

2017 New Faculty

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Johnathon Rollo, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

Dr. **Rollo** is vascular surgeon and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and is primarily based at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center. He has specialized training in minimally invasive endovascular techniques for limb salvage, carotid artery disease, aneurysm repair and venous disease. Dr. Rollo practices the full breadth of cutting edge vascular surgery and provides complete care of the vascular patient, including patient centered peri-operative decision making, open and endovascular operative care, and post-op follow up. Dr. Rollo earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University and M.D. from the University of Miami. He received advanced vascular and endovascular surgery training from University of California, Los Angeles. He is a member of the **Western Vascular Surgery Society** and **Society of Vascular Surgeons**. In his free time, he plays competitive ice hockey, skis, and hikes.

Srinivas Susarla, MD, DMD, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery

Dr. **Susarla** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Plastic Surgery with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the School of Dentistry. He completed his undergraduate studies at Princeton University, then obtained his doctor of medicine, doctor of dental medicine and a Master of Public Health degrees from Harvard. He completed a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, and a residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Johns



Hopkins Hospital, as well as a fellowship in Craniofacial Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital. Dr. Susarla's expertise is in adult and pediatric craniomaxillofacial surgery, including cranial vault reconstruction, cleft lip and palate, orthognathic surgery, and facial reconstruction.

Wayne Zhang, MD, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

Dr. **Zhang** is board certified in Vascular Surgery. He offers a full range of vascular surgery, specializing in open and endovascular treatments of aortic, carotid, visceral, lower extremity arterial diseases; dialysis access; and venous disorders. Dr. Zhang is also interested in teaching medical students, residents and fellows in clinic and the operating room.



Dr. Zhang received his medical degree at Henan Medical University in China and completed General Surgery Residency and a Vascular/Endovascular Surgery Fellowship at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before joining the University of Washington, Dr. Zhang was Professor and Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, and Vice-Chairman of Department of Surgery at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. He has held leadership positions at various organizations, including Vice-President of **International Society for Vascular Surgery (ISVS)**. Dr. Zhang is Associate Editor of *Annals of Vascular Surgery* and Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Zhang is primarily based at the Puget Sound VA Health System and also practices at the University of Washington Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center.

Outside of the hospital, Dr. Zhang enjoys running, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

2017 Faculty Promotions

Ramasamy Bakthavatsalam, MBBS Promoted to Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery

Dr. Bakthavatsalam also holds an appointment as a professor in the Department of Urology, Living Donor Kidney Program Director as well as Program Director and

UNOS Primary Surgeon for Kidney & Pancreas Transplantation. He is one of the leads in the multidisciplinary team that manages complex urological/retroperitoneal tumors involving the inferior vena cava (IVC). His clinical interests include living donation, complex vascular reconstruction in patients with portal hypertension, and renal re-vascularization procedures for cases which are not suitable or failed by interventional radiology. Under his leadership as Kidney Program Director, the Transplant Division has successfully

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achieved superior outcomes in kidney transplantation, resulting in the division being recognized as one of the Top 10 transplant centers of similar volume in the nation. Dr. Bakthavatsalam has been voted one of The Best Doctors in America since 2009 and has received the Seattle Top Doc designation for the past 4 years.



**Shannon Colohan, MD, MSc,
FRCSC, FACS
Promoted to Associate Professor,
Division of Plastic Surgery**

Dr. Colohan works primarily at the Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at UW Medical Center. Her area of expertise is reconstructive plastic surgery with a specific focus on cancer reconstruction.

She pursued her undergraduate and medical education at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. From there, she completed her plastic surgery residency training at Dalhousie and received additional fellowship training in breast and microsurgery at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, TX. During her residency training she spent a year in London pursuing a Master's degree in epidemiology.

Her clinical interests include reconstruction of cancer defects including microsurgical techniques to reconstruct the breast; and general reconstruction using free flaps, pedicled flaps and perforator flaps. Her research interests include clinical outcomes in reconstructive plastic surgery, with emphasis on breast reconstruction; fat grafting for reconstruction of oncologic defects; and optimizing surgical techniques to improve the functional and aesthetic appearance of reconstructive procedures.

Outside of medicine she enjoys boating with her husband and two 90lb rescue dogs. She also enjoys learning new instruments (currently, oboe), the arts (live music concerts, plays, and musicals), and home design. She loves the PNW, and is happy to call it her home.

**Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH
Promoted to Associate Professor,
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery**



Dr. Farjah is thoracic surgeon, clinical researcher, and educator. He completed training in general and cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Washington (UW) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, respectively. During his general surgery residency, he also completed a three-year post-doctoral research fellowship in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics under the mentorship of Drs. David R. Flum and Douglas E. Wood.

Since joining the faculty in 2012, Dr. Farjah has been clinically active in all aspects of thoracic surgery, although his primary clinical interests are in thoracic oncology, minimally-invasive thoracic surgery, and endoscopy. His primary sites of practice are the UW Medical Center and Northwest Hospital. His research focuses on improving outcomes and the value of care for patients with or individuals at-risk for lung cancer. Other general investigative interests include risk-prediction and biomarkers, comparative-effectiveness, and quality improvement research. Dr. Farjah has received funding support from the **National Cancer Institute**, **CHEST Foundation**, and **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**. As the Associate Medical Director of the **UW Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)**, he mentors general surgery residents pursuing a T32 Gastrointestinal Outcomes Research Fellowship (PI: Flum) and collaborates with other clinical research faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Public Health. He plays an active role in training the next generation of cardiothoracic surgeons as the Associate Program Director for the UW Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency Programs.



**Jeffrey Friedrich, MD
Promoted to Professor,
Division of Plastic Surgery**

Dr. Friedrich is a plastic surgeon at Harborview Medical Center (HMC) and Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) and holds a joint appointment in Orthopedics as a Professor and Adjunct Professor of Urology.

At HMC, he focuses on hand and wrist surgery and lower extremity reconstruction. He works actively with orthopedists to help provide comprehensive care in these areas. He also collaborates with urologists to perform complex genital reconstruction.

He is a member of the hand surgery group at SCH, which includes all aspects of congenital hand differences and pediatric hand trauma. He also provides care for adults and children with brachial plexus injuries both at HMC and SCH.

Dr. Friedrich is the director of the UW Plastic Surgery Residency and the associate program director of the UW Hand Surgery Fellowship. As a result of these positions, he has academic interests in medical education and communication skills. He serves in leadership positions in national organizations including the **American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons (ACAPS)**, the **American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH)**, the **American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS)** and the **American Association of Hand Surgeons (AAHS)**.

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Dr. Friedrich's clinical interests include adult and pediatric hand and wrist surgery; hand burns; lower extremity reconstruction; brachial plexus surgery; microsurgery and urologic reconstruction. His research interests include resident education; communication skills; clinical outcomes and resource allocation in hand and wrist surgery; lower extremity reconstruction outcomes; urologic reconstruction outcomes and quality improvement initiatives.



Saurabh Khandelwal, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor
Division of General Surgery

Dr. Khandelwal's clinical interests include minimally invasive surgery with a focus on bariatrics and esophageal surgery. His research interests include clinical outcomes research, surgical education and training.

His scope of care includes general surgery, minimally invasive surgery and bariatrics and he is a strong believer in the team approach to patient care and meeting the needs of the individual patient.

Danielle Lavalley, PharmD, PhD
Promoted to Research Associate
Professor, Division of General Surgery
Surgical Outcomes Research Center
(SORCE)



Dr. Lavalley is a patient-centered outcomes researcher whose work focuses on developing novel processes for collecting and reporting patient-reported data in a manner to support both clinical and patient decision-making. In addition, she leads the **CERTAIN Patient Advisory Network**, an initiative to incorporate the patient perspective into both quality improvement and research activities through active patient engagement. Through this work she is leading research initiatives to assess novel processes for engaging patients and caregivers as collaborators in research. She is formally trained in Health Services Research with a specific focus in qualitative methods and patient-centered outcomes research. Dr. Lavalley holds a PharmD from the University of Kansas and a PhD in pharmaceutical health services research from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In addition to her appointment in the Department of Surgery, she serves as Medical Director for Patient Reported Outcomes and Patient Generated Health Data for UW Medicine.



Kimberly Riehle, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor,
Division of Pediatric General and
Thoracic Surgery

Dr. Riehle is a general and thoracic pediatric surgeon at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH). She performs a wide range of neonatal and pediatric surgical procedures, in addition to prenatal consultations. Her clinical inter-

ests include neonatal surgery, pediatric minimally invasive surgery, pediatric thoracic surgery, and prenatal consultation; her research interests include the liver's response to injury and pediatric liver cancers. Her laboratory is supported by the **National Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute)** and the **Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation**.

Dr. Riehle attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she received a BA in chemistry and French prior to obtaining her medical degree at Emory University School of Medicine. She completed her general surgical training at the University of Washington, followed by pediatric surgical training in Boston Children's Hospital. She returned to Seattle to join the faculty at SCH in 2010.

