The 2013 – 14 academic year has started off with changes and new potential opportunities for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Lee Hamm has been named the new Dean of the School of Medicine and the Department of Surgery looks forward to working with Dean Hamm to make the most of future opportunities. As many of you know, there are currently negotiations under way for management changes at East Jefferson and West Jefferson hospitals. The Department of Surgery has established excellent relationships with surgical teams at these hospitals and our residents and students receive excellent education and experience at both. We look forward to continuing and enhancing these relationships.

Again this year we have a large group of Tulane medical students who have applied for General Surgical Residency. This continues the trend that began five years ago and each year the number of Tulane students matching into general surgical residencies significantly exceeds the numbers from most United States medical schools. We attribute this to our commitment to education for both the residents and medical students. Speaking of residents, within one week of the Match process being open, we had over 700 applicants for our four positions. Last year we had over 900 applicants for our residency slots. This is an exciting time for the Department as we review applicants and are thrilled that so many bright, multi-faceted, excellent medical students are choosing a career in general surgery and considering the Tulane Surgical Residency Program.

I have continued to work closely with the Development Office to let our alumni and friends of the Department learn more about the exciting and innovative activities that are ongoing within the Department. Matt Zelhart, one of our third year Residents, and I have just completed a book detailing the history of the Department of Surgery from its founding in the 1830s. This was an exciting project and Matt worked very hard, beyond expectations, to bring the history of the Tulane Department of Surgery to life. This book should be available for purchase within the next month and proceeds from the book will help to support our resident research and educational programs. Check our website for details!

Support for the Residency Program through generous contributions from alumni and friends of the Department are increasingly important. Many of our Residents are looking forward to one or two years of research. I’m a strong supporter of resident research, but the economic realities of medical education today make this difficult given the limitations of the Department’s budget. Donations to the resident research and educational funds can help support salaries for Residents doing research and also support the research projects themselves. By working closely with Tulane University Development Office to meet with alumni and friends of the Department we are striving to increase our endowed funds that support resident research and education. I’d be delighted to discuss funding opportunities with anyone who recognizes the importance of this mission.

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Mark McKeown, MEd
Senior Director of Development
tulane University School of Medicine
mmckeown@tulane.edu
504-314-7380

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Cutting Edge.
Dr. Lee Hamm, who joined Tulane University’s faculty in 1992 as Professor of Medicine and Physiology, has been named Senior Vice President and Dean of Tulane School of Medicine, effective July 1.

Hamm, who currently holds positions as the Harry B. Greenberg Chair of Medicine at Tulane, the executive vice dean of the School of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine, served as Interim Dean of the School of Medicine in 2007. He is also Co-Director of the Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence.

“I have worked closely with Lee for 15 years and I am confident that his knowledge of Tulane and the landscape of medical education, research and clinical practice make him an outstanding choice to lead the medical school,” Tulane President Scott Cowen said. “Lee has an outstanding national reputation as a medical researcher, educator and clinician.”

Prior to joining Tulane, Hamm held faculty appointments at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he was Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology.

“I am honored and thrilled by the prospect of leading a school that is as nationally recognized and accomplished as Tulane School of Medicine,” Hamm said. “I look forward to working with a team that will enable Tulane to continue its leadership role in educating the next generation of doctors, conducting life-saving research and advancing medical breakthroughs while facing the challenges and opportunities brought about by the dramatic changes in healthcare, both locally and nationally.”

Hamm succeeds Medical School Dean, Dr. Benjamin Sachs, who announced his resignation in May. Founded in 1834, Tulane School of Medicine is the second-oldest medical school in the Deep South and the 15th oldest medical school in the United States.

By Keith Brannon
Photo by Ryan Rivet

TULANE’S DID YOU KNOW?

Of 2,430 licensed MD’s practicing in New Orleans, 380 (or 15.6 percent) are graduates of the Tulane School of Medicine.

Check out more interesting Tulane facts at http://tulane.edu/about/did-you-know.cfm
Dr. Anil Paramesh is presently the Medical Advisor Elect for this year (June 2013 - 2014) and thereafter he will be the Medical Advisor for 2014 - 2015 for the American Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). This is a national position and will involve helping oversee the medical procedures and policies of Organ Procurement Organizations around the country. He will also help organize national AOPO meetings twice a year and participate in national discussions on organ transplant with organizations like CMS, ASTS and AST. Dr. Paramesh is the first Louisiana appointee.

Dr. Abigail Chaffin has recently been appointed as the Director of the Tulane Hernia Center.

Dr. Rebecca Schroll joined the Department of Surgery faculty on July 1st as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery. Dr. Schroll received her medical degree from Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri. She subsequently completed her internship and residency in general surgery at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Following residency, Dr. Schroll completed fellowship training in trauma & critical care at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. After finishing her fellowship, Dr. Schroll became a full-time member of the Tulane University School of Medicine faculty.

