



# Penn Surgery Society NEWS

Fall 2009 ■ Volume 3 ■ Issue 1

The Penn Surgery Society News is published quarterly for its members, colleagues and friends of the Department of Surgery. For submissions, inquiries or comments, please contact Mary Hamburg.



Jeffrey A. Drebin, M.D., Ph.D. FACS

## Message from the Chairman

It is my pleasure to welcome the readership back to the Penn Surgery Society Newsletter, which is being published after a hiatus of several years. With the re-introduction of this publication we hope to provide a forum that will keep you abreast on current events involving past and present members of the Department of Surgery, as well as significant clinical and basic science advances being made by members of the surgical faculty at Penn.

I have been a faculty member at Penn for a little over five years, having been recruited as Chief of the GI Surgery Division in 2004 from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to that I performed Residency and Fellowship training at Johns Hopkins and was an M.D.-Ph.D. student at Harvard. While each of the institutions with which I have previously been associated boast a proud surgical tradition, the legacy of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania is clearly second to none. As the recently appointed Chairman of the Department and 14th John Rhea Barton Professor at Penn, I can tell you that despite the challenging financial climate, the Department continues to maintain and extend its' record of success.

The Department of Surgery consists of eleven divisions (Cardiac Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Transplant Surgery, Trauma Surgery, Urologic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery). Each of these divisions is headed by a nationally recognized leader in their field, and offers care at the cutting edge of clinical practice. Our educational programs for medical students, housestaff and fellows have received superb evaluations from our trainees and have been consistently lauded by external reviewers during the re-accreditation process. In terms of research, our basic, translational and clinical investigators continue to develop new knowledge and new approaches to diagnosing and treating surgical disease; our funding from external agencies such as the National Institutes of Health continues to place us among the top Departments of Surgery in the nation. Add in one of the largest endowments among academic Departments of Surgery, a close working relationship with one of the most successful integrated Health Systems in the country and a multi-year record of growing clinical volumes and prudent fiscal management, and I think it is clear that the Department of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania is well positioned to extend our leadership position in American Surgery into the twenty first century.

A note of special thanks to Drs. Clyde Barker and Jim Mullen, who have played critical roles in reinvigorating this group, and to Mary Hamburg, our Alumni Coordinator. Speaking for them, and for the faculty of the Department of Surgery, welcome back - we will look forward to your participation in the Penn Surgery Society.

Sincerely,

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**Clyde F.  
Barker,  
M.D.**

## From the Editor

Over many generations an important aspect of our surgical program has been the unusually strong loyalty the residents and fellows have had for each other and for the Department. Increasing specialization has made it more difficult to maintain contact with old friends or learn of departmental activities through scientific societies and meetings.

Our new chairman and the editorial board believe this newsletter will help keep us in touch and bring our extended family closer together. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. It can only work properly if our alumni respond to the request to share information about themselves. Please email us with information about your accomplishments and other changes in your lives.

### Editors:

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Donald Guthrie Professor of Surgery

**Mary Hamburg**

Alumni Coordinator

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[www.ups.upenn.edu/surgery/pss.html](http://www.ups.upenn.edu/surgery/pss.html)

## 14th John Rhea Barton Professor

**Jeffrey A. Drebin, MD, PhD, FACS**, has been appointed Chair of the Department of Surgery at Penn Medicine, John Rhea Barton Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. A tradition established in 1878, the Barton Professorship was the nation's first endowed chair in surgery. In his new position, Dr. Drebin will oversee a diverse range of programs and services spanning 10 divisions in the Department of Surgery, including advanced patient care, basic and clinical research and the surgical education program. He assumed his new role on February 1, 2009.



A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Drebin obtained his surgical training at Johns Hopkins before joining the surgical faculty at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In 2004 he came to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as the Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery and vice-chairman for research for the Department of Surgery. His many clinical interests include pancreatic cancer; acute and chronic pancreatitis; the use of new technologies to manage liver tumors; disorders of the bile ducts and management of gallbladder disease. Dr. Drebin has published more than 70 peer-reviewed research papers and numerous book chapters and reviews, many of which help increase our understanding of the molecular biology of cancer, provide pre-clinical support for the development of novel treatments or address advances in clinical care of patients with gastrointestinal malignancies.

