The beginning of July marks the start of another academic year for the Department of Surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. The past year was exceptionally challenging from an operational point of view. Clinical volume was up on a year-over-year basis, but was below budget projections for the first time in a number of years. This appears to have reflected a national trend, seen at academic and community medical centers, in which health care consumption was reduced. Whether this was due to the elections last fall, the state of the economy, the “Accountable Care Act” or other factors is uncertain. Fortunately, the reduced demand for surgical services appears to have been temporary. The Department exceeded budgeted volumes in 5 of the past 6 months, with Cardiovascular Surgery, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Transplant Surgery Divisions leading the way. With the guidance of our administrative team, led by Deborah Rose, and the cooperation of faculty and staff, the Department managed its costs through the year in an effective manner and finished ahead of budget in terms of the Department bottom line.

The Department continues to excel in its educational and research missions as well. Our surgical residency program underwent a complete review and site visit by the ACGME this past spring and received approval with recommendation for review in five years – the strongest evaluation possible. This is a credit to the extensive efforts of Residency Program Director Dr. Jon Morris to continuously improve our program. We graduated six superbly trained Chief Residents in General Surgery, all of whom are going on to academic fellowships (page 6-7), and have welcomed seven new categorical General Surgery interns to our training program. Our research productivity also continues despite an exceptionally challenging funding climate, with multiple faculty members receiving new grants to support basic, translational and clinical research. I am particularly proud of the sizable number of Assistant Professors who have successfully competed for research funding this past year.

Our leadership structure has also seen some changes this past year. Last fall, Dr. Dahlia Sataloff was appointed Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. In the Transplant Division, Dr. Kim Olthoff assumed the position of Division Chief last March, replacing Dr. Avi Shaked, who continues to serve as Director of the Transplant Institute and Departmental Vice-Chair. And in the Colorectal Surgery Division, Dr. Robert Fry has passed the leadership of the Division to Dr. Najjia Mahmoud, who was appointed Division Chief this month. Dr. Ken Murayama left the Department to assume the position of Chair of Surgery at Abington Memorial Hospital, and Dr. Taine Pechet has stepped in to serve as Interim Chief of Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

Construction of new facilities at each of our campuses continues, with the promise that new clinical facilities will match the changing needs of our patients and faculty in the future. The Walnut Street Tower outpatient building at Pennsylvania Hospital will open...
Distinguished Graduate Michael Choti

Michael Choti, MD is the Department’s 2013 Distinguished Graduate Award. Mike, HUP Chief Resident in 1990 is now Professor of Surgery at Johns Hopkins. On May 16, 2013 he was our visiting professor and delivered the Julias A. Mackie Lecture on “Management of Hepatic Colorectal Metastases: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?”

Mike is a graduate of Yale Medical School. During his residency at HUP (1984-1990) he spent 2 years in the transplantation laboratory of Clyde Barker and Ali Najm. From 1990-1992 he was a clinical fellow in surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. In 1992 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery at Johns Hopkins where he has remained since then. In 2004 Mike obtained an MBA degree at Johns Hopkins University. He now holds full professorships there in Surgery, Oncology, Radiology and Computer Science. He has also been Director of the Colon Cancer Center, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Handelsman Professor of Surgery. In 1998 he became Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Choti has a strong commitment to medical education. Since 1990 he has been Program Director of a very successful Surgical Oncology Fellowship. His former fellows are now faculty members at more than a dozen University Centers. In his laboratory he has also mentored 38 research fellows. He has served as visiting professor and invited speaker at 138 Universities, Medical Centers and National or International Symposia.

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Guidelines Panels for both Colorectal Cancer and Neuroendocrine Tumors. He has been on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, the Annals of Surgical Oncology, the Journal of Surgical Oncology and the American Journal of Surgery. He is Associate Editor of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Cancer and Section Editor of the Annals of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Choti maintains a busy clinical practice, specializing in the surgical treatment of hepatopancreatobiliary and gastrointestinal malignancies. In addition to his clinical role, he is dedicated to furthering the advancement of cancer therapy by pursuing an active research initiative in hepatobiliary, pancreatic, colorectal, and other gastrointestinal cancers. Specific aspects of Dr. Choti’s research are surgical innovation, robotic and image-guided research in cancer therapy, molecular genetics and biomarkers in colorectal and gastrointestinal cancer. (continued on page 9)
Young Leader

