



## Chairman's Message

I am very pleased to share with you the 2015-16 Winter Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue, we report on several named visiting professor lectures, special events, and notable happenings within the Department of Surgery.

We were fortunate over the past few months to welcome two nationally renowned speakers to deliver two of our named lectures. Dr. Frank Lewis, FACS, Executive Director, American Board of Surgery, visited as the 33rd Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, visiting professor and guest lecturer. Dr. William Mackey, FACS, Benjamin Andrews Professor and Chair,

Department of Surgery, and Tufts University School of Medicine and Surgeon-in-Chief, Tufts New England Medical Center, visited as the 15th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, visiting professor and guest lecturer. We also welcomed internationally renowned Dr. Jamal J. Hoballah, MD, MBA, Professor of Surgery, American University of Beirut and Chairman, Department of Surgery, American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon, as speaker at our 8th Annual International Visiting Professorship Lecture.

In addition:

- We are delighted to announce that Dr. Thomas J. Fahey, III, has been appointed Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. In this capacity, Tom will provide oversight and guidance to the Department of Surgery's four residency and seven fellowship programs, the Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), the Medical Student Clerkship and our newly formed Academy of Educators (AOE).
- Dr. Anthony Watkins has been appointed Program Director of the General Surgery Residency program at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. This position was rendered vacant by Dr. Fahey's promotion to Vice Chair for education. Tom has served as Program Director of the General residency Program for the last 18 years.
- Dr. Benjamin Samstein has joined our Department as Chief of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery. The liver transplant Program has already performed close to 20 liver transplants in the first 6 months since Dr. Samstein's arrival.
- Dr. Robert J. Winchell has been appointed Director of the Trauma Center and Chief of the Division of Trauma, Burns, Critical and Acute Care at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.
- Congratulations to Dr. Jason Spector who was promoted to Professor of Surgery (Plastic Surgery) and Professor of Plastic Surgery in Otolaryngology (second appointment).
- At the recent 101st Annual ACS Clinical Congress, many of our faculty and residents contributed several lectures and presentations. Faculty members also moderated panels and taught postgraduate courses. We all gathered on Tuesday evening for the annual ACS Alumni Reception in the Normandie Lounge at the Hilton Chicago.

In this issue, we also announce new faculty appointments and note our faculty's recent honors and awards. In addition, we report on the Department of Surgery in the media, featuring WCBS-2's look at the Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), and read about the personal experiences of two patients treated by Weill Cornell/NYP Surgeons. In Surgical Notes, we feature our 14th Annual Golf tournament to raise funds for surgical education and research, and also feature several Alumni Updates.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback about our newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD  
Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery  
Chairman, Department of Surgery  
Surgeon-in-Chief  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center



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## 15th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh Memorial Lectureship

### "Escape Velocity: Can We See the Future of Medical Education?"



## William C. Mackey, MD, FACS

Monday, September 28, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - Uris Auditorium  
Weill Cornell Medicine

*The Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship was established by the Department of Surgery in 2002 to honor the memory of Dr. Naama, who completed his surgical residency training at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in June, 2001 and tragically died two months later while jogging in Central Park. Our Chief Residents have also established a yearly teaching award to memorialize Dr. Naama. It is tradition to invite past graduates of our General Surgery Program to deliver this lecture.*

The Department of Surgery's **15th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship** was held on September 28, 2015. The lecture, "Mesenteric Vascular Disease: What Every Surgeon Should Know", was presented by nationally renowned vascular surgeon, educator and researcher, William C. Mackey, MD, FACS, Benjamin Andrews Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, and Tufts University School of Medicine and Surgeon-in-Chief, Tufts New England Medical Center.

Dr. Mackey received his B.A. degree from Amherst College in 1973 and his M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1977. He completed his general surgery internship and residency training here at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1982. He then completed a vascular research fellowship followed by vascular surgery clinical fellowship at Tufts Medical Center in 1984. Dr. Mackey joined the faculty at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Mackey is triple board-certified in general surgery, vascular surgery and surgical critical care.

Dr. Mackey's clinical and academic interests include carotid artery disease, aortic diseases, risk assessment in vascular surgery and surgical education. He frequently lectures on these and other topics and has served as visiting professor both nationally and internationally including the U.K., Greece, Israel and China. Dr. Mackey has won numerous awards for excellence in teaching from medical students and surgical residents including the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000. More recently, Dr. Mackey was the 2014 recipient of the Tufts University School of Medicine Dean's Outstanding Mentor Award.

Dr. Mackey serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Vascular Surgery and is a reviewer for Surgery and content reviewer for 14 additional journals. He is past President of the New England Society for Vascular Surgery and current President-elect of the Boston Surgical Society. Dr. Mackey has presented his work at both national and international congresses. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 published peer-reviewed papers, 20 book chapters, 1 textbook as well as numerous editorial commentaries and abstracts. He has been voted to Castle Connolly's America's Best Doctors for 13 consecutive years as well Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston" in Vascular Surgery over the past 7 years.

