Statewide Experts in Complex Cardiac Intervention

Our Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery has established itself as the region’s leader in treating patients with complex cardiac diseases. Last year our team continued to see increasing numbers of referrals for complex aortic surgery, mitral valve repair, and surgical management of atrial fibrillation (AFib). There has also been significant growth in the number of cardiac reconstructions performed for patients with moderate to severe heart failure. These procedures have improved the quality of life and survival of patients throughout Wisconsin and the region. In addition, a new Cardiothoracic ICU has been developed with dedicated critical care physicians who are experts in managing the most complex cardiothoracic surgical patients.

The Pediatric Heart program, led by Petros V. Anagnostopoulos, MD, performed 105 major pediatric heart surgeries in 2015, a 30 percent increase over the previous year. Program growth since Dr. Anagnostopoulos’ arrival in 2011 has been driven by family-centered care, outstanding patient outcomes, and superior patient and family satisfaction. Outreach efforts with pediatricians, monthly patient clinics throughout the state, and effective communication with families and primary care physicians have also contributed to the program’s success.

Go Regional: In FY2015, UW cardiothoracic surgeons performed 13% of adult cardiac surgery at regional locations.

Highest Level of Care in Trauma and Emergency General Surgery

The Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery (TACS) — including trauma, burn, emergency general surgery, and surgical critical care — has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. Our trauma team supports the region’s only American College of Surgeons-verified Level 1 trauma center for both adult and pediatric patients that is also an American Burn Association-verified burn center. Our trauma surgeons treat more than 5,000 patients annually, with an 18 percent increase in trauma admissions over the past two years. The emergency general surgery surgeons have experienced a more than three-fold increase in surgical procedures since 2012. The section saw the number of patients from beyond a 100-mile radius of Madison rise by 24 percent in recent years, demonstrating the UW’s growing importance in treating the region’s most vulnerable patients.
Caring for Wisconsin’s Youngest Patients

Pediatric Surgery provides surgical care for infants and children throughout Wisconsin and neighboring states. In addition to supplying pediatric surgical coverage for all Madison hospitals, the division’s five surgeons and three nurse practitioners brought their clinical and surgical expertise into the outlying communities of Appleton, LaCrosse, and Rockford, Illinois, this past year. Our pediatric surgeons continue to advance minimally invasive surgical techniques. These include thoracoscopic pulmonary lobectomy and repair of esophageal atresia, as well as advanced laparoscopic techniques for gastric and intestinal and other congenital anomalies. These advances have resulted in shorter lengths of hospitalization, less pain associated with operations, and overall improved outcomes.

In May 2015, American Family Children’s Hospital celebrated the 1-year anniversary of its 14-bed, Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Since opening, the NICU has cared for more than 100 acutely ill babies; more than 75% of these children underwent surgery by our pediatric surgical team. The NICU achieved “Zero Hospital-Associated Infection” status in its first year.
Clinical

In 2014, the UW performed more TransOral Robotic Surgery (TORS) cases than any other hospital in Wisconsin

A Less Invasive Approach to Head & Neck Surgery

Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery is focused on less invasive surgical techniques and procedures. This means eliminating incisions in the neck or face by working with special instruments through a patient’s nose or mouth to take biopsies of lesions or remove abnormal growths and tumors. Our head and neck surgeons utilize the da Vinci® surgical robot, endoscopic skull base surgery, and transoral laser microsurgery. Last year we introduced sialendoscopy for management of diseases of the major salivary glands.

Providers also continue to expand the use of high-resolution manometry (HRM) paired with videofluoroscopic imaging to examine the esophagus and diagnose symptoms such as difficulty or pain when swallowing. The division continues to move the field forward in offering in-office procedures that have traditionally been approached in an operating room, including biopsies of suspected head and neck cancers and installation of a Tracheoesophageal Voice Prosthesis (TEP) for patients who have had their larynx removed for cancer.

