

Yale Surgical Society

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IF WALLS COULD TALK ...

Corridors of Surgery to highlight department's history

Walking from office to office in the Department of Surgery will soon become a history lesson as the hallways are filled with museum-quality exhibits.

The exhibits will raise awareness of Yale's accomplishments in surgery, particularly among medical students. "The whole idea is that this corridor gets a lot of traffic from people who aren't necessarily part of the department—yet," according to John Fenn MD '61, HS '66, who is curating the project with Donna Nemeth of the Department's business office.

A timeline of accomplishments by Yale

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Farnam amphitheater before 1915

surgeons will be organized around the department's chairs. Pictures of residents—for as far back at the School of Medicine has them—will be hung along the timeline.

Nathan Smith (1762–1829) is considered the founding chair of the department. He was Yale's first professor of "physic, surgery and obstetrics." In addition to being one of the pioneers of medicine at Yale, Dr. Smith founded Dartmouth Medical School and co-founded medical schools at the University of Vermont and Bowdoin College. In an age where medicine was largely based on theory, Dr. Smith argued for evidence-based practice and fought against treatments like bleeding.

The exhibit will also include artifacts from the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library's historical collection. Antique surgical instruments will be displayed in museum cases that provide exact temperature and humidity control as well as an alarm system. These objects may rotate over time with others in the library's collection.

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Epic changes

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

DR. ROBERT UDELSMAN, MD, MBA
 WILLIAM H. CARMALT PROFESSOR
 AND CHAIR OF SURGERY

Last academic year, the Department of Surgery underwent substantial changes—from the size of our residency with the acquisition of St. Raphael, to the need for surgeons to adapt to Epic, the clinical information system implemented this year by the Yale New Haven Health System.



I've been impressed by how faculty and staff adapted to these challenges and opportunities.

We went from 6 to 10 chief residents when our program incorporated General Surgery Residents training at the Hospital of St. Raphael. We used that growth as an opportunity to expand protected time for residents and to create individualized personal training for every resident. This will allow a significant degree of self-selected customization in elective rotations to allow the house officers to tailor their training in concert with their career goals. In addition, we continue to offer a Master's of Health Sciences degree to our residents who pursue laboratory training with the department supporting half their tuition.

Our residents, as always, go on to the most prestigious fellowship programs in the world. We had 1200 applicants for 10 residency positions this year and were once again able to offer interviews to extraordinarily promising medical graduates.

The department's reputation continues to grow. *New York Magazine* put 13 of our

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“A charitable gift annuity – fixed payments each year for life, a portion of the payments tax-free, and an immediate income tax charitable deduction – is particularly appealing to me in times like these, when the stock market is so volatile and interest rates so low”

A photograph of several surgeons in an operating room, wearing blue scrubs, masks, and caps. They are focused on a surgical procedure, with bright overhead lights illuminating the scene. One surgeon in the foreground is wearing a head-mounted display (HMD) with the word 'INTEGRA' visible on it.

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New transplant chief is leading advocate for organ donation

David Mulligan, MD, an acclaimed abdominal organ transplant surgeon from the Mayo Clinic and a passionate leader in organ donation, has been appointed chief of the Section of Transplantation and Immunology, director of the Yale-New Haven Transplantation Center (YNHTC) and professor of surgery at Yale School of Medicine.



Dr. Mulligan

He is a liver transplant specialist with international acclaim for his work in living-donor transplantation.

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“Dr. Mulligan is not only a spectacular surgeon, but also an international leader in transplantation and organ procurement and distribution. We were able to recruit Dr. Mulligan due in large measure to the efforts of Dr. Kimberly Davis and the talented search committee that worked diligently to identify and recruit a world-class transplant leader,” according to Robert Udelsman, MD, MBA, chair of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Mulligan, who arrived at Yale in September, will seek to increase the supply of donated organs, improve workflow in the section and forge new partnerships to advance translational research in a program that is already high volume and nationally recognized for its excellence, he says.

He succeeds Sukru Emre, MD, a renowned adult and pediatric liver transplant surgeon who has served admirably since 2007 in leading Yale’s transplantation center and who will continue at Yale as a professor. Dr. Emre turned the Yale transplant program into a regional leader in the evaluation and treatment of liver disease and led the teams that provide liver, kidney, pancreas and heart transplantation to patients from throughout the world. Dr. Emre will remain as a senior member of the transplant faculty, performing surgery and training residents.

Dr. Mulligan was drawn to transplant surgery by the technical challenge of the field as well as the dramatic difference that transplants make in the lives of patients. “It’s the closest thing to a miracle that I’ve ever been involved in,” he says.