## A Foundation in Research

Dr. Drebin's research contributed significantly to our understanding of the genetic origins of cancer. His classic work with monoclonal antibodies directed against the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2/neu) protein provided the scientific foundation for the evolution of targeted therapeutics for cancer and led to the development of the first generation of targeted monoclonal antibody drugs for the treatment of breast cancer. Dr. Drebin's laboratory continues to explore new approaches to understanding the molecular biology of colon, liver and pancreatic cancers. Current research efforts are focused on novel approaches to the targeted therapy of these gastrointestinal malignancies.

## National Reputation

Dr. Drebin has been recognized by many professional and scientific societies. At the national level, he has served in leadership roles with a number of organizations, including the American College of Surgeons and the Society of Surgical Oncology. He has also served on study sections and scientific review groups for the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense and other biomedical research organizations. He was recently voted President-Elect of the Society for Clinical Surgery, one of the oldest and most prestigious surgical societies in the nation.

# Julius A. Mackie

## Distinguished Graduate Award

The 2009 Julius A. Mackie Distinguished Graduate Award and Lecture honoring Dr. Stephen Bartlett took place on May 20-21 at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Bartlett, a HUP chief resident in 1985 was only the 8th recipient of this award that honors graduates of HUP's general surgery residency who have achieved prominent academic positions in Surgery.



Stephen T. Bartlett, M.D. received his bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed his residency training in general surgery in 1985 at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and did a vascular surgery fellowship at Northwestern University.

Dr. Bartlett went on to become an Associate Professor at the University of California Davis before moving to Maryland to

revitalize the university's Transplant Program. His specialties include kidney and pancreas transplantation and vascular surgery. Dr. Bartlett was recognized as a "Top Doctor" in Baltimore Magazine's 2008 survey. He is currently Chairman of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Chief of Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Dr. Bartlett, who is also the Barbara Baur Dunlap Professor of Surgery, came to Baltimore in 1991 from the University of California at Davis to lead the University of Maryland's Division of Transplantation. Within only five years, he had developed the medical center's kidney and pancreas transplant program into one of the largest and most successful programs in the United States,



known for excellent patient care, innovation and community outreach. By the mid-1990's, Dr. Bartlett had also performed Maryland's first simultaneous pancreas/kidney transplant and its first successful pancreas-alone transplant.

Working with colleagues in general surgery, Dr. Bartlett was also a leader in the development of laparoscopic technique for removing a kidney from a living donor, which allowed increased numbers of patients with kidney failure to identify a living donor.

Dr. Bartlett is a member of many distinguished professional societies including the Society of University Surgeons and the American Surgical Association. He has published more than 200 scientific papers on a variety of basic and clinical research projects, including islet cell transplantation, kidney transplantation in HIV+ patients and the exciting new field of composite tissue transplantation (face and limb) which was the subject of his Mackie lecture.

### Past Distinguished Graduates

**1991 – James D. Hardy**  
*Chief Resident, 1948-49*

**1992 – James C. Thompson**  
*Chief Resident, 1958-59*

**1994 – Edward M. Copeland, III**  
*Chief Resident, 1968-69*

**1995 – R. Scott Jones**  
*Chief Resident, 1966-67*

**1996 – Stanley J. Dudrick**  
*Chief Resident, 1966-67*

**1997 – C. Everett Koop**  
*Chief Resident, 1944-45*

**1998 – Moritz M. Ziegler**  
*Chief Resident, 1973-74*

# Alumni News

Faculty, Residents, Alumni of Penn Surgery  
email your news to Mary Hamburg  
mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu

