



J.B. Lynch Society – June Update

Department of Plastic Surgery

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

This year has seen tremendous growth in the Department of Plastic Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. We have welcomed new faculty, opened new practice sites and continued to develop new service lines. Our research enterprise is thriving with multiple papers, presentations, invited lectures, book chapters and awards. We continue to re-invigorate partnerships with other specialties that are mutually beneficial and allow us to develop synergies and together drive growth and innovation. We remain good stewards of plastic surgery in our community, regionally and nationally. Furthermore, we have made major strides in our educational offerings, particularly with the addition of our Integrated Residency Program. Our most significant long-term needs are to secure and enhance the funding of our research and educational portfolios.

This past year has been filled with exciting change and growth. Within our faculty, Dr. Julian Winocour, a microsurgeon who joined VUMC in 2017, has developed and matured his practice.



*Dr. Galen Perdikis
Professor and Chair*

We, under Dr. Winocour's leadership, are at the brink of launching what we believe will be the 'go-to' transgender multidisciplinary medical and surgical practice in the Southeast and a bona fide national competitor. Dr. Perdikis, our current Chairman, also joined VUMC in 2017, and his practice has grown in unison with Dr. Winocour's. Together, they performed their first cohort of lymphedema surgery and expect further success with the acquisition of new technology.



*Dr. Julian Winocour
Assistant Professor*

In 2018, we recruited two further surgeons who have been genuine assets to our team. Dr. Megan Vucovich, a Vanderbilt University Medical School graduate, joined our faculty upon completion of an integrated residency at UT Southwestern. With clinical emphases in cosmetic and breast surgery, she has been a fantastic addition, and her practice continues to grow significantly. Dr. Michael Golinko joined us in December of 2018 from Arkansas Children's Hospital and has already made an extraordinary impact. After completing a Plastic Surgery residency at Emory University School of Medicine, Dr. Golinko finished his training with a Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery fellowship at New York University. He is partnering with Drs. Kevin Kelly and Stéphane Braün to organize and advance the pediatric practice. The three faculty comprise an exceptional team. Additionally, Dr. Golinko is the Medical Director of the Cleft & Craniofacial Multi-Disciplinary Program at Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital and is adeptly developing a collaborative structure with ENT, OMFS, Neurosurgery and a multitude of other specialties. We look forward to the continued growth of the practice and believe with certainty that Dr. Golinko is a wonderful addition to our faculty.



*Dr. Michael Golinko
Assistant Professor*



*Dr. Megan Vucovich
Assistant Professor*



*Dr. Kevin Kelly
Associate Professor*

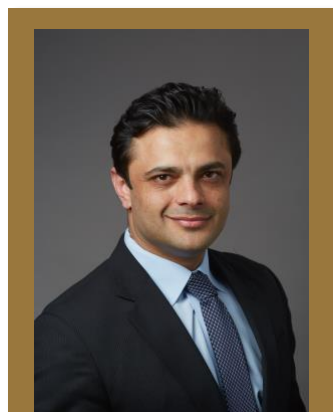


*Dr. Stéphane Braün
Assistant Professor*

In July, September and October of 2019, three more surgeons are joining our faculty. Two of those surgeons, Drs. Brad Hill and Brinkley Sandvall, completed Orthopedic Hand Fellowships, and Dr. Sandvall is now completing an additional Pediatric Hand and Microsurgery fellowship at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. These truly are two of the very best hand surgeon recruits, and we are thrilled that they chose to join and lead us in developing a significant collaborative hand service at Vanderbilt. Dr. Hill has an interest in limb salvage and Dr. Sandvall has an interest in pediatric plastic surgery, pediatric hand surgery, and wound surgery. Our third new surgeon, Dr. Salam Al Kassis, trained with us at VUMC the past 3 years

and is a phenomenal clinician and researcher. Dr. Al Kassis will primarily be working as a burn surgeon, but he also has a few other unique interests. Under the tutelage of Dr. Brian Drolet, Dr. Al Kassis has developed protocols for migraine surgery, and together, they have performed 15-20 migraine surgeries with excellent patient reported outcomes. Dr. Al Kassis is also conducting sentinel work in biofilm formation and prevention. With multiple protocols, he is beginning to look at the use of PRP in various clinical settings. Drs. Al Kassis, Hill and Sandvall are highly recruited, talented surgeons, and we are immensely proud that they are joining our team.

