

Yale Surgical Society

WINTER 2021-2022 NEWSLETTER

Virtual Yet Highly Successful 2021 Annual Meeting:

Although we had planned our 2020 spring meeting of the Yale Surgical Society, COVID-19 had other plans. That meeting was cancelled entirely. Yet, adversity often discloses alternate pathways, and that was the case with the Yale Surgical Society. The Executive Committee of the Society, with the support of Dr. Ahuja, decided to hold the meeting *virtually* for 2021. This was done on Thursday May 20 and Friday May 21, 2021. Despite uncertainty and understandable concerns, the meeting was a resounding success—attended by over 125 individuals. In fact, we were able to “see” and enjoy interactions with graduates and colleagues from across the country—who might never have travelled to attend an in-person meeting.

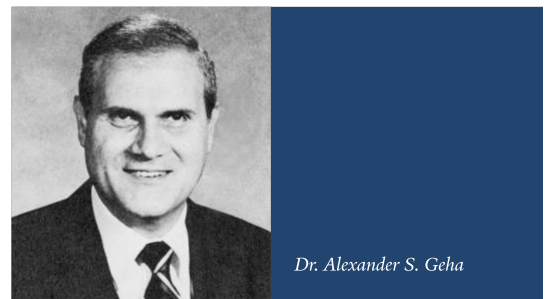
On Thursday evening, we held the formal meeting itself. This year’s meeting spotlighted and honored “Cardiac Surgery of the 80’s”. Pictures of staff and events from that era provided by Dr. Longo lent color and nostalgia to the event.

We honored three distinguished surgeons of that era.



Dr. Graeme Hammond was feted by his long-term laboratory trainee, Dr. Arnar Geirsson. Dr. Hammond was recognized for his technical skills and his dedication to residents and resident teaching—delegating high-level responsibility both in and out of the operating room. Beyond his clinical contributions, his accomplishments as a true basic scientist—elucidating the metabolic function of the lung and clarifying the molecular immunology of the placenta—were highlighted.

Dr. Alexander Geha was feted by long-time colleague, the highly distinguished Dr. Lawrence S. Cohen, of Yale Cardiology. Dr. Cohen highlighted the close collegiality with which he and Dr. Geha worked over the years, shoulder-to-shoulder. Dr. Eleftheriades characterized Dr. Geha as the most gifted surgical strategist whom he had



ever encountered and expressed appreciation for Dr. Geha's exemplary teaching along many lines: coronary revascularization, valve surgery, left ventricular aneurysmectomy, arrhythmia surgery, and surgery of the aorta, including procedures done under deep hypothermic circulatory arrest. We were all thrilled to learn from Dr. Geha that his Diane's daughters had gone on to careers as surgeons.



The third honoree was our own Dr. Gary Kopf. Dr. John Fahey of Pediatric Cardiology recounted the continued critical contributions made by Dr. Kopf to our open-heart programs for infants and children over many decades. Dr. Kopf was recognized as the long-standing backbone of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. He was also recognized for his collegiality, humanism, and deep personal modesty, as well as his respect for others. Dr.

Elefteriades reminded the group that Dr. Kopf is also a superb adult cardiac surgeon, recalling "Kopf's Rule" for efficiency in coronary bypass surgery: "Nobody dies with three good grafts."

After honoring Drs. Hammond, Geha, and Kopf, the program moved on to the Awards Presentation. The Samuel Harvey Chief Resident Award for graduating resident ended in a tie, unable to distinguish between two uniformly lauded individuals. The Award went to both Whitney Brandt and Raymond Jean. Full lists of graduating residents for both the 2020 and 2021 classes are listed below.



We moved on to a highlight of the night, the presentation of the Yale Surgical Society Distinguished Service Award. This went to Dr. Bauer Sumpio, recognizing his dedication to the Yale Surgical Society. His tremendous contributions to the field of Vascular Surgery as a clinician-scholar in the truest sense were enumerated and appreciated. As a shining star of our Department, he has over decades contributed immensely to our clinical and academic missions and brought recognition and acclaim to Yale Surgery and to the Yale Surgical Society, which he led as President and whose course he continues to chart as a mentor to succeeding Presidents. The entire group of attendees chimed in with their own personal recollections and reminiscences.

The program continued on Friday. The renowned aortic surgeon Dr. Hazim Safi of Houston, Texas, delivered the William W. L. Glenn lecture for 2021. He shared tips and pitfalls gleaned from his vast experience, peppered with his characteristic humorous, perceptive tidbits.

This was followed by a simply extraordinary 2021 Annual Masone Lecture, delivered by Dr. Bart Loeys, of Belgium, the discoverer of Loeys-Dietz syndrome. He spoke on the genetics of thoracic aortic aneurysm. Attendees were able to follow the brilliant scientific rubrics with which Dr. Loeys has unmasked the genetic underpinnings of this virulent disease. Many in attendance

voiced the opinion that this was the best lecture they had ever heard. The word “Nobel” came to many minds in the audience.

The two-day event was culminated by three intramural lectures, which completed the Annual Masone event. Blaise and Sharon Masone were in virtual attendance throughout, from their Florida home. Distinguished Cardiologist Dr. Sandip Mukherjee, Executive Medical Director at Yale-New Haven Hospital, presided over this session.

