Recapping 2014 and positive new directions for 2015

Reflecting back at the outstanding accomplishments of 2014 includes acknowledging our consistent national rankings across adult and children’s specialties and sub-specialties, our medical school’s high ranking, accreditations and generous funding in research that are all evidence of sustaining positive indicators. Within our Section of Surgical Sciences the new appointments of chairs and various other significant leadership roles are creating the energy to lead our clinical expertise and attract future surgeons and scientists. The surgeon/engineering partnerships flourish and are utilizing innovative techniques and engineered devices that are advancing our surgical and engineering programs nationally.

Evidence of recent progress, hard work and accomplishment includes the approval from the American College of Surgeons verifying Vanderbilt Trauma Center as a nationally accredited Level I Trauma Center.

Looking ahead Vanderbilt announced that the institution is embarking on a process to re-configure VUMC as a not-for-profit academic medical center that is financially distinct from Vanderbilt University. This is going to be a very positive change for the medical center. While continuing to support the three missions, the structural changes will allow us to be more nimble in investing and expanding our clinical presence geographically and acting more independently in a rapidly changing health care environment.

This change better aligns us with other academic medical centers around the country and will enable us to engage on a broad, dedicated pathway addressing the needs of the Medical Center.

For the vast majority of our faculty and staff, this process should have no impact on day-to-day activities or how we do our work. This is not expected to change the institutions’ strategic direction. Nor is it expected to alter compensation or benefits for any staff, faculty, appointment, or financial commitments to academic and clinical programs. I sincerely believe these changes will make us more viable as a health care enterprise and will enable us to strengthen our clinical enterprise and our health care network. Please be reassured that VU and VUMC remain committed to its’ longstanding history as regional and national preeminent institutions delivering exceptional patient care, engaging advancement of discovery and providing innovative educational programs.

I congratulate each and everyone’s contributions over the past calendar year and hope you join me in realizing the exciting possibilities that we can accomplish together in 2015.

Best regards,

Dr. Dan Beauchamp
Congratulations to Section Credo Winner Tom Case

Tom Case, Research Specialist Senior, Urologic Surgery, is the recipient of the Section’s Credo Award for this quarter. Employed at Vanderbilt for over 36 years, Tom’s nomination highlighted his professionalism, commitment to staff, and making those he serves his highest priority.

“Tom takes pride in managing the departmental labs but his commitment extends to all the staff within the department. Never with a complaint, Tom will go the extra mile to assist the investigators of other programs, not only within the department, but also colleagues in other departments in and out of the Section of Surgical Sciences. Tom will take charge, communicate the necessary action to staff or administration, and quickly solve the problem. Tom is always there to support you, allowing us to rest assured that daily problems will be quickly resolved.”

Congratulations, Tom, for being the Section’s Credo winner. We look forward to receiving other outstanding nominations in the coming quarters and recognize those who consistently demonstrate exceptional credo behaviors.

Deadline for the next quarter is April, 30.

Vanderbilt Trauma Center receives American College of Surgeons verification

The country’s leading surgical care organization has bestowed its highest stamp of approval on Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Trauma Center.

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma has verified the Vanderbilt Trauma Center with its Level 1 ranking – the only such center in Tennessee to receive the distinction for the delivery of care to adult trauma patients.

“I am very proud of the trauma team for achieving this recognition from the American College of Surgeons,” said R. Daniel Beauchamp, M.D., chair of the Section of Surgical Sciences. “I also want to express my appreciation to the entire trauma team and to hospital administration for such great work in making this one of the premier trauma units in the country.”

While VUMC has operated for more than a quarter-century as the region’s only provider of Level 1 trauma care, verification from the ACS goes beyond state-level requirements and affirms that Vanderbilt’s Trauma Center is among the best in the country.

“ Achieving the status of an American College of Surgeons verified Level 1 Trauma Center is the epitome of excellence in the management of critically injured patients,” said Richard Miller, M.D., chief of the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care and professor of Surgery.
Vanderbilt University Information Technology wants to remind the community of the dangers of email phishing scams, which spike following major news events or predictable events (holidays, back-to-school, tax returns).

