

DAILY NOTED | MARCH 2024

News from the Department of Surgery

NEWS



Dr. Craig Coopersmith to be Honored with 2024 Dean's Distinguished Faculty Lecture and Award

Craig Coopersmith, MD, FACS, MCCM has been named the recipient of the 2024 Dean's Distinguished Faculty Lecture and Award. This award is among the most prestigious and celebratory honors that the Emory University School of Medicine bestows on its faculty members.

Dr. Coopersmith has been the Director of the Emory Critical Care Center (ECCC) since 2018 and currently serves as professor of surgery in the Emory Department of Surgery, vice chair of research in the department, and program director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship. He has been working to improve sepsis care and outcomes for multiple decades and has had a huge impact with this work on all three missions - research, teaching and patient care.

The award will be presented on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the James B. Williams Medical Education Building. Before formally accepting his award, Dr. Coopersmith will give his honorary lecture on "Sepsis - The Continuum from Definition to Mechanistic Insights to Bedside Care to Implementation Science (and back again)." During the event, faculty and staff from throughout the school are invited to come together to honor Dr. Coopersmith and his contributions.

[Click Here to RSVP](#)



Emory Presentations at the 19th Annual Academic Surgical Congress

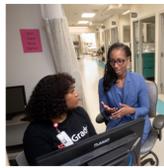
The 19th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC) was held in Washington, D.C. from February 6-8, 2024. The ASC is a joint meeting of the two leading associations for academic surgery – The Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) and The Society of University Surgeons (SUS). Several members of the Emory community made presentations, including Zachary Grady, Lucy Hart, Goeto Dantes, Soroosh Noorbakhsh, Ambika Menon, Katherine Owsiany, Mishal Gillani, Steven Mehl, Alison Althans, and Savannah Smith.



Grady Memorial Hospital Receives Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) 2-Star Rating

Grady Memorial Hospital received its STS Star Ratings for Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR) last week, earning 2 out of a possible 3 stars. For comparison, both Emory and Piedmont also received 2 stars for their AVR programs.

The star rating is derived by testing whether the participant's score in a composite domain is significantly different from the overall STS average. Statistical significance is based on a 95% Bayesian certainty criterion.



IVYY Program at Grady Continues to Provide Communities with Hope

Dr. Randi Smith and the Interrupting Violence in Youth and Young Adults program (IVYY) Program at Grady Memorial Hospital were recently recognized by Atlanta local news channel 11Alive. January 2024 marked one year since the launch of the IVYY Program. Since then, the program has shown remarkable success, with Grady data showing just one percent of IVYY participants having been reinjured in the past year. Kudos to the IVYY team for their incredible success and important work in the community!



Drs. Savannah Smith and Nicole Petcka Work on Pilot Project to Build Team-Patient Relationships in Patient Rooms

Savannah Smith, MD, and Nicole Petcka, MD, along with two Department of Surgery PAs, Amanda Dunn and Lori Little, have been working on a pilot project to build team-patient relationships utilizing materials in patient rooms that orient inpatients to the resident team. Funded by a grant procured by 2022-2023 administrative chief Dr. Brendan Lovasik, they presented their work at the national ACGME conference held last week and are continuing to collect data on the Clifton campus CRS and HPB services. There are hopes to implement the project across campuses if data shows increased patient satisfaction.

APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Gary Bouloux Appointed Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Gary Bouloux, MD, DDS, MDSc, FRACDS, FRACDS (OMS), FRCS (Eng), FACS, will now serve as the new Chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, effective February 2024. Dr. Bouloux joined Emory in 2006, and has served in several leadership roles, including residency Program Director, as well as the John D. Allen and Family Professor of Surgery, and the Director of Research for the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Bouloux has also been serving as the Interim Chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery since September 2020.