Aaron Wieland, MD, (right) specializes in head and neck surgery. In recent years, our surgeons have adopted instruments and techniques that provide better visibility of the nose, mouth, and pharynx with the ability to maneuver through fields their hands cannot. These minimally invasive procedures also offer patients less scarring and quicker recovery than incision-based approaches.
Clinical

Specialized Breast Cancer Treatment for Younger and High-risk Patients

The Breast Surgery Group supports and treats women throughout our community and the region. Last year our surgeons saw an 8.4 percent increase in breast surgeries over the previous year, and a 35 percent increase over the last five years. While we treat women of all ages with a wide variety of services, the University of Wisconsin has become a destination center for younger patients with breast cancer. From 2003 to 2013, 59 percent of our breast cancer diagnoses were in patients younger than 60 years old. Our expertise in treating this younger patient population is related to our multidisciplinary team and our understanding of the unique issues they face with chemotherapy, radiation, and post-surgery breast reconstruction. Our advanced breast reconstruction options include the deep inferior epigastric artery perforator (DIEP) flap, a procedure during which two plastic surgeons highly specialized in microvascular surgery utilize the patient's own abdominal skin and fat to reconstruct the breast. Our Breast Surgery Group also treats high-risk patients through the Prevention, Assessment, Tailored Health Screening (PATHS) Clinic, which incorporates experts in genetics, breast surgery, and gynecological oncology to guide patients with an increased risk of breast and other cancers due to a hereditary predisposition. More than 700 patients are seen through the PATHS clinic annually, with 15 of these patients undergoing risk-reducing mastectomies last year.

The Breast Surgery Group includes

- **8** Surgeons
- **2** Advanced Practice Providers
- **3** Breast Navigators

**20 volunteers**

**in our Patient Survivor Advocate Program**

Last year, almost **40%** of our breast surgery patients were from **outside Dane County**.
Resident Research

Developing knowledge in the surgical sciences

Last year, the General Surgery Residency at the University of Wisconsin increased from five to seven years, with a requirement that all residents spend at least two years expanding their academic careers. Research rotations are funded through NIH training and society grants. Currently, 10 residents are engaged in research areas that include basic sciences, health services/clinical outcomes, education, medical ethics, and biomedical engineering.

Taiwo Adesoye, MD
Mentor: Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
Effectiveness of MRI for Breast Cancer Surveillance

Megan Beems, MD
Mentor: Kenneth Kudsk, MD
Optimizing the Integration of Surgical and Immunotherapeutic Approaches to Cancer

Lane Frasier, MD
Mentor: Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
Teamwork in the Operating Room

Rebecca Gunter, MD
Mentor: K. Craig Kent, MD
Using Smartphone Technology for Early Detection of Postoperative Wound Complications and Reduction of Hospital Readmissions

Christina Lee, MD
Mentor: Gregory Kennedy, MD, PhD
The Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) and Chemopreventive Strategies in Colitis

Jay Nathwani, MD
Mentor: Carla Pugh, MD, PhD
Psycho-Motor and Error Enabled Simulations: Modeling Vulnerable Skills in the Pre-Mastery Phase

Christina Papageorge, MD
Mentor: Gregory Kennedy, MD, PhD
Designing a Clinical Trial to Study the Use of Tamsulosin in the Prevention of Postoperative Urinary Retention

Andrew Rogers, MD
Mentor: Peter Nichol, MD, PhD
Somatic Reprogramming for Recovery from Tissue Injury

Lauren Taylor, MD
Mentor: Margaret Schwarze, MD, MPP
Communication for High-risk Surgical Decision Making in Frail Older Adults

Tiffany Zens, MD
Mentor: Luis Fernandez, MD
Islet Cell Transplantation

Wisconsin, like the rest of the nation, is facing an increasing demand for rural and small-practice general surgeons. Complementing our existing residency, the new Community General Surgery Residency program is designed to train surgeons to practice general surgery in a small community setting. Residents will spend 42 of their 60 months of training at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and 18 months with community partners in Neenah (population 25,500) and Waupun (population 11,300). Our first resident started in July 2015, chosen from more than 100 applicants. The program is supported by over $2 million in grant funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program (WRPRAP).
Public Health Electives for Medical Students

Where surgery and public health intersect

A decade ago, the University of Wisconsin Medical School became the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, signaling its commitment to health promotion and disease prevention. Recognizing that surgeons, like all medical professionals, have an opportunity to educate patients and the public, the Department of Surgery fully embraced this change and became the first department to establish fourth-year electives that integrate public health into clinical care. The courses encourage students to examine larger issues in health including tobacco use, obesity, injury prevention, and reducing risk factors for cancer and other disease. Our faculty members are constantly evaluating and updating these courses to ensure a robust educational experience that involves individual patient care as well as how to effectively care for various patient populations. Our public health electives are:

