

67th Annual Strauss Lecture

Continued from page 14

- Dan Wu, MD, VA—“What Surgeons Should Know About Personalized Cancer Medicine”
- Gary Mann, MD, MD Anderson—“Management of Peritoneal Surface Malignancies— Reason for Optimism, or an Exercise in Futility?”
- Peter Neligan, MB, Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery—“Current Treatment of Lymphedema”
- Rob Rush, MD, Madigan Army Medical Center—“The ‘War’ on Low Volume Surgery”
- Giana Davidson, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery—“Shared Decision Making and Conflict with Informed Consent: How is Research Changing the Conversation in Appendicitis and Diverticulitis?”
- Josh Hermsen, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery—“Heart in a Box”
- Robert Higgins, MD, Professor, Johns Hopkins University—“Surgical Education in the New Millennium— Innovations on the Horizon”
- Niten Singh, MD, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery—“New Concepts and Trials for Preserving Limbs”
- Sherene Shalhub, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery—“Descending Thoracic Aortic Dissection: A New Look at an Old Disease”
- Elina Quiroga, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery Diversity Council Update and—“Vascular Surgery Global Health: Training International Colleagues with Educational Opportunities for our Residents”
- Matthew Sweet, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery—“Fenestrated and Branched Endografting for TAAA: The UW Experience”
- Susanna Shin, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery—“Bifurcated—Bifurcated Aneurysm Repair: A Novel Technique to Repair Infrarenal Aortic Aneurysms in the Setting of Common Iliac Artery Aneurysms”
- Benjamin Starnes, MD, Professor & Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery—“Personalized Endovascular Surgery”

#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Nicole Gibran



Dr. Nicole Gibran

Photo credit: Michael Hilleary

For this issue, Surgery Synopsis staff interviewed Dr. Nicole Gibran, Director of the Regional Burn Center and Professor in the Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery. Dr. Gibran was appointed Director of the Regional Burn Center in 2012. She is a distinguished clinician and researcher and has achieved many awards and honors in her life, including becoming the first woman to hold the office of President of the American Burn Association (ABA) in 2012. As she responded to the question of why she became a burn surgeon, “A career in burns would allow me to marry a career in research in wound

repair and response to injury with a clinical practice.” She has done all that in impressive fashion. In #GettingToKnowDoS” we get to know her other interests, likes, dislikes and what might have been an alternative career.

Synopsis: What was the last book you read?

Gibran: I hate to admit the last book I read, my husband was horrified I’d waste my time on historical fiction. It was *Three Sisters, Three Queens* by Philippa Gregory. It’s the story of Henry VIII’s two sisters, Margaret and Mary, and his wife Catherine of Aragon. I bought it because we were stuck at the Auckland airport from 6am to 11pm, so this helped pass the time.

Synopsis: What is the next book you’re planning to read?

Gibran: I’ve just started reading *Tribe* by Sebastian Junger. He also wrote *The Perfect Storm*. He was a war correspondent in Sarajevo. It’s an analysis of post-traumatic stress in soldiers. He’s building an interesting argument that PTSD is not so much about trauma, but rather about the loss of community, loss of belonging to their squadron. It’s an interesting thesis and very controversial. The other book I’m reading is about how to grow an organic orchard. I have three apple trees, and I would like to get a couple of pear trees and some stone fruit, maybe peaches and plums.

(continued on page 16)

Synopsis: Any favorite movies?

Gibran: Again, I hate to admit this—I'm a sucker for the movie *Mamma Mia*. How can you not like Meryl Streep? I'll tell you my favorite scene in the whole movie, it's the one where she's jumping up and down on the bed. It's such a good movie! Another movie I love is the *Robin Hood* movie with Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchette. It looks at how Robin Hood became estranged from society and how he developed his band of outlaws who were not loyal to King Edward I. It's a great movie and I love Cate Blanchette.

Synopsis: What about a least favorite movie?

Gibran: *Psycho*—that shower scene had a very real and lasting impact on me. I think about it to this day every time I am in a strange hotel.

Synopsis: Any favorite TV shows?

Gibran: It's not current, but I'm a *West Wing* fan. I'm sort of dorky and I like the wonkiness of that show. I also like *Downton Abbey*. I tried to like *House of Cards*, but it's too dark for me.



Back: Oliver and Alexander
Front: Drs. Nicole Gibran and Frank Isik

Synopsis: Do you have a favorite restaurant?

Gibran: That's very difficult, there are too many! I love Nishino. For brunch, my go-to place is High Spot. There are months I'll be there every week. The Sammy Sue is the best breakfast sandwich in town. I also really enjoy happy hour; I like doing the small plates. The Fairmont does a really good happy hour, and the best thing about it is it's long, I think 3–7pm. Red Cow is also very good.

