GIANTS

The French philosopher Bernard de Chartres wrote in the 12th century that dwarfs stand on the shoulders of GIANTS, as a metaphor that truth is revealed by building on prior discoveries. Nowadays, many use this expression in a humble manner to acknowledge those who have helped them achieve. There have been a variety of GIANTS in the world. Goliath was the most notable biblical GIANT and stood at six cubits and a span tall (~6 feet 9 inches). By comparison, the professional wrestler Andre the GIANT was 7 foot 4 inches and weighed 520 pounds. Lawrence Taylor is regarded as the best New York GIANT ever. GIANT has given rise to GOAT (Greatest of All Time), which was first (fittingly) coined by the wife of Muhammed Ali.

Physicians have romanticized the connotation of GIANT to be a legendary doctor. The “days of the GIANTS” are routinely touted as an idyllic, foregone period that cannot be recreated. As far as I can tell, those days generally occurred 20-30 years prior to when someone is lamenting about it. Essentially, the converse occurs when someone tries to define “old” age. However, upon deeper analysis, those days were probably not so great, at least for the patients. Medical imaging was less precise, the pathogenesis of disease was less understood, and there were fewer medications. As an example, the CT scanner has largely replaced Cope’s Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen. You never see anyone carrying that book anymore (like I did). In some respect, the days of the GIANTS may really just be a way to contend that successive generations are not as well trained or working as hard (or walking as far in the snow to school).

A regular feature of The Journal of Clinical Investigation is Ushma Neill’s “Conversations with GIANTS in Medicine.” Think of James Lipton’s “Inside the Actors Studio,” except for scientists. Recent interviews have included Mary-Claire King, Bruce Alberts, and Laurie Glimcher. Of course, there are also many Giants in Surgery. The accompanying photo is the cover of a book entitled “Great American Surgical Training Centers & Surgical Mentors of the 20th Century.” Dr. Barker is shown in the top left. Admittedly, I can only recognize 6 of the 14 mentors. Clearly, there is a half-life even for GIANTS.

There are numerous other GIANTS of Penn Surgery. How to become a GIANT is uncertain, but there seems to be a few recipes for success. For instance, be a great educator (Ernie Rosato), develop a surgical instrument (John Deaver), assist in an operation on a U.S. President (I.S. Ravdin), be the subject of a famous painting (D. Hayes Agnew), or develop a new therapy (Stanley Dudrick and Jonathan Rhoads). At Penn, we are fortunate to be surrounded by potential GIANTS, with few Lilliputians to be found.
The Named Lectures

At HUP the named lectureship is a fairly recent creature. Until the middle of the 19th century American medical school curricula were limited to dissection of cadavers and large lectures usually given by the school’s professor to the entire student body. Bedside teaching of small groups of students did not begin in this country until it was started at HUP by William Pepper in 1877.

In the 1940’s and 50’s Dr. Ravdin expanded the curriculum by inviting many of the country’s prominent surgeons to HUP as visiting professors, but the lectures they gave were not named. Not until 1960 did Dr. Rhoads, then a new department chairman, begin naming the lectures. Not surprisingly he named the first one for the School’s iconic figure, D. Hayes Agnew.

Additional named lectures were not necessarily established by careful consideration of a potential honoree’s academic rank or accomplishments, but instead often spontaneously to memorialize a beloved colleague, suddenly lost through retirement or death. Indeed, only one of HUP’s lectureships is named for a department chair, Dr. Agnew. Nevertheless, I believe that the priorities, values and culture of the Department are easily recognized by reviewing the names of the lectureships and the invited speakers. The list of Agnew lecturers is remarkable. It traces the very history of the field of surgery and its accomplishments over the last 6 decades.

D. Hayes Agnew Lecturers

1985  Keith Reemstma  1997  Thomas E. Starzl  2008  Josef E. Fischer
1986  Seymour I. Schwartz  1998  James C. Thompson  2009  Professor the Lord Darzi
1987  David B. Skinner  1999  Andrew L. Warshaw  2010  Steven A. Rosenberg
1993  Sir Peter J. Morris  2005  Ronald W. Busuttil  2016  Fabrizio Michelassi
1997  Thomas E. Starzl  2009  Professor the Lord Darzi  2020  Susan Moffatt-Bruce
Julian Johnson Lecture

HUP’s second named lecture was established in 1974 to honor Julian Johnson who had recently retired. Julian Johnson, one of the world’s pioneers in cardiothoracic surgery, was a master surgeon, surely HUP’s best. I loved the old SOB but because he was such a perfectionist and strict disciplinarian he was unpopular with many of the residents. Jim Hardy, HUP chief resident in 1949, was the first surgeon to perform human heart and lung transplants. In 1974 he was selected as the first Johnson lecturer. The next two decades were perhaps CT Surgery’s finest; its leaders virtually dominated academic surgery in America. The stars of that remarkable era all appear on the list of Johnson lecturers. Each of them paid tribute to Johnson’s pioneering influence.

