

WELCOME

27th Annual

Layton F. Rikkers, MD Education Retreat

Approaching Surgical Education with Intention

May 20, 2025 | Health Sciences Learning Center



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Welcome to the 2025 University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery Layton F. Rikkers, MD Education Retreat!

Founded by Professor Emeritus of Surgery Dr. Layton F. Rikkers, today's event marks our 27th annual professional learning opportunity on topics of importance in the field of surgical education. We also spotlight the work that is being done in this area by our talented faculty, trainees, and staff. The theme of this year's Rikkers Education Retreat is **"Approaching Surgical Education with Intention."**

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Kyla Terhune, who will lead today's faculty workshop and present at Grand Rounds on Wednesday May 21st. Dr. Terhune is the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Senior Vice President for Educational Affairs, and Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. A national leader in graduate medical education, she combines her interests in coaching, organizational behavior, surgery, and science to motivate both experts and learners. She has received several distinguished teaching awards, including the inaugural David Leach Award from the ACGME in 2010 and the Philip J. Wolfson Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association for Surgical Education in 2021. Dr. Terhune's talk will focus on how improved self-awareness can make us better teachers.

Simultaneous to the faculty workshop, two of our in-house experts, Dr. Sarah Jung and Vice Chair of Education Dr. Brigitte Smith, will conduct a workshop for trainees. They will discuss the emotional aspects of receiving and responding to feedback and how we can capitalize on critiques as a learning opportunity. Later in the evening, Dr. Smith will present on her vision and strategic plan for the department's surgical education programs. The Retreat will close with the announcement of the 2025 awardees for Outstanding Resident and Fellow Educators as well as the Layton F. Rikkers Faculty Award for Medical Student Education.

Last but most certainly not least, the Rikkers Education Retreat is an opportunity to recognize the essential people in our department who contribute every day to the advancement of our surgical education programs. This includes but is not limited to the administrative leaders and staff in our Education Office, who expertly and efficiently run our programs on a day-to-day basis; our faculty and trainees, who are both the back-bone of and the impetus for our mission; and our surgical education researchers, who are continually pushing the field forward with their innovation. Today, we celebrate you and we honor your many contributions that make the UW Department of Surgery a stellar program in which to train and practice.

**Thank you for joining us and welcome to the 2025
Layton F. Rikkers Education Retreat!**

agenda

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 3:00-7:15 PM

- 3:00

Professional Development Workshop

Faculty Workshop: Self-Awareness - Becoming a Master Observer

Facilitator: Kyla Terhune, MD, MBA

HSLC 1335

Trainee Workshop: Sharpening Your Skills, Strengthening Your Resolve: The Emotional Side of Feedback

Facilitators: Brigitte Smith, MD, MHPE & Sarah Jung, PhD

HSLC 1345
- 4:30

Poster Session, Hors D'oeuvres & Networking

HSLC Atrium
- 5:15

Education Vision and Strategic Plan: Charting Our Path Forward – Brigitte Smith, MD, MHPE

HSLC 1335
- 6:00

Awards & Closing Remarks

HSLC 1335
- 6:30

Poster Session, Hors D'oeuvres & Networking

Food and drinks will be served until 7:15 PM

HSLC Atrium

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 7:30-8:30 AM

- 7:30

Patients Deserve Better than “Needs to Read More”

– Dr. Kyla Terhune

HSLC 1335 / Zoom

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keynote speaker



Kyla Terhune, MD, MBA

Kyla Terhune, MD, MBA

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Kyla Terhune, joins us from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where she is the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Senior Vice President for Educational Affairs, and Professor of Surgery and Anesthesiology.

An emergency general surgeon with a long-standing interest in coaching and education, Dr. Terhune was the Program Director of the Surgery Residency at Vanderbilt from 2014-2019. In 2019, she transitioned into the role of the ACGME/NRMP Designated Institutional Official, where she is responsible for over 150 graduate medical education (GME) programs and more than 1,200 residents and fellows at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Dr. Terhune is a national leader in GME, giving lectures throughout the country. She is a Past President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery and has consulted with GME programs to review practices and policies. She is also the current director of the American College of Surgeons course Residents as Teachers and Leaders. Dr. Terhune has received several distinguished teaching awards at the local and national level, including the inaugural David Leach Award from the ACGME in 2010 and the Philip J. Wolfson Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association for Surgical Education in 2021.

Dr. Terhune received her A.B. degree in molecular biology from Princeton University and her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She subsequently completed a residency in General Surgery and a Critical Care Fellowship at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she then joined the faculty in 2011. She received her Master's in Business Administration from the Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt University in 2016.

Recent Publications

Conrad-Schnetz K, Prabhu A, Johnson WR, Jenkins-Turner M, Simpson-Mason B, Terhune K. Blue Ribbon Committee II: Reports of the Subcommittees on the Optimization of Surgical Education and Training in the US Work-Life Integration, Resilience, and Wellness. *Ann Surg*. 2025 Jan 1;281(1):11-15.

Smith TY, Terhune K, Caniano DA. Fostering Inclusivity in the Clinical Learning Environment. *MedEdPublish* (2016). 2024 Oct 15;14:61.

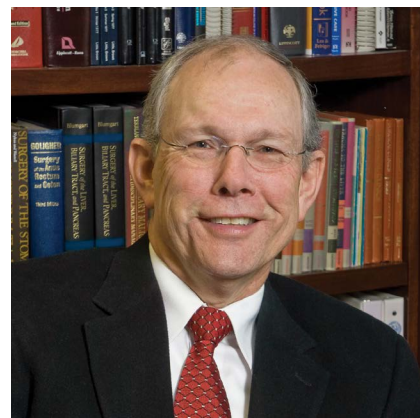
Steinhagen E, Khan SZ, Ofshteyn A, Terhune K, Selby L, Miller-Ocuin J, Stein SL, Ammori JB. Creation and Implementation of an Online Tool for Feedback on Resident Teaching: A Pilot Study. *J Surg Educ*. 2024 May;81(5):713-721.

McCaffrey RL, Cassling K, Davidson M, Kauffmann R, Shelton J, Bailey CE, Terhune K. Comparing Faculty and Trainee Evaluators of First-Year Resident Skills. *J Surg Educ*. 2024 Feb;81(2):219-225.

Rausch LA, McKay KG, Liu Y, Walker JC, LeCompte MT, Ewing JK, Walia S, Davidson M, Forbes RC, Shaffer D, Terhune KP. The Kidney Transplant: Maintaining Excellent Outcomes While Increasing Skills Acquisition. *J Surg Educ*. 2023 Dec;80(12):1850-1858.

About Dr. Ridders

Dr. Layton F. “Bing” Ridders is a native of Wisconsin and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. After graduating from Stanford University Medical School, he completed a general surgery residency at the University of Utah and two one-year fellowships at the Royal Free Hospital in London and Emory University in Atlanta. He spent seven years on the faculty at the University of Utah before serving as the Musselman Chair of Surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center from 1984 to 1996 and then the A.R. Curreri Chair of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin from 1996 to 2008. During his 12-year tenure as surgery chair at UW–Madison, the faculty doubled in size and our NIH ranking rose to 13th in the nation, representing a significant increase in research funding. Dr. Ridders established the annual Resident Research Day and the annual Education Retreat. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Surgery at UW–Madison.



Layton F. “Bing” Ridders, MD

Retreat History

The University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery Education Retreat was initiated in 1998 to offer a venue in which to recognize and support the educational efforts of the Department of Surgery. Initially dedicated to improving education within the department, with a focus on medical student education, the event has evolved over the years. While the information shared during the retreat was likely helpful in improving the teaching abilities of those who attended, more importantly, it was a yearly reminder that education was an essential component of the department’s mission.

In 2008, the event was named the Layton F. Ridders Education Retreat to honor our past Chair of Surgery who held the education of medical students and residents as a high priority. The surgeons who have served as visiting professors to the retreat are a virtual “who’s who” of surgical education in the United States.

