Endowed Chairs

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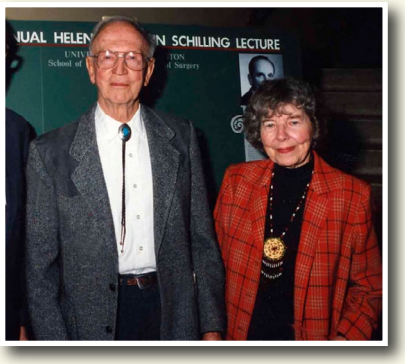
The Schilling Endowed Lectureship and Annual Schilling Research Symposium



The Helen and John Schilling Endowed Lectureship was established by the late Helen Schilling to bring distinguished scholars to the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington, and to enhance the Department's commitment to the highest standards of patient care, teaching, research and scholarship. It was Mrs. Schilling's wish that the lectureship be in honor of her husband, John. Dr. Schilling devoted his life to academic medicine in a career spanning 50 years.

Dr. Schilling came to the University of Washington in 1974 as a senior investigator and, upon the sudden resignation of the chairman, was asked to take over the management of the Department of Surgery. This chairmanship, his third, lasted eight years until his retirement. His first responsibility was to recruit faculty to fill the many vacancies, a task he achieved after several stormy years. Upon his retirement in 1983, he had recruited 41 new faculty members and graduated a total of 40 chief residents. His career in academic surgery was marked by a devotion to patient care and teaching, as well as research.

The Schilling Lecture began in 1995 and has been held annually since then. As part of the Schilling Lectureship, the Department has set aside one and one-half days to focus on Research. Residents and Fellows present research to a panel of faculty and the Schilling lecturer. The presentations are discussed and prizes for the best research presentation are presented at the Schilling dinner, after the Schilling Lecture.

The 21st **Annual Schilling Lecture and Research Symposium** will be held in February 27, 2015 with guest Schilling Lecturer Walter J. Pories, MD, Professor of Surgery at East Carolina University.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Crowdfunding: Can It Have A Role In Funding Medical Research?

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising many small amounts of money from a large number of people, typically via the Internet. The crowdfunding industry is young but has seen tremendous growth, more than tripling in size over the last three years. Industry reports by Massolution estimate that $5.1 billion was raised worldwide in 2013, up from $2.7 billion in 2012 and $1.5 billion in 2011.

This funding approach has begun to gain traction in Department of Surgery (DOS), especially as federal sources of funding (National Institutes of Health and others) have been steadily declining. Some of the uses that have been explored in DOS include supplemental funding for sponsored investigators; supporting pilot projects not yet ready for NIH submission; large equipment purchases not otherwise covered; or providing bridge funding to established investigators who are between funded projects.

Of the several hundred crowdfunding platforms around the world, **Consano.org** is one of only a few that specializes in medical research. Consano, which means "to heal" in Latin, was founded by Molly Lindquist, who in 2011 was diagnosed with breast cancer. Ms. Lindquist wanted to find a way to support medical research directly so as to reduce the chances of her daughters facing a similar fate one day. As a non-profit crowd-funding platform, Consano allows users to browse over a dozen projects in areas ranging from cancer to diabetes to mental health, and donate at any level they choose. Minus a small fee to PayPal, 100% of the proceeds goes to the investigator and may be used to fund any number of research expenses, such as laboratory supplies, research assistants, and even clinical trial volunteers. Consano's robust process of vetting projects includes review by a scientific advisory board whose 31 members include physicians, scientists, and patient and research advocates. Members evaluate each project to ensure it is legitimate, relevant, and has potential for creating real change.

Dr. Michael Mulligan, Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, *(pictured right)* and **Dr. James Park**, Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery, *(pictured on page 12)* are two recent and relevant examples of DOS faculty using crowdfunding to support their research. Dr. Mulligan's project, "**Short of Breath: Increasing Available Lungs for Transplant**" raised over $13,000 from 60 donors, which

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Crowdfunding

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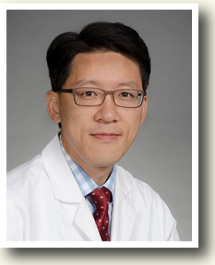
he will use to purchase lab supplies needed to support his ongoing innovative research in lung ischemia reperfusion injury (LIRI). Dr. Mulligan recently completed an R01 grant from NIH in support of this work, and the funds raised on Consano provide important funding to keep his lab active while he prepares his next application.



Dr. James Park, Associate Professor in the Division of General Surgery, recently posted his project "**The Illuminator: Changing the Way We See Liver Cancer**," which seeks to raise $10,000 to develop an advanced imaging technology that will increase liver cancer diagnostic accuracy and speed, potentially saving millions of lives around the world. Funding from Consano will provide the seed money necessary to file an investigator-initiated Radioactive Drug Research Committee application with the Federal Drug Administration and begin development of a clinical-grade Illuminator that meets good manufacturing practice standards.

Crowdsourcing is by no means a substitute for sponsors such as the NIH, societies and foundations, or our generous benefactors, without whom we would be unable to undertake the high-impact, multi-year research for which we are known. But, crowdsourcing does provide a new and potentially powerful way for individuals with only a little money but a lot of interest - who may otherwise never be connected with our research - the opportunity to have a very real impact on discoveries that change people's lives.

UWMC Receives "Meritorious Status" on Quality Scores from ACS NSQIP

The **American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP)** recognized the **University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC)** at its just-concluded Clinical Congress, as one of only 44 participating hospitals that have achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care. Participation required UWMC to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collect data in eight important clinical areas:

- Mortality
- Unplanned intubation
- Ventilator greater than 48 hours
- Renal failure
- Cardiac incidents (arrest and myocardial infarction)
- Pulmonary/Pneumonia
- Surgical Site Infections
- Urinary Tract Infection

The hospital achieved meritorious distinction based on composite quality scores in the eight areas listed above. These data were presented in the July 2014 ACS NSQIP *Semiannual Report*, which presents data from calendar year 2013 and was recognized at the ACS Clinical Congress meeting in San Francisco in October 2014.

ACS NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. The goal of ACS NSQIP is to reduce surgical morbidity and surgical mortality and to provide a firm foundation for surgeons to apply best scientific evidence to the practice of surgery. ACS NSQIP is a major program of the American College of Surgeons and is currently used in over 550 hospitals nation-wide.

Many people in the hospital and department working together have achieved meritorious status for UWMC. **Rosemary Grant, RN,** a member of the Department of Surgery staff, in partnership with Julie Duncan, Director of the UWMC's Center for Clinical Excellence, have provided oversight and direction to the many involved. Surgeons involved in achieving this goal are too many too name; however, special thanks to **Patch Dellinger, MD**, Professor and past-Division Chief of General Surgery for his leadership; **Brant Oelschlager, MD**, Professor and Division Chief of General Surgery and **Zoe Parr, MD**, Assistant Professor, General Surgery. A vital element of success in this endeavor is hospital leadership. We thank Steve Zieniewicz, Executive Director, UWMC Administration for his support in this effort.