This year he serves as chair of the Liver and Transplant Committee for United

Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). UNOS is working to increase the supply of organs for transplant nationally and to ensure equal access to the lifesaving procedures across regions of the country.

The Northeast has poorer access to transplant organs, a disparity that Dr. Mulligan will be working to erase. For the past two months, Yale-New Haven Hospital’s conversion rate—cases where family members decided to donate organs—was 80 percent. It is typically closer to 50 percent, a rate that is common in New England and greater New York.

“I think that there’s a lot of misinformation out in communities ... and as a result we see fewer donations,” said Dr. Mulligan, who is already working with area groups to raise awareness about organ donation. An average of 18 Americans die each day because they could not get access to donated organs.

Dr. Mulligan spent 15 years with the Mayo Clinic in Arizona and, as a result, brings a wealth of experience, including his involvement in the establishment of a solid organ transplant program. He worked with a team that is famous for steroid-sparing immunosuppression, protocol biopsies to

study early inflammatory markers that lead to chronic kidney damage and the use of donor kidneys with acute kidney injury for successful transplantation. Collaboratively, Dr. Mulligan and his colleagues performed nearly 3,000 solid organ transplants with outstanding clinical outcomes. He is also councilor for the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, and is a member of the American Surgical Society.

As a researcher, Dr. Mulligan has been a principle investigator in multiple trials, including studies on diabetes mellitus and hepatitis C virus, as well as donor and recipient outcomes in living donor transplantations.

At Yale, Dr. Mulligan will oversee a multidisciplinary team of physicians and caregivers who provide comprehensive care for adult and pediatric patients awaiting organ transplantation. The YNHTC is involved in cutting-edge research and is known for its excellent clinical outcomes. It is the only center in New England that performs over 100 kidney transplants a year, more than 40 percent of which involve living donors. The Yale Pediatric Liver Transplant Program, which led the nation in the number of pediatric living donor liver transplants in 2010, consistently ranks in the top three in the nation among all pediatric liver transplant programs in both patient outcomes and number of living donor transplants performed.



YSS once again joined the Department of Surgery in sponsoring medical students to attend the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. Attending ACS in Washington, DC were (from left): Andrew Wong, Joshua Rosen, Dr. John Fenn, Dr. Robert Udelsman, Jennifer Fieber, Andrew Timberlake and Nathan Tu.

Yale Breast Center becomes national model

When Anees Chagpar, MD, MSC, MA, MPH, became director of the Yale Breast Center just over three years ago, she was impressed by the quality of the clinicians practicing there and by the tremendous basic science resources available across Yale. She was convinced that getting physicians to work together across disciplines could take patient care to a higher level, while getting them to collaborate with basic scientists could make Yale a cancer research powerhouse.

“Let’s take this Corvette out for a spin!” she frequently exhorts colleagues.

Patient care, research and education have all accelerated at the Breast Center. Dr. Chagpar notes that Professor of Surgery Donald Lannin, MD, laid much of the foundation for what’s happening. “All of the stuff was here. But people who know me know I’m a little bit of a firecracker. I got people energized,” says Dr. Chagpar, whose office is adorned with items like pink boxing gloves.

Today, the hallway outside that office is crowded with young people in suits, the best of the 59 physicians who applied for the single spot in the Yale Breast Center’s new Interdisciplinary Breast Surgery Fellowship. The one-year fellowship includes an intensive month spent with each of the major disciplines practicing in the Breast Center, as well as time to concentrate on palliative care and a requirement to do research and community outreach. Surgeons will complete the fellowship with the depth of training, the interdisciplinary view and the patient-centered approach that have become hallmarks of the Breast Center.



Dr. Chagpar

The patient experience at the Breast Center has changed dramatically. For example, callers to the center’s main number no longer get voicemail; a real live person answers questions and directs calls. Any woman with a diagnosis of cancer who calls can get an appointment with a breast surgeon in 3 to 5 days. Newly diagnosed women receive a binder with plain-language information about their cancer, possible treatments and sources of support. Press-Ganey patient satisfaction scores have increased 12 points over the past three years to 94 percent.

When Dr. Chagpar arrived, the center had 2.5 surgical oncologists. There are now four breast surgical oncologists and three plastic surgeons who concentrate most of their time on reconstruction. They practice collaboratively with medical and radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, pathologists, social workers, nurses and physical therapists. “We’re now a very integrated unit,” says Dr. Chagpar.

