Dr. Ron Maier, Professor and Chief of Surgery at Harborview Medical Center, has been named a recipient of the 2014 UW Medicine Award for Excellence in Mentoring Women. As director of a premier surgical trauma fellowship, Dr. Maier has supported and mentored women in a field previously dominated by men; 35 percent of the fellows in this program have been women. His successful mentees include 3 professors and an associate professor, as well as several junior faculty and surgeons in private practice.

Nomination comments included:

“He probed our aspirations and plans for the future and went out of his way to enable us to achieve our best potential.”

“Dr. Maier is an outstanding mentor. He provides honest and fair feedback such that you always know where you stand and where you can improve. He is a role model in providing high quality and compassionate care to patients and advocating for trauma systems both within Washington State and around the world. He is constantly seeking opportunities to promote his faculty and fellows on the national stage and has personally provided opportunities for me to enhance my research collaborations and network with leaders in our field.”

“Dr. Maier combines his clinical acumen with the capacity to discern the “big picture” with respect to his patients, as well as an admirable facility to stand up for what he believes is best for their care. Both in the intensive care unit and in the operating room, Dr. Maier has provided me with the freedom to build my own skills and confidence as a clinician, while at the same time maintaining a supportive presence.”

“His guidance in the arena of research was invaluable as he was able to help develop any project through his practical methods, vast experience, and enormous fund of knowledge. Above all else, his support for everyone around him was unwavering as he was always available to lend an ear, give advice, or work through a tough problem, whether it was personal or professional.”

“Emphasis on personal and professional balance seemed to be an afterthought during residence. However, by his example as well as by his guidance, he taught me that professional achievement is often better when partnered with personal success and I should not completely sacrifice life outside my career. It is daunting to think about Dr. Maier’s time commitments to the hospital, university, national and international organizations. However, despite all his commitments, he always found time to mentor me early in my research career.”

“His encouragement, and even more so, his challenge to meet a high standard of excellence in academic surgery, have been key to my development.”

Global Surgery Interest Group (GSIG)

General surgery residents within the Department of Surgery have begun a “Global Surgery Interest Group” (GSIG) that is open to all residents who are interested, thinking about pursuing, or actively engaged in global surgery research and clinical work. We are fortunate to have several of our experienced faculty serving as mentors this group, including Charlie Mock, MD, MPH, Professor, Trauma, Critical Care & Burn Division and associated with the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini and Dr. Karen Horvath are both whole-heartedly behind this resident-led initiative, as are other of our faculty who have made presentations to the group and hosted them in their homes.

The GSIG organizers are: Drs. Meera Kotagal (R-4); Lacey LaGrone, (R-3; beginning her first research year); Barclay Stewart, (R-3, beginning his first research year); Katy Flynn-O’Brien, (R-2, currently in her second research year); Matthew Bartek, (R-2); and Surbhi Mathur (R-2). This group of residents has taken GSIG engagement to new levels in the past year and has proposed some additional actions designed to involve other residency programs. We appreciate and congratulate this group of motivated residents. Dr. Kotagal, on behalf of the group, recently submitted this review of GSIG activities during the past academic year and provided an overview of plans for the upcoming year.
Global Surgery Interest Group (GSIG)

“The resident leadership of the Global Surgery Interest Group (GSIG) in the department met to debrief on the group’s work this past year and to talk about our plans for the coming year, and we wanted to write and send you (Drs. Pellegrini and Horvath) an update.

Over the past academic year we hosted four events:

- A Friday conference with Dr. Abebe (from Ethiopia);
- A dinner session with Dr. Crook (from the Thai Burma Border Initiative) at Dr. Ted Kohler’s house;
- A global surgery journal club at Dr. Eileen Bulger’s house;
- A skills session on management of orthopedic trauma (with orthopedics’ Chief Residents Drs. Haquebord and Sousa).

In addition, we developed a listserv and have grown this list of residents and faculty interested in global surgery.

This coming academic year we plan to host five events:

- A community building event for incoming interns and residents/faculty to get to know others interested in global surgery;
- A skills session on management of obstetric emergencies;
- A journal club meeting;
- A couple of events (format TBD) to hear from residents and faculty involved in global surgery about their experiences and work.

We also plan to provide those interested in global surgery with more educational content over the course of the year. To help implement this goal, we plan to send a structured email to the list every month identifying a key piece of knowledge: an update on events happening in global surgery (e.g. Lancet Commission report release or DCP3 release) or a key article in the field focused either on burden/outcomes or methodologies in global health (e.g. needs assessment). Each update will be accompanied by a “Cliff’s-type notes” summary.

Finally, we want to make this multi-disciplinary by expanding to others in different surgical specialties, as well as to residents in Anesthesia and Emergency Medicine. We want to provide them opportunities to participate in the GSIG’s work. We are reaching out to each of those communities to invite them to join our email listservs, invite them to events and to generally participate to whatever extent they would like.

We are excited about the plans for the coming year and our growing global surgery community. We want to thank the Department and the General Surgery Residency program for their continued support and encouragement of global surgery at UW Medicine.”

Editor’s note: For more information on the GSIG, you may contact Dr. Meera Kotagal mkotagal@uw.edu or any of the other leaders of this group listed above.

2014 Graduating Chief Residents’ & Fellows’ Dinner

The Department of Surgery held its 2014 Graduating Chief Residents’ & Fellows’ Dinner on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. Dr. Roger P. Tatum, (pictured right), Surgeon-in-Chief and 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 as well as provides an opportunity for presentation of special awards and recognitions.

Among the awards this year was the 2014 Stevenson’s Faculty Teaching Award, given to Dr. Grant O’Keefe, (pictured left), Professor, Trauma and Burn and presented by incoming Chief Resident, Dr. Callie Thompson. 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:

- Henry Harkins Award
  Recipient Dr. Eriberto Michel
- Nurse of the Year Award
  Recipient Pam Turner, RN
- Resident Recognition Award
  Recipient Dr. Angelo Lipira
- David Tapper Teaching & Leadership Award
  Recipient Dr. Darren Bowe
- UW Department of Surgery Student Research Award
  Recipient Dr. Daniel Bushyhead
- 2013-14 Harborview Medical Center Annual Housestaff Award for Outstanding Humanitarianism and Excellence in Clinical Care
  (Harborview Medical Center Sponsored Award)
  Recipient Dr. Joshua Mourot
- 2014 Graduating Chief Residents
  Plastic Surgery Program
  Dr. Martin Paukert — entering private practice in Santa Rosa, CA
  Dr. Stephanie Peng — entering private practice in Chicago, IL

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