NEW FACULTY



Eric Elwood, MD Associate Professor, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Elwood received his MD degree from Emory University. He completed both general surgery and plastic & reconstructive surgery residencies at Emory University. He completed a fellowship in craniofacial surgery at Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul. He then served as Division Chief of Plastic Surgery at University of Illinois College of Medicine from 2002 until 2023. His primary practice location will be Grady Memorial Hospital. His practice is comprehensive plastic & reconstructive surgery.



Lauren Nosanov, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Surgery at Grady, Department of Surgery

Lauren B. Nosanov, MD is an assistant professor of surgery specializing in the surgical and critical care management of burn injury at Grady Memorial Hospital. She is a graduate of the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA, completed her general surgery residency training in Washington, DC, at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital / Washington Hospital Center, and completed fellowships in burn surgery and surgical critical care at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York, NY. Her research interests center on clinical outcomes after burn injury, with an emphasis on psychosocial and patient-centered outcomes.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Dr. William Knaus Wins Emory at Grady Best Colleague Award

William Knaus, MD, has been awarded the Emory at Grady Best Colleague Award, which recognizes a faculty member who shows support of their colleagues and can always be counted on to be available to help their colleagues. This award recognizes devoted faculty who may receive fewer official recognitions and kudos than their colleagues, but whose contributions have truly made a difference and deserve acknowledgement.



Dr. Randi Smith Wins Emory at Grady Community Impact Award

Randi Smith, MD, has been awarded the Emory at Grady Community Impact Award, which recognizes faculty whose work has elevated our community at the level of our school, hospital system, or the city and counties that we serve. The award may honor an individual or team for various forms of engagement that have made a significant impact on the community that Grady serves or the members of Grady Health Care. This can include volunteer service, program development, or community organizing. Honorees should demonstrate a commitment to partnering with others to generate a sustainable impact on community needs.



Dr. Ravi Rajani Chosen as President-Elect of Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society (VESS)

Ravi Rajani, MD, has been chosen as President-Elect of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgical Society. Dr. Rajani will serve as president in the 2025 calendar year, which will culminate with a presidential address in 2026. Dr. Rajani was previously serving in VESS as recorder. The VESS mission is to improve the quality and safety of vascular & endovascular surgical procedures and general vascular care through education, scholarship, advocacy & leadership.



Dr. Katherine Hekman Wins Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Career Development Award

Katherine Hekman, MD, won a VA Career Development Award Grant, which will begin in 2024. The VA's Career Development Program was established to provide mentoring for junior researchers so they can learn from renowned, experienced VA researchers. Awardees from this program have become national and international leaders in their research fields. Awards are provided in all areas of VA's research enterprise: biomedical laboratory, clinical science, health services, and rehabilitation research.



Drs. Goeto Dantes and Caitlin Sok Win SESC Awards

A pair of Emory trainees won honors at the Southeastern Surgical Congress, held from February 3-6. Goeto Dantes, MD, won the SESC Sharks Competition while Caitlin Sok, MD, was awarded a gold medal for her SESC Podium Presentation.

Dr. Dantes' topic was titled "Microbiome of Neonates following mucous fistula refeeding" and Dr. Sok's paper was titled "Decreasing Morbidity after Esophagectomy: Is a Totally Minimally Invasive Approach the Solution?"

Dr. Dantes' mentor is Allison Linden, MD, PhD, and Dr. Sok's mentor is David Kooby, MD, FACS.

DEI SPOTLIGHT



Call for Staff Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Members

The Department of Surgery is excited to announce the establishment of the Staff Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee within the Emory University DOS DEI Committee. Our mission is to foster a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion within our department, ultimately contributing to a more vibrant, supportive, and innovative academic environment.

The subcommittee's focus will be specifically geared toward addressing the unique perspectives and needs of our staff members. We recognize the invaluable contributions of every member of our team and believe that fostering an inclusive environment is essential for our collective success.

We will meet monthly to discuss various initiatives aimed at promoting equity and inclusivity within our department.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please reach out directly to [Latrece Ragsdale](#) and stay tuned for announcements regarding the first meeting.