



The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual **GEORGE W. HOLCOMB, JR. LECTURE** 

# The Joy of Discovery

### **Diana Farmer, MD**

Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery University of California, Davis Health System Surgeon-in-Chief of the University of California, Davis Children's Hospital



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019
7:00 am • 208 LIGHT HALL



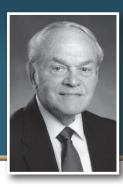
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt current expansion

# PAST GEORGE W. HOLCOMB, JR., MD LECTURERS

1990 Judson G. Randolph, M.D.
1991 James A. O'Neill, Jr., M.D.
1992 Lester W. Martin, M.D.
1993 J. Alex Haller, Jr., M.D.
1994 Thomas M. Holder, M.D.
1995 Edwin Ide Smith, M.D.
1996 Alfred A. de Lorimier, M.D.
1997 R. Peter Altman, M.D.
1998 Eric W. Fonkalsrud, M.D.
1999 Robert J. Touloukian, M.D.
2000 Moritz M. Ziegler, M.D.
2001 H. Beimann Othersen, M.D.

2006 Jay L. Grosfeld, M.D.
2007 Bradley M. Rodgers, M.D.
2008 Thomas M. Krummel, M.D.
2009 Edward M. Barksdale, M.D.
2010 Brad W. Warner, M.D.
2011 George K. Gittes, M.D.
2012 Thomas F. Tracy, Jr., M.D.
2013 Kevin P. Lally, M.D.
2014 Alan W. Flake, M.D.
2015 Marshall Z. Schwartz, M.D.
2016 Frederick J. Rescorla, M.D.
2017 Anthony D. Sandler, M.D.





George W. Holcomb, Jr., MD

#### Diana Farmer, MD

Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery University of California, Davis Health System Surgeon-in-Chief of the University of California, Davis Children's Hospital



The George W. Holcomb, Jr. Lecture in Pediatric Surgery is presented by the Department of Pediatric Surgery in honor of George W. Holcomb, Jr., Clinical Professor of Surgery, Emeritus (June 19th, 1922 – June 29th, 2019). Dr. Holcomb received both his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University, graduating from medical school in 1946. He served as resident in Surgery at Vanderbilt from 1946 to 1949 and subsequently completed his training in Pediatric Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital in 1952 under Dr. Robert Gross. Dr. Holcomb then served his country in the Army during the Korean war from 1952-54 and rose to Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Assistant Chief of Surgery at the Osaka General Hospital in Japan, where he and his team operated on countless, severely wounded American soldiers. For his meritorious service there, Dr. Holcomb was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Dr. Holcomb then returned to Nashville in 1954 to become the city's first Pediatric Surgeon and remained the sole surgeon for children in Middle Tennessee for nearly 20 years. Dr. Holcomb has been a member and officer of numerous professional societies. He served as president of the Nashville, Surgical Society, the Nashville Academy of Medicine, and the Tennessee Medical Association. He was charter member of the American Pediatric Surgical Association and has served on its Board of Governors. Dr. Holcomb was also a member of the prestigious Southern Surgical Association. He served as Editorial Consultant for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery for over 25 years. Dr. Holcomb had many interests in the broad field of children's surgery but is perhaps best known internationally for his written contributions to the surgical management of pectus excavatum and hepatobiliary disease. His tireless care of sick children spanned four decades until his retirement in 1989, but he remained involved as a friend and advocate for the development of the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. This Lectureship was established in honor of Dr. Holcomb's many contributions to Pediatric Surgery in Nashville and beyond and was endowed through the generosity of his friends, Eleanor and Clark Akers.

#### **Vanderbilt Department of Pediatric Surgery**

Our mission is to provide and promote excellence in the surgical care of children.

This comprehensive care extends from fetal patients
to young adults. Our unified group commitment to excellence includes
clinical care, both clinical and laboratory research, and the education
of students, nurses, residents and fellows.

Diana L. Farmer is an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon, holds the Pearl Stamps Stewart Endowed Chair, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery and the University of California, Davis Health System, and is the Surgeon-in-Chief of the University of California, Davis Children's Hospital where she oversees more than 250 faculty, volunteer clinical faculty, post-doctoral fellows, residents, students and staff who provide highly skilled, specialty services in bariatric, burn, cardiothoracic, gastrointestinal, plastic and reconstructive, oncology, transplant, trauma and vascular surgery.

