In March the Board gave the green light to proceed with the next phase in the development of the McNair Campus. The current plan calls for opening of the outpatient surgery facility at McNair sometime next year. The emphasis will be on orthopedics and gynecology in the first phase, but our department is scheduled to be included in the second phase of the expansion which will follow soon thereafter. This will mark the beginning of the consolidation of our adult private practice faculty offices, outpatient clinics, and ambulatory and short stay surgical services in one location. The design team lead by David Berger, M.D., M.H.C.M., Vice Chair in our Department, is focusing on the needs of the patient and family in planning the initial build out of the operating suite. This is in keeping with BCM President Paul Klotman’s vision of providing outstanding service in our clinical programs. The goal is to ensure an excellent experience in addition to an excellent surgical outcome.

Dr. Berger has recently been elected President of the Association of VA Surgeons, a non-profit, non-political, educational organization, established in 1967 to improve patient care, medical education, and research in surgery in the Department of Veterans Affairs. (full story on page 6)

This is a testament to his outstanding contributions to the academic affairs and the delivery of clinical services in the VA system. Congratulations David!

This is budget season at the College. As I write this our department still faces a significant budget deficit for next year that will have to be addressed before the budget is finalized over the next two months. With the help of the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee I have been reviewing every item in the budget looking for additional revenue and expense reductions that would not compromise our programs. This is a work in progress that will require further cuts before it is complete. We must all understand that it is mandatory for us to reduce our deficit significantly.

With the budget comes a chance for us to review our plans for the next two academic years. For the first time, this year Dr. Klotman organized a series of presentations of all the clinical and non-clinical departments and centers. Every chair and center director presented a detailed analysis of her/his current clinical, research and educational activities using the SWOT model (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), along with their strategic priorities and opportunities for inter-departmental collaboration over the next 1-2 years to their peers and the entire College leadership. As I listened to these presentations a couple of themes emerged.

First, there are many outstanding programs already in place at BCM, and many existing and potential opportunities for collaboration. Bariatric surgery for example, had clear cut connections to GI medicine, endocrinology, family medicine and neurology, in addition to surgery. Second, many of the departments and centers face similar challenges in funding faculty salaries, supporting or eliminating unfunded resident slots, and in improving relations with affiliated hospitals. Our presentation focused on clinical issues—mainly growing our faculty in general surgery, vascular surgery and cardiothoracic surgery. I am very pleased that the College has approved a new recruit for the upcoming academic year, George Van Buren, MD in Surgical Oncology. Van Buren will also help cover our general surgery service at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital.

Overall, I can see many signs of a bright future for us in the department and in the College as a whole. So let’s keep moving forward in the pursuit of excellence and fiscal responsibility in our clinical, research and educational endeavors.
Residents Nicole Tapia, MD and Sara Fallon, MD presented their research at grand rounds today. Pictured with faculty mentors Mike Norman, MD - HCHD (left) and Monica Lopez, MD - Pediatric Surgery (center).


Medical Resident Thao Nguyen, MD, presented her work entitled, “Transplanting Whole Livers from Donors Less than 6 Kilograms: Is it Prudent?” Medical Resident Theresa Harring, MD presented, “Patients with Caroli’s Disease after Orthotopic Liver Transplantation Have Improved Long-Term Survival.” The two presented a study they collaborated on, “The Evolution of Biobanking at the Baylor College of Medicine,” at Surgery Grand Rounds on April 18, 2012. Drs. John Goss and Christine O’Mahony mentored the researchers.

Residents Linda Li, MD and Sonia Tewani Orcutt, MD are flanked by their mentors (from left) Drs. Daniel Albo, Daniel Anaya and David Berger.

Residencies Thao Nguyen, MD and Theresa Harring MD.

The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery hosts local faculty and outstanding regional or national speakers, who present on a range of surgical topics in weekly grand rounds. Surgery Grand Rounds are held every Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 am in the Baylor College of Medicine, Alkek Building, N315, One Baylor Plaza. Health professionals from other departments at Baylor College of Medicine and from other institutions are welcome to attend.
ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANTATION

Charles Phan Gia Quang, MD practices Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Sugar Land, Texas. One of his professional aspirations is to abbreviate the gap of healthcare disparities in the Vietnamese community.

Dr. Phan received his doctorate degree in medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1992. After his residency in internal medicine, he also completed a gastroenterology fellowship at the University of California—Irvine Medical Center in 1998.

He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Phan joined the division in January this year. Presently he serves as the Director of the Asian Center, Division of Abdominal Transplantation in the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine.

