

#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Martin Montenovo

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training in Argentina and I came here as a clinical observer in the Cardiothoracic Division. Georgia Barroso, who worked in CT administration at the time, did something so special for me that I will never, ever forget. I arrived on a Saturday morning, I could barely speak English, and without knowing or expecting it, there was Georgia at SeaTac airport with a little sign with my name! She came to pick me up, she took me to lunch, drove me around the university showing me the hospital and other nearby sights, then she dropped me off at the university dorm where I was staying. I remember we went around to the trunk, and when she opened it, it was filled with enough groceries for me to last me a month! I couldn't believe it, I was just so touched. She is just such an outstanding person and she will always have a special place in my heart.

SS: What is the best gift you've ever received? **MM:** It's nothing material—it's the laughter from my kids and my wife.

SS: What do you do in your spare time? **MM:** Well, I don't have a lot of spare time but when I do my wife and I really enjoy hosting friends at our house. I love to cook and try out new recipes I like. Even when I come home tired from surgery, I find it relaxing to make spaghetti, ravioli or something like that—but usually it's meat! Then to share that with friends makes it very special. **SS:** Do you have a dish you do particularly well or that you're known for? **MM:** I make a very good mascarpone cheesecake. Many people in the department have tried it and they really like it!



Dr. Montenovo at high school graduation with his mother

Honors, Awards & Publications

Faculty



Dr. **Benjamin Anderson**, Professor, Division of General Surgery, and chair of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center **Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI)**, will receive \$550,000 from **Susan G. Komen** to evaluate the strengths and gaps in processes used by health care facilities in low-resource settings. The goal of this research is to assist health care facilities in evaluating and implementing breast health interventions to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Strategies to build health care capacity in low and middle income countries can be applied in underserved communities in the U.S., Dr. Anderson said. "Today is a critical time where real and meaningful progress can be made by wisely using resources to save lives at home and abroad," he said.

Susan G. Komen is a co-founder of BHGI and has provided support continuously since 2002. Several ongoing Komen grants, awarded in previous years to local researchers including Mary-Claire King, Ph.D. and Nora Disis, M.D. bring Komen's total research investment in Washington state institutions to \$11,630,427 since 1982.

Under Dr. **David Byrd**'s leadership as Chair, the **American Joint Commission on Cancer (AJCC)** will publish the 8th Edition of the AJCC Staging Manual in January 2018, which includes a fundamental change in breast cancer staging. The development of prognostic staging tables, for the first time, will expand on the anatomic staging system into a biological framework. Dr. Byrd, Professor in the Division of General Surgery, has long advocated for this development for solid tumors, just as has already occurred for hematologic malignancies.



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Dr. **Heather Evans**, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Burn, and Critical Care Surgery, and **mPOWER** co-Principal Investigator

Dr. **Bill Lober**, Professor in the Departments of Global Health and Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Informatics, have been awarded a \$600K two-year contract to perform a Health Technology Assessment under the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Safe Healthcare, Epidemiology, and Prevention Research Development (SHEPheRD) Program. The SHEPheRD program is a broad initiative of the **Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)** to provide healthcare epidemiology prevention research, implementation, evaluation, surveillance and medication safety studies. The work is driven by the need to provide more effective guidance for the selective and appropriate use of antibiotic therapy in an era of infections that are increasingly resistant to drug treatment.

Drs. Lober and Evans will oversee the conduct of a health technology assessment to evaluate the use of patient generated health data (PGHD) and mobile devices for surgical site infection (SSI) clinical decision making and surveillance, and then develop and disseminate recommendations for PGHD in SSI. The project is engaging researchers from multiple institutions including the University of Washington, University of Virginia, Western Michigan University, University of California San Francisco, and Emory University. **mPOWER article >>**

Dr. **Farhood Farjah**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was named holder of the Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research by the UW Board of Regents effective October 2017. The Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research was established by anonymous donors in 1999 to attract and retain distinguished faculty. The Chair includes special emphasis on clinical research directed toward identifying new approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with lung cancer.



Dr. **Ron Maier**, The Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor of Trauma Surgery, Vice Chair of Department of Surgery, University of Washington, and Surgeon-in-Chief, Harborview Medical Center, presented the 43rd William T. Fitts, Jr, MD, Lecture at the 76th Annual Meeting of **American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST)** and Clinical Congress of Acute Care Surgery in September 2017.

Dr. Maier's lecture, "Patients Are First," was a call to arms for incorporating Palliative Care into Trauma Surgery, Emergency General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. He described the magnitude of the problem of caring for the seriously ill and injured, showing disappointing statistics for mortality and the poor quality of life of survivors.

