Message from the Chairman

As you begin reading through this newsletter, you may wonder “what’s new in the Department of Surgery?” I would especially like to highlight two key initiatives: a new educational opportunity being offered to residents and faculty; and our efforts to give an organizational structure to our patient safety and clinical effectiveness programs at the hospitals we serve.

This fall, general surgery resident Bola Aladegbami, MD, became the first postdoctoral trainee to enroll in the Washington University MBA Program as part of an agreement between the Department of Surgery and Olin Business School (page 6).

Under the agreement, faculty, residents and fellows may count 12 hours of previously earned graduate credit toward a master of business administration (MBA) degree. They may also substitute MCAT scores for a GMAT/GRE score in seeking admission. The degree requires completion of 42 credit hours and provides training to manage business operations and shape health-care policy.

The program will also open the door to practicums in which our trainees and faculty, with the help of business faculty, can analyze key quality and cost issues related to our Department of Surgery.

Our publications — this newsletter, the Annual Report — have reported on a number of quality initiatives over the past few years. Urology Division Chief Gerry Andriole, MD, has led these efforts, which have focused especially on surgical site infections, deep venous thrombosis after surgery, and heart attack after surgery. Now Gerry has been named vice chair for patient safety and clinical effectiveness, and he oversees a more formal structure to implement quality programs (page 5).

Under Gerry, Tracie Guthrie, RN, serves as director of clinical effectiveness and patient safety, and Vicky Peck, RN, has assumed responsibility for patient safety activities. Each division and section also has two surgeons providing leadership, one with responsibility for patient safety and the other for clinical effectiveness. This organization will help ensure success with our three original initiatives and take on new challenges to make quality improvement an ongoing process.

This newsletter reports on many faculty accomplishments, but also those of our staff. Please give special attention to the spotlight article on the Business Services Organization (page 8), which provides us with a strong foundation for our clinical, research and educational achievements.

Timothy J. Eberlein, MD
William K. Bixby Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Director, Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center

Matthew Mutch named colorectal surgery chief

Matthew Mutch, MD, a nationally known clinician and educator in the laparoscopic treatment of colorectal cancer, has been named chief of the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

Dr. Mutch succeeds James Fleshman Jr., MD, who left to become the Helen Buchanan and Stanley Joseph Seeger Endowed Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center.

During a 13-year career at the School of Medicine, Dr. Mutch has treated a broad spectrum of benign and malignant colorectal disease. His research interests are the identification of molecular markers to predict cancer-related outcomes in patients with rectal cancer and clinical outcomes related to laparoscopic colorectal surgery and enhanced recovery after surgery.

Dr. Mutch earned his medical degree at Washington University School of Medicine in 1994. He completed a general surgery residency at the medical school in 2001 and a colon and rectal fellowship at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Mass., in 2002.

Dr. Mutch serves as program director of Washington University’s Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship. He is also active in the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, where he serves on the Quality Assessment and Safety Monitoring Committee and is co-chair of the Lower GI Cancer Group.
Promotions

Patrick Geraghty, MD, was promoted to professor of surgery and radiology in the Section of Vascular Surgery. Geraghty, who joined the faculty in 1999 after completing a vascular surgery fellowship at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, has a broad-based vascular surgery practice. His research focus is developing new techniques to treat atherosclerotic and aneurysmal disease of the lower extremities, and he is global co-PI of the first U.S. clinical trial of drug (paclitaxel)-coated balloons in patients with decreased blood flow below the knee. Dr. Geraghty is president of the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society, and a distinguished fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery. He completed a general surgery residency and surgical intensive care fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, and graduated from the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.

Jeffrey Jim, MD, MPH, was promoted to associate professor of surgery in the Section of Vascular Surgery. In addition to a busy clinical practice, Dr. Jim is program director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship and Integrated Residency programs. He is also the clinical effectiveness lead for the Division of General Surgery and leads the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Venous Thromboembolism Steering Committee.

Dr. Jim joined the faculty in 2010 after completing a vascular surgery fellowship at Washington University and BJH. He completed a general surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center and graduated from the University of California-Irvine School of Medicine. He also earned a master of population health sciences degree at Washington University and a master’s degree from USC.

H. Henry Lai, MD, was promoted to associate professor of surgery and anesthesia. Dr. Lai has joined with colleagues at the medical school and other institutions to investigate urologic chronic pelvic pain in women and men as part of the Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Urologic Chronic Pelvic Pain (MAPP) Research Network. He is also the co-PI of the Symptoms of Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction Research Network (LURN). He is chair of the MAPP Research Network Urology Working Group and the LURN Research Network Neuroimaging and Sensory Testing Working Group. Dr. Lai has won the American Urological Association Rising Stars in Research Award and the Paul Zimskind Award from the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction. He graduated from Cornell University Medical College and completed a urology residency and fellowship in neurourology, urodynamics and female urology at Baylor University.

Gerald Andriole Jr. named vice chair for patient safety, clinical effectiveness

Urology Division Chief Gerald Andriole Jr., MD, who has led the Department of Surgery’s Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness Committee since it began several years ago, has been named vice chair for patient safety and clinical effectiveness.

The committee initiated several workgroups on patient safety issues including surgical site infections, deep venous thrombosis after surgery, and heart attack after surgery.