## 33rd Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship

### "Redesign of Surgical Residency: What Needs to Change?"



**Frank R. Lewis, MD, FACS**

Monday, October 26, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - Uris Auditorium  
Weill Cornell Medicine

*The Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship was established by the Department of Surgery in 1983 as a reminder of the importance of surgical education.*

The Department of Surgery's **33rd Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship** was held on October 26, 2015. The lecture, "Redesign of Surgical Residency: What Needs to Change?" was presented by Frank R. Lewis, MD, FACS, Executive Director, American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Frank R. Lewis received his A.B. in Physics, Cum Laude, from Princeton University and was inducted to the Society of the Sigma Xi. Dr. Lewis received his M.D. from the University of Maryland Medical School. He completed an internship at San Francisco General Hospital and his surgical residency training at the University of California-San Francisco. Dr. Lewis then completed an NIH Trauma Research Fellowship with his mentor, Dr. William Blaisdell, who founded the first trauma center in the country in San Francisco in 1966.

Dr. Lewis served as a faculty member at the University of California-San Francisco from 1973-1992, rising from Assistant Professor to Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery as well as Chief of Surgery at San Francisco General Hospital. From 1992-2002, he served as Chair of the Department of Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and Professor of Surgery at Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Lewis' clinical interests have centered on trauma and critical care and his research has focused on cardiopulmonary physiology, cardiopulmonary effects of sepsis and acute respiratory failure. He collaborated with Dr. Virgil Elings of the University of California-Santa Barbara to develop the lung water computer, which allows the quantitation of pulmonary edema using the double indicator technique. He and Dr. Elings established the validity of the technique in humans and a variety of animal models.

Dr. Lewis has mentored several postdoctoral fellows. He has lectured both nationally and internationally. For his overall teaching efforts, Dr. Lewis received the UCSF Surgery Resident's Recognition award consecutively in 1991, 1992 and 1993 as well as the AOA Chapter Award for Outstanding 1991 UCSF Faculty Teacher.

Dr. Lewis is a member of many prestigious surgical organizations including the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the American College of Surgeons, the Society of University Surgeons, the Association for Academic Surgery, the Surgical Infection Society, the Southern Surgical Association and the American Surgical Association and has held leadership roles in several of these organizations. Dr. Lewis is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Since 2002, Dr. Lewis has been the Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery, a position which has given him great insight in surgical training.



## 8th Annual International Lectureship

**“Vascular Trauma: A Persisting Challenge”**

Monday, October 12, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - Uris Auditorium  
Weill Cornell Medicine

**Jamal J. Hoballah, MD, MBA**

**The Department of Surgery’s 8th Annual International Lectureship** was held on October 12, 2015. The lecture, “Vascular Trauma: A Persisting Challenge” was presented by Jamal J. Hoballah, MD, MBA, Professor of Surgery, American University of Beirut and Chairman, Department of Surgery, American University of Beirut Medical Center, Beirut, Lebanon.

Professor Jamal J. Hoballah is an internationally-renowned vascular surgeon specializing in the latest surgical techniques and research for endovascular surgery, infrainguinal revascularization and acute limb ischemia. Dr. Jamal Hoballah received his MD from the American University of Beirut in 1981. He joined New York University (NYU) in 1982, where he completed his general surgery residency in 1987 and a trauma/critical care fellowship in 1988. He remained on the faculty at NYU for two years before moving to the University of Iowa where he completed his vascular fellowship in 1991.

Dr. Hoballah then joined the Department of Surgery at the University of Iowa, where he became a tenured Professor of Surgery, Director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship program and Chairman of the Vascular Surgery Division in 2002. In 2007, Dr. Hoballah was appointed the Surgical Director of the University of Iowa Heart and Vascular Center. In 2008, Dr. Hoballah returned to AUBMC, where he serves as the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, as well as the Head of the Division of Vascular Surgery since 2011.

Dr. Hoballah is board certified in general surgery, vascular surgery, and surgical critical care. He has obtained an executive MBA from the Tippie School of Business at the University of Iowa in 2001 and completed a program on Leadership Development for Physicians in Academic Health Centers at Harvard School of Public Health in 2004.

Dr. Hoballah has authored and co-authored over 90 papers in peer-reviewed journals and over 40 book chapters. In addition, he has been the sole author of a vascular surgery book and co-editor of three other surgical books. He also serves as a reviewer for several surgical journals. Dr. Hoballah has been an invited lecturer both nationally and internationally. He is a member of numerous prestigious surgical societies and has served as president of the Johnson County Medical Society and president of the Iowa Vascular Society. He served as an examiner for the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Vascular Surgery. He has received several awards including the Attending of the Year award at NYU in 1989 and the Teacher of the Year award at the University of Iowa in 1996. He has mentored numerous medical students and vascular fellows. He has been selected to the Best Doctors in America list for several years. Dr. Hoballah is currently the chair of the International Relations Committee of the American College of Surgeons and the Governor of the ACS Lebanon Chapter.

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*The Department of Surgery International Lecture was established in 2008 as a reminder of the importance of international collaborations in medical education and surgery.*

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## 101st Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Meeting

Many of the Department of Surgery's faculty and residents played an active role at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons meeting in Chicago this past October, giving lectures, presentations and videotalks, participating in panel discussions, moderating sessions and teaching post-graduate courses.