BCM approved for renal and liver transplant fellowships

The Baylor College of Medicine Liver and Renal Transplant Fellowship Programs are non-ACGME accredited programs, which are approved by the Texas Medical Board and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. The programs will provide experience primarily at St. Luke’s Cooley Transplant Center for renal transplant and Texas Children’s Hospital, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, and Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center for liver. Fellowship candidates will have access to extensive hands-on experience in all aspects of the management of end-stage disease surgical patients. Operative experience for renal transplant will be gained in transplant surgery, open nephrectomy as well as laparoscopic nephrectomy for living donors. The liver fellows will be trained in all aspects of management of end-stage liver disease and liver insufficiency patient care, hepatobiliary surgery, liver resection and orthotopic liver transplantation. The active team performed 106 adult renal transplants and 110 Adult and pediatric Liver transplants in 2011—making it one of the largest adult and pediatric liver transplant programs in the country.

CONGENITAL HEART SURGERY

Dr. Iki Adachi has joined the Division of Congenital Heart Surgery as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Adachi recently completed his Faculty Instructorship within the Division and has been named the new Co-Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support at Texas Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Adachi has written extensively regarding surgical, morphological, and physiological aspects of congenitally malformed hearts. His clinical and research interests include pediatric heart failure and mechanical circulatory support including ventricular assist device and total artificial heart. He is studying cardiac cellular and sub cellular differentiation prior to and following application of mechanical assistance. He also has an interest in pediatric lung transplantation.

Dr. Carlos Mery will join the Division upon the completion of his Fellowship on June 30. Dr. Mery is completing his fellowship in pediatric congenital heart surgery with the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital after training previously at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Stanford University, and the University of Virginia. Dr. Mery’s clinical and research interests include innovative surgical techniques, bioengineering, clinical outcomes research, and international collaborations in Mexico and Latin America.

Division of Congenital Heart Surgery Leads Efforts for a Pediatric-specific Ventricular Assist Device

Newborns, toddlers and teens that suffer from heart failure and need heart transplantation to survive just got a life-saving pediatric heart pump that buys time and allows them to grow stronger as they wait for a donor heart.

With the Division of Congenital Heart Surgery, Texas Children’s Hospital was the lead center in a seventeen-hospital national Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) study on the German-manufactured Berlin Heart EXCOR Pediatric Ventricular Assist Device (VAD). The FDA has granted a Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) approval for the EXCOR to be used in U.S. children as a bridge to heart transplantation. The EXCOR, used to provide circulatory support to pediatric patients with severe heart failure, is the only VAD approved in the U.S. for use in babies. Dr. Charles Fraser, Jr., MD was the National PI for the study. He and his team were instrumental in the success of the trial and the approval of the device.
Scott LeMaire, MD, Delivers Presidential Address at the 7th Annual Academic Surgical Congress in Las Vegas

As outgoing President of the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS), Scott A. LeMaire, MD, Professor of Surgery and of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and Director of Research for the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, capped off his year by delivering the presidential address at the 7th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC) held February 14-16, 2012 in Las Vegas. 2012 marked the seventh year that the AAS and the Society of University Surgeons (SUS) collaborated to present the best educational, clinical and basic science research. Faculty, residents and medical students from BCM gave more than 30 presentations at the meeting, which drew a record attendance of over 1000 academic surgeons.

Dr. LeMaire’s address, entitled “Toward Self-actualization in Academic Surgery,” focused on the critical role of the AAS in providing opportunities to young surgeon-scientists with the goal of helping them develop successful academic careers. LeMaire offered specific words of encouragement and guidance to the aspiring surgeon-scientists in attendance: “As you strive toward reaching your full potential, you will certainly need to develop several abilities and work extremely hard, but always remember the critical importance of having the right opportunities, and that the AAS exists solely to provide these to you. If you are not a member of the AAS, then join us today; and if you are a member, then please engage and seize the available opportunities.”
Cardiothoracic Surgery (cont.)

and expertise in his field that are second to none,” said Dr. Coselli. “We are thrilled that he has elected to join our team of outstanding cardiothoracic surgeons.”

In addition to his Baylor responsibilities, Dr. Mallidi holds several appointments, including Director of Clinical Outcomes Research for the Center for Cardiac Support and Co-Director of the Center for Congenital and Familial Cardiovascular Disease at the Texas Heart Institute. Additionally, he is Assistant Surgical Director of Cardiac Surgical Circulatory Support and Heart Transplantation at St. Luke’s as well as Assistant Surgical Director of the Adult Congenital/Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Program.