Along with the appointment of Dr. Andriole, the department has developed an organized structure to promote patient safety and clinical effectiveness. Each division and section has two surgeons providing leadership, one with responsibility for patient safety and the other clinical effectiveness. Tracey Guthrie, RN, director of clinical trials, is now also the director of clinical effectiveness and patient safety. Vicky Peck, RN, director of clinical operations for the Division of Urology, has assumed responsibility for coordination of patient safety activities, with emphasis on implementation of a safety event reporting system for the Department.

The team works closely with surgeon Bruce Hall, MD, PhD, MBA, BJC HealthCare vice president for patient outcomes, who oversees collection of National Surgical Quality Improvement Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS NSQIP®) data and leads other quality improvement efforts at Barnes-Jewish and other BJC hospitals.
Mary Politi, PhD, was promoted to associate professor of surgery in the Division of Public Health Sciences. Dr. Politi has a long-standing research interest in health communication and shared decision making. A licensed clinical psychologist and behavioral scientist, her long-term objectives are to develop and implement effective health communication and decision-making interventions in community and clinical settings. Dr. Politi earned a doctoral degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in behavioral medicine at Brown Medical School and Rhode Island Hospital and an R2S transdisciplinary cancer control research training fellowship at Brown Medical School and The Miriam Hospital, both in Providence, RI.

Varun Puri, MD, MSCI, was promoted to associate professor in the Section of Thoracic Surgery. In addition to his clinical practice at Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital and Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Dr. Puri’s research interests include outcomes of patients with thoracic malignancies, and he has co-authored papers comparing outcomes in high-risk patients with early stage lung cancer receiving surgery vs. stereotactic body radiation therapy. He joined the faculty in 2009 after completing a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He completed surgical residencies at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Neb., and the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education in Chandigarh, India, and received a medical degree at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. He also earned a master of science in clinical investigation at Washington University.

Faculty Appointments

Jeffrey Blatnik, MD, joined the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery as an assistant professor after completing a minimally invasive surgery fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He also completed a general surgery residency and earned a medical degree at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Blatnik will focus on complex abdominal wall hernia repair, minimally invasive foregut surgery, minimally invasive management of foregut disorders, inguinal hernia, endoscopic treatment of achalasia and laparoscopic diaphragm pacing for the treatment of spinal cord injury.

Eleanor Drew, MD, was named an assistant professor in the Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery. She joins the faculty after completing a surgical critical care fellowship at Washington University and a general surgery residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals. She graduated from University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Dr. Drew will specialize in trauma and burn surgery as well as surgical critical care.

Biostatistician

Feng Gao, MD, PhD, MPH, has joined the Division of Public Health Sciences as an associate professor of surgery. He has a joint appointment in the Division of Biostatistics, where he has served on the faculty since 2003. Dr. Gao received MD and MPH degrees at Beijing Medical University in Beijing, China, and MS and PhD degrees in biostatistics at Emory University in Atlanta. He provides statistical support for cancer-related studies at the Siteman Cancer Center and the ICTS. His responsibilities include study design, safety monitoring, data analysis, and manuscript/abstract preparation.

Grant Kleiber, MD, was named an assistant professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery after completing a fellowship in hand, peripheral nerve and microsurgery at Washington University. He completed a plastic surgery residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center and received a medical degree at University of Southern California-Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles. Dr. Kleiber will join the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, specializing in hand surgery, burn care and reconstructive microsurgery.

Esther Lu, PhD, a biostatistician, has joined the Division of Public Health Sciences as an assistant professor of surgery. She holds a joint appointment in the Division of Biostatistics, where she has served on the faculty since 2009. She has an MS degree in financial mathematics from the National University of Singapore and a PhD in biostatistics from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Dr. Lu is a member of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS) Research Design and Biostatistics Group and is currently providing statistical support for projects of the Siteman Cancer Center and the ICTS.

Jingqin (Rosy) Luo, PhD, a biostatistician, recently became an assistant professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences. She has a joint appointment in the Division of Biostatistics, where she has served on the faculty since 2006. She received MS degrees at Renmin University in Beijing, China, and Duke University in Durham, N.C. She also received a PhD at Duke. Dr. Luo’s projects focus on genetic markers for breast cancer treatment resistance and late relapse; markers that can be targeted to improve immunotherapy; and genetic markers for gender-specific risk of glioblastoma with neurofibromatosis type 1.
Timothy Eberlein elected to ACS Board of Regents

The Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has elected Surgery Chairman Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, as a member of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Eberlein, also the Bixby Professor of Surgery and director of the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, is editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Eberlein has been very active in leadership roles for the ACS. A Fellow since 1988, he has served on several ACS committees, most recently on the Board of Governors (2004-2010); as a Governor, he served on the Committee to Study the Fiscal Affairs of the College (2008-2010) and the Missouri Credentials Committee (2004-2010). He also has served on the Commission on Cancer (1995-2005) and on the Commission on Cancer’s Committee on Education (2001-2007). He served on the Scientific Forum Committee (1998-2004; vice chair, 2002-2004) and chaired the Surgical Research Committee (1996-2002).

As Research and Education Committee chair, Dr. Eberlein worked with Olga Jonasson, MD, then medical director of the former Education and Surgical Services Department to establish the Clinical Trials Course.

