



Cutting Edge

Newsletter of the Department of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
Medical Center of Central Georgia

January 2010

Message from the Chair

At one moment you're the doctor, the next you're the patient. That's how quickly it happens, and it happened to me in July. I suffered a comminuted fracture of my left elbow early one Saturday. By evening I had a plate and screws holding my ulna together.

In between, I experienced many of the events our patients and their families go through every day. My wife Natalie had to find her way to the emergency department room where I was. The nurse missed a vein for an I.V. and a blood draw. The breeze cooled my back side while I shuffled in an open hospital gown to the commode to provide a urine sample. The wait for an x-ray was two and a half hours.

But I was pleasantly surprised – touched, even. The nurse got the I.V. on the next stick, and it worked well throughout the day. The care assistant guided me to the commode at an easy pace and stood by my side. The x-ray techs handled my arm with care and with a minimum of discomfort. There was an easy air of confidence, friendliness, and compassion. I heard instruments being lined up, felt cold E.C.G. and electrocautery pads being placed, and overheard technical cross talk. I was under the care of professionals at work.

As a surgeon I have a surgeon's conceit of being the "captain of the ship." My experience as a patient tells me otherwise. An overlooked aspect of medical professionalism is respect for the concepts and standards of other professions. They believe in what they do and they do it well. As a surgeon and as a patient I benefit from their care and their work.

Don K. Nakayama, M.D., M.B.A.

Milford B. Hatcher Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery

Mercer University School of Medicine

Program Director, Residency in Surgery, Medical Center of Central Georgia

Chief Residents Honored at '09 Graduation

J. Daniel Day, D. Benjamin Christie, and Jeffery Walding, were honored at the 2009 Graduation by their families and members of the Department of Surgery at the Idle Hour Country Club June 20.

David Rosenthal, Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Emory University School of Medicine and Chief of Vascular Surgery at the Atlanta Medical Center, gave the graduation address. He reminded them of their coming responsibilities to their patients and their own families as they enter their busy professional lives.

Rising chief residents **Andrew Foret, Mark Herndon, and Clint Streetman** introduced Drs. Day, Christie, and Walding with a mild 'roast' of their habits and notable missteps in their five years at MCCG. Each ended with a heart-felt expression of good wishes for their future. **Martin Dalton, M.D.**, Professor and Emeritus Chair of the Department, noted that the formal dinner is a tradition of the Department for the past 17 years.

The graduation is the high point of the residency year. Dr. Day will be entering private practice in general surgery in Jackson, Tennessee. Dr. Christie will be the first critical care fellow in the newly established training program in Surgical Critical Care at MCCG. Dr. Walding spent a year in microvascular training at the University of Mississippi before starting a residency in plastic surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina.

On the cover: The graduating chief residents seated in their new chairs commemorating their induction into the Will C. Sealy Society. Left to right: Drs. **J. Daniel Day, D. Benjamin Christie, and Jeffery Walding.**

News

Dr. Dalton Authors History of MUSM

Martin L Dalton, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Chair and Dean Emeritus, MUSM, wrote a new book, *The History of the Mercer University School of Medicine*, published by Mercer University Press in Macon. The book describes the persons and personalities behind the inception of a new medical school in middle Georgia. Much of the story lies in the organizing local and state political and financial support for the venture. Dalton describes their audacious vision to bring quality medical care to underserved rural Georgia through novel concepts in medical education. He traces the development of the school through its early years, the maturation of its graduate residency training programs, and expansion into Savannah and later organization of a four-year school there. Dalton enlisted collaborators in chronicling the history of the individual departments of the school, presented in separate chapters.

Kirby Godsey, President Emeritus of Mercer University, in the forward to Dr. Dalton's book credits him for "recording with both candor and thoughtfulness this magnificent journey that led to the creation of the school of medicine."

