

# Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Education Newsletter

## Letter from the Program Director

The 2016 -2017 academic year was an exciting year for plastic surgery. We welcomed three new residents into our program, saw three residents get engaged, four residents marry—two to each other—and welcomed four newborns into our extended family. It was also a year of programmatic reflection and change as we completed our ACGME self-study, the first step in the accrediting council for graduate medical education’s new ten-year accreditation cycle.

When we launched our integrated residency program in 2013, it was with the understanding that, while we wanted our program to be the best it could possibly be, it would always be a work in progress, and the self-study process allowed us to recommit to the idea of continuous change.

We received a great deal of feedback from faculty and residents—current and former—and the subsequent discussions generated many great ideas. Based on resident feedback and evolving programmatic goals, we have decided that our PGY1 and PGY2 residents will no longer take the general surgery ABSITE and will instead take the Plastic Surgery In-Service Exam. Their performance will be scaled against residents in their same year of training and will help us assess their development. We are increasing our interns’ experience on plastic surgery rotations and we have expanded our didactic program to include regular dissection courses. We have secured a commitment from the division to hire a research coordinator to help foster an environment of academic inquiry and will increase our residents’ travel funding to allow them to present research at national conferences.

What was most encouraging throughout the self-study was the willingness of residents and faculty to engage in the process. Our program remains one of the best in the country because we are committed to the idea of continuous improvement.



*George Rudkin, MD, PACS*  
Clinical Professor and Program Director  
UCLA Division of Plastic Surgery

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### Special points of interest

- New Residents and Fellows
- ASPS Resident’s Bowl
- Resident Wellness
- Resident Awards and Accolades
- Research Conference
- Graduation
- Thank You Notes

# Welcome New Interns and Fellows!

## YOU'RE INVITED

Resident and Fellow  
Welcome Reception

Tuesday, July 11th  
5:30PM

Luskin Conference Center

The reception will be held  
before dinner conference.

Please RSVP to Megan Fuller

We are excited to welcome our incoming intern residents, as well as our Craniofacial and Microsurgery Fellows to UCLA Plastic Surgery!

We matched with three exceptional residents and look forward to seeing their accomplishments as they begin their training.

PGY1 Residents will begin their rotations June 24, 2017.

### Vicky Kang, MD

Medical School: Rush Medical College

### Corbin Muetterties, MD

Medical School: Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

### Sean Saadat, MD

Medical School: George Washington University

### Thomas Willson, MD

Craniofacial Fellow

### Casian Monaco, MD

Microsurgery Fellow



*"My favorite part of this past year is getting to work with my fellow residents. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people - super smart, understanding, responsible, and just plain fun to hang out with!" - Cathy Tang, MD*



## UCLA Plastic Surgery Hosts Craniofacial Picnic

UCLA Plastic Surgery and the Craniofacial Clinic teamed up to re-launch the annual Craniofacial Picnic in August, 2016. The event was held at UCLA's Sunset Recreation and featured activities and games, face painting and balloon animals, a bouncy castle, grilled hamburgers, and ice-cream from Ben & Jerry's.

Children and families from the UCLA Craniofacial Clinic attended the afternoon-long festivities. Joe and Jane Bruin made an appearance and posed for photos with the kids. The event allowed our physicians, fellows, residents and staff the opportunity to connect with their patients outside of the exam room and it allowed our craniofacial patients the opportunity to simply be kids for an afternoon.



## Plastic Surgery Residents Compete at ASPS Resident's Bowl



September 2016: UCLA Residents competed at the ASPS Residents Bowl in Los Angeles. UCLA upset the two time champions, Ohio State, in the first round.



# Education Program Highlights



June 2016: UCLA Plastic Surgery welcomed new trainees

**Edward Nahabet, MD**

College: University of California, Berkeley  
Medical School: Case Western Reserve University

**Kameron Rezzadeh, MD**

College: Northwestern University  
Medical School: Rutgers University

**Alex Lambi, MD, PhD**

College: University of Maryland  
Medical School: Temple University  
PhD: Temple University



Edward Nahabet, MD was rotating on the Liver service when Dr. Busuttill performed the 6,000 liver transplant at UCLA.



Kameron Rezzadeh, MD elected class representative by his peers.



Alex Lambi, MD, PhD received a CI-CARE award for his kindness and dedication when assisting Dr. Andrew Vardanian with a patient.



The American Society of Plastic Surgery recognized Gina Farias-Eisner, MD for her abstract paper presentation titled “Liposomal Bupivacaine Reduces Postoperative Narcotic Use in Patients Undergoing Abdominal-Based Autologous and Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction”. It was selected as one of the top Paper Presentations at Plastic Surgery The Meeting 2016 in Los Angeles.



Ginger Slack Gruszynski, MD won the 48 hour “invetathon”. She is the founder of team *RecoverE*, a tissue monitoring system to reduce hospital time after surgeries.



The National Endowment for Plastic Surgery Grant awarded Michael DeLong, MD \$50,000 in grant funding for his research on blood siloxanes and urinary methylsilanols to detect ruptured silicone implants. The PSF grant supports research projects which translate clinical or basic science research findings into clinically relevant advancements or tools with a high likelihood of impacting daily practice and patient care within the next few years.