While maintaining a strong clinical footprint on the main campus of VUMC, we are committed to also growing outside the walls of this institution. We recently renovated clinic space in Brentwood for both a reconstructive plastic surgery clinic and our cosmetic surgery practice. With the support of the VUMC enterprise, we purchased various technologies and equipment and hired staff, which will help us grow the cosmetic portion of our practice. Consequently, we can amplify our mission of providing our residents the best medical training in all aspects of plastic surgery. We are also tremendously grateful to Drs.

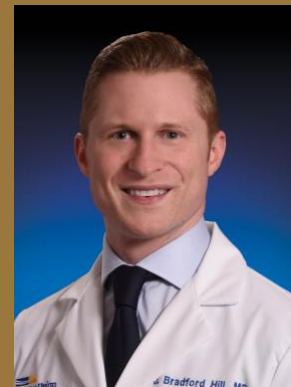


*Dr. Salam Al Kassis
Assistant Professor*



*Dr. Brian Drolet
Assistant Professor*

Gingrass, Haws, Unger, Maxwell, and Delozier for serving as exceptional collaborators and providing our residents a different perspective by teaching them about private practice models.



*Dr. Brad Hill
Assistant Professor*



*Dr. Brinkley Sandvall
Assistant Professor*



Galen Perdakis, MD, at Vanderbilt's new Cosmetic Plastic Surgery Clinic in Brentwood.



*Dr. Blair Summitt
Assistant Professor*

In order to effectively manage the burn unit, we have forged a close, structured relationship with the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. Our partnership is designed in a way that promotes synergy through collaborative research and clinical protocols. Dr. Blair Summitt continues to be a tremendous leader for the burn practice and an exceptional advocate for Plastic Surgery's expertise in both acute burn care and burn reconstruction.

Additionally, we have worked diligently to enhance our relationship with ENT, primarily within the cleft lip and palate practice. With a strong partnership, this practice is continuing to grow and prosper. Furthermore, through the leadership of Dr. Kevin Kelly, we recently ratified the cleft team accreditation for the next five years through the ACPA, which was no small task!



Multi-disciplinary Cleft and Craniofacial team at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Finally, we recently jumped at the opportunity to shift our outpatient surgical practice from the main hospital ORs to an intimate but slightly dated surgery center on the Vanderbilt University campus called FEL. This has been an opportunity for us to learn about ourselves as a team, enhancing our ability to work together and utilize a resource efficiently and to its capacity. Our collaborative efforts continue to push our OR utilization higher and higher!

Clinically, this has been an exciting year for us,
and the future is bright with new surgeons,
clinics, ORs, and teams!



*Dr. Kye Higdon
Associate Professor
Residency Program Director*

Surgical education is truly a cornerstone of our existence. We embrace our mission to train the best of the best in plastic surgery and to matriculate not only well-trained technical surgeons, but also caring physicians. Under the leadership of Drs. Kye Higdon and Brian Drolet, we obtained approval for our Integrated Residency in Plastic Surgery. We filled the PGY 1-3 positions with our preeminent candidates in each year, which was a testament to Drs. Higdon's and Drolet's committed efforts and inspirational vision. We also recently filled our match for the two independent residents with our top choices. In the most recent integrated match, our three medical students, who had been with us for over a year, all matched into their number one spot across the country. We are fortunate that one of them is joining our integrated program at Vanderbilt. We are very privileged to work with such exceptional young talent.



