



CONGRATULATIONS

Graduating chiefs and fellows share favorite cases and best memories from training



Meg Fracol: "Working with Lindsay Janes. She was the coolest co-resident I could have ever asked for."



Courtney Harris: "My favorite adult case is the laparoscopic right adrenalectomy. The tissue planes are beautiful and there's just enough terror with the IVC right there. Plus this case really highlights how important communication is in the OR since surgeons and anesthesiologists are in constant communication about the hemodynamics."



Amy Holmstrom: "Meeting my husband! I'll miss the people - the OR staff, my co-residents, and the faculty."



Cary Schlick: "My favorite thing has been hanging out in the resident library."



Justin Steggerda: "Far and away the best time is when I get to operate with my co-fellows and residents. Watching the progression makes me so proud of what we do."



Zach Tyerman: "The level of support the residents show each other at Northwestern is unparalleled. We push each other to be better and pick each other up. You can find an ear to hear your troubles and a friend to celebrate your successes."



Steven Chiu: "One of my favorite memories is doing a CABG with my co-chief Azad."



Lindsay Janes: "Is it too cliché to say the people? It's just been a great, fun, supportive place to work and grow as a person."



Nick Cortolillo: "For me, it was Dr. Ho and me sewing the most difficult iliac anastomosis in the world on a calcified artery on a patient with BMI 60. Took half an hour. After the knot was tied down, Dr. Ho said, "It's a miracle!" And that moment will stay with me forever. Whenever I see something hard get done well, I will use that line."



Courtney Furlough: My favorite experience was working with the vascular fellows. I had amazing fellows who were excellent teachers and it really shaped a lot of my learning and best experiences."



Azad Karim: "My favorite memory is all the cardiac surgery residents gathering in our tiny call room to share ideas and most importantly make each other laugh. The friendships I created will be lifelong."



Dan Galvez: "I'm thankful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to train at an institution where high quality multidisciplinary patient care is viewed as the number one priority. This gave me a sense of pride that motivated me to pursue excellence throughout my training."



Tarik Yuce: "I've loved working with my co-residents. They're a second family to me."

Peter Ullrich (senior author **Rob Galiano**) published a [study](#) on racial representation of cosmetic surgery patients and MDs on social media.

AESTHETIC SURGERY JOURNAL



39

First- and second-author [publications](#) of DOS residents and fellows from January to June 2022. **STRONG WORK!**

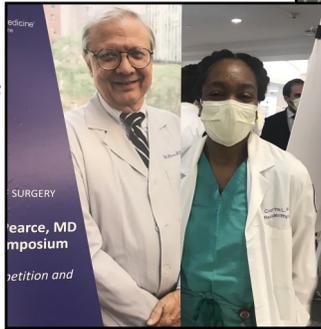
2022 William H. Pearce, MD Research Symposium

This was a great success! We had **59** accepted abstracts for the poster session. Check out the [website](#) for all posters and talks by winners! **Congratulations to all research award winners and mentors!**

Fellow competition:

First Place: Atieh Hajirahimkhan (Seema Khan)

Research with Distinction: Kristof Gutowski (Arun Gosain), Mecca Islam (Steve Schwulst), Sarbeet Niraula (Karen Ho), Oveyaa Vignesh (Arun Gosain)



Resident competition:

First Place, Basic Science: Emily Cerier (Ankit Bharat), Megan Fracol (John Kim)
First Place, Clinical: Andres Guerra (Karen Ho and Jeanette Chung), Casey Silver (Ryan Merkow)
Research with Distinction (Senior Residents): Jessie Ho (Hasan Alam), Rachel Joung (Yue-Yung Hu and Karl Bilimoria), Audra Reiter (Mehul Raval)



Research with Distinction (Junior Residents): Sarah Applebaum (Arun Gosain), Paige Hackenberger (Sue Jordan), Gwyneth Sullivan (Mehul Raval)

Student competition:

First Place: Jennie Chen (Steve Schwulst)
Research with Distinction: Taylor Brown (Bin Jiang), Kacie Ford (Steve Schwulst), Praneet Polineni (Daniela Ladner)



THANKS to the faculty judges: Amir Alhajjat, Akhil Chawla, Jeanette Chung, Daniel Davila, Zachary Dietch, Seth Goldstein, Kathy Grady, Karen Ho, Andy Hoel, Eric Hungness, Bin Jiang, Sue Jordan, Chitaru Kurihara, Sam Kim, Calvin Lung, Swati Kulkarni, Joe Posluszny, Mehul Raval, Steve Schwulst, Tad Tomita, Leah Tatebe, Ezra Teitelbaum, Ashley Vavra, KT Weber, Tony Yang

TOP ALTMETRIC OUTPUT

A national quality improvement study identifying and addressing cancer screening deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Rachel H. Joung MD, Heidi Nelson MD, Timothy W. Mullett MD, MBA, Scott H. Kurtzman MD, Sarah Shafir MPH, James B. Harris MD, Katharine A. Yao MD, Brian C. Brajcich MD, MS, Karl Y. Bilimoria MD, MS, William G. Cancer MD



American Society of Cancer



Rachel Joung and Brian Brajcich's (mentor Karl Bilimoria) [paper](#) on cancer screening

deficits earned the highest Altmetric score of all articles in Cancer published in Q1 2022!