Dr. Geirsson presented his outstanding experience with robotic surgery on the mitral valve. Dr. Mohammad Anwer spoke about the newly popular technique for harvesting hearts *after* death, with organ support by a portable artificial circulatory system, providing perfusion and oxygenation to the harvested heart, which “beats in a box” during transport. And, Dr. Mohammad Zafar, our Masone Fellow, spoke on “20 Milestones at the Aortic Institute” — including the massive database dating back 25 years, the scientific clarification of the appropriate diameter for ascending aortic resection, and the initial recognition of the familial patterns of this genetic disease.

Appreciation is expressed to Eric Brown from Yale University Information Technology, who mastered the complex electronic underpinnings of this virtual event, and to Carol Calini, Ania Shea, Joelle Buntin, and Cecelia Smith for their cardinal contributions. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Ahuja for her oversight and support of this meeting and of the Yale Surgical Society.

Despite uncertainty during planning, this virtual Annual Meeting of the Yale Surgical Society proved to be a very successful social and academic event. We remain cautiously optimistic in looking forward to an in-person Annual Meeting on May 19, 2022.

John A. Eleftheriades, MD
President, Yale Surgical Society 2019-2021

Heartfelt appreciation is expressed to Drs. Bauer Sumpio and Walter Longo for their wisdom and guidance and for their dedication to the Yale Surgical Society.

General Surgery 2020	General Surgery 2021
Brian Arnold – Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, MD Anderson	Samantha Ahle – Pediatric Surgery Fellowship, Northwestern Univ. Chicago
Maija Cheung – Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Yale	Whitney Brandt – Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, Washington Univ.
James Farrelly – Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Yale	Alex Chiu – Endocrine Surgery Fellowship, U. Wisconsin
Paul Feingold – Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, Brigham & Women’s	Michael DeWane – Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Mass. Gen. Hosp.
Adam Idriss – Biodevice Innovation, UCSF	Gabriella Grisotti – Fetal Surgery Fellowship, Univ. of Cincinnati
Timothy Murtha – Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Mem. Sloan Kettering	Raymond Jean – Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Univ. of Washington
Swathi Reddy – Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Johns Hopkins	Jonathan Merola – Transplant Surgery Fellowship, NY Presbyterian
Daniel Thomas – Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Mem. Sloan Kettering	
Kanika Trehan – General Surgery, Maryland	
Brian Wengerter – Burn Surgery Fellowship, Cornell	
Cardiothoracic Surgery 2020	Cardiothoracic Surgery 2021
Shamini Parameswaran – Cardiac Surgery, Texas	Areo Saffarzadeh – Thoracic Surgery, California
	Rajesh Sekar – Advanced Cardiac Fellowship
Orthopedic Surgery 2020	Orthopedic Surgery 2021
Preetpaul Bagi – Spine Fellowship, UC San Diego	Adam Lukaszewicz – Foot/ Ankle Fellowship, Mercy Med. Baltimore
Afamefuna Nduaguba – Joint Fellowship, NYU	Janelle Greene – Hand Fellowship, Massachusetts General Hosp.
Allen Nicholson – Shoulder/Elbow Fellowship, Hosp. Special Surgery	Erin Cravez – Hand Fellowship, Univ. Southern California
Vineet Tyagi – Adult Reconstruction Fellowship, Stanford	Justin Kuether – Trauma Fellowship, OrthoIndy, Indiana
Murillo Adrados – Arthroplasty Fellowship, OrthoCarolina, NC	Kenneth Milligan – Adult Reconstruction & Hip Fellowship, U. Ottawa
Otolaryngology 2020	Otolaryngology 2021
Bruno Cardoso – General Otolaryngology, Yale	David Kastle – Private Practice, Florida
Alexander Luryi – Otology Fellowship, Michigan Ear Inst.	Emily Savoca – Pediatric ENT Fellowship, Children’s Hosp. Pittsburgh
Jacob Towers-Fellows – Facial Plastics Fellowship, Lennox Hill Hosp.	
Podiatry 2020	Podiatry 2021
Navdeep Bhatt-Barr – Private Practice, San Jose CA	Matthew D’Angelo – Private Practice, North Haven CT
Trusha Jariwala – Private Practice, Asheville NC	Brittany Hervey – Private Practice, Patchogue NY
Brian Jones – Private Practice, Greeneville NC	Paulina Piekarska – Adv Surgical Fellowship, Wheeling WV
Daniella Menillo – Private Practice, Hackensack NJ	Fernando Pinero – Private Practice, Princeton NJ
Laura Poindexter-Rowe – Private Practice, Fresno CA	Henry Taylor – Private Practice, Albany NY
Plastic Surgery 2020	Plastic Surgery 2021
Scott Persing – Hand Fellowship, Yale	John Smetona – Craniofacial Fellowship, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Ean Saberski – Microsurgery Fellowship, Buncke Clinic San Francisco	David Tsai – Hand Fellowship, Mt Sinai Hosp.-Icahn SOM
Vascular Surgery 2020	Vascular Surgery 2021
Christine Deyholos – Vascular Surgery, Vanderbilt	Julia Chen – Advanced Aortic Fellowship, U. Toronto