

DAILY NOTED | JULY 2023

News from the Department of Surgery

NEWS

Emory Surgery Makes a Mark on PERSEVERE AMDS Study



The Emory University Medical Center is helping to lead the way on a clinical trial that could have life-saving implications in the operating room. A team of Emory faculty led by Bradley Leshnow, MD, and including Woody Farrington, MD, and Brent Keeling, MD, began implantation of the PERSEVERE AMDS (formerly known as the Ascyrus Medical dissection stent) devices in patients with acute DeBakey type I aortic dissections, a life-threatening condition with extreme mortality rates. The first device was implanted by Dr. Farrington on May 10, 2023, followed by a second implantation on May 23 by Dr. Leshnow. As of July 2023, there have been a total of five implanted devices by the team at Emory, ranking third in enrollment across all study participants.

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Octav Cristea and Idelberto Badell Recognized During Donate Life Month



Octav Cristea, MD, and Idelberto Badell, MD, were recognized during Donate Life Month to raise awareness of the importance of living organ donation. The Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Braves Foundation hosted the Living Liver Foundation and the Georgia Transplant Foundation on April 25 at Truist Park. There, state senator John Albers (R-Roswell) and his son Will Albers were recognized at the event for Sen. Albers' donation of a kidney to his son in 2021. Dr. Cristea served as Will Albers' transplant surgeon, while Dr. Badell was Sen. Albers' surgeon and removed his kidney for transplantation.

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APPOINTMENTS

Yazan Duwayri Enters Role as Interim Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery



The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce that Yazan Duwayri, MD, MBA, has accepted the role of interim chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery, effective as of July 1, 2023. He has succeeded Dr. William Jordan, who transitioned from Emory on June 20. Dr. Duwayri has been with Emory since 2011 and currently serves as medical director of the Heart and Vascular Service Line at Emory University Hospital, and co-director of the Emory Aortic Center.

Maria Russell Appointed Chief Quality Officer for Winship Cancer Institute



In her new role, Dr. Russell will oversee the overall direction, leadership, and operational management of Winship's quality and safety programs to ensure the highest quality and safest care experience for patients across all Winship locations. Dr. Russell, who holds the Wadley R. Glenn Chair of Surgery for Academic Programs, joined the Emory faculty in 2012. She is the chair of the Georgia State Commission on Cancer, working with programs, providers, and organizations to improve the quality of cancer care. She is also the vice chair of the Society of Surgical Oncology's Committee for Program Directors and serves as the program director for the recently established Emory Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Olamide Alabi Receives VISN7 RDA Award



Olamide Alabi, MD, has been awarded the Network 7 Research Development Award (RDA) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This two-year award provides Dr. Alabi with salary support to pursue her research at the Atlanta VA Health Care System (VAHCS). Her VISN7 RDA proposal is based on her study titled, "Defining Determinants of Lower Extremity Amputation Among Veterans," framed using a blended health and racism framework and allostatic load conceptual model to better understand racial disparities in LEA among veterans with peripheral artery disease (PAD). This study aims to better understand how we can move toward health equity in PAD care. Congratulations Dr. Alabi!

Emilie Warren Awarded 2023 Elkin Fellowship in Oncology



Emilie Warren, MD, has been named as a recipient of the 2023 Nell W. and William S. Elkin Fellowship in Oncology endowment. The fellowships are given out annually to extraordinary physician-scientists enrolled in eligible Emory training programs who have career goals in the research and treatment or prevention of cancer. Each award comes with an endowment of up to \$35,000 to help cover salary, laboratory costs, and other research-related expenses, such as travel to conferences and meetings. Dr. Warren is co-mentored by Drs. Shishir Maithel, Gregory Lesinski, and Chrystal Paulos.

Christopher Ramos Named to Editorial Board of Annals of Vascular Surgery



Christopher Ramos, MD, was invited to become a member of the Editorial Board for the *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. Dr. Ramos' invitation came as a result of his outstanding performance and strong recommendations from Managing Editor Camilla Davies and Dr. Ravi Rajani. In his new role, Dr. Ramos will serve as a member of the primary source of reviewers and is expected to review about one manuscript per month.