**DR. SOUMITRA EACHEMPATI** presented "Epidemiology of Severe Sepsis: 2008-2012". He also moderated and led discussions on "Cholecystectomy Induces Progressive Gastric Mucosal Micro-Injury" and "Evaluation of Preoperative Factors That Predict Postoperative Outcomes in Cirrhotic Patients Undergoing Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy - A NSQIP Analysis"

**DR. JAMIE GREEN**, Surgical Resident presented, "Early Immune Infiltrate and Tumor-Specific Immune Response Resulting in Improved Survival with Combination of Local Chemotherapy and Immune Checkpoint Blockade in the Treatment of Malignant Melanoma"

**DR. ALFONS POMP** presented at a panel session on "Preventing and Managing Complications after Biliopancreatic Diversion with Duodenal Switch" and "NSQIP and Quality Process Improvement at NYPH/WCMC"

**DR. PIERRE SALDINGER** discussed "Quality Initiatives and the Military Health System"

**DR. HEATHER YEO** presented at the Surgical Oncology Club Meeting and discussed "Do Survivors of Colorectal Cancer Need Continued Screening for Non-Colorectal Cancers?"

**DR. RACHE SIMMONS** presented "Best Practices and Latest Evidence: How Should Recently Reported Clinical Trials Change the Surgical Oncology Practice Today?" at Cryoablation for Breast Cancer – Latest Clinical Trial Results and Impact on Clinical Practice, and she discussed "Efficacy and Long-Term Outcomes Following Cryo-Assisted Lumpectomy for Breast Cancer" at the Surgical Forum

**DR. TRACY-ANN MOO** presented "Surgical Outcomes in Elderly Patients Undergoing Mastectomy with and without Reconstruction for Breast Cancer"

**DR. PETER HENDERSON**, Surgical Resident, presented: "High-Dose and Low-Dose Brachytherapy May Be Performed Safely with Soft Tissue Coverage in Salvage Treatment of Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer" at the Plastic/Maxillofacial Surgery Section



**Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi** was elected to Chair of the Board of Governors at the ACS Clinical Congress meeting for a second year. An ACS Fellow since 1987, Dr. Michelassi has served on the Board of Governors since 2010.

**DR. CHEGUEVARA AFANEH** discussed "Single Port Laparoscopic Appendectomy versus Conventional Laparoscopic Appendectomy. Outcomes after Multi-Center Randomized Control Trial" and "Complications after Feeding Jejunostomy Tube Placement for Gastroesophageal Cancer"

**DR. STEPHEN OH** presented the video: "Thoracoscopic Resection of a Left Superior Mediastinal Ganglioneuroblastoma with Extension into the Neck: A Step by Step"

**DR. NATALIA FULLERTON**, Surgical Resident, presented "Rate of Thromboembolic Events in Patients Undergoing Abdominal Tissue Based Breast Reconstruction Compared with Patients Undergoing Abdominoplasties/Panniculectomies: A National Data Base" at SF44-Plastic & Maxillofacial Surgery II

**DR. ANNA ARONOVA**, Surgical Resident, presented "Basic Science in Surgical Research: An Endangered Species?" at the Surgical Education IV Session at McCormick Place Convention Center

# 2015 ACS Annual Alumni Reception

On October 6th, 2015, surgical alumni, faculty and friends of NewYork- Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian / Queens and New York Methodist Hospital, gathered during the 101st Clinical Congress of the Annual American College of Surgeons for our Annual Alumni Cocktail Reception. The Reception was co-hosted by Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Leonard N. Girardi, Dr. O. Wayne Isom, Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Barbara Lee Bass, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery, Houston Methodist Hospital; Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens and Dr. Anthony J. Tortolani, Professor and Chair, Departments of Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery, New York Methodist Hospital. Our reception this year attracted a large number of guests, over 150 alumni and friends, and was held in the breathtaking Normandie Lounge at the Hilton Chicago Hotel.



(from left) Event Co-Hosts- Drs. Leonard Girardi, Barbara Lee Bass, Fabrizio Michelassi, Pierre Saldinger  
Not in Photo- Dr. Anthony Tortolani



## New Appointments in Education



### Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD

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It is with great pleasure that we announce that Dr. Thomas J. Fahey, III has accepted the position of Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. In his new position, Dr. Fahey will provide oversight and guidance to the Department of Surgery's four residency and seven fellowship programs, the Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), the Medical Student Clerkship and our newly formed Academy of Educators (AOE). Dr. Fahey has been an outstanding mentor and leader of our General Surgery program serving as Program Director since 1998. In 2014, the General Surgery residency program completed a site visit and was awarded continued accreditation with no citations. As Vice Chair for Education, Dr. Fahey will continue to advise the General Surgery residency program and participate in Program Evaluation Committee meetings.