Hooman Noorchashm, MD, PhD

Hooman Noorchashm, HUP Chief Resident (2010-2011) will begin on July 1, 2013 an appointment as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard and the Cardiac Division of the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. In 2002 Hooman obtained his MD and PhD from Penn. After 2 years as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow and Associate in Ali Naji’s lab and 2 years as Assistant Professor of Research in the Harrison Department, he took his surgical internship and residency at HUP (2004-2011). For the last 2 years he has been a Resident in Cardiac Surgery at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Hooman’s research is in immunology including special interest in diabetes, islet transplantation, the role of B cells in autoimmune disease, rejection and transplantation tolerance. For 10 consecutive years he has been the principal investigator on grants from the NIH (K08, K03 and R56). Hooman has published 43 peer reviewed papers in high impact journals including Nature Medicine, Journal of Immunology, Journal of Experimental Medicine and the New England Journal of Medicine. On more than half of these he is the first or senior author.

As Hooman begins his faculty career he already has academic accomplishments exceeding those of many established surgeon-scientists.

Hooman’s wife, Amy Reed, a Penn MD PhD graduate and former HUP anesthesiologist is also a Harvard faculty member and attending anesthesiologist at Beth Israel Deaconness Medical Center.

New Cardiac ORs Open in Silverstein

On June 3rd, 2013, HUP opened three new cardiac operating rooms on the 4th floor of the Silverstein building. The new ORs are in the space previously occupied by the Department of Surgery faculty offices. They expand the number of HUP ORs to 42. The cardiovascular service has not had new operating suites since 1987, except for the hybrid rooms in the Dulles Building, which are designed for endovascular procedures. Until recently the open cardiac cases were performed in the Founders ORs.

Each room has over 850 square feet of clear floor space to accommodate the sophisticated equipment and additional staff necessary for complex open cardiac cases. The newest software technology termed “Live Data” is incorporated into each OR to display crucial individualized patient information. This technology will greatly facilitate communication and patient care. In addition each Silverstein operating room has been equipped with multiple, large, high definition surgical monitors and digital video technology to allow recording and telecasting procedures.

This year the cardiac surgery service lead by Michael Acker, MD, chief of cardiac surgery, will perform nearly 1700 cardiac cases. The new Silverstein ORs will allow further growth of this very busy surgical service.

Young Leader - Carrie Sims, MD

Carrie Sims received her BA from Stanford, an MS in health and Medical Science from University of California, Berkeley and a MD from University of California, San Francisco. Her internship, general surgery residency and fellowship in laparoscopic surgery were at Massachusetts General Hospital. From 2004-2006 she was a fellow at HUP in Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care. In 2006 she was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery at HUP in the Trauma Division. As a Major in the US Army Reserves she has served tours of duty at Tripler Medical Center in 2006 and at Walter Reed in 2009.

In addition to her active clinical practice Dr. Sims has been unusually active and successful in basic research. Her research interests include the neuroendocrine profile of trauma as well as novel resuscitative strategies and mitochondrial dysfunction in hemorrhagic shock. She also currently conducts translational research investigating vasopression deficiency in trauma patients and its impact on mitochondrial dysfunction.

She is conducting a randomized controlled clinical trial of vasopression supplementation during early resuscitation of patients with traumatic shock. Her research is funded by the NIH through a K08 grant as well as by other grants from the American Association for Surgery of Trauma, the American College of Surgeons, and the National Trauma Institute. As part of her K08 career plan she is pursuing course work for her PhD in Bio-Chemistry and Molecular Biophysics.

Carrie belongs to a number of professional societies including the Association for Academic Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American Association for Surgery of Trauma and the Mitochondrial Physiology Society. She has published more than 33 peer reviewed papers as well as a number of reviews, editorials and book chapters.
Career Paths of the 2013 Graduating Penn Chief Surgical Residents

Arminder Jassar, MD

Dr. Arminder Jassar received his medical degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. He moved to the United States in 2003 and worked at Penn as a fellow in Thoracic Oncology Research Lab. He investigated techniques to augment immunotherapy for lung cancer and mesothelioma under Drs. Larry Kaiser and Steven Albelda before starting his surgical training. During his residency, he was awarded a grant from the American Heart Association and spent two years in the lab of the Drs. Robert and Joseph Gorman developing novel techniques of quantitative 3D echocardiography and mitral valve repair. Arminder will continue his training at Penn as a fellow in cardiothoracic surgery.