- Multidisciplinary Approaches to Colon Cancer Prevention
- Injury Prevention
- Optimizing Value, Quality and Safety in Healthcare: A Case Study in Surgery
- Surgery for the Non-Surgeon: Public Health

Destination Seminars for Professionals

The Department of Surgery’s educational mission includes providing surgical and related training to medical professionals throughout the state and beyond. This year we offered seven destination seminars — our largest offering to date.

1. 13th Biennial Phonosurgery Symposium
2. Current Topics in General Surgery
3. Ford Professorship CME Conference in Otolaryngology
4. Advanced Hernia Repair Course
5. Neoadjuvant Therapy and Surgery: What You Need to Know for Your Breast Cancer Patients
6. Programmatic Development in Surgical Health Services Research
7. Manometry Summer School

UW faculty member Louis C. Bernhardt, MD, is a major force in educating medical students and residents throughout Wisconsin. His contributions are numerous, the most notable being his creation and teaching of the fourth-year elective “Surgery for the Non-Surgeon.”
The University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery ranked 6th in the nation in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to U.S. surgery departments, according to Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. In 2014, the Top 10 garnered 47 percent of NIH’s total research funding granted to departments of surgery. We’ve been in the Top 10 three years running.

Amputees often develop bothersome and sometimes painful neuromas, or clumps of disorganized nerve growth, at the site of an amputation. The neuroma fires signals to the brain as it comes in contact with the tissue and muscles around it, causing the patient to experience pain. These sensations can be quelled through surgery to relocate the neuroma inside a bone where it will be isolated from touch. It was through completing dozens of these pain saving interventions that Samuel O. Poore, MD, PhD, found the inspiration to harness the signals from these nerve bundles and use them to drive an artificial limb. The goal of his project, “Development of an Osseointegrated Neural Interface for Prosthetic Control,” is to develop an electrode that will translate nerve signals between a neuroma and a prosthetic device. The idea works along the same principle the body employs in traditional limb movement and carries the potential for greater precision and function of limb prostheses. This technology is patented through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), and the research is funded through the Department of Defense’s Defense Advanced Research Program Administration (DARPA).

**Funding Agency:**
Department of Defense’s Defense Advanced Research Program Administration (DARPA)

**Funding Amount:** $1.45 million
Let’s Clear the Air on Transplant Rejection

Exploring a connection between inhaled pollutants and lung transplant rejection

Lung transplants are life saving for patients with severe lung disease. However, many fail due to rejection. In many ways, lung transplant rejection looks more like autoimmune disease — when the body’s immune system attacks healthy cells as though they were foreign. Joshua Mezrich, MD, is making a great case that this is due to changes in the immune system that occur after exposure to inhaled pollutants. In his research, Mezrich manipulates genes to control the immune system. This work may lead to a change in the treatment of patients at risk for chronic rejection after a lung transplant. Mezrich’s line of work could benefit other areas of medicine as well. He has a separate project that explores how exposure to pollution aggravates autoimmune diseases, specifically multiple sclerosis. Dr. Mezrich’s work is supported by NIH funding through 2019 and was previously supported by grants from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the American Lung Association, and the American Society of Nephrology.

Funding Agency:
National Institutes of Health
Funding Amounts: $1.72 million (R01) and $421,000 (R21)

The Hunt for Heart Health

Preventing heart failure in heart attack patients

Heart failure remains the leading cause of death worldwide. Up to 40 percent of patients who suffer a heart attack and undergo successful surgical or percutaneous revascularization progress to develop heart failure within five years. Shahab Akhter, MD, investigates the molecular mechanisms of heart failure and how to prevent it. His lab is currently studying cardiac fibroblasts, which are responsible for stiffening of the heart, one of the major causes of cardiac failure in this patient population. He is working to identify novel drug targets and develop new therapies to prevent heart failure. This work has the potential to improve cardiac function and long-term patient survival. Dr. Akhter’s work is supported by an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Funding Agency:
National Institutes of Health
Funding Amount: $1.85 million