Sam Bhayani named chief medical officer of WU Physicians

Sam Bhayani, MD, has been appointed chief medical officer of the Faculty Practice Plan at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, effective Nov. 1.

In his newly created position, Bhayani will work closely with James Crane, MD, associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs and chief executive officer of the Faculty Practice Plan. The Washington University Faculty Practice Plan, known as Washington University Physicians, ranks among the five largest academic group practices in the United States.

“Given the current size and scope of our practice, this new role is being established to oversee essential administrative functions in this era of rapidly changing health-care dynamics,” Dr. Crane said. “Dr. Bhayani’s leadership skills and deep knowledge of the clinical practice will be immense assets to us as we continue to grow and do so in a way that best serves our patients.”

Since 2012, Dr. Bhayani has served as the chief medical officer, vice president of medical affairs and chief of surgery at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital. He will continue to practice and serve as chief of surgery at the west St. Louis County location and continue to practice at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

Steven Brandes elected president of GURS

Steven Brandes, MD, professor of urologic surgery, was elected president of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons (GURS). GURS is an international society of more than 200 reconstructive urologists from six continents. The society sponsors 18 post-residency clinical fellowships in reconstructive urology in India, England, Canada and the United States. GURS also promotes extensive international outreach and surgical teaching camps in underdeveloped nations around the globe.

Dr. Brandes is director of the Section of Reconstructive Urology at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. The section encompasses a multidisciplinary team approach of plastic surgeons (Drs. Amy Moore and Thomas Tung), colorectal surgeons (Dr. Steven Hunt), pediatric urologists (Dr. Gino Vricella) and female pelvic medicine urologists (Dr. Henry Lai). Dr. Brandes’ clinical and research focus has been dedicated to reconstructive surgery of the genitals and lower urinary tract, urethral stricture surgery, urinary fistula surgery, radiation injury, trauma/iatrogenic urologic injury, male urinary incontinence, prosthetics and Peyronie’s disease.

Dr. Brandes joined the faculty in 1998.

Daniel Kreisel named surgical director of Lung Transplant Program

Daniel Kreisel, MD, PhD, was named surgical director of the Lung Transplant Program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in January 2015. Since joining the faculty in 2006, Dr. Kreisel has dedicated his clinical and research efforts to lung transplantation. A member of the Thoracic Immunobiology Lab, he focuses on why failure rates after lung transplantation are higher than after transplantation of other grafts.

Dr. Kreisel is a member of The American Society of Clinical Investigation, a section editor for The Journal of Immunology and a standing member on the NIH Transplantation, Tumor and Tolerance Study Section. Dr. Kreisel succeeds Alec Patterson, MD, the Joseph C. Bancroft Professor of Surgery, who served as surgical director for 22 years.

Claude Organ Lecture – Steven Stain, MD, (center) chair of Surgery at Albany Medical Center, spoke about the history and common issues surrounding informed consent on Sept. 8 at the medical school. Dr. Stain is pictured with Transplant Surgery Chief William Chapman, MD, (left) and Washington University Surgery Chair Timothy Eberlein, MD. The lecture was presented by the Section of Transplant Surgery and supported by the Southern Surgical Association and Society of Black Academic Surgeons.
Funding for the grant totals $7.25 million, and the duration of the project is five years. P01 grants provide support of broadly based, multidisciplinary, often long-term research programs that have a specific major objective or a basic theme. The impetus for the Thoracic Immunobiology Lab’s research program was to try to find new approaches to improve survival rates of lung transplant recipients, which are significantly poorer when compared to other solid organ recipients.

The program consists of three projects that investigate different aspects that control lung transplant tolerance. Dr. Kreisel’s project is aimed at better understanding how the development of lymphoid tissues within lung transplants maintains graft survival. Dr. Krupnick’s project explores the role and the potential use of central memory CD8+ T cells in the induction of lung transplant tolerance. Dr. Gelman’s project is primarily focused on uncovering the unique mechanisms that neutrophils use to prevent tolerance.

**Breast cancer vaccine trial funded**

William Gillanders, MD, professor of endocrine and oncologic surgery, has been awarded a grant from the Department of Defense/U.S. Army for a Phase 1B clinical trial of a breast cancer prevention vaccine. The trial, which will take place at the Siteman Cancer Center, will measure the effectiveness of the vaccine. In an early clinical trial, the vaccine was shown to be safe in patients with metastatic breast cancer. Preliminary evidence also suggested that the vaccine primed the patients’ immune systems to attack tumor cells and helped slow the cancer’s progression.

The vaccine causes the body’s immune system to home in on a protein called mammaglobin-A, found almost exclusively in breast tissue. The protein’s role in healthy tissue is unclear, but breast tumors express it at abnormally high levels, past research has shown.

The vaccine primes a type of white blood cell, part of the body’s adaptive immune system, to seek out and destroy cells with the mammaglobin-A protein. In the smaller proportion of breast cancer patients whose tumors do not produce mammaglobin-A, this vaccine would not be effective.

Washington University researchers identified the importance of mammaglobin-A and designed and manufactured the vaccine. Funding for the grant is $2.575 million.