Major Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD

Dr. Major Kenneth Lee, IV is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. He obtained his MD and PhD in Immunology from Penn in 2006. As a student he earned both the IS Ravdin and Clyde F. Barker prizes in surgery. During his surgical residency he spent 1 1/2 years in the laboratory of Brian Czerniecki studying dendritic cell vaccine for breast cancer. This was funded through an Ethicon-SUS Surgical Research Fellowship Award. He also spent 6 months in clinical fellowship at Providence Portland Medical Center in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery. He was the recipient of the Penn Center of Surgical Excellence award in 2009 and the Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year award in 2012. He will now enter fellowship training in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis.

Derek P. Nathan, MD

Dr. Derek Nathan is a graduate of Swarthmore College. He received his MD from Penn. During his residency Derek spent two years in the laboratory of Dr. Benjamin Jackson studying the role of wall stress in thoracic aortic pathology. He will move with his wife, Diane, and son, James, to Seattle, Washington, as a fellow in vascular surgery at the University of Washington.

Dr. Robert Redfield graduated from Loyola College with a BS in Engineering. He attended medical school at the University of Maryland, graduating magna cum laude. There he was elected to AOA and won the Wayne W. Babcock Award for excellence in surgery. During his HUP surgical residency he spent 2 years in the lab of Ali Naji. He was awarded the Young Investigator Award at the 2011 American Transplant Congress for his research into novel therapies to deplete plasma cells. He will pursue fellowship training in abdominal transplant surgery at the University of Wisconsin.

Brant W. Ullery, MD

Dr. Brant Ullery is a graduate of Northwestern University. At Cornell University Weill Medical College he was awarded the G. Thomas Shires Prize in Surgery and the Dean William Mecklenburg Polk Prize in Research. His most coveted award was meeting his future wife on the first day of medical school. While a HUP surgery resident he has performed research related to neurologic complications following thoracic endovascular aortic repair and the hemodynamic instability associated with carotid angioplasty and stenting. Next year he will be a fellow in vascular surgery at Stanford University.

Niamey P. Wilson, MD, MSHP

Dr. Niamey Wilson earned her undergraduate degree from Hamilton College and her MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. During her surgical residency at HUP she was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Penn, earning a Master of Science degree in Health Policy studying surgical decision making. She is the recipient of the Armstrong Founders Award for her research. She had two beautiful children during her surgical residency, Elia and Hudley. She will be continuing her training at HUP next year as a Breast Surgery Fellow.

2013 Award Recipients

Penn Center of Surgical Excellence Award
◆ Jessica A. Cintolo, MD and Robert R. Redfield, III, MD

Top Gun Award
◆ Jessica A. Cintolo, MD and Robert R. Redfield, III, MD

William Y. Inouye Resident Teaching Award
◆ Jessica A. Cintolo, MD

William Y. Inouye Faculty Teaching Award
◆ Douglas L. Fraker, MD

Leonard D. Miller Teaching Award
◆ Robert R. Redfield, III, MD

Ernest F. Rosato Faculty Teaching Award
◆ Benjamin M. Braslow, MD

Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Teaching Award
◆ Major Kenneth Lee, IV, MD, PhD

Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award
◆ Eric K. Shang, MD

Gordon Busby Surgical Leadership Award
◆ Jeffrey A. Drebin, MD, PhD

Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award
◆ Robert R. Redfield, III, MD

Surgical Mentorship Award
◆ Y. Joseph Woo, MD
Career Paths of 2013 HUP Fellowship Graduates

Claire Edwards (Breast Surgery)
George Washington University Medical Center
Washington, DC

Walid Hesham (Colon and Rectal Surgery)
Lancaster General Hospital
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Jesse Goldstein (Craniofacial Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of North Carolina

Daniel Schmid (Microvascular Surgery)
Summit Medical Group
Berkeley Heights, New Jersey

Gabriel Del Corral (Microvascular Surgery)
Carroll Hospital Center
Westminster, Maryland

