



Dr. Nicholas J. Zyromski General Surgery
Faculty member and his daughter

Resident Picnic 2008

The New Resident Picnic was held on August 29, 2008 and was well attended. The event held annually provides time for residents; faculty; spouses and children to meet and develop friendships. This year a resident - faculty soft ball game was initiated with the residents holding onto victory despite a late inning comeback by the faculty.

Upcoming Events

- The J. K. Berman Resident Research Day will be held on June 26, 2009.
The Bruce White Lecture will be delivered by Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD the Dallas B. Phemister Professor and Chairman at the University of Chicago. That evening the department will recognize the finishing chief residents and fellows with a banquet at the Indiana State Museum.

This year's finishing chief residents are:

John Abad; Matthew Blanton; Dana Booth; Matthew Hennig; Bryan Holcomb; James Lopes;
Lindsay Riegler; Juan Socas; Katie Stanton and Mathenge Wairiuko.
The senior fellow in Pediatric Surgery is Bryan Dicken.

Update your alumni profile through the Alumni Relations office online at alumni.iupui.edu/medicine or call 317-274-8828 or 866-267-3104 or email IUSMalum@iupui.edu.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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On September 1, 2008 Harikrishna Nakshatri was appointed the Marian J. Morrison Chair in Breast Cancer Research by the IU Board of Trustees. Dr Nakshatri is an extraordinarily successful basic science investigator with his main focus in breast cancer investigation. He is well funded and is well published. He has received recognition on a national basis for his work and has served the IU in a number of very important committees as well as serving on the INIH Study Sections and Department of Defense Breast Cancer Funding Committees. Dr Nakshatri was promoted to full professor in July, 2008. In addition to his research success, he has served as a mentor to several medical students.

The Department of Surgery and the Section of General Surgery are very proud of Dr. Nakshatri on his appointment and many years of outstanding service. In 2004, Marian J. Morrison of Crawfordsville, Ind. generously created the Marian J. Morrison Chair in Breast Cancer Research. An alumna of DePauw University, Ms. Morrison has been committed to service to others her entire life and has been an exemplar philanthropist. Ms. Morrison celebrated Dr. Nakshatri's promotion this past summer with other faculty members from the Cancer Center and the Department of Surgery.



Chairman's Corner

Keith D. Lillemoe, MD Jay L. Grosfeld Professor and Chairman

Greetings from the Department of Surgery. Spring has begun to hit Indianapolis. The basketball tournaments are complete, trees and grass are turning green, and the spring break season has passed. In the department, the academic year has moved into the final quarter. The match for next year's intern class has been completed. The Chief Residents are thinking ahead to their immediate future in either the fellowship of their choice or joining a surgical practice. The new faculty recruits (see next pages) have settled into their clinical, research, and educational activities. Finally, two of the important academic events of the year, the Jay L. Grosfeld Lecture and the annual J. K. Berman Resident Research Day and Bruce White Lecture are just around the corner.

As clinical operations for the year wrapped up, several sections were noting all time high marks in case volumes including pancreaticobiliary surgery, bariatric surgery, the breast program and both pancreatic and multi-visceral transplant programs. The opening of the new IU Simon Cancer Center in September has added to our surgical capability as the only NCI-designated cancer center in the state of Indiana. The department's activities have also contributed to the national recognition of the Clarian/IU system as our programs in gastrointestinal disease, cardiovascular disease, and oncology have been rated highly by "US News and World Report". All the while, as we grow volume, we continue to focus on improving quality, patient safety, and patient satisfaction. The participation of the surgical services at both Indiana University and Methodist Hospitals in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) has allowed us to benchmark our outcomes with other centers across the country. The research programs continue to grow with several investigators successful in their efforts to obtain NIH and other agency and foundation funding despite the highly competitive environment. Furthermore, IU is gaining national prominence in their efforts to establish the IU Komen Tissue Bank. IU breast surgeon, Dr. Susan

this issue:

- ▶ ERIC WIEBKE, MD NAMED OR MEDICAL DIRECTOR...
- ▶ GATCH PROFESSOR NAMED...
- ▶ MORRISON CHAIR NAMED...
- ▶ DR. LEMMONS JOINS VASCULAR SURGERY...
- ▶ CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY ADDS NEW SURGEONS...
- ▶ MICHAEL HOUSE MD JOINS GENERAL SURGERY...
- ▶ DR. TOPPERS SUCCUMBS...

