



DULY NOTED | SEPTEMBER 2024

News from the Department of Surgery

IN MEMORIAM



The Passing of Dr. William C. Wood

We regretfully share the passing of Dr. William C. Wood, former Joseph Brown Whitehead Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine from 1991-2009, on August, 18.

Dr. Wood's legacy is one of unwavering dedication to the field of surgery, a commitment to excellence in education, and a deep compassion for his patients and colleagues. Dr. Wood's contributions to the medical community have left an indelible mark on our Department of Surgery, the School of Medicine, Emory University and beyond. He will be remembered not only for his exceptional skills as a surgeon and educator but also for his kindness, humility, and the profound impact he had on those who had the privilege to work with him. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss.

The service will be conducted by Christ Church of Atlanta, where the Wood Family attended during their time in Atlanta. Due to the Church currently being under renovation, the service will be held in the Atlanta International School Auditorium at 2890 North Fulton Drive, Atlanta, GA, 30305. The service will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

For those unable to attend the service in person, a [virtual option](#) is available.

[Virtual option](#)

NEWS



Dr. L.D. Britt highlights 46th Annual J.D. Martin Visiting Professorship Lecture

The 46th Annual J.D. Martin Visiting Professorship was held on August 29 and featured L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM. Dr. Britt's lecture was titled "Acute Care Surgery: The Continuing Evolution of a Specialty."

Dr. Britt is the Henry Ford Professor & Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman for the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk. He is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. Dr. Britt is the author of over 300 scientific publications and is the editor of four books, including "Acute Care Surgery".

Dr. Britt serves on multiple editorial boards including the Annals of Surgery, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, the American Journal of Surgery, and others.



Dr. Lauren B. Nosanov recognized for 2024 Researcher Appreciation Day

In recognition of Researcher Appreciation Day, the Recognitions Committee at Emory School of Medicine sent out a call for nominations for researchers across the school who are advancing the knowledge base in their field. Emory researchers were nominated by their peers and colleagues for their groundbreaking research, development of new technologies, and continued pursuit of novel and innovative ideas.

Lauren Nosanov, MD, was recognized for 2024 Researcher Appreciation Day earlier this month. Dr. Nosanov is an Associate Director of Research for the Walter L. Ingram Burn Center at Grady and has interests in critical care management, patient-centered outcomes, and processes. Since she came to Emory six months ago, Dr. Nosanov has hit the ground running with four multidisciplinary outcomes-centered presentations accepted for the Southern Region Burn Conference, and three oral resident case presentations across multiple forums.

Congratulations Dr. Nosanov!



Emory Common Bile Duct Exploration Course for Faculty and Fellows

There will be a hands-on laparoscopic common bile duct exploration course for faculty and fellows on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Emory School of Medicine Simulation Center. The course will be led by Dr. Eric Knauer, in collaboration with Drs. Elizabeth Hechenbleikner, Felipe Maegawa, and Goeto Dantes.

Please register using the QR code provided or by clicking the button below. Contact Dr. Knauer at eric.knauer@emory.edu with questions or for additional details.

[Click here to register](#)



Universal Protocol Now Live

The Universal Protocol Standardization Project officially went live earlier this summer on July 17, 2024. Universal Protocol is a set of standardized safety measures designed to enhance patient care and safety for procedures. It encompasses a comprehensive approach to communication and processes aimed at minimizing the risk of errors and ensuring the highest quality of care, including Pre-Procedure Verification, Site Marking, Timeout, and Debrief.

For more information, please reach out to vernessa.glover@emoryhealthcare.org or bradley.weaver@emoryhealthcare.org. You can also find additional information on the EHC Intranet.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the highest standards of patient care. Together, we can make a significant impact on the safety and well-being of those we serve.

APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Meredith Mason to serve as Associate Medical Director in Emory at Grady Dean's Office

Meredith Mason, MD, has been named associate medical director for quality and process improvement in the Emory at Grady Dean's Office, effective Sept. 5, 2024. Dr. Mason will work with Drs. Stacey Watkins and Matthew Wheatley to build a team dedicated to developing and implementing quality improvement projects for Emory at Grady providers.

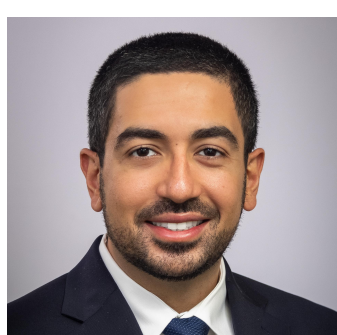
Dr. Mason joined Emory in 2021 and quickly established herself as a leader in quality improvement. Her contributions include serving as NSQIP surgeon champion, leadership in the Perioperative Quality Committee, and work with the VTE Committee.

