



## NEWS



### 2023 DOS Annual Report Now Live on Website

The 2023 Department of Surgery Annual Report has been published and can be found on the DOS website. The report, titled "Progress Through Leadership," highlights the work, accomplishments, awards, and leadership of surgery faculty and trainees.

The 2023 report, along with previous years, can be found using the button below.

The Department of Surgery's Annual Reports strive to inspire and inform readers with in-depth coverage and enlightening features that describe the progress of our tripartite mission of patient care, basic and translational research, and teaching and mentoring.

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### 2024 Department of Surgery Educator Appreciation Day Nominee Selections

In celebration of Educator Appreciation Day, the recognitions committee at Emory School of Medicine sent out a call for nominations for educators across the school who go above and beyond the call of duty as teachers and mentors. Emory educators were nominated by their peers and colleagues for their passion and skills to educate, encourage and support scholars and learners across the university.

Department of Surgery selections are:

**Elliot Bishop, MD**, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital  
**Laura Johnson, MD**, Medical Director, Burn Center at Grady Memorial Hospital  
**Jason Sciarretta, MD**, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital

Congratulations Drs. Bishop, Johnson and Sciarretta!



### Dr. Randi Smith Invited to White House National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Randi Smith, MD, was invited to the White House's Office of Gun Violence Prevention as a prevention expert for National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7, 2024. The event, titled "White Coats at the White House," included leaders of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention as well as Second Gentleman, Douglas Emhoff. Also present were dozens of violence prevention experts consisting mostly of physicians in a broad spectrum of backgrounds.

The event highlighted the gun violence prevention efforts taking place across the country, ranging from initiatives in education, policy, prevention, and more. It also showcased the steps taken by the White House administration to combat gun violence across the country, including policies such as the establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

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### Emory Vascular and Thoracic Surgery Welcomes 2024 Surgery Residency Matches

Following Match Day, Emory Vascular and Thoracic Surgery welcomed three new residents to their programs! New residents are:

Vascular Surgery:  
**Sebouh Bazikian**, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California  
**Keileen Fei**, Duke University School of Medicine

Thoracic Surgery:  
**Ryon Arrington**, Emory University School of Medicine

Welcome and congratulations to the new residents!



### Carlos Carter Retires After Over 30 Years of Service

Carlos Carter, Field Services Technician IV, will retire this summer following 30 years of service with Emory Healthcare and 21 years with the Department of Surgery. A retirement celebration party was held on Friday, June 28, and included members of Carlos's team, EHC staff, and DOS leadership.

We would like to thank Carlos for his decades of service and wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement!



### The Passing of Dr. Aaron Fink

We regretfully share the passing of Aaron Fink, MD, Department of Surgery professor emeritus, on June 19. Dr. Fink was diagnosed with cutaneous t-cell lymphoma earlier this year and was being treated by the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida.

Following his term as director of the surgical endoscopy program at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Fink joined Emory's Department of Surgery in 1993 as chief of the surgical service at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. He served in this position until 2009, and then as chief surgical consultant for the VA Southeast network from 2009-2011. He retired in September 2011.

We send our sympathies and condolences to Dr. Fink's family during this difficult time.

## APPOINTMENTS



### Dr. Ravi Rajani Appointed Executive Associate Dean for Emory at Grady

Ravi Rajani, MD, has accepted the role of executive associate dean (EAD) for Emory at Grady, effective June 1, 2024. Dr. Rajani currently serves as the assistant dean for medical education for Emory at Grady and has been the interim EAD for Emory at Grady since March 2023. He has previously served as the chief of vascular and endovascular surgery at Grady and co-director of The Grady Heart and Vascular Center.

Dr. Rajani joined Emory in 2011 as the inaugural chief of vascular and endovascular surgery at Grady. He has led numerous clinical trials at Grady, primarily focused on endovascular control of vascular trauma, management of peripheral arterial disease, and novel methods of dialysis access creation. Dr. Rajani also currently serves on the editorial leadership committee of both the "Journal of Vascular Surgery" and "Annals of Vascular Surgery."

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



### Dr. Eli Mlaver Wins Surgical Infection Society New Member Award

Eli Mlaver, MD, won the Surgical Infection Society's (SIS) New Member Award in June, 2024. Dr. Mlaver submitted the abstract titled "A Self-Sustaining Antibiotic Prophylaxis Program to Reduce Surgical Site Infections" which he co-authored with Drs. Jesse Codner, Elissa Falconer, and Joe Sharma. The manuscript was published in the peer-reviewed medical journal, "Surgical Infections."

The New Member Award is presented to an SIS new member author of one of the top three to five abstracts. Manuscripts and meeting presentations are reviewed and scored by members of the Awards Committee.



### Dr. Anthony Meena Wins House Staff Organization Professionalism Excellence (HOPE) Award

Anthony Meena, MD, was named a 2023-2024 HOPE Award winner for Surgery on Thursday, June 20, 2024. This marks Dr. Meena's second time winning the award, with his first win occurring in the 2020-2021 year.

The award was determined by a vote of colleagues for demonstrating exceptional professionalism while collaborating with peers across various departments. Winners are recognized at the GME Orientation and will receive a certificate.



### Dr. Barbara Pettitt Selected as Recipient of the American College of Surgeons Mary Edwards Walker Award

Barbara Pettitt, MD, was awarded the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Women in Surgery Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award. Dr. Pettitt will receive the award in person during the ACS Clinical Congress Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, October 19, 2024 in San Francisco.

The Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award is named in honor of Mary Edwards Walker, MD (1832–1919), for her exemplary inspiration as the first female surgeon employed by the U.S. Army and the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor—the highest U.S. Armed Forces decoration for bravery. Through Dr. Walker's example of perseverance, excellence, and pioneering behavior, she paved the way for female surgeons of today.



### Drs. Luke Brewster and Megan Urbanski Win Department of Surgery Pilot Research Awards

Luke Brewster, MD, PhD, associate professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery, along with co-investigator Lily Yang, MD, PhD, professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been selected as a recipient of one of two Department of Surgery Pilot Research Awards for their study, titled "PIEZ01-Targeted Nanoparticle Therapeutic Resolution in Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)."



Megan Urbanski, PhD, MSW, has also been selected to receive a Department of Surgery Pilot Research Award for her study, "Exploring Out-of-Sequence Organ Allocation Decision-Making Among Organ Procurement Organization and Transplant Center Providers". Her co-investigators include Dr. Mani Daneshmand (Cardiothoracic Surgery), Dr. Neal Dickert (Cardiology, Bioethics, Health Services Research), and transplant surgeons Dr. Marwan Kazimi and Dr. William Kitchens.

The department established the pilot grant/seed funding award in 2021 to support faculty as they develop a new line of research to further their academic careers, with the ultimate goal of generating preliminary data to support larger grant proposals in the future. Winning projects will be funded up to \$50,000 in direct costs for one year.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



### Dr. Christopher Ramos Represents Emory Surgery at the Latino Surgical Society Symposium

Christopher Ramos, MD, and three medical students and trainees participated in the Surgical Symposium on Latino Health held in Seattle, Washington from May 17-19. This was the first symposium by the Latino Surgical Society (LSS) since the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing over 100 participants, including medical students, trainees, faculty, and professionals. The LSS is a 501(c)(3) organization designed to cultivate, nurture, and support the advancement of Latino surgeons. The organization was formed in 2017 and helps advance Latinos in surgery to work towards academic promotion and promote health access for Latinx communities.

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Department of Surgery