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Surgery Research Growth and Engagement Newsletter

Issue 2 (Spring 2021)



The 2021 William H. Pearce, MD Research Symposium was *another great success!* We had 62 accepted abstracts, which is a new record high. Check out the [web-site](#) for all posters and talks



by winners!

Congratulations to all research award winners and their mentors:

Fellow competition:

*First Place: Mecca Islam (Steve Schwulst)*

*Research with Distinction: Booker Davis (Steve Schwulst), Monika Halas (Pat McCarthy and Chris Malaisrie), Natalie Luehmann (Sue Jordan)*

Resident competition:

*First Place, Basic Science: Kate Ott (Aimen Shaaban)*

*First Place, Clinical: Arielle Thomas (Avery Nathens, Brendan Campbell, and Anne Stey)*

*Research with Distinction (Senior Residents): Megan Bouchard (Fizan Abdullah), Matt Chia (Dawn Coleman, Karl Bilimoria, and Yue-Yung Hu), Rachel Joung (Ryan Merkow), Charles Logan (Dave Odell)*

*Research with Distinction (Junior Residents): Debbie Li (Mark Eskandari), Sarah Applebaum (Arun Gosain)*

Student competition:

*First Place: Jennie Chen (Steve Schwulst)*

*Research with Distinction: Nina Byskosh (Karen Ho), Daniel Sasson (Sue Jordan), Madeline Timken (Steve Schwulst)*

**THANKS to the judges:** Akhil Chawla, Derek Christopher, Seth Goldstein, Kathy Grady, Eric Hungness, Bin Jiang, Sue Jordan, Sam Kim, Jason Ko, Swati Kulkarni, Joe Posluszny, Vitaliy Poylin, Mehul Raval, Anne Stey, Tad Tomita, and Ashley Vavra

Lindsay Janes (senior author: **Mohammed Alghoul**) has a [cover article](#) in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* on the use of botox to improve facial aesthetics.



Jessie Ho (mentor: Hasan Alam) submitted an F32 in April. **STRONG WORK!**

**28** First- and second-author publications from DOS residents and fellows between January and June 2021. Lots of additional manuscripts are in press. **Congratulations to all! Some research accomplishments are highlighted in this newsletter.**

## JAMA Surgery and JAMA

Brian Brajcich (corresponding author: **Jonah Stulberg**) [opines](#) in *JAMA Surgery* that RCT that prospectively evaluate surgical approach should take actions to control for surgeon technical skills as a potential confounder. **Chelsea Fischer** (senior authors: **Karl Bilimoria** and Amir Ghaferi) has a manuscript accepted in *JAMA* on rapid response teams as a patient safety practice. **Andrew Hu** (senior author: **Mehul Raval**) wrote a Letter to the Editor of *JAMA Surgery* on reducing the use of CT scans for pediatric appendicitis and it has been accepted! **Rachel Joung** (senior author: **Ryan Merkow**) [wrote](#) an Invited Commentary in *JAMA Surgery* on the association of anesthesia team volume on surgical outcomes. **Cary Schlick** (senior authors: **Karl Bilimoria** and **Yue-Yung Hu**) has a manuscript accepted in *JAMA Surgery* on experiences of gender discrimination and sexual harassment among 7,000 general surgery resident survey respondents.



**SHARE THE BUZZ!** Do you have research news? Do you know a DOS trainee who's done something great? ? Email Karen Ho ([kho1@nm.org](mailto:kho1@nm.org))!

## HEY, be sure to congratulate these award winners!

**Nina Byskosh** (mentor: **Karen Ho**): Society for Vascular Surgery Student Research Award

**Emily Cerier** (mentor: **Ankit Bharat**): Thoracic Surgery Foundation Research Award (*top scoring application*); Dept of Allergy and Immunology T32 Training Program

**Megan Fracol** (mentor: **John Kim**): First Place e-Poster Award, Annual Meeting of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons

**Courtney Harris** (mentor: **Erin Rowell**): Allen B. Kanavel Surgical Scholar Award

**Jessie Ho** (mentor: **Hasan Alam**): Vascular Surgery Scientist T32 Training Program

**Charles Logan** (mentor: **Dave Odell**): NU Minority Health and Health Disparities Research T37 Training Program

**Sydney Olson** (mentor: **Daniela Ladner**): American Society of Transplant Surgeons Presidential Student Mentor Grant

**Eric Pillado** (mentors: **Andy Hoel** and **Tad Tomita**): Vascular Surgery Scientist T32 Training Program; Innovations Pilot Grant from Northwestern Simulation and Feinberg Dept of Medical Education

**Audra Reiter** (mentors: **Mehul Raval** and **Karl Bilimoria**): Surgical Multispecialty Access to Research in Residency R38 Training Program

**Tracy Smith** (mentor: **Karen Ho**): American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship

**Justin Steggerda** (mentor: **Daniel Borja-Cacho**): Steven J. Stryker, MD Gastrointestinal Surgery Research and Education Endowment

**Arielle Thomas** (mentors: **Avery Nathens** and **Anne Stey**): First place, Chicago Committee on Trauma Competition

**Tarik Yuce** (mentor: **Karl Bilimoria**): Allen B. Kanavel Surgical Scholar Award



YEP, it's a really BIG DILL!



