

SURGERY *Synopsis*

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Douglas E. Wood, MD,
FACS, FRCSEd (ad hom)
The Henry N. Harkins
Professor and Chair

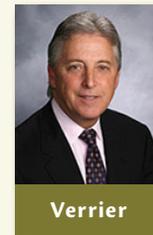
In this edition of *Surgery Synopsis*, we focus on our educational mission. For a number of reasons, the Summer/Fall issue is an excellent time to reflect on education in Department of Surgery:

First, each summer we graduate residents who have completed their surgical residency training in one of our four programs: General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery. Some of our graduates go on to additional specialized training by entering a fellowship program; some are beginning their surgical careers—as an academic surgeon here or in other healthcare systems, or becoming a surgeon in a private group practice. While we hate to say goodbye, we're proud to have trained this elite group of surgeons and excited to see them enter the next phase of their careers.

As we say goodbye to these trainees, we also welcome the new, incoming residents to each of our programs. These four programs each have stellar

reputations—all rated in the top 10 in the country and they routinely match with their top candidates. This is in no small part thanks to a talented group of Program Directors that lead each program: Dr. **Karen Horvath**, who leads the General Surgery Residency; Dr. **Jeff Friedrich** with the Plastic Surgery Residency; Dr. **Ed Verrier**, who leads the Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency; and Dr. **Niten Singh**, who leads the Vascular Surgery Residency. You will see pictures of all our new residents in this edition and read some of the reasons they chose UW Department of Surgery to do the most important training of their career.

Education is an essential part of our mission. To ensure that it has champions at the highest levels, several years ago we created a new position, "Associate Chair of Education," and appointed Dr. Karen Horvath to this role. Along with great breadth and depth of experience, she brings all of her energy, creativity and passion to bear on education in our Department. Under her leadership and with the support of other edu-



cational champions such as Dr. Verrier, our educational programs have made important advances that have elevated the role of education in our department and it is now also an important academic pathway to promotion.

Some years ago, led by Dr. **Patch Dellinger**, then chair of the Department's Appointments & Promotions Committee, the Department revised its promotional criteria to ensure that education was valued as a legitimate part of the promotional pathway. The promotional criteria were voted on by the Department, approved by the School and recommended for approval to the Provost. This was a lengthy process, but ultimately was successful. We are very proud of this accomplishment and believe it is one of the reasons we continue to attract both great surgeons as well as great residents. We truly support education as a core of our academic

(continued on page 2)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE — *Continued from page 1*



Dr. **Tam Pham** has developed his own national profile as a leader in burn care and has accepted the position as Director of the Burn Center. Dr. Pham is passionate about caring for patients with burns and has been leading the regional management of burn victims by developing telemedicine for burn patients and developing protocols that optimize and standardize care.

mission, training the next generation of surgeons, the surgeons who will care for us and our children. Commitment to education is imbedded in the culture and fabric of the department, and it is one of the reasons our outstanding faculty want to continue to work here even if they are highly sought after by other institutions. And it is why we are fortunate to attract the very best residents as well; there is a synergy where their energy and curiosity make us better. Great residents are what make a great program, and they in turn continue to attract similar peers that enrich each other in a supportive and collaborative training environment.

Since Dr. Horvath took the role of Associate Chair of Education we have formed the Program Director's Council which oversees all of our programs, collaborates and coordinates between the residencies and suggests changes the department might make to improve our education programs. The Council also looks at what we can do to better train our faculty to be great teachers—or as Ed Verrier would call them, “surgical coaches.” Later in this issue you will read an article in which Dr. Verrier discusses his passion for surgical education and his vision for training future generations of surgeons.

We would also like to congratulate Dr. **Kristine Calhoun** on her appointment as the Director of Medical Student Surgical Education for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Calhoun is passionate about medical student education and has served with enthusiasm and excellence as the Associate Director since 2013. Dr. Calhoun succeeds Dr. **Roger Tatum** in this role, who stepped down from this role earlier this year due to his ever expanding duties as the VA Chief of Surgical Services. During his tenure, Dr. Tatum oversaw tremendous growth of the program, including expansion of the sites for surgical rotations in all five WWAMI states and in Seattle, and doubling the number of clinical faculty who teach medical students. Please read more about Dr. Calhoun's appointment and Dr. Tatum's accomplishments on page 22. Our residents are the recipients of the dedication and passion this group shows for improving their educational experience. The Department is similarly grateful for their steadfastness in promoting best educational practices and keeping this Department on the forefront of surgical education.



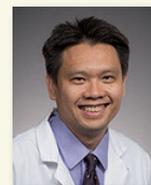
Calhoun



Tatum



Gibran

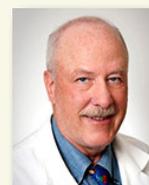


Pham

We also say goodbye to three of our most distinguished surgeons who are retiring and becoming Professor Emeriti. Dr. **Patch Dellinger**, General Surgeon and former Chief of General Surgery for many years, has retired from practice, though he retains a role in the Chief Medical Officer's Office. Dr. **Joseph Gruss**, who has retired from practice as a surgeon in the Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at Seattle Childrens Hospital. And Dr. **Michael Sobel** who has retired from practice as a vascular surgeon and former Section Chief at the VA. Please read more about their lives and careers on pages 19.



Dellinger



Gruss



Sobel

This has been a great year in the life of the Department and I am pleased to share highlights with you throughout this edition of *Surgery Synopsis*. We invite you to read, enjoy and send us your comments.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Wood, MD,
FACS, FRCSEd (*ad hom*)
The Henry N. Harkins
Professor and Chair

In this issue, we also welcome several new faculty members to the Department and celebrate the promotions of ten of our faculty. Three faculty members have promoted to Professor; seven to Associate Professor. Congratulations to these individuals, who have each worked very hard to earn their promotions. You have earned the respect of the Department and recognition by the School and University.

There has been a leadership transition within the Regional Burn Center. Dr. **Nicole Gibran**, who is a world-renowned burn surgeon and researcher, has served admirably as the Director for many years. This year Dr. Gibran has been tapped to be the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education. We congratulate Nicole on this appointment and are very happy to report that she will continue her own research within the Burn Center as well.