floor disorders such as incontinence, rectocele, enterocele, and rectal prolapse. Colonoscopy, both diagnostic and therapeutic, and laparoscopic approaches to colorectal disease are also important components of her practice. She is investigating the impact of colorectal cancer genetics on its treatment and on the evaluation of novel chemoprevention agents for the disease. Her research has been supported by a Career Development Award of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Research Foundation.

Dr. Mahmoud is recognized as a leader within the colorectal surgery community, having been elected to the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery and serving in a number of positions of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, including Program Chair. With other national organizations including the National Cancer Institute and Cancer and Leukemia Group B, she has been a leader on projects related to colon cancer. She also serves as Associate Editor for the journal "Diseases of the Colon and Rectum."

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At HUP he promptly appointed a geographic full time University based faculty comprised entirely of men who were either his own former residents or who had served under him in India. Ellison trained surgeons were strangely missing (except for Julian Johnson who had been on Rav's 20th General Hospital’s team). Ravdin ran his department and soon ran the entire University Hospital and School of Medicine pretty much the same way he ran the 20th General Hospital – as its commanding general. In fact, his general’s flag was always kept at the side of the desk. Somehow, men who had worked for him in India were appointed Dean of the Medical School, Chairman of Medicine, Chief of Neurosurgery, ENT, Ophthalmology, Plastic Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. Small wonder that Rav's power went unchallenged.

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Always the consummate politician, Ravdin used his influence with these powerful friends to secure resources for his hospital and patients. Scrub typhus was a common ailment, which caused fever to be uncontrollable in the tropical climate and carried mortality as high as 20%. Ravdin persuaded General Stillwell to remove the air conditioners from his officers quarters at the Imperial Hotel in New Dehli and install them in the 20th General Hospital. Lord Mountbatten flew in to dedicate the new air-conditioned intensive care unit where the mortality of scrub typhus soon fell to less than 1%.

As the war ended and General Ravdin started for home he was asked to succeed Eliason as Penn’s chairman of surgery, to the delight of Jonathan Rhoads (seen in the photo below at the party celebrating his return). He accepted only on condition that he become the one and only surgical chief. From now on there would be only one surgical service and Ravdin would call all the shots.

Dr. Noone has been recognized by his peers as a pioneer in the development of breast reconstruction at the time of mastectomy. He has over 100 publications, including two books, multiple textbook chapters, and manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Noone is regularly listed in the Best Doctors in America publications by both U.S. News and World Report and Castle Connolly. He served on the Medical Alumni Executive Council and he is chair of the Medical Class of 1965 Reunion Committee.

Dr. Noone and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of five children, including Penn Med graduates Robert B. Noone, Jr., M.D. ’93 and Genevieve Noone Parsons, M.D. ’98.
I. S. Ravdin (continued from front page)

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Ravdin was asked by the Secretaries of the Army and Navy to fly to Hawaii to report on the care being given to the wounded. He carried with him a large supply of albums, a jar of the new drug sulfanilamide and a bottle of Jack Daniel’s whiskey, none of which he feared would be readily available in the islands. He found that the care being given American soldiers by army doctors such as Leonard Heaton was excellent.

His next assignment was to recruit and staff an army hospital largely from Penn personnel. For the first time he would be fully in charge of his own show. I believe his extraordinary leadership ability was the making of Dr. Ravdin’s career. He had had previous military experience in 1916 when drafted into the army to accompany General Black and the Chinese army. Otherwise supplies had to be flown with great risk and expense over the “Hump” (Himalayan Mountains).

Ravdin arrived at the assigned hospital site during the monsoon season to find only a clearing in the jungle, which was knee-deep in mud, and a few bamboo huts. Rav’s administrative genius and ability to cut through Army red tape were soon evident.

Deaths

Frank Dexheimer 85, HUP chief resident 1960 died on November 27, 2012. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri and of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. After his residency under Dr. Ravdin, he returned to practice surgery in his home town of Columbia Missouri where he remained for his entire career. He is survived by 2 grandchildren.