### Anthony Watkins, MD

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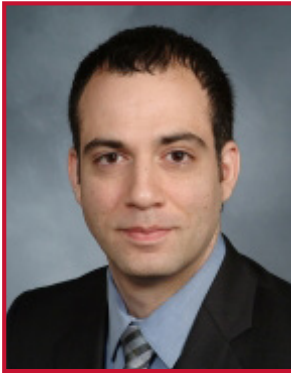
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We are delighted to announce that Dr. Anthony Watkins, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center has accepted the position as Program Director of the General Surgery residency program. A board certified surgeon, Dr. Watkins has authored numerous publications for peer-reviewed journals, and has been nationally recognized for his contributions to surgical post-graduate education and training. Over this time, he has proven to be an effective mentor and educator within the Department of Surgery. Dr. Watkins has served for the last three years as an Assistant Program Director and Director of SAIL (Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory). Under his leadership, SAIL was recently certified by the American College of Surgeons as an Advanced Educational Institute. We are grateful to have the leadership of Dr. Watkins as Program Director of the residency program, as we continue to train exceptionally qualified surgeons who have the skills and ability to function at the highest level and provide state-of-the-art, compassionate patient care.

## Faculty Appointments

**Cheguevara Afaneh, MD****Office Telephone:** 212-746-5294**Office Fax:** 212-746-8978**Email:** cha9043@med.cornell.edu**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/cafaneh>

Cheguevara Afaneh, MD, has joined the Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He serves as the Associate Program Director of the Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Specializing in General surgery, Foregut surgery, Bariatric surgery, as well as gastroesophageal motility disorders and colorectal disorders, he has a special interest in minimal access surgery, including single-incision laparoscopy and single-incision robotic surgery, offering patients improved cosmesis and potentially less postoperative pain. He also has expertise in Endoscopy (both EGDs and Colonoscopies), BRAVO wireless pH probe monitoring, and High-resolution Esophageal Manometry. He now offers Endoscopic Intragastrophic Balloon Therapy for the treatment of Obesity (<http://www.orbera.com/>). Dr. Afaneh was the first surgeon in New York City to successfully perform Totally Robotic Bariatric Surgery (Sleeve Gastrectomy and Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass).

Dr. Afaneh received his BS in 2003 from the University of Miami, FL, and earned his MD from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/The Chicago Medical School, IL, in 2007. He completed his general surgery internship and residency training and a surgical research fellowship in transplantation medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Additionally, he was named the Administrative Chief Resident of his graduating residency class. He subsequently completed his Advanced GI & Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Afaneh has authored over 35 articles in peer reviewed journals, co-edited a textbook, authored 13 textbook chapters, and has given more than 40 national and international presentations. Dr. Afaneh has won many awards and honors including being selected for Alpha Omega Alpha in 2007, and was named twice to Cambridge's Who's Who among Executives and Professionals. He received Genzyme Fellow's Clinical Science Award in 2010,

the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Falcon Award in 2011, the First place Resident Research Award at the 2nd Annual Scott & White's Surgical Innovations Conference in 2012, the 13th Annual Hassan Naama Chief Resident Teaching Award in 2014, received 2nd Place in the Top Gun Competition at the annual meeting for the Society for Laparoendoscopic Surgeons in 2014, and received the 2015 Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract Residents and Fellows Research Conference Presentation Award. He serves as an ad hoc reviewer for Surgical Endoscopy, Surgical Infections, Cancer Investigation, BMC Surgery & World Journal of Gastroenterology. Most recently, Dr. Afaneh was invited as a guest speaker at the Pediatric & Adolescent Foregut Interdisciplinary Symposium in Mainz, Germany from July 25-26, 2015 where he lectured on Robotic Fundoplication and Robotic Myotomy. Recently, he was an invited discussant for several papers at the American College of Surgeons in Chicago from October 6-8, 2015.

Dr. Afaneh is Board Certified in General Surgery. He has also has certifications in the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) and the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES). He is a member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Association for Academic Surgery (AAS), Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), New York Academy of Science (NYAS), Society for Surgeons of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), Society for Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (SLS), International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (SLS), and the Society of Robotic Surgery (SRS). He serves on the Resident Education Committee and the Advanced GI Surgery Training Taskforce for the Society for Surgeons of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT). He also serves as a member of the ASMBS Flexible Endoscopy Committee. Dr. Afaneh is fluent in both Spanish and Arabic.



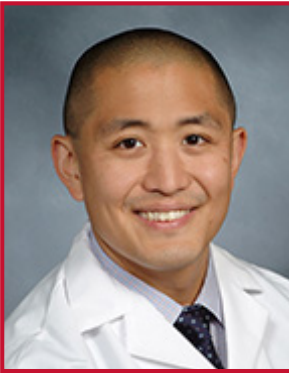
## Faculty Appointments

**Karim J. Halazun, MD****Office Telephone:** 212-746-2127**Office Fax:** 212-746-8978**Email:** kah7007@med.cornell.edu**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/karim-j-halazun-md>

Karim J. Halazun, MD, has joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery with the Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery program at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Halazun came to Weill Cornell Medicine after practicing as an attending surgeon at the Liver Transplant program at Emory University, where he co-directed the liver tumor board, the liver tumor clinic, and the Liver Transplant Data Mart. Dr. Halazun's clinical focuses include surgery for liver and biliary malignancies, liver transplantation including living donor techniques, and use of laparoscopic techniques for liver surgery. His authored publications and current research interests include topics ranging from liver transplantation in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma to developing predictive models for cancer recurrence in patients with hepatobiliary malignancies.