**Drs. Aft, Brunt join ASA**

Rebecca Aft, MD, PhD, professor of endocrine and oncologic surgery, and L. Michael Brunt, MD, chief of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery, were selected as members of the American Surgical Association, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. Its members include the nation’s most prominent surgeons from the country’s leading academic medical institutions, many of whom are chairs of departments of surgery, as well as leading surgeons from around the world.
NIDDK funds study on pelvic pain

Gerald Andriole Jr., MD, chief of urologic surgery and the Robert K. Royce Distinguished Professor of Urologic Surgery, and associate professor H. Henry Lai, MD, were awarded a Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction Research Network (LURN) grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to study lower urinary tract symptoms and overactive bladder.

As part of the project, they will recruit subjects with lower urinary tract disorders to validate the new patient-reported outcome tools currently being developed by NIDDK LURN Research Network; and use innovative technologies such as neuroimaging, quantitative sensory testing, organ-based functional testing, and biomarker studies to expand understanding of the pathophysiology of overactive bladder. The grant award is for $2.039 million.

Michael Awad plays major role in LCME site visit

Michael Awad, MD, PhD, assistant professor in minimally invasive surgery and associate dean for medical student education, played a major role in the recent Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) site visit of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He and Alison Whelan, MD, senior associate dean for education, led the school through the reaccreditation process, which required an extensive self-study and documentation. The survey was conducted March 8-11.

Siteman Cancer Center earns highest NCI rating

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis an “exceptional” rating, based on a rigorous review of Siteman’s research programs. The rating is the highest possible by the NCI, the principal federal institute that funds cancer research.

Siteman, an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, undergoes peer review every five years. Such centers are recognized by the NCI, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for their leadership, scientific merit, integration and the depth and breadth of clinical and research programs, including in cancer prevention.

Department of Surgery faculty play key roles in leadership of the center and were actively involved in preparing for the review. In addition to Timothy Eberlein, MD, chairman of the Department of Surgery, who serves as center director, Jeffrey Moley, MD, chief of the Section of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, is associate director of the center and oncologic surgeon William Gillanders, MD, co-leads the tumor immunology program with researcher Robert Schreiber, PhD.

The center’s tumor immunology program also received an “exceptional” rating.

Siteman earned its exceptional rating based on a January site visit by 26 researchers and administrators from academic cancer centers across the United States.

Farewell to Jeff Lowell

Jeffrey Lowell, MD, professor of surgery and chief of abdominal organ transplantation at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, was honored for 21 years of service at a farewell reception on Aug. 13. Dr. Lowell, who served in many capacities at the medical school and had received the Distinguished Community Service Award for his contributions to emergency response efforts for the St. Louis region and the nation, left to become a medical officer in the U.S. State Department.

Agreement between Department, Business School smooths path for obtaining MBA

The Department of Surgery and Washington University’s Olin Business School have entered into an agreement that allows faculty, residents and fellows to count 12 hours of previously earned graduate credit toward a master of business administration (MBA) degree. They may also substitute MCAT scores for a GMAT/GRE score in seeking admission. The degree requires completion of 42 credit hours and provides training to manage business operations and shape health-care policy.
NOTABLES

Ida Fox, MD, plastic and reconstructive surgery, is a leader in the development of surgical techniques to restore hand function following life-altering cervical spinal cord injury. She received a Craig H. Neilsen Foundation Spinal Cord Injury Research on the Translation Spectrum (SCIRTS) grant to further study these nerve transfers in patients between the ages of 18 and 60 with spinal cord injury (SCI) at the C6 or C7 level.

Dr. Fox was also PI and co-director of a workshop at Washington University School of Medicine on “Nerve Transfer in Spinal Cord Injury.” The workshop was held in December 2014 with support by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. She was an invited professor and lecturer on the topic at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, where she participated in the evaluation and management of the first nerve transfer in SCI surgeries in Canada with Kirsty Boyd, MD. She subsequently led a workshop on this subject at the 4th International Spinal Cord Society and American Spinal Injury Association Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in May of this year.

Hilary Gallin, an MD/MBA student, is working with John Kirby, MD, surgical clerkships director for third-year and fourth-year medical students, to develop training programs to help medical students and house staff officers be more aware of the needs of patients with functional disabilities. Medical students and residents are taught how to care for patients with conditions such as diabetes or appendicitis, but often lack any formal training for the care of the disabled.

Ms. Gallin will help them analyze whether unconscious bias has an impact on care decisions and her work has already garnered enough attention that it was presented at the White House to the President’s Council on Disabilities.

John Kirby, MD, director of Wound Healing Programs at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine, led the Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery’s first “Fundamentals of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy” continuing medical education course in January 2015. The 40-hour course gives physicians, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals nationally credentialed training for basic hyperbaric chamber operation and practices. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is one of several advanced wound care methods offered to patients at the wound care clinic.

Urology residents Michael Glimore, MD, and Joseph Song, MD, had a “Top Ten” abstract in the Engineering and Urology Society portion of the American Urological Association Annual Meeting May 15-19 in New Orleans. Their abstract was on “A cordless cystoscope producing digital images which are stitched together creating a bladder map.”

Mary Klingensmith, MD, vice chair for education and the Mary Culver Distinguished Professor of Surgery, gave a presentation at the American Surgical Association Annual Meeting on “Factors Influencing the Decision of Surgery Residency Graduates to Pursue General Surgery Practice or Fellowship.” At the same meeting on April 23-25, Jeffrey Moley, MD, chief of endocrine and oncologic surgery, presented on “Management of the Parathyroid Glands in Preventative Thyroidectomy for Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2.”