Previous Speakers

1998	Craig Gjerde, PhD
1999	Deb DaRosa, PhD
2000	Gary Dunnington, MD
2001	Ajit Sachdeva, MD
2002	Thomas Krummel, MD
2003	Stephen R.T. Evans, MD
2004	John Leeman Tarpley, MD
2005	Richard K. Reznick, MD
2006	Yolanda Becker, MD
2007	Jo Shapiro, MD
2008	Bruce L. Gewertz, MD
2009	Mary E. Klingensmith, MD
2010	David Rogers, MD
2011	Ajit Sachdeva, MD
2012	Carlos Pellegrini, MD
2013	Julie Freischlag, MD
2014	Frank R. Lewis, MD
2015	Gerald M. Fried, MD
2016	Leigh A. Neumayer, MD, MS
2017	David R. Farley, MD
2018	Gurjit Sandhu, PhD
2019	Carol-Anne Moulton, MD, PhD, Med
2020	Karen Brasel, MD
2021	Division of Education Update, no guest speaker
2022	Brigitte K. Smith, MD, MHPE
2023	Kevin Pei, MD, MHSEd, FACS
2024	Stacey Tutt Gray, MD

medical student education

Medical Student Education (UME)

Pre-Med and Phase 1 Medical Student Programs

Shadowing: The department currently offers two tracks of shadowing – UW undergraduate student observers and Phase 1 medical student observers. We offer clinic and OR shadowing, which have different eligibility requirements. Refer to the [Shadowing Homepage](#) for more details and send any questions to shadowing@surgery.wisc.edu.

Undergraduate and graduate student observers apply to shadow and are matched with faculty preceptors during certain timeframes (Summer, Fall, or Spring semesters). In 2024, we hosted over 60 undergraduate and graduate student observers in the department. Thank you to all of our preceptors that are able to provide this opportunity. If you are interested, sign up to be a faculty preceptor [here](#).

Phase 1 medical students are fully eligible to observe in ORs and clinics. They will reach out to faculty individually; please allow them to shadow if and when you are able to accommodate their requests.

Surgery Interest Groups (SIGs): The Department of Surgery has multiple Surgery Interest Groups (SIGs) for Phase 1 medical students. Thank you to everyone who participates in Interest Group sessions and who assists in giving Phase 1 students a glimpse into surgical specialties as a career.

Some highlights from this past academic year of SIG events include the surgical robot presentation and practice event; suture skills and laparoscopic skills simulation; the Department of Surgery Social Mixer; and panels on women in surgery and the different surgical specialties. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the faculty that have hosted students

for dinner and provided a welcoming and open environment to discuss future surgery careers!



Chey Collura, MD
Surgery Interest Group
SIG Faculty Advisor



Chad Ennis, MD
Otolaryngology Interest Group
ENTIG Faculty Advisor



Jacqueline Israel, MD
Plastic Surgery Interest Group
PSIG Faculty Advisor



Courtney Morgan, MD
Vascular Surgery
Interest Group
VSIG Faculty Advisor

Phase 2 Surgical and Procedural Care (SPC)

In Phase 2, students are exposed to clinical learning experiences for the first time. The Department of Surgery hosts four blocks of students every year in this phase for their Surgical and Procedural Care (SPC) requirement, which includes a four-week general surgery rotation and multiple two-week surgical specialty rotations. In SPC, students are exposed to clinic-based learning and services that collaborate on the management and care of surgical patients.

In addition to their scheduled service rotations, students are assigned a continuity clinic preceptor that they longitudinally follow through their entire 12-week block on SPC. This opportunity gives students a chance to spend additional time in a service they are interested

medical student education

in and gain a stronger relationship with a faculty member. Thank you to the many faculty members that have served as continuity clinic preceptors!

Phase 3 Inpatient Acting Internship Mentorship Program

A formalized mentorship program is integrated into the Phase 3 Surgery Inpatient Acting Internship (IAI). The program intends to encourage interactions and relationship-building between medical students and faculty. Students who participated in the program agreed their mentor helped them match into a desirable program and they would stay in contact with them in the future. Contact [Amber Shada, MD](#) or [Kelli Kline](#) if you are interested in mentoring medical students applying to surgical specialties in the Match.

In 2024, Dr. Shada incorporated new in-person learning sessions into the IAI curriculum. There are two discussion sessions focusing on communication with clinical teams and patients and one simulation session focusing on incisions and drainage. The sessions have been a great way for the students to learn from Dr. Shada and each other during their four-week IAI experience!

Underrepresented in Medicine Visiting Student Scholarship

The UW Department of Surgery offered the Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) [Visiting Student Scholarship](#) for the fourth year in 2024. The program intends to increase awareness of opportunities in academic medicine, encourage students from diverse backgrounds to apply to UW residency programs, and address the underrepresentation of minoritized populations in surgery. Last year, four students were invited to rotate on General Surgery, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery.



Thank you to the 2024 URiM application committee members, led by URiM Scholarship Program Director, Alexander Chiu, MD.

Scott Chaiet, MD; Chad Ennis, MD; Girma Tefera, MD; Courtney Morgan, MD; Catharine Garland, MD; Nabeel Zafar, MD, MPH; Betty Allen, MD; Jasmine Craig, MD; M. Kristine Carbullido, MD; Aviv Spillinger, MD; Kelli Kline, MA.

Please reach out to UMESurgEd@surgery.wisc.edu if you are interested in joining this committee or acting as a mentor for 2025 URiM Scholarship recipients.

Alexander Chiu, MD
Director, URiM
Scholarship Program



medical student education

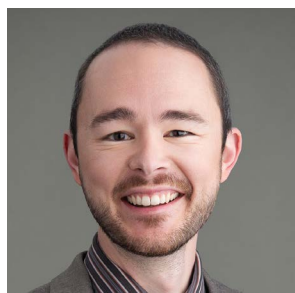
Division Expectations in Medical Student Education

Faculty and resident volunteers are essential for the various required teaching and assessment activities within medical student education. The primary goal of the Division Expectations project is to increase

faculty engagement in medical student education activities by distributing accountability in an equitable, efficient, and non-transactional manner. Sign up for teaching and assessment opportunities [here](#). We appreciate your time and dedication to making our learning opportunities valuable for our medical students!



Courtney Morgan, MD
SPC Integrated Block Leader
Medical Student Director



Chad Ennis, MD
SPC Assistant Block Leader



Dawn Elfenbein, MD, MPH
Co-Department Block Leader

2024 Medical Student Education Team Leadership & Updates

In 2024, we welcomed Courtney Morgan, MD, as the new Department of Surgery Medical Student Director and SPC Integrated Block Leader! Dr. Morgan has been working hard to increase communication and expectations to students and helping guide them through their surgical clerkship.



Lee Faucher, MD
Phase 3 Medical Student
Mentorship Lead



Amber Shada, MD
Phase 3 IAI & IPC
Courses Lead

Phase 3 Leadership: Dr. Faucher is our Phase 3 Medical Student Mentorship Lead, and is offering guidance and academic support to medical students interested in applying to surgical specialties. He recently helped our 2025 class navigate a successful match season. Dr. Shada is our Internship Preparation Course (IPC) lead; she directs the educational curriculum for the IAI, IPC, and clinical electives.

Thank you to all of our Clinical Faculty Leads who take time to orient our students to their different clinic responsibilities and complete student performance assessments, giving them valuable feedback. We also extend our thanks to all of the Surgery Medical Student Facilitators and Statewide Site Directors for all that they do for medical student education!



resident education

PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENCY

Growing Our 10th Annual Microsurgery Course Through Collaboration

A major milestone was the expansion of our 10th Annual Microsurgery Course, which now includes participants from Mayo Clinic and the University of Miami. By broadening the course's reach, we have fostered cross-institutional learning and collaboration, allowing residents to refine their microsurgical techniques alongside peers from other leading programs. The course continues to offer a rigorous, hands-on curriculum designed to enhance residents' technical skills, problem-solving abilities, and confidence in performing complex microsurgical procedures.



Advancing Resident Education: A Dedicated Lab for Hands-On Surgical Training

The Plastic Surgery program has made substantial progress in developing a dedicated educational lab space to support resident learning. This new facility is designed for microsurgery practice and monthly cadaveric dissection sessions, providing residents with a structured, hands-on environment to refine their skills outside the OR. The lab ensures consistent access to high-quality training resources, allowing residents to build proficiency in key surgical techniques, improve anatomical knowledge, and gain experience in novel reconstructive procedures. By integrating this lab into our educational framework, we are reinforcing our commitment to providing residents with cutting-edge training opportunities that prepare them for excellence in academic and clinical practice.