Dr. **Sherene Shalhub**, Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, received a PCORI Tier A Pipeline to Proposal award for her project entitled "**Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (VEDS) Research Agenda Collaboration.**" This one-year project started in October 2017 and provides \$50,000 to form a team that will include patients with Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (VEDS), clinicians, and researchers with a commitment to developing a patient-centered research proposal. They will develop the infrastructure and create channels for communication among patients, researchers, and stakeholders who are focused on VEDS. To this end Dr. Shalhub plans to create a formal community, which will include assessing the current information resources available, reaching out to members of the community, developing a communication strategy for stakeholder engagement and communicating with stakeholders via webinars, Twitter chats, and Google Hangouts, creating a REDCap survey network, and finally, setting up a website with infrastructure to support all of these activities. She will also set up a Research Consortium meeting for all stakeholders to discuss the current state of knowledge, assessment, and treatment for VEDS.



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Dr. **Douglas Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, was elected as new **American College of Surgeons (ACS)** Board of Regents member.

Dr. Wood has been a Fellow of the College since 1995 and has played an active role on the Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery (2007–2013) and the Commission on Cancer (CoC), including serving on the CoC Accreditation Committee (2010–2016). Dr. Wood has been involved in the leadership of several cardiothoracic surgery professional organizations, previously serving as president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and president of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. He has served as director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Wood is currently president of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation, president of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Network (CTSNet), and vice-chair of the American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable.

Recent Publications by Our Residents



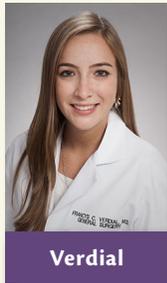
Thornblade



Ehlers



Bartek



Verdial

Thornblade LW, Wood DE, Mulligan MS, Oelschlager BK, Saunders MD, Flum DR, Farjah F. **A nationwide rise in the use of stents for benign esophageal perforation.** *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2017 Jul;104(1):227–233.

Ehlers AP, Oelschlager BK, Pellegrini CA, Wright AS, Saunders MD, Flum DR, He H, Farjah F. **Achalasia treatment, outcomes, utilization, & costs: a population-based study from the United States.** *JACS.* 2017 Sep;225(3):380–386.

Bartek M, Verdial FC, Truitt A, Farjah F. Evaluating the quality and applicability of a study. **The SCORE Portal.** Published April 2017. Accessed September 23, 2017.

Verdial FC, Bartek M, Truitt A, Farjah F. Research design in outcome and health service research. **The SCORE Portal.** Published April 2017. Accessed September 23, 2017.

ACGME BACKTOBEDSIDE INITIATIVE



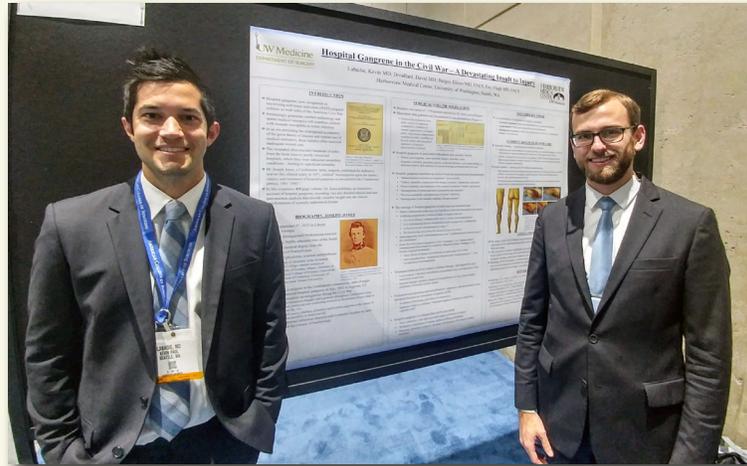
Drs. **Kate Stadel** (pictured above right) and **Jay Zhu** (pictured above left), research residents in the Division of General Surgery, have been selected for **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) BacktoBedside Initiative Funding.** The ACGME Council of Review Committee Residents (CRCR) designed the “Backto-Bedside” initiative to empower residents and fellows to develop transformative projects that combat burnout by fostering meaning in their learning environments and engaging on a deeper level with what is at the heart of medicine: their patients.

The application process was highly competitive with the ACGME receiving over 200 proposals and awarding 30 grants at various funding levels. Proposals focused on ideas such as creating opportunities for more time engaged in direct, meaningful patient care; developing shared sense of teamwork and respect among colleagues; decreasing effort spent on non-clinical, administrative responsibilities; and increasing patient satisfaction through more meaningful time with their care delivery team.

Drs. Stadel’s and Zhu’s project, titled “Standardizing Evening Bedside Huddles To Promote Patient-Centered Care and Inter-Disciplinary Teamwork,” focused on night float rotations, which can be very difficult and isolating experiences for residents. A recent study of internal medicine residents at Duke University indicated that residents on night float rotations reported the

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Residents Win 2nd Prize in the ACS Surgical History Group's Annual Poster Competition



Necrotizing soft tissue infections (NSTI), known at the time as “Hospital Gangrene,” were common and devastating infections suffered by wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War.

Although the predominant risk factors for this disease in the modern era have changed since the time of the devastating musket, rifle, and bayonet wounds of the Civil War, these infections are still frequently treated by the surgical services at Harborview Medical Center (HMC), Seattle, Washington.

