

2017

Quality & Safety Update: Resident Teams Recognized, New Fellows Initiate Research

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Overview



Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS
Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair
Department of Surgery

The Many Roles of an Academic Surgeon

One of our most important responsibilities is training the next generation of fellows, residents, medical students, and undergraduate students aspiring to a career in medicine. Last summer Sidney Kimmel Medical College launched our new educational curriculum, termed JeffMD (Jefferson.edu/JeffMD). There is great excitement as we have welcomed 270 new medical students, who will be engaged in an entirely new and improved curriculum focused on problem-based learning, small group sessions, lifetime learning, longitudinal threads and experiences. The Department has helped develop the new curriculum, and also hopes to bring to fruition a surgically-focused curriculum, for those medical students who differentiate early into a surgical field. Stay tuned for more, as this materializes under the direction of Drs. Gerald Isenberg and Harrison Pitcher. We also educate our learners by publishing books and journals focused on surgery. Congratulations to the many members of our Department who have led the way and brought to fruition the following major endeavors:

- Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS, published *Contemporary Liver Transplantation* (book)
- Alec Beekley, MD, FACS, published the 2nd edition of *Front Line Surgery* (book)
- Gerald Isenberg, MD, FACS, released the first issue of the ACS online publication: *Case Reviews in Surgery* (journal)
- Nicholas Cavarocchi, MD, FACS, FCCP, published *Critical Care Clinics, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation* (e-book)
- Francesco Palazzo, MD, FACS, and Michael Pucci, MD, FACS, are working on a new book *The Fundamentals of General Surgery* with many chapters already submitted.
- Just two years ago Adam Berger, MD, FACS, edited a monograph on Melanoma, and David Tichansky, MD, MBA, FACS, edited *The SAGES Manual of Quality, Outcomes, and Patient Safety*
- My personal project, the 8th Edition of Shackelford's *Surgery of the Alimentary Tract* just celebrated the submission of the last of the 184 chapters that will make up this 2 volume set.

Lastly, having just concluded my summer faculty chats with all 61 of our Jefferson-based faculty members, it is impressive to reflect on their accomplishments and achievements to date. It is certainly clear to me that our Department makes critical contributions to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital being named to the *U.S. News & World Report* Honor Roll, as the 16th best hospital in America.

Please enjoy the various articles which compose this issue and keep up with our news on [Facebook.com/JeffersonSurgery](https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonSurgery) and [Twitter@JEFFsurgery](https://twitter.com/JEFFsurgery) in between issues.

Clinical Integration



Under the direction of Vice Chair for Quality, Dr. Scott Cowan (center), current quality and safety initiatives in the department are managed by former Quality & Safety fellow Adam Johnson, MD, current Quality & Safety fellows Megan Lundgren, MD, and Kulvir Nandra, MD (not pictured), and surgical clinical reviewers Kathleen Shindle, RN, BSN, and Christine Schleider, RN, BSN.

Quality & Safety Update: Resident Teams Recognized, New Fellows Initiate Research

Championing quality and safety is an institutional commitment and a critical part of day-to-day operations in the Department of Surgery. Scott Cowan, MD, FACS, Vice Chair for Quality in the Department, shares an update on current initiatives.

Fellowship research underway

In 2015, the Department launched a Quality & Safety Fellowship Program, with inaugural fellow, Adam Johnson, MD, conducting outcomes research for the Department and the hospital.

"In July 2017, Kulvir Nandra, MD, and Megan Lundgren, MD, began their one year terms as Quality & Safety Fellows," Dr. Cowan says. "Dr. Nandra is focusing on telemedicine and patient ambulation, while Dr. Lundgren is concentrating on professionalism and on increasing the efficiency and feedback process of our error reporting system."

The fellowship program offers surgical residents the opportunity to develop and implement quality and safety projects while earning a Certificate in Quality and Safety through the Thomas Jefferson University School of Population Health. The program was made possible through the generosity of a grateful patient, Tom Wiener, and his late wife, Felice.

"I am Patient Safety" Award

In 2015, Dr. Cowan and the general surgery residents initiated Quality Based Initiatives Research Teams (QBIRTs) to improve aspects of surgical quality, including reducing post-surgical re-intubation, decreasing surgical site infections in colorectal surgery patients and improving the process of patient information handoffs. This team-based method empowers residents to identify opportunities, design

interventions and implement changes quickly and effectively. Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority recognized Jefferson's QBIRT program with the "I am Patient Safety" award. Jefferson's program was one of 13 winners selected from more than 180 nominations.

Clinical reviews and education

Dr. Cowan also lauds Christine Schneider, RN, BSN, CNOR, and Kathleen Shindle, RN, BSN, CCDS, CDIP, for their work as surgical clinical reviewers (SCRs) for the Department of Surgery American College of Surgeons' National Surgical Quality Improvement Program® (ACS NSQIP®). They regularly review patient charts, record data and follow up with patients about their progress, recovery and any complications from the time of surgery to 30 days post-op.

In addition to their roles as SCRs, Christine and Kathleen have been instrumental in promoting the iCough program—an initiative aimed at reducing pulmonary complications among surgical patients. As Christine explains, "We are actively involved in educating patients and providers about the importance of ambulation, using the incentive spirometer and other interventions to help prevent respiratory complications after surgery."

The Surgical Quality and Safety team is inspired by the growing collaboration across Jefferson, Abington and Aria. Dr. Cowan explains, "We have some truly innovative teams working together to implement thoughtful improvements and provide the highest quality care for our patients. It's a very exciting time!"

Meet the Interns



The Department has welcomed an impressive group of categorical interns including two graduates of Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. The interns were selected from over 1350 applicants to our program. These doctors, who matched with Jefferson, started on June 20, 2017. Please welcome (from left to right):

- Ryan Lamm, MD**
Stony Brook University School of Medicine
- James Fraser, MD**
Quinnipiac University School of Medicine
- Andrew Hallett, MD**
New York University School of Medicine
- Keyur Patel, MD**
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
- Lindsay Lynch, MD**
Rutgers University – New Jersey Medical School
- Adrienne Christopher, MD**
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

We are also pleased to welcome back the following Sidney Kimmel Medical College 2017 graduates as preliminary interns in general surgery: Drs. Gabi Barmettler, Charles McCann, and James Metkus.