Community Outreach & Mentorship in Plastic Surgery



Kirsten Gunderson, MD
Plastic Surgery Resident

Our Plastic Surgery Residents have been actively engaged in community outreach and mentorship. Dr. Kirsten Gunderson has been at the forefront of these efforts, spearheading the Next Generation Surgeons school outreach program.

Through this initiative, residents and members of the Plastic Surgery Interest Group (PSIG) visit local middle schools and high schools to introduce students to the field of plastic surgery. These visits include engaging presentations about the specialty, discussions on pathways to a surgical career, and hands-on suturing workshops, allowing students to gain early exposure to fundamental surgical skills. By fostering curiosity and enthusiasm for medicine at a young age, this program plays a vital role in inspiring the next generation of surgeons, particularly among students who may not have considered a career in surgery. Dr. Gunderson's leadership in this initiative exemplifies our program's dedication to education beyond the residency, strengthening both community engagement and the future pipeline of plastic surgeons.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD & NECK SURGERY

The Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Residency Program began a new national curriculum in July 2025, which is designed and distributed by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) and highly supported by both the academy as well as the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The new online learning platform is designed to ensure that residents have a strong foundation of core knowledge required

for otolaryngology practice. The platform provides Residency Training Program Leadership the ability to actively participate in residents' learning, track their progress, and evaluate the need to help residents progress successfully throughout their training.

During this inaugural launch year, the AAO-HNS Foundation has rolled out the first 50 modules for 50 weeks of learning, covering the essential topics in Otolaryngology. Each module includes a weekly course of study, case-based learning, and a set of topic-specific assessment questions. The platform also includes a searchable multimedia library with otolaryngology images, surgical video procedures, topical webcasts, podcasts, and education resources. Learners also have access to a robust Question Bank to test knowledge and build mastery.

VASCULAR SURGERY RESIDENCY

Dr. Kate Telma Awarded Resident Research Scholarship

Dr. Kate Telma (PGY2) has been honored with the prestigious Resident Research Scholarship from the American College of Surgeons for the 2025-2027 award cycle. Under the mentorship of Gretchen Schwarze, MD, MPP, the Morgridge Professor in

Vascular Surgery, Dr. Telma will lead a groundbreaking research project titled "Better Conversations for Better Informed Consent: A Pilot Study to Automate Surgeon Training and Evaluate Patient-Reported Outcomes." This study seeks to improve the informed consent process by addressing its current limitations and enhancing the patient experience.



Kate Telma, MD
Vascular Surgery Resident

Journal of Vascular Surgery Internship Program: Dr. Leah Gober



Leah Gober, MD
Vascular Surgery Resident

Dr. Leah Gober (PGY3-Research) was accepted to the Journal of Vascular Surgery Internship program. This year-long internship pairs participants with a senior editor from the journal who serves as a mentor.

Throughout the program,

Dr. Gober will review 10–12 manuscripts, gaining valuable insight and feedback from her mentor. In addition to manuscript reviews, the program includes monthly group sessions and lectures, covering a wide range of topics essential to the peer review and editorial process.

Vascular Surgery Residency & Fellowship Programs Implement EPAs

The Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship Programs have officially implemented Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) after serving as a pilot site for the American Board of Surgery (ABS). This milestone advances competency-based training by focusing on real-world, observable tasks that assess readiness for independent practice.

During the pilot phase, Division of Vascular Surgery faculty and trainees contributed to shaping EPA assessment criteria and integration strategies. Their insights have helped refine this structured framework, now adopted nationwide.

As an early adopter, the UW Department of Surgery continues its ongoing contributions to shaping the future of surgical training.

GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY

Advancing Robotic Surgery Training for General Surgery Residents

With the rapid and exciting expansion of robotic surgery at the UW, we have enhanced the General Surgery Resident Robotic Curriculum to ensure early exposure and comprehensive training. Our updated curriculum provides residents with a structured pathway to develop robotic surgery skills, enabling all graduates to achieve robotic competency.

To build a strong foundation, first-year residents undergo essential robotic safety training, allowing them to operate the console with confidence. Throughout the year, residents benefit from multiple faculty-led bedside training opportunities, fostering hands-on experience and skill development. Additionally, a dedicated robotic simulation day in the fall, along with year-round access to simulation training through UIC lab courses, further strengthens their proficiency.

These curriculum enhancements ensure that UW residents are well-prepared to excel in the evolving field of robotic surgery.

Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF)

Dr. Kessler Hurd has been selected as the Department of Surgery's first-ever SERF Fellow. Starting in June 2025, the Department of Surgery will sponsor this two-year fellowship as part of Dr. Hurd's academic development. This prestigious fellowship is designed to:



Kessler Hurd, MD, MBA
General Surgery Resident

- Gain the knowledge and skills to lead rigorous surgical education research, investigating and

resident education

answering important questions that advance the science of surgical education.

- Advance their knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding the core elements of surgical education.
- Have opportunities to enhance their clinical teaching skills.

Congratulations, Dr. Hurd!

Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine – Excellence in Rural Residencies (WARMeRR) Track

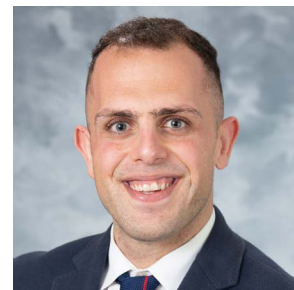
The rural track of the General Surgery Residency Program is very committed to training surgeons to serve rural communities in Wisconsin. Knowing the dire need for general surgeons in these communities, we have partnered with the medical school to identify first-year medical students in the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) track who are interested in becoming rural general surgeons. These students are invited to apply for an accelerated rigorous training program to complete all medical school requirements in 3 years, with a promised spot in our Rural General Surgery Residency track upon graduation. Participants are heavily mentored by UW surgeons beginning their first year of medical school and throughout their entire 3 years.

Our first student in this accelerated track (dubbed the WARMeRR track) matched into our Rural General Surgery Residency this year. He is from rural Wisconsin,

went to the UW for his undergraduate degree, and was a nurse at UW Health prior to medical school.

Beyond the OR: Accomplishments During Academic Development Time

We are thrilled to recognize Dr. Yousif Hanna (PGY3-R) for his outstanding achievement in co-founding Oxkair, named one of 2024's Most Disruptive MBA Startups by [Poets&Quants](#).



Yousif Hanna, MD
General Surgery Resident

Oxkair is revolutionizing healthcare revenue cycle management by automating claim processing, prior authorizations, and denial management. By seamlessly integrating with Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, it allows clinics and physicians to focus more on patient care.

Dr. Hanna and his co-founder, Edouard Tessier-Blais, identified critical inefficiencies in claim processing and developed an AI-driven solution to address them. Their work has already proven successful, positioning Oxkair as a game-changer in healthcare administration.

Congratulations to Dr. Hanna and the Oxkair team on this well-deserved recognition! We look forward to seeing their continued impact.

Incoming Intern Highlight

Shane Hoffman, an incoming general surgery resident (rural track), will become the first graduate of a new UW School of Medicine and Public Health program that reduces the time it takes to train doctors interested in serving rural parts of the state. Read more about his unique story [here](#).

Mini Updates from our Fellowship Programs

ACUTE CARE SURGERY

Site Visit: The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma's Site visit was May 1st, 2025. This site visit will directly inform the accreditation status of our proposed Acute Care Surgery Fellowship Program. This program will serve as a non-ACGME second year to the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship.

CARDIOTHORACIC

Our senior fellows have been busy over the last year receiving scholarships, presenting at national meetings, and winning awards. We are very proud of the work they have done, which is highlighted below.

Timothy Guenther, MD, was the recipient of both the 2024 Society of Thoracic Surgeons Coronary Conference Scholarship and the 2024 North American Aortic Valve Repair Symposium Scholarship. He presented posters at the 2024 Military Health Systems Research Symposium and the 2024 American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) Aortic Symposium, as well as an oral presentation at the 2024 Association of VA Surgeons Annual meeting. In addition, Dr. Guenther won both the 2024 UW GME Quality Improvement Project Competition and the VISN-12 VA HERO award for his project, "Effect of High Fidelity Emergency ICU Re-Sternotomy Simulation at a Low Volume Cardiac Center."