Matthew Sweet, MD
Promoted to Associate Professor
Division of Vascular Surgery



Dr. Sweet completed his general surgery residency at the University of California San Francisco and his vascular surgery fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. During his residency, he completed a master's degree in clinical research with the UCSF Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

His practice includes the open and endovascular treatment of aortic, visceral, carotid and lower extremity arterial disease, with a particular focus on the endovascular and open treatment of complex aortic aneurysms.

Dr. Sweet's research interests relate to the development of new endovascular therapies for aortic aneurysms involving the peri-visceral aorta and aortic arch, as well as, the study of the morphology, natural history and epidemiology of thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms. His clinical interests include general vascular surgery; open and endovascular therapy for complex aortic aneurysms; non-invasive vascular laboratory. Dr. Sweet also recently became the UWMC Section Chief for Vascular Surgery.

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Nicole White, MD, FACS
Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
Division of General Surgery
UW Medicine Northwest Hospital

Dr. White is board certified in general surgery. She is the Clinic Chief of UW Medicine Surgical Services and Hernia Center and the Division head of General Surgery at Northwest

Hospital. Her current focus is surgery for the treatment of gallbladder, hernia, gastroesophageal reflux disease and colon disease. Dr. White has a special interest in robotic surgery and recently reached the 600 case milestone.

She graduated with Alpha Omega Alpha honors from George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., and completed a residency in general surgery at the Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. Dr. White completed a fellowship in 2005 in minimally invasive foregut surgery at the Ryan Hill Foundation at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. She is a fellow and member of the **American College of Surgeons (ACS)**, the **Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)**, **American Hernia Society (AHS)** and **Seattle Surgical Society**.

Researcher Profile: Sherene Shalhub, MD, MPH



Dr. Sherene Shalhub

The aorta is the largest artery that carries oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the body; an aortic dissection, a tear in the innermost layer of the aorta, is a painful and life-threatening condition that demands immediate medical attention. A dissection impairs blood flow to vital organs and can lead to full aortic rupture and death. High blood pressure is a common culprit in aortic dissection, but genetically triggered diseases that affect aortic wall integrity—such as Marfan syndrome

and vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome—are also common factors. Although aortic dissection is somewhat rare, about 23,000 new cases of descending thoracic aortic dissection between the ages of 40 and 70 years old occur annually in the United States, making this the most common aortic catastrophe.

Dr. **Sherene Shalhub** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and affiliate faculty at the **Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE)**. She joined Department of Surgery in 2013 and has been working to investigate the effect of gene mutations on aortic and arterial disease, specifically the clinical effect of syndromic and non-syndromic gene mutations on the vasculature and treatment outcomes, with the goal of offering a personalized approach to the treatment of patients with aortic and arterial dissections and aneurysms. Dr. Shalhub's work utilizes a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach with multicenter collaborators from genetics, cardiology and cardiac surgery. This approach led to the creation of the Multidisciplinary Vascular Genetics Clinic, which is dedicated

to the evaluation and management of patients with suspected inherited or familial cardiovascular disorders.

Dr. Shalhub's primary project, ADAPTIVE (Arterial Dissections and Aneurysms Personalized Treatment Investigation), looks at the impact of the clinical features and genetic causes on the outcomes of aneurysms and dissections. A major area of focus is the natural history and the impact of the different heritable thoracic aortic disease mutations on type B aortic dissection. Her research goal is to define the clinical, anatomic, and genetic factors underlying progressive aneurysmal degeneration of the descending thoracic and abdominal aorta post aortic dissection. This research will lead towards better care algorithms to guide patient care in a way tailored to the individual patient. Additionally, she is studying the role of genetic mutations in detail as they affect vascular Ehlers–Danlos syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that frequently causes arterial dissections and ruptures.

Finally, by creating a comprehensive aortic dissection registry and databank that will include patients' full family histories, systemic inflammatory response markers, treatments and subsequent outcomes, Dr. Shalhub will be able to link this data and build a predictive model for future patients, one that will inform personalized treatment plans. The genetic alterations that may lead to aortic dissection are often found in young people. With the help of genetic testing and imaging technology, decisions can be made early in the aortic dissection disease process and managed not only medically but with potentially minimally invasive surgical procedures, such as thoracic endovascular aortic repair (TEVAR). While these procedures allow patients to live longer and healthier lives, knowing a patient's genetic history — including the likelihood of developing long-term complications such as dissection-related aneurysmal degeneration— is a critical part of a patient's comprehensive care.