

New Recipients of Endowments Named



Nicole S. Gibran, MD, FACS, Professor, Department of Surgery and Director of the Burn Center, Harborview Medical Center, was recently named the *David and Nancy Auth – Washington Research Foundation (WRF) Endowed Chair for Restorative Burn Surgery*. The purpose of the Chair is to “enhance the University’s ability to recruit and retain distinguished faculty in restorative burn surgery at the UW Medicine Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center (HMC).” Several internationally known candidates, including Dr. Gibran, were reviewed as potential recipients. The Committee came to the strong conclusion that Dr. Gibran was the “ideal candidate and most appropriate individual” to be the recipient of this endowed chair. She is an outstanding and internationally recognized burn surgeon. She is the immediate past-president and the first woman to hold the position of President of the American Burn Association, the leading academic society in the field. She is also an internationally recognized scientist and researcher with investigations that are unraveling the mechanisms involved in healing of thermal wounds. Her educational efforts are no less stellar: she has mentored over forty clinical and research burn fellows who are now assuming leadership roles in the field of burn surgery.



Sara Kim, PhD, Research Professor, Department of Surgery and Director of Educational Innovation and Strategic Programs, ISIS, was named the inaugural *George G. B. Bilsten Professor in the Art of Communication with Peers and Patients*. A number of potential recipients were reviewed and there was unanimous agreement among the nominating committee members that Dr. Kim is the candidate of choice for this appointment. Dr. Kim was a pivotal faculty member at the University of Washington for 10 years prior to leaving for a position at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) where she was Associate Professor and Director of the Instructional Design and Technology Unit at the David Geffen School of Medicine (UCLA). Dr. Kim is uniquely qualified to hold this endowed professorship. Her research, background and passion for educational innovation assure that she will be a strong leader in the development, implementation and evaluation of educational programs and projects that promote the highest quality education for learners.

Alumni Corner

A recent alumnus, John Keech, MD, shared his career and family news and reflected upon his time as a surgery resident at the University of Washington. Many of you will know Dr. Keech.

“It has been some time since I’ve contacted either one of you, but I want to first and foremost thank you for my general surgery training at the University of Washington. My thoracic fellowship has been amazing and I could not be happier at Washington University. Through all of the ups and downs of residency, the skills I obtained have paid amazing dividends.



John Keech, MD

One of the most critical aspects of my general surgery training was the independent thinking, decision making and troubleshooting skills I learned at the University of Washington. In the end, we all develop great technical skills but these (other skills) instilled a certain confidence that often goes underappreciated until you leave your comfort zone (residency).

“I am starting the interview trail right now, and have several good academic job prospects, as does Katherine. I am certain that it will work out for both of us. I’ve changed my research focus from basic science to clinical/outcomes and plan to do some additional coursework and maybe an advanced degree during the first several years of my career. It’s a bit daunting changing focus, but it’s the right thing for me and I’ve got the enthusiasm, interest and a plan to make this work in the long run.



“Katherine has been doing great at Children’s Hospital of St. Louis and has revamped their pediatric regional anesthesia program. Jack and Conor [pictured left] are a little over 2 and are blazing a trail just as 2 year old boys should.”

Dr. Keech was a general surgery resident from 2004-2011 and met his wife, Katherine Cashman, while she was in her anesthesia residency at UW.