Clara Angeles, MD, began the year-long AATS Thoracic Surgical Robotics Fellowship in May 2024, and will receive an AATS Foundation/Intuitive Surgical Certificate of Completion in July 2025. She also participated in several global surgery electives and initiatives, such as the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress 2024 Global Surgery Health Competencies Course for Surgeons. Dr. Angeles was the

recipient of the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) 2024 Resident Travel Award, and received scholarships to attend both the ACS Clinical Congress 2025 and AWS Conference 2025. She also received the Thoracic Surgery Foundation's Carolyn E. Reed Traveling Fellowship Award, which allowed her to receive advanced thoracic robotic training from Dr. Tracey Weigel, former UW-Madison Chief of Thoracic Surgery and current Chief of Thoracic Surgery at the Westchester Medical Center-New York Medical College. Finally, Dr. Angeles participated in courses and observerships related to the minimally-invasive surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation. This included the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS) webinar on Robotic Applications in the Surgical Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation as well as AtriCure courses on Advanced Hybrid Ablation and the Foundations of Treating Afib Surgically.

COLORECTAL

Journal Club: The Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship hosts a journal club every six weeks throughout the academic year to discuss current clinical topics in Colon and Rectal Surgery. The fellow is assisted by a selected faculty discussant to choose articles for the discussion, often around a certain theme or topic. Fellows have often cited this event as their favorite part of their fellowship.



fellowships

ENDOCRINE

Strategic Planning and Track Designation:

The Endocrine Surgery group participated in strategic planning for their fellowship late 2024 to develop the best way to move forward following the program's recent expansion from 1 to 2 fellows per year. As a result of the strategic planning process, the program is developing two specific fellowship tracks for applicants to choose from: a Clinical Practice Track and an Academic Track. This change aims to focus trainees' learning and development throughout fellowship, and in turn keep resident and fellow case volumes balanced. In addition, the division has started preparing more structured clinical didactic curricula and track-specific didactic curricula based on strategic planning discussion needs. The program looks forward to sharing more about the progress of these efforts in the future.

Developing Fellow Autonomy: The program has started to have fellows lead their own Fine Needle Aspiration clinics during the second half of the fellowship year. This helps develop fellows' autonomy and clinical reasoning skills.

EPAs: The program is one of the early leaders of Endocrine Fellowship EPA implementation. The program utilizes specialty-specific EPAs developed by the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. Faculty have submitted 87 microassessments since August 1st, 2024 for current fellows. The division discusses these microassessments and fellow progress monthly at the Endocrine Surgery Faculty Meeting.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

Fellowship Expansion: The MIS Division has finalized approvals for a second fellow in an Advanced GI MIS/Abdominal Wall and Hernia designated program through the Fellowship Council. The expanded program will welcome its first fellow, Dr. Brian Hallis, in August 2025 in addition to Dr. Caressa Chen, Advanced GI MIS/Foregut and Bariatric Fellow.

Leadership Changes:

We are excited to welcome Dr. Amber Shada as the Associate Program Director of the Advanced GI MIS/Foregut and Bariatric Fellowship. Dr. Anne Lidor remains the Program Director. Dr. Ryan Juza will soon move to the Program Director role for the Advanced GI MIS/Hernia and Abdominal Wall Fellowship, and Dr. Toria Rendell will serve as the Associate Program Director.

Fellows Endoscopy

Course: Drs. Shada and Juza led the SAGES Fellow Flexible Endoscopy Course in September 2024. A total of 75 faculty and fellows from across the country traveled to the UW to attend this course.

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

The Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

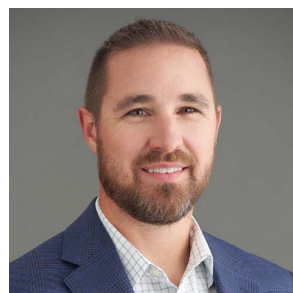
Program Turns 10: The program is celebrating its 10th anniversary of being ACGME-accredited. We are reflecting on and commemorating having graduated nine (soon to be ten!) exceptional Surgical Critical Care-trained professionals, having a long-standing and well-established didactic curriculum, and continuing to improve and expand for years to come.



Amber Shada, MD
Advanced GI MIS/Foregut & Bariatric Fellowship Associate Program Director



Anne Lidor, MD, MPH, FACS
Advanced GI MIS/Foregut & Bariatric Fellowship Program Director



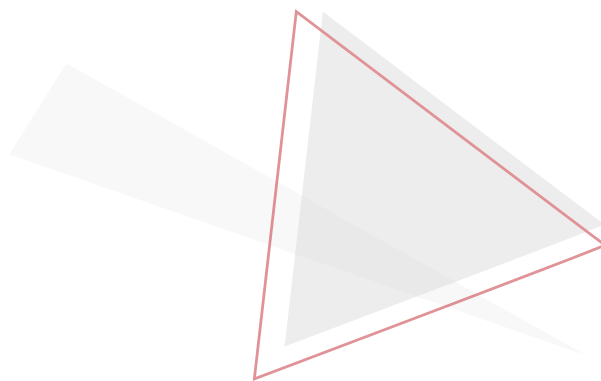
Ryan Juza, MD
Advanced GI MIS/Hernia & Abdominal Wall Fellowship Program Director

fellowships

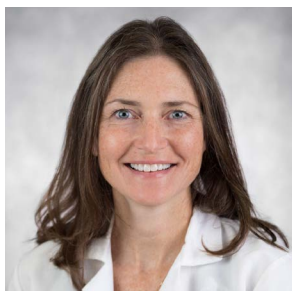
Expansion of Curriculum: This year, the program has completed full integration of its Surgical Council on Resident Education (SCORE) curriculum. Surgical Critical Care and Anesthesia Critical Care Fellows complete 13 topic modules throughout the year. Each module includes a quiz on certain topics, such as Cardiovascular and Resuscitation, Neurologic Disorders and Management, and Emergency General Surgery. At the end of the module time period when quizzes are due, fellows participate in a “Meeting with the Experts.” At these meetings, fellows have the opportunity to grapple with these topics with subject matter experts. Fellows bring cases to discuss or bring SCORE quiz questions to talk over. We’d like to thank Drs. Laura Hammel, John Dolleschell, Micah Long, Mehreen Kisat, Tripti Singh, Rebecca Busch, Stephanie Savage, Nikki Werner, Patrick Belton, Mike Beninati, and Angela Gibson for serving as experts this year. This has been a high impact educational opportunity for our fellows.

Website Update: The program updated its [website](#) this past year.

Fellow EAST Attendance: Current Fellow Dr. Rakesh Kumar had the opportunity to attend the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma 39th Annual Scientific Assembly in January 2025.