Clare, and medical oncologist, Dr. Anna Maria Stornio, are the co-directors of this very important program that has received generous funding from the Susan G. Komen for the cure.

On the surgical education front, for the third straight year over 20 IU senior medical students are pursuing a career in surgery. Applications for our nine categorical resident positions were at an all time high. Dr. Mike Dalsing, Chief of Vascular Surgery also has established one of the nation's first 0/5 programs for training of vascular surgeons. The department currently has our first surgical critical care fellow in place and next year will have our first minimally invasive surgical fellow who will be based primarily at the Clarian North Hospital.

Members of the department continue to receive national recognition with Dr. Max Schmidt of General Surgery currently serving as Treasurer of the Association of Academic Surgery, Dr. Dan Meldrum of CV Surgery serves as Treasurer of the Society of University Surgeons and Dr. Robert Havlik of Plastic Surgery is currently Chair of the Plastic Surgery RRC. IU and Indianapolis have also been selected to be the hosts of upcoming major surgical meetings including the Society of VA Surgeons and the Central Surgical Association.

Finally, the department celebrated the success of 2008 with the first "all department" holiday party including faculty, residents and staff from all of the sections. Attendance was at an all time high and certainly reflects the atmosphere of cooperation and solidarity as a single unit working well together.

I look forward to updating you on the progress of the department in future months and certainly would welcome any feedback or communication from alumni from either the School of Medicine or the Surgical Training Program.



Michael G. House, MD Joins General Surgery Section

In July, 2008 Dr. Michael G. House came to Indiana University from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City where he finished his fellowships in Surgical Oncology and HPB Surgery. He received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1995; and his medical school training at Harvard in 1999. He completed his general surgery residency at Johns Hopkins University before entering his Memorial Sloan Kettering fellowship. He has received several awards and honors in the past including The Michael E. Burt Award for Clinical Excellence at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, the John L. Cameron Award for Technical Excellence in Surgery in 2006 and The Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract Resident and Fellow Research Award in 2003. He is a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology; the American Society of Clinical Oncology; and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. Dr. House resides with his wife, Lori, and two children in Carmel, Indiana.



Dr. Okereke



Dr. Birdas

Cardiothoracic Surgery adds two new Surgeons

Dr. Ikenna Okereke, M.D. & Dr. Thomas J. Birdas, MD.

The Cardiothoracic division of the IU department of surgery is happy to announce the addition of two new Thoracic surgeons, Dr. Ikenna Okereke, MD and Dr. Thomas J. Birdas, MD. Dr. Okereke (Ike) started his career with us on July 1, 2008. Ike joined us fresh from his fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. He completed his undergraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University and completed Medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. His medical residency was completed at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Okereke was originally born in Nigeria but grew up just north of us in the motor city of Detroit. Dr. Ike enjoys soccer and music when he is not busy in the O.R.

Dr. Thomas Birdas joined us in October 2008 from West Penn Center for Lung and Thoracic disease. He is originally from Greece and attended medical school at Athens Medical School. He completed a surgical residency at Temple University and then followed that with a Cardiothoracic residency at Allegheny General hospital where he specialized his skills under the general thoracic track of study. He is married to Dr. Alison Fecher, MD who is currently a surgical Critical Care fellow here at IU. The two doctors enjoy traveling and spending time with their 14 month old daughter, Thalia, in their time away from work.

Thomas J. Howard, M.D

Named the Willis D. Gatch Professor of Surgery in March 2008



Dr. Howard

Dr. Howard joined the faculty of the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1992. He was promoted to professor of surgery in 2006 and serves as director of the IU Pancreas Research Group. His areas of interest include GI and pancreatic surgery and surgical oncology. Dr. Howard is the third surgeon to be named the Willis D. Gatch Professor of Surgery. Prior to Dr. Howard, Drs. James E. Bennett and J.