Warning Signs

Understanding the early stages of Parkinson’s disease

Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a progressive movement disorder that leads to cell death throughout the central nervous system. Most people are familiar with the classic symptoms of PD that occur in the later stages of the disease — tremors, stiffness of limbs, and impaired balance. However, PD also manifests in several conditions that appear in the early stages of the disease, including loss of smell, sleep disorders, intestinal distress, and voice and swallowing deficits. Michelle Ciucci, PhD, is on the leading edge of understanding how the early stages of PD affect the muscles and nerves that control communication and swallowing. The goal of her work is to identify early biomarkers of PD and when they emerge. This work could lead to the development of exercise-based voice and swallow therapies or new drugs that will delay or prevent cell death and halt the advancement of PD. Dr. Ciucci’s work is currently funded through a National Institutes of Health R01 grant.

Funding Agency:
National Institutes of Health
Funding Amount: $2.73 million
Research

Optimized Outcomes

Clinical trial aims to establish evidence-based treatment guidelines for thyroid cancer

Current practice guidelines for treating patients with lymph node-negative thyroid cancer recommend removal of the thyroid and consideration of preventative removal of the surrounding lymph nodes, a practice that can increase the risk of complications such as calcium deficiency and voice and swallow dysfunction. While this recommendation was developed to reduce the chance of cancer recurrence, it was based solely on expert opinion and there is no prospective data to support this practice. In an effort to determine the true risks and benefits of lymph node removal, endocrine surgeon Rebecca Sippel, MD, is conducting a clinical trial with a $1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The results of this trial will establish the groundwork for evidence-based practice guidelines for optimal management of thyroid cancer, ensuring the best oncologic outcome while minimizing the negative effects on a patient’s quality of life.

Funding Agency:
National Institutes of Health
Funding Amount: $1.8 million

There’s an App for That

Reducing surgical site infections and 30-day readmission rates

Under the leadership of Sara Fernandes-Taylor, PhD, and K. Craig Kent, MD, the Wisconsin Vascular and Endovascular Research Network (WiVERN) is working on a smartphone app that has the potential to significantly reduce surgery’s leading cause of unplanned hospital readmissions — the surgical site infection (SSI). WiVERN’s app would give post-op patients the ability to take photos of their wounds or surgical sites each day and answer questions about their health. Those entries would then be transferred to the patient’s health chart where a nurse or surgeon could review for early signs of wound complications and SSI. This intervention has the potential to significantly reduce complications related to SSI, including readmission, reoperation, limb loss, emotional stress, and death. This work is currently funded through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Funding Agency:
National Institutes of Health
Funding Amount: $300,000

Clinical Trials

The University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery’s Office of Clinical Research coordinated 24 active clinical trials in 2015. These studies are supported through a variety of federal grants and industry partners, while others are investigator initiated. The following is a list of the most active trials.

Evaluation of the GORE® Conformable-TAG® Thoracic Endoprosthesis for the Primary Treatment of Aneurysm of the Descending Thoracic Aorta
PI: Charles Acher, MD
W.L. Gore & Associates

Acute Lung Injury Ventilator Evaluation (ALIVE) Trial: Biomarkers of Lung Injury with Low Tidal Volume Ventilation Compared with Airway Pressure Release Ventilation in Trauma Patients
PI: Suresh Agarwal, MD
Investigator- Initiated Trial

Crash Injury Research Engineering Network (CIREN)
PI: Suresh Agarwal, MD
U.S. Department of Transportation/Medical College of Wisconsin

HeartMate III™ IDE Clinical Study Protocol
PI: Shahab Akhter, MD
Thoratec Corporation

A Prospective, Multicenter Study of Phasix™ Mesh for Ventral or Incisional Hernia Repair
PI: Jacob Greenberg, MD, EdM
Davol, Inc.

Assessment of Clinical Effects of Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein Inhibition with Evacetrapib in Patients at High Risk for Vascular Outcomes — The ACCELERATE Study
PI: John Hoch, MD
Eli Lilly & Company

Randomized, Multicenter, Controlled Trial to Compare Best Endovascular Versus Best Surgical Therapy in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia
PI: John Hoch, MD
New England Research Institutes, Inc.