Inspired by their HMC experience, Drs. **David Drouillard** (pictured above right) and **Kevin Labadie** (pictured above left), 2nd year general surgery residents, traveled to the **2017 American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress** to present a poster on one of the pioneers of NSTI treatment, Dr. Joseph Jones. Dr. Jones was a Confederate surgeon–scientist whose authoritative research during the Civil War, published in an expansive 400 page surgical memoir, established the core principles for treatment of NSTI which include aggressive surgical debridement, diligent wound care, and systemic medical therapy.

For their poster, which links this historical perspective with modern innovations in NSTI care at Harborview such as “skin–sparing” incisions and immunomodulator therapy, Drs. Labadie and Drouillard won the second prize in the ACS Surgical History Group's annual poster competition.

highest levels of burnout among any group. This is a multifactorial problem and is likely influenced by less interaction with other staff, breakdowns in paging communication between night nurses and night residents, and fewer patient interactions. To help combat this, Drs. Stadel and Zhu plan to institute a standardized evening huddle between surgical night float residents and charge nurses on the acute care surgical floors. The purpose of these huddles will be to go to the bedside of selected patients previously identified as acutely ill and use the standardized IPASS handoff tool to ensure that all members of the care team, as well as the patient, are updated on the patient's status and that a reasonable, appropriate plan is in place. Following this, nurses will also have an opportunity to discuss non–urgent issues or concerns with the night float resident in person at the nursing station.

Through standardization of these nightly huddles, they aim to develop a paradigm of night float residents as integrated members of the physician care team whereby they are engaged in an interdisciplinary care model that promotes meaningful patient interactions. Drs. Stadel and Zhu believe that this will enrich the night float work environment by fostering relationships between residents and nurses, creating a setting for night float residents to spend face–to–face time with patients, and improving the efficiency and quality of communication between nurses and trainees.

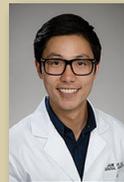
PROJECT TEAM

Resident Leads

Jay Zhu, MD – PGY5 in General Surgery

Kathryn Stadel, MD – PGY4 in General Surgery

Additional Team Members



Jamie Oh, MD – PGY2, General Surgery

Kathryn Harris, ARNP –

Advanced Practice Provider, General Surgery Division

Tracy Kwan, ARNP –

Advanced Practice Provider, General Surgery Division

Jennifer Zech, MS – Research Coordinator,

Department of Medicine

Patricia Kritek, MD, EdM – Professor,

Division of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine,
and UWMC GME Director of Quality & Patient Safety

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2017 American Society of Plastic Surgeons “Resident Bowl”

Chief residents in the Division of Plastic Surgery prevailed against all nationwide plastic surgery residency programs in the 2017 American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) “Resident Bowl” competition. The competition is similar to a debate team or group “Jeopardy” in which residents answer questions from the review materials for in-service exams and other curriculum in their training. Winning team members included Drs. **Erin Miller**, **Elise Min**, **Eugene Oh**, and **Tamara Kemp** (pictured right).



The Harkins' Corner

Dear UW surgical community,

The Harkins Society and our community have had an incredible start to the academic year! The year was kicked off by another very successful Harkins Symposium for resident education. We were honored to be joined by Dr. Andrea Pusic as our 68th Annual Alfred A. Strauss lecturer (page 5). Dr. Pusic is professor of plastic surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering with a focus on breast cancer reconstruction. Her work on patient-reported outcomes and surgical experience (PROSE) has translated to our care of all surgical patients and our understanding of their experience. This is truly exceptional work and we were fortunate to welcome her as our guest lecturer.



Langdale

The symposium was followed by our Annual Harkins Society Dinner at Ivar's Salmon House. At this event we were honored to name Dr. **Maureen Kim Lynch** as our distinguished alumnus. She was nominated by our colleague Dr. **Lorrie Langdale**, and was unanimously selected by our society leadership (page 5). Dr. Lynch is a master surgeon educator and has won countless awards for her education of our medical students in Idaho. This includes an award created for her—the Idaho WWAMI Teacher Superior

in Perpetuity Award. She is a graduate of both the University Of Washington School Of Medicine as well as our General Surgery residency and now serves our veterans at the Idaho VA. Dr. Lynch humbly describes herself as a “worker bee” but to her patients and students she far exceeds this description. She is well respected by her peers and trainees and is described as “one of the best teachers and physicians I have ever worked with.” Many congratulations to Dr. Lynch for this well-deserved award.



Lynch

Importantly, at our annual Harkins Society dinner we inducted our newest members of the society:

- Edo Bedzra
- Christopher Burke
- Joshua Corsa
- Dustin Cummings
- Eleanor Curtis
- Sarasi Desikan
- Anne Ehlers
- Katherine Flynn O'Brien
- Chinenye Iwuchukwu
- Tamara Kemp
- Lacey LaGrone
- Grace Lopez

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