Alison Snyder-Warwick, MD, plastic and reconstructive surgery, received the 2015 Plastic Surgery Foundation and American Society for Peripheral Nerve Pilot Research grant for her proposal on “Genetic Regulation of Terminal Schwann Cells.”

Shortage of transplantable organs remains a public health challenge in the United States, but an article co-authored by Jason Wellen, MD, MBA, transplant surgery, reviewed all state-level policies designed to increase donation rates and discovered no observable effects on the rate of organ donation and transplantation. The exception was revenue pools for recruitment activities not covered under public education, which were found to have small benefits. The article appeared in JAMA.

The Intestinal Adaptation Lab of Brad Warner, MD, chief of pediatric surgery and the Jessie L. Temberg, MD PhD Distinguished Professor of Pediatric Surgery, recently was awarded two grants:

• an NIH RO1 grant to study blood vessel growth in the intestinal mucosa following massive intestinal resection

• a grant from the Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences to determine changes in the gut microbiome of infants who have undergone intestinal resection for necrotizing enterocolitis

Transplant postdoctoral research associate Min Xu, PhD, received a young investigator award for his presentation on microRNAs in transplantation at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons/American Society of Transplantation meeting held in Philadelphia on May 2-6. Dr. Xu’s poster on the lung microbiome was given a poster of distinction award.

Postdoctoral research associate Muthukumar Gunasekaran, PhD, along with transplant faculty members Jason Wellen, MD, MBA, and Surendra Shenoy, MD, PhD, also received a poster of distinction award for their research on the role of self-antigens in antibody-mediated rejection of simultaneous kidney-pancreas transplants.

Also at the conference, Thalachallour Mohanakumar, PhD, the Jacqueline and William Maritz Professor of Surgery, was invited to give a luncheon workshop on autoimmunity in transplantation. In addition, he moderated two symposia, one on autoimmunity in transplantation and another on immune monitoring.
SPOTLIGHT

Business Services Organization

Since 1998, the Department of Surgery has seen a 70 percent increase in clinical volume and doubled its clinical revenue. In research, the story is just as remarkable — research activity was about $6.6 million in 1996; it stands at more than $26 million in the past year.

This success is attributable, in large part, to the faculty as surgeons and principal investigators in research, as well as business initiatives that have expanded services to many locations outside of the Washington University Medical Center. But these accomplishments are also strongly supported by the Business Services Organization (BSO), which supplies the financial, technical, research, maintenance and human resources management support needed for the department to succeed.

“This is a hand in glove,” says Timothy Eberlein, MD, Bixby Professor and department chairman. “Without the BSO, we could not be as viable financially, efficient at obtaining grants, or developing innovative programs in leadership, patient safety and education. We are so fortunate to have so many enthusiastic and devoted BSO staff members.”

Administrative Team

The administrative team is led by Jamie Sauerburger, executive director of business affairs, who came to surgery in 1993 and was named to her current position in 2000, and Nancy Bertelsman, director of business operations, who has worked at the university for 27 years and at the BSO since 2002. The business group was also named the BSO in 2000, reflecting that it provided services to other clinical departments at the School of Medicine, as well.

The biggest changes in recent years have been the dramatic growth of Gifts & Grants, particularly with the addition of the Division of Public Health Sciences; changes in technology in billing and the addition of the electronic medical record; support of offsite offices with clinical coordination and IT services; and greater coordination of clinical research in compliance and other areas.

Clinical Research and Data Management (CRDM)

Leader: Tracey Guthrie, Director of Clinical Research, Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness

How many employees? 7

What services does group perform? CRDM oversees all clinical research trials for the Department of Surgery. The group provides an infrastructure to ensure compliance and assist with budgets and financial management. Education and staff support is another component, with CRDM training new staff and discussing hot topics in quarterly meetings.

Who are their customers? The faculty is the group’s number one client. With the help of clinical research staff, CRDM promotes faculty members’ research interests in many ways: seeking funding, structuring faculty members’ workforce and support, and successfully recruiting and obtaining patient consent for participation in research studies.

Have there been recent changes? CRDM is working with Siteman Cancer Center, IT staff members and an outside vendor to launch the OnCore clinical trial management software system. The system will give clinical research staff easy access to data on number of studies/patients enrolled, time from initiation to completion, financial reporting, and other performance metrics.

What makes employees’ jobs challenging? Regulatory compliance and oversight continues to grow more stringent. An internal audit process identifies quality assurance issues that need to be addressed.

What do faculty and staff not know about this group? CRDM and clinical research staff work in the background to complete many regulatory and administrative details on behalf of the faculty. Faculty members may not realize how much documentation goes into a single research project.
Finance (Financial Analysts/Purchasing)

Leader: Mike Aug, Business Director, Department of Surgery

How many employees? 6

What services does group perform? Financial analysts provide financial quarterly reports for the faculty portal system. They also provide financial reports so administrators can understand various aspects of the revenue/expenses within the Department. Accounting staff members pay the department’s bills and process reimbursements to faculty and staff. They pay vendors and other departments for purchased goods and services. They manage accounting for ProCard (Washington University credit card) that administrative staff uses.

Who are their customers? Potentially everyone in the department. Many employees may place an order or receive a reimbursement. Accountants are heavily involved in reimbursement of faculty, who travel more frequently. A priority is to turn around the reimbursements as quickly as possible.