Penn’s modern Department of Surgery had been founded in 1946 by I.S. Ravdin and his two partners, Jonathan Rhoads and Julian Johnson. Dr. Ravdin endowed the Johnson lecture through his Buckingham Foundation. Why a HUP lecture has never been named for I.S. Ravdin is hard to understand.

1974 James Hardy
1975 John W. Kirklin
1976 David C. Sabiston, Jr.
1977 Norman E. Shumway
1978 Frank C. Spencer
1979 W. Gerald Austen
1980 Dwight C. McGoon
1981 E. Stanley Crawford
1982 Albert Starr
1984 Denton A. Cooley
1985 Bruce A. Reitz
1986 Paul A. Ebert
1987 Henry T. Bahnson
1988 Joel D. Cooper
1989 William S. Pierce
1990 Aldo R. Castaneda
1991 Judah Folkman
1992 Victor Parsonnet
1993 Hartzell V. Schaff
1994 Alian Carpenter
1995 Tirone E. David
1996 Eric A. Rose
1997 Joseph S. Coselli
1998 Shaf Keshavjee
1999 Robert A. Guyton
2000 John B. West
2001 Frank S. Sellke
2002 Joel D. Cooper
2003 Mark Slaughter
2004 Clyde F. Barker
2005 O.H. Frazier
2006 Joseph E. Bavaria
2007 Edward A. Mirra
2008 Samer A. M. Nashef
2009 Robert J. Cerfolio

Robert G. Ravdin Lecture

HUP’s third lectureship was named after I.S. Ravdin’s son Bob. It began in 1974, the same year as the Julian Johnson lecture, but the 2 honorees could not have been more different. Johnson, famous as much for his intimidation of residents as for his preeminence as a surgeon, was feared by his trainees. In contrast, Bob Ravdin was beloved by the residents for his remarkably sensitive concern for them and for his patients. In fact this quality was responsible for the lectureship. Money to endow it was raised by the residents to honor their favorite mentor.

Bob Ravdin was a brilliant young surgeon who died too soon. He graduated from Harvard at age 15 and from Columbia’s medical school after only 3 years. After a HUP residency, his father appointed Bob to the faculty where I always thought too much of his time was consumed by managing his father’s huge practice. His major professional accomplishment was initiating and managing HUP’s cancer chemotherapy clinic, perhaps the nation’s first. At age 50 he suffered a fatal heart attack while playing bridge at Philadelphia’s Union League. A staunch political liberal, Bob would have appreciated the irony of this site for his demise. Early speakers were chosen by the residents to reflect Bob’s broad interests.

1974 Lewis Thomas
1975 Edmund D. Pellegrino
1977 J. Englebert Dunphy
1980 C. Everett Koop
1981 Daniel Hadlock
1982 Richard A. Selzer
1983 Francis D. Moore
1984 John Philip Sandblom
1985 Thomas J. Krizek
1986 Fritz Linder
1990 C. Rollins Hanlon
1992 Joseph Murray
1994 George Sheldon
1996 C. Everett Koop
2000 Michael Longaker
2005 David Bartlett
2007 Robert Udelsman
2008 Douglas S. Tyler
2009 James Pergan Jr.
2010 Funda Meric-Bernstam
2011 Herbert Chen
2012 John A. Olson
2013 Monica Morrow
2014 Timothy Michael Pawlik
2015 Steven K. Libutti
2016 Nipan Merchant
2017 Richard Hodin
2018 David L. Bartlett
2019 H. Richard Alexander
From the Editor (continued from page 3)

Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate Award and Lecture

In 1991 the Department began selecting from the list of former HUP residents a distinguished graduate of the year. This custom was interrupted in 1998. When it was resumed the *Distinguished Graduate Professorship and Lecture* was given a name, that of Julius A. Mackie. Jack Mackie, a beloved HUP surgeon who died in 2003, was an unusually gifted technical surgeon. But it was his devotion to pre and post-operative care of his patients that really set him apart. His attention to detail sometimes drove his resident staff crazy, but it saved lives. It’s value was reinforced strikingly by one case. On a late night check of his own and other patients, Jack discovered and treated a tension pneumothorax that had been missed on routine rounds by other surgeons and their staff. This otherwise fatal complication had taken place in Jack’s faculty colleague, Cleat Schwegman, who had been operated on by another surgeon.

Jack’s wife Joan’s generous support of the lecture and the accompanying annual dinner have made the distinguished graduate celebration one of the Department’s most popular traditions.

Gordon P. Buzby Lecture on Leadership

Gordon Buzby the director of HUP’s surgical residency program died in 2003 at age 50 after a battle with lung cancer. Gordon was an athlete. An expert sailor from childhood, he became national intercollegiate sailing champion. He was especially admired and respected by the residents for his leadership skills and style. Therefore, in endowing this lectureship Gordon and his wife and family specified that leadership be a criterion for selecting speakers.

Linton Whitaker Lectureship

Linton Whitaker is one of the world’s most important pioneers in craniofacial surgery. The spectacular results of these operations made him perhaps the most famous of HUP surgeons. He was Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery from 1987 to 2004. He also founded the unique *Center for Human Appearance*. In addition to the HUP lecture the American Society of Craniofacial Surgery has established another an annual lectureship in his name.