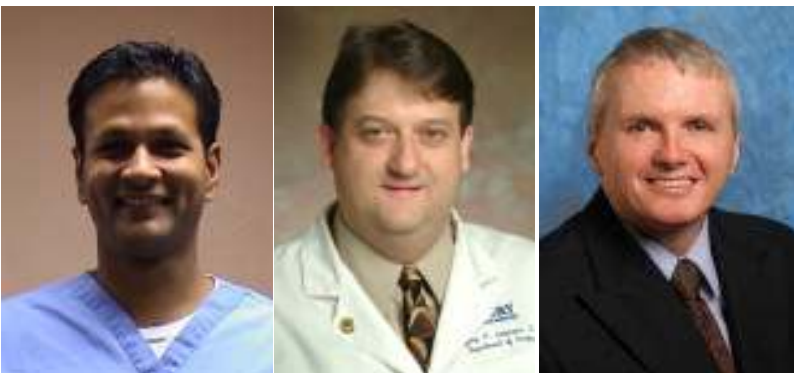


Trauma Center Hosts 19th Annual Symposium

More than 100 surgeons, emergency staff, nurses, and prehospital personnel attended the 19th Annual Trauma Symposium at MCCG on November 5. Guest speakers included Vik Bebart, M.D., from San Antonio, and Jeffrey Salomone, M.D., of Atlanta. **Leon Sykes, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Surgery at MUSM, was the faculty speaker. The Symposium is organized each year by Dennis Ashley, M.D., Professor of Surgery, and **Debra Kitchens, R.N.**, EMT-P, MUSM Trauma Center Coordinator.

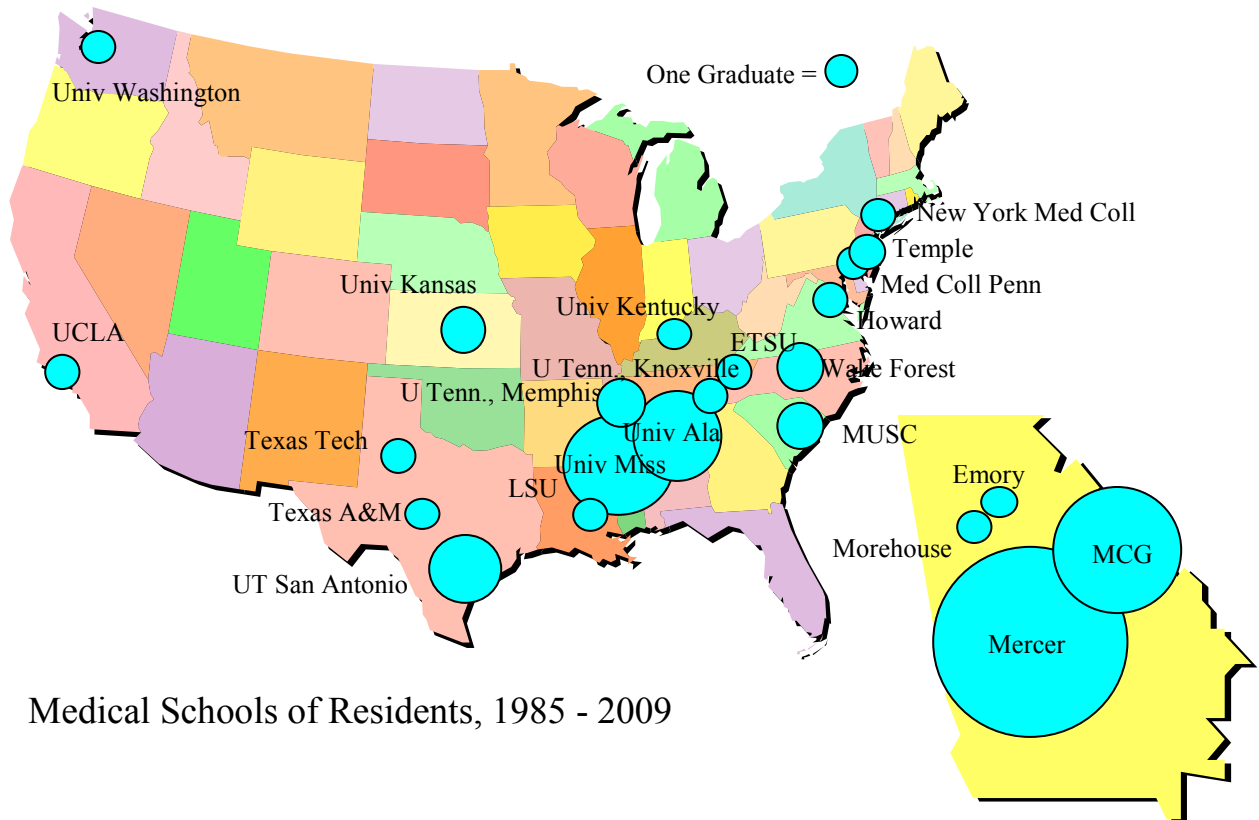
Dr. Bebart is Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. He is staff emergency physician at Wilford Hall Medical Center. He spoke on new concepts in blast injuries based in part on his extensive experience treating wounded soldiers in the Iraq War. Dr. Salomone is Associate