Belatacept Early Steroid Withdrawal Trial (BEST-kidney)
PI: Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD
University of Cincinnati and Bristol Myers Squibb

Optimization of NULOJIX Usage Towards CNI Exposure in Simultaneous Pancreas and Kidney Transplantation (CTOT-15)
PI: Jon Odorico, MD
NIH

GORE® Carotid Stent Clinical Study for the Treatment of Carotid Artery Stenosis in Patients at Increased Risk for Adverse Events From Carotid Endarterectomy — The Gore SCAFFOLD Clinical Study
PI: Girma Teferra, MD
W.L. Gore & Associates

Zenith® Fenestrated AAA Endovascular Graft Post-Approval Study
PI: Girma Teferra, MD
Cook Incorporated
New Research Funding

The Department of Surgery is home to numerous research programs that investigate the mechanism of surgical disease and evaluate current clinical practice. Our research funding exceeds $17 million annually, with approximately two-thirds of this support coming from the National Institutes of Health. The following is a list of our new research funding since July 1, 2014.

R01
The R01 Research Project Grant is an investigator-initiated research award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Funded for up to five years, these awards average $400,000 annually. This grant defines a faculty member's independent research career — only 8 percent of all R01 applications are funded. Department of Surgery faculty members currently hold a total of 24 R01 grants.

K. Craig Kent, MD
TGF-beta and Smaa3 in Intimal Hyperplasia after Vascular Bypass

Joshua Mezrich, MD
A Novel Mechanism for Environmentally Induced Airway Disease

Luis Fernandez, MD
The Role of Complement Inhibition in Expanded Lymphocyte Population

K. Craig Kent, MD
TGF-beta and Smad in Intimal Hyperplasia after Vascular Bypass

Michelle Cicciu, PhD
Influence of Neuromuscular Pathology on Parkinsonian Communication Deficits

Bo Lui, PhD
Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell Apoptosis in Intimal Hyperplasia

Michael Hammer, PhD
Sensory Interaction in Voice and Voice Disorders

R03
The R03 Small Grant Program supports research projects that can be carried out over a short period of time with limited resources, such as pilot or feasibility studies. These grants are typically for two years and offer about $100,000 of support. Department of Surgery faculty members hold two R03 grants.

Margaret Schwarze, MD, MPP
A Communication Tool to Assist Older Adults Facing Difficult Surgical Decisions

R21
The NIH R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant is investigator-initiated and provides for two to three years of support — typically about $75,000 — for the early conceptual stages of project development. Department of Surgery faculty members hold two R21 grants.

K. Craig Kent, MD
Patient-Centered Postoperative Wound Surveillance Using Current Technology

Joshua Mezrich, MD
Pollution Aggravates Autoimmunity Through the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor

R31
The NIH Research Conference Grant supports high-quality scientific conferences that are relevant to the public health and scientific missions of the participating institutes and centers at NIH.

Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
AAS Courses to Increase Women and Minorities in Academic Surgery

Fellowships
Cynthia Keim-Nelson, PhD
National Institutes of Health F32 (Mentor: Michelle Cicciu, PhD) Pathology and Treatment of Vocal Deficits in Parkinson Disease

Lane Frasier, MD
Association for Academic Surgery (Mentor: Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH) Human Factors Analysis of Team Fluidity in the Operating Room

Jun Ren
American Heart Association (Mentor: Bo Lui, PhD) PKR delta-mediated Vascular Injury Response as a Therapeutic Target for Preventing Intimal Hyperplasia

Christine Papageorge, MD
Association for Academic Surgery (Mentor: Gregory Kennedy, MD, PhD) Preoperative Tumorscisis for the Prevention of Postoperative Urinary Retention: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Training Awards
The UW Department of Surgery currently has five research training awards, which support mentored research experiences for students and trainees at all levels. Four of the five awards are from the NIH.