Ernest F. Rosato - William Maul Measey Endowed Lectureship in Surgical Education

Highly respected for his mastery of technical surgery and thoughtful patient management, Ernie Rosato was regarded by the residents as thier most important role model in these areas. Shortly before Ernie’s untimely death The Measey Foundation established this lecture which is intended to emphasize surgical education. Fortunately Ernie was able to attend the first lecture.
In addition to the 8 HUP named lectures (pages 2-4), described on this page are several other named lectures. They were not established by HUP and do not (usually) take place at HUP. Thus these are not truly HUP lectures, but they are named for and given in honor of HUP surgeons. I confess there could be other named lectures of which I am not familiar, perhaps proposed by other societies or by Penn Surgery divisions. Examples are the Linton Whitaker Lecture of the American Society of Craniofacial Surgery and the new Herndon B. Lehr Lecture of the HUP Plastic Surgery Division.

I.S. Ravdin Lecture in the Basic and Surgical Sciences

This distinguished lecture is given at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, one of only 10 named lectures of the College. It was established in 1964 by Dr. Ravdin’s colleagues and trainees of the I.S. Ravdin Society. For reasons I never understood this society and its successor, the Ravdin - Rhoads Society were discontinued in 2001. Because of Dr. Ravdin’s prominence and contributions to the College this lecture continues to be given annually. It has a very illustrious cast including 8 Nobel Prize winners.

William T. FITTS Lectureship

The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma established the William T. FITTS Lectureship in 1975 to memorialize the many contributions made by Dr. FITTS as President and Secretary of the Association and as Editor of the Journal of Trauma.

Jonathan E. RHoads Commemorative Lecture and Gold Medal

In 1996 this lecture was established by Herman Goldstine, Rhoads’ close associate at the American Philosophical Society.

Goldstine, a mathematician, was a member of the team responsible for developing ENIAC, the world’s first electronic computer. He and his friends contributed all of the funds to endow this lecture. Goldstine specified that responsibility for the lecture should rotate between three of the institutions that had been headed by Rhoads, the American Philosophical Society, HUP’s Department of Surgery and the Philadelphia College of Physicians. The topic of lecture was intended to be relevant to the broad field of medicine rather than narrowly focused on surgery. The speaker is also given a solid gold medal. Every third-year Penn Surgery’s Chairman has the opportunity to pick the speaker and the site of the lecture.
Alumni News

♦ **Andrew Resnick, MD, MBA** (HUP chief resident 2007) has been named Brigham Health’s Chief Quality Officer and Senior Vice President. He will start Oct. 28. Resnick has been Chief Medical Officer of Froedtert Hospital, Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Associate Professor of General Surgery at The Medical College of Wisconsin. He previously served as Chief Quality Officer at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Throughout his career, Dr. Resnick has focused on quality and safety. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Yale University School of Medicine. During his surgical residency at HUP he earned an MBA at The Wharton School.

♦ **Todd Bauer** - (HUP chief resident 2002) is Chief of Surgical Oncology at the University of Virginia. He is a highly successful surgeon scientist, funded by NIH for the last 14 years. He is President-Elect of the Society of Clinical Surgery, one of the oldest and most prestigious professional societies.

♦ **N. Scott Adzick** - Surgeon-in-Chief, of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and Founder and Director of the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment is the winner of the 2019 Richard D. Wood Distinguished Alumnus Award of Children’s Hospital. The award is presented to an alumnus with significant medical and scientific achievements.

♦ At the recent meeting of the American Surgical Association elected to membership were Penn Professors of Surgery, **Peter Abt**, **Rachel Kelz** and **Wilson Szeto**. Also elected were **Michael Lanuti** Director of Thoracic Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital (HUP chief resident 2001), and **Lorraine Tafra, MD** Breast Surgeon and Medical Director Breast Center at Anne Arundel Medical Center (former research fellow Harrison Department). **Karen Deveney** Professor of Surgery, University of Oregon (former HUP faculty member) was elected Vice-President; **Jeff Drebin** continues as the Association’s recorder.

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery
email your news to Clyde Barker
clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu

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**2019-2020 Lecture Schedule - Including HUP Named Lectures**

**September 20, 2019** *(At American Association of Trauma Surgeons - Dallas)*
**William T. Fitts Lecture**
Timothy C. Fabian, MD
Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery
University of Tennessee Health Sciences

**October 3, 2019** *(At HUP)*
The Ernest F. Rosato / William Maul Measey Endowed Lecture in Surgical Education
Michal L. Nance, MD
Professor of Surgery University of Pennsylvania, Josephine J. and John M. Templeton Jr. Chair in Pediatric Trauma

**October 17, 2019** *(At HUP)*
David A. Rothenberger, MD
Professor of Colon and Rectal Surgery
Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota

**October 28, 2019** *(At Clinical Congress of American College of Surgeons - San Francisco)*
**I.S. Ravdin Lecture**
Ronald V. Maier, MD
Professor of Surgery, University of Washington
School of Medicine, Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Chair in Trauma Surgery

