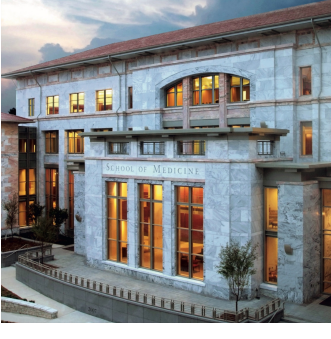




## NEWS



### Department of Surgery Faculty Recognized for Doctors' Day 2025

In recognition of Doctors' Day, the Emory School of Medicine Recognitions Committee sent out a call for nominations for doctors across the School of Medicine who go above and beyond. The following Department of Surgery faculty were recognized for their contributions:

**Olamide Alabi**, MD  
**Michael Clark**, MD  
**Laura Johnson**, MD  
**Bavana Ketha**, MD  
**Nidhi Khanna**, DO  
**Eric Knauer**, MD  
**Ed Lin**, MD

**Yuk Liu**, MD  
**Shalwa Mohidul**, MD  
**Dipan Patel**, MD  
**Terrah Paul Olson**, MD  
**Andre Scott**, MD  
**Alison Ward**, MD

Congratulations to all of our incredible faculty!



### Designed with Heart: Transforming Emory Healthcare's Heart and Vascular Floor

Seven years of preparation. Thousands of construction details. Millions of dollars in investment. Designing an entire floor of a hospital is a feat of planning—yet nothing reveals the effectiveness of a design like the experience of its first year.

Read more about how Emory Healthcare's new Heart & Vascular procedure floor is helping to improve the Emory experience and patient experience, including a spotlight on the Department of Surgery's Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Division Chief Michael Halkos.

[Read More Here](#)



### Emory General Surgery Residents Matched into Fellowships

Three Emory General Surgery residents were matched into sub-specialties: **Olivia A. Keane, MD**, was matched at Emory for pediatric surgery; **Bernadette A. Peltier, MD**, was matched at Cleveland Clinic for thoracic surgery; and **Saagar C. Bakshi, MD**, was matched at University of Washington for vascular surgery.

Congratulations to each of these incredible general surgery residents!



### Emory Surgery Welcomes 2025 Surgery Residency Matches

Following Match Day on Friday, March 21, Emory General, Vascular, and Cardiothoracic Surgery welcomed 17 new residents to their programs! New residents are:

#### General Surgery

**Sydney Bertram**, Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine  
**Lillian Silva Alencar DeSousa**, East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine  
**Lauren Ann Hilt**, Medical College of Wisconsin  
**Alex Nahai Kerendi**, McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
**Zachary Charles Newman**, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine  
**Helen Chin O'Leary**, Emory University School of Medicine  
**Arya Pontula**, University of Manchester  
**Jennifer Michelle Stiene**, University of Toledo College of Medicine  
**Evan Trus**, Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
**Cynthia Megumi Winata**, Emory University School of Medicine  
**Razan Ramzi Faraj**, Emory University School of Medicine  
**David Moros**, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Bogotá Facultad de Medicina  
**Richard Antonio Pellizzari, II**, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine  
**Ujjawal Bipin Savani**, Emory University School of Medicine

#### Vascular Surgery

**Brian (Bongseok) Jung**, Zucker School of Medicine  
**Vivek Nithipalan**, University of Rochester School of Medicine

#### Cardiothoracic Surgery

**Alexander Lu**, Texas A&M Health Science Center - College of Medicine

Welcome and congratulations to all new residents!



### Special Event: Discussion on How Language Impacts Patient Care in Acute Care and Trauma Settings

**May 20, 2025 | 11 AM | Steiner Auditorium at Grady**

Emory's Jericho Brown, 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry winner, will be joining the Emory Department of Emergency Medicine, the Emory Department of Surgery and the Grady Acute Care Surgery Service (Trauma Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and Surgical Critical Care) for a **Discussion on How Language Impacts Patient Care in Acute Care and Trauma Settings**. This event is open to the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Surgery and will take place in the Steiner Auditorium on Grady's campus and via Zoom.

**Please register in advance.** If you have any questions, please email [mselby@emory.edu](mailto:mselby@emory.edu).

[Click Here to Register](#)

## NEW FACULTY



### Rachel Medbery, MD

**Assistant Professor, Division of General and GI Surgery, Department of Surgery**

Rachel L. Medbery, MD, is double board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and specializes in general thoracic surgery. Clinical areas of interest include minimally invasive thoracic surgery, lung and esophageal cancer, benign esophageal disease, diaphragm and chest wall disorders.