PI: Diane M. Bless, PhD
NIH T32 (competing renewal) University of Wisconsin Voice Research Training Program

PI: K. Craig Kent, MD
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (competing renewal) Surgery Clinical Research Experiences for High School Students

Other Federal Awards
William Burlington, PhD
NIH U01 Opportunities Pool Exploring P2X7R Function in Th1, Th17, and CD8+ T-Cell Responses in Rheumatoid Arthritis (Rheumatoid Arthritis) and Clinical Trials of P2X7R Inhibitors in Transplantation

Non-Federal Awards
Evie Carchman, MD
Central Surgical Association The Role of Autophagy in Anal Cancer Prevention

Evie Carchman, MD
Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract The Role of Autophagy in Anal Cancer Prevention and Treatment

Clifford Cho, MD
American College of Surgeons Traveling Fellowship to Australia and New Zealand

Nadine Connor, PhD/Tiffany Glass, PhD, Fellow Jerome Lejeune Foundation USA Characterization of Oromotor and Swallowing Phenotypes of a Down Syndrome Mouse Model

Eugene F. Foley, MD
Wisconsin Department of Health Services Rural Residency Program Development

Luke Funk, MD, MPH
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Understanding Primary Care Physician Perspectives on Severe Obesity

Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Posttreatment Surveillance in Breast Cancer: Bringing CER to the Alliance

K. Craig Kent, MD
American Heart Association Screening for Selective Inhibitors of Restenosis

Robert Redfield III, MD
American Society of Transplant Surgeons Defining the Role and Mechanism of APRIL/BLyS Inhibition For the Prevention and Reduction of Allotransplant Beneficiary to Improve Long Term Kidney Allograft Survival

Ann P. O’Rourke, MD, MPH
Isomark Clinical Trial Changes in 1H/13C2/12C2 Delta Value in Exhaled Breath as an Early Indicator of Infection in Adult Trauma Subjects

Margaret Schwarze, MD, MPP
American Geriatrics Society A Communication Tool to Assist Older Adults Facing Difficult Surgical Decisions

Margaret Schwarze, MD, MPP/Joseph Scalea, MD
The Greenwall Foundation Failure to Die in Time: Exploration of Experiences and Attitudes of Family Members of Donors Involved in Donation After Circulatory Death

University of Wisconsin Awards
Margaret Schwarze, MD, MPP
Wisconsin Partnership Program, Medical Education and Program Committee (MERC) Alligning Preferences of Older Adults with Decision for High-risk Surgery

Lian-Wang Guo, PhD
Wisconsin Partnership Program, Medical Education and Program Committee (MERC) Nanoparticles for Treating Restenosis — Sustained and Targeted Local Drug Discovery

William Burlington, PhD
University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation A Novel Humanized Mouse Model

Career Development Award
Development awards provide support to an institution for the development of independent clinical scientists. These can be granted in the beginning of a researcher’s career, or mid-career. Department of Surgery faculty members hold five NIH Career Development Awards.

Sharon Weber, MD (K18)
Incorporating the Patient Perspective to Reduce Readmission after Complex Cancer Surgery

Funding
Burn Center Scores with Annual Hockey Fundraiser

Proceeds benefit UW Health Burn Center

The Department of Surgery’s annual Blake Geoffrion Hockey Classic has quickly grown into a community event that sports fans and surgery supporters alike look forward to each year. The second annual event, held June 2015, brought together 30 former Badger hockey players, many of them former and current NHL players or Olympians, ESPN Sports Center host John Buccigross, and Houston Texan defensive end JJ Watt — a former Badger football star. The event raised $80,000, with proceeds benefiting research and patient care at the UW Health Surgical Burn Center. Last year, funds were used to purchase a VECTA distraction therapy station. Ongoing proceeds will fund a professorship in burn research.
Alumni Dinner

Now in its second year, the Department of Surgery Alumni Dinner serves as an annual gathering of Surgery Residency Alumni and a celebration of the outgoing chief residents with a chair presenting ceremony. Over 90 people attended last year’s event. The Alumni dinner coincides with an alumni golf outing and the annual Current Topics in General Surgery CME course, a two-day event that attracts more than 100 surgeons from throughout the region for education in the latest surgical techniques and innovation.

New Professorships

The Department of Surgery brought in an incredible $17.5 million to create 11 new chairs and professorships last year. Ten of these were made possible in part by John and Tashia Morgridge, who gifted the University of Wisconsin-Madison $125 million to recruit and retain world-class faculty. The funds provided a 1-to-1 match for any donor who made a gift to endow a professorship, a chair, or a distinguished chair. Through this effort, the department tripled its number of chairs and professorships.