Stanley Battersby received this distinguished honor. The professorship was established to honor the memory of Dr. Gatch, who in 1912 was one of the initial professors of surgery at the recently established Indiana University School of Medicine. The inventor of the first hand-cranked hospital bed and a method for accurately measuring blood loss during operations, Dr. Gatch established the first surgical residency program in Indiana and served as dean of the medical school from 1932-1946. A celebratory dinner was held in June to honor Dr. Howard and reflect on Dr. Gatch's significant contributions to the world of medicine. Keith Lillemoe, M.D., Chair of the Department of Surgery, and other colleagues and staff joined Dr. Howard and his fam-

ily for the occasion. Dr. Gatch's granddaughter, Jean Gatch Ashby, traveled from California with her husband, Ken, to attend. Mrs. Ashby made remarks on behalf of the Gatch family. Dr. Howard received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1981 from San Francisco State University in California and graduated Magna Cum Laude. In 1985 he was awarded a medical degree from the University of Oklahoma with highest honors. He completed his surgical internship and residency at the University of California—Los Angeles and was a research fellow at the Center for Ulcer Research and Education. Dr. Howard also spent one year as registrar in surgery at The Queens and City Hospital in Nottingham, United Kingdom.



Clinical Spotlight

The Department of Surgery recently celebrated the opening of the expanded Clarian Organ Transplant Unit at Indiana University Hospital. More than 130 patients joined Chief of Transplant Surgery A. Joseph Tector, MD, PhD, and transplant surgeons Drs. Jonathan Fridell, William Goggins, Richard S. Mangus, Martin Milgrom, John Powelson and Rodrigo Vianna for the dedication. The expansion includes a new 15-bed Transplant Intensive Care Unit and brings the Organ Transplant Unit up to 41 beds. In addition, all rooms have been made private and new amenities added for patients and family members.

The theme for the celebration was "The Future of Transplant" in recognition of the impact the new space and state-of-the-art medical equipment will have on patient care, as

well as the impact the Section of Transplant Surgery's xenotransplantation research program will have on the future of transplant medicine. Drs. Bashir Mir and Chris Burlak are looking at ways to use pig livers due to the organ donor shortage—initially as a bridge to transplantation and, ultimately, as a permanent solution.

Clarian's abdominal transplant program has grown under Dr. Tector's leadership to the third largest transplant program in the nation with exceptional outcomes and short wait times. Clarian Transplant has been recognized nationally by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration, Division of Transplantation as one of 13 programs to be emulated due to its best practices associated with high rates of organ acceptance and transplantation. The United Network for

Organ Sharing ranked the Clarian pancreas transplant program number one in the country by volume for 2008. Clarian Transplant also is the only Medicare-approved transplant center to perform adult and pediatric multivisceral and intestine transplants in the region, and one of only eight in the nation. Combined with nationally-recognized kidney and liver transplant programs, it is a strong training ground for fellows, residents and medical students who experience a team focused on one goal: to successfully transplant every patient on the transplant wait list so they can resume a normal life.

For more information about the Section of Transplant Surgery please call 317-274-2881, or to refer a patient to Clarian Transplant call 800-382-4602.



Eric Wiebke, M.D

Dr. Wiebke joined the faculty of the school of medicine in 1991 and received an MBA from the Kelley School of Business in 2003. He currently is the director of the Section of General Surgery in the Department of Surgery and the J. Stanley Battersby Professor of Surgery. Dr. Wiebke graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1983 and completed a residency in general surgery and a fellowship in gastrointestinal surgery at Johns Hopkins. He also completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the National Cancer Institute. His wife Jennifer Wiebke, MD, is an IUSM pediatric pulmonologist at Riley Hospital. Dr. Wiebke assumed his duties Nov. 1, 2008.



Gary Lemmon, M.D.

Gary W. Lemmon joined our vascular surgery group on July 1, 2008. He comes to IU from the Good Samaritan and Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Gary completed an endovascular fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in 1999 and a Vascular fellowship in 1987. Dr. Lemmon was appointed as a Full Professor of Surgery with tenure. He has contributed significantly to the surgical literature and has a national reputation in vascular surgery. He may be reached at gwlemmon@iupui.edu.

Dr. Topper

Succumbs At Age 60

Dr. Topper began his practice in General and Vascular Surgery in Crawfordsville, Indiana, at Culver Union Hospital, then briefly practiced in Madisonville, Kentucky, before moving home to the West Side of Evansville, Indiana, in 1990. He first joined Evansville Surgical Associates and after deciding to dedicate his practice to Vascular Surgery, he joined The Heart Group, where he finished his surgical career.



He was a member of many medical organizations, including the Certified College of American Surgeons in General and Vascular Surgery, American College of Surgeons, Midwest Vascular Surgery Society, European Vascular Surgery Society, American Medical Association, and Vanderburgh County Medical Association. He was a Volunteer Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at IUMS - Evansville.

Dr. Topper died on October 12, 2008.