Recently we have experienced one of these increases. Some of these more recent phishing attacks are extremely well done and very convincing. VUIT cautions all Vanderbilt faculty, students and staff to exercise caution.

The simple solution is to be careful of what you click on, or live the mantra “Think before you Click.”

The best thing you can do is keep your system updated: Your OS, Java, Acrobat and Flash are the most used attack vectors.

Do not respond to unsolicited email messages offering services or assistance or requesting personal information. Also, do not click on any links, photos or videos these messages may contain as they have a high potential to install viruses and malware on your computer systems. The same cautions also apply to unsolicited Facebook and other social networking messages, ads, videos and links.

If you have any questions, please contact your local technology support professional or one of the Vanderbilt IT help desks.

VU IT has this site to educate everyone: Secure Your Digital Life

Other helpful links:
http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2013/08/phishing
http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2014/07/email-changes-phishing-attacks/

Colorectal and Anesthesia research collaborative nets two grants

A newly formed research collaboration between the Section of Surgery and the Department of Anesthesia has already yielded over $375,000 in two grants from Johnson & Johnson. The studies will focus on the use of SAGE wipes for the prevention of postoperative wound infections in colorectal patients and in spine surgery.

The colorectal study will look at current standard use of SAGE wipes vs. an intensive treatment protocol in 150 prospective randomized patients. The spine study will look at current standard of care vs. addition of SAGE wipes in a prospective study of 150 patients. If successful, they are interested in leading a multi-center prospective trial on the subject. Investigators for the studies are: Tim Geiger, Joseph Cheng, Steve Klintworth, Matt McEvoy, Elizabeth Card, Ed Sherwood, and Damon Michaels.

The new collaborative group is headed by Dr. Tim Geiger and Cheryl Kinnard for the Section, and Damon Michaels and Steve Klintworth for Anesthesia.

Dr. Tim Geiger and patient Shawn Davis
PEDiatric trauma team help young girl’s road to recovery after devastating injuries

Thanks to the care she received at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Kendra Kaufman is on the road to recovery following an auto accident. Doctors were unsure if Kendra, 7-years old, would be able to walk again after a devastating car accident nearly took her life.

In the operating room, surgeons found that with the force of the impact from the crash, Kendra’s seat belt, while performing its function, had crushed her internal organs in the abdomen. The lap belt had compressed the organs against the backbone, said Chung, chair of the Department of Pediatric Surgery and the interim director of pediatric trauma at Children’s Hospital.

"Kendra came to us in very serious condition. The seat belt tore through the abdominal wall. We knew she didn’t have normal lower extremity neurological function, and a lap belt injury can result in permanent paraplegia," said Chung, professor of Pediatric Surgery, Pediatrics and Cancer Biology.

On a ventilator for eight days in the Intensive Care Unit, Kendra’s prognosis remained uncertain. She was alive, but doctors weren’t sure she would walk again because of fractures to the vertebrae, with potential permanent spinal cord injury.

But three days post-surgery, Kendra moved her legs.

In a year’s time, Kendra went from not being expected to walk, to scooting on her bottom, then to being in a wheelchair, and then to using a walker. Now, she only has the ankle-foot-orthotics to steady her gait, and she probably won’t need those much longer.
ECMO program celebrates 25 YEARS of saving lives

ASKED WHAT MAKES THE ECMO PROGRAM AT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL SO SUCCESSFUL, JOHN PIETSCH, M.D., REPLIED SIMPLY: “THE PEOPLE.”

“We’ve got a great team. It’s truly a team—we have neonatology, pediatric intensive care, the pediatric cardiac team, adult trauma team and adult intensive care, who work closely with the ECMO team, not to mention all the nurses and the respiratory therapists and everyone else. It works because we’ve got all these people working together,” said Pietsch, surgical director and founder of the ECMO program.