SURGICAL ONCOLOGY



Kaitlyn Kelly, MD, MAS
UW Complex General Surgical
Oncology Fellowship Director

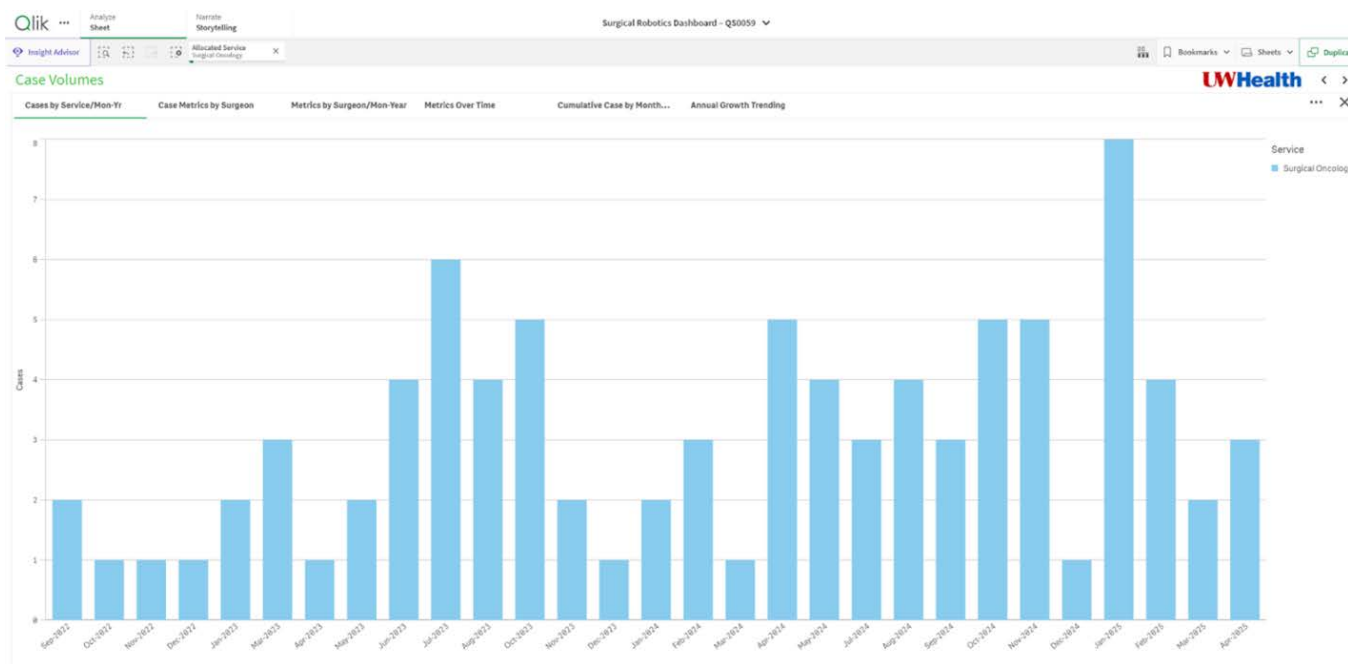
Leadership Changes:
We are excited to welcome Dr. Kaitlyn Kelly as the new Program Director of the UW Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship.

Professional Development: Current fellow Dr. Greg Sigler has been extraordinarily

productive. He has published two papers in peer-reviewed journals (one as 1st author), and has another

three manuscripts that are currently undergoing peer review. He has also presented at professional meetings at the local, national, and international level, including most recently two posters presented at the 16th Annual International Gastric Cancer Congress (IGCC) in Amsterdam. While in Amsterdam, he also had the opportunity to participate in an observership focused on gastrointestinal cancers.

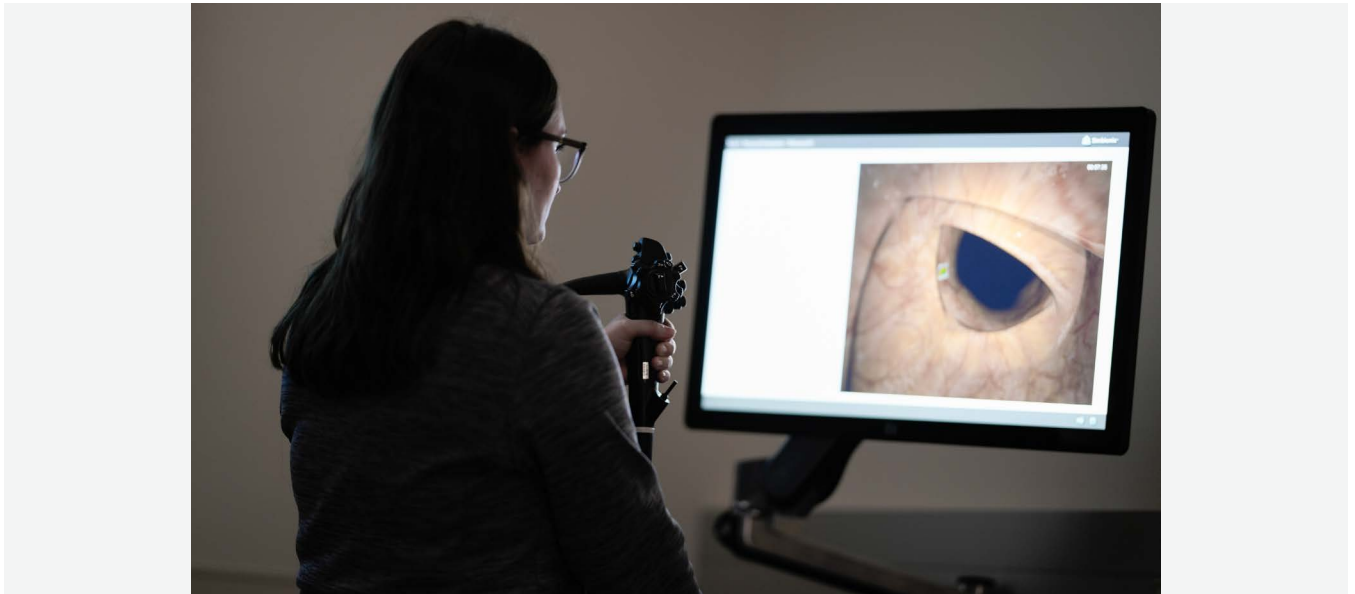
Expansion of Robotic Training: The Division has greatly expanded its robotic presence and therefore robotic training opportunities for the fellow. Fellows are able to obtain robotic certification in fellowship even with limited prior experience in residency.



UW Health Becomes Wisconsin's First Permanent FES Testing Center

The UW Health Clinical Simulation Program, in collaboration with the Department of Surgery, has been officially designated as a permanent Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery™ (FES) testing center. This achievement makes us the first and only FES testing center in Wisconsin.

The FES exam is a nationally required component for general surgery residents seeking board certification from the ABS. With this designation, we can provide high-quality endoscopic training and testing to regional general surgery residents, enhancing accessibility and cost efficiency for aspiring surgeons.



Mindfulness for Surgical Skills Training

This year, we introduced an exciting new element to our intern surgical simulation curriculum: Mindfulness for Surgical Skills Training. Interns had the opportunity to opt-in to guided meditation sessions designed to enhance focus and precision while practicing simulation skills—such as maintaining heightened awareness while handling laparoscopic instruments.

These immersive sessions were seamlessly integrated as warm-ups before the Surgical Olympics and select intern simulation skills sessions. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with an incredible 96% participation rate. Residents reported that the training provided a much-needed sense of calm amid their demanding schedules and helped sharpen their focus during surgical practice.

Our groundbreaking work was recently showcased at the 2025 ACS Simulation Summit, highlighting the impact of mindfulness on surgical performance. This innovative approach is paving the way for a new era of mindful, skillful surgeons.

simulation education

SAGES Fellowship Course

The Division of Minimally Invasive surgery hosted the 2024 Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Flexible Endoscopy Course for Fellows. This prestigious event highlights UW's commitment to advancing medical education and fostering the development of future leaders in the field of surgery. By bringing together fellows and faculty from across the country, the course provided a dynamic, two-day, hands-on learning experience focused on the latest techniques and innovations in flexible endoscopy. This collaboration exemplifies the UW's ongoing leadership in surgical education and its invaluable contribution to shaping the next generation of experts in minimally invasive procedures.



New Vice Chair of Global Surgery



Kristin Long, MD, MPH, FACS
Vice Chair of Global Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Kristin Long for being named the Vice Chair of Global Surgery. She assumed the role on November 1, 2024.

“It’s truly an honor to follow in the footsteps of my global surgery mentor, Dr. Girma Tefera,” Dr. Long said. “His

legacy in the field is immeasurable, and I am so excited to continue building strong, sustainable partnerships in surgery around the world. The Department has a wonderful history of supporting global surgery and I’m excited to look towards the future.”

Dr. Tefera served as the inaugural Vice Chair of Global Surgery in the Department of Surgery. During his tenure, he established impactful and sustaining relationships in low- and middle-income countries, and worked to establish a programmatic approach within the department as well as the ACS, where he leads the ACS Health Outreach Program for Equity in Global Surgery (HOPE).

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Long to her new leadership position and thanking Dr. Tefera for his years of service.

“Dr. Long has a long-standing commitment to Global Surgery and serves in a leadership capacity in many associations and global teams focused on this work,” said Dr. Rebecca Minter, A.R. Curreri Distinguished Chair of the Department of Surgery. “She is on the advisory council for our own UW-Madison Institute for Global Health as well. Dr. Long will be an outstanding leader in this space, and will continue to partner with Dr. Tefera and many colleagues in the Department of Surgery who are dedicated to this important global work.”