**November 9, 2019** *(At American Philosophical Society)*
**Jonathan Rhoads Lecture and Gold Medal**
Mina Jahan Bissell, MD
Senior Scientist Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**December 5, 2019** *(At HUP)*
**Ronald M. Fairman, MD**
Clyde F. Barker - William Maul Measey Professor in Surgery, Chief of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy

**December 19, 2019** *(At HUP)*
**Julian Johnson Lecture**

**February 20, 2020** *(At HUP)*
**Robert Ravdin Lecture**

**March 19, 2020** *(At HUP)*
**Gordon Buzby Surgery Leadership Lecture**

**April 23, 2020** *(At HUP)*
**D. Hayes Agnew Lecture**
Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD, PhD, MBA
Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Informatics
The Ohio State University

**May 7, 2020** *(At Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine)*
**Linton Whitaker Lecture**
John Reinisch, MD
Director of Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Group

**May 14, 2020** *(At HUP)*
**Julius Mackie Distinguished Graduate Lecture**
Joseph Woo, MD
Norman Showay Professor and Chair
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine

**June 4, 2020** *(At HUP)*
**The John Pryor Lecture**
Catching Up With . . . Jeff Carpenter

Contributed by Jon Morris

Jeff Carpenter is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from Amherst College with a B.A. in Chemistry in 1981 after which he attended the Yale University School of Medicine receiving his M.D. in 1986 as well as a M. Div. from the Yale Divinity School the same year. Jeff took both his General Surgical Residency (1986-1991) and Vascular Fellowship (1991-1992) at HUP. He stayed on at Penn in the Division of Vascular Surgery as Assistant Professor (1992-1997), Associate Professor (1997-2003) and Professor (2003-2008) until he was recruited to become Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Camden, New Jersey (2008-2013). He currently is Professor and Founding Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Jeff has written extensively (182 peer reviewed publications) and holds editorial board positions on the Journal of Vascular Surgery and Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, to name a few. Jeff is a member of many important professional organizations to include the American Association for Vascular Surgery, American Surgical Association, Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Society for Vascular Surgery and the Society of University Surgeons. He is the past President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery in 2012.

A Conversation with Jeff

JoMo: What were the highlights of your training at Penn?

Jeff: I came to HUP as a visiting student from Yale in 1985 and did a sub-internship on the vascular service. Immediately I was in awe of the elegance, technical demands and beauty of the operations and knew that I had found both a home and career path. Penn Surgery had the feel of a family of colleagues that were (continued on page 10)

Alumni News (continued from page 6)

♦ After 7 years at HUP in the division of Cardiac Surgery Prashanth Vallabhajosyula, MD has moved to Yale University School of Medicine, as Associate Professor, Director of the Aortic Institute and Associate Program Director of the Yale Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency. He is pictured here with Mike Acker.

♦ Dode Barker died on September 2, 2019. Older members of the Penn Surgery Society will remember that while her husband was the Department’s Chairman, Dode hosted an annual Christmas party at their home for residents, staff and others. Every July she also hosted, in their home, a picnic for interns, residents and faculty.

New Faculty

♦ Rebecca H. Fishman, MD has been appointed Assistant Professor in Breast Surgery in the division of Endocrine and Oncology Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. MD - Rutgers University/ New Jersey Medical School, Residency - General Surgery, Mount Sinai, St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals, New York, Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

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penn.surgery.alumni@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
Dr. DeMatteo with his department after two years as Chairman of Penn Surgery
September 12, 2019
Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Tell us what your greatest professional accomplishments have been since graduating Penn.

Joe Bavaria was a “chief resident” by the end of his intern year and Clyde Barker was my mentor from day 1 when I arrived as a surgical resident. This excitement soon dissipated when I arrived to find that he wanted me to move a patient’s car to the garage because it was double parked. I remember my joy at finding out that I was chosen to be a vascular fellow at HUP (’92) which was exceeded only by being asked to join the faculty after finishing that training (’93). Surely one of the best memories of training was my collaboration during vascular fellowship with Richard Baum, the IR fellow, and Rod Owen, the MRI fellow, to develop and describe for the first time MRA. This collaboration during our fellowship year resulted in a lead article in the NEJM with the three of us as the first authors and MRA has had a lasting effect on medical practice. Rich Baum and I both joined the Penn faculty the same year and teamed up to perform the first endovascular aneurysm repair in Philadelphia on one of my patients, using a graft we crafted in the Silverstein basement since there were no commercial devices at the time.