NEW FACULTY



Nicole Zelenski, MD Assistant Professor, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Nicole Zelenski obtained her medical degree from Duke University. She then attended the University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Surgery Residency in Philadelphia, PA. She finished her first fellowship in hand and upper extremity surgery at The Mayo Clinic and subsequently finished a fellowship in clinical microsurgery at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan. She specializes in hand and upper extremity trauma, brachial plexus injuries, and reconstructive microsurgery.



Seyed Arshia Arshad, MD Assistant Professor, Division of General and GI Surgery, Department of Surgery

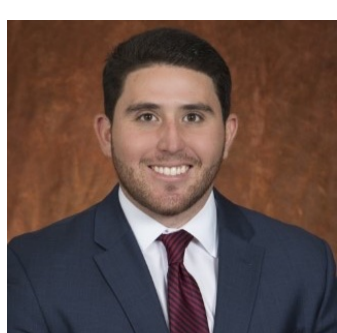
Dr. Arshad is a general surgeon at Emory University with expertise in minimally invasive surgery. He completed his medical training at Texas A&M College of Medicine in College Station, TX (2016) and his general surgery residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM (2023). During his surgical residency, he also completed a research fellowship in surgical outcomes and obtained a Master of Science in Clinical Research at the Center for Surgical Trials and Evidence-based Practice at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (2021). Following this, he completed a fellowship in Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery and Bariatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI (2024).

Dr. Arshad's primary clinical site is Emory University Hospital, where he focuses on laparoscopic and robotic minimally invasive general, foregut, and abdominal wall/hernia surgery.



Nicole Shockcor, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Transplantation, Department of Surgery

Dr. Shockcor, originally from West Virginia, completed her undergraduate degree in biology followed by her medical degree at West Virginia University. She then completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. As a resident, she played an active role in education, both in curriculum development as well as simulation. She completed a two year research fellowship under Drs. Barth and LaMattina, where she learned about the development of immunologic tolerance in vascularized composite allotransplantation. After residency she pursued a fellowship in abdominal transplant surgery at Emory University. She is interested in quality improvement and optimizing healthcare processes.



Alejandro Chavarriaga, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Transplantation, Department of Surgery

Alejandro Chavarriaga was born in Medellin, Colombia and immigrated to Melbourne, Florida at the age of 10. After graduating from Melbourne high school, he enrolled into Florida Institute of Technology's Pre-med program and graduated in 2011. He was accepted into Florida State University College of Medicine where he earned a Masters of Science degree in 2012 and completed his MD degree in 2016. He served as Class President during all four years of his medical school.

Following this, he completed a General Surgery Residency at Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center in 2021 where he developed an interest for Hepatobiliary surgery and Transplantation. As such, he pursued fellowship training in abdominal transplantation at Tampa General Hospital and graduated in August 2024.

His current interests include Normothermic Machine Perfusion, implementation of robotics into transplant surgery, and hepatobiliary surgery. In his spare time, Alejandro loves to spend time with wife and two daughters as well as play soccer and golf.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Dean Sandra Wong Awarded George P. Yang SAAS Trailblazer Award

Sandra Wong, MD, MS, has been awarded the George P. Yang SAAS Trailblazer Award from the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons. The award is presented to individuals in recognition of their contributions to the surgical sciences and for paving the way for the next generation of Asian academic surgeons.

Dean Wong joined Emory in March 2024, succeeding interim dean Carlos del Rio, MD, and former dean Vikas Sukhatme, MD, ScD. Prior to joining Emory, dean Wong served as chair of the Department of Surgery for the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and professor of surgery in the Geisel School of Medicine. She is a surgical oncologist specializing in the management of soft tissue sarcomas, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.



Drs. Craig Coopersmith and Mandy Ford Awarded Renewed National Institutes of Health Grant

Craig Coopersmith, M.D., and Mandy Ford, Ph.D., have received a renewed grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for their research on alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

Their study, titled "The Impact of Chronic Alcohol Abuse on the Pathophysiology of Sepsis," was awarded \$352,125. The grant will support their work from Aug. 5, 2024, to July 31, 2025. The NIH has provided \$1,760,625 for the study over the past five years.



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