Bright Future for Cardiothoracic Surgery in the UW System

Continued from page 12

Reflections (cont.)

Bull–Rider’ who was thrown from the bull and stomped on, whose chest rib fractures needed surgical stabilization. From professional athletes to a professional sword–swallower, we’ve treated them all. Can a bullet cross the mediastinum and somehow miss all the vital organs? Sure. Can another bullet cross the mediastinum and hit everything in between? Of course it can.

Patient encounters have influenced my own behavior. For instance, treating several patients who progressed from dental abscesses to descending cervical mediastinitis, has resulted in my own extra diligence with oral hygiene and dental check–ups.

Beyond the sometimes unbelievable stories, there’s incredible teamwork that goes into the care of all these patients. I am eternally grateful to the team of anesthesiologists, nurses, scrub techs, surgeons and residents who tirelessly work and advocate for the health of these patients. The teams are stewards in the face of adversity. They persevere through late hours, multiple rounds, and reassurances to family members, even in situations where the outcomes were not the best. For surgical residents, many deeds they do occur outside of the limelight, and yet are the most critical for patient outcomes. ‘Thoracic Caffeination Rounds’ were a time I got to know and appreciate these remarkable young surgeons.

So what defines us – the residents, faculty and staff at the University of Washington? I believe it’s an unshakable optimism and belief that together we can achieve much more than we can do alone. We have a connection to our patients throughout the WWAMI region, and a desire to always advance science. And finally, there is never–ending support given to me by my mentors, incredible models of leadership and vision abundant throughout the Department of Surgery.

As I advance to the next phase in my career, it is these traits that I’ve learned from all of you, and hope to carry forward in the years ahead."

References


Save the Dates

WASHINGTON AND OREGON STATE CHAPTERS OF THE ACS COMBINED ANNUAL MEETING
June 12–15, 2015
Suncadia Resort
Cle Elum, Washington
www.wachapteracs.org

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS CLINICAL CONGRESS
October 4–8, 2015
Chicago, IL
www.facs.org/education/clinical-congress

HARKINS SOCIETY RECEPTION AT THE ACS
Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Chicago, IL
More information TBA

66th ANNUAL ALFRED A. STRAUSS LECTURE
Friday, October 16, 2015
4:00pm, Hogness Auditorum
Health Sciences Building
Room A–420
Speaker: Dr. Thomas M. Krummel
Emile Holman Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery
Director, Surgical Innovation Program
Stanford University School of Medicine

HARKINS SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM
Friday, October 16, 2015
7:30am–2:00pm
UW Tower Auditorium

22ND ANNUAL HELEN & JOHN SCHILLING LECTURE
Friday, February 26, 2016
3:00pm, UW Tower
Melina R. Kibbe, MD
Professor of Surgery
Northwestern University

Please see the Department of Surgery’s monthly Grand Rounds schedule under Special Events on our website: www.uwsurgery.org