The ECMO program at Children’s Hospital is one of the largest and most successful in the world. For the past seven years, it has received recognition as a Center of Excellence from the international consortium Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO), earning the ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support. The award is given to programs that show a commitment to exceptional patient care, have a high level of quality standard including specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols and advanced education of all staff members.

WELLONS and LE develop new protocol for young BRAIN INJURY patients shows success

Jay Wellons, M.D., M.S.P.H., left, Truc M. Le, M.D., and colleagues at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt developed a new protocol for helping young patients with traumatic brain injuries.

“Everything is aimed at reducing secondary insults after the initial trauma,” said Wellons, professor of Neurological Surgery and Pediatrics and the hospital’s chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

“It’s validating to us as clinicians and validating to us as researchers.”

The research team compared the number of patients who had positive outcomes, such as recovering and going back home, to patients who had negative outcomes, such as entering a rehabilitation center or dying from their injuries. “We have found that there is now a five-times higher likelihood of the children going home with their family upon discharge,” he said.
Urological Surgery resident Stimson lands unique new health policy fellowship

C.J. Stimson, M.D., J.D., was chosen as the first fellow for the American Urological Association’s H. Logan Holtgrewe Legislative Fellowship. The program is designed to give its fellows first-hand experience with the association’s advocacy efforts.

“The American Urological Association, which is the premier specialty society for urology, has recognized C.J.’s special skill set and incredible potential to influence the future of health care by making him the first recipient of this prestigious fellowship,” said David Penson, M.D., M.P.H., incoming chair of Vanderbilt’s Department of Urologic Surgery.

Stimson, who is in the final year of his residency with the department, completed medical school and law school at Vanderbilt. After finishing his residency here, he will head to Johns Hopkins to start a fellowship in urologic oncology that will include a strong focus on applied health care policy.

“C.J. is a unique individual,” said Penson, who is also the Paul V. Hamilton, M.D. and Virginia E. Howd Professor of Urologic Oncology. “He is that rare clinician who has a genuine interest in shaping the future of health care policy.”

In addition to participating in the urological association’s legislative initiatives, Stimson will also complete a four-week program on executive leadership in health policy and management at Brandeis University.

TRANSPLANT CENTER CELEBRATES 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Vanderbilt Transplant Center (VTC) is the longest continuously running program in Tennessee and has been lauded for high percentages for one-year, five-year and long-term survival rates for organ transplant recipients.

“Twenty-five years later, this mission statement is still applicable,” said Seth Karp, M.D., director of the VTC.

Karp told a packed room that there were a few things that set the VTC apart from other programs when it was first started.

Including offering all solid organ transplantations as well as bone marrow/stem cell programs for adults and children and the implementation of the Management Services Organization model (MSO), which operated with one central administration providing cost-effective services to all programs rather than a self-contained-by-service line model.

THE HEART TRANSPLANT PROGRAM PRODUCED A ONE-YEAR, POST-TRANSPLANT PATIENT SURVIVAL RATE OF 100 PERCENT FOR REPORTING PERIODS OF 2011 AND 2012.
Vanderbilt engineers discover a way to address epileptic seizures in a less invasive way. Because the area of the brain involved is located at the bottom of the brain, they could develop a robotic device that pokes through the cheek and enters the brain from underneath which avoids having to drill through the skull.

According to David Comber, the graduate student in mechanical engineering, engineers have measured the accuracy of the system in the lab and found that it is better than 1.18 mm, which is considered sufficient for such an operation.

According to Eric Barth, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, the next stage in the surgical robot’s development is testing it with cadavers. He estimates it could be in operating rooms within the next decade.

“The idea for this came about when Eric and I were talking in the hallway one day and we figured that his expertise in pneumatics was perfect for the MRI environment and could be combined with the steerable needles I’d been working on,” Robert Webster, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

The engineers identified epilepsy surgery as an ideal, high-impact application through discussions with Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery Joseph Neimat. “The systems we have now that let us introduce probes into the brain – they deal with straight lines and are only manually guided,” Neimat said. “To have a system with a curved needle and unlimited access would make surgeries minimally invasive. We could do a dramatic surgery with nothing more than a needle stick to the cheek.”