A recognized leader in pediatric surgery, she is known for her skilled surgical treatment of congenital anomalies and for her investigations on the safety and effectiveness of providing spina bifida treatments before birth. She is researching a novel stem cell therapy for repairing damaged neural tissue in spina bifida patients. She has published over 200 manuscripts book chapters and has mentored over 30 MD and PhD students in her lab. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles, including studies of neuroblastoma, Chiari II malformation, twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, fetal trauma and necrotizing enterocolitis. Her laboratory made the seminal discovery that hindbrain herniation could be ameliorated by prenatal repair in fetal sheep model. She is most well known for her role as a Principal Investigator on the \$22 million NIH funded Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS Trial), the results of which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Farmer came to UC Davis in 2011 from UC San Francisco, where she was chief of pediatric surgery, vice chair of surgery, surgeon-in-chief of the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital and a professor of surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in marine and molecular biology at Wellesley College, Dr. Farmer completed her medical degree and internship at the University of Washington in Seattle. She completed her general surgery residency training at UC San Francisco and pediatric surgical training at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

In 2010, Dr. Farmer was inducted as a fellow into the Royal College of Surgeons of England, becoming only the second woman surgeon from the United States

## Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgery Residency Training Program

# PAST AND CURRENT RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Wallace "Skip" W. Neblett, Jr 2007 - 2011



Dai H. Chung 2011 - 2018



Harold "Bo" N. Lovvorn, III 2018 - present

#### PEDIATRIC SURGERY RESIDENTS TO DATE:

2007-09 - Barry Berch

2008-10 - Joshua B. Glenn

2009-11 - Thomas P. Rauth

2010-12 - Colin Martin

2011-13 - Nathan Novotny

2012-14 - Melissa E. Danko

2013-15 - Brian T. Bucher

2014-16 - Syamal Dave Bhattacharya

2015-17 - Adam Brinkman

2016-18 - Kyle Van Arendonk

2017-19 - Margaret Gallagher

2018-20 - Lauren Gillory

2019-21 - Laura Martin

## Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgery Residency Training Program



Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgical Faculty

(Front row from left to right) Need assistantce with names just use one Drs. .....

Residency training in pediatric surgical diseases at Vanderbilt has its origins dating back to 1925. The first patient evaluated in the newly opened Vanderbilt University Hospital emergency department (1925) was a child presenting with advanced appendicitis. Operative logs show that Barney Brooks, the first Chair of Surgery at Vanderbilt, and Alfred Blalock, his first Chief Resident, managed the bulk of pediatric surgical conditions in that era.

Other giants in American Surgery while faculty at Vanderbilt also made original and significant contributions to Pediatric Surgery before board approval as its own specialty. Specifically, Rollin A. Daniel, Jr. reported in Annals of Surgery (1944) his first successful primary repair of esophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula (EATEF) in a newborn.

However, Cameron Haight of Ann Arbor, MI had reported a month earlier in Annals his successful repair of EATEF, preferring a left thoracotomy. Although these cases occurred independently and almost simultaneously in date, Haight was credited historically with this coincidental accomplishment, yet Daniel would popularize the right chest, retropleural approach. Similarly, James A. Kirtley, Jr. published the first successful portoenterostomy for the "uncorrectable" form of biliary atresia in the American Surgeon (1954) 5 years ahead of Morio Kasai's description. Remarkably, Kirtley's patient lived 39 years with her native liver, bearing 3 children, before dying during an attempt at liver transplantation. H. William Scott, Jr., Chair of Surgery from 1952-1982, performed the first successful, complete repair of tetralogy of fallot in 1955. Scott had received three years of (pediatric) surgical training under Drs. Ladd and Gross at Boston Children's Hospital, which set the stage for sustained emphasis in the surgical care of children at Vanderbilt and nationally across his illustrious career.

Dr. Scott influenced many Surgery residents at Vanderbilt to pursue Pediatric Surgery, including such titans as James A. O'Neill, Jr. and Wallace W. Neblett, Jr., who with George Holcomb, Jr. (also a trainee of Drs. Ladd and Gross) grew the Department of Pediatric Surgery. With this esteemed foundation and history, Lovvorn, O'Neill, and Neblett established in 2007 a comprehensive residency training program in Pediatric Surgery.