Hawassa, Ethiopia – ACS Hub

In January 2025, the Hawassa ACS Hub successfully hosted its Resident Research Day, showcasing thesis presentations by senior residents. The event celebrated academic excellence by awarding prizes to the top three scoring residents for their outstanding research work.

Following the research day, a two-day intensive research course was conducted for junior residents. This course focused on strengthening their research skills and refining their ongoing or upcoming research projects, further contributing to the hub’s commitment to academic development and surgical education.



Department of Surgery Highlighted in SMPH Global Health Course

The Department of Surgery was prominently featured in this year's SMPH-wide Global Health Course, receiving enthusiastic and universal praise from participants for its afternoon panel on global surgery. Attendees described the session as “phenomenal and incredibly valuable,” and were deeply inspired by the stories and experiences shared by the panelists.

The presentations highlighted a range of impactful global surgical initiatives, including innovative, cost-effective solutions like the development of a microscope for plastic surgery suitable for low-resource settings. Participants appreciated the openness and collaborative spirit of the discussion, noting how the panel modeled the core values of global health in action.

One participant remarked that the surgical panel “represented the global health concept in the best way,” while others emphasized how meaningful it was to hear perspectives that are often underrepresented in global health curricula. The panel expanded students' understanding of the global need for surgical and anesthetic care, reinforcing the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in improving health equity worldwide.

Overall, the Department of Surgery's involvement was a standout moment in the course, sparking interest, admiration, and thoughtful reflection from attendees.



Resident Experience: Hillary Johnson's Clinical Rotation in Hawassa

During a three-week clinical elective at Hawassa University Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (HUCSH) in Ethiopia, general surgery resident Hillary Johnson (PGY4) had the opportunity to work alongside surgical residents and faculty in a high-volume, low-resource setting. HUCSH serves over 18 million people and performs approximately 7,500 surgeries annually. Despite limited equipment, frequent power outages, and re-use of materials considered disposable in the U.S., according to Johnson the residents demonstrated remarkable surgical skill, adaptability, and depth of knowledge across a wide range of subspecialties. The experience offered her a profound perspective on global surgery and the resilience required to deliver quality care in resource-limited environments: “Spending time with the team at HUCSH was eye-opening, humbling, and incredibly inspiring—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. What amazed me most was not just the technical skill of the residents, but their unwavering commitment to patient care—despite the odds, they never stopped showing up, learning, and doing their best with what they had.”



Dr. Long Shares Surgical Expertise in Rwanda

We're proud to share that Dr. Long, Vice Chair of Global Surgery, recently returned from a two-week service trip to Rwanda, where she contributed her skills and knowledge to both medical education and clinical care.

During the first week, Dr. Long worked at the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) campus in Butaro, where she led simulation-based training sessions for medical students. The focus was on core general surgery techniques, helping to build essential hands-on skills in a safe, supportive learning environment.

In the second week, Dr. Long transitioned to Kibogora Hospital, a level two teaching facility, where she provided direct clinical care and collaborated with local healthcare teams. Her work there supported both patient care and the ongoing professional development of local medical staff.

Dr. Long's commitment to global health and education embodies the spirit of service and excellence. We are grateful for her dedication and proud to support her impactful work abroad.



GORE Grant:

Empowering the Next Generation of Vascular Surgeons Across Borders through the Vascular and Endovascular Fellowship at Linköping University Hospital, Sweden

The UW Division of Vascular Surgery maintains a long-standing global health partnership with the Department of Surgery at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. This bilateral exchange program offers valuable opportunities for both UW vascular surgery residents and Ethiopian colleagues to engage in cross-cultural, high-impact surgical education.

As part of this collaboration and through the generous support of a training grant from GORE, Dr. Dawit Gebregiorgis Deben and Dr. Feron Getachew Tefera, two promising young vascular surgeons from Addis Ababa, completed a five-week educational fellowship at Linköping

global health

University Hospital in Sweden. The goal of this rotation was to provide exposure to advanced open and endovascular surgical techniques in a high-resource setting.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Artai Piouzram, Senior Consultant of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, for hosting and mentoring the visiting surgeons. We are also looking forward to welcoming Dr. Nebyou and Dr. Henock to Madison later this year, continuing the spirit of collaboration and shared learning that defines this meaningful partnership.

We're incredibly grateful to the UW Department of Surgery and the Vascular Surgery team at Linköping University Hospital for this enriching and unforgettable opportunity.

"This fellowship was more than a technical training—it was a journey that reshaped how we think about patient care, teamwork, and innovation in surgery."

— **Dr. Dawit**

"We return to Ethiopia inspired, better equipped, and committed to applying what we've learned to advance vascular surgery in our home institutions." — **Dr. Feron**



Aortic Symposium – Aneurysms and Dissections

On November 2, 2024, the Divisions of Vascular and Cardiothoracic Surgery proudly hosted an electrifying Aortic Symposium as part of our renowned Complex Aortic Disease Program. This premier event brought together nearly 70 physicians and APPs for an immersive day of cutting-edge discussions on acute and chronic aortic conditions.

Designed to empower healthcare professionals with the latest insights, this course provided invaluable education for those who may encounter aortic patients in their practice but seek deeper expertise in their management. The morning session set the stage with a deep dive into the fundamentals of aortic aneurysms and chronic aortic disease, while the afternoon session delivered high-impact learning on aortic dissection and other acute aortic syndromes.

With expert-led sessions, collaborative learning, and a shared commitment to advancing aortic care, this symposium was an essential experience for all in attendance!

UW to Host 2025 Midwest Regional Burn Conference

The UW Department of Surgery is proud to host the [2025 Midwest Regional Burn Conference](#) from September 24-26, 2025.

Join us for an event featuring the latest advancements in burn and wound care, including cutting-edge treatments, innovative surgical techniques, and groundbreaking biologic therapies. Experts will discuss state-of-the-art approaches to burn resuscitation, fluid management, infection control, and pain management. Additionally, the conference will explore comprehensive rehabilitation strategies, ethical considerations, and the psychological aspects of burn care.

Stay at the forefront of clinical practice with insights from leading researchers and updates from ongoing clinical trials. Engage in valuable networking opportunities and interdisciplinary collaboration aimed at improving patient outcomes and optimizing care delivery.

Mark your calendar and join us for this exceptional event at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club!

ACS Surgeons as Educators Course

We are thrilled to celebrate three of our own faculty members who were accepted into and successfully completed the prestigious ACS Surgeons as Educators course this academic year! This rigorous six-day program, offered by the ACS Division of Education, equips surgeons with essential knowledge and skills to excel as educators and leaders in surgical education.

- With enrollment limited to just 40 participants, this highly competitive course is designed to achieve the following key learning objectives:
- Select optimal teaching methods and technologies and enhance the application of these methods to maximize learning.
- Plan and document an instructional unit (for example, a clerkship or residency rotation) using an organized instructional design framework.
- Apply leadership and management skills in the administration of educational programs, including motivating faculty, implementing change, managing conflict, and guiding career development.
- Develop a sound system for assessing the performance of learners and teachers and the efficacy of curricula at the undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education levels.

Congratulations to the following faculty:



Courtney Morgan, MD
Spring 2025 Cohort



Amber Shada, MD
Fall 2024 Cohort



Kaitlyn Kelly, MD, MAS
Fall 2024 Cohort

Celebrating a Powerful Moment of Collaboration: Joining Grand Rounds on Workforce Wellbeing

On February 19, our commitment to collaboration, engagement, and excellence was on full display as Perioperative Services joined with the Departments of Anesthesiology, Gynecology, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Surgery, and Urology for a special Joint Grand Rounds focused on Workforce Wellbeing.

To accommodate this important event, all OR schedules began at 0900. This intentional pause in clinical operations created space for more than just a meeting; it created a moment for reflection, connection, and action.

The session centered on strengthening team relationships and aligning around five key cultural goals: Acknowledgment and awareness, Team engagement, Well-being and collaboration, Professional accountability, and Continuous improvement. Event highlights and key objectives included:

1. **Understanding Our Current State:** Through a thoughtful review of Perceptyx Engagement Survey data, the Wellness Burnout Dashboard, individual interviews, and personal stories, attendees gained a clearer picture of the realities within our OR workplace.
2. **A Fresh Perspective on Workplace Culture:** Dr. Katherine Sanders, a Human Factors & Work Systems Engineer, introduced new frameworks and concepts including:
 - Fundamental Attribution Error
 - Systems Thinking Model
 - Work Systems Model
 - Healthy Work Framework

- Workplace Risk Factors

Her presentation challenged us to reframe how we see problems—and each other.