Hanto to lead pediatric liver transplant program

Douglas Hanto, M.D., Ph.D., the new associate director of the Vanderbilt Transplant Center, aims to work with the departments of Pediatrics and Surgery to develop a comprehensive pediatric liver center at Children’s Hospital by April.

“Our goal is to build a liver center that would include medical, surgical and transplant components. Not only is there a need for such a program,” he said, “but the expertise and support are already here to move forward with plans to further develop this center.”

“Dr. Hanto is an international leader in transplantation and will be an extraordinary presence at Vanderbilt,” said Seth Karp, M.D., director of the Vanderbilt Transplant Center. “Over his distinguished career he has made remarkable contributions to the field of transplantation in both basic science and clinical realms.”
Heart Institute celebrates implantation program success

Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute (VHVI) reached a significant milestone recently with the 100th implantation of the miniaturized HeartWare HVAD Pump, a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) that supports the heart.

“This is an important milestone as Vanderbilt has become the first center in North America to reach 100 HeartWare LVAD implantations since the device was FDA approved in 2012. Our institution has become the largest implantation center of the HeartWare device in the U.S.,” said Simon Maltais, M.D., assistant professor and director of the Heart Transplant and Ventricular Support Program.

In another milestone, Vanderbilt Heart recently performed its 400th transcatheter aortic heart valve-replacement (TAVR).

To reach this milestone in such a short timeframe is a tremendous accomplishment.

Vanderbilt is one of a few medical centers in the country to offer both the CoreValve and the Edwards SAPIEN valve, artificial valves designed to replace a patient’s defective one without opening the chest.

LEARN MORE
First pediatric robotic surgery to remove gallbladder

Dai Chung, M.D., examines 10-year-old Joseph Gray, the first Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt patient to have his gallbladder removed using robotic surgery. The gallbladder that bothered Gray for several months was removed using a new innovative approach through a small, single incision using robotic surgery.

Children’s Hospital is the first in Tennessee to perform such a surgery on a pediatric patient, reducing the number of incision sites for the procedure from four to one.

Dai Chung, M.D., Janie Robinson and John Moore Lee Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatric Surgery, performed Gray’s surgery.

Gallbladder removal surgery is becoming more common, in part because of increasing childhood obesity, Chung said, though Gray did not fall into that category. Children’s Hospital first began using the cutting-edge robotic device in 2011 to repair a kidney blockage in an 8-year-old girl.

The robot unites conventional laparoscopy and traditional open surgery, though at a more advanced level. A surgeon sits at a console directing the tool’s four arms, conducting delicate procedures with precise movements.

SAVE THESE DATES

SECTION ADMINISTRATION
LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES, NOON-1:00 P.M., D-5245 MCN BLALOCK CONFERENCE ROOM

Jan. 22 - Concur Travel
Feb. 18 - Online Tableau Reports
March 24 - Website Conversions
April 21 - Understanding Revenue Cycle Reports
May 13 - Customer Service
June (TBD) - Understanding Financial Reports

RSVP TO CHERETA.BRIGMAN@VANDERBILT.EDU
Red Chair Award presented to Vanderbilt’s Carolyn Watts for efficiency efforts within the WOCN™ Society (Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Society™)

Three accepted the Red Chair Award recently representing the WOCN leadership team. Attendees were Carolyn Watts MSN, RN, CWON, CBPN-IC, Senior Associate in Surgery, and President Elect of WOCN along with the President, Phyllis Kupsick MSN, RN, FNP and the Executive Vice President, Nicolette Zuecca.

The Red Chair Awards is a program designed to celebrate measurable success achieved by nonprofit organizations. The WOCN Society was chosen for Engaged and Disciplined Leadership.

Judges chose WOCN for successfully transitioning the majority of the Society’s committee work into task forces in order to efficiently complete specific projects. By implementing this model, WOCN has seen higher productivity, these changes were implemented over the past 1-2 years.