Synopsis: Do you collect anything?

Gibran: I collect art. I collect wood block prints. The ones I have on my office door are known as Provincetown prints or white-line prints. A lot of the artists I collect are Provincetown artists.

Synopsis: What's a pet peeve?

Gibran: People who misuse grammar. My Fellows make fun of me because I'm always correcting people's use of the verb "to be." And I despise the passive voice. Staff send me documents and I re-write them to get rid of the passive voice. And I hate when people misuse "while," which relates to time, when they really mean "whereas." I recently helped write some questions for SESAP and Tam Pham told me he could tell which questions were mine because they all had "whereas." I also can't abide mediocrity. You have to aim high because more often than not you're going to make it.

Synopsis: What musical act are you currently into?

Gibran: At my age you're supposed to be able to declare yourself a Stones person or a Beatles person. In high school I was a Beatles person and listened to them non-stop, but in college I discovered the Stones. I really can't decide. These days I mostly listen to classical music, but there's another group I really like that no one has ever heard: Roxy Music. I do like Pink Martini, though I liked them better in their earlier days.

Synopsis: What would you be if not a surgeon?

Gibran: A chef. **Synopsis:** What would you cook? I'll cook anything. Except bread. Or I'd be an artist. I love wood block printing. I was a biochemistry in college, but I spent more time in the art studio than in the biochem lab.



Team members of the UW Medicine
Regional Burn Center (including Dr. Nicole Gibran—center and
Dr. Tam Pham—far right)
at Harborview Medical Center.

Photo credit: Clare McLean/UW Medicine

Synopsis: What is an interesting fact about you that many people don't know?

Gibran: I'm addicted to genealogy and sites like www.ancestry.com. My husband will be going to sleep and I'll tell him "I'll be up in 15

(continued on page 17)

#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Nicole Gibran

Continued from page 16

minutes,” then 6 hours later there I am, still at my computer. The coolest thing I’ve discovered so far is that Eleanor of Aquitaine is my 26th great grandmother—along with 2.5 million other people. My son says that if I pay them enough money they will tell me I am a direct descendent of Jesus Christ.

Synopsis: Speaking of genealogy, you’re related to the poet and writer, Kahlil Gibran, right?

Gibran: Yes, that’s right. He was a cousin to my grand parents and my father’s godfather. My mother, at the age of 83, has just spent the last 2 years working on a biography of him, which is now at the publisher.

Synopsis: What is your next travel destination?

Gibran: I’m planning to go to Cornwall soon. One of the things I discovered while researching my family’s genealogy is that my mother’s family was from Cornwall, they lived there for centuries. I would really like to take my mother there.



Dr. Nicole Gibran and family at Lake Louise
“Coldest experience I have ever had in my life.”
Dr. Frank Isik, Alexander, Oliver, Dr. Nicole Gibran

Synopsis: What is your personal motto?

Gibran: My burn team members all anticipate that if I am in a good mood I will call them skallywags. Many people don’t know that it was a pirate’s term of endearment.

Synopsis: What is one of your guilty pleasures?

Gibran: That’s easy, spending hours on www.ancestry.com. Or any of the other DNA sites. I actually sent a swab off to one of those sites. I was very impressed to learn how many relatives I have on both sides in Australia.

Synopsis: Do you have a goal for the coming year?

Gibran: I have embarked on an enormous project with my burn team to transform the way we deliver burn care. It’s so exciting. We had a burn center retreat recently with 45 people at all levels, pharmacists, nutritionists, bedside staff, and we also brought



Dr. Gibran at the
2016 Burn Center Retreat

patients. It was really energizing hearing the voice of the patient; it was such a powerful experience. We brainstormed what we wanted to accomplish with the burn center and it all came back to standardization of care, improved communication and eliminating toxic variation. We have established 5 work groups to develop a comprehensive adherence map for implementation in April. This would be a sort of checklist on steroids to standardize resuscitation, wound management, mobil-ity, etc. Hopefully, it will be the basis of a PCORI grant application.

Save the Dates

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 3, 2017

7:00a.m.—2:30p.m., UW Tower Auditorium

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY 23RD ANNUAL

HELEN AND JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE

Friday, March 3, 2017

3:00p.m.—4:00p.m., UW Tower Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Diana L. Farmer

Chair and Pearl Stamps Stewart Professor
Department of Surgery

University of California, Davis
Surgeon-in-Chief

UC Davis Children’s Hospital

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GRAND ROUNDS

See monthly Grand Rounds schedule
under [Upcoming Special Events](#) on our website.