Dr. Medbery earned her MD from Emory, graduating cum laude. She continued her general surgery residency at Emory, followed by a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship. In 2019, she moved to Austin, TX and became the first female thoracic surgeon to practice in Central Texas, building a robust robotic thoracic oncology program and was honored with multiple awards, including 2023 Physician of the Year. She has now been recruited back to her alma mater where she looks forward to enthusiastically serving the Atlanta community.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



### Dr. Mihir Shah Receives Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Grant

Mihir Shah, MD, FACS, FSSO, has been awarded a grant by the Society of Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) to study the impact of diet on patients with pancreatic cancer. Dr. Shah is an associate professor of surgery and section chief at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital.

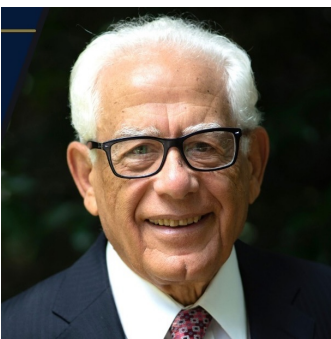
The mission of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons is to innovate, educate, and collaborate to improve patient care.



### Team Led by Drs. Lauren Nosanov and Lauren Orenstein Awarded Grady Infrastructure Grant

A research team led by Lauren Nosanov, MD, and Lauren Orenstein, MD, has been awarded the Grady Infrastructure Grant to help found a Center for Skin Integrity Research, which will build a tissue bank with an initial focus on researching hidradenitis suppurativa. The grant will begin on June 1, 2025 and provide \$75,000 per year for two years.

Dr. Nosanov is an assistant professor of surgery specializing in the surgical and critical care management of burn injury at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Orenstein is an assistant professor with the Department of Dermatology.



### Dr. Atef Salam Awarded Association of VA Surgeons Distinguished Service Award

Emeritus professor Atef Salam, MD, was awarded the Association of VA Surgeons (AVAS) Distinguished Service Award during their annual meeting held in Atlanta on April 6-8, 2025. This is the premier award for surgeon leadership inside the VA healthcare system.

The Association of VA Surgeons was established in 1967 with the goal of improving healthcare for veterans, medical education and research conducted by surgeons within the VA. The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1969 and is presented to individuals for their outstanding contributions to Veterans Administration surgery.



### Dr. Ravi Rajani Appointed to ABS Vascular Surgery Board

Ravi Rajani, MD, was appointed to the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery (ABS). Representatives of the American Board of Surgery are elected for a single six-year term through a competency-based open nomination process.

The Specialty Boards of the ABS provide additional expertise in specific specialty areas. They consist of directors nominated by colleagues, organizations representative of the specialty, or self-nomination, as well as ABS Council members previously elected from within the specialty.



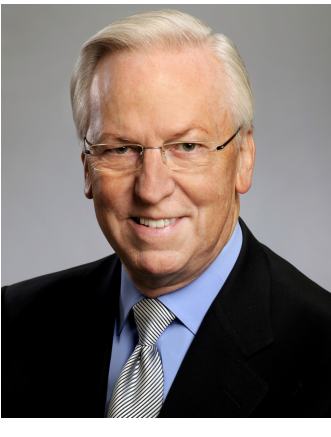
### Dr. Luke Brewster Awarded VA Merit Funding for Lab Research

Luke Brewster, MD, PhD, was awarded a VA clinical Trial Merit Award of \$2 million for the project titled "Pilot Investigation of Ewing Amputation in Veterans with Peripheral Arterial Disease Undergoing Below Knee Amputation." The project period is expected to continue until June 2030, with clinical trials set to begin in July 2025.

The research will be testing the integration of two new operative techniques built into a below-knee amputations and will include collaboration between the vascular and plastic surgery teams at the Atlanta VAMC. It will also have multidisciplinary teams in Nashville and Houston.

Dr. Brewster was also recently awarded a renewal of his Basic Science Merit Award, testing new therapies to re-innervate regenerated muscle. This is a four-year award for \$710,000.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY CENTENNIAL



### The William C. Wood Endowed Fund

The William C. Wood Endowed Fund has been established as part of the 100th anniversary of the Department of Surgery, and to honor Dr. Wood.

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 Tom Lawley from our surgery alumni team [here](#). If you'd like to make a contribution, please click the button below.

[Donate to the Wood Fund](#)