Bernardo Moreno died on July 8, 2013 at age 85. Bernardo was born in Bogota, Colombia. He earned his medical degree from the Javeriana University Medical School in Bogota. He completed a residency in General Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He became Professor of Surgery and Dean of the Medical School at Javeriana University. He was also Executive Director of the Colombian Association of Medical Schools and Director of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare. In 1971, Bernardo, his wife, and seven children moved to Fort Lauderdale where he practiced surgery at Holy Cross Hospital, Imperial Point Medical Center, and North Ridge Medical Center. From 1984-1985, Bernardo served as the President of the Medical Staff at Holy Cross Hospital. He later became a Member of the Board of Trustees of Holy Cross Hospital Foundation from 1985-1991. Bernardo was a Fellow of the Colombian College of Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. He was also a Member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. In 1998, Bernardo received the high distinction of “Doctor of the Year” award given by the Caducean Society. Bernardo is survived by Marta, his wife of 61 years, their seven children and 21 grandchildren.

David Y. Cooper III Emeritus Professor of Surgery died on August 2, 2013 at age 88. Dr. Cooper was a graduate of the University of North Carolina and of Penn Medical School. After internship and surgical residency at HUP under IS Ravdin he was appointed to the faculty at Penn. Although a fully trained and Board Certified Surgeon his career was devoted entirely to laboratory research in the Harrison Department. He became Professor of Surgical Research in 1969, Professor of Pharmacology in 1979 and Emeritus Professor of Surgery in 2004. His major career long

cal research (see Editor’s column page 2). The annual income from this endowment far exceeded the amount available to Eliaison from all other sources for running the Department’s clinical and teaching programs. This discrepancy did not improve the alliance of the two professors. Their relationship also dictated an interesting scenario in 1940 when Ravdin developed acute cholecystitis. Ravdin’s choice as the operating surgeon was one of his own trainees, a man not yet an assistant professor who had finished his residency only the year before, the young Jonathan Rhoads. One imagines that Penn’s chairman (Eliaison) and Columbia’s (Alan Whipple who Ravdin summoned from New York) were somewhat put off by being assigned as assistants at the operation. Typically Ravdin really wanted to direct the procedure himself which since he was awake under spinal anesthesia he began to do. Whipple is said to have exclaimed “Rav, scrub up or shut up!” Ravdin recommended a cholecystostomy. This was done. Rav got well and never had any more trouble with his gall bladder which was never removed.

The interruption of World War II was the making of I.S. Ravdin’s career. He had had previous military experience in 1916 when drafted into the army to accompany General Black Jack Pershing and George Patton on a mission to pursue the Mexican rebel chief Poncho Villa. There according to Ravdin’s son he learned to chew tobacco because on night patrol cigarette smokers were likely to get a sniper’s bullet between the eyes. Unfortunately Rav was ever after a heavy cigarette smoker.

Battle of Burma
The 20th General Hospital

Lord Mountbatten dedicates the air conditioned ICU of the 20th General

Ray on Sunday rounds with Vinegar Joe Stillwell

1943-1945

Carla Fisher was appointed the Breast Fellowship Director, succeeding Brian Czerniecki who has served as director since 2007. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Pennsylvania State University and received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She fulfilled a general surgery residency at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and a fellowship in breast oncology at the Washington University School of Medicine.

Joshua Bleier has been appointed Clerkship Director for SU 200, the Department’s core course in Surgery for the Module 4 curriculum in the Perlman School of Medicine. Steve Allen will succeed Dr. Bleier as the Associate Clerkship Director.

Rachel Kelz has been central to our Undergraduate Medical Education Program for the past 7 years as the Associate Clerkship Director (2006-2007) and Clerkship Director (2007-2013). She now moves to the Graduate Medical Education arena as Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Programs.