3. **Cross-Team Dialogue:** Audience members engaged in small group discussions around real workplace scenarios, helping to foster empathy and a deeper understanding of the diverse roles within our surgical ecosystem.
4. **Growing Momentum for Change:** Participants were invited to help shape the future by:
 - Completing a feedback survey
 - Signing up for a new workgroup focused on workplace improvements
 - Learning how to stay engaged in this ongoing initiative

Looking Ahead: We are thrilled to share that over 60 individuals signed up to be part of the Perioperative Workforce Culture Imperative, a growing movement committed to meaningful change. This group will meet monthly to explore root causes of cultural challenges and use UW Health Way tools to develop, test, and implement solutions that promote a healthier, more supportive work environment.



Presentation Highlights



Michaela Gombar presented the initial results of her Association for Surgical Education (ASE) Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) project focused on fellowship EPAs. She was supported by SERF mentor, Dr. Ross Willis from UT San Antonio.

Dr. Carly Sobol received the ASE award for Best Plenary Presentation for her talk on The Fundamentals of Communication in Surgery (FCS): Early Results from a Multisite Study.



Department of Surgery Education Research Works in Progress Group

Are you engaged in an education research project? Do you have scholarship ideas you'd like to discuss? Please join us for the Education Research Works in Progress departmental group meeting. We meet in a hybrid format on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30pm in CSC H4/721 or you can contact **Sarah Jung (jungs@surgeary.wisc.edu)** for the Zoom link. Hope to see you there; we look forward to hearing about your work!

Education Research Publication Year in Review

Here is a sample of some of the exciting surgical education research happening in our department:

Mills A, Coleman B, Sun T, Serena T, Weaver ML, Smith BK. Operative competency and autonomy achieved by senior vascular surgery integrated residents and fellows. J Vasc Surg. 2025 May;81(5):1221-1227.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.jvs.2025.01.190. Epub 2025 Jan 28. PMID: 39884563.

Abid M, Rodefeld L, Adhikari M, Jarman B, McDougal L, O'Rourke AP, Amiri F, Hawes EM. Cultivating Rural Surgeons: An Analysis of the Current Rural Surgery Graduate Medical Education Landscape and a Roadmap to Program Creation. J Surg Educ. 2025 Apr;82(4):103446. doi: 10.1016/j.jsurg.2025.103446. Epub 2025 Feb 15. Erratum in: J Surg Educ. 2025 May;82(5):103503. doi: 10.1016/j.jsurg.2025.103503. PMID: 39956080.

Cin MD, Nourmohammadi Z, Hamdan U, Zopf DA. Design, Development, and Evaluation of a 3D-Printed Buccal Myomucosal Flap Simulator. Cleft Palate Craniofac J. 2025 Jan 9;10556656241311044. doi: 10.1177/10556656241311044. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39782928.

DeLaura I, Rhodin KE, Ladowski J, Howell TC, Migaly J, Vatsaas C, Elfenbein DM, Tracy E. Student and Attending Preceptor Perceptions of Longitudinal Clinic as a Surgical Education and Assessment Tool. J Surg Res. 2024 Dec;304:264-272. doi: 10.1016/j.jss.2024.10.019. Epub 2024 Nov 20. PMID: 39571465.

Fulton M, Donnelly DT, Nkana ZH, Jung S, Zeng W, Dingle AM. The Impact of Early Exposure to Microsurgery Training on Undergraduates: A Pilot Course. WMJ. 2024 Nov;123(5):368-373. PMID: 39509622.

Layne D, Jung S, Varley P, O'Rourke A, Minter R. How well do faculty do in providing general surgery EPA feedback? Am J Surg. 2024 Oct;236:115902. doi: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2024.115902. Epub 2024 Aug 22. PMID: 39242235.

George RE, Bay CC, Thornton SM, Zhong T, Feeley LP, Schappe AM, Dingle AM, Poore SO. Unmatched. What's Next? Is a Preliminary Year of Residency or Research Fellowship Better for Reapplicants to Plastic Surgery? Plast Reconstr Surg Glob Open. 2024 Jul 5;12(7):e5955. doi: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000005955. PMID: 38974831; PMCID: PMC11224867.

Carter TM, Sun T, Jones A, Smith BK. A study of internal structure validity for the American board of surgery in training examination. Am J Surg. 2025 Apr;242:116184. doi: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2025.116184. Epub 2025 Jan 3. PMID: 39826310.

education awards

Education Awards

2022 David Jarrard

2024 David Jarrard

Medical Student Teaching Awards

Layton F. Rikkers Faculty Award for Medical Student Education

2010	Bruce Slaughenhaupt
2011	Rebecca Sippel
2012	Louis Bernhardt
2013	Michael Bentz
2014	Jacquelynn Arbuckle
2015	Chip Foley
2016	Jennifer Steiman
2017	Jacob Greenberg
2018	Evie Carchman
2019	Amber Shada
2020	Greg Hartig
2021	Lee Faucher
2022	David M. Melnick
2023	Courtney Morgan
2024	David Al-Adra

Dean's Teaching Awards

1997	Diane Heatley
2007	Yolanda Becker
2010	Bruce Slaughenhaupt
2010	Gretchen Schwarze
2012	Rebecca Sippel
2014	Louis Bernhardt
2016	Michael Bentz
2017	Ann O'Rourke
2019	Neil Salyapongse
2023	Dawn Elfenbein
2024	Dawn Elfenbein

Dean's Award for Excellence in Student Research Mentorship

2010	Herbert Chen
2013	Gregory Kennedy
2016	Rebecca Sippel

General Surgery Resident Teaching Awards

Chief Award to Faculty for Teaching

Selected by chief class as the best faculty teacher

2009	Chip Foley
2010	James Orr
2011	Jim Maloney
2012	Mike Garren
2013	Jacob Greenberg
2014	Peter Nichol
2015	Charles Leys
2016	Kenneth Kudsk
2017	Evie Carchman
2019	Ann O'Rourke
2020	Jacob Greenberg
2021	John Scarborough
2022	Evie Carchman
2023	Roland Vega
2024	Dan Abbott & Raymond Georgen

Louis Bernhardt Resident Teaching Award

Awarded to faculty who has made significant contribution to the educational mission of the General Surgery Residency Program

2013	Clifford Cho
2014	Ann O'Rourke
2015	Suresh Agarwal
2016	Jennifer Steiman
2017	John Scarborough
2018	Roland Vega
2019	David Melnick
2020	Adam Brinkman
2021	Eugene "Chip" Foley
2022	Amber Shada
2023	Patrick Varley
2024	Sean Ronnekleiv-Kelly

Continued

education awards

Layton F. Rikers Chair Teaching Award

Awarded to faculty for educational excellence based on resident evaluations

2013	Lee Wilke
2014	Rebecca Sippel
2015	Chip Foley
2016	Lee Faucher
2017	David Foley
2018	Joshua Mezrich
2019	Tony D'Alessandro
2020	Eugene "Chip" Foley
2021	Cristina Sanger
2022	Angela Gibson
2023	Jacqueline Garonzik-Wang
2024	Evie Carchman

Resident Teacher and Leader Award

Selected by residents and awarded to the General Surgery resident who best demonstrates the virtues of teacher and leader

2013	Andrew Russ
2014	Ari Reichstein
2015	Adam Brinkman
2016	Patrick Shabino
2017	Michael Nabozny
2018	Ryan Shmocker
2019	Tiffany Zens
2020	Jay Nathwani
2021	Sebastian Danobeitia
2022	Annie Dunham
2023	James Barrett
2024	Taylor Aiken

General Surgery Resident Awards

Ben Lawton Award

Awarded to the chief resident with the best overall medical student score over the course of their residency

2009	Chirag Dholakia
2010	Erik Johnson
2011	Joshua Hermsen
2012	Aaron Chalmers
2013	Andrew Russ
2014	Ari Reichstein
2015	Laura Fischer
2016	Patrick Shabino
2017	Sara Holden
2018	Ryan Shmocker
2019	Lane Frasier
2020	Becca Gunter
2021	Joseph Imbus
2022	Devon Livingston-Rosanoff
2023	Trieu Do
2024	Nicole Reedy