Professor of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and is on the administrative staff at the Grady Memorial Hospital Emergency Medical Services and its Prehospital Trauma Life Support Program. He gave an update on the current approach to transfusion for life-threatening injury. Dr. Sykes is associate director of surgical critical care services at MCCG. He presented the current concept of rib fracture fixation in chest injuries.



Left to right: Drs. Bebart, Salomone, and Sykes.

2010 Resident Recruitment



The residency in general surgery is interviewing 48 candidates for their 4 categorical positions. From medical schools across the country, the most represented schools are Mercer (5 applicants), Chicago Medical School, Florida State, Univ Texas Southwestern (4 each), Univ Texas Houston (3), Medical Col Georgia, Morehouse, Alabama, and Louisiana State (2 each). Eighty percent (39) are attending medical schools in the South. Applicants were 60% male, 40% female; 56% white, 23% Black, 13% Asian, and 8% Hispanic. Their USMLE Step 1 scores averaged 213; their Step 2 scores, 235.

The list for applicants and programs are submitted in February. Match results, the highlight of the medical students' fourth year, is in mid-March.

Get-Togethers Welcome Residents

Martin and Alice Dalton hosted a welcome party in honor of our new interns and residents at their home Saturday of orientation week. Their swimming pool was the refreshing center of activity for the residents and their families. The families and spouses of senior and junior residents had an opportunity to meet the new arrivals in a relaxed atmosphere over fried catfish, hot dogs, and cole slaw.

Sam and Judy Shaker had residents and families at their home for a barbecue in October. The children paddled about in boats, fished from the shore, and went on hayrides. Residents tested their skeet shooting skill. There was plenty of pre-Halloween candy that challenged parents' later abilities to settle kids to bed.

2009 Speakers

Gator Surgery Chief Behrns Visits Macon

Kevin Behrns, M.D., Edward Woodward Professor of Surgery and Chair of Surgery at the University of Florida, was a guest of the Macon Surgical Society and visiting professor of the Department in July. An international expert in pancreatic surgery, he spoke on biliary pancreatitis at the dinner meeting of the Society and on pancreatic cystic disease at Grand Rounds the next morning. He discussed cases with the residents at a lively discussion session that followed.

A graduate of the Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minnesota., in 1988, he continued his general surgery training there. He is known for his commitment to education and has been recognized with numerous teaching awards.



Chattanooga Surgical Educator Joseph Cofer



Joseph B. Cofer, M.D., a leader in surgical education in the U.S., addressed the Macon Surgical Society and the Department of Surgery in October. Immediate past president of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery, the main organization of residency directors in the U.S., Dr. Cofer is Professor of Surgery at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Chattanooga.

At the Macon Surgical Society Wednesday evening he reviewed the national quality initiative of the American College of Surgeons, National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), and his state's collaborative efforts to improve health care, Tennessee Surgical Quality Collaborative. The following morning at the Department of Surgery Grand Rounds he presented instructive cases in his own practice in hepatobiliary surgery.

Vascular Malformation Authority B. B. Lee

Byung-Boong Lee, M.D., Professor of Surgery at the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., gave Department of Surgery Grand Rounds in October, the guest of Ken Harper, M.D., a specialist in vascular surgery and venous disease in Macon. Lee, an experienced transplant surgeon, has focused his later career in the treatment of vascular malformations, a extremely difficult and challenging area of medicine. An internationally recognized authority in the field, he gave a presentation on the treatment of lymphedema.