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In addition to applauding the appointment of Naja Mahmoud as a worthy successor to Bob Fry as Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery (page 8) it is timely for the Department to recognize Bob’s many contributions since he founded the Division in 2001. He has been a major leader in this field as President of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, and President of the Colon and Rectal Surgery Program Director’s Association. From 2006-2013 he was Chair of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. Over the last 11 years Bob has built this new division into one of the best in the U.S. It now has a faculty of seven surgeons and a new residency training program. Fortunately for us as Bob’s colleague Naja succeeds him, he will continue his clinical and academic activities in the Department.

Not included in the Deaths of Alumni Section (page 10-11) are recent deaths of several members of other HUP departments who older members of our society will remember as important friends and colleagues of the faculty: Wally Miller (a favorite guru of diagnostic radiology), Al Sellers (a frequent cardiologist consult), Marty Goldberg (former Chief of Nephrology) and Howard Rawnsley. Howard was Chief of Laboratory Medicine at HUP before leaving to become Chairman of Pathology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He was a member of the team that demonstrated normal growth in puppies that were nourished entirely by intravenous feeding. He was a coauthor with Drs. Rhoads, Dudrick and War in the initial publication of this breakthrough in 1966.

The death of David Cooper reminds one of a bygone era when the Harrison Department of Surgical Research was largely staffed by a cadre of full time basic scientists who had been recruited by Dr. Ravdin and subsequently by Dr. Rhoads to conduct the Department’s research. Dave Cooper was almost the last surviving member of this group. In 1927 as a young surgeon Dr. Ravdin had decided during a crisis. He published extensively in the fields of surgical techniques, bioengineering, ambulatory surgery, computers and medical office applications. He is survived by Diane his wife of 54 years.

Upcoming Events

♦ The 10th Annual Gordon P. Busby Surgical Leadership Lecture will be held on October 3, 2013 at 7:15 am in the Flyers 76ers Surgery Theatre. The speaker will be Arthur H. Rubenstein, MB BCH, Professor of Medicine, Former Executive Vice President of the UPHS and Dean of the School of Medicine. The title of his lecture is “The Evolution of Penn Medicine During the Decade 2001-2011.”

♦ The 4th Annual Ernest F. Rosato / William Maul Measey Endowed Lecture in Surgical Education will take place on October 17, at 7:15 am in the Flyers 76ers Surgery Theatre. The speaker will be John R. Potis III, M.D., Senior Vice President, Surgical Accreditation, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Chicago, Illinois. His lecture title is “Flying Solo: Preparing Residents for the Unsupervised Practice of Surgery.”

♦ The 2013 Penn Trauma & Critical Care Conference will be held on Monday, October 28 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm in Houston Hall, Hall of Flags on the Penn campus. The Keynote Speaker with alumni, I anticipate help from the class representatives. This group now includes: Ben Jackson (2006), Giorgos Mantzoros (2004) and Rachel Kelz (2004). Please communicate news either to them or directly to me. I still need more volunteers.

♦ Charles A. Heisterkamp III, died on August 12, 2012. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1958 and finished his HUP surgical residency in 1963 as Chief Resident at Lancaster General. During the Vietnam War he commanded the surgical Research Team of the Army Institute of Research, at a mobile surgical and rescue hospital. Later he established and directed the Biomedical Engineering Program in the Research and Development Command of the US Surgeon General, where he assisted in evolving national trauma treatment protocols. He served as Commander of the 103rd Medical Battalion of the 28th Infantry Division, headquartered at Stahr Armory. He practiced general and vascular surgery, and consulted in biomedical engineering and the use of computers in medicine. He was a pioneer in the use of computers in medical offices and customized software for doctors’ use. He introduced the first computerized doctor’s office in Lancaster. His advocacy of the use of computers in medicine led the Australian and Canadian governments to consult with him. A fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he was the first chairman of the Emergency Medical Council in Lancaster County and directed the training of more than 300 ambulance personnel. Dr. Heisterkamp also served as medical commander of the Lancaster County Civil Defense during the Three Mile Island accident. He published extensively in the fields of surgical techniques, bioengineering, ambulatory surgery, computers and medical office applications. He is survived by Diane his wife of 54 years.

