On May 4, Penn leaders welcomed Dr. Pryor’s family and friends—including military and congressional dignitaries—to celebrate the dedication of the John Paul Pryor, MD, Shock Trauma and Resuscitation (STAR) Unit in the Trauma Center at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

Dr. Pryor died on Christmas Day in 2008 while he was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was part of a forward surgical team with the Army’s 1st Medical Detachment when he was killed by enemy fire.

The STAR Unit includes a state-of-the-art, five-bay trauma resuscitation area. It is the largest one known to be designed for trauma resuscitation. It facilitates immediate access to “Corridor of Life” critical care treatment areas, including ceiling-mounted CT and MRI imaging and X-rays.

Dean, J. Larry Jameson; Dr. Pryor’s children, Francis, Danielle and John, and his wife, Carmela Calvo; Penn President Amy Gutmann; Ralph Muller, CEO, UPHS; and Dr. C. William Schwab, Professor of Surgery in Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery.
From the Editor
Clyde F. Barker, M.D.

The plan for construction of a new HUP Patient Pavilion on the Penn Tower site brings to my mind the remarkable amount of building that has occurred during my time at HUP. As an intern my quarters were in a wing of the Nurses Residence Building. By the time I was a resident, this building had been torn down to make room for the Ravdin Building. Since then more than 20 additional buildings have been constructed at the HUP/Penn Medical School site. These include the Ravdin Courtyard building, the Silverstein building, the Founders Pavilion, the Rhoads Pavilion, the Biomedical Research Building, Stemmler Hall, Blockley Hall, Fagin Hall, the Robert Wood Johnson building, the A.N. Richards Medical Research building, the Stellar–Chance building, the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine (North, South and West towers), and the Smilow Center for Translational Research. The following CHOP buildings were also constructed during this period: the main hospital building, the Wood building, Seashore House, the Abramson Pediatric Research Center, Colket Translational Research Building, and the Buerger Center for Advanced Pediatric Care. Under construction now is a research building across the Schuylkill from CHOP.

Implementation of the most recent plan for a new HUP patient tower is underway, the first step being demolition of Penn Tower. In 1975 I was distressed when this building (originally the Hilton Hotel of Philadelphia) was built displacing the large faculty parking lot that had been there just across 34th Street from HUP and only a few steps from my office, certainly the most convenient parking lot ever. Even when it was new, this Hilton Hotel never approached 5 star status. It’s only positive feature was a first rate restaurant on the top floor. When it was bought by the University and its name changed to Penn Tower the restaurant was closed and the top floor became the power center of the institution where Dean and CEO Bill Kelly set up his headquarters. A few hotel rooms were retained for patients or their families and the rest became office or clinic space.

Planning began almost at once in the early 1980s to tear down Penn Tower and build a proper HUP medical facility. This was first envisioned to be outpatient space for the newly formed and then highly controversial Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania (CPUP). This 2½ decade long
plan was changed in 2008 by the construction of the Perelman Center which could then accommodate most of HUP’s outpatient clinics. The current plan is for construction of a new inpatient tower on the site that will include 700 beds and 50 operating rooms. The new patient tower is expected to cost $1.5 billion. It would allow doubling of the number of HUP beds and could make Penn the 4th or 5th largest medical center in the U.S.

Matching the remarkable increase in the size of the Hospital has been the growth of the surgical faculty. To appreciate the magnitude of this change, compare the plaques outside the surgical offices during Dr. Ravdin’s chairmanship and Dr. Drebin’s. Fortunately, one thing that hasn’t changed over the years is the excellence of the Penn surgical faculty and trainees. This is illustrated by their academic accomplishments and their leadership positions in U.S. surgery. I was struck by this during the recent meeting of the American Surgical Association (the Nation’s most prestigious surgical society). It seems that there are more members of this association from Penn than from any other institution. This year four more members of the Penn Surgical Society were inducted as fellows: Vollmer, Czerniecki, Kreisel, Odorico (and Scott Levin, Chair of Orthopaedics). Three others were elected this year and will be inducted next year (Joe Woo, Jo Buyske and Alan Flake). Authoring papers on the scientific program of the meeting were Drs. De Matteo, Olthoff, Shaked and David Bartlett. Dr. Olthoff was appointed to the membership committee. Paige Porrett is one of three junior faculty being supported by the Association’s Research Fellowship. Most importantly our Chairman Jeff Drebin was elected as the Association’s Recorder which makes him the editor of the Association’s Transactions as well as one of the three officers who preside from the podium during the scientific sessions of the annual meeting.