- ◆ **Clyde F. Barker, M.D.** was presented with the Society of University Surgeon's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2009 Annual Academic Surgical Congress. The award is given to individuals who have had a sustained career in surgery with contributions to the surgical sciences. Dr. Barker also received the Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology presented by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, the Department of Surgery and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute.
- ◆ **Jeffrey P. Carpenter, M.D.**, was named Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Camden and Chief of Surgery at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ. Jeff completed both his general surgery residency and vascular fellowship at Penn and was a member of the faculty for 16 years.
- ◆ **Niraj Desai, M.D., Ph.D.** has joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins Hospital as an Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program. Niraj completed his general surgery residency at Penn in 2000 and was a transplant fellow in Penn's program from 2000 to 2003.
- ◆ **Jeffrey A. Drebin, M.D., Ph.D.**, the John Rhea Barton Professor and Chairman was named President-Elect of the Society of Clinical Surgery in 2008.
- ◆ **Vincente Gracias, M.D.** was named Chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical care of UMDNJ-RWJUH. Following completion of his Trauma/SCC fellowship at Penn in June of 1999, Dr. Gracias became a faculty member of Penn's Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care.
- ◆ **Ross Milner, M.D.** has joined the faculty at Loyola University as Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Following completion of his general surgery residency at Penn in 2001, Ross was a vascular fellow at HUP from 2001-2002. He was formerly member of the vascular surgery faculty at Emory University.
- ◆ **Joseph B. Shrager, M.D.** has assumed the role of Professor and Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Stanford University Medical Center. Joe is an alumnus of Penn's general surgery residency program and was a faculty member in the department of surgery from 1997 to 2008.
- ◆ **Francis R. Spitz, M.D.** was named Chief of General Surgery, in the Department of Surgery at Cooper University Hospital in April 2009. Frank had been a member of the Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery Division at Penn for 12 years.
- ◆ **W. Roy Smythe** and **Steven F. Fishman**, were elected as members of the American Surgical Association in 2009. Dr. Smythe completed both his general surgery training and CT fellowship at Penn and is currently the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Texas A&M Health Science Center. Dr. Fishman finished his general surgery residency at Penn in 1992 and is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and a Senior Associate in Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital.
- ◆ At the September 2009 meeting of the Halsted Society **Larry Kaiser** presided as President, while **Ron Fairman, Jim Markmann**, and **Marc Mitchell** were on the scientific program.
- ◆ In November of 2008 the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania honored **Ernest F. Rosato, M.D.** with the I.S. Ravdin Master Clinician Award. This award recognizes an active master clinician who is a skillful, compassionate practitioner with a long and consistent record of contributions to the Penn School of Medicine and Health System

## New Faces

- ◆ **Amy Cha, M.D.** joined the Division of GI surgery on October 1st. Amy completed her general surgery residency at the University of Illinois and a fellowship in Surgical Flexible Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery at the The Cleveland Clinic.
- ◆ **Nimesh Desai, M.D., Ph.D.** came on board the faculty of Division of Cardiovascular Surgery on July 1st. Dr. Desai recently completed an advanced aortic fellowship at Penn.
- ◆ **Thomas Guzzo, M.D.** joined the faculty of the Division of Urology on August 1st. A graduate of Penn's urology residency program, Dr. Guzzo completed a two year fellowship at the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in urologic oncology. In addition to his work in the division of urology Dr. Guzzo is a collaborator with the proton therapy program at the University of Pennsylvania.
- ◆ **Daniel N. Holena, M.D.** joined the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care on July 1st as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Holena was a fellow in Penn's Trauma and SCC program from 2007-2009.
- ◆ **Matt Levine, M.D., Ph.D.** joined the Division of Transplant Surgery on March 1st, 2009. Dr. Levine completed a general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a fellowship in abdominal organ transplantation at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

- ◆ **Arianna Smith, M.D.** joined the faculty of the Division of Urology on August 1st. A graduate of Penn's urology residency program, Dr. Smith completed a two year fellowship in Female Urology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Smith is currently involved in building a state-of-the-art program in Pelvic Medicine and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital.
- ◆ **Grace J. Wang, M.D.** joined the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery faculty as an Assistant Professor on July 1st. Following completion of a surgical residency at MGH, Dr. Wang finished a two year vascular fellowship at Penn on June 30th, 2009.

## Obituaries

- ◆ **Charles Thomas Fitts, M.D.**, 76, alumni of Penn's medical school and brother of former Department of Surgery chairman, William T. Fitts, Jr., M.D., died on November 4th, 2008. Dr. Charles Fitts was credited with the creation of the organ transplant program at the Medical University of South Carolina where he was a faculty member from 1965 to 1993.
- ◆ **Dr. E. Ross Kyger III, M.D.**, Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston died on the 26th of March 2009. Dr. Kyger was a resident in HUP's general surgery residency program from 1967-1974.
- ◆ **Major John P. Pryor, M.D.**, Associate Professor in the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care, was killed by enemy fire in Iraq on December 25, 2008. John was serving his second tour as a combat surgeon with the United States Army. He deployed on December 6th and had been on location with a forward surgical team.
- ◆ **Dr. James C. Thompson**, retired Chairman of the Surgery Department at the University of Texas (1970-1995) died at his home in Galveston, TX on May 8, 2009. Dr. Thompson completed his surgical residency at Penn in 1959 and was a member of Penn's faculty until 1963. Dr. Thompson was eulogized along with Drs. Debakey and Sebastian at the 2009. Annual Meeting of the American Surgical Association. Dr. Thompson had been past President of the American Surgical Association as well as the American College of Surgeons.