Research interest was cytochrome P-450, a series of steroid enzymes involved in hormone biosynthesis and the activation and detoxification of many drugs and chemicals. His classic studies with Ronald Estabrook of Penn’s Department of Physical Biochemistry and his Harrison Department colleagues Sidney Levin, Shukantala Narasimulu, Otto Rosenthal and Heinz Schleyer are credited with defining P-450 as the key component for many reactions of drug and xenobiotic metabolism. Decades later Science selected their 1965 paper for reprinting as a citation classic.

David Cooper was also intensely interested in medical history. For several years he taught a University of Pennsylvania class in this subject. In 1990 he published with Marshall Leder, Innovation and Tradition at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the only book on the history of the School written since George Connors’s of 1965. Survivors are his wife, Cynthia, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Charles A. Heisterkamp III
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Recalling I.S. Ravdin (1894 - 1972)

As one of I.S. Ravdin’s residents it is hard for me to conceive that with the passing decades this fascinating character’s fame has largely faded from memory even in the department he created. Certainly he was the most colorful of Penn Surgery leaders. And he was the most powerful! He could accomplish more with one pound on the table than any of his successors could through consensus building and a dozen committee meetings. Born and raised in Indiana, Ravdin spent his entire professional life at the University of Pennsylvania, except for three important years (one in Europe and two in India). At Penn he learned surgery under three famous professors: John B. Deaver, Charles Frazier and George Muller. These crusty surgeons functioned autonomously. Much of the time they were not even on speaking terms. The political savvy which was Ravdin’s stock in trade made him the favorite of all three. But remembering their rivalry years later when he became Surgery’s chairman he made sure there would be no private fiefdoms in his department.

In 1927 the 33 year old Ravdin went abroad for a year of research under Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, the physiologist who pioneered studies of pituitary and other hormones, and Sir Henry Dale, the Nobel Laureate, who was then England’s top scientist. From them Ravdin learned laboratory techniques and more importantly the value of collaborating with basic scientists.

Returning to Penn where he was appointed Director of the Department’s Research, Ravdin then focused on laboratory investigation with the energy that characterized his life. Over the next 14 years he averaged a publication approximately every 30 days, many of them in basic science journals. He defined the capacity of the gallbladder to concentrate and alter bile. He reproduced syndromes of malnutrition in animals showing that hypoproteinemia delayed gastric emptying and impaired wound healing. And he began to study methods of nourishing patients who couldn’t eat.

He stimulated the research of his colleagues and trainees in shock, blood substitutes, surgical infection, antibiotics and wound healing. Two of the Department’s projects which began their gestation during this time would change the care of patients around the world. John Gibbon, working in Penn’s Harrison Department of Surgical Research from 1935 to 1942, demonstrated in animals the feasibility of cardiopulmonary bypass. Ravdin’s own interest in nutrition after years of further research in Jonathan Rhoads’ laboratory culminated in the landmark report by Dudrick et al on parenteral hyperalimentation.

In 1936 Eldridge Eliason became Penn’s senior surgeon and was appointed Chairman of the Department. By then Ravdin also held a professorship, so in keeping with the Penn tradition there were now two separate and quite different hospital services (one headed by Eliason and the other by Ravdin). These services functioned autonomously, selecting and training their own separate group of residents. Eliason, a technical virtuoso, encouraged his residents to focus on operative skills. In contrast Ravdin’s residents were expected to spend time in the laboratory and to consider every operation an exercise in abnormal physiology and biochemistry. Ravdin trainees became the country’s leaders in academic surgery. But in technical expertise they were no match for Eliason’s residents.

Underlying the superficial collegiality of the 2 chiefs was a keen rivalry, which sometimes approached enmity. As the Director of Research, Ravdin was in complete control of the 2.7 million dollars that came to the Department in 1935 for surgery...