In addition an impressive number of surgical leadership positions are held in other organizations by Penn Surgical Society members: Ronald Fairman, President of the Society for Vascular Surgery; Joe Bavaria, President of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons; Dan Dempsey, President of Philadelphia County Medical Society and Treasurer of the Philadelphia College of Physicians; and Jeff Drebin who just completed his term as President of the Society of Surgical Oncology.
On March 25 the opening of the Penn Center for Precision Surgery was launched with a reception and symposium. This center is based on a novel imaging technique devised by Penn thoracic surgeon Sunil Singhal. His goal has been to make hidden tumors glow, thus allowing precise real-time intraoperative visualization of tumor margins and detection of other tumors or lymph node metastases not visible to the naked eye.

At the Center’s launch event introductory comments were made by President Gutmann, Dean Jameson, CEO Muller and Jeff Drebin. Sunil then explained the important rationale for his efforts. He said that in as many as one in four lung cancer operations there is incomplete resection of the tumors or failure to recognize and remove tumor implants or involved lymph nodes. Sunil’s technique is changing this and should lessen the chances of tumor recurrence.

His method employs an injectable dye that has been specially engineered to be taken up by cancerous tissues more so than by normal tissues. Before surgery patients are injected with the dye. During the operation when exposed to near-infrared light the tumor glows.

The impressive success of Sunil’s extensive NIH supported animal experiments resulted in approval of human trials. So far more than 200 patients have been involved in these clinical trials with very encouraging results. In a number of them cancerous tissue has been identified that would otherwise have been missed. Originally Sunil used his method in patients with lung tumors but it is now being tested also in patients with bladder, breast, head and neck, endocrine and brain and other tumors. It may be particularly useful to neurosurgeons who in resecting brain tumors must identify tumor margins precisely so as to avoid removing or damaging important areas adjacent to the tumors.

In addition to Sunil other Penn surgical investigators participating in these trials and constituting the Center’s executive committee are: Thomas Guzzo from Urology, John Lee, Neurosurgery; Carla Fisher, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery; John Kucharczuk, Thoracic Surgery; Jason Newman, Head and Neck Surgery, Pennsylvania Hospital; Robert Roses, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery; Janos Tanyi, Gynecologic Oncology Surgery; Julia Tchou, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery and Gregory Weinstein, Head and Neck Surgery.
Peter Jannetta 1932-2016

Peter Jannetta, HUP chief resident 1962-63 died at age 84 on April 11, 2016. He was one of the Penn Surgical Society’s most illustrious members. How many others have discovered the cause of an important human disease and the cure for it? Since he was a neurosurgeon it is ironic that the cause of his death was a brain injury stemming from a fall.

Pete was one year ahead of me in the residency. Even at this early stage he was technically gifted and confident (sometimes almost to a fault). He was also good looking and athletic, having played college football and lacrosse for Penn. He was a jazz musician. He was charismatic, funny and everybody’s hero. In our tightly bonded group of residents he was one of my closest friends.

After finishing HUP’s general surgery residency and only 2 years as a neurosurgery resident at UCLA, Pete was appointed Chief of Neurosurgery at Louisiana State University. In 1971 he moved to the University of Pittsburgh where he remained Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery for the next three decades. There he built one of the country’s great academic neurosurgery programs. He trained more than 150 residents and fellows, many of whom became leaders in U.S. and international neurosurgery. My son was his fellow for a year.

Most responsible for Jannetta’s wide and lasting reputation was the procedure he developed for trigeminal neuralgia (tic douloureux) a condition known since antiquity to be the cause of excruciating facial pain. Its cause was unknown. For patients whose symptoms were refractory to drug therapy its only treatment had been cutting the trigeminal nerve or damaging it by injection, radiofrequency or some other means. Because these treatments left the face numb they weren’t very satisfactory. While he was still a neurosurgery resident at UCLA Pete made an observation that would change this. While dissecting the cranial nerves of a cadaver he noticed that impinging on the trigeminal nerve was a small blood vessel that had left an indentation on the nerve. Soon after this he operated on a patient with trigeminal neuralgia. He looked for and found a similar relationship of the trigeminal nerve to a crossing blood vessel. He moved the vessel away and was elated to find that the patient’s facial symptoms suddenly resolved. Over the next decade in successful operations on many patients he refined this procedure. With the aid of microscope he was consistently able to relieve pressure on the nerve by dividing the impinging blood vessel if it was a vein or if the culprit was an artery by protecting the nerve from it with a tiny Teflon pad. At first no one believed he was on to something but eventually skeptics were convinced. In 1994 my son Fred, while Jannetta’s fellow, was given the opportunity to report as first author in the New England Journal of Medicine his chief’s twenty year experience with this operation in 1,185 patients. The paper is a citation classic having been cited in other papers 1,008 times. The Jannetta procedure is now considered the standard treatment for trigeminal neuralgia. In most cases it results in abrupt relief of the dreadful symptoms.

