

DAILY NOTED | JANUARY 2024

News from the Department of Surgery

NEWS



Reminder: William C. Wood Research Symposium Call for Abstracts

The Annual William C. Wood Research Symposium showcases the basic and clinical science research of all trainees in the Emory Department of Surgery. 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 2024 Symposium will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Submissions are due by Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

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



The Passing of David Feliciano, MD

Last week, the world of surgery suffered a tragic loss with the passing of Dr. David Feliciano. His impact on Grady Memorial Hospital, the patients of Atlanta, our department, our students, our trainees and so many of our faculty cannot be understated or accurately communicated in words. He was a gifted educator, a remarkable surgeon, a talented leader, and the consummate professional. He is remembered for demanding excellence from all around him by demanding it in himself. He cared for patients as if they were family and was always available at the bedside when needed. He was larger-than-life for many, and his respect, kindness, and humanism are the traits that anyone who had the privilege of knowing him will recall with fondness. During his tenure as a member of our department, Dr. Feliciano was honored with a multitude of awards and recognitions, but was especially honored through the tradition of delivering the first grand rounds of the academic year annually. In addition, he was one of only a very select group of Emory faculty who received the Amerson Award more than once. His influence on students and trainees shaped countless careers and motivated hundreds to pursue the field of surgery. Dr. Feliciano's loss will be felt by all, but at this time, as a department, our thoughts and sympathies are with his remarkable and loving wife, former faculty member Dr. Grace Rozycki. As we receive additional information, we will share it.

APPOINTMENTS



Sandra Wong Appointed Dean of Emory School of Medicine

Sandra Wong, MD, MS, has been named the new dean of Emory School of Medicine and will also serve as Emory Healthcare's chief academic officer. Dr. Wong will join Emory in March 2024.

Dr. Wong is currently chair of the Department of Surgery at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and a professor of surgery in the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She is an international leader in surgical oncology, specializing in the management of soft tissue sarcomas, melanoma, and non-melanoma skin cancers.

Dr. Wong succeeds Dr. Carlos del Rio, who has served as interim dean over the past year. Dr. del Rio will transition to executive associate dean for clinical and faculty affairs.



Lauren Postlewait Named Medical Director of the Grady Breast Center

Lauren Postlewait, MD, was named medical director of the Grady Breast Center on Monday, November 14, a role that she had been serving in as interim following the departure of Dr. Preeti Subhedar, MD.

Dr. Postlewait is an assistant professor of surgery and her clinical interests are providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for breast cancer and breast disease patients. She has received numerous awards for her research including the Merit Award in 2015 and 2016 from the Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology as well as Best Clinical Research awards at Emory Department of Surgery Research Days in 2015 and 2017.

NEW FACULTY



Sulemon Chaudhry, MD Assistant Professor, Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery

Sulemon Chaudhry completed his MD degree at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, his general surgery residency at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center, and an abdominal organ transplant fellowship at New York Presbyterian-Columbia/Cornell. Dr. Chaudhry's primary clinical focus is liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery. Dr. Chaudhry will serve as an abdominal transplant surgeon within the Division of Transplant in the Department of Surgery and the Emory Transplant Center based primarily at the Emory Clinic.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



2023 Department of Surgery Staff Awards Winners

Winners for the 2023 Department of Surgery Staff Awards have been recognized, with Millicent "Scottie" Scott winning the Outstanding Service Award and Rhea Waltman winning the Unsung Hero Award.

The Outstanding Service Award 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 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.



Emory-Grady Wins First Place in Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Competition

The Society of Critical Care Medicine held their annual Zoom competition for Surgical Critical Care Fellowships in early December. In 2022, the Emory-Grady team came in second in the country. For 2023, the Emory-Grady team took first place in the competition. There were 38 teams from around the country participating this year. The competition involved a very comprehensive quiz that covers the entire gamut of critical care and trauma knowledge.

The winning fellows were: Vanessa Arientyl, Amber Himmler, Phil Kim, Tori Wagner and Trace Walker. Congratulations to the fellows for winning and representing Emory and Grady!



Francie Bennett Wins 2023 Winship Scientific Symposium Poster Competition

Francie Bennett, MD, won the 2023 Winship Scientific Symposium Poster Competition Award held on Emory's campus on Wednesday, December 6. Dr. Bennett's poster title was "Expanding immunotherapy options in cholangiocarcinoma: Role of CD27 agonist in combination with PD-L1 and MEK inhibition on antitumor effect and CD8+ T cells."

The annual Winship Scientific Symposium seeks to highlight the outstanding research of Winship investigators, deepen our understanding of important topics and provide opportunities to cultivate collaboration.



Emilie Warren Wins ASCO Conquer Cancer Merit Award

Emilie Warren, MD, won the ASCO Conquer Cancer Merit Award. The 2024 Conquer Cancer Merit Award recognizes high-quality abstracts submitted to an ASCO meeting by trainees and students and encourages their attendance at the Meeting.

As a recipient of the award, Dr. Warren will receive a complimentary meeting registration and a monetary stipend of \$1,000. The ASCO Symposium will be held on January 18-20, 2024 in San Francisco, CA. The 2024 ASCO GI Cancers Symposium offers the latest innovative science, solution-focused strategies, and multidisciplinary approaches in GI cancer treatment, research, and care.



Ayana Ruffin Wins Winship Postdoctoral Award and Cancer Research Institute Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Award

Ayana Ruffin, PhD, won an internal Winship Postdoctoral Award and the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Award to Promote Racial Diversity. The CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship to Promote Racial Diversity supports qualified young scientists from underrepresented minorities at leading universities and research centers around the world who wish to receive training in fundamental immunology and cancer immunology.