

# Surgery News

## DR. JOHN WALDHAUSEN NAMED CHIEF OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY DIVISION



Dr. **John Waldhausen** accepted the position of Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH). This position was previously held by Dr. **Robert Sawin** until he stepped down last year and Dr. Waldhausen has done a tremendous job as Interim Division Chief since that time. Dr. Waldhausen previously held the position of Division Chief of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery at SCH since 2006. With this promotion, Dr. Waldhausen's positions will merge with an analogous position both at SCH and UW Medicine. He will report to Dr. **Douglas E. Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, for academic, clinical, educational and faculty matters and will report to the SCH Surgeon-in-Chief for matters of SCH activities and operations.

Dr. Waldhausen has been an integral part of SCH surgery since 1992 when he came to Seattle for his pediatric surgery fellowship. He joined the faculty in 1994 and rapidly rose through the University of Washington (UW) academic ranks, being promoted to full professor in 2005. In addition to working in close partnership with Dr. Sawin as Surgeon-in-Chief, Dr. Waldhausen served as Program Director of the Pediatric Surgery Fellowship from 2004 to 2017, when he then turned over this important education position to Dr. Patrick Javid, Associate Professor.

Dr. Waldhausen has been an active member of the SCH hospital staff, serving on innumerable committees and providing leadership

throughout his SCH tenure. Dr. Waldhausen's recognition and leadership extends far beyond SCH and UW. Locally, he was elected and served as President of the Seattle Surgical Society. Regionally, he is the current President of the North Pacific Coast Surgical Association. Nationally, he is currently the President-Elect of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, the premier academic surgical society for pediatric surgeons. He is a Past-President of the Association of Pediatric Surgery Program Directors and Past Director of the Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery.

## DR. JOE CUSCHIERI APPOINTED ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR SURGICAL SERVICES AT HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. **Joe Cuschieri** to serve as the incoming Harborview Associate Medical Director for Surgical Services, effective May 7, 2020.

Dr. Cuschieri is Professor of Surgery, Adjunct Professor of Neurosurgery and Adjunct Professor of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine. He is recognized as an outstanding surgeon at Harborview with a focus on trauma care and inflammatory bowel disease.

Prior to assuming this position, Joe has served as Medical Director for the Trauma/Surgical ICU and is the Director of the Department of Surgery Trauma Fellowship.

Over the past year Joe has taken an increasingly active leadership role related to improving operating room team coordination and efficiency. His work, along with a large number of others, began with the Vizient initiative and has become even more involved with the COVID-19 response.

In this capacity, Joe's role will be under the auspices of the Medical Director's Office. He will work in collaboration with the Surgeon-In-Chief, the Chiefs of Service and other OR leaders to achieve

a wide range of efficiency and quality goals related to surgical services.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cuschieri to this new position.

*Dr. J. Richard Goss  
Medical Director, Harborview Medical Center*

## 2020 DAVID B. THORUD LEADERSHIP AWARD



**Susan Marx**, Department of Surgery Director of Finance and Administration, was nominated by the Department of Surgery, and supported by the School of Medicine, for the University-wide **2020 David B. Thorud Leadership Award**. The Thorud Award is a prestigious award that acknowledges exceptional leaders who: demonstrate quality work that sets an example while including others, values and respects the well-being of people in achieving large-scale goals, and exhibit an openness to new ideas and partnerships. Dr. **Douglas E. Wood**, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair, who took the lead in nominating Susan, stated, "this was a really easy call for all of us."

Dr. Wood went on to say, "Susan's drive and personal ethos require her to be an 'expert'; therefore, she puts in the time and hard work to become that expert...This quality of grounded, practical expertise allows her to speak with rightful authority and enables faculty, Chairs and senior leadership throughout UW Medicine to trust her judgment." Members of Susan's senior leadership team echoed these sentiments, writing, "Susan cultivates people who offer unique perspectives and from diverse backgrounds with the understanding that a range of ideas and talents add dimension and strength to the Department."

Dr. **Carlos Pellegrini**, Professor Emeritus and former Department Chair & UW Medicine CMO, said of their time working together, "During her time in positions of increasing responsibility, she continuously displayed the highest

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degree of integrity, complete alignment with the mission of the department and willingness to make the extra effort to advance our vision.”

The Department has benefitted tremendously from Susan’s leadership. We are proud of her accomplishments and delighted that her hard work is getting the recognition it so rightfully deserves.

