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 website 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 Poslusny, 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!

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)!
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

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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André 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.

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

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?”

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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DO YOU NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH?
Read about DOS faculty research mentors here!
Learn about research funding opportunities for residents and students here!