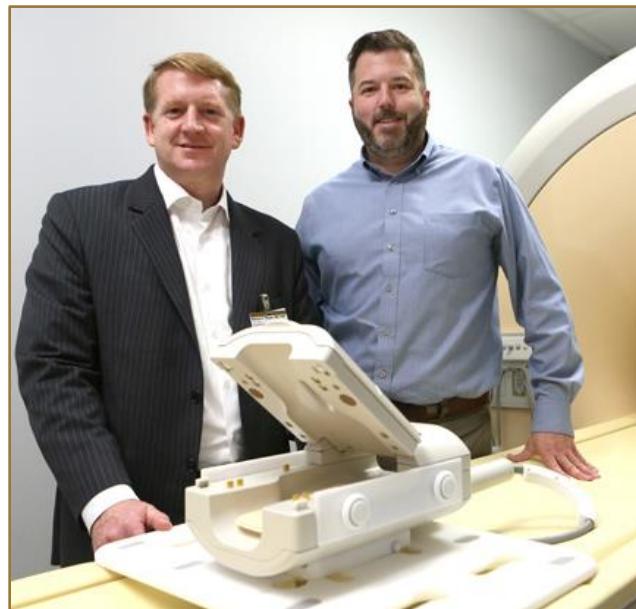
VUSM Students with Department of Plastic Surgery: Patrick Keller (matched at Johns Hopkins Medicine), Al Valmadrid (matched at Vanderbilt University Medical Center), and Stephen Schneeberg (matched at The Ohio State University)

The future of Plastic Surgery education at VUMC is promising over the next 2-5 years, so stay tuned! Medical school education has become a focus of our department, and Dr. Drolet is a charismatic leader for our VUSM medical students. They participate in clinics, educational conferences and research, and their energy is truly infectious.

The Vanderbilt Plastic Surgery residency continues to offer a robust surgical program lead by seasoned faculty teaching complex surgical procedures, cosmetic surgery and reconstruction for adults and children.

The research occurring in our Department excels on a national scale. Dr. Wes Thayer's lab continues to produce groundbreaking research on innovative nerve injury assessment and the potential for recovery using 7 Tesla MRIs. Additionally, our faculty has published papers in virtually all areas of plastic surgery and has presented at all the major plastic surgery meetings this year.

Our team of breast microsurgeons, which includes Drs. Galen Perdikis, Kye Higdon, Stéphane Braün, Julian Winocour, and Megan Vuovich continue to lead the nation in the development of resensation of breast reconstructions. We are participating in a study with Axogen to use allograft nerve tissue in DIEP flap reconstructions to reconnect the nerves that remain in the patient's chest wall to nerves in the transplanted abdominal tissue. The donated tissue serves as a bridge to allow the two nerve segments to grow together. The ReSensation study is being conducted at 22 study sites nationwide, and more than 70 women have chosen to participate at VUMC to date. In fact, VUMC is currently the leading recruiter of patients to the national breast ReSensation trial. In addition, we recently spearheaded the first cadaver lab sponsored by Axogen in Nashville.



Wes Thayer, MD, PhD, left, and Richard Dortch, PhD, with an MRI machine and the radiofrequency coil specially designed to allow imaging of damaged nerves in the wrist.

Finally, a recent residency graduate, Dr. Chris Kaoutzanis, just won the Gaspar W. Anastasi Award at the Residents & Fellows Forum during ASAPS for our paper on male nipple aesthetics. While we didn't win the Glancy award at SESPRS last year, we had five of the twelve resident papers at the podium, which was an astounding achievement.

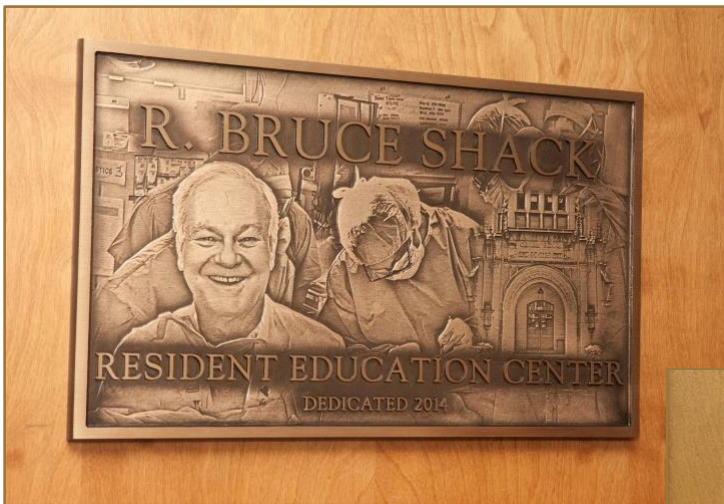
Research is a vital component of the Plastic Surgery program at Vanderbilt, and it would not be possible without our outstanding clinical and administrative team!