#### UW DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARD



Fifty-three members of the Radiological Release Response Team, including Dr. **Nicole Gibran**, Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery, collectively received **The Distinguished Staff Award** for their efforts to control the impact of the Cesium137 leak at Harborview Medical Center’s Research & Training building. The leak occurred on May 2, 2019 as federal contract workers were removing an irradiator used to sterilize blood. Dr. Gibran and the Radiological Release Response Team mobilized and worked with officials to map out a safe plan that would protect staff, technology, research specimens and resources. Together the Team and authorities were able to develop logistics for research scientists to reenter the building to remove their research work and relocate to offsite temporary laboratory spaces. This included specimens from Dr. Gibran’s entire life work, which were stored on the 5th floor of the R&T building. The award recognizes the exemplary work done through the collaborative leadership of the Radiologic Release Response Team, whose quick actions and teamwork protected lives and preserved numerous scientific advances.

#### SWIM ACROSS AMERICA

**Swim Across America** is a national advocacy and philanthropic organization which funds innovative and cutting-edge clinical trials and cancer research. This year, two Department of Surgery faculty members received highly competitive Young Investigator Awards, which grant \$75,000 to junior faculty to pursue basic, translational, or clinical cancer research.



Sham



Flanagan

Dr. **Jonathan Sham**, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, is collaborating with Dr. **William Ratner**, Professor, Department of Bioengineering, on their project “Novel Drug-eluting Biopolymer to Reduce Pancreatic Fistula and Improve Outcomes After Pancreatic Surgery.” Together they are developing a novel biopolymer that can be used during pancreatic surgery to reduce the rates of pancreatic fistula, which is a major cause of perioperative morbidity, mortality, and decreased long-term survival, and results in over \$38M in increased healthcare costs in the United States each year.

Dr. **Meghan Flanagan**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, is working with a multi-disciplinary group of researchers and clinicians at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center on their project, “Association of HSD3B1 (1245C) genotype with recurrence among post-menopausal women with estrogen receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer.” This work aims to evaluate the association of a novel genetic mutation with aromatase inhibitor resistance and breast cancer recurrence among post-menopausal women with estrogen receptor-positive (ER+), HER2-negative breast cancer. If found to be associated

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with recurrence and aromatase inhibitor resistance, testing for this mutation may become routine and will have treatment implications for hundreds of thousands of women diagnosed with ER+ breast cancer annually in the United States.

#### DR. KRIS CALHOUN SELECTED UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE’S PATIENT CARE COMMITTEE ACADEMIC CO-CHAIR



Dr. **Kris Calhoun**, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, has been selected to serve as the Academic Co-Chair on the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine’s (SOM) Patient Care Committee.

As Academic Co-Chair and in partnership with Executive Co-Chair, Dr. **Mark Whipple**, Associate Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, Assistant Dean for Curriculum UW SOM, Dr. Calhoun will set agendas, lead meetings, ensure adequate and appropriate documentation of meetings and decisions, convene task forces and special groups as needed, serve as liaison to the Curriculum Committee, oversee or delegate oversight as appropriate the work of appointed committees and subcommittees, and report recommendations from the Patient Care Phase Committee to the Curriculum Committee.

In response to her selection as Co-Chair, Dr. Calhoun expresses “I am excited to be appointed Co-Chair for the Patient Care Committee within the SOM, which oversees all of the required clerkships at the

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3rd year level. This is my second year as surgery clerkship director, so being co-chair will allow me to make sure the voice of the surgery clerkship is heard and work towards making positive changes for our students. Interest in surgery as a career continues to grow, so having a surgeon's voice on this committee will be key as we move forward."

## THE AMERICAS HEPATOPANCREATOBILIARY ASSOCIATION (AHBPA) ANNUAL MEETING

On March 3rd, members of the UW hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) section of the General Surgery Division attended The Americas Hepatopancreatobiliary Association (AHBPA) annual meeting in Miami, FL. Attendees included Dr. [James Park](#), Associate Professor, Dr. [Matias Czerwonko](#), (General Surgery R2), [Tamar Solomon](#), PA-C, Teaching Associate, Dr. [Kevin Labadie](#), Research Resident Dr. [Jonathan Sham](#), Assistant Professor. (Pictured in order below.)

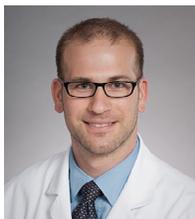


The UW HPB section had a tremendous showing at the meeting: Tamar Solomon won one of the Society's Advanced Practice Provider Travel Awards in recognition of her outstanding clinical contributions to the team and its patients; Dr. Czerwonko presented his research on using digital 3D liver models to aid in surgical planning; Dr. Sham was inducted into the society and awarded a Certificate of Completion for finishing his

combined Complex General Surgical Oncology and HPB Fellowship; and Dr. Labadie won the Young Investigator's Award for most outstanding oral presentation for his liver cancer research with Dr. [Park](#) on immune-PET scans detecting subcentimeter hepatocellular carcinoma.