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Jeff: Clyde Barker was my mentor from day 1 when I arrived as a visiting medical student. His calm and compassionate demeanor, fairness and kindness, understanding of our debt to history and those who have gone before us, and his inimitable intellectual curiosity are a model for all who aspire to be surgical leaders. Leonard Perloff taught me vascular surgery patiently and helped me develop the retroperitoneal approach to AAA repair at HUP, which surgeons at Albany were touting as less traumatic for patients while at the same time providing more extensive exposure. I began using this technique in my AAA practice after learning from him retroperitoneal exposure for kidney transplant and donor nephrectomy. Dr Rosato was a consummate teacher of surgical residents, training them to be competent and fearless in all aspects of abdominal surgery. He was also a pretty good psychiatrist for fellow faculty members (Leonard Miller was actually the best resident psychiatrist hands down). Dr Naji taught me bow, as an attending, I could perform the entire operation as the “assistant” while still allowing the chief resident to be absolutely convinced that he/she had done the whole procedure. Dr James A. O’Neill, Surgeon in chief at CHOP, was the most complete surgeon I encountered in training. He had an absolutely encyclopedic knowledge of surgery and the literature, maintained a busy practice, was a superb surgeon and teacher, was warm and approachable, was an avid duck hunter and wrote the main textbook of his specialty—pretty amazing.

JoMo: When you were a junior resident, which Chief Residents had the greatest impact on you and why?

Jeff: Joe Bavaria was a “chief resident” by the end of his intern year and continued in that role for his remaining 6 years of general surgery training. He and I formed a bond during the later years of our training (I was a year behind him) and we both joined the faculty at the same time. We shared the same office (two desks) and secretary. Neither of us had any patients but we both knew we wanted to be aortic surgeons. The collaboration we shared formed the aortic program, doing literally hundreds of complex thoracoabdominal repairs together and pioneering endovascular approaches, was one of the most collegial and enjoyable experiences of my professional life. Among my favorite memories of our fellowship years was going into the heart room which was adjacent to the vascular room and seeing JEB standing in the corner of the room facing the wall, gowned and gloved. I walked over to talk to him but he waved me off. I later learned that he had been sent to stand in the corner by Dr Edmunds. I still laugh every time I think of that.

JoMo: Tell us what your greatest professional accomplishments have been since graduating Penn.

Jeff: I left Penn after 23 years, in 2008, having been recruited to help start the new Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and become its founding surgery chairman. Since leaving the nation’s oldest medical school, the nation’s newest medical school has now graduated a few classes and is on firm footing. The surgery faculty has grown to about 70, including 5 PhD scientists, NIH, NSF and DoD funding, and the OR has grown from 12 to 32 operating rooms. Last year we had an average of 2 peer-reviewed publications/FTE, which I think is a good start for our fairly new department. I have held a number of leadership positions in local and national societies and have remained an active inventor with now 10 patents. Several have been commercialized, most recently the Cook T-branch device for branched aneurysm repair. My wife and I invented an embolic protection device for use during TAVR, com
Catching Up With . . . Jeff Carpenter (continued from page 10)

...commercialized it in Europe and sold our company to Edwards LifeSciences in 2011. Recently we founded a company which is focused on developing devices for delivery of cell-based therapies.

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?
Jeff: Nothing—I live here and have a gorgeous view of the skyline from across the river!

JoMo: Who from your Penn Surgery days do you stay in touch with?
Jeff: Frank Spitz went with me to Cooper and is my Vice Chairman as well as the Surgical Director of the MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. I brought Steve McClane to Cooper to be my head of colorectal surgery and he has done a fantastic job, with a US News and World Report award for colorectal surgery quality to his division’s credit. Joe Lombardi is my chief of vascular surgery and Frank Bouven is my chief of thoracic surgery. John Chovanes is one of our trauma faculty surgeons. I see David Deaton frequently as well as Ed Woo, Ross Milner, Mark Levy, Omaida Velazquez and many other Penn greats.

JoMo: Tell us about your current surgical practice, types of cases you are doing, etc.
Jeff: I continue an active practice of arterial surgery, open and endovascular, with a concentration on open aortic work. I am the global PI for a trial of polymer filling of aneurysm sacs (EVAS) for treatment of AAA and maintain a laboratory that is pursuing cell-based therapies for vascular diseases.

JoMo: What are your current interests and hobbies outside of medicine?
Jeff: I have been flying since 1976 and fly almost every week. This useful hobby makes the world small and keeps our family close. I think surgical training and pilot training have a lot in common and inform each other’s skillsets well. Judy and I are involved with our church and a number of philanthropic causes and charitable boards.

JoMo: Tell us about your family.
Jeff: Judy (Penn MD ’88, GME ’91) and I met in 1978 during our freshman year at Amherst and have been married for 33 years. Together we continue to enjoy inventing and running start-up businesses. Our son John (age 27) is an opera singer in Germany where he has been for the last 6 years, singing with the Freiburg, Munich and Berlin Opera Companies. Our daughter Katie (age 25) is a middle school music teacher in Pittsburgh. Last summer she married a wonderful man she met in college and we are now expecting our first grandchild to arrive in January, 2020!

JoMo: What is the last book you read that you would recommend and why?
Jeff: The autobiography of Jimmy Doolittle, “I could never be so lucky again”, is a delightful and inspiring read. Doolittle is best known for leading the “Doolittle raid” on Tokyo during WWII; but he is also the father of instrument flight and founder of the USAF. He graduated from MIT as an engineer and realized that aviation (then in its infancy) would never be a practical means of transportation unless it could be done in conditions of low or zero visibility. He designed the first altimeter and other instruments necessary for weather flying and served as the test pilot in the first flight conducted solely by reference to instruments (at the Newark Airport). Each of his contributions as a war hero, engineer, aviator and administrator would individually be more than enough for one individual in a lifetime.