In 1995-96 Jannetta served as Secretary of Health for the State of Pennsylvania. After retiring from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000 he joined the staff of Allegheny General Hospital where he remained active in research and writing right up until the time of his death.

His many honors included the Olivecrona Award of the Karolinska Institute, the Zulch Prize of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science and the medal of honor of the World Federation of Neurological Sciences. He was one of only a few neurosurgeons elected to membership in the American Surgical Association.

A Philadelphian by birth, educated at Penn and HUP, Pete often returned to his roots and never lost his feeling for his HUP mentors. On one such occasion in 1983, he gave the D. Hayes Agnew lecture.

Pete Jannetta was one of Jonathan Rhoads’ residents and perhaps the one of whom he was most proud. In retrospect it’s not hard to see why.
Jim Markmann is the Department of Surgery’s 2016 Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate awardee. The list of previous honorees reads like a pantheon of American Surgery: James Hardy, C. Everett Koop, Jim Thompson, Steve Bartlett, Danny Jacobs, Roy Smythe, Jim Lukatich, Mory Ziegler, Scott Jones, Ted Copeland, Mike Choti, Omaida Velasquez, and Howard Reber.

Jim Markman, HUP chief surgical resident in 1996 is the youngest of the Department’s distinguished graduate awardees and in some ways the most academically accomplished. Other than Chick Koop who was at CHOP, Jim is also the one who spent more time at Penn then any of the others. His 26 years in our department began when he was a high school student working as a laboratory assistant for Ali Naji (who later became his brother-in-law). This continued while he was a college student at La Salle resulting in his first 3 publications. By the time he finished medical school at Penn his bibliography included 30 entries in journals such as Nature, Diabetes, Surgery and the Journal of Immunology.

Jim’s early and most persistent research interest has been in transplantation of isolated pancreatic islets not only as a treatment for experimental diabetes, but also as a model for exploring the etiology of diabetes, the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases and an approach to transplantation tolerance. With Ali Naji, he described the autoimmune pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes in the first animal model of the disease. With Naji, Andy Possett, Mike Choti, Niraj Desai, Jon Odorico and Ron DeMatteo he explored manipulation of the thymus as a promising method of developing transplantation tolerance.

After completing his MD and PhD in immunology at Penn, Jim rejected offers to remain on the faculty here and sought further training in clinical transplantation at UCLA, with a focus on liver transplantation. We were then fortunate to recruit him back to Penn where he spent the next nine productive years during which he extended his bibliography to 140 publications, directed an independent laboratory funded by multiple NIH R01 grants and with Ali Naji, started HUP’s highly successful human islet transplantation program.

Jim Markmann in 1980 as a Harrison Department fellow MD PhD candidate

In 2007 he was recruited to Harvard and the Massachusetts General Hospital as Chief of Transplantation. As might have been predicted from his earlier record, he has been highly successful there. In the highly competitive venue of multiple New England transplantation centers, he has greatly increased (almost doubled) MGH’s clinical activity, especially in liver transplantation. Jim’s efforts at the MGH have been well balanced between clinical work, basic and translational research, administration and teaching. His research laboratory consists of 8 to 10 individuals including students, technicians, visiting scholars, graduate students, residents and fellows. This provides opportunity for what he finds to be the most rewarding setting for teaching. He has been the scientific mentor for 36 trainees including 6 PhD students.

His research has 3 main thrusts: developing tolerogenic strategies that permit graft acceptance in the absence of immunosuppression, isolated pancreatic islet transplantation and ex vivo liver perfusion. The basic transplantation biology component of the research has been supported by ongoing R01 grants. Studies on isolated islet transplantation have been funded through a variety of sources. Most recently his clinical trials were supported through grants from the NIH and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Liver perfusion studies are supported by smaller grants and a large program project grant. A top priority at the MGH has been developing a pancreatic islet program in human diabetics. In 2010 he performed the 1st human islet transplant with islets prepared on the MGH campus and to date, has performed 7 allo islet transplants and more than 30 auto islet transplants.