Bookmark the "Surgical Conferences Calendar"! Find regional and national surgical conference dates and abstract deadlines





CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE AWARD WINNERS!

Emily Cerier (mentor: **Ankit Bharat**) - AATS Member for a Day Scholarship

Matt Chia (mentor: **Karl Bilimoria**) - Kanavel Surgical Scholar

Dan Dolan (mentor: **Scott Swanson**) - Kanavel Surgical Scholar

Meg Fracol (mentor: **John Kim**) - First place, IL Society of Plastic Surgeons (tied with Lindsay Janes)

Jessie Ho (mentor: **Hasan Alam**) - NIH F32 ("Role of Peptidylarginine Deiminase in Modulating Macrophage Functions in Sepsis") and co-PI of DOD grant, "Creation of Anesthesia Resuscitation Kit for Prolonged Field Care of Military Casualties with Traumatic Brain Injury"

Andrew Hu (mentor: **Mehul Raval**) - Second place, Best Resident Oral Presentation Competition, IL Chapter of the ACS Founders Competition

Lindsay Janes (mentor: **Jason Ko**) - First place, IL Society of Plastic Surgeons (tied with Meg Fracol)

Rachel Joung (mentor: **Ryan Merkow**) - Best Poster Award, Society of Surgical Oncology 2022 International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care

Charles Logan (mentor: **Dave Odell**) - Stryker Gastrointestinal Surgery Research and Education Endowment

Ben Many (mentor: **Fizan Abdullah**) - Kanavel Surgical Scholar

Vivek Pamulapati (mentor: **Karen Ho**) - 2022 Esther Tsai Sugg Award from Society of Asian Academic Surgeons

Praneet Polineni (mentor: **Daniela Ladner**) - Stryker Gastrointestinal Surgery Research and Education Endowment

Steven Papastefan (mentors: **Aimen Shaaban** and **Evan Scott**) - NUCATS TL1 Child and Adolescent Health Training Program

Jes Sanders (mentor: **Joe Leventhal**) - Stryker Gastrointestinal Surgery Research and Education Endowment, "Outstanding Consultant" Award from Northwestern Memorial Hospital Emergency Department

Meredith Taylor (mentor: **Satish Nadig**) - Transplant Scientist T32 Training Program



Chicago Surgical History: DID YOU KNOW?

Which of these instruments is named after a Chicago surgeon?

- A. Senn retractor
- B. Bookwalter retractor
- C. Deaver retractor
- D. Potts scissors



Answer on p. 5

Browse through faculty research descriptions [here!](#) Learn about research funding opportunities for residents and students [here!](#) Find other research resources [here!](#)

Andres Guerra and **Matt Chia** (senior author **Ashley Vavra**) [evaluated](#) EVAR, fenestrated or branched aortic repair and TEVAR procedures in the Illinois Hospital Association Comparative Health Care and Hospital Data Reporting Services database from 2016 to 2019 and found differences in hospital LOS and ICU admission among the different specialties, suggesting opportunities to optimize quality of care.



SURGERY

Brian Brajch and **Cary Schlick** (senior author **Mike McGee**) [studied](#) the association of patient and hospital characteristics with adherence to a colorectal SSI reduction bundle across a statewide surgical collaborative. Among 2,403 patients at 35 hospitals, a median of 11 of 16 bundle elements were completed. The largest proportion of adherence variation was attributable to hospital factors for six bundle elements and patient factors for nine elements.



Tarik Yuce (senior author **Ezra Teitelbaum**) gave a talk, “A Tale of Three Leaks: Treated with Endoscopy, Laparoscopy, and Open Surgery,” in the Best Papers Plenary Session at SAGES 2022 in March.



Dylan Issacson (senior author **Anat Tambur**) gave 2 talks, “HLA-DQ Mismatches Are More Likely to Be Listed as Unacceptable Antigens after Renal Graft Failure in African American Recipients as Compared to Other Racial/Ethnic Groups” and “A Novel Application of SRTR Data to Interrogate the Effects of HLA-DQ Mismatches in Kidney Transplantation” this month.



Egide Abahuje (senior author **Anne Stey**) gave a talk on “Communication and Teamwork Assessment During Interdisciplinary Surgical ICU Rounds” in April.



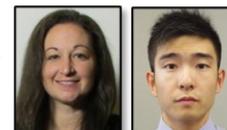
Ava Chappell and **Mona Ascha** (senior author **Sue Jordan**) per-



formed a 33-question [survey](#) to members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons to assess familiarity with female genital mutilation/cutting. They found that 80% of respondents reported no prior education or training on female genital mutilation/cutting, 84.5% were unfamiliar with the WHO classification system of female genital mutilation/cutting, and 88.4% were uncertain of existing clinical management guidelines. “Plastic surgeons possess the technical expertise to treat the diverse, chronic sequelae of female genital mutilation/cutting. With increased awareness and education, we can improve the quality of life for women and girls living with female genital mutilation/cutting.” **Lindsay Janes** and **Aaron Kearney** (senior author **Arun Gosain**) performed a qualitative [study](#) of plastic surgery mentors and mentees. Among 13 triads of mentors, key mentors, and mentees, themes that emerged were the importance of mentorship to success in academic plastic surgery, encouraging mentees to find their passion, leading by example, discussing complex cases with residents/students, and using research time as an opportunity.