His primary interests include heart and lung transplantation, mechanical circulatory support (VAD and ECMO), adult congenital heart surgery, surgery for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and valvular heart disease. Dr. Mallidi’s research interests are primarily focused on evaluating the outcomes of cardiac surgical procedures and clinical effectiveness research.

Dr. Mallidi graduated with honors from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1997. He subsequently completed a cardiac surgical residency in Toronto and is certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2005. Subsequently, Dr. Mallidi completed a Cardiothoracic Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Device Fellowship at Stanford University. Following his advanced training, he remained on faculty at Stanford as an Assistant Professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery playing a key role in the heart, lung and heart-lung transplant programs, in addition to leading the Ventricular Assist Device Program at Stanford.

Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery to Host Joint Session of the Michael E. DeBakey and Denton A. Cooley Societies

On June 21-24, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery will host a Joint Session of the 19th Congress of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society and the 18th Symposium of the Denton A. Cooley Cardiovascular Surgical Society at Barton Creek in Austin. Activity Co-Directors are Joseph S. Coselli, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, President of the Cooley Society and Robert J. Salem, MD, of Lubbock, President of the DeBakey Society. This second Joint Session brings together these two societies which separately have recognized and celebrated the mentorship of their namesakes for many years. These educational and scientific programs, part of a unique forum geared toward providing important updates on the latest advances in cardiovascular and general surgery will honor these two great legends.

The keynote address, “My Little Red Book,” will be given on Friday by John H. Calhoun, MD, of San Antonio. Friday and Saturday luncheon presentations include “My Heroes Have Always Been Surgeons” by O. Wayne Isom, MD, of New York, NY and Walter H. Merrill, MD, of Jackson, MS, will present “Preparing the Next Generation to Provide Cardiovascular Care.” The Cooley Society International Recognition Award will be presented to O. Howard Frazier, MD, Texas Heart Institute, on Saturday, who will accept the award with his talk, “The Houston Contribution to the Development of Mechanical Circulatory Assist and Heart Replacement.” Sunday’s ethics breakfast will be delivered by Amy L. McGuire, JD, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine, who will present “Personalized Medicine: Genomic Research and the Ethical Issues Confronting Surgeons.”

The Joint Session has been approved for a maximum of 12.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ for physicians and nurses. The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion designates this continuing education activity for a maximum of 14.3 category 1 CEU’s.

General Surgery

The new Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) training lab opened on October 12, 2011. The lab is located at the main Baylor Campus room 426C and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The FLS lab is coordinated by Deborah Taylor and George Woodard.

For further information or to reserve the lab for practice or other activities, contact Deborah Taylor at 713-798-4577 or dtaylor@bcm.edu.

George Woodard and Deborah Taylor from the Experimental Surgery and Surgical Training Laboratories in front of the new instrument washer and sterilizer. Photo courtesy Deborah Taylor
Baylor College of Medicine’s surgical training labs were busier—and louder—than usual on February 14

On that day, the surgical training group at BCM welcomed Dr. David Persse, the city’s EMS director, and the city’s new Tactical Medical Team for an exercise in simulating emergency response during stressful situations. This new Houston team is called on to accompany the Houston Police SWAT team during high risk encounters.

Persse, who is also professor of surgery at BCM, and Dr. Brad Scott, associate professor of surgery at BCM, created a series of scenarios in which the responders practiced emergency medical techniques while encountering sounds of gunfire, people screaming, lights out and other similar challenges.

Both Persse and Scott said it was a very successful effort. Seven paramedics and three emergency physicians participated in the training.

“We hope to never need to use the skills and training we have gained from our educational experience at Baylor, but if we ever do need to use them, we will be much better prepared,” said Persse.

Scott said the training partnership was a great experience.

“It was very successful,” Scott said. “I think the tactical team gained important skills and it was a rewarding experience for us as well.”

Lab manager Deborah Taylor coordinated the activities with other departments at BCM to ensure that the training was accomplished with no inconvenience to others at the College.

From: BCM Family March 1, 2012

Dr. Berger Named President of Surgical Association

Members of the Association of VA Surgeons recently elected David H. Berger, MD, MHCM to serve as the organization’s new president. Listed as one of the best doctors in the nation in the field of surgical oncology, Berger is the Operative Care Line executive at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center or MEDVAMC.

“Following Dr. DeBakey’s life-long pursuit of excellence and commitment to surgical advances in order to make a worldwide impact on health care and improving lives, Dr. Berger is carrying on that tradition today at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center,” said Adam C. Walmus, MA, MHA, FACHE, MEDVAMC director. “We are very fortunate to have that level of passion and expertise in advancing medical care for our nation’s heroes.”