Jim Markmann is one of the most productive and most respected surgeon scientists of his generation. As the Claude E. Welsh professor, he occupies the endowed chair named for one of Harvard’s and MGH’s most beloved surgical heroes. Jim has been elected to Surgery’s most prestigious societies: the Society of University Surgeons, the Halsted Society, the Society of Clinical Surgery, the Surgical Biology Club and the American Surgical Association. In the fields of diabetes research, pancreatic and islet transplantation and surgical immunology, he has had leadership positions in most of the important national committees and workgroups, such as NIH Study Sections, and various national and international societies. He serves on the editorial boards of Transplantation, Surgery and the American Journal of Transplantation. His laboratory is funded by 8 NIH grants including 2 R01s and has enjoyed NIH funding for more than 15 consecutive years. His work is documented in nearly 250 peer reviewed papers, most of them in high impact journals such as Science, Nature Medicine, JAMA, Diabetes and The Annals of Surgery. He has become an important spokesman for islet transplant research and clinical trials as illustrated by his recent editorial in the American Journal of Transplantation which summarizes the field’s current status.

We can be proud that Jim Markmann is the Department’s 2016 graduate of the year.
Catching Up With . . . Jim Markmann

Contributed by Jon Morris

Jim Markmann is a 1983 graduate of LaSalle University (Maxima Cum Laude) and would subsequently matriculate to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1983. While at PENN, Jim would receive his PhD in Immunology and would graduate with election to the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society and receive the I.S. Ravdin Award, given to the top medical student in surgery in his graduating class. Jim matriculated to HUP for his general surgical residency in 1990, during which he would take a post-doctoral fellowship (1992 – 1994). During Jim’s general surgical residency he would receive the Jonathan E. Rhoads Surgical Resident Research Award (1993), the Penn Center of Excellence Award for the highest ABSITE score (1995), and the Leonard Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award (1996). Following his general surgical training, Jim took a Fellowship in Transplantation Surgery at UCLA, and would return to PENN as an Assistant Professor (1998 – 2003) and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. In 2007, Jim was recruited to Harvard Medical School as Professor of Surgery and Director of the Division of Transplantation Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2011, Jim was appointed to the Claude E. Welch Professorship of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

A Conversation with Jim

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

**Jim:** It was a great training environment in part because the Department had strength in every Division. Most important is that it provided solid preparation for complex surgery and sound surgical judgment.

**JoMo:** Which faculty influenced you the most and why?

**Jim:** Of course there were many, but to name a few: Barker provided the consummate role model as a leader and surgeon-scientist, operating with the King (Dr. Rosato) was unmatched for breadth and volume of surgical experience, Ali influenced by his creative intellect and passion in his work, and Mullen by his organizational skills and larger than life swagger.

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

**Jim:** I had the opportunity to train under some of the all time great Penn Surgery residents: Bavaria, Bartlett, Brayman, Luketich, Fishman, Fox, Choti, Williams, Carpenter and Deaton (and others). They each had unique impact but the shared commitment and camaraderie had the greatest positive influence on my training.

**JoMo:** When you were a Chief Resident, which junior residents impressed you the most and why?

**Jim:** Heidi Yeh was super competent, tough as nails, and genuine in her caring for patients; Niraj Desai had great intellect and worked as hard as anyone. And, the Gormen’s were great colleagues and their passion and dedication for Surgery was infectious to those who worked with them.

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

**Jim:** When I left for MGH, I wasn’t sure how I would make the MGH Transplant program better. Fortunately, the clinical programs have all grown significantly and our results excellent. We have built a great team of surgeons and have excellent medical colleagues. The research front has also been rewarding with a successful islet program, cutting edge basic and translational investigation and a strong clinical research program with a number of early phase trials that have potential to move the field.

**JoMo:** What do you miss most about Philadelphia?

**Jim:** The winters. Family and friends. Jo Mo?
Who from your Penn Surgery days do you stay in touch with?


Tell us about your current surgical practice, types of cases you are doing, etc.

My focus is liver transplantation but I also perform kidney, pancreas, islet transplant, lap kidney donors and vascular access. Currently, I spend about equal effort on clinical activities, research and administrative duties.

What are your current interests and hobbies outside of medicine?

Mostly family stuff- we have 4 wonderful kids and seeing them mature into fine young adults brings great joy. And, golf—my goal in life being to beat Fraker. With his backswing being so short, I know I can take him from the tips.

Tell us about your family.