Two years ago, the Breast Center received a three-year full accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), an accrediting body administered by the American College of Surgeons. The Center’s affiliation with Yale Cancer Center makes it the first National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in the northeast to also have the NAPBC accreditation.

The Breast Center is leading the top-accruing clinical trial at Yale, SHAVE, to determine whether taking shaved margins in partial mastectomies has a benefit. “It’s a question that has plagued surgeons for some time, but there was no prospective study to offer answers,” says Dr. Chagpar, who expects to have results by the end of the year.

Other studies underway include a clinical trial to determine whether the herb black cohosh is effective in treating breast cancer and a collaboration with immunologists to determine breast cancer’s effect on a humanized immune system in a mouse model.

Philanthropy has played an important role in supporting pilot studies at the center. For example, Lion Heart, a group of New York breast cancer survivors, is funding three research studies, including one evaluating heterogeneity in the genomics of breast cancer.

Dr. Chagpar is currently pursuing an MBA at Yale. She wanted more management insight to help her push the center forward. “I don’t think that we’re there yet,” she says. “There’s always something more to do.” She notes that of the six physicians in her class, three are surgeons. “I think surgeons are natural-born leaders. We know how to lead teams inside and outside the OR,” she says. “We are action people. We are doers.”

Among the things she’ll be doing in the coming years is preparing for the reaccreditation of the Breast Center and working to build more bridges to the sciences at West Campus. “We’re only going to get bigger and better,” she says.

National Cancer Institute selects Yale as comprehensive cancer center

Yale Cancer Center’s designation as a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) was recently extended for an additional five years following an extensive grant submission and review process. The award includes \$12.2 million in funding over five years to support the center’s seven research programs and eight shared resources, along with the continuation of the center’s comprehensive status, the most prestigious level of designation from the NCI.

Yale Cancer Center is one of 41 comprehensive cancer centers in the nation and the only one in Connecticut. Yale was one of the first 11 cancer centers to be designated comprehensive under the National Cancer Centers plan in 1974. The NCI designation is given to centers that meet strict criteria for patient care, cancer research, clinical trials and community outreach and education. Yale Cancer Center received an outstanding evaluation from peer reviewers and the NCI during its most recent grant submission.

CORRIDORS TO SHOW GLIMPSES OF SURGERY'S HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The project has involved some sleuthing in “the bowels of Yale-New Haven,” where a 150-year-old portrait of George Bronson Farnam was unearthed. “It was covered in dirt,” recalls Dr. Fenn. He cleaned it up and convinced the hospital to donate it to the exhibit.

Dr. Farnam was an early surgeon at Yale. After his premature death, his mother donated the funds that built The Farnam Amphitheater, where many of the milestone procedures commemorated in the exhibit took place, as well as Farnam Memorial Building.

The plaque erected with the gift praised a man “who faithfully served this hospital as attending physician and surgeon ... and though cut off from professional activity for the remainder of his life by painful illness, never ceased to further its interests and to minister to the sufferings of others.”

The exhibit will also celebrate the first use of chemotherapy, a patient of Gustaf Lindskog, MD, a professor of surgery. In 1942, a man with lymphosarcoma was treated with an agent developed by Yale faculty Alfred Gilman and Louis S. Goodman. The trial provided proof of concept as the patient experienced a remission. The cancer did return, however, and was eventually fatal.

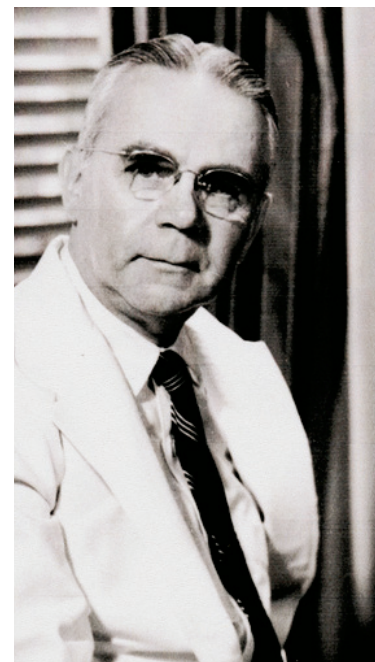
Other milestones will include the first artificial heart pump, fashioned from an



Nathan Smith



George Bronson Farnam



Gustaf Lindskog

Erector Set by medical student William Sewell, MD '50, and Professor William W.L. Glenn, MD. (Dr. Sewell won the Thesis Prize for that bit of engineering.) The original pump is in the Smithsonian Institute. Dr. Glenn will also be represented for a number of other achievements, including the SVC-RPA shunt for tricuspid atresia and the phrenic pacemaker.