The Association of VA Surgeons, a non-profit, non-political, educational organization, was established in 1967 to improve patient care, medical education, and research in surgery in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“For more than 12 years, Dr. Berger has worked tirelessly to bring cutting edge technology to the DeBakey VA which has had significant impact on the care we provide to our Veterans. He is a true scholar and an enthusiastic teacher,” said Jagadeesh Kalavar, MD, MEDVAMC chief of staff. “We are extremely lucky to have such an accomplished and highly esteemed surgical expert on our team.”

Berger received his medical degree from State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn where he also completed his residency in general surgery. Berger also completed a three year fellowship in surgical oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. A professor and vice chair of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at BCM, Berger is the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed and invited publications and the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in teaching.
said Brandt. “Being able to play a major role in the political and social advocacy done by the AAP at this level will help improve care for children all over the U.S. and help place Texas Children’s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine at the forefront of pediatric surgery.”

**Marilyn W. Butler, MD: F.J. Harberg, 2012 MD, Visiting Professor in Pediatric Surgery**

The Pediatric Surgery Division recently hosted Dr. Marilyn W. Butler, the 2012 F.J. Harberg, MD Visiting Professor in Pediatric Surgery. The Visiting Professorship honors Dr. Franklin J. Harberg, an early Division Chief, and is selected annually by the senior Pediatric Surgery Resident. This year’s Chief Resident, Lan Vu, MD shares Dr. Butler’s interest in Global Surgical Volunteerism, and hosted Dr. Butler during her visit. Dr. Butler is a Clinical Professor of Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and the innovator of the Global Paediatric Surgery Network (GPSN).

Dr. Butler joined the Pediatric Surgery faculty and fellows at a dinner on Feb. 21 with members of the Harberg family, who endow the professorship in honor of Dr. Harberg. The Division was honored to also host Dr. Butler’s parents, Dr. and Mrs. William Butler.

Dr. Butler delivered BCM Department of Surgery Grand Rounds on Feb. 22 and spoke on “International Surgical Volunteerism: The Need for Capacity Building and Sustainable Assistance.” She also toured Texas Children’s Hospital, rounded with General Surgery residents and students and met with research residents and faculty.

**OVERALL SURGERY UPDATE**

**2012 Edmond T. Gonzales, Jr. Surgical Research Day**

The 3rd annual Edmond T. Gonzales, Jr. Surgical Research Day will be held at Texas Children’s Hospital on Friday June 1. This event is open to all pediatric surgeons practicing at Texas Children’s Hospital and includes many posters and presentations from surgeons within the Division of Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and Congenital Heart Surgery. Dr. Thomas Spray, Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the Alice Langdon Warner Endowed Chair, will be the featured speaker for the event.
Results from the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination or ABSITE were exceptional this year. Our residents were able to obtain a 12% increase in their mean ABSITE scores compared to last year. These were also the highest mean ABSITE scores in the last five years. Congratulations to Dr. Bradford Scott, director for the General Surgery Residency Program and also to Doctors Liscum, Suliburk, Silberfein, Liang, Subramanian, and Holder-Haynes, who volunteered their time to facilitate the small group educational program. A special thank you also goes to Dr. Brandt and the chief residents for their leadership and exceptional work on behalf of all the residents.

HONORS/AWARDS

David H. Berger, MD, was elected the 2012-2013 President of the Association of VA Surgeons.

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD, was presented the Rotary Distinguished Citizen Award. The award given by the Rotary Club on April 23, 2012 was the 50th presentation of the Award.

Mary L. Brandt, MD, was appointed chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics – surgery section.

Mary L. Brandt, MD, was the recipient of the 2012 McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award for the Clinical Sciences.

Sonia Tewani Orcutt, MD, General Surgery Resident, won one of the two awards given at the Association of VA Surgeons meeting for best clinical presentation, for the paper entitled “Characterization and Predictors of Unplanned Readmissions Following Colorectal Cancer Surgery,” with Daniel Anaya, MD as senior author, April 2012.

Jennifer Moffet, MD, won 2nd place overall for her oral presentation entitled, “Outcomes and Predictors of Surgical Site Infection (SSI) in Stoma Reversal,” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Surgical Infection Society, Dallas, Texas, April 21, 2012.

Stacey Carter, MD, won 3rd place overall for her poster entitled, “Surgical Site Infection (SSI) in Laparoscopic Ventral Hernia Repair (LVHR),” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Surgical Infection Society, Dallas, Texas, April 21, 2012.