



## NEWS



### Drs. Laura Johnson and Lauren Nosanov Featured in "Behind the Knife" Podcast

Laura Johnson, MD, and Lauren Nosanov, MD, were featured in the August 4th episode of "Behind the Knife" titled "Journal Review in Burn Surgery: Fluid Resuscitation." The full podcast episode can be found [here](#).

Behind the Knife is a comprehensive surgery education platform for healthcare providers at all stages of their training and career. Behind the Knife's mission is to revolutionize surgical education by creating timely, relevant, and engaging content delivered through an easily accessible multimodal educational platform that meets the needs of busy surgeons and modern trainees.



### Dr. Ravi Rajani Added as Director to ABS Specialties Board

Ravi Rajani, MD, has been added as a director to the American Board of Surgery's (ABS) Vascular Surgery Board. This is a six-year term beginning September 29, 2025. Dr. Rajani was appointed to the board earlier this year. 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.

The ABS is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1937 for the purpose of certifying individuals who have met a defined standard of education, training and knowledge in the field of surgery.



### Department of Surgery John E. Skandalakis Surgical Anatomy Teaching Competition

After a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the John Skandalakis Surgical Anatomy Teaching Competition returned this year on Wednesday, September 10th. Eight medical students competed for cash prizes by presenting bite-sized surgical anatomy teaching cases in front of a panel of surgical faculty and guest faculty from other disciplines. Each student was assisted by a faculty mentor with planning and crafting their presentation.

The first place winner was **Josephine Buclez**; second place was **Supreet Randhawa**; and third place was a tie between **Reshma Kodimerla** and **Navid de Leede**.

[Read more about the event and winning presentations](#)

## NEW FACULTY



### Mackenzie Morris, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Morris is an abdominal transplant surgeon at Emory University. He obtained his undergraduate degree from The Pennsylvania State University and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Morris completed his general surgery training at the University of Cincinnati and spent two years of dedicated time performing both basic science and clinical outcomes research. After residency, he pursued abdominal transplant surgery fellowship at Emory. Upon completion of his fellowship, he joined the faculty at Emory.

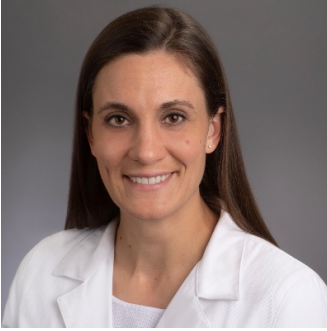
Dr. Morris has presented his research nationally and has authored many peer-reviewed publications. His academic interests include liver transplantation, machine perfusion, and transplant oncology.



### Seth Zachary Aschen, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Seth Aschen is a plastic surgeon specializing in complex reconstruction after breast cancer, oncologic resections, trauma, and abdominal wall hernias. He completed fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he developed an expertise in advanced microsurgical techniques. Prior to his fellowship training, he finished an integrated plastic surgery residency in the combined Cornell and Columbia program at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

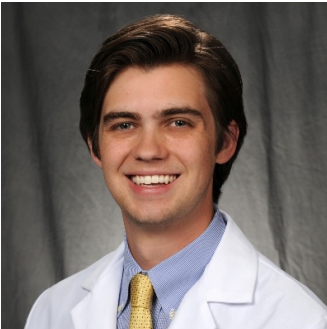
Dr. Aschen is committed to advancing the field of plastic surgery through research. His research focuses on microsurgery, oncologic reconstruction, advanced breast cancer reconstruction, limb salvage, clinical outcomes, and lymphedema.



### Madeline Roorbach, MD Assistant Professor, Division of General and GI Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Madeline Roorbach received her medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine in 2020. She completed her general surgery residency at Emory before joining the faculty as an emergency general surgery attending.

Dr. Roorbach has an interest in surgical oncology, and plans to matriculate to the surgical oncology fellowship at Emory University. Her primary clinical location is Emory Decatur Hospital.



### Thomas O'Malley, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery

Thomas O'Malley, MD, is an assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and practices at Emory University Hospital Midtown and Grady Memorial Hospital. He completed his medical degree at the Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana. He then completed his general surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following residency, he completed his cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Emory University, after which he joined as faculty.

