The Alumni Symposium & 20th Congress of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society took place at Baylor College of Medicine on May 16-17, 2014.

Over 400 attendees, 30 educational sponsors, and exhibitors were present, making it the largest congregation of alumni in many years and one of the best attended meetings of the Surgical Society.

The highly acclaimed event allowed for seamless exchange of information among alumni, current faculty, and residents. Formal lectures provided updates on state-of-the-art practices at the Medical Center and at alumni institutions and an opportunity to meet some of the great surgeons in the world. The event’s keynote address by multiple heart attack survivor Dick Cheney and the subsequent interview with Dr. Todd K. Rosengart provided a historical opportunity to hear the former Vice-President speak about his journey of survival against heart disease. He has benefited from ground-breaking cardiothoracic surgical advances made at Baylor College of Medicine, including his VAD implant and heart transplant.

The occasion coincided with two award ceremonies. In recognition of VAD pioneer Dr. O. H. “Bud” Frazier’s professional accomplishments, the Texas Heart Institute and the Department of Surgery joined to celebrate the implantation of the 1000th VAD and to honor Dr. Frazier with the Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox was honored with the DeBakey Surgical Award for his life-long career of professional achievements as an innovator, clinician, technician, administrator, educator, and researcher in trauma care.

The event’s tremendous success was possible thanks to exceptional team work. In particular, the Department wants to extend its utmost appreciation to Dr. Scott A. LeMaire and Holly Shilstone, whose careful planning, execution, and leadership resulted in an event many will remember. The Department also extends its thanks to all the staff that supported and contributed to this outstanding event.

Finally, we are proud to announce other novel programs to foster faculty and resident academic development and education. The Resident Research Career Development Program guarantees a faculty position to incoming residents who are highly productive in our research track, and a Faculty Scholars Program provides “protected time” in support of the research careers of junior faculty. We are very excited about what that lies ahead, and hope that you will join us in learning more about all the achievements, activities, and opportunities offered by the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery.
2ND ANNUAL RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY SYMPOSIUM

Our 2nd Annual Resident Research Day Symposium offered 23 presentations—selected from 80 abstracts submitted—to an audience of 250 faculty members, residents, and students. For the first time the program included “Quick Shot Scientific” and “Student Quick Shot” presentations, in addition to Clinical Research Scientific and Basic Science Scientific presentations.

This year, we were honored to have Dr. Timothy Pawlik, Professor of Surgery and Oncology and Director of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Liver Tumor Center Multi-Disciplinary Clinic, present this year’s keynote address, “Developing Complementary Clinical and Research Programs: Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma.” Dr. Pawlik presented the process and the results of his research highlighting the importance of having effective multidisciplinary collaborations to accomplish successful research. Specifically for the research residents and students, he shared his views on what it takes to be successful: working hard, being passionate for your career specialty, and selecting the right mentor.

The Department was also honored to have Dr. Paul Klitman, President and CEO of Baylor College of Medicine, and Dr. Linda Andrews, Senior Vice President & Dean of Medical Education, speak at the event about the importance of developing excellent clinical and basic research as a foundation for the advancement of better treatments to improve patient care at all levels.

ENTERING SURGICAL INTERN BOOT CAMP, A FIRST FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Bindi Naik-Mathuria, Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Surgery, held an Entering Surgical Internship Boot Camp for graduating fourth year medical students. The classes took place on May 19 and 20. Thirteen students, who will soon enter a surgical residency, enjoyed two days packed with clinical scenarios, skills lab, and patient simulations. Many faculty members, including Drs. Brad G. Scott, Stephanie Gordy, and Juliet Holder-Haynes, participated in the boot camp.

First-year medical students volunteered to act as “stand-in patients” to add an element of realism.
Fifteen outstanding college students with diverse backgrounds from across the country participated in our annual Michael E. DeBakey Summer Surgery Program.

UNDERGRADS GET INSIGHT INTO SURGERY THROUGH BAYLOR SUMMER PROGRAM

“All of them are highly accomplished at a very young age. We hope that through the Summer Program, we can help stimulate the maturation of the next generation of leaders in our field,” said Program Director Shayan Izaddoost, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of surgery.

Dr. Izaddoost recalled a comment made once by Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, “One of the legacies of which I am most proud is the many former trainees, at all levels, who dot the globe, practicing the principles learned here—attention to detail and pursuit of excellence, while serving as role models to others.”