## 2020 UW ROBOTIC SIMULATION SPRING OLYMPICS

After three months of fierce competition, the 2020 UW Robotic Simulation Spring Olympics came to a close. The competition aims to increase participants' robotic surgery skills through mastery of five simulation modules, and this year's competition pitted each resident class against the other. There was a strong turnout of residents with neck and neck competition between the classes. The gold medalists of the 2020 Spring Olympics and winners of a \$500 cash prize was the R5 Chief Resident class!



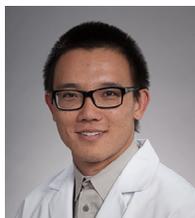
Dr. Matthew Bartek



Dr. Brian Cook



Dr. Amer Nassar



Dr. Jay Zhu

The R1s captured the silver medal and the R2s were close behind w claiming the bronze. The competition also featured a "fastest fingers" element for those with a perfect 100 score on all five modules. Dr. [Jay Zhu](#), General Surgery Chief Resident, claimed the title with a combined time of 564.7 seconds. Dr. Justin Kaufmann (General Surgery R2) came in second at 996.6 seconds, followed by Dr. Amer Nassar, General Surgery Chief Resident, at 1087.7 seconds.

A big thank you to Dr. [James Park](#), Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery, for coordinating the event, and to Dr. Zhu for creating the weekly leaderboard and boosting competitive spirits with his commentary.

## VISHAL KAPOOR MEMORIAM



We mourn the loss of University of Washington (UW) Plastic Surgery alumnus, Vishal Kapoor, MD, who passed away on February 8, 2020. Two of his fellow alumni, Rob Schlenker and Elise Min were his associates in his Beverly Hills practice; Elise had joined the practice just a few months ago.

Vishal "Sonu" Kapoor was born on November 22, 1972 in India to his mother, Dr. Vishwa Kapoor and father, Dr. Devendra Kapoor. He and his sister, Ritu Singh, grew up in India, London, New York, and Southern California. He attended the University of California at San Diego for his undergraduate degree in biochemistry and continued his studies at Tufts Medical School in Massachusetts. He completed his residency in 2004 followed by a facial aesthetic surgery fellowship with Dr. John Owsley in San Francisco. From there he moved to Beverly Hills where he developed a very successful practice while continuing to mentor residents and graduates from the UW Division of Plastic Surgery.

Vishal was a wonderful supporter of UW Plastic Surgery, having founded the Vishal Kapoor Fund for Plastic Surgery Education a number of years ago, and which has been extremely important in supporting our residents and our program—a tremendous legacy.

We all have wonderful memories of Vishal. Surgery Residency Program Director, [Karen Horvath](#), MD, recalls, "Vishal was one of my favorite residents of all time! To this day, I have a Vishal Kapoor story I tell the residents

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while I'm operating. He was a legend. Dr. [Nick Vedder](#), Professor and Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, adds "many of us, including myself, remember Vishal as an endearing, enthusiastic and generous person. He always went out of his way to support everyone around him. I don't think I can ever recall seeing Vishal without a smile on his face. He was an inspiration to us all."

Dr. [Jonathan Hutter](#), Clinical Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, shares "Vishal joined me as a PGY4 plastic surgery resident in 2001, initiating the trend of remarkable program expansion under Dr. Nick Vedder. His joining forever changed our program. Vishal brought humor, perseverance and selflessness to a rigorous and sometimes stressful environment. He would jump to cover anyone's call at any time. I followed him in Dr. Frank Isik's research lab as a PGY5, continuing work on a stem cell paper that we co-authored and is still quoted in the literature today. Vishal showed me the ropes and helped me throughout the process, which culminated in earning the Snyder Award for best paper at The Plastic Surgery Research Council. In keeping with his selflessness, Vishal was the first to congratulate me for presenting our shared work. That same year, he won the Golden Scalpel Award for best reconstructive case at the Washington Society of Plastic Surgery meeting. During it all, I best remember his love of travel, art, food and life. Everyone whose lives he touched knows his generosity, enthusiasm and big heart."

Vishal is survived by his children, Taj and Bella, who live with their mother, Kavita Amar. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family. We will all miss him dearly.

*Jonathan J. Hutter, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery  
(co-resident with Vishal)*

*Nicholas B. Vedder, MD  
Professor & Chief of Plastic Surgery*