José Patiño's, MD '52, HS '58, student research involved the first transplant of human tissue. But for some reason Dr. Patiño's thesis was missing from the library. Dr. Fenn appealed to his old friend, now living in Colombia, where Dr. Patiño has served as minister of health and reformed medical education. Dr. Patiño's copy of the thesis now sits in Dr. Fenn's office ready to be installed in the exhibit.

The hallway will include recent accomplishments, for example Associate Professor of Surgery Kurt Roberts, MD,

will be featured for his pioneering work in Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic (NOTES) surgery. He successfully performed what is believed to be the first transvaginal appendectomy in the United States with no abdominal incision whatsoever. The patient's appendix was removed through a small incision in the vagina. Dr. Roberts has also used the stomach in NOTES surgery and done gallbladder excisions with the technique.

The hallways will include touch screens where passersby can check on things like calendar listings and shuttle schedules, an idea promoted by Donna Nemeth.

The hallway project should serve as a source of inspiration to modern-day surgeons, according to Chairman Robert Udelsman, MD, MBA. “For surgeons to move forward, we have to be aware of the past,” he says.

Work should be completed this winter.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN: EPIC CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

surgeons on its “Best Doctors” list, a percentage greater than Yale Medical Group as a whole. More patients are seeking us out for their care. Clinic visits have increased by 250 percent since 2001. The last academic year saw 956 publications by our faculty in peer-reviewed journals, an area where growth has been dramatic in recent years.

In addition to looking forward, we've

been doing a fair amount of looking backward. I encourage you to read about (page one) the exhibits John Fenn, MD '61, HS '66 has been working on in the department's hallways. I'm also looking forward to the publication of the upcoming departmental history he is writing with Walter Longo, MD, MBA, HS '90.

Today we record clinical work elec-

tronically. In the course of their research, Drs. Fenn and Longo have been pouring through yellowed manuscripts with elegant handwriting. But the story never changes: We have always been dedicated to providing the best possible care, advancing our field through new knowledge, and preparing talented young physicians to lead in the future.

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Yale Surgical Society

Save the dates: 2014 reunion

The June 2014 reunion will focus on the the history of vascular surgery at Yale.

Annual reunion dinner
June 3, 2014
6 p.m.

Surgery Grand Rounds
for YSS Reunion
June 4, 2014
7 a.m.



Dr. William Glenn (1914-2003) wrote the standard text for vascular surgeons.

Reunion focuses on vascular surgery

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WALTER LONGO, MD, MBA



Seeing smart and dedicated young physicians become skilled surgeons gives me great satisfaction as director of the surgical residency program. As YSS president, it also gives me pleasure to talk with former residents who—like myself—were shaped by their experiences as

Yale house staff.

I hope to see many of you at YSS's annual reunion on June 3 and 4 of 2014. You'll have a chance to reconnect with old friends and make new ones at a dinner the evening of June 3. The following morning at grand rounds, Bauer E. Sumpio, MD, PHD, HS '86, will present a history of vascular surgery at Yale. Dr. Sumpio is current section chief of vascular surgery at Yale.

Speaking of history, John Fenn, MD '61, HS '66 and I are in the process of writing a book

about the history of surgery at Yale, stretching back to the department's founder—Nathan Smith. It has been interesting to explore how a procession of strong leaders shaped surgery here. We hope to share our work with you soon.

Our 2014 reunion will include the first presentation of the annual YSS Alumnus/ Alumna of the Year Award, in recognition of an outstanding surgeon who completed a residency at Yale. The committee is hard at work choosing the first awardee.

For those of you who have been away from Yale, I hope the reunion will include an opportunity to see how the residency has changed. With the acquisition of The Hospital of St. Raphael, we gained more residents. This created an opportunity to make some significant adjustments to the program, including more elective time and personalized training.

In addition to myself, the new YSS slate of officers includes Vice President Tobias Carling, MD, PHD, HS '07, Secretary Vikram Reddy, MD, PHD, HS '08, and Treasurer Jeffrey Indes, MD. The board is comprised of James Passarelli, MD, Robert Schlessel, MD, Kimberly Davis, MD, MBA, Hulda Einarsdotir, MD, HS '10, Anthony Kim, MD, Stephan Ariyan, MD, MBA, HS '76 and Arnar Giersson, MD, HS '05. That is an energized and talented group that I'm sure will help YSS continue to do great things.