JoMo: Tell us anything else about you that would be of interest to the Penn Surgery Society alumni.
Jeff: I cherish the time I spent at Penn and welcome contact with any and all Penn Surgery friends. I can be reached at carpenter-jeffrey@cooperhealth.edu

Joseph and Katie (Carpenter) Helinski, Jeff, Judy and John on vacation January 2019
Joe Woo graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a BS in 1988 and subsequently attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, receiving his MD in 1992 with election into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He also received the I.S. Ravdin Prize as the top medical student in surgery in 1992. Joe took his General Surgical residency at Penn, including a post-doctoral research fellowship (1995-1997). During his residency, Joe would receive a number of accolades including the William Y. Inouye Teaching Award as the top resident teacher as determined by the medical students and the Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Award as determined by the surgical housestaff. Following his Chief Residency in 1999, Joe stayed at Penn to train in Cardiothoracic Surgery from 1999-2001 and was recruited to the faculty at Penn as an Assistant Professor in 2002. He rose through the academic ranks with a promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure in 2009 and Full Professor in 2013. Joe was recruited to Stanford University in 2014 as the Norman E. Shumway Professor and Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. An exceptionally accomplished academic surgeon, Joe has 281 peer reviewed publications and is a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Society of University Surgeons, the Society of Clinical Surgery and the American Surgical Association to name a few. He has been a PhD thesis advisor to 4 candidates, participated on greater than 10 NIH study sections, is Principle Investigator on numerous grants and has mentored over 50 research laboratory trainees.

A Conversation with Joe

JoMo: What were the highlights of your training at Penn?

Joe: It was such a privilege to attend medical school, conduct my surgical training, and join the faculty at Penn. There are so many fond memories from the 25 years that I spent at Penn, that it would be impossible to highlight. The most notable that come to mind are the opportunity to learn from amazing teachers, the enormous operative experience, the research collaborations, and the service leadership skills gained.

JoMo: Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

Joe: So many Penn faculty influenced me via their surgical expertise and technical skill, passion for patient care, curiosity for research, and their mentorship and support of career goals. As a student and a resident, I was able to interact with icons in surgery such as Drs. Jonathan Rhodes, Brooke Roberts, Leonard Miller, and for my entire time at Penn, Clyde Barker, complete with blue blazer and pencil. In my first year as a medical student, I met Dr. Henry Edmunds, who allowed me to join his lab and operate on sheep and observe my first human operation—a heart transplant. I was astonished. I met Drs. Rosato, Morris, and Mullen as a subintern on the GSB Service and continued to learn deeply from them throughout my residency. I try to run two, sometimes three, operating rooms ala Rosato-style. I met Dr. Timothy Gardner during my internship year, and he has served as a mentor and role model since. Dr. Ronald Fairman, ever the gentleman, taught me vascular surgery. Dr. Larry Kaiser, a superb technical surgeon, taught me thoracic surgery and operative skills that I still use today. Dr. Jeffrey Drebin was a tremendous supporter of my academic career. Dr. Thomas Spray was a technical phenom and his approach to operating is one that I still strive for everyday. Dr. Michael Acher, Dr. Joseph Bavaria, and Dr. Gardner taught me how to become a heart surgeon and so many other vital lessons of career and life.

JoMo: When you were a junior resident, which Chief Residents had the greatest impact on you and why?

Joe: Joseph Shrager was an incredibly thoughtful, generous, and patient teacher. Ron DeMatteo was the first surgical resident to venture forth into the new realm of gene therapy and molecular and cellular biologic research and inspired all of us. Mark Levy, as the Vascular Fellow, always scrubbed with Dr. Barker, regardless of the operation and what the other Vascular Faculty had on the schedule. Mike Nance was always so relaxed and emphasized compassion towards our patients.

JoMo: When you were a Chief Resident, which Junior Residents impressed you the most and why?

Joe: Through the latter years of my residency and fellowship, I had the privilege of working closely with so many stellar junior residents. To name just a few, Ed Woo, Wilson Szeto, Ben Jackson, Rachel Kelz, Mark Berry, Eric Lambright, Josh Pierce, Bob Canter, and (continued on page 13)
Pavan Atluri were absolutely brilliant, technically-gifted, and incredibly dedicated. I am also forever indebted to the extraordinary Penn residents that joined my lab: Mark Berry, Astrid Moise, Steve Kolakowski, Pavan Atluri, John Fredrick, Ray Fitzpatrick, Will Hiesinger, JW MacArthur, Jeff Cohen, and Andrew Goldstone. I also want to mention and commend John Kucharczuk, who was neither in this question’s category, nor the prior question’s. We were in the same year and together journeyed through medical school, internship, residency, fellowship, and faculty.

Joe: Some of the things I am very proud of include becoming a faculty member at Penn, developing my clinical practice, and starting my basic science research lab there. In 2014, I became Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University. Since then, our department has experienced significant growth in clinical volume, research, and education.