After receiving his medical degree with honors from the University of Leeds, UK, he completed a basic surgical training rotation from 2002-2007 at the Yorkshire School of Surgery. He then came to the United States, where he completed his general surgery training as well as fellowship training in liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery approved by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS). Dr. Halazun has received numerous national and international awards, including the ASTS Vanguard Prize, ASTS Junior Investigator Award, the Hepatobiliary and Transplant Fellow Award from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, the Young Investigator Award of the American Transplant Society, and the American Society of Transplantation's Distinguished Fellow Research Award.

## Faculty Appointments

**Stephen Oh, MD****Office Telephone:** 212-746-9744**Office Fax:** 212-746-3884**Email:** [pio7001@med.cornell.edu](mailto:pio7001@med.cornell.edu)**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/p-stephen-oh-md>

Stephen Oh, MD, has joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. As a board certified surgeon, he specializes in pediatric minimally invasive surgery, including advanced endoscopic, laparoscopic and thoracoscopic techniques. He enjoys a wide range of clinical interests and expertise, including neonatal and congenital anomalies, pediatric general and thoracic surgery, pediatric gastrointestinal surgery, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and pediatric surgical oncology.

Dr. Oh received his undergraduate degree from the Johns Hopkins University in 2002. He earned his Master of Science degree from Georgetown University in 2003 and his medical degree from New York Medical College in 2007. He completed his residency in general surgery at New York Presbyterian - Columbia University in 2013. During his residency, he completed a research fellowship at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of Columbia University in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Cowles. He performed research on short bowel syndrome and complex intestinal reconstruction with intestinal lengthening. Dr. Oh then went on to complete a two year clinical fellowship in pediatric surgery at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of Columbia University. Dr. Oh is fluent in Spanish and Korean.

He is an active member of many prestigious medical and surgical societies, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Pediatric Surgical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group. He is also currently a reviewer for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery Case Reports. He has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts. He has also been invited to present his research findings at a number of national and international scientific conferences.

## Faculty Appointments

**Benjamin Samstein, MD****Office Telephone:** 212-746-2127**Office Fax:** 212-746-8948**Email:** [samstei@med.cornell.edu](mailto:samstei@med.cornell.edu)**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/bsamstein>

Benjamin Samstein, MD joined our Department in 2015 as Chief of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. An experienced, board-certified transplant surgeon, Dr. Samstein heads up the multidisciplinary liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery team at NYP/Weill Cornell. His specialities include the most advanced laparoscopic procedures for liver cancer, benign liver tumors and hepatobiliary pancreas disease. A recognized expert in the field, Dr. Samstein has received many honors and awards, including the Arnold P. Gold Award for Humanism in Medicine. Dr. Samstein is well-published in the field, authoring many peer-reviewed articles in prestigious medical and surgical journals, books, book chapters and abstracts. He is the program director of the transplant surgery fellowship at NYP/Columbia. Other areas of clinical expertise include hepatic adenoma, hepatic hemangioma, cholangiocarcinoma, colorectal metastasis, live donor nephrectomy, laparoscopic living donor nephrectomy, and pediatric liver and organ transplant.

Dr. Samstein received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1992 and earned his MD at the State University of New York at Stonybrook in 1997. He did his internship and residency in general surgery at NYP/Columbia, and completed a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in 2001. He completed a fellowship in ASTS multi-organ transplant at NYP/Columbia in 2006.

**Kevin H. Small, MD****Office Telephone:** 646-962-5122**Office Fax:** 646-962-0157**Email:** kes2014@med.cornell.edu**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/kevinsmall>

Kevin H. Small, MD, has joined the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Small's clinical expertise includes plastic and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Small is the sole full time plastic surgery faculty at the newly renovated NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital at 170 William Street.

Dr. Small has a proficiency in the wide breath of plastic surgery including craniofacial procedures, breast reconstruction, trunk reconstruction, and lower extremity reconstruction. He has additional training and specialization in body contouring, facial aesthetic surgery, and minimally invasive cosmetic procedures (injectables, laser therapy, etc.).

Dr. Small has received numerous honors and awards in academics, teaching and research excellence from the American Society of Plastic Surgery, American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, and the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation. Dr. Small has presented his innovative research at local, national, and international meetings; he has innumerable original manuscripts and book chapters in multiple peer-reviewed collections including Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Aesthetic Surgery Journal. Topics of expertise include three dimensional imaging, breast reconstruction, body contouring and aesthetics.

Dr. Small is from Nashville, Tennessee, and received his B.A. in Classics with honors from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri in May 2004. Dr. Small received his M.D. from New York University School of Medicine in New York City, New York in May 2008. He completed the combined plastic surgery residency program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City, New York in June 2014, and an aesthetic surgery fellowship at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas in June 2015.



