Dr. Eileen Bulger Named New Chair of ACS's Committee on Trauma

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is a multidisciplinary group of surgeons working to improve injury care around the globe, with 86 members on the committee overseeing a field force of more than 3,500 Fellows working to develop and implement meaningful programs for trauma care in local, regional, national, and international arenas. The committee strives to improve the care of injured patients before, during, and after hospitalization. These activities—aimed at education, advocacy, professional development, standards of care, and assessment of outcomes and quality improvement—are disseminated through a variety of programs and subcommittees. Examples include Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®), Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP®), trauma systems consultation, trauma center verification, injury prevention, and the Stop the Bleed campaign.

I am sincerely honored to be asked to serve as the Chair of this committee for the next four years. This is an incredible opportunity to continue to advance the care of the injured patient with our goal of eliminating preventable death and disability after injury. In addition to all of the programs described above, we have several active initiatives. We are working with several professional organizations and government partners on implementing the recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report on developing a National trauma Care System with enhanced military and civilian integration. We are also working on a goal to train every US citizen in the basics skills of bleeding control and to make bleeding control equipment available in public places to enhance our response to mass casualties and mass shootings. We are focusing on building consensus on a public health approach to reducing firearm injury and violence in our society. Finally, we are working on developing a better understanding of the long term functional outcome of patients after severe injury.

Challenges in the Management of Breast and Thoracic Malignancies Symposium

A two–and–a–half–day symposium held in Seattle, Washington, in October 2017 provided up–to–date scientific information to clinicians involved in the care of patients with breast or thoracic cancers. Speakers were nationally and internationally renowned clinicians and researchers who shared their expertise and fostered discussion of the most recent multidisciplinary advances in screening, pathology, surgery, radiology, medical oncology, chemotherapy, novel targeted therapies, immunotherapies, genetics, and palliative care. Far–ranging areas of consensus and controversy were presented and discussed with the goal that audience members leave with the state–of–the–art knowledge needed to maximize success in treating their patients’ breast and thoracic malignancies.

Dr. Douglas Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair and Dr. Kristine Calhoun, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, were co–chairs for the symposium’s thoracic and breast oncological courses. The thoracic portion covered a variety of topics including the role for standard radiation and protons for thoracic malignancies disease; new options for small cell lung cancer; advances in multimodality therapy for pleural mesothelioma; and value–based health care and the impact of payment reform.

The breast portion of the symposium included topics such as therapeutic modalities available for advanced breast cancer, and neoadjuvant therapies in particular; evidence–based recommendations for supportive care and survivorship; cancer outcomes variations in different populations and potential causes; and navigating and interpreting the plethora of available genetic tests and possible results.

Department of Surgery faculty presenters included: Drs. Ben Anderson, Professor, Division of General Surgery; Kathleen Berfield, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; David Byrd, Professor, Division of General Surgery; Farhood Farjah, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Sara Javid, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery; Mike Mulligan, Professor and Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Section Chief, Thoracic Surgery; Hakim Said, Associate Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery; and Janelle Sousa, Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery.

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4th Annual Full Spectrum of Heart Failure Therapy: Managing the Trajectory

The University of Washington Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, in collaboration with the Department of Medicine Division of Cardiology, held their 4th Annual Full Spectrum of Heart Failure Therapy: Managing the Trajectory in Seattle in October 2017. With nearly 200 attendees, this conference was chaired by Drs. Nahush Mokadam and Claudius Mahr, DO (Cardiology), as well as Jennifer Beckman, ARNP (Cardiology), and Jason Bjelkengren, RN (Regional Heart Center). This year, the conference was honored to have two internationally known Keynote Speakers: Drs. Eugene Braunwald (Brigham and Women’s Hospital) and Shashank Desai (Inova Heart and Vascular Institute). Other distinguished faculty from the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery included Drs. Jason Smith and Kevin Koomalsingh as well as other members of the medical center and a host of guest faculty from the region. Over the course of one and a half days, the speakers and audience interacted in lectures, case discussions, small groups, and debates. The organizing committee looks forward to another successful event next year.

Dr. Carlos Pellegrini Grand Rounds Presentation and Portrait Unveiling

The Department of Surgery commissioned an official portrait of Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, Chief Medical Officer, UW Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Washington, which was unveiled at the end of his Grand Rounds presentation in October 2017. The portrait commemorates Dr. Pellegrini’s quarter century of service to UW Medicine, and 23 years as Chair of the Department of Surgery. The portrait, painted by local artist Aron Hart, is now on display in the hallway outside of the Department of Surgery main administrative office. Hart is an award-winning artist and instructor and specializes in oil painting and drawing.