The summer students are high achievers with excellent academic records, a biomedical aptitude, and a record of community service. It is therefore not surprising that of this group completing the DeBakey Summer Student Program and choosing to ultimately attend medical school, over 95 percent are admitted to the medical or graduate school of their choice. It is also no surprise that former students currently hold positions such as Dean, President, Chair, and Chief of Staff of their medical institutions, and are the recipients of distinguished service awards.

The stimulating educational environment provided by the Michael E. DeBakey Summer Student Program, gives bright young minds the opportunity to thrive, reach even greater potential, and build confidence in their skills. It provides a firm foundation for the pursuit of knowledge. Without question, this visionary program has fulfilled the desires of its designer, Dr. Michael E. DeBakey.

FIRST ANNUAL SKILLS OLYMPICS

The inaugural Surgical Skills Olympics were held in the Baylor College of Medicine Simulation Center on May 28. During the event, General Surgery residents participated in a friendly, team-based competition to demonstrate their surgical dexterity, skill, and speed.

Seven teams, each one led by a chief resident, participated in the Olympics. Competitors were timed as they competed in seven surgical skills activities. The exercises featured both open and laparoscopic skills, including open bowel and vascular anastomoses, three laparoscopic skills activities (peg transfer, pattern cut, and intracorporeal suturing), and open knot tying and suturing.

Competition medals were awarded to the teams scoring the most points across individual events and clocking in the fastest time on the team relay event.

Team ‘Red Sox’ emerged victorious, taking Gold medal honors, followed by “Yankees” and “Rangers” with silver and bronze, respectively.

Inaugural Skills Olympics winners (left to right): Drs. Mirtha Gonzalez (team captain), Carlos Palacio Lascano, Somalia Mohammed, Michael Kueht, Sarah Weakley (chief resident), Catherine Seger, Galina Toneva, and Yue Gao. Not pictured: Dr. John McLean.
During my last PA school clinical rotation in surgical oncology, I worked with various surgeons, including Dr. Steven Curley at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Shortly after completing my rotation, I was offered a position working as a surgical oncology PA with Dr. Curley. That was what I wanted to do, and so I jumped at the opportunity. I worked with Dr. Curley for almost 6 years, and when he asked me to join him at Baylor College of Medicine in the Department of Surgery, I, once again, jumped at the chance.

The most satisfying part of my job is to help our cancer patients transition to and from surgery, provide education about their cancer and surgery, assist in communicating the plan of care, and assist in the patients’ long term care and ongoing surveillance.

Since joining the department in January, I have been involved in other aspects of patient care. With the opening of the new Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center and the rapid growth of the Division of Surgical Oncology, I will continue to offer clinical and logistical support and advice to help improve the overall care for our cancer patients.

My contributions to the overall goals of the Department of Surgery bring me great personal satisfaction. I am blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of Baylor College of Medicine’s Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery.
FEATURING CHIEF RESIDENT
JAMES ADAM DAVIS, MD

I am a native Houstonian and a Rice graduate. Early on, I defined myself as an athlete and competed in the middle distance races of track and field and achieved All American status in the NCAA. When seeking a more sustainable career, this penchant for physical punishment naturally led me to a field that constantly tests one’s mettle.

My first glimpse into surgery came as a participant in the DeBakey Summer Surgery Program. As an undergraduate, I experienced the operating room. Dr. Peter Lin served as my mentor and guided me through this fascinating field. Dr. DeBakey explained how he fortuitously purchased Dacron at the local Sears and fashioned the first successful vascular grafts with his wife’s sewing machine. The pioneers at Baylor College of Medicine truly inspired me and influenced my decision to attend medical school at this institution.

My interest in cardiovascular surgery continued to grow as I went along in my training, first as a medical student and subsequently as a general surgery resident. Countless leaders in the field serve as faculty at our institution and continue to innovate and teach. Formative rotations and mentorship within vascular surgery ultimately influenced my decision to choose this specialty for fellowship. The foundation in general surgery that I have established at Baylor will no doubt serve me well as I continue my training next year at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

FEATURING PLASTIC SURGEON SHAYAN IZADDOST, MD, PHD

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Molecular and Cellular Biology

As a medical student, graduate student, resident, and now faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine, I have found passion in plastic surgery, my patients, and the education of our residents. Over the past twenty years, Baylor has fostered my enthusiasm for medicine and allowed me to prosper in an environment of excellence and innovation. My wife Dr. Celestine Tung, a Gynecologic Oncologist, and I have developed our careers and raised our own family alongside others in the Baylor community.