David Light (Microvascular Surgery)
Practice
Huntington, New York

Shailen Sehgal (Robotic Surgery)
Center for Urologic Care in Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Nicole Krumrei (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of Florida Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida

Amy Makley (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Kyle Remick (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, Maryland

Rachel Sensenig (Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery)
Cooper University Hospital
Camden, New Jersey

Erin Murphy (Vascular Surgery)
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Columbia University
New York, NY

C. Kristian Enestvedt (Transplant Surgery)
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Post Fellowship Appointments of 2011 HUP General Surgery Chief Residents

- J. Raymond Fitzpatrick
  Assistant Professor of Surgery (Cardiac Surgery)
  St. Luke’s University Hospital
  Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

- Danielle Hari
  Assistant Professor of Surgery UCLA (Surgical Oncology)
  Harbor UCLA Medical Center
  Los Angeles, California

- Benjamin Herdrich
  Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  University of Wisconsin
  Madison, Wisconsin

- Demetri Merianos
  Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  Cornell University

- Hooman Noorchashm
  Assistant Professor of Surgery (Cardiothoracic Surgery)
  Harvard University, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
  Boston, Massachusetts

- David Stitelman
  Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  Yale University
  New Haven, Connecticut

Breaking Ground For “Advanced Care” New Home of the Penn Trauma Center

On May 15, Penn Medicine and Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC) broke ground on the new “Advanced Care Hospital Pavilion”. With the completion of this expansion project – slated for January 2015 – PPMC will gain the infrastructure and programmatic support needed to accommodate Penn Medicine’s Level-1 Regional Resource Trauma Center. The Trauma Center of Penn Medicine will then move from its current base of operations at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center.

The new 178,000 square foot Advanced Care Hospital Pavilion at PPMC will feature overall upgrades and enhanced capacity for emergency surgery, trauma and critical care patients. A helipad will ensure rapid access to state of the art resources for critically ill patients. The project also includes expansion and significant renovations of PPMC’s current structure. An additional emergency bay, increased operating room capacity, and a new trauma resuscitation area will greatly improve the evaluation and stabilization of critically injured patients.

Michael Choti (continued from page 3)

He is also active in conducting clinical trials in gastrointestinal cancer therapy. He has led a national cooperative randomized trial in cancer therapy and is currently serving as the lead investigator in an international randomized trial for treatment of advanced colorectal cancer. His other areas of interest include palliative care and ethical issues in the surgical cancer patient. Dr. Choti’s basic and clinical research has been constantly supported by extramural sources including the NIH. He has authored more than 260 peer reviewed research publications and over 100 review articles and book chapters.

Dr. Choti is a member of numerous professional societies, including the American Surgical Association, Southern Surgical Association, Society of University of Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, Halsted Society and the Surgical Biology Club II. Previously named as the Department’s Distinguished graduates were James Hardy, James Thompson, Ted Copeland, Scott Jones, Stan Dudrick, Chuck Koop, Mory Ziegler, Steve Bartlett, Danny Jacobs, Roy Smythe and Jim Luketich. Mike Choti is a most worthy selection as the 2013 honoree.

Patrick Reilly, MD, Chief of the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery is joined by PENN Medicine Senior Leadership at the groundbreaking for the Advanced Care Hospital Pavilion on May 15 (from left to right - Harvey Waxman, MD, John Flamma, MD, Alyson Cole, MPM, Ralph Muller, Janie Blackwell, J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, R. Joey Fay, Michele Volpe, Pat Reilly, MD).
Alumni News

♦ Again a strong PENN presence was noted at the annual Society of Vascular Surgery meeting in San Francisco (May 29th – June 1st). For the third year Ron Fairman was Program Chair. Ron also moderated and presented papers. Several PENN alumni and faculty gave paper presentations – Ben Jackson, Melissa Kirkwood, Joseph Lombardi, and Edward Woo. Other Penn alumni and current housestaff had poster presentations. Joe Bavaria, MD, the Brooke Roberts/William Maul Measey Professor of Surgery at Penn, and the Director of the Thoracic Aortic Surgery Program participated in the meeting by moderating one session and presenting a paper in another session. The 4th Annual Penn Vascular Alumni Reception was held during the meeting on Thursday, May 30th – it was a well attended and enjoyable evening. Plans are already underway for next year’s alumni event in Boston!