Have there been recent changes?

Use of the ProCard, or procurement card program. This has created the ability to purchase online and made purchasing more efficient.

Gifts & Grants

Leader: Emily Hixson Shepherd, Manager of Gifts & Grants

How many employees? 10 including a manager, research administrator and eight grants specialists. The research administrator and two grants specialists support the Division of Public Health Sciences and six grants specialists support the other divisions and sections in the Department of Surgery, as well as the Department of Neurosurgery.

What services does group perform? The team is responsible for all aspects of research award management including identifying possible funding opportunities, preparing grant proposals, managing the awards and submitting reports. As part of their work, they gather documents and data needed for grant applications and submitting grants. Once the award is received, they make sure that all expenses funded by grants are appropriate and submit progress and final reports. Internally, the group works closely with faculty, staff, other departments (more research is collaborative now), and research administrative offices at the medical school; the group works externally with the NIH and other governmental agencies and private foundations.

Gifts & Grants continued on next page...
Spotlight

...Gifts & Grants, continued

Who are their customers? Faculty and research staff in Department of Surgery and Department of Neurosurgery

Have there been recent changes? The staff has doubled since 2008, when Emily Hixson Shepherd became manager. Much of the growth has come from the Public Health Sciences, which became a division in 2010. In 2014-15, Public Health Sciences received the most funding, followed by Cardiothoracic Surgery and General Surgery. The group began supporting Neurosurgery in 2014.

What makes employees’ jobs challenging? Every day is different – and none go exactly as planned. But that also keeps things interesting! Gifts & Grants staff are driven by grant deadlines, and delays in getting the required documents and approvals is challenging. They strive to provide excellent service and work closely with faculty members to get the best possible applications submitted.

What do faculty and staff not know about this group? Science is the most important factor in securing grants, but administrative details take a lot of time and effort and offer an essential support component for success in research funding.

Information Technology Center (ITC)

Leader: Babs Vogelsang, Director, Information Technology

How many employees? 21

What services does group perform? Different groups within ITC perform different functions. Customer Support includes the Help Desk, which aims to resolve problems with the first phone call 80 percent of the time. Level 2 staff provides desktop support and will go to a customer’s desk if the issue cannot be resolved remotely. Level 3 works on long-term projects such as Sharepoint (the intranet). The Systems Group maintains the servers, which store data and provide the processing power behind it. Servers hold data for the e-mail system, Sharepoint, remote desktop services, X (publicly shared) and H (personal) drives, and websites. Development maintains about 50 websites and 30 web applications and is helping support implementation of the OnCore clinical research management system, as an example of its many projects.

Who are their customers? All employees and faculty in the departments of Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery and Obstetrics & Gynecology as well as Siteman Cancer Center.

Have there been recent changes? ITC now supports the Washington University Clinical Associates (WUCA) practices and the St. Louis Children’s Specialty Care Center in west St. Louis County. For the first time, there is a chief information officer (CIO) over the entire school (Danforth and Medical) who is leading an effort to share services among departments (for example, Help Desk, e-mail, servers, remote desktop services).

What makes employees’ jobs challenging? Customer needs are different between departments (say, between Orthopedic Surgery and Surgery) and types of user (a front desk person may be in one to two systems while a physician may be in 10 to 20).

And technology is constantly changing! A doctor may bring in a new phone or tablet that doesn’t work with the network, and an ITC customer support employee must figure out the problem.

What do faculty and staff not know about this group? There are so many facets to technology that it is difficult for the end user to realize how it all fits together. Somebody may call the Help Desk and say their computer is really slow. That sounds easy to fix, but there could be five to 10 different things causing that slowness. A technician has to isolate each of those components and determine the real problem.
Payroll

Administrator: Heidi White, Human Resources and Payroll Manager

How many employees? 3

What services does group perform? Some job functions include: Working with new employees to arrange parking, get badges, complete forms and set up orientation. Providing appropriate titles for job functions and pay scales for jobs. Answering questions about benefits. Helping with questions or paperwork related to Family Medical Leave Act. Coordinating payroll, including help with payment source for research employees.

Who are their customers? All employees working for the Department of Surgery and Siteman Cancer Center

Have there been recent changes? More fellows started in August 2015 than in previous years.

What makes employees’ jobs challenging? The summer months are extremely busy because of many deadlines and much transition. Many students and residents come and go in addition to the average workload in the office, which includes a variety of questions that come in daily requiring research or coordination in response.

What do faculty and staff not know about this group? Payroll employees often get questions about topics they are not involved with. Payroll, for example, does not set up HIPAA training for employees and is not involved in the training.

Office of International Scholars and Patients

Leader: James Lee, Coordinator of International Scholars and Patients

How many employees: 1

What services does office perform? As coordinator, Lee assists fellows, residents and researchers from outside the United States in obtaining visas, getting oriented to the campus, finding housing and getting set up on payroll. He is often the first point of contact for patients coming from outside of the country. They may read about a treatment on a website, and when they call, they are referred to Lee. He checks on whether a doctor will treat them, sets up financial arrangements, arranges housing and sets up aftercare when they go home.

Who are the office’s customers: In addition to his international clients, Lee serves specialists, including those in Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Medical Oncology and Neurology, outside the Department of Surgery, and works with Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis Children’s Hospital and Siteman Cancer Center.

