

DULY NOTED | JANUARY 2025

News from the Department of Surgery

NEWS



Emory Heart Team Led by Dr. Mani Daneshmand Implants New Blood-Pumping Device for First Time in the Country

Mani Daneshmand, MD, led an expert team in successfully implanting a novel magnetically levitated pump for the first time in the United States on November 18, 2024. The pump is a new type of ventricular assist device, or VAD, and provides critical support to patients with heart failure.

The BrioVAD System, manufactured by BrioHealth Solutions Inc., received FDA authorization earlier this year to begin clinical trials. Emory became the first site enrolled in the trial to perform the procedure. The device provides mechanical circulatory support, helping pump blood from the lower chambers of the heart to the rest of the body.



Drs. Randi Smith and Christine Castater Represent Department of Surgery at CoSERV Second Annual Conference

Randi Smith, MD, and Christine Castater, MD, attended the second annual Consortium of Southeast Regional Violence intervention programs (CoSERV) conference on November 8, 2024 in Mobile, Alabama.

The conference included over 150 participants from all sectors of violence reduction, including healthcare, judicial and school systems, faith and community organizations, and represented a significant step forward in uniting violence prevention efforts across the Southeastern United States.

The next annual meeting will be held in Jackson, Mississippi, at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC).



2024 Department of Surgery Staff Awards Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners for the 2024 Department of Surgery Staff Awards!

The Outstanding Service Award has been awarded to Johanna Hinman and recognizes a staff member who provides consistent and sustained excellence, exceptional performance, and service to the Division, Department of Surgery, and Emory University.

The Unsung Hero Award has been awarded to Shine Thomas and recognizes a staff member who goes above and beyond the routine call of duty and exhibits a high level of commitment, initiative, cooperation, and dedication in their job responsibilities.

The Leadership Excellence award has been awarded to Emily Temponi and recognizes a staff member for his/her exemplary leadership accomplishments and contributions to the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, and Emory University.

The Excellence in Academic Innovation award has been awarded to Megan Wyatt and recognizes a staff member who has displayed exceptional effort by partnering with faculty and colleagues to help drive creativity and innovation in the areas of research, education, or clinical care for the Department.



Call for Abstracts: 2025 William C. Wood Research Symposium

The Annual William C. Wood Research Symposium showcases the basic and clinical science research of all trainees in the Emory Department of Surgery. We are excited to announce that Dr. Hasan Alam will be the 2025 keynote speaker.

Participation is open to medical students, residents, and fellows; trainees in a dedicated laboratory rotation are encouraged to submit their research and attend the Symposium. **The 2025 Symposium will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 31, 2025.**

Please email Ashley McCullough with any questions: sharon.mccullough@emory.edu

NEW FACULTY



Kevin Nguyen, MD, PhD, FACS Assistant Professor, Division of General and GI Surgery, Department of Surgery

Kevin Tri Nguyen, MD, PhD, FACS, is a fellowship-trained Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgeon and is considered one of the world leaders in robotic Whipple procedures and liver resections. Dr. Nguyen earned his medical and doctorate degrees from Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New York University with a PhD in cancer cell signaling leading to cancer cell growth, invasion, and metastases. He completed his residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and his fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Dr. Nguyen's clinical interest involves malignant and benign disease of the liver, pancreas, and biliary tract. His research interest involves improving surgical outcomes after HPB surgery and research/innovation to further advance the field of HPB surgery.



Robert Caskey, MD Assistant Professor, Division of General and GI Surgery, Department of Surgery

Robert Caskey, MD is a general surgeon at Emory University with the Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery. Dr. Caskey completed his medical degree at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and general surgery residency training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the University of Pennsylvania. Following residency, Dr. Caskey completed a two-year fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Emory, Dr. Caskey was in private practice in Georgia with a focus on robotic and abdominal wall surgery.

Dr. Caskey's clinical practice is primarily focused on emergency general surgery, robotic surgery, and complex abdominal wall reconstruction and hernia repair, including redo/recurrent hernia repair.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Dr. Katherine Hekman Receives Prestigious 2025 AVF-BSCI Translational Research Grant Award

Katherine Hekman, MD, was awarded the prestigious 2025 AVF-BSCI Translational Research Grant Award from the American Venous Forum (AVF). The 2025 AVF-BSCI Translational Research Grant will provide a \$85,000 grant over two years for an original, translational research project in venous disease.

The AVF's vision and mission is to promote venous and lymphatic health, and advance science, education, and advocacy in venous and lymphatic disease.



Drs. Joshua Chan and Megan Urbanski Awarded Georgia CTSA KL2 Scholars Grants

Joshua Chan, MD, and Megan Urbanski, PhD, have been awarded grants from the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (CTSA) KL2 Scholars Program.

Dr. Chan was awarded \$250,000 for his project titled "Early Detection and Intervention for Heart Transplant Rejection: Comprehensive Insights from Integrative Multi-Omic Profiling." Dr. Urbanski was awarded \$310,866 for her project titled "A Softer Landing: Using a Community Engaged Systems Science Approach to Optimize the Unexpected Transition to End-Stage Kidney Disease."

The Georgia CTSA KL2 Program supports and enhances career development for junior faculty interested in a career that encompasses clinical and translational science, and clinical and translational research.



Dr. Lauren Nosanov Wins Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma Leadership Development Workshop Scholarship

Lauren Nosanov, MD, was awarded an Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) Leadership Development Workshop Scholarship. The scholarship waives tuition to attend the EAST Leadership Development Workshop for the next three years, beginning with the 2025 Workshop.

Established in 1986, EAST is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to furnishing leadership and fostering advances in the care of injured patients. EAST's mission is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge to advance the acute surgical management of the ill and injured patient.



Dr. Christian Larsen receives 2024 Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award

Christian Larsen, MD, PhD, was one of 11 national recipients of the 2024 Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award. Dr. Larsen was nominated for the award by Adam Bingaman, MD, and a recognition ceremony was held in Atlanta on November 9, 2024.

The award, funded by the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award Trust, recognizes educators who have inspired a former student to "create an organization which has demonstrably conferred a benefit on the community at large" or "establish on a lasting basis a concept, procedure, or movement of comparable benefit to the community at large."

CENTENNIAL UPDATES



The William C. Wood Endowed Fund

As part of the 100th anniversary of the Department of Surgery, we are pleased to announce the establishment of the William C. Wood Endowed Fund.

Dr. Wood began his medical career at Harvard Medical School and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), eventually rising to chief of surgical oncology and medical director of the cancer center. In 1991, he joined Emory as the Joseph Brown Whitehead Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery. During Dr. Wood's 18 years of leadership, Emory Surgery rose to new heights in clinical care, education, and research, achieving national recognition in breast cancer treatment and clinical trial design.

In honoring Dr. Wood's passion for surgical education, with this fund, we support the next generation of surgeons on their way to excellence. We invite you to join the leadership of the Emory Department of Surgery in commemorating the remarkable impact he had on the world of surgery, both locally, nationally, and internationally.

For more details or any questions, please reach out to Haley Reardon from our surgery alumni team below.

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