Reza Shaker, Esophageal Motility Expert

Reza Shaker, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chief of the division of Gastroenterology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, gave Department of Surgery Grand Rounds in November on the management of nocturnal gastroesophageal reflux disease. He presented the clinical research in the area, much of it coming from his laboratory. He was hosted by Shahriar Sedghi, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine and gastroenterologist in Macon.



2010 Speakers

Vanderbilt Chair Daniel Beauchamp



Daniel Beauchamp, M.D., will visit in January. He is the John Clinton Foshee Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery,

Dr. Beauchamp's Grand Rounds presentation will be "Understanding Colorectal Cancer Metastases," where he will define the risk factors and genetic roles that determine metastasis in colon cancer. At the Macon Surgical Society he will talk on, "Creating a Safe Perioperative Environment," where he will review his experience with using process measures and informatics to reduce the risk of surgical infection.

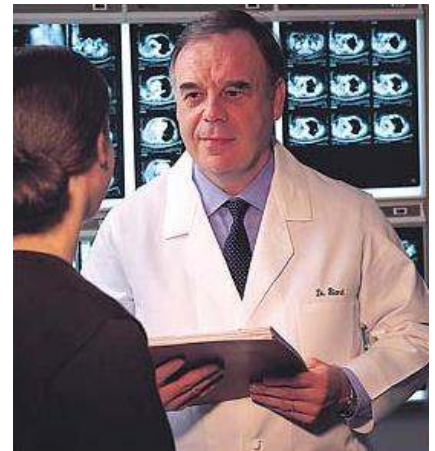
Dr. Beauchamp is an active cancer investigator with more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and continuous funding from the N.I.H. for more than 18 years. He is co-editor of one of Sabiston's Textbook of Surgery, now in its 18th edition.

Milford Hatcher Lecturer: UAB Chair Kirby Bland

In March the Department of Surgery will host Kirby I. Bland, M.D., who will give the 2010 Milford Hatcher Lecture. The Hatcher Lecture is the highlight of the academic year for the Department.

Dr. Bland is the Fay Fletcher Kerner Chair of Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. One of the most prominent surgeons in the U.S., he has held numerous leadership posts in important American surgical organizations, including the presidencies of the Southern Surgical Association and the Southeastern Surgical Congress.

He has been awarded numerous national and regional contracts and grants and has made important contributions to the surgical literature in the areas of surgical oncology, shock, trauma, and metabolism. He is editor of *The Breast*, the authoritative book on breast diseases.



Day of Surgery: MCG's Mellinger, Emory's Lin

John Mellinger, M.D., and Edward Lin, D.O., will be this year's invited speakers at the 37th Day of Surgery on May 13, 2010. The Day of Surgery, established by **Ellis Evans, M.D.**, Clinical Professor of Surgery, is the featured continuing education activity of the Department.

Dr. Mellinger is the Program Director of the Residency in Surgery, and Chief of the Division of General Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia. An accomplished surgical endoscopist and surgical educator in the U.S., in 2005 he was recognized by the Association for Surgical Education with its Outstanding Teacher Award.

Edward Lin, D.O., is one of the region's young innovators in minimally invasive surgery. He is Associate Professor of Surgery at Emory University. He serves as director of a number of major clinical units at the Emory Clinic, including the Endosurgery Unit for Minimally Invasive Surgery, and the Emory Bariatric Center.

The 2009-2010 PGY4 residents will also give presentations as part of the Day of Surgery event.

In Memoriam

Jackie Sealy, Wife of Late MUSM Chair Will Sealy

The surgical community, especially MUSM, East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and the Duke University in Durham, N.C. was greatly saddened by the death of Jacqueline Womble “Jackie” Sealy on July 10, 2009.

Jackie and **Will Camp Sealy, M.D.**, married after losing their respective spouses, Jackie’s from a plane crash in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Sealy’s from acute laryngitis. They met while sharing rides in a car at Duke. Together they raised Dr. Sealy’s four children and Jackie’s two. They were wed for 35 years until the death of Dr. Sealy in January 2001.

In 1984 Hugh Sealy, Dr. Sealy’s brother and a practicing cardiologist in Macon, asked Dr. Sealy to assist in the development of MUSM. They had planned to stay only a few months but stayed until 2000 when they retired to Greenville, NC to be near their families.