JoMo: Tell us what your greatest professional accomplishments have been since graduating Penn.

Joe: Philadelphia was my home for 25 years. I miss close colleagues, friends, and family and the many memories from our time in Philly.

JoMo: What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

Joe: I am fortunate to be able to stay in touch with many of my fellow surgeons from Penn. Drs. Joseph Shrager, Mark Berry, William Hiesinger, and John MacArthur are all faculty at Stanford. I interact frequently with Drs. Tim Gardner, Mike Acker, Joe Bavaria, Wilson Szeto, Pavan Atluri and many of my Penn colleagues.

JoMo: Who from your Penn Surgery days do you stay in touch with?

Joe: I most enjoy spending time with my family. We are still exploring Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Northern California, and western ski areas. I enjoy swimming, biking, and trying the varied cuisines.

JoMo: Tell us about your family.

Joe: My lovely wife, Amy, and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. She is involved with Silicon Valley tech startups. Our son, Jeff, is a graduate student at Stanford studying Artificial Intelligence. Our daughter, Nicole, is a junior at Stanford majoring in Management Science and Engineering. My parents are still healthy and live in the DC area. Ed is Chair of Vascular Surgery at Medstar and Professor at Georgetown and he and his family are prospering.

JoMo: What are your current interests and hobbies outside of medicine?

Joe: I most enjoy spending time with my family. We are still exploring Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Northern California, and western ski areas. I enjoy swimming, biking, and trying the varied cuisines.

JoMo: Tell us anything else about you that would be of interest to the Penn Surgery Society alumni.

Joe: Learning and training at Penn was a phenomenal, unparalleled experience. Some of my best memories were made at Penn and I am forever grateful to all of the individuals who taught, supported, and inspired me over a quarter of a century.
HUP CHIEF SURGICAL RESIDENTS 2005-2006

Seven surgeons finished the HUP general surgery training program in 2006 under Chairman Larry Kaiser, MD, and Program Director Jon Morris, MD. During their chief residency, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast; the White Sox swept the Astros in the World Series; Angela Merkel became chancellor of Germany; Kobe Bryant scored 81 points in one game; Mike Wallace retired from 60 Minutes; Florida beat UCLA to win the men’s NCAA basketball tournament; former Enron executives were convicted of fraud and conspiracy; Rosa Parks (92), William Rehnquist (80), Richard Pryor (65), Betty Friedan (85), Kirby Puckett (45), John Kenneth Galbraith (97), and Don Knotts (81) died. Closer to home during the chief residency year of Drs. Berry, Carr, Dumon, Jackson, Kolakowski, Moise, and Myung: ground was broken for PCAM; Dr. Larry Kaiser was appointed surgeon-in-chief of UPHS; Drs. Shaked, Drebin, and Bavaria were named to endowed professorships; Drs. Allukian, Bowens, Lee, Nathan, Redfield, and Wilson matched with Penn Surgery as categorical interns; Dr. Rombeau won the resident teaching award and Dr. Rosato won the Inouye award.

Dr. Mark Francis Berry was born in Philadelphia and went to high school at St. Joe’s Prep. He went to college at Penn, graduating with highest honors with a BSE in electrical engineering in 1990, and an MSE in EE in 1993. Mark then did a “post bac” year at Penn and was accepted to Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) at Penn the following year. For several years prior to entering medical school Mark did substantial and significant work in software design for Lockheed Martin. Mark graduated junior AOA from Penn Med with outstanding letters of recommendation from Drs. Barker, Rosato, and Fairman. He matched at HUP and did the standard “seven-year plan” (1999-2006), spending 2 years in the lab with Drs. Joe Woo, Tim Gardner, and Lee Sweeney. After finishing the HUP surgical residency in stellar fashion (he won the Rhoads research award in 2006), Mark did a CT fellowship at Duke where he remained on the faculty and also obtained a masters in health sciences in clinical research. In 2014 Mark became the Mylavarapu Rogers Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford where his focus is on thoracic surgery and thoracic oncology.

Dr. Shamus Russell Carr was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. He went to college at USC, graduating in 1995 with a BS in biomedical engineering, a minor in biology, and a significant concentration in varsity water polo (national championship runner up 1993 and 1994). Four years later he graduated with an MD from Dartmouth Medical School. As an officer of the U.S. Naval Reserves, Shamus did an internship at Eisenhower Medical Center and then came to Jefferson as a categorical surgical resident. He did two years in the lab at Jeff with Dr. Joe Friedberg (before he was recruited to Penn). Dr. Friedberg recommended Shamus very highly for an open categorical position at HUP, and he finished his general surgery training at HUP (2004-2006). Shamus then spent 3 years in the U.S. Navy and was discharged honorably at the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He then did a CT fellowship at Pittsburgh and also was a AATS Pearson Fellow in thoracic oncology at MSKCC. Shamus’ first academic position was in the department of surgery at the University of Utah. Currently he is at the University of Maryland as Associate Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery and Director of Robotic Surgery.