I enjoy plastic surgery because every day we help people return to their normal lives functionally, physically, and mentally. For some of our patients, it is a vulnerable period and we are glad to prepare them for what is to come in their treatment process. I am honored to work with our outstanding and caring plastic surgery staff members, who work hard to make patients part of our extended family. Since the reconstructive or cosmetic process often undertakes a long period of time, we and our patients develop long term relationships that are truly rewarding to our staff, our patients, and me.

One of the greatest parts of my work is educating residents and medical students. My main focus is the training of our residents in both the intellectual and technical part of plastic surgery. I also give lectures to medical students in the Foundations of Medicine course and direct the Michael E. DeBakey Summer Surgery Program for undergraduates. I am inspired by students or residents that are thoughtful, hard-working, and intellectually curious. I hope that, in some way, I can help them achieve their goals and succeed in endeavors where I, or we as a specialty team, have had little success. In this way, I can continue to partake in Baylor’s greatest traditions, outstanding clinical care, research, and education.
HONORS AND AWARDS

GEORGE P. NOON, MD
Roy M. Huffington Award for Excellence
Ben & Margaret Love Foundation Bobby Alford Award for Academic Clinical Professionalism.
NIH Heart, Lung & Blood Inst. R24 “Pulmonary Hypertension Breakthrough Initiative”

SCOTT A. LEMAIRE, MD
Michael E. DeBakey, MD Excellence in Research Award
FY15 CVRI Pilot Award

FAISAL G. BAKAEEN, MD; OURANIA PREVENTZA, MD
2014 TSFRE Alley-Sheridan Scholarship

CARLA C. BRAXTON, MD
2014 Health Policy Scholarship, American College of Surgeons

WILLIAM COHN, MD
2014 Outstanding Inventor of the Year Award, Houston Intellectual Property Law Association
$31,000 MacDonald Grant for Percutaneous mini-VAD

BRADFORD G. SCOTT, MD
Graduate Medical Education Executive Committee

MARK MAZZIOTTI, MD; ERIC SILBERFEIN, MD; SHAYAN IZZADDOOST, MD, PHD
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award

TODD K. ROSENGART, MD; STEVEN CURLEY, MD
William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation seed grant.

NORMAN SUSSMAN, MD
Inaugural fellow, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease.

JAMES SULIBURK, MD
Moore Foundation’s Patient and Family Engagement Early Career Investigator Award.
NIH R21 grant to look at adipose tissue as a reservoir for HIV.

PETER TSAI, MD
BCM Academy of Distinguished Educators executive steering committee
Cardiovascular Medicine and Surgery Network Steering Committee of CHEST, American College of Chest Physicians
2014 TSFRE Alley-Sheridan Scholarship

RAMAR GILANI, MD
DoD grant “Hemorrhage Control for Major Traumatic Vascular Injuries”

JOSEPH S. COSELLI, MD
25th John W. Kirklin Visiting Professor in Cardiac Surgery

MARY BRANDT, MD
Distinguished honoree - Hearts of Gold Gala: Honoring Women in Health & Medical Science
Donald Liu Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago SOM

MASAHIRO ONO, MD, PHD
Branislav Radovanovic Memorial Fellowship - ISHLT

AARON SCOTT, MD
CPRIT Training Grant

VIVEK SINGH, PHD
Outstanding New Investigator Award, AHA BCVS 2014 Scientific Sessions - BCVS Abstract Travel Grant to attend the AHA Scientific Sessions

JATIN ANAND, MD
Paul C. Sampson Resident Prize, Western Thoracic Surgical Society

MUHAMMAD AFTAB, MD
Resident Research Poster Award, Adult Cardiac Surgery Section, AATS
American College of Cardiology for Fellow in training Surgeon Council Award

SOMALA MOHAMMED, MD
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F32 grant)

SONIA ORCUTT, MD
McCollum Academic Achievement Award

DARRELL WU, MD
C. Walton Lillehei Resident Award Finalist, AATS

IRENE T. MA, MD
2nd place, Commission on Cancer National Paper Competition

MEREDITH MASON, MD
Research support for “Sustainment Virtual Tumor Board across the VISN16”

JENNIFER CARPENTER, MD
Fall Courses Travel Award, the Association for Academic Surgery.

JASON HO, MD
Oncology T32 fellowship in the BCM Oncology Scholars Training Program.