Kate Ott and **Andrew Hu** (senior author **Seth Goldstein**) published a [description](#) of an innovative application of near infrared ureteral stent fibers in pediatric colorectal operations.



Casey Silver, **Rachel Joung**, and **Michael Visenio** (senior author **Karl Bilimoria**) performed an online [survey](#)



to participants of the Society for Asian Academic Surgeons annual meeting in September 2021. Among the 91 survey respondents (47% response rate), nearly, all (99%) reported being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 testing was sought within 7 days of the meeting by 15% of respondents, and all reported negative results. Among individuals who were not tested, no one reported development of symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fever, new loss of taste/smell, etc.). “Societies hosting meetings should proactively assess the safety of in-person meetings to promptly identify outbreaks and opportunities for improvement.”

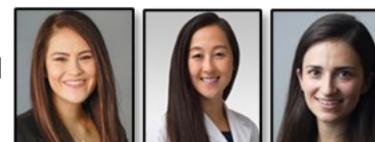


SHARE THE BUZZ!

Do you have research news?
Email Karen Ho (kho1@nm.org)!

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR GRANT APPLICATIONS!!

Emily Cerier and **Jessie Ho** (mentor: **Amy Halverson**) - 2022 CESERT Pyramid Grant (Association of Surgical Education), “A Pilot Simulation-based Leadership Development Program”
Sonj Aronson (mentor: **Arun Gosain**) - co-I on NIH R01, “Evaluation of Radioprotective Strategies in Tissue Expansion Reconstruction”



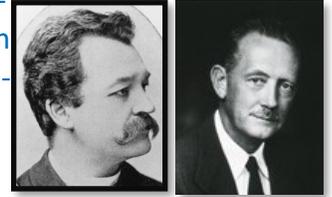
Arielle Thomas (senior author Brendan Campbell) evaluated the association between gun shows and local firearm injury rates from 2017-2019. There were 1,513 hospitalizations for firearm injuries pre-gun show and 1,526 post-gun show. “Within two weeks after a gun show, rates of hospitalization for all-cause firearm injury do not increase significantly within the surrounding communities. The relatively small increase in available firearms after a show and the short time horizon evaluated may account for the absence of an association between gun show firearm sales and local firearm injury rates.”



ANSWER: Chicago Surgical History

The **Senn retractor** is named after Dr. Nicholas Senn (1847-1902) (*left*), who graduated from Medical College of Chicago (now FSM), taught at the University of Illinois, and became chairman of Surgery at Rush.

Potts scissors are named after Dr. Willis J. Potts (1895-1968) (*right*), Professor of Surgery at Northwestern, surgeon-in-chief at Children’s Memorial Hospital, and a pioneer in pediatric cardiac surgery.



From Griffith and Yao. JACS . 2000;191(4):419-434

Eric Pillado (mentors: **Yue-Yung Hu, Karl Bilimoria,** and Dawn Coleman) gave two plenary session talks at the Society for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting: “Defining Sources and Ramifications of Mistreatment Among Female Vascular Surgery Trainees” and “Persistent Racial Discrimination Amongst Vascular Surgery Trainees Threatens Wellness”



Justin Steggerda (senior author Irene Kim) identified 16,691 transplants with donor liver (DLBx) biopsies in the Standard Transplant Analysis and Research database and created a composite model, the Liver Transplant After Biopsy (LTAB) score, and a mini-LTAB score consisting of donor age, macrosteatosis on DLBx, recipient MELD score, and cold ischemic time. Risk groups were identified for each score and graft survival was evaluated. “The LTAB and Mini-LTAB scores represent guiding principles and provide clinically useful tools for the successful selection and utilization of marginal allografts in liver transplantation.”



TJ Smith and **Swati Kulkarni** wrote a book chapter, “Contralateral Prophylactic Mastectomy” in Cameron’s Current Surgical Therapy, 14th Edition.



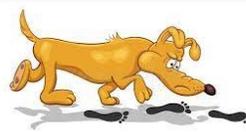
Dhavan Shah and **Dave Bentrem** reviewed the genetic and environmental risk factors for gastric cancer.



Charles Logan (senior author **Dave Odell**) will give a talk on “Regionalization Blind Spot? The Association Between Travel Distance, Hospital Surgical Volume, and Survival for Patients with Resectable Lung Cancer” this month.



Thank you!
GUEST EDITOR for this edition:
Maggie Reilly



Want to hear about what your peers are doing in research? Come to **DOS RESEARCH CONFERENCE!**
Keep an eye out for the email flyers starting in August!