## Giving Campaign

Penn's Department of Surgery has several exciting initiatives underway for which we could use your support. One is the Clinical Surgical Skills Simulation Center, recently built in 1400 square feet at Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse (the old Graduate Hospital). Renovations allowing this program to be launched were provided by a \$1,000,000 grant from the Measey Foundation. Support for the

ongoing function of this important educational resource will require continued fund raising.

Another initiative is the Transplant House which Dr. Barker is honored to learn will bear his name. It will be constructed at 3940 Spruce Street. Patterned after the Ronald McDonald Houses it will provide housing for needy patients and families during the often prolonged period before and after transplantation.

The architect, Rafael Vinoly and the Philadelphia Trade Unions, and L.F. Driscoll Company are donating their time and effort. From the Board of Women Visitors, Antique Show, Nearly New Shop, United Way, UPHS golf outing, and transplant patients and their families, \$1,800,000 has already been donated. An additional \$200,000 needs to be raised to achieve the preconstruction goal.

Another initiative is to obtain funds for the portrait of Larry Kaiser. An artist (Jonathan Friedman) has already been selected.

We would be grateful for contributions you might wish to make for the support of any or all of these initiatives. Contributions would be tax deductible if made out to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

If you choose to make a contribution it should be sent to:

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Surgery  
Division of Surgery Education  
3400 Spruce Street, 4 Maloney  
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Design anticipated for the Clyde F. Barker Transplant House

# The Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center

The Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center is a 22,000 square foot which improves upon existing training for Penn medical students, physicians, nurses and other allied health professional by integrating the innovative technology of medical simulation into the educational process. To enhance the learning experience, the Clinical Simulation Center integrates several approaches including actors trained to respond as standardized patients, responsive human-like mannequins which can mimic medical conditions and respond appropriately to drugs by dosage and high-tech, virtual reality simulators which can simulate procedures from colonoscopy to robotic surgery. These advanced technologies come together within the Clinical Simulation Center to offer a realistic, yet safe, learning environment which translates into greater safety and better outcomes for Penn Medicine's patients.

The Clinical Simulation Center provides students the opportunity to learn and practice techniques both independently or as part of a medical or surgical team. Trainees face difficult procedures and real-life stressful scenarios,



**Resident Sarah Mathew, central line**

allowing them to learn how to plan for and approach possible complications. In addition to technical skills, individuals are also able to learn best practices for communicating with both patients and their families.

In the year since its July 2008 opening, the Center has trained over 6000 students for a total of greater than 55,500 student hours. The majority of these students were either

Penn medical students or Penn Medicine residents or nurses. All first and second year Department of Surgery residents spend the equivalent of four weeks a year at the Center on a rotation that incorporates daily lectures by Department of Surgery faculty members with simu-

lation based instruction on topics such as general, GI, thoracic, critical care, plastic and endovascular surgery. Surgical residents also have the opportunity to perform invasive medical procedures such as laparoscopic surgery, endoscopy, bronchoscopy, cardiac catheterization and AAA repair.

One of the most diverse simulation centers in the world, the Penn Clinical Simulation Center was the first to offer a Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery course in March 2009, now required for certification from the American Board of Surgery. The Center will be re-offering this course again in November 2009 due to the overwhelming success of the initial course. The Center is an American Heart Association approved training site, is one of less than approximately fifty Centers that has received accreditation as an educational institute by the American College of Surgeons and is the site of several Department of Surgery led research projects.

The Department of Surgery gratefully acknowledges the \$1,000,000 educational grant from the Measey Foundation which continues to provide the required simulators in the Measey Surgical Simulation Suite within the Simulation Center.

**Noel N. Williams, M.D.**  
*Director, Surgery Simulation*

**Kristoffel R. Dumon, M.D.**  
*Associate Director,  
Surgery Simulation*

**Andy S. Resnick, M.D., MBA**  
*Executive Director, Penn Medical  
Clinical Simulation Center*

**Gretchen Kolb, MS, CGC**  
*Operations Director*

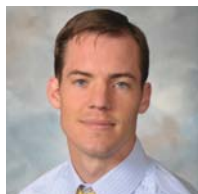
**Visit simulation the web site at:**  
[www.uphs.upenn.edu/SIMcenter/SIMcenterhome.html](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/SIMcenter/SIMcenterhome.html)