SCOTT WELDON, MA, CMI
Treasurer, Board of Governors, Association of Medical Illustrators

GRADUATION CEREMONY

MATTHEW J. WALL JR., MD
DeBakey Distinguished Service Award
Chief Resident Award to a Faculty Member

JOHN GOSS, MD
George P. Noon Faculty Professionalism Award

ERIC J. SILBERFEIN, MD
Gene A. Guinn Faculty Teaching Award

NEAL RYAN BARSHEES, MD
Medical Student Award for Best Teaching Faculty

HARI R. MALLIDI, MD
Thoracic Surgery Resident Award to a Faculty Member

HECTOR SAUCEDO CRESPO, MD
Medical Student Award for Best Teaching Resident
Outstanding Chief Award
Outstanding VA Chief Resident Award

YANGYANG YU, MD
Outstanding Intern Award

NADER ZAMANI, MD
Outstanding Student in Surgery Award
NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

SURGICAL RESEARCH CORE TEAM
Summary of the Core Team’s support, January-July, 2014

The Research Core Team is available to support the research efforts of all department faculty members and residents.

Since January 2014, the team has provided the following support:

- 93 faculty members from 9 of 10 divisions assisted
- 121 Grant accounts managed
- $20 million in grants submitted with core assistance
- 17 Database projects
- 28 Projects with statistical support from our analyst
- 24 Manuscripts and 15 grants supported by our editor
- 11 Figures/illustrations prepared

Pre-grant submission

The Surgical Research Core Team is here to help you secure federal or other type of funding for your research projects. Malesa Jackson (mjackson@bcm.edu) and Jon Meyers (Jon.Meyers@bcm.edu) are our pre-award specialists. If you can work with us a few steps ahead of deadlines, we will help you complete all the requirements for submitting your application. We can help you plan the budget, perform study design and statistical analyses, prepare the figures, edit your writing, assemble the grant’s package, and review your proposal before the study section sees it.

If you have any questions, email Dr. Trautner (trautner@bcm.edu). Contacting us months ahead of a deadline enables us to provide maximum support for your proposal, including securing peer review.

IPREP

One way to improve the quality and chances of approval of grant proposals is to submit them to internal peer review before they are submitted to the funding agency. The Research Core Team has implemented the Internal Peer Review Evaluation of Proposals (IPREP) for this purpose.

The first iPREP meeting took place on June 30th and provided feedback on an R21 and an R01 application. Please, contact Dr. Trautner to present your proposal through the iPREP process.

Manuscript, Grant, and Presentation Support

The core provides support for preparing manuscripts, book chapters, abstracts, and presentations. Please contact Ana Rodriguez (ana.rodriguez@bcm.edu) for medical editing, Courtney Nalty (courtney.nalty@bcm.edu) for statistical support, and Scott Holmes (scotth@bcm.edu) for help with figures. Priority is given to funding applications and also to faculty members who submit funding applications through the research core.

Clinical Trials

Our core team can help you implement your clinical research from start to finish. Our team will help you with IRB proposal preparation and submission, regulatory issues, and the actual patient enrollment and monitoring. Our research coordinators are already credentialed at St. Luke’s, Ben Taub, and the VA hospital. These team members include Emily Boeckman, Adrienne Chee, Laurie Fondren, Deborah Horwitz (PA), Tunu Magwe, and Betty Walker (RN). We also have a database expert, Hoa Quach, in the research core team.

The Research Core Team is looking forward to working with you!
NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

RESIDENT RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Message from the Vice Chair for Research, Dr. Scott A. LeMaire
The mission of our research education program is to train future leaders in academic surgery. We are committed to teaching our residents how to conduct research in surgical disease by providing them with the skills they will need to advance the field and ultimately improve treatment and quality of life for affected patients. To achieve this goal, our program provides opportunities for residents to conduct research under the mentorship of accomplished surgeon-scientists.

Two Options for Residency Candidates: the Traditional Track and the Research Track
Our general surgery program offers two distinct tracks, each of which has a separate specific match. The first option is our Traditional Track; candidates who match to this track spend five consecutive years receiving clinical training. The second option is our Research Track; candidates who match to this seven-year track complete a two-year research fellowship, which takes place between their second and third clinical years. Residents in the Research Track can qualify for Resident Research Career Development Program.

Resident Research Career Development Program
The unique Resident Research Career Development Program is designed to launch the careers of residents who are committed to surgical research. The program provides structured support during residency and guaranteed faculty positions within our department. Residents in the Research Track can qualify for this program by achieving key milestones during their training, including successfully obtaining a postdoctoral fellowship award and developing a competitive career development award proposal. Upon completion of the seven-year residency, qualifying residents enter our department’s Faculty Scholar Program, in which they will continue to receive structured support as they progress toward becoming independent investigators with major extramural funding.

If you have any questions about our research programs or any of the related opportunities we provide to our residents, please feel free to contact me directly at slemaire@bcm.edu.