

2013

News in Brief

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Recent Residency Program Graduate Pledges Ongoing Support



Recent residency graduate, Negar Golesorkhi, MD, with Charles J. Yeo, MD, Chair of Surgery, in 2008.

After graduating from Jefferson's surgical residency program in 2008, Negar Golesorkhi, MD, went on to complete a prestigious breast surgical oncology fellowship at Allegheny

Medical Center. She has since returned to her native Virginia where she is in private practice at the National Breast Center in Lorton. Just a few years into her practice, Dr. Golesorkhi has already pledged to support the surgical residency program that trained and prepared her so well.

Dr. Golesorkhi's commitment to the newly established Surgical Alumni for Education Fund will support academic enrichment for a surgical resident each year. "Surgical residency education is dual-faceted," she says, "One aspect is focused on hands on clinical practice of general surgery and the other aspect is preparing to be credentialed." Dr. Golesorkhi recalls the challenge of studying for the boards on her own, with assistance from the attendings and her fellow residents. She ultimately decided to take a formal preparatory course and feels strongly that such programs can be very beneficial for some people.

"I knew I had the clinical knowledge, but I had to learn how to apply it to a standardized examination. These programs helped me pass my boards, but they are very expensive." Tuition for preparatory courses can cost several thousand dollars – a significant price to pay on a resident's salary.

"Because of Negar's generosity, we will be able to support residents better in the credentialing process."

Dr. Golesorkhi decided to contact her former mentors, including Dr. Karen Chojnacki, to express her interest in providing financial support and put the wheels in motion. Dr. Chojnacki, director of the surgical residency program, explains, "Because of Negar's

generosity, we will be able to support residents better in the credentialing process. One of our recent graduates was given the first stipend from the fund to take board review courses in preparation for the American Board of Surgery certifying exam. We are so grateful to Negar for this gift and the great opportunity afforded to our residents."

Dr. Golesorkhi feels that she has a duty to give back and hopes others will feel the same. "It is a family there – the residents, the attendings, everyone – and I'm so proud of my education at Jefferson. The program has given me so much that I feel that I have to give back in some way."

For additional information about the Surgical Alumni for Education Fund, or to make a contribution to the Department of Surgery, please contact Lara Goldstein in the Jefferson Foundation at 215-955-8797 or lara.goldstein@jefferson.edu



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Benjamin Phillips, MD, FACS, has joined the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Phillips completed residency training in 2005 at University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville

and fellowship training in colorectal surgery in 2009 at Jefferson. He is dual-certified in General Surgery and Colon and Rectal Surgery and will practice in Center City and at Methodist Hospital.

Kudos: **Drs. Paul J. DiMuzio** and **Scott D. Goldstein** have been promoted to Professor of Surgery, **Drs. Scott Cowan** and **Harish Lavu** have been promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery, and **Dr. Gurjyot Bajwa** has been promoted to Assistant Professor of Surgery.

Michael Weinstein, MD, co-director of the Jefferson Center for Critical Care will be awarded the 2013 Philip J. Wolfson Outstanding Teacher Award by the Association of Surgical Education at the annual meeting in April. The award is posthumously named for Dr. Wolfson, the former Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Director of Undergraduate Medical Education at Jefferson.

Jonathan Brody, PhD, director of the Division of Surgical Research, is the Chair-Elect of the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense. As the program chair for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, Dr. Brody will co-chair pre-application and programmatic review meetings which serve to allocate congressional funding to scientific research projects.

Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, FACS has been named a Knight of the Italian Republic by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano. Dr. Doria will be invested into the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic this summer.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Dr. Gibbon's heart-lung machine, **Dr. Herbert Cohn** will present a historic Grand Rounds lecture entitled "Fond Memories" on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7 a.m. in Foerderer Auditorium in the College Building at 1025 Walnut Street.

Save the Date: The John Y. Templeton, III, MD Grand Rounds will be held on May 9, 2013 at 7 a.m. in BLSB 101 at 233 South 10th Street. Dr. Douglas J. Mathisen, Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Hermes C. Grillo Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, will deliver a presentation entitled "Tracheal Surgery".