♦ Taine Pechet, MD has been appointed Acting Chief of Surgery at UPMC-Presbyterian. Ken Murayama (Presbyterian’s former Chief of Surgery) has accepted a position as Director of the Department of Surgery at NewYork Presbyterian. Taine joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery at UPMC in 2010. He specializes in all aspects of general thoracic surgery. He has special interest and experience in minimally invasive techniques.

♦ James Markmann, MD, PhD, HUP Chief Resident 1995-1996 and former HUP faculty member was elected to the Council of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. Jim is Professor of Surgery at Harvard and Chief of the Division of Transplantation at Massachusetts General Hospital.

New Faces

♦ Albert D’Angelantonio, III, DPM has joined the faculty of the Division of Plastic Surgery as an Assistant Professor in the AC-track. In June, Dr. D’Angelantonio completed a fellowship in lower extremity reconstruction at PENN. He is a graduate of the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine.

♦ Joshua Fosnot, MD has joined the faculty of the Division of Plastic Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the CE-track. Dr. Fosnot is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed a general surgery residency at PENN in 2009. He completed his plastic surgery residency at PENN in June 2015.

♦ Christopher E. Mascio, MD, was appointed Assistant Professor in the AC track in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at CHOP. Dr. Mascio received his medical degree from Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and completed his General Surgery residency at Loyola. He completed a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at CHOP in 2006. Dr. Mascio most recently was a faculty member of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division at the University of Louisville Medical Center.

♦ Punnet Masson, MD, became a member of the faculty of the Division of Urology at PPMC as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the CE-track on July 1st.

♦ Skandan Shanmugan, MD will be a faculty member of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital effective August 15th.

♦ Mike Rotundo, MD, former HUP Faculty Surgeon and now Chairman of the Department of Surgery at East Carolina University, has accepted a position as Chief Executive Officer of the University of Rochester Medical Faculty Group, a 1000 physician faculty practice. In this role he will report to the Dean of the School of Medicine. He will also be Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Vice President for Administration at Strong Memorial Hospital.

After his general surgical residency at Jefferson Mike was a fellow at HUP in Bill Schwab’s Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Program. From 1990 to 1999 he was a HUP faculty surgeon becoming Director of the Trauma Center and Vice Chief of the Division before his move in 1999 to Eastern Carolina University as Professor of Surgery and Chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care.

In 2005 Mike was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery at East Carolina University. In 2007 he was asked to chair the then-struggling East Carolina University Physicians Board which governs the School’s multi-specialty practice group. Mike engineered the largest financial turn-around in the history of this practice group while continuing to chair his department and maintain a busy clinical practice.

Mike has also had a distinguished academic career. He has been President of the Eastern Society for Trauma Surgery, a member of the Society of University Surgeons and of the Halsted Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery email your news to Clyde Barker clyde.barker@uphs.upenn.edu

In May, Brian Czerniecki, MD, PhD hosted a dinner at the 14th Annual American Society of Breast Surgeons Conference in Chicago. Joining Dr. Czerniecki and PENN surgery faculty member, Carla Fisher, MD, were past and current Breast Fellows as well as former HUP housestaff.

In attendance were: Susan Kesmodel, MD, Claire Edwards, MD, Shayna Showalter, MD, Angela Mislowsky, MD, Susan Bahl, MD, Beth Dupree, MD, Megan Fracol, MD, and Brynn Wulf, MD.
On May 23rd, the Penn Medicine Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program faculty and staff marked their 25th year of performing life-saving heart transplants. The celebration was held in the Perelman Center with invited guests from throughout the organization as well as a number of heart transplant recipients.

Established in 1987, the Penn Medicine heart transplant program is part of the Penn Transplant Institute’s multi-organ transplant center at HUP. Since its founding this program has been at the forefront of patient care and clinical advances in heart failure and heart transplantation. Penn’s Heart Transplant program performs more adult heart transplants per year than all other Philadelphia area hospitals combined. It is one of the top five heart transplantation programs in the nation.

The celebration included the presentation of awards to the clinical units and staff in recognition of their excellence in patient care. Mr. Roscoe Love, HUP’s 1000th heart recipient was present at the ceremony to thank Dr. Michael Acker for his leadership role in the success of the program.