**Fran Lee** (senior author: **Dina Elaraj**) presented a poster at the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons meeting on sex-related differences in clinical presentation of primary hyperaldosteronism.



**Ryan Campagna** (senior author: **Eric Hungness**) [reports](#) on long-term outcomes in 100 patients who underwent POEM for achalasia.



**Ava Chappell** (senior author: **Greg Dumanian**) [reports](#) in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open* on patients who underwent surgical excision, allograft nerve reconstruction, or targeted muscle reinnervation for abdominal wall neuromas.



**Aaron Clark** (senior author: **Chris Malaisrie**) [wrote](#) an "Invited Expert Opinion" on the TAVR approach for failed bioprosthetic valves.



These folks will give talks at the SAGES Annual Meeting in September: **Matt Snyder**: "An Analysis of Predictive Factors and Clinical Outcomes of Pleural Tears During Laparoscopic Esophageal Surgery." **Cassie Valukas**:

"Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration with Removal of over 12 Large Stones." **Sam Warwar**: "Multimodal Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Treatment of Chronic Sleeve Leak over the Course of One Year." Mentor: **Ezra Teitelbaum**.



**Amy Holmstrom** (senior author: **Ezra Teitelbaum**) [compares](#) outcomes in *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* between POEM and lap Heller myotomy in patients with achalasia.



**Andres Guerra** (senior author: **Ashley Vavra**) will talk about "Characterizing Endovascular Aortic Interventions in IL by Physician Specialty and Hospital Type" at the Central Surgical Association meeting in July.



**Sandeep Bharadwaj** (senior author: **Dave Odell**) presented his study on “The Unfulfilled Need for Technical Skill Assessments Among Academic Cardiothoracic Surgeons” at the 2020 American Association for Thoracic Surgery Meeting. The paper has now been accepted in *Seminars in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.



**Atieh Hajirahimkhan** (mentor: **Seema Khan**) was selected by the American Association of Cancer Research to represent Illinois on the AACR Early Career Hill Day 2021. She met with lawmakers to discuss increasing funding for cancer research. In addition, she was interviewed by the American Cancer Society for their “ResearchHERS” campaign kickoff in April, which is focused on promoting female scientist-led cancer research.



**ResearchHERS**  
WOMEN FIGHTING CANCER



**AACR** American Association for Cancer Research

**Andre Son** (senior author: **Duc Pham**) found that ABI is a quantitative metric that is more precise than near infrared spectroscopy measurements for monitoring limb perfusion in femorally-cannulated VA-ECMO patients. The paper has been accepted in *Journal of Cardiac Surgery*.



**Katie Hekman** (senior author: Max Wohlauer) used the annual training survey from the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery to [identify](#) rates and risk factors for burnout among vascular surgery trainees.



Journal of Vascular Surgery

**Dominic Vitello** (senior author: **Dave Bentrem**) [wrote](#) a review article on radiographic, biochemical, margin status, and pathologic response to neoadjuvant therapy for pancreatic cancer.



**Vivek Pamulapati** and **JR Guitart** (senior author: **Karen Ho**) describe optimal duplex velocity criteria for superior mesenteric artery in-stent restenosis in a paper accepted in *Vascular Medicine*.



**Bona Ko** (senior author: **Dave Bentrem**) presented a poster at the Society of Surgical Oncology meeting on “Is Grade A Post-Hepatectomy Liver Failure Clinically Relevant?”



**Matt Chia** was selected to join the “Behind the Knife” podcast team on surgical education.



**Ryan Ellis** (senior authors: **Yue-Yung Hu** and **Karl Bilimoria**) [found](#) that resident burnout is independently associated with the learning environment, social supports, and finding meaning in work.



**Chris De Boer** (senior author: **Fizan Abdullah**) will give 2 oral presentations at the virtual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress October: “Emergency Room Visits and Readmissions After Pediatric Surgery Revisited: A Comprehensive Analysis Across U.S. Children’s Hospitals” and “Effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Clinical Presentation and Outcomes of Non-Accidental Trauma Across U.S. Children’s Hospitals”



**Marc Altimari** (senior author: **Akhil Chawla**) used the US National Cancer Database and [found](#) that patients with small pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors may benefit from enhanced surveillance for locoregional recurrence.



**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH?**



Read about DOS faculty research mentors [here](#)!

Learn about research funding opportunities for residents and students [here](#)!

When are regional and national surgical conferences and abstract deadlines? **Bookmark the “Surgical Conferences Calendar”!**