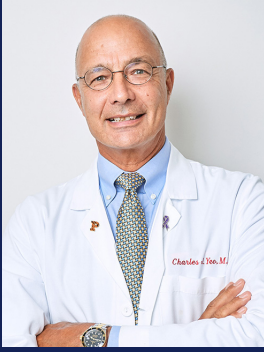


Overview



Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS

Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery
Senior Vice President and Chair, Enterprise Surgery
Jefferson Health

Resilience

Resilience is defined as the “the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness”. Psychologists define resilience as the ability to adapt well in the face of trauma, tragedy, adversity or significant sources of stress. While medical school, nursing school and post-graduate training all require some measure of adaptability for learners, little of the past has prepared us for 2020: the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic downturn, multiple episodes of racial injustice and a toxic political environment.

The response of Jefferson Health and Jefferson Surgery this past year has been nothing short of miraculous. With the initial COVID-19 surge in the spring of 2020 we quickly adapted to a new normal. N95 masks. Face shields. COVID-19 testing. We were nimble enough to resume our full OR schedules in a few short months. Our ORs were quite busy. Our ICUs were at or near capacity. What we were no longer doing as face-to-face patient encounters in the office setting we replaced with telehealth visits. To quote Jodi Picoult from *My Sister's Keeper*: “The human capacity for burden is like bamboo – far more flexible than you would ever believe at first glance.”

I have never been more proud of Jefferson Surgery than I was this year. The entire Department deserves huge KUDOs. We have cared for large numbers of very ill patients (some with COVID-19); we have seen an increased volume of trauma patients; our cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery and transplant surgery teams have been very busy; and our cancer patient population has been maintained. A departing thought, from Winston Churchill: “If you’re going through hell, keep going”. We have kept going!

New Faculty



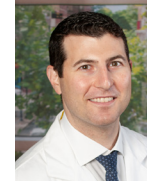
Jessica Latona, MD, has joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery. Dr. Latona completed the General Surgery Residency Program and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She also completed a Research Fellowship at Lankenau Hospital.



Susanna Nazarian, MD, PhD, FACS, has joined the Division of General Surgery. Dr. Nazarian completed the General Surgery Residency, PhD Program in Clinical Investigation, and Abdominal Organ Transplantation Fellowship at Johns Hopkins. She recently completed a Breast Cancer Surgery Fellowship at University of Pennsylvania.



Radu A. Nedelcoviciu, MD, FACS, has joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery. Dr. Nedelcoviciu completed the General Surgery Residency at Lankenau Hospital. He then completed the Surgical Critical Care and Trauma Fellowship at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He is board certified in Surgery and Surgical Critical Care.



Michael Nooromid, MD, has joined the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Dr. Nooromid completed the Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.



Olugbenga Okusanya, MD, FACS, has joined the Division of Thoracic and Esophageal Surgery. Dr. Okusanya completed the General Surgery Residency and served as a Research Fellow at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He then completed Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency and Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He specializes in minimally invasive thoracic and esophageal surgery.

Meet the Interns

Last June, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following sixteen categorical interns began their training in our three General Surgery Residency Programs.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital



Fari Fall, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Luke Meredith, MD
University of Louisville
School of Medicine



Emily Isch, MD
University of Connecticut
School of Medicine



Sourav Podder, MD
University of Massachusetts
Medical School



Kathleen Jarrell, MD
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



Hamza Rshaidat, MD*
St. George's University of London -
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

Abington – Jefferson Health



Jaleesa Akuoko, MD
Geisel School of Medicine
at Dartmouth



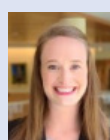
Christian DiLiberto, DO
Rowan University School of
Osteopathic Medicine



Dean Granot, MD
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



Robert Myers, MD
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center at Dallas



Casey Paterson, MD*
St. George's University of London -
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine & Jefferson Health System



Nielsen Gabriel, DO
Touro University of Nevada College
of Osteopathic Medicine



Fareed Hamidulla, DO
Rowan University School of
Osteopathic Medicine



Monica Khattak, DO
Rowan University School of
Osteopathic Medicine



Tyler Sauerbeck, DO
Ohio University Heritage College of
Osteopathic Medicine



Victoria Tiedemann, DO
Touro College of Osteopathic
Medicine - New York

*Two of our interns are graduates of a unique transatlantic partnership between St. George's, University of London, and Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. The program, initiated in 2015, was designed to allow students to prepare for 21st century global health challenges via exposure to both U.S. and U.K. health systems.