UCLA Plastic Surgery female residents participated in the national re-creation of The New Yorker cover in the NYer OR Cover Challenge.

# Education Program Highlights



The Division of Plastic Surgery and the UCLA Office of Graduate Medical Education are working together to promote resident wellbeing. Our UCLA Plastic Surgery website now houses a variety of physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing resources, including TED talks and links to UCLA fitness and wellness resources. Under the direction of Dr. Kate Perkins, DIO, the GME Office worked hard this past year to open the Behavior Wellness Center (BWC), which provides mental health services to all UCLA medical students and housestaff .

[Check out our Resident Wellness Resources](#)

# Residency Program Interviews



We received over 200 applications for our three PGY1 spots in Plastic Surgery. Interviews were held in December and January. Our faculty invited 21 applicants to interview. Applicants enjoyed lectures and case presentations as well as a tour of Ronald Reagan UCLA Hospital. The day concluded with lunch with the current residents, where the applicants learned more about life as a Plastic Surgery resident at UCLA.

# Research Conference

This years Resident Research Conference was held at the Luskin Conference Center. The UCLA Plastic Surgery Residency Program requires residents in their last two years of training to complete an annual research project and to submit a manuscript of quality, suitable for submission to the Journal Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Research projects were guided by a UCLA Plastic Surgery faculty member or mentor of the residents' choice.



# Graduation

Congratulations to our graduating residents and fellows! We wish you all the best as you continue your careers in Plastic Surgery.

## *Where are they headed?*

### **Residents:**

Han Hoang, MD - Private Practice, Huntington Beach, CA  
Nicholas Lahar, MD - Aesthetic Fellowship, UT Southwestern  
Thomas Willson, MD - Craniofacial Fellowship, UCLA

### **Fellows:**

Brad Gandolfi, MD - Private Practice, Paramus, NJ  
Julian Winocour, MD - Vanderbilt University



# Exciting News!

## Engagements:

Irene Pien, MD

Gina Farias-Eisner, MD

Julian Winocour, MD

## Weddings:

Mark Gruszynski, MD & Ginger Slack Gruszynski, MD

Cathy Tang, MD

Nicholas Lahar, MD

## Birth Announcements:

Andrew Li, MD - Ali Li

Brad Gandolfi, MD - Luca Stanley Gandolfi

Andrew Vardanian, MD (Faculty) - Luke Andrew Vardanian

Jaco Festekjian, MD (Faculty) - Leo Sebouh-Jaco Festekjian



Mark Gruszynski, MD and Ginger Slack, MD were married in Los Angeles. The fourth year residents met on the interview trail prior to starting their residency program at UCLA.




Nicholas Lahar, MD and Saba were married in Los Angeles. Dr. Lahar will be completing an Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship at UT Southwestern starting in July 2017.



Cathy Tang, MD and Matt were married in Seattle. Dr. Tang met her husband in Chicago on an elective rotation during her last year of medical school.





**Thank you to all of our  
2016—2017 Dinner Conference Speakers**



Scott Levin, MD  
Shai Rozen, MD  
Peiron Yu, MD  
Marcy Bowers, MD  
Glenn Jelks, MD  
Gary Alter, MD  
Peter Fodor, MD  
Rollin Daniel, MD  
David Staffenberg, MD



**2017 Excellence In Education Faculty Awards**

James Watson, MD  
Mytien Goldberg, MD

**2017 Resident Research Award**

Cathy Tang, MD

**2017 Outstanding Resident Teacher Award**

Cathy Tang, MD

**2017 Highest In-Service Exam Score**

Michael DeLong, MD

# 2016 –2017 Residents & Fellows

## Integrated Program

PGY1	Alex Lambi, MD, PhD Edward Nahabet, MD Kameron Rezzadeh, MD
PGY2	Jessica Chang, MD Irene Pien, MD Michael Januszyk, MD, PhD
PGY3	Michael DeLong, MD Gina Farias-Eisner, MD Miles Pfaff, MD
PGY4	Mark Gruszynski, MD Ginger Gruszynski, MD Nance Yuan, MD

## Independent Program

PG7	Andrew Li, MD Cathy Tang, MD Raquel Ulma, MD, DDS
PGY8	Han Hoang, MD Nicholas Lahar, MD Thomas Willson, MD

## Fellows

Craniofacial Fellow	Brad Gandolfi, MD
Microsurgery Fellow	Julian Winocour, MD



## Thank you!

“Thank you to Maria Etchepare, NP for her years of dedicated service to her patients and her endless devotion to us, as residents. Maria has an indefatigable spirit to continue to shape the way we view patient care in the context of the greater healthcare system. We are so grateful to her and we will miss her tremendously!” - Gina Farias-Eisner, MD

Thank you Carolyn for all of your behind the scenes work and dedication to the division and to UCLA Plastic Surgery residents and fellows over the last 28 years! We hope that you enjoy retirement! - Your UCLA Family



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