Dana is involved in everything. I call her the community organizer (and we know where that leads); she is a parent advisor, Captain of our candle pin bowling team and President of the High school boosters. Our two eldest (Maddy and Kat) are seniors currently deciding on colleges, both are athletes - Kat, a beast in field hockey, and Maddy a fine golfer who I think can drive it past Fraker; Caroline, a high school junior, is a star varsity basketballer; Will, a freshman, plays JV Bball and was a member of this year’s state championship varsity golf team at Weston High.

What is the last book you read that you would recommend and why?

The Singularity is Near, by Ray Kurzweil

It is a decade old but still relevant and thought provoking. It discusses the exponential increase in computing power and that how by mid century computers will have greater “calculating power” than the human brain; it suggests this point in time will represent one of the world’s major epochs as humans and artificial intelligence will ultimately mesh. It sounds Matrixesque but it is interesting to think about all the things that computers already do better than us and what Surgery will be like in the future when computers are millions of times more powerful.

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

I am honored to have been invited to give the 2016 Mackie lecture and Dana and I look forward to connecting with many old friends.
Alumni News

♦ The 2016 PENN Pearls Teaching Awards Ceremony was held in the Law Auditorium at the Perelman School of Medicine on March 16, 2016. Of the six Housestaff Awardees this year, three were from the Department of Surgery: Olugbenga Okusanya, Jon Quatromoni, and Ian Folkert. Award recipients are nominated and elected each year by the Penn medical students to honor exceptional teaching in clinical medicine and as an expression of the students’ gratitude for the invaluable contributions made to their education.

♦ Carlo Bartoli, MD, PhD was awarded the American College of Cardiology’s 2015 young author achievement award. Dr. Bartoli is a PGY3 in the Direct Cardiac Surgery program. In parallel with clinical training, Dr. Bartoli has obtained NIH, industry, and University of Pennsylvania support to perform ongoing investigations into biophysical mechanisms of left ventricular assist device (LVAD)-associated bleeding and thrombosis. To date, his research efforts have resulted in 46 peer-reviewed articles, primarily in the field of artificial circulation. Dr. Bartoli is collaborating on multiple projects with Michael Acker, MD, Pavan Atluri, MD, and Christian Bermudez, MD.

♦ RossMilner, MD was awarded an honorary faculty membership in AOA, at the University of Chicago.

♦ David Aufhauser, MD (PGY3) and Victoria Gershuni, MD, MSGM (PGY2) were winners of the Top Clinical Abstracts at the Metropolitan Philadelphia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Annual Poster Session held May 16.

David Aufhauser: Reciprocal Effects of HDAC1 and HDAC2 Deletion on Renal Cold Ischemia Survival and Nuclear Co-repressor Complex Expression.

Victoria Gershuni: Relationship between BMI and Breast Cancer Subtype.

♦ Joe Woo, MD recently shared with us some data that strikingly indicate the positive impact he has had at Stanford since he took over there as Norman Shumway Professor and Chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in January 2014. Since then cardiac surgery volume, heart transplant procedures, accredited residency positions have all greatly increased. Publications have more than doubled. In heart transplant volume Stanford has moved from below the top 10 in the US to 2nd. Note also that Penn’s heart transplant volume has steadily moved up during this period from 8th to 4th in the Country. Given what we remember of Joe’s remarkable performance during his 26 years at Penn as a medical student, resident and faculty member we should hardly be surprised at his accomplishments at Stanford. Nevertheless we congratulate him.

U.S. Heart Transplant Center Volume Rankings

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Participation in National Meetings

♦ **Jeff Drebin, MD, PhD**, delivering the Presidential Address of the Society of Surgical Oncology: “Translational Cancer Research, The Surgeons Role.”

At UCLA Dr. Drebin gave the inaugural Howard Reber lecture: “Improving Outcomes in Pancreas Cancer.”

♦ **Ron Fairman, MD** President of the Society for Vascular Surgery delivering a paper at the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society: “If Albert Einstein Were Alive Today: The Endovascular Revolution in the Treatment of Aortic Aneurysms.” In 2016 he was elected as a member of the Society, one of only a few surgeon members of the APS.

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Jon Odorico (HUP Chief Resident 1994) and Dan Kreisel (HUP Chief Resident 2003) attending the reception for new members of the American Surgical Association.

Grace Lee, Laura Huth, Patricia Pratt Terry, Jon Morris, Lea Lowenfeld, Rachel Kelz, Chris Neylan
Save the Date
October 18, 2016
Washington, DC
Congress of the American College of Surgeons

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