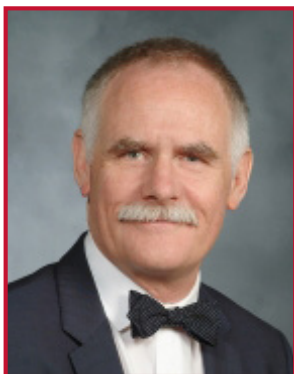
## Faculty Appointments

**Jason A. Spector, MD, FACS****Office Telephone:** 212-746-4532**Office Fax:** 212-746-8952**Email:** [jas2037@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jas2037@med.cornell.edu)**Website:** <http://weillcornell.org/jaspector>

Jason A. Spector, MD, FACS, has been promoted to Professor of Surgery (Plastic Surgery) (primary appointment) and Professor of Plastic Surgery in Otolaryngology (second appointment). He completed his undergraduate degree at Cornell University in 1991, where he graduated with distinction and was named to Cornell's Golden Key National Honor Society. Dr. Spector graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1996, where he was a member of the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and winner of the Valentine Mott Award for his outstanding research. In 1999, he won the Best Resident Research Presentation at the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons, and in 2003 he won the Best Research Presentation at the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons' Residents Competition.

Dr. Spector trained in both general surgery and plastic surgery at the New York University Medical Center, as well as completed a fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery, at NYU Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Spector completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Laboratory of Developmental Biology Repair, under the direction of Michael T. Longaker, MD at NYU Medical Center.

## Faculty Appointments

**Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS****Office Telephone:** 212-746-5410**Office Fax:** 212-746-6995**Email:** row9057@med.cornell.edu**Website:** <https://weillcornell.org/robert-winchell-md>

Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center was appointed to the position of Director of the Intensive Care Unit of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center of NewYork- Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center on July 27, 2015. Board-certified in Surgical Critical Care, Dr. Winchell is a nationally renowned expert in care for the critically injured and the development, design and operations of trauma systems. As Chief, Dr. Winchell heads one of the leading Level 1 trauma centers in New York City, managing a variety of emergency situations and patients with acute injuries requiring immediate attention.

Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS received his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology, his M.D. from Yale University, and did his internship, General Surgery residency, and Trauma and Critical Care Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, where he remained on the faculty as Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Trauma through 1999. After leaving the University of California, Dr. Winchell established and subsequently directed the Tacoma Trauma Center in Tacoma, Washington, which continues to operate successfully as a joint venture between two previously competing hospitals. In 2001, Dr. Winchell moved to the Maine Medical Center and assumed the role of Head of the Division of Trauma and Burn Surgery in 2004. He remained in that position for 10 years, also serving as an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Tufts University School of Medicine. Under his direction, Maine Medical Center became a verified Level I trauma center for the first time in 2007. After leaving Maine, Dr. Winchell served as Chief of Trauma and Visiting Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Chief of Trauma at Memorial Hermann -Texas Medical Center until assuming his current post. In July 2015, Dr. Winchell joined the faculty in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College as Chief of Trauma, Burns, Critical and Acute Care and Director of the Trauma Center at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center.

## Awards ★ Honors

G14-N Floor Staff and Physicians: **Dr. Sang Lee**, **Dr. Jeffrey Milsom**, **Dr. Parul Shukla**, **Dr. Daniel Hunt**, **Dr. Kelly Garrett**, **Dr. Heather Yeo**, **Dr. James Smith**, and **Dr. Toyooki Sonoda** won three of the 2014 Patient Centered Care awards. These awards are based on feedback from the patients and families we serve and point to the outstanding care that our physicians deliver daily.



**Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi**, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chair of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, gave a key-note address at the World Congress of Surgery, which took place from Aug. 23 - Aug. 27 in Bangkok, Thailand. Dr. Michelassi's lecture was titled "Novel Surgical Strategies to Reduce Recurrence Rates in Crohn's Disease." In addition, Dr. Michelassi was also elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and was re-elected as the Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons for a second year.



**Dr. Cheguevara Afaneh**, instructor in surgery, performed a robotic Gastrectomy and a robotic Gastric Bypass in October at Weill Cornell Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital. These are the first totally robotic operations for weight loss in New York City. Both patients were treated as part of the ACS-accredited Metabolic and Bariatric Program.



**Dr. Demetri Merianos**, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award for his Surgery Clerkship on June 29 at the 115th American Society of Microbiology meeting annual awards dinner. The society selects winners of the annual award from a pool of nominees who have contributed greatly to mentoring young biomedical researchers.

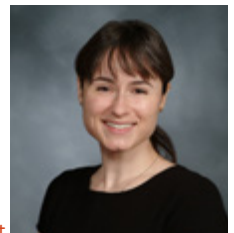
**Dr. Todd Evans**, the Peter I. Pressman, M.D. Professor in Surgery and a professor of cell and developmental biology in surgery, gave the keynote lecture "Building a Translational Research Program" at the Endocrine Society's Translational Research Workshop on March 4 in San Diego. The society works to foster a greater understanding of endocrinology among the general public and practitioners of complementary medical disciplines, and to promote the interests of all endocrinologists at the international and national scientific research and health policy levels of government.



**Dr. Alexander Peters** (General Surgery, PGY-1) and **Dr. Briar Dent** (Plastic Surgery, PGY-4) were honored as the NYP Resident of the Month for September and October.