**Dr. Cowan and residents Ned Bartlett and Eric Shang during bronch training.**

# FY10 First Year Residents

## Categorical General Surgery



**Edmund Bartlett**  
Penn



**Jeffrey Cohen**  
Penn



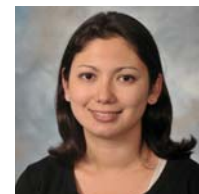
**Zev Kornfield**  
Penn



**Kathreen Lee**  
Boston University



**Olugbenga Okusanya**  
Penn



**Heather Wachtel**  
Yale

## Gen./Plastic Surgery



**John Fischer**  
Syracuse

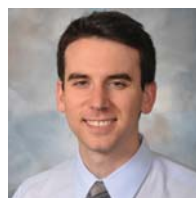


**Anthony Taglienti**  
Penn

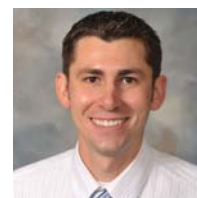
## Urology



**Scott Caesar**  
Penn



**Martin Kathrins**  
Columbia



**Robert Kovell**  
Penn



**Nasheer Sachedina**  
Penn

## Graduate Career Paths

### Breast Cancer

**Susan Bahl, M.D.**

Frederick Memorial Hospital  
Frederick, Maryland

### General Surgery

**Joshua Fosnot, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Adam Kaye, M.D.**

Children's Mercy Hospital  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Samuel Kim, M.D.**

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts

**April Nedeau, M.D.**

Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Andrew Newman, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Jin Hee Ra, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Thomas Wixted, M.D.**

Community Practice, General Surgery  
Vashon, Washington

### General/Plastic Surgery

**Suhail Kanchwala, M.D.**

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, Texas

**Elizabeth Kim, M.D.**

Community Practice  
New Haven, Connecticut

### Trauma/Surgical Critical Care

**Adam Fox, M.D.**

Reading Hospital and Medical Center  
Reading, Pennsylvania

**Daniel Holena, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Adam Shiroff, M.D.**

UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hospital  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

**Michelle Strong, M.D.**

Trauma Trust  
Tacoma, Washington

**Eugene Reilly, M.D.**

Reading Hospital and Medical Center  
Reading, Pennsylvania

**Nabil Tariq, M.D.**

Cleveland Clinic  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Dustin Mark, M.D.**

Kaiser Permanente  
Oakland, California

### Thoracic Surgery

**Tammy Baxter, M.D.**

Jackson Memorial Hospital  
Miami, Florida

**Nimesh Desai, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Philip Rascoe, M.D.**

Texas A&M Health Science Center  
College Station, Texas

**Clifton Reade, M.D.**

Alliance of Cardiac, Thoracic, and Vascular  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

### Urology

**Daniel Canter, M.D.**

Fox Chase  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Aaron LaTowsky, M.D.**

Community Practice  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Phillip Mucksavage, M.D.**

UCLA  
Irvine, California

### Vascular Surgery

**Grace Wang, M.D.**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

# Future Alumni Events

◆ **Ronald Fairman, M.D.**, the Clyde F. Barker - William Maul Measey Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery at Penn will be hosting a dinner at the SVS meeting in Boston for all former Penn vascular surgery fellows as well as HUP general surgery residents who went into vascular surgery. For more details and information please email Mary Hamburg at [mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu).

◆ Plans are underway for a new networking alumni site for **Penn Surgery Society members**. To ensure prompt notification of when the site is up and running, be sure to email Mary Hamburg at [mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:mary.hamburg@uphs.upenn.edu) with current email contact information.

## 2009 Award Recipients

### Penn Center of Excellence and Top Gun

- ◆ **Jessica A. Cintolo, M.D.**
- ◆ **M. Kenneth Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**

### William Y. Inouye Resident Award

- ◆ **David H. Stitelman, M.D.**

### William Y. Inouye Faculty Award

- ◆ **Ernest F. Rosato, M.D.**

### Leonard D. Miller Award

- ◆ **Adam J. Kaye, M.D.**

### Resident's Faculty Teaching Award

- ◆ **Jon B. Morris, M.D.**

### Leonard J. Perloff Chief Resident Award

- ◆ **Andy S. Newman, M.D.**

### Jonathan E. Rhoads Research Award

- ◆ **Robert E. Roses, M.D.**

### Gordon Buzby Surgical Leadership Award

- ◆ **Rachel R. Kelz, M.D.**

### Keith Reemtsma Surgical Resident of the Year Award

- ◆ **Paige M. Porrett, M.D., Ph.D.**



## Penn Surgery

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