Have there been recent changes? Lee is in the process of helping revamp the international charity care process at Children’s Hospital to streamline it and improve communications, ensuring better tracking of the financial impact on the different departments.

What makes Lee's job challenging? Most tasks come to Lee as a priority (to the person sending it), so he has to “prioritize” the priorities to not only keep everyone happy but achieve the most efficient results.

What faculty and staff may not know about Lee or the office? Lee lived abroad for about 20 years (mostly in Spain), teaching university-preparatory English and helping Spanish exchange students prepare for their experience in the United States, so he draws from personal experience in his work. He speaks Spanish fluently and understands Portuguese and some Arabic phrases, as well as some French.
**SPOTLIGHT**

Premier Billing Network (PBN)

**Leader:** Kathy Hoertel, Director of Billing Operations

**How many employees:** 53

**What services does group perform?** Credentialing (getting physicians licensed with the state and to prescribe medicines, enrolling them as Medicare and Medicaid providers, ensuring Washington Physician Network enrolls them as managed care plan providers); capturing charges and coding services physicians provide; billing insurance companies and handling appeals; reporting on billing; setting up payments of patients who are not covered by insurance, such as cosmetic patients

**Who are their customers?** Physicians, patients, other members of business office, clinical staff, insurance companies, other departments, hospital staff

**Have there been recent changes?** The nation is converting from ICD9 coding system to ICD10 coding system, which took effect Oct. 1. It is a substantial change in how diagnoses are coded and requires training of physicians, PBN staff.

**What makes employees’ jobs challenging?** There are a lot of regulatory requirements surrounding billing, and each insurance company has their own rules. There is constant change.

**What faculty and staff may not know about this group?** How complex the coding and billing process is.

The Premier Billing Network (PBN) employees gather in the 4480 Clayton Building.
Support Services

Administrator: Mike Aug, Business Director, Department of Surgery

Facilities Supervisor (coordinating moves): Vernie Simokaitis

How many employees: 6

What services does group perform? Minor maintenance for Surgery offices/labs; office moves for physicians and staff; package and computer delivery to all Surgery locations; courier services. Also services Obstetrics & Gynecology and Siteman for most duties, as well as Orthopedic Surgery/Neurosurgery for IT deliveries.

Who are their customers? Everyone in the Department of Surgery, as well as Siteman Cancer Center and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Have there been recent changes? New office/clinic/lab locations continually expands the Surgery coverage area. Recently, mail services were combined with Medical School Facilities Mail Services.

What makes employees’ jobs challenging? Moving doctors’ offices without interrupting workflow. This may require staff to arrive early, stay late or come in on weekends.

What do faculty and staff not know about this group? Staff takes care of about 800 customers across all the departments they serve.
Medical Schools of Incoming Residents:

**General Surgery Residency**

William Chapman, MD, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Ina Chen, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Cathleen Courtney, MD, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fla.

Gregory Ebersole, MD, Washington University

Maxwell Fohtung, MD, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Ind.

Jason Gauthier, MD, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

Ali Khiabani, MD, Rosalind Franklin University, Chicago, Ill.

Jiro Kusakabe, MD, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Jessica Lindemann, MD, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Emily Onufer, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

Emmelie Subramanian, MD, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.

Wei Wang, MD, Peking University, Beijing, China

Michael Chevinsky, MD, Intern (Urology) Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, N.J.

Bryan Pham, MD, Intern (Urology) Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Maung Htein (James) Thu, MD, Intern (Urology) Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn.

**Plastic Surgery Residency**

Trina Ghosh, MD

UM-KC Medical School, Kansas City, Mo.

Danielle Jones, MD

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.

Teri Moak, MD

University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, Ark.

**Urology Residency**

Michael Glamore, MD

Florida International University, Miami, Fla.

Joseph Song, MD

Washington University

John Weaver, MD

Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio

**Vascular Surgery Residency**

Jason Cook, MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York, N.Y.

Where incoming fellows came from:

**Breast Disease**

Katherine Glover-Collins, MD

General Surgery Residency, Meharry Medical College-University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Ark.

**Cardiothoracic Surgery**

Alejandro Bribiesco, MD

General Surgery Residency, Washington University

Jessica Yu Rove, MD

General Surgery Residency, University of Colorado, Aurora, Colo.

Sharven Taghavi, MD

Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Colorectal Surgery**

Alexander Hawkins, MD

General Surgery Residency, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Devi Mukkai Krishnamurty, MD

General Surgery Residency, Creighton University Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

Katerina Wells, MD

General Surgery Residency, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Mass.

**HPB Surgery**

Ismael Dominguez Rosado, MD

Surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.

**Minimally Invasive Surgery**

Arghavan Salles, MD

General Surgery Residency, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.

**Pediatric Surgery**

Paul Jeziorczak, MD

General Surgery Residency, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Plastic Surgery**

John Felder, MD, Plastic Hand Fellow

Georgetown University Plastic Surgery Program, Washington, D.C.

Emily Krauss, MD, Plastic Hand Fellow

Dalhousie University Plastic Surgery, Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Surgical Critical Care**

Bhani Chawla, MD

General Surgery Residency, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Mich.