Dr. O'Malley's primary clinical focus is general thoracic surgery with particular interest in thoracic oncology, esophageal surgery, and robotic thoracic surgery. His research interests include surgical ergonomics and outcomes in thoracic oncology.



### Aska Arnautovic, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Arnautovic earned her medical degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine, followed by a general surgery residency at Georgetown University Hospital. During her residency, she completed a research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where she focused on enhancing patient-reported outcomes after breast reconstruction.

After becoming board certified in general surgery, she pursued a second residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center-Harvard Medical School. Her clinical interests include general reconstruction and aesthetic surgery.



### Victor Pretorius, MD Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic and Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery

Dr. Victor Pretorius completed medical school at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and went on to complete a cardiac surgery residency at the University of Alberta, Canada, where he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He then pursued dedicated training in pulmonary thromboendarterectomy (PTE) and right heart failure management at UC San Diego. Following this, he joined the UCSD faculty.

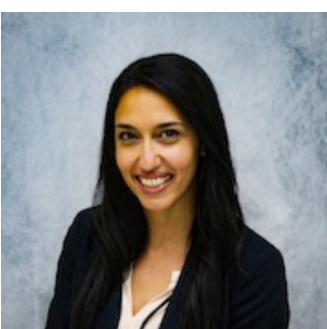
Over the past 15 years at UCSD, Dr. Pretorius participated in more than 3,000 adult and pediatric cardiac operations, including heart and lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, and adult congenital cardiac surgery. He has performed more than 1,250 PTE surgeries and is internationally recognized for his expertise in complex pulmonary vascular and advanced heart failure surgery.



### Samantha Terranella, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery

Samantha Terranella received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 2017. She completed her residency in general surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago in 2023, during which she also earned a Master of Science in Clinical Research. She subsequently completed a fellowship in vascular surgery at Emory University in 2025.

Dr. Terranella joined the Emory University School of Medicine faculty in the Department of Surgery following the completion of her fellowship. Her clinical practice is primarily based at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital and Emory Johns Creek Hospital. Her areas of clinical interest include peripheral arterial disease and limb salvage, dialysis access, cerebrovascular disease, and both aortic and venous disease.



### Karishma Kodia, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Colorectal Surgery, Department of Surgery

Karishma Kodia, M.D., is a fellowship-trained colon and rectal surgeon with sub-specialty expertise in the management of both benign and malignant diseases of the colon, rectum, and anus. Her clinical interests include the treatment of colon and rectal cancer, young-onset colorectal cancer, and inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Kodia earned her medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. She completed residency at the University of Miami / Jackson Health System and fellowship training at Washington University in St. Louis.

She is passionate about advancing colorectal health through surgical excellence, multidisciplinary collaboration, and patient education.



### Norma Farrow, MD Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery

Dr. Norma (Nellie) Farrow earned her MD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her general surgery residency training at Duke University Medical Center where she served as chief resident. Following residency, she completed a complex general surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Farrow joined Emory as an assistant professor of surgical oncology. Her clinical practice is in general surgical oncology, with clinical and research interests centered on cutaneous oncology, including melanoma and Merkel cell carcinoma, and soft tissue sarcoma. She has authored 60 peer-reviewed publications, two book chapters, and presented at multiple national meetings. She is originally from Connecticut and in her free time enjoys cooking, hiking, and traveling with family.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



### Dr. Chris Larsen Selected as ASTS Pioneer Award Recipient

Christian Larsen, MD, was awarded the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) Pioneer Award on August 4 at the World Transplant Congress. The Pioneer Award is the highest level of recognition from the ASTS and is given to a transplant surgeon who is seen by the transplant surgeon community to have advanced the field of transplant surgery forward in an impactful and meaningful way.

The ASTS was founded in 1974 and advances the art and science of transplant surgery through patient care, research, education, and advocacy.



### Dr. Luke Galloway Wins First Place at Georgia Society of the ACS Resident Competition

Luke Galloway, MD, won first place at the 2025 Annual Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons (GSACS) Annual General Surgery Abstract Competition. Dr. Galloway's paper was titled "Update on Opioid Sparing Strategy Use after General Surgery in the Georgia Surgical Quality Collaborative."

The 2025 Annual GSACS meeting was held on September 5-7, 2025 at Amelia Island, Florida.

## 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.

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](#)

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Department of Surgery