Surgery Residents & Fellows Recognized for 2022-2023 House Staff Organization Professionalism Excellence (HOPE) Award



Winners for the 2022-23 House Staff Organization Professionalism Excellence Award were recognized in late June, with Emma Rooney, MD, named as the overall runner-up. Other Surgery winners include Zachary Grady, MD, for the Surgery award and Matthew Stanley, MD, for the Fellows award. The HOPE Award honors Emory residents and fellows who demonstrate exceptional professionalism in working with patients and colleagues. The goal of this annual award is to recognize those who excel in collaborating with colleagues across different departments.

Steven Kim Elected Member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeon's (ASTS) Grants Review Committee



Steven Kim, MD, was elected as a member of the ASTS in June. The three-year appointment to the committee is decided by the board members and society members. Responsibilities include panel review and discussion of all society research grant submissions as part of a study section of other members to award foundational grants from the ASTS. The mission of the Grants Review Committee is to support basic, clinical, and translational research performed in transplantation. The Committee reviews and awards applications for ASTS grants that support research performed by ASTS members, their trainees, and collaborators. They are also responsible for providing advice, education, and resources to trainees and members who are applying for funding from the broad range of granting organizations.

Jeroson Williams Wins Travel Award for 46th Shock Conference



Jeroson Williams, MD, a PGY-2 general surgery research sabbatical resident, was selected to receive a Travel Award for the 46th Annual Conference on Shock, which was held in Portland, OR, from June 17 - 20, 2023. The reward was for the study, "The Role of FcγRIIb in Potentiating Septic Mortality," authored by Dr. Williams, Dr. Craig Coopersmith, and Dr. Mandy Ford.

Katherine Hekman Wins Association for VA Surgeons Faculty Research Award and First Place in Poster Competition



Katherine Hekman, MD, PhD, received the Association for VA Surgeons (AVAS) Faculty Research Award, earning \$25,000 for one year. The grant is available to members of the AVAS who are within seven years following completion of their post-graduate training. Dr. Hekman also won first place in the vascular biology poster competition at the Vascular Research Initiatives Conference, held on Wednesday, May 10 in Boston, MA. The title of her presentation was "Physiologic Oxygen Conditions Preserve Ipsilateral Progenitor Identity."

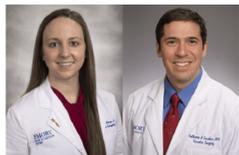
Craig Coopersmith Wins Off-Service Teacher of the Year Award



Craig Coopersmith, MD, FACS, MCCM, has been awarded the Off-Service Teacher of the Year Award by the Emory Emergency Medicine residents. The award is presented at the end of each year with the Emergency Medicine residents nominating and voting for some of their best teachers. All residents within the EM program are invited to nominate a faculty member for the award and faculty nominated for the Off-Service Award come from rotations outside of the Emergency Department ("off-service rotations").

RESEARCH

Drs. Escobar and Mize Author Study, "Novel Approach to AVF with Irreparable Outflow Obstruction-Technique and Outcomes"



Guillermo Escobar, MD, and Brandi Mize, MD, authored a study with Young Lee, MD, and Ronald Chang, MD, that trialed the explanation of mature arteriovenous fistulas (AVFs) from patients with venous outflow obstruction in one extremity and translocation of them to the contralateral extremity. The study's abstract was presented by Dr. Mize at the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery's 50th Annual Symposium in Miami, FL on March 25-29.

The study abstract concluded that "Translocation of mature venous conduits to new sites seem very successful even if they require repair/resection of aneurysmal portions... discarding usable, autologous venous conduits should be discouraged despite the technical challenges."

Emory Abx Program Led by Jyotirmay Sharma and Eli Mlaver Highlighted in General Surgery News



An Emory Automated Antibiotic Prophylaxis program led by Jyotirmay "Joe" Sharma, MD, FACS, FACE, and Eli Mlaver, MD, PGY-2, was highlighted in General Surgery News on June 22. The novel program has demonstrated significant reductions in surgical site infections (SSI), with a 12% improvement in antibiotic prophylaxis compliance and a 33% reduction in overall SSI rates (2.8% vs. 1.9%).

The study, titled, "A Self-Sustaining Antibiotic Prophylaxis Program to Reduce Surgical Site Infections," was originally presented by Dr. Mlaver during the Surgical Infection Society's 42nd Annual Meeting held in April.