Galen Perdikis, MD, with New York resident Kelly Keogh, who underwent a procedure at Vanderbilt University Medical Center that uses donor nerve grafts to restore sensation after breast reconstruction surgery.

Our exceptional group of surgeons are committed not only to the success of our own department but to the advancement of plastic surgery in general. Dr. Higdon is now Chair of the Safety Committee at ASPS, and Dr. Perdakis remains involved with Health Policy and Practice Management. We have representation on the board of SESPRS, and Dr. Higdon begins his term of service as a Trustee in June. Additionally, we have significant participation in a variety of national committees including the John Bostwick Medical Student Research Committee (SESPRS), the Education, Resident Selection, Medical Student Outreach and Taskforce on Business Education Committees (ACAPS), the Resident Education, Ethics and Professionalism and ER Hand Care Committees (ASSH), the Mentorship, Diversity and Inclusion, Membership and Awards Committees (PSRC), the Young Plastic Surgeons Steering, In-Service Examination and FRANCHISE Study Committees (ASPS), the Council on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention (AAP), and the Grant Committee (ASMS).

Due to needs within the Department and the Section of Surgical Sciences, we have adapted our space considerably in Medical Center North. Through the transitions, we have succeeded in keeping our Department's history and memories thereof alive. To honor our founding Chairman, we formally named our conference room the Lynch Conference Room, which will benefit our Department for years to come. Additionally, we are fortunate to have the Shack Resident Education Center for our residents in honor of Dr. Bruce Shack's exceptional teaching abilities. We are proud of our academic space, the legacy it represents and the future it will support.



*R. Bruce Shack Resident Education Center
Dedicated in 2014
Located in Medical Center North*



*J. B. Lynch Conference Room
Dedicated in 2018
Located in Medical Center North*

VANDERBILT MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (VMAA) – At last year's board meeting, the JB Lynch Society became part of the VMAA, joining 15 other specialty societies in this alumni group (medschool.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/specialty-societies). This partnership will increase our alumni outreach efforts and provide support to our Society at our annual gathering at ASPS. This year we will be hosting an event in San Diego (more details to follow), and we hope to see you there!

FUNDING – Our most critical goal is to endow and protect our research and education programs so that they can flourish amidst market and institution-related financial pressures. We continue to seek out and partner with benefactors to this end. We have several potential donors; however, we are always grateful for any direction and support that the Lynch Society members can provide. You help sustain this program, and we continually and resolutely aim to be good stewards of your magnanimity.

Note from the Chair

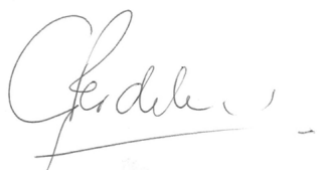


I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the privilege it is for me to work with this team of surgeons and with our administrator, Sallie Walker. She has been a tremendous partner to me and a true asset to our team. Our staff in the department and in the clinics are wholly committed to our growth and advancement, and they are essential to our continued success. We are fortunate to have collaborative partners in the Patient Care Center that are incredibly supportive, and we are grateful for that leadership team: Rory Langefeld, Lindsay Miller, Cara Poat and Paula Culbert.

Dr. Seth Karp, a transplant surgeon, has recently assumed the role of Chairman of the Section of Surgical Sciences, following his predecessor, Dr. Dan Beauchamp. He is very supportive of our department, and I have no doubts that his leadership will contribute to the advancement and achievement of our vision.

We have a substantial amount of work ahead of us, but I am unequivocally confident in this team. The talent runs deep, and the camaraderie even deeper. I am exceptionally proud of every member of the Department of Plastic Surgery.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all of you, our alumni. You are both our legacy and our future. We are profoundly grateful for your sustained engagement with our Department and our alumni network. Onward!



Galen Perdikis, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair
Department of Plastic Surgery