The Department of Surgery held its 2013 Graduating Chiefs Residents & Fellows Dinner on Friday, June 21, 2013 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. Dr. Dana Lynge, Associate Professor, practicing general surgery at the Veteran’s Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VA), was this year’s Master of Ceremonies.

This annual dinner reception honors the Department’s graduating residents and fellows (listed below) as well as provides an opportunity for presentation of special awards and recognitions.

Among the awards this year was the 2013 Faculty Teaching Award, given to Dr. Ted R. Kohler, Professor, Vascular Surgery (pictured above) and presented by incoming Chief Resident, Dr. Darren Bowe. This award, established in 1989, is in memory of former faculty member Dr. John K. Stevenson and salutes teaching excellence and dedication to resident education.

Other awards presented that evening:

- Resident Recognition Award – Recipient Dr. Darren Bowe
- Henry Harkins Award – Recipient Dr. Estell Williams
- David Tapper Teaching & Leadership Award – Recipient Dr. André Ilbawi
- Nurse of the Year Award – Recipient Cameron Wright, RN

2013 Graduating Chief Residents

Coordinated Plastic Surgery Program
Dr. Austin Hayes – Hand Surgery Fellowship at The Curtis National Hand Center in Baltimore, MD
Dr. Kate Kuhlman-Wood – Hand Surgery Fellowship at Baylor University in Houston, TX

General Surgery Program
Dr. Shahram Aarabi – pursuing a fellowship in trauma
Dr. Dante Conley – multidisciplinary clinic as a general surgeon at the Tanana Valley Clinic in Fairbanks, AK
Dr. Giana Davidson – General Surgery faculty as Acting Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Medical Center

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Vlad Simianu, MD, PGY4

Dr. Simianu will work as a T32 trainee under mentor Dr. David Flum, Professor of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery. He plans to study surgical care for advanced-stage cancer patients across Washington State. Dr. Simianu will investigate best practices and stage-specific outcomes in the delivery of surgical care to these patients through evaluation of data provided by both the Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program and the program for Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results. His goal is to identify modifiable barriers to care and describe value and appropriateness of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation for these patients. Additionally, Dr. Simianu will use new methods in behavioral economics to better describe the processes of decision making by both surgeons and patients facing advanced cancer.

Ravi Sood, MD, PGY3

Hypertrophic scarring is a proliferative response to injury resulting in scar raised above the skin level. It occurs commonly following partial-thickness burns and other deep-dermal wounds, and is associated with pruritus, pain, functional impairment, cosmetic detriment, psychological morbidity, and decreased quality of life. Dr. Sood will work as a T32 trainee in Trauma and Burn Research under mentor Dr. Nicole Gibran, Professor of Surgery and Director of the UW Burn Center. He plans to test the hypothesis that single-nucleotide polymorphisms in genes that regulate skin pigmentation, including MC1R, lead to hypertrophic scarring by influencing the inflammatory and fibroproliferative responses to cutaneous injury. As part of his T32 fellowship, he will also be pursuing his MS in Epidemiology through the University of Washington School of Public Health.