After her children were grown, she turned to many hobbies including reading, knitting, gardening, traveling, and investing. She will be sorely missed by everyone that knew her. She was a grand lady and a wonderful companion to Will Camp Sealy. — *Martin Dalton, M.D.*



Nancy Van De Water, MUSM Librarian

The MUSM family lost a dear and valued friend and coworker Nancy Noyes Van De Water in June 2009.

Mrs. Van De Water was the wife of MUSM Professor of Surgery **Joseph Van De Water, M.D.** She was Special Projects Librarian at the MUSM Peyton T. Anderson Learning Resources Center at MUSM, having worked at several capacities there since 1988. She was a noted medical librarian, with degrees in Zoology from Wellesley (MA) College, Masters in Library Science from the Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland), and a coveted position as intern at the National Library of Medicine (Bethesda, MD). She worked at the Brain Information Service at U.C.L.A. and specialized collections at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.



She and Dr. Van De Water were married for 43 years. Their trips around the world both amazed and entertained coworkers. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and two brothers. Memorial donations should be sent to the MUSM Medical Library and the Learning Resource Center there.

Honors, Awards, and Publications

Sheryl Nipper, Administrative Assistant, was honored by the Medical Center for her 25 years continuous service to the Department of Surgery. She has supported the residency as Residency Coordinator since its re-organization by Dr Will Sealy.



Eric Long, PGY3, won the Basic Science award for best paper at the annual residents' competition of the Committee on Trauma Southeast Region of the American College of Surgeons meeting in New Orleans in November. He is eligible to compete in the national competition in Las Vegas in March 2010. His work won the state Committee on Trauma competition of the Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons meeting in August in Atlanta.



Jason Chapman, PGY3, won the "Looking to the Future Scholarship to attend the annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons at Fort Lauderdale, FL, in January. The scholarship identifies and encourages general surgery residents who are considering a career in cardiothoracic surgery

Publications

Bozeman A.P., Scoglietti V.C., Bush G.D., Kong L., Kang J., Robinson J.S. Jr., Nakayama D.K., Wang Z.

Thrombin stimulates activity of MMP-2 in microvascular endothelial cells through a mechanism involving PARI activation and protein synthesis. *J Amer Coll Surg* 2009;209:S35.

Scoglietti V.C., Kong L., Kang J., Robinson J.S. Jr., Nakayama D.K., Wang Z. Thrombin-stimulated MMP2 activity in vascular endothelial cells involves protein synthesis and ERK activation. *J Amer Coll Surg* 2009;209:S137.

Foret A.L., Bozeman A.P., and Floyd W.E. III. Necrosis caused by intra-arterial injection of promethazine: Case report. *J Hand Surg* 2009;34A:919.

Koehler M.B. and **Nakayama D.K.** Treatment of cutaneous abscess without postoperative dressing changes. *AORNJ* 2009;90:569.

Nakayama D.K., Burd, R.S. and Newman K.D. Pediatric surgery workforce: supply and demand. *J Pediatr Surg* 2009;44:1677.

Nakayama D.K., Burd, R.S. and Newman K.D. Clinical and financial characteristics of pediatric surgery practices. *J Pediatr Surg* 2009;44:1304.

Nakayama D.K., and **Bozeman A.P.** Industry support of graduate medical education in surgery. *Am Surg* 2009;75:395.

Wang Z., Kong L., Kang J., Morgan J.H. III, Shillcutt S.D., **Robinson J.S. Jr,** and **Nakayama D.K.** Thombin stimulates mitogenesis in pig cerebrovascular smooth muscle cells involving activation of pro-MMP-2. *Neurosci Lett* 2009;451:199.

Moore A.B. and **Nakayama D.K.** Prefomed Silastic silos in the management of necrotizing enterocolitis. *Am Surg* 2009;75:172

Invited Lectures

Ashley DW. State advocacy: What is it and how to do it. Trauma funding. Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons, Chicago, IL, October 13 2009.

Nakayama D.K. Physiology of the surgical newborn. Society for Fetal Urology, Section of Urology, American Academy of Pediatrics, Chicago IL, October 16 2009.

Nakayama D.K. In defense of industry-physician relationships. Meeting, Southeast State Medical Society Leadership Meeting, Atlanta, GA, December 3 2009.