

Division of General Surgery

Patch Dellinger, MD, Chief

New Faculty

The Division of General Surgery enters 2010 with an expanded faculty, having added four new faculty members during the past year (**Drs. Saurabh Khandelwal, Juan Parra, Venu Pillarisetty, and David Row**) as well as one each in the two prior years (**Sara Javid in 2008 and James Park in 2007**), bringing our General Surgery faculty to 19 (including **Dr. Carlos Pellegrini**).

These faculty, hired after national searches, bring a range of new talent to the Division:

- **The Surgical Oncology section** has grown the most with **Jim Park** bringing an emphasis on hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, **Sara Javid** on breast and endocrine disease, and **Venu Pillarisetty** on pancreatic and hepatobiliary surgery.
- **Saurabh Khandelwal** completed the laparoscopic fellowship at UWMC, and we were lucky enough to convince him to stay on as a bariatric and laparoscopic general surgeon. He joins **Drs. Brant Oelschlager, David Flum, Andy Wright and Patch Dellinger** in this area.
- **Juan Parra and David Row** have joined us to run our new Surgery A service, which focuses on emergency and urgent consults and on cutting our backlog of general surgery referrals to the Surgical Specialties Center. Dr. Row also brings with him the experience of a colorectal fellowship and has begun providing scheduled colonoscopies on a regular basis.



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The genesis of these positions began about a year and a half ago. At this time, the General Surgery Division experimented with starting the Surgery A service to better staff our urgent and emergent consults and to provide a better experience for our residents taking these calls. After experimenting with staffing this service by the regular faculty one week at a time, we made the decision to hire two new faculty (Parra and Row) to staff this team full time. This has been a positive experience for the residents on the team, providing a more consistent approach to our consults and emergency patients, greatly reducing the backlog of referrals, and speeding up the appointment process in the Surgical Specialties Center.

Changes to Processes and Programs

Saturday OR Schedule

The influx of so many new faculty paired with the inability to open more operating rooms at UWMC has led to the initiation of a regular Saturday OR schedule in General Surgery. After extensive discussion with the Medical Center to ensure a safe experience for our patients and appropriate availability of ancillary services, General Surgery began running two rooms each Saturday with a rotating schedule in which all faculty participate. Faculty who operate on Saturday release an OR block during the week prior or after, which is then used to accommodate the needs of our new surgeons and Surgery A. The surgeon is also encouraged to take a day off to compensate for the Saturday schedule.

Center for Bariatric Surgery

There is considerable demand for bariatric surgery, and with the addition of **Dr. Khandelwal** we expect to see a significant increase in the number of bariatric cases in the coming year. During the past two years, as the Bariatric Program has developed, a number of important changes were made, including the introduction of adjustable laparoscopic bands to the procedures offered in our bariatric service. The Bariatric Center is a truly multi-disciplinary effort with patients receiving considerable education before and after surgery.

The Center provides excellent training for residents and in addition, a number of research studies focus on various aspects of bariatric surgery. We are proud to report that the bariatric team received level 1-A designation as a bariatric center by the American College of Surgeons three years ago, and we are approaching our first recertification in the next month.

Teaching within the Division of General Surgery

The General Surgery Residency Program at the University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals provides integrated training in all areas of general surgery through an intensive five-year clinical, didactic and investigative program. The program, which currently has over 90 residents, is dedicated to the education of diverse individuals who will become excellent clinicians, and many of whom will assume leadership positions in academic medicine.

Under the superb leadership of **Dr. Karen Horvath** and her team, we continue year after year to attract the top 10% of applicants from around the United States. Our program is challenging in every way, with high expectations and standards for its trainees. At the same time it fosters a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment fostered by the collective talent and dedication of the entire department.

We continue to successfully incorporate the many changes mandated for residency programs. The General Surgery Residency Program recently underwent its re-accreditation review and received a five year re-accreditation status.

Research within the Division of General Surgery

Surgery Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)

Dr. David Flum, is the Director of SORCE, which, with start-up assistance from the Department, has grown rapidly over the past two years. He and his team have successfully competed for a number of research grants, and are a major resource for other researchers within the University. The goal of outcomes research is to identify the best evidence to guide patient care by critically appraising the results of a procedure and its global impact on the patient's health and well-being, satisfaction, functional status, lifespan and on the healthcare systems. Outcomes researchers then "translate" this research into practice and policy by working with surgeons, payers and purchasers of healthcare.

Basic and clinical research continues within the Division as well:

- **Drs. Oelschlager, Pellegrini and Tatum** are currently investigating a number of issues within the gastric and esophageal arena.
- **Drs. Satava, Sinanan, and Wright** are heavily involved in the Institute for Simulation and Interprofessional Studies (ISIS), and each has several studies that involve simulation training for surgeons, including the development and testing of new simulators
- **Dr. Ray Yeung** continues his impressive research career (along with a busy clinical practice) in the genetic basis for cancer. He continues to receive considerable funding from NIH as well as other organizations.
- **Drs. Jim Park and Venu Pillarisetty** are involved in collaborative research projects with investigators in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and at the SCCA respectively.

All in all, General Surgery continues to be a busy and productive place to work in our Department.

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