Ms. Watts’ Task Force also received the MarCom (marketing) Award for development of an evidence/consensus based algorithm for Selection of Support Surfaces across the continuum of care. The group reviewed all the content, convened a consensus group of multidisciplinary experts across the country that included physicians, WOC nurses, physical therapists, scientists and engineers that are experts in the field of wound care.

The group agreed on consensus statements supporting a proposed algorithm in those areas of practice. The task force finalized the document and algorithm, submitted the findings and it was recently published in the Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing.

Abumrad among twelve Vanderbilt faculty elected AAAS fellows

Naji Abumrad, M.D., the John L. Sawyers Professor of Surgery and chair of the department, has been elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) along with 11 others this year.

“We are very proud of the contributions of these outstanding faculty to discovery and learning, which enriches the entire university,” Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan R. Wente said. “In addition to their remarkable scientific contributions, we’re additionally gratified that several have been recognized for their service to the scientific community, mentoring and efforts to increase diversity in the sciences.”

“The exponential growth in the number of our faculty elected into the AAAS in recent years offers further affirmation of Vanderbilt’s increasing impact on medicine and science,” said Jeff Balser, M.D., Ph.D., vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. “I want to congratulate these 12 outstanding colleagues for their contributions to our institution and for the advancement of scientific discovery through their work.”
New Section Faculty  October 2014 - January 2015

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY
Assistant Professor  Wayne J. English, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Assistant in Surgery  Cynthia Blalock, RN, APRN
DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY & ENDOCRINE
Assistant in Surgery  Kira Simpson, RN, MSN, FNP-BC
DIVISION OF TRAUMA AND SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE
Assistant in Surgery  Diana D. Hayes Williams, MSN, ACNP
DIVISION OF VASCULAR SURGERY
Assistant Professor  John A. Curci, M.D., F.A.C.S.
DIVISION OF HEPATOBILIARY & LIVER SURGERY
Professor  Douglas W. Hanto, M.D., Ph.D.
DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Assistant Professor  Matthew R. Fusco, M.D.
Instructor  Raul Vasquez-Castellanos, M.D.
Assistant in Surgery  Barrett J. Raburn, PA-S
DEPARTMENT OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
DIVISION OF GENERAL DENTISTRY
Assistant Professor  Tyler Ames, D.M.D.

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY
Assistant in Pediatric Surgery  Melissa Matthews, MSN, CSN, RN, CPN, PCNS-BCV
Monica Milovancev, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC
DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGIC SURGERY
Assistant in Urologic Surgery  Roxelyn Baumgartner, RN, ANP-BC
Morgan A. Burke, BSN, RN, MSN
Russell Kunick, FNP-BC
Lisa Langmesser, MHS, PA-C, ATC
Elise R. Tentis, PA-C

Section Faculty Promotions  October 2014 - January 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY
Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery  Gretchen Purcell Jackson, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.
DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGIC SURGERY
Professor of Urologic Surgery  Peter E. Clark, M.D.
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY
Associate Professor of Surgery  Kyla P. Terhune, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
DIVISION OF TRAUMA AND SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE
Associate Professor of Surgery  Oliver L. Gunter, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.

ENDOWED LECTURES and Other Events

Scott Society Lecture -
Guest Speaker, James A. O’Neill, M.D.
February 13, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

McCleery Lecture -
Guest Speaker, Katherine deVries, M.D., M.S.
February 20, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Barney Brooks Lecture -
Guest Speaker, Jeffrey Matthews, M.D.
April 10, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Dale Lecture -
Guest Speaker, John Eidt, M.D.
April 17, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Thuss Lecture -
Guest Speaker, Raymond Morgan, M.D.
April 20, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Hall Lecture -
Guest Speaker, TBD,
April 17, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Holcomb Lecture -
Guest Speaker, TBA,
Fall TBD, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall

Rollin Daniel Lecture -
Guest Speaker, TBA,
Fall TBD, 2015, 7:00 a.m., 208 Light Hall