Nadia Obeid, MD

General Surgery Residency, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Lerone Simpson, MD

General Surgery Residency, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Lubbock, Texas

Brandt Whitehurst, MD

General Surgery Residency, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kan.

**Transplant Surgery**

Adeel Khan, MD

Aurora Medical Group, Northern Wisconsin/General Surgery Residency, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

**Urology**

Barrett Anderson, DO, Urologic Residency, Detroit Medical Center

Erik Grossgold, MD, Urologic Residency, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Ghent, Va.

Alyssa Park, MD, Urologic Residency, Geisinger Health System, Danville, Pa.

**Vascular Surgery**

Senthil Jayarajan, MD

Where MPHS students came from:

Anchal Bansal, Washington University medical student
Porpong Boonmak, MD – Thailand Medical School, 2015
McDonnell International Scholars Academy Recipient
David Brauer, MD – Resident, General Surgery
Cecelia Calhoun, MD – Fellow, Pediatrics (hematology/oncology)
Alejandra Camacho–Soto, MD – Instructor, Department of Neurology
Scott Douglas, Washington University medical student
Jessica Hudson, MD – Resident, General Surgery
Jesse Keller, MD – Fellow, Internal Medicine (hematology/oncology)
Timothy Nywening, MD – Resident, General Surgery
Rajiv Parikh, MD – Resident, Plastic Surgery
Natalia Brito Rivera, Washington University medical student
Shawgi Silver, Washington University medical student
Stephanie Brennan Stewart, PhD – Resident, Neurology (psychiatry)

Sashi Inkollu, MD – Fellowship in Vascular Surgery, Houston Methodist
Wande Pratt, MD – Fellowship in Vascular Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Plastic Surgery Residency
Mike Franco, MD – Orthopaedic Hand Surgery Fellowship, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
Neil Sachanandani, MD – Reconstructive Microsurgery Fellowship, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan

Urology Residency:
Brandon Manley, MD – Urologic Oncology Fellowship, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
Janine Oliver, MD – Female Urology/Reconstruction Fellowship, UCLA Health System, Los Angeles, Calif.
Elizabeth Roth, MD – Pediatric Urology Fellowship, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis.

Fellows:

Breast Disease
Barbara Dull, MD
Rex Healthcare, Raleigh, N.C.

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Matthew Bott, MD – Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
Seth Krantz, MD – NorthShore University HealthSystem, Skokie, Ill.
Anson Lee, MD – Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.

Colorectal Surgery
Ellen Bailey, MD – Mount Carmel Hospital, Columbus, Ohio
Michelle Cowan, MD – University of Colorado, Denver, Colo.
Swetha Ramakrishnan, MD – Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.

HPB
Nicholas Spinelli, MD, Sentara Healthcare, Charlottesville, Va.

Minimally Invasive Surgery
Thomas Wade, MD
Multispecialty group practice in Milwaukee, Wis., affiliated with Medical College of Wisconsin

Pediatric Surgery
Ann-Christina Brady, MD, South Florida Pediatric Surgeons, P.A., Plantation, Fla.

Plastic Surgery Fellows
Utuk Dolen, MD – Returning to practice at Ankara Oncology Hospital, Turkey
Grant Kleiber, MD – Washington University

Surgical Critical Care
Chukwuma Apakama, MD – Washington University
Eleanor Drew, MD – Washington University
Patricia Pentiak, MD – Beaumont Health System, Royal Oak, Mich.

Transplant Surgery
Kelly Collins, MD – Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Urology Fellows
Jeffrey Larson, MD – Private Practice, Illinois
Stephen Marshall, MD – Private Practice, New Hampshire

Vascular Surgery
Vipul Khetarpaul, MD – Private practice, The Iowa Clinic, Des Moine, Ia.
Payam Salehi, MD – Tufts University Medical Center, Boston, Mass.
MPHS Students:

Nicole Suzanne Benzoni, MPHS
Medical Student, Washington University
School of Medicine

Alexander Barton Beyer, MD, MPHS
Emergency Medicine Resident, University of Michigan Hospitals

Sarah Renee Cortez, MD, MPHS
Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident, Wayne State University

Anne V. Dean, MD, MPHS
Instructor in Clinical Medicine, Department of Medicine, Washington University

Jarrod August Dornfeld, MD, MPHS
Emergency Medicine Resident, Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Stephen Yuan-Tung Liang, MD, MPHS
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Infectious Disease & Emergency Medicine, Department of Medicine, Washington University

Shuddhadeb Ray, MD, MPHS
Resident, Department of Surgery, Washington University

Justin Samuel Sadhu, MD, MPHS
Instructor of Medicine, Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine, Washington University

Pamela Parker Samson, MD, MPHS
Resident, Department of Surgery, Washington University

Keith Marshall Wood, MD, MPHS
Clinical Fellow, Department of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego

Chester Kossman Yarbrough, MD, MPHS
Resident, Department of Neurosurgery, Washington University

Jennifer Yu, MD, MPHS
Resident, Department of Surgery, Washington University

General Surgery Residency Class of 2015: (front row, l-r) Bernard Dubray, MD; Jennifer Leineke, MD, MPHS; Lola Fayanju, MD, MPHS; Ashley Holder, MD; Paul Evans, MD; (back row, l-r) Jonathan Mitchem, MD; Wande Pratt, MD; Sashi Inkollu, MD; and Alejandro Bribriesco, MD.