Dr. Kristoffel R. Dumon was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota but he grew up in Belgium and received his MD there in Leuven. Kris then completed general surgery training in Dusseldorf Germany, coauthoring 10 peer reviewed papers as a resident. He then came to the U.S. as a HUP preliminary surgical resident. Because of his outstanding performance and his clear intention to do a residency in this country, he was offered a laboratory spot with Dr. Noel Williams and Dr. Carlo Croce. Kris had a very productive lab experience, adding an additional 15 peer reviewed papers to his CV. He then matched at HUP and did five straight clinical years, plus an additional year as a bariatric surgery fellow. Kris joined the surgical faculty at Penn in 2007 where he has developed a busy bariatric and general surgery practice with a strong emphasis on laparoscopy and robotics. He has been a leader for the department in surgical simulation. An associate professor of surgery, his clinical practice is based at HUP Kris has previously served as chief of the surgical service at the Philadelphia VA Hospital.
**Dr. Benjamin Materi Jackson** was born in London, England, but he went to high school in NYC at Hunter College High. Ben went to Haverford College, majoring in both physics and Spanish literature and graduating with high honors. He then obtained a master’s degree in engineering physics from UVA and worked as a teacher for a short time. Ben then came to the Edmunds research lab at Penn as a lab tech where he worked as an integral (actually described as indispensable in a Rob Gorman letter) part of the research team for two years before deciding on medical school. He was accepted into the Health Scientist Training Program at Harvard, but happily stayed at Penn Med, obtaining his MD in 2000. By then he had co-authored 10 peer reviewed papers. His letters of recommendation for residency (Drs. Barker, Edmunds, Rosato, Gorman) were spectacular. Ben matched at HUP in 2000 and performed in an outstanding fashion. He did another year in the lab, and won both the Rhoads Research Award and the Reemtsma Award as well as the Perloff Chief Resident Award. He did a 2-year vascular fellowship at HUP and then joined the Penn faculty. Ben is an Associate Professor of Surgery, and an Associate Professor of Surgery in Radiology. He is a member of the Society of Vascular Surgery and has been recognized by America’s Top Doctors.

**Dr. Stephen Kolakowski, Jr.** was born in Bellville, New Jersey. Because of his interest in biology, and his experience rehabilitating his own serious knee injury, he aspired to becoming an athletic trainer. He graduated from Lock Haven University with a bachelor’s degree in athletic training. But his work as a trainer inspired him to go to medical school. He received his MD from Ross University in 1999 and came to Pennsylvania Hospital (PAH) as a designated preliminary surgery resident, having matched into a categorical PM&R spot at HUP. His performance as a surgery intern was stellar and Steve was offered and accepted a categorical surgery position at PAH. He spent time in the lab with Dr. Joe Woo, coauthoring several papers and presentations. As Steve was entering the chief resident year, the PAH surgery program was merged into the HUP program so he completed his training as a HUP chief. Subsequently Drs. Calligaro and Dougherty were happy to have Steve back at PAH as a vascular fellow. Steve practices general and vascular surgery in California where he is on staff at San Joaquin General Hospital (a hospital with a general surgery residency) and UC Davis Medical School.

**Dr. Mireille Astrid Moise** was born in Brooklyn, New York. Astrid received her bachelor’s degree in biology from Harvard and then worked for a year on a Native American Reservation in South Dakota. After that she entered medical school at Penn and excelled academically. While getting her MD at Penn, Astrid was a member of the medical school admissions committee, and served as co-chair of the medical student government. Not surprisingly she had outstanding letters of recommendation for surgical residency from Drs. Barker, Kaiser, and Morris. During residency interviews, both Dr. Kaiser and Dr. Rosato expressed a strong interest in having Astrid do her residency at HUP. She matched at HUP in 2000 as a categorical resident in surgery and did an excellent job. Astrid did one year in the lab with Dr. Joe Woo and coauthored numerous peer reviewed publications. She then completed a vascular surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. Astrid practices vascular surgery in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Dr. Richard J. Myung** was born in Los Angeles and went to college at UCLA, graduating with a BS in Molecular and Cell Biology. He then received his MD from New York Medical College and started his categorical general surgery training at Georgetown. He came to Philadelphia to do 2 years of research at CHOP in the cardiothoracic lab with Drs. Gaynor and DeCampli, where he helped develop new and valuable research models and techniques. Richard did such an outstanding job in the lab that his mentors strongly recommended to the chairman of surgery (Dr. Kaiser) that he be offered a categorical position at HUP. So Richard was interviewed and offered a position for the following year, allowing him an additional year to complete his lab projects at CHOP. As a resident, he coauthored numerous articles published in peer reviewed clinical and basic science journals. As expected, Richard completed his general surgery training at HUP (2003-2006) in excellent standing. He may be one of the few Penn residents to have had both a pilot’s license and SCUBA diving certification. He then did a cardiothoracic fellowship at Emory. Richard remains in the Atlanta area as an attending cardiothoracic surgeon in the Wellstar Health System.
Penn Surgery Society Reception
Hilton San Francisco - Union Square
6:00-8:00 pm  Room: Golden Gate 3
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Hope to see you

Previous Alumni Newsletters - www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/education/penn_surgery_society.html

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