New chairs and professorships introduced last year:

- The Morgridge Distinguished Chair in Health Services Research - Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
- The Hendricks Chair in Reconstructive Surgery Research - John Siebert, MD
- The Hendricks Chair in Breast Cancer Surgery Research - Lee Wilke, MD
- Endowed Chair in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Michael Bentz, MD
- The Mark Fischer Chair in Transplant Surgery Research
- Tim and Mary Ann McKenzie Professorship in Surgical Oncology - Sharon Weber, MD
- The Susan Behrens, MD, Class of 1975 Surgery Education Professorship - Carla Pugh, MD, PhD
- Dr. Bruce and Judy Harms Surgery Professorship
- The Ronald E. and Patricia A. Kissinger Surgical Oncology Research Professorship - Clifford Cho, MD
- The Charles N. Ford Professorship in Otolaryngology - Timothy McCulloch, MD
- Pediatric Surgery Professorship

Patient Relations

The Department of Surgery introduced “At the Forefront,” a new patient education series aimed at offering previous patients the opportunity to reconnect with their surgeons and learn about new research and surgical treatments. The department held five events in the spring and summer of 2015 with surgeons from vascular, colorectal, cardiac, endocrine, and transplant surgery. Each event attracted between 40 and 100 attendees, with additional attendees joining us through online conferencing.

Funds raised during the inaugural Blake Geoffrion Hockey Classic were used to purchase a distraction therapy machine, a unique tool that helps patients such as this young burn victim manage painful procedures including bandage changes and examinations.

Make a Gift

Your gift will help the Department of Surgery meet its goals in clinical care, research, and education. Our surgeons provide state-of-the-art care for adult and pediatric patients across the state and conduct innovative research that strives to understand and treat a variety of disabling conditions and life-threatening illnesses. We consider our supporters our partners in these efforts.

For more information about making a financial contribution or planned gift, or establishing a named fund for the Department of Surgery, contact our senior director of development, Russ Austin, at russ.austin@supportuw.org.
Leadership

National and International Leadership Positions

Suresh Agarwal, MD
Traveling Fellow to Japan
American College of Surgeons
Executive Council
Association of Academic Surgery

Shahab Akhter, MD
Leadership Committee
American Heart Association Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia Council
Destination Therapy LVAD Certification Committee
Joint Commission

Michael Bentz, MD
President
American Association of Plastic Surgeons
Residency Review Committee – Plastic Surgery
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
Vice President for Finance and Communication
American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons

Diane Bless, PhD
Member, Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders
Advisory Council, NIH

Clifford Cho, MD
Traveling Fellow to Australia and New Zealand
American College of Surgeons

Nadine Connor, PhD
Member, Motor Function, Speech and Rehabilitation
Research Study Section, NIH

Seth Dailey, MD
Chair, Research and Education Committee
American Broncho-Esophagological Association

David P. Foley, MD
Chair, Liver and Intestine Community of Practice Executive Committee
American Society of Transplantation

Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH
President-Elect
Association of Academic Surgery

Jacoby Greenberg, MD, EdM
Co-Chair, Education Committee
Association of Academic Surgery
Executive Council
American Hernia Society Quality Collaborative

Jack Jiang, MD, PhD
Vice Director, Division of Otolaryngology
Voice Chapter
Chinese Medical Association
Member, NIDCD VSL Fellowship Review, NIH
Member, VSL Clinical Trial Review, NIH
Member, Academic Research Enhancement: Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies, NIH
Member, Motor Function, Speech and Rehabilitation Study Section, NIH

Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD
Secretary
American Society of Transplant Surgery

Gregory Kennedy, MD, PhD
Secretary
Society of University Surgeons
Chair, Research Committee
Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract

K. Craig Kent, MD
President
Society of Surgical Chairs
Executive Committee
American Board of Surgery
Chair, Bioengineering, Technology and Surgical Sciences Study Section, NIH

Benjamin Marcus, MD
Chair, Fellowship Committee
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Jon Matsumura, MD
Chair, Postgraduate Education Committee
Society for Vascular Surgery

Scott McMurray, MD
President
American Broncho-Esophagological Association

Delora Mount, MD
Chair, Executive Board
American Association of Pediatric Plastic Surgeons
Chair, Plastic Surgery Section
American Academy of Pediatrics
Vice President of Administrative Duties
American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons

Peter Nichol, MD, PhD
Executive Council
Association for Academic Surgery

Jon Odorico, MD
President-Elect
International Pancreas & Islet Transplant Association
Vice-Chair, Pancreas Committee
United Network for Organ Sharing

Ann O'Rourke, MD, MPH
Board of Directors
World Association for Disaster & Emergency Medicine

Carla Pugh, MD, PhD
Board of Directors
American Board of Medical Specialties Research and Education Foundation
Editorial Advisory Board, TEDMED
Representative, Council of Faculty and Academic Societies/AAMC
Society of University Surgeons

Carla Pugh, MD, PhD continued...
Secretary
Society of Black Academic Surgeons
Executive Committee, Surgical Research Committee
American College of Surgeons
Member, Bioengineering, Technology and Surgical Sciences Study Section, NIH

A. Neil Salyapongse, MD
Chair, Technology Committee
American Association for Hand Surgery

David Schneider, MD, MS
Institutional Representative to the Membership Committee
Association for Academic Surgery

Gretchen Schwarze, MD, MPP
Chair, Ethics Committee
Society of University Surgeons

Rebecca Sippel, MD
Secretary-Treasurer
American Association of Endocrine Surgeons
Chair, Curriculum Committee
Association of Surgical Education
Secretary
Association of Academic Surgery
Board of Governors
American College of Surgeons
Chair, Patient Education Committee
American College of Surgeons

Girma Tefera, MD
Medical Director, Operation Giving Back
American College of Surgeons

Susan Thibeault, PhD
Member, Biomaterials and Biointerfaces
Study Section, NIH

Sharon Weber, MD
President
Society of University Surgeons
Executive Council; Chair, Research Committee
American Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Association
Board of Trustees
Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract
Councillor-at-Large, Chair, Hepatobiliary Task Force
Society of Surgical Oncology
National Director, NSQIP-ONNCC

Lee Wilke, MD
Board of Directors
Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology
Chair, Research Committee
American Society of Breast Surgeons
Board Member
Navigate Cancer Foundation

Regional and State Leadership Positions

Karen Cooper, MD
President
Wisconsin Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Seth Dailey, MD
Secretary-Treasurer
Wisconsin Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Michael Garren, MD
President
Wisconsin Surgical Society

Caprice Greenberg, MD
Co-Chair, Research Committee
Wisconsin Surgical Society

Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD
Advisory Board & Quality Leadership Team
University of Wisconsin Organ Procurement Organization

Amy Liepert, MD
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Wisconsin Surgical Society

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Board of Governors
Wisconsin Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Samuel O. Poore, MD, PhD
Treasurer
Midwestern Association of Plastic Surgeons

Lee Wilke, MD
Board of Directors
Susan G. Komen South Central Wisconsin
In the spring of 2015, UW Health launched a campaign to promote the institution as the preferred destination in the region for minimally invasive surgery. Many of our surgeons were featured in the campaign commercials that aired on and appeared in local media.

**Girma Tefera, MD,** was named Medical Director of the Operation Giving Back (OGB) Program for the American College of Surgeons (ACS). In this role Tefera leads ACS programs in global surgery, disaster response worldwide, and international surgical volunteerism.

**Dr. Carla Pugh, MD, PhD,** presented “Play Is Not a Waste of Time” on September 11, 2014, at TEDMED 2014. Our surgeons penned a total of 307 publications, with top authors **Becky Sippel, MD** (27), **Sharon Weber, MD** (26), and **David Schneider, MD, MS** (25).

**The Division of Vascular Surgery** graduated the first resident, **Brigitte Smith, MD,** from its Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Program.

The American Association of Pediatric Plastic Surgeons named **Michael Bentz, MD,** Clinician of the Year.

We hosted the 171st meeting of the **Society of Clinical Surgery** in Madison, Wisconsin, November 13-15.

**The Society of Surgical Chairs** installed **K. Craig Kent, MD,** as President.

In September 2014, the **Division of Transplantation** marked its 1,500th pancreas transplant.

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The department gained 10,000 square feet of office and laboratory space to house the **Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research Program (WiSOR)** and the **Simulation Engineering for Surgical Education (SEnSE) Lab.**

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