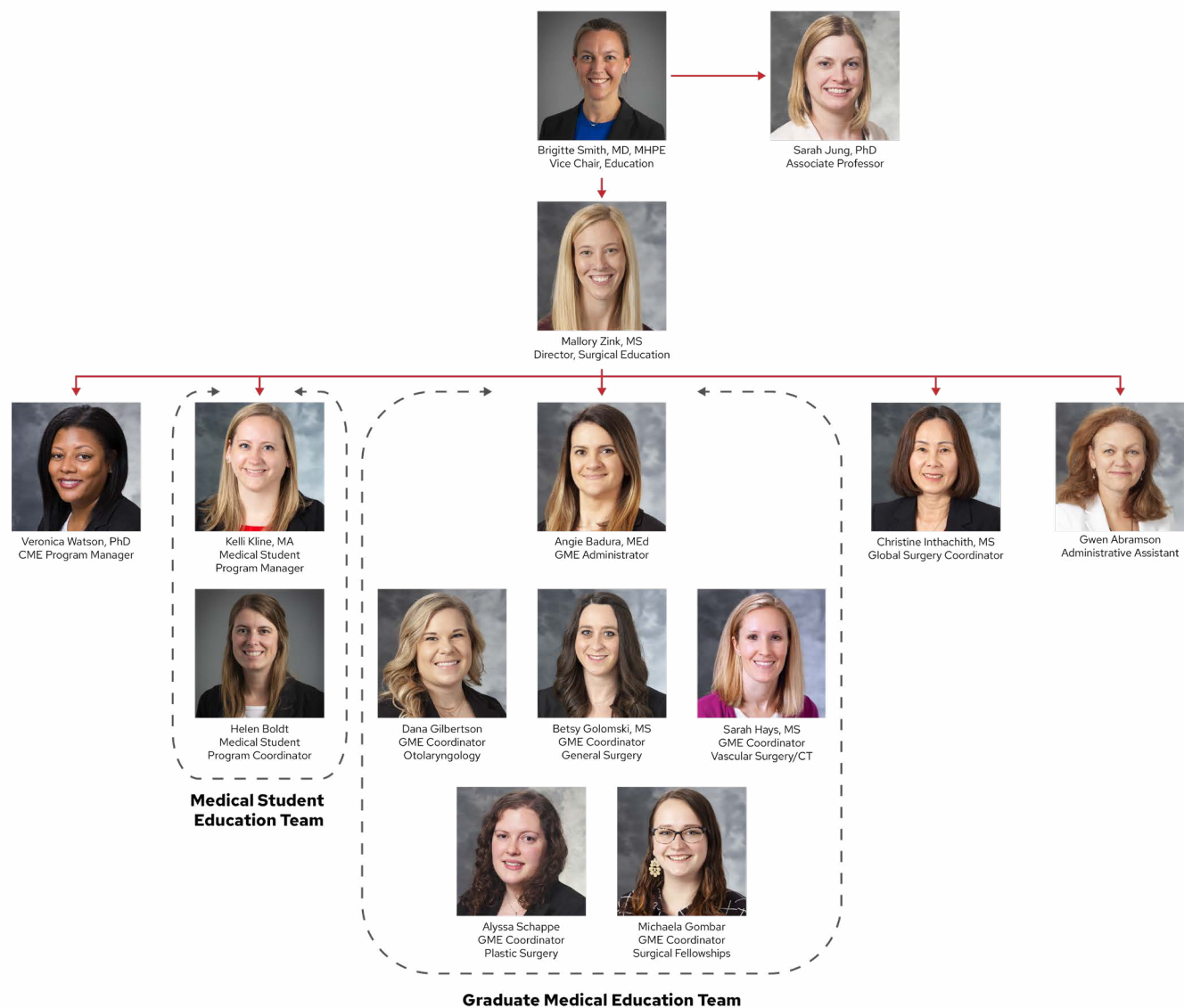
2024 Annual Resident Teaching Awards

Given to a PGY-3 or PGY-4 involved in clinical teaching in the Third Year Surgery Clerkship and based on medical students' evaluations and focus group comments

- Jackie Murtha (General Surgery)
- Alyssa Wiener (General Surgery)
- Samuel Floren (Otolaryngology)
- M. Kristine Carbullido (Plastic Surgery)
- Sarah Zaza (Vascular Surgery)

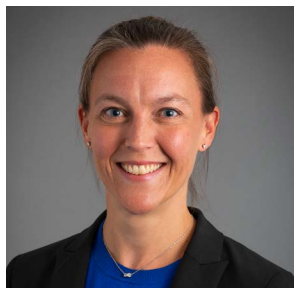
office of surgical education

Our Team



office of surgical education

Dr. Brigitte Smith Receives ASE Distinguished Mid-Career Educator Award



Brigitte Smith, MD, MHPE
Vice Chair of Education

Dr. Brigitte Smith, Associate Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery and Vice Chair of Education, was selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Mid-Career Educator Award by the Association of Surgical Education (ASE). She was honored at the annual ASE Awards Banquet on May 9 in Seattle, Washington.

The ASE Education Awards were established by the ASE to recognize the dedication of surgical educators. These awards are meant to highlight and encourage outstanding teachers and surgical educators. The Distinguished Mid-Career Educator Award is given to educators who completed their training at least 6 years and no more than 20 years ago and have demonstrated teaching excellence at the national and/or international level.

The ASE is a leading organization in surgical education. The mission of the organization is to innovate, lead, and enhance the careers of surgical educators and surgical learners.

Dana Gilbertson Elected as Chair of the Executive Board for OPCO

Dana Gilbertson, program manager for the Otolaryngology Residency Program, was recently elected to the position of Chair of the Executive Board for the Otolaryngology Program Coordinators Organization (OPCO) by the OPCO membership.

Dana will be the OPCO Chair for the next two years. In this position, she will oversee the organization and execution of the OPCO annual conference in November 2025 and November 2026. The OPCO conference occurs alongside the annual Society of University Otolaryngologists meeting.

This accomplishment represents Dana's commitment to supporting Otolaryngology residents and program coordinators.



Dana Gilbertson

Michaela Gombar Receives SMPH CAC Rising Star Coordinator Award

Congratulations to Michaela Gombar, GME Program Manager, on receiving the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health Coordinator's Advisory Council (CAC) Rising Star Coordinator Award. This award was established by the CAC to recognize the work of a dedicated residency or fellowship coordinator with less than five years in their position.



Michaela Gombar

Alyssa Schappe Receives Debra Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence Award

Congratulations to Alyssa Schappe, GME program manager, on receiving the Debra Dooley GME Program Coordinator Excellence award at the 2025 ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Nashville. This award is given to program coordinators in recognition of their in-depth understanding of the accreditation process, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and projects to improve residency and fellowship programs.



Alyssa Schappe

office of surgical education

We are excited to have new faculty within the department step into new educational leadership roles. Congrats to the following new program leaders!



Brigitte Smith, MD, MHPE
Vice Chair of Education



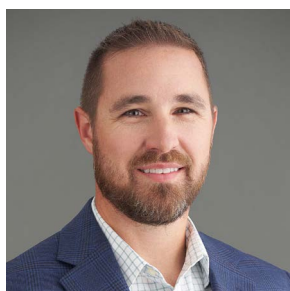
Courtney Morgan, MD
UME Director



Chey Collura, MD
SIG/Shadow Leader



Kelly Collins, MD
*Program Director,
Transplant Fellowship*



Ryan Juza, MD
*Associate Program Director,
MIS, Advanced GI MIS/Hernia
and Abdominal Wall*



Amber Shada, MD
*Associate Program Director,
MIS, Foregut and Bariatric
Surgery Fellowship*



Education

We will advance surgical education within our connected global surgical community through the implementation of novel training methods and a commitment to the comprehensive measurement of educational outcomes.

OBJECTIVES - YEAR 1

Ensure assessment data is systematically integrated into improving surgical learners' knowledge, skills, and attitudes, summative decision making, and teaching methods.

Explore opportunities to share innovative competency assessment tools with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Promote and support education research to describe, justify, and clarify novel educational methods, programs, and policies applicable to the department's learners.



Department of Surgery
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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