Dr. Alexander Peters



Dr. Briar Dent

# Surgery in the News

## WCBS REPORT FEATURES SAIL, FACULTY & RESIDENTS FOR ANESTHESIOLOGY AND SURGERY



On August 21, 2015, SAIL, the Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory, was featured in a recent news report on New York's CBS affiliate, WCBS-2. SAIL is the simulation center administered jointly by the Departments of Anesthesiology, Radiology, and Surgery. The WCBS report aired on August 20 and featured several of our faculty and residents. The report was prepared by WCBS correspondent Dr. Max Gomez, as part of the newscast's regular "Healthwatch" feature. Dr. Gomez took viewers inside the SAIL facility, exploring the OR simulator room, looking at surgery and anesthesiology residents training and being debriefed, and the variety of simulation programs offered at SAIL - from emergency simulations to practice with elective procedures. Dr. Anthony Watkins of Surgery was interviewed, and Dr. Lori Rubin and Dr. David Stein of Anesthesiology were prominently featured, along with SAIL Manager Dr. Jay Rosenberg. WCBS also interviewed Anesthesiology Resident Dr. Ryan Lippell (Class of 2019) about the value of simulation education.

## PATIENT STORY: NEW YORKER RUNS HER FIRST MARATHON WEEKS AFTER SURGERY (as featured on Facebook.com)



For the past six years, Sarah Doody had become accustomed to a small bump near her hip. Last May, she finally had her primary doctor examine the "funny knot" that she thought was a natural part of her body. The initial diagnosis was that it was a small lipoma (tumor of fat) and she was referred to surgical oncologist Dr. Benjamin Golas at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Additional scans revealed that her small bump was actually a large tumor and would need a biopsy and chest CT to ensure that it wasn't malignant and didn't spread to her lungs.

Throughout all of this Sarah and a friend were training for the TCS New York City Marathon. She had run numerous half-marathons in the past and now she wanted to conquer the full 26.2 miles. But now, her training took a back seat.

Fortunately the biopsy revealed that the tumor was benign, and was a lipoma, a very rare intramuscular mass originating from fat cells that should have disappeared with time but didn't. After a successful two-hour surgery removing the 10cm mass, Sarah was determined to lace up and complete the marathon. She was sidelined for six weeks post-surgery, but worked hard with her physical therapist, Yan at NYP/Lower Manhattan.

Today, only three months after surgery, this Canadian turned New Yorker ran in her first full marathon with her friend Allison.

Sarah finished the race strong in 4:13:44! Way to go Sarah!



# Surgery in the News

## PATIENT STORY:

## CAMILO SECK, HIRSCHSPRUNG'S DISEASE

(as featured in NYMethodist 2015-16 Report to the Community)

"This baby is in trouble." **Demetri Merianos, M.D.**, pediatric surgeon, recalls that this was his first thought on seeing Camilo Seck in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU). Three-week-old Camilo had been brought in by his worried parents, Paul and Florencia Seck, for a fever that wouldn't go down. "We had taken Camilo to his pediatrician because he wasn't eating well and his stomach was so distended," said Mr. Seck. "We were keeping an eye on it, but when the fever came and wouldn't go, the doctor told us to take him to the emergency room ASAP. He was getting sick, really quickly."

"His intestines were clearly obstructed, and I was called in to determine the cause for the obstruction," says Dr. Merianos. "We performed a contrast enema, during which a dye is inserted into the intestine, and then x-rays are taken, the x-rays indicated a significant blockage in his lower colon, but luckily we were able to pass a rubber catheter through the anus and get it through the blockage, allowing us to remove nearly two liters of backed up fluid from the intestines, which helped him to stabilize."

"After allowing Camilo to rest and get stronger for a day, we brought him to the operating room to remove the part of the colon where the blockage had occurred. I suspected that Camilo might have a relatively rare condition called Hirschsprung's disease, in which nerve cells in the wall of the rectum and part of the colon fail to develop, resulting in a blockage and buildup of fecal matter, which eventually makes kids very sick. But we couldn't confirm that diagnosis until we had taken and sent a tissue sample to the lab. Surgery was unavoidable."

The plan was to remove the piece of intestine that was causing the blockage, and then sew the two ends back together, but because Camilo was still so weak, the surgery would need to be done in two stages. In the first stage, Dr. Merianos removed the affected portion of colon and send the tissue to pathology. He then constructed a temporary colostomy, which allows the colon to empty externally through an incision in the abdomen. After the baby gained strength and weight, Dr. Merianos would proceed with the second phase of the surgery: a resection that would connect the parts of the colon on either side of the portion that had been removed.

Shortly after the first surgery, the lab results came in- Camilo did indeed have Hirschsprung's disease. "With a baby as young as Camilo, there is only one chance to reconnect the colon to the anus; any additional procedures would cause scar tissue and potentially lifelong complications, such as incontinence" said Dr. Merianos. "During the second surgery, I needed to ensure that I removed every last bit of disease-affected tissue because there would be no second chance. As I worked, I sent tissue to the surgical pathology lab directly next to the operating room for immediate analysis. Only after I was told that I was working with disease free tissue did I begin to reconnect the colon. "The surgery was a success, and "three months later you can't imagine that this giggling baby was once so sick," reports Mr. Seck. Camilo continues to thrive.