Dr. Schroll is board certified in general surgery and board eligible in surgical critical care. She is on staff at both Tulane University Medical Center and Interim Louisiana Medical Center. Her clinical interests include trauma, critical care, emergency general surgery and elective general surgery. In addition, she is the Medical Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Tulane University Medical Center.
The Owl Club was founded in 1921 and is a service organization committed to fostering relationships between the medical student body and the faculty to achieve continual improvement of medical education. The club strives to achieve continued excellence in medical education by inspiring superior teaching and by promoting high ethical standards.

Owl Club representatives compile evaluations and feedback from every course taught at Tulane Medical School. The evaluation is based on the responses to questionnaires completed by students in each particular course.

On May 10, 2013, the Owl Club held the 2013 Awards Banquet. This event honors Tulane faculty and staff members for their commitment to academic excellence and their dedication to teaching future physicians.

The Department of Surgery is proud to announce the following awards and nominations.

**Surgery Awards**

**Best Resident**
- Honoree: Dr. Kelly Rennie
- Honoree: Dr. John Guste

**Best Attending**
- Honoree: Dr. Juan Duchesne
- Honoree: Dr. Steven Jones

**Outstanding Clerkship**
- Honoree: Department of Surgery

**Outstanding Clerkship Director**
- Honoree: Dr. Peter Meade

**Outstanding Clerkship Coordinator**
- Honoree: Stephanie Reed

Dr. Smith recently defended her dissertation titled “Reprogrammed Mesenchymal Stem Cells To Treat Biofilm-Infected Wounds: A Novel Approach To Chronic Wound Care.”

In the Department of Surgery, she studied chronic wounds using a model in the laboratory and one in mice and found that the paracrine factors secreted by stem cells increased the rate of wound healing and decreased infection in chronic wounds.

**MCSWAIN TRAUMA EDUCATION PROJECT**

**New Orleans, LA**

**November 5, 2013**

This is a one day trauma conference for EMS personnel. National and local speakers have been chosen to present on topics including tourniquet use to pre-hospital fluid resuscitation.

[Click here for more information.]
Dr. Douglas Slakey connects with Clinicians in Vietnam

Tulane Department of Surgery Chair, Dr. Douglas Slakey, received a scholarship from the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) to develop and provide a course designed to improve the care and outcomes of patients with kidney disease in Vietnam. The incidence of end stage renal disease (ESRD) in Vietnam is reported as high as 680 per million, nearly twice that of the United States. Because the cost of providing health care to ESRD patients is complex and expensive, many patients in Vietnam are unable to receive the treatment necessary to keep them alive. Slakey's course was designed to provide the students at the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Vietnam with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve care to ESRD patients using a multidisciplinary approach.

Dr. Slakey's course was a blend of in-person lectures and simulation sessions delivered in Hue, Vietnam and live lectures delivered via the Internet. For the Internet-based lectures, Slakey selected Adobe Connect as his tool of choice. After about 90 minutes of training with Don Elbers of Tulane Technology Services, Slakey was off and running.

Teaching this course represented Dr. Slakey's first effort at using Adobe Connect. He says "Using Connect exceeded my expectations. It worked seamlessly. Connect allowed the involvement of a lot of different people at different levels. I engaged Tulane surgical residents by having them prepare a 20 minute presentation as part of each lecture, so many of our residents benefited from the course as well."

Because of the 12-hour time difference between Hue and New Orleans, Dr. Slakey delivered his lectures from his home at 8:30 at night, allowing clinicians to view lectures at 8:30 AM in Vietnam. Slakey used a public URL, making the lectures open to more participants. As a result, the course started with 40 students at Hue University and by the end of the series in March 2013, grew to more than 110 participants from other hospitals across Vietnam.

"I could tell that some logged in from classroom environments, some from hospital environments… some folks were logging in from coffee shops." says Slakey.

The course ended with a full-day conference in March of 2013 in which physicians, surgical residents and nurses put into practice what they had learned from the online lectures.

Recommendations to Tulane faculty

Slakey advises faculty interested in using Adobe Connect to:

- Record and review a practice lecture to experience it from the student's perspective. Talking to a computer can be intimidating.
- Make a checklist. On two occasions lectures weren't recorded (an oversight)
- Keep email open during your live lecture - often participants did not have the correct URL and he was able to send it along during the first part of his lecture so no student missed out.

Dr. Slakey is currently working on a follow-up study to determine what the participants have put into practice.

Want to learn more? Lectures are available at http://riptide.me/slakey.

Adobe Connect is available to all Tulane faculty. For more about Connect, see http://tulane.edu/tsweb/services/adobeconnect.
After graduating magna cum laude from Loyola University in New Orleans, Dr. Busuttil earned both his MD and PhD degrees at Tulane University. He served his surgical residency at UCLA under Dr. William P. Longmire, Jr. and was trained in transplantation by Dr. Thomas Starzl at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been a member of the UCLA surgical faculty since 1978.

In 1984, he founded the Liver Transplant Program and has been the Director and Chief Surgeon for 28 years. It has since grown to become one of the largest liver transplant centers in the world. Clinical activities encompass the entire spectrum of liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery for adults and children. Dr. Busuttil and his team have performed over 5300 liver transplants, and he is internationally recognized for his expertise in transplantation and liver surgery.