# ALUMNI UPDATE



Congratulations to Dr. Katrina Mitchell (2013-14 Chief Resident) on the birth of her son Becker Morgan Mitchell on October 11th, at 8.5 lbs., 20 inches, born with loads of blonde hair like his mother! Katrina is currently a Breast Surgery Oncology Fellow at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.



Welcome to the world little Ameer Afaneh! Congratulations to Dr. Cheguevara Afaneh, Assistant Professor of Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and his wife Nawara.



Introducing Nina Jones! The newest addition to the family for Dr. Doug Jones, a 2015 graduate of the General Surgery Residency Program at Weill Cornell Medical College. Doug is currently a Vascular fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA.

# Surgical Notes

**The 14th Annual Golf Tournament** to support surgical education and research was held on October 10, 2015, at Pelham Country Club in Pelham, New York. Monies raised help benefit our Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), named lectures and resident presentations at medical conferences. We extend our deepest appreciation to our 13 sponsors for their support: Dr. Hugh Hemmings and the Department of Anesthesiology; Dr. Leonard Girardi & the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Drs. Jon Cohen and Karen Kostroff; Dr. Laura Forese, Dr. Cam Patterson, Mark E. Larmore and NYP Administration; Peter Crean, Esq. & Martin, Clearwater & Bell, LLP; Dr. Michael Stewart & the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery; Dr. Daniel Knowles & the Department of Pathology; Dr. Zev Rosenwaks & the Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine; Dr. Peter Schlegel & the Department of Urology; Dr. Robert Min & Weill Cornell Imaging at NewYork-Presbyterian; and an anonymous sponsor. We'd like to also thank our patrons: Dr. Kevin P. Morrissey, Dr. Silvia Formenti and the Department of Radiation Oncology, & the Rogosin Institute. We are also grateful for our supporters: Center for Advanced Digestive Care (CADC), Dr. Steven Friedman, Dr. Robert Grant, Dr. Todd J. Albert and the Hospital for Special Surgery Orthopaedic Surgeons, Dr. Faith Menken, Dr. Demetri Merianos, Dr. Jeffrey Milsom, Dr. Marco Seandel, Dr. Kevin Small, Dr. Gladys Strain, Dr. Gerardo Zullo, Dr. Michael Zullo, & Dr. Gregory Dakin.



**2015 Best Golf Foursome:**  
(From left) William DeBois, Robert Kelly,  
Paige Sealey, Carl Simone



**2015 Closest to the Pin:**  
Dr. Ralph Slepian (left)



**2015 Longest Drive:**  
Dr. David Kleiman



**2015 Straightest Drive:**  
Dr. Gregory Salzler



# Surgery Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff for their many years of dedicated service to the Department of Surgery and to ensuring that we always deliver the highest quality, most compassionate care to our patients.

## ☆ 5 years

Joanne Brebnor  
Adeline Calixte  
Nehanda Celestine  
Erica Flores  
Kelly Garrett, M.D.  
Debbie Ann Hill  
Natasha Joseph  
Eme Lorenzo  
Shanekqua McKune  
Ruchita Mehta  
Paterina Parker  
Darren Schneider, M.D.  
Marco Seandel, M.D.  
Chun Ju (Christina,) Wei  
Herrick Wun, M.D.

## ☆ 10 years

Jason Spector, M.D.  
Faith Ebel  
Palmer Bessey, M.D.  
Mary Ann Garcia  
Olga Goitia

## ☆ 15 years

Palmer Bessey, MD

## ☆ 20 years

Emette Kersellius  
Nitsana Spigland, MD  
Elade Perez  
Jessica Arnau  
Renata Korzycki  
Angela Rabbits

## ☆ 35 years

Steven Saltzman, M.D.





## FUTURE EVENTS

### February 22, 2016

#### 1st Annual Department of Surgery Diversity Lecture

Guest Lecturer: **Hilary A. Sanfey, MD, MB. BCh, MHPE, FACS, FRCSI**  
8:00am, Uris Auditorium • Weill Cornell Medical College

### March 21, 2016

#### 47th Annual Benjamin S. Park, Jr. Visiting Professor Lectureship and Alumni Banquet

Guest Lecturer: **Ronald Busutti, MD**  
8:00am, Lecture at Uris Auditorium • Weill Cornell Medical College  
6:30pm, Banquet at Harmonie Club, New York City

### April 18, 2016

#### 43rd Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship

Guest Lecturer: **David Hoyt, MD**  
8:00am, Uris Auditorium • Weill Cornell Medical College

### April 21, 2016

#### The 5th Annual Stanley J. Behrman, DMD Lectureship

Guest Lectures: **Donald P. Lewis, Jr. DDS, CFE** and **Gary N. Baumwoll, Esq.**  
4:00pm Cocktail Reception in Archbold Commons  
5:00pm Lecture in Auditorium A-250  
Weill Cornell Medical College



Department of Surgery

For more information about the Department of Surgery,  
please visit our website at [www.cornellsurgery.org](http://www.cornellsurgery.org)