Dr. Busuttil has demonstrated a life-long commitment to teaching and advancing the field of transplantation and surgery. His training program in transplant surgery is among the foremost in the world. He has trained over 300 transplant surgeons from the US and abroad; many lead liver transplant programs in the US, Asia and Europe. His laboratory has trained a large number of research fellows, including surgical residents and trainees in basic science disciplines.

His basic science research has focused on ischemia-reperfusion (IR) injury of the liver. In 1975 he published the first report of the benefits of steroids on cardiac recovery after IR injury and subsequently reported several follow-up studies in other organs. He has been NIH funded since 1981.

His contributions have been recognized through many awards and honors, including the American Surgical Association Medallion for Scientific Achievement, American Society of Transplant Surgeons Francis Moore Excellence in Mentorship in Transplantation Surgery Award, Man of the Year Award from the United Liver Association, the Integritas Award from Loyola University, the Most Distinguished Alumni Award from Tulane University, Man of the Year Award from the American Liver Foundation, the UCLA School of Medicine 50th Anniversary Professional Achievement Award, the Thomas E. Starzl Prize in Surgery and Immunology, the Transplantation Society Award for Education and Training in Transplantation, and the International Liver Transplantation Society Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Busuttil serves on the editorial boards or as a reviewer for many prestigious journals and is the co-editor of the definitive textbook, Transplantation of the Liver, now in its second edition. He has authored more than 600 peer reviewed scientific manuscripts, 55 book chapters, and 400 abstracts. He is an active member of all major national and international surgical and transplantation societies and has routinely held key committee positions. He is a Past President of the International Liver Transplantation Society, a Past President of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, Past First Vice President of the American Surgical Association, a past member of the council of The Transplantation Society, and has served on the Board of Directors of United Network for Organ Sharing.
(Left to Right: Drs. Ronald Busuttil, Marquinn Duke, Kelly Rennie, Marie Unruh and Douglas Slakey)

MARQUINN DUKE, M.D.

Place of Birth
Tulsa, Oklahoma

College
University of Missouri - Columbia

Medical School
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, Texas

Honors
Administrative Chief Resident

Post Graduate Plans
Trauma Fellowship
Baylor University
Houston, Texas

KELLY RENNIE, M.D.

Spouse
Liam Rennie

Place of Birth
Lakewood, California

College
University of Utah

Medical School
Tulane University School of Medicine

Honors
I. Mims Gage Best Intern Award 2008
ATLS State Faculty
Owl Club Award for Best Surgery Resident 2013

Post Graduate Plans
Trauma Critical Care Fellowship
Spirit of Charity Hospital
LSU Health Sciences Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

MARIE UNRUH, M.D.

Place of Birth
Topeka, Kansas

College
Macalester College

Medical School
University of Kansas School of Medicine

Honors
I. Mims Gage Best Intern Award 2009

Post Graduate Plans
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Methodist Hospital
Houston, Texas
In December of 2011 the state run program Opportunities for Partnerships in Technology with Industry (OPT-IN), funded Tulane Surgery Resident, Dr. Eric Simms, and Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery, Dr. James Korndorffer, to develop a prototype termed the Hydra Minimally Invasive Surgical System. This device is designed to improve safety and be more efficient during minimally invasive surgery (MIS). It essentially contains various instruments that a surgeon would use during MIS that can be tailored based on the type of surgery, the types of instruments used for that procedure and the surgeons preferences. It also features safety mechanisms that insures the instruments can’t accidentally be retracted while gripping tissue.

Since the Hydra team completed the prototype in October 2012, the device has begun safety testing by the Tulane Vivarium. Test results will be submitted to peer reviewed journals and from there more studies and grants will be needed. The formation of Nikola Tech, a potential spin-off company, will packet and market the prototype. Ultimately, developing future opportunities like FDA approval leading to product marketing to potential licensees is the goal as well as communication.
The objective of the honors general surgery clerkship is to sharpen the skills of senior medical students committed to a career in general surgery. The students will be exposed to the responsibilities of an academic general surgeon, as they pertain to teaching, research, and service. The students will in part be responsible for the instruction of the principles of Surgery given to third year medical students at the beginning of the general surgery clerkship. Each student will, under the direct supervision of one of the faculty in the Department of Surgery, conduct a clinical or benchwork research project -- the results of which will be presented to the chairman of the rotation. Finally, the students will be instructed in basic surgical skills and techniques, both open and laparoscopic, under the direct supervision of the general surgery faculty. These skills will be refined in anesthetized pigs.
Several years ago Dr. Norman McSwain started a program that provided participants with clinic updates in emergency situations. After divisions of the military became aware of the project, a bridge program was developed for people who had military training, but had not necessarily been certified at the civilian level. By identifying what their deficiencies were and what they needed to do in order to achieve civilian certification, these military members were highly successful in learning emergency medical techniques.

Most recently, the special warfare division requested a program be developed for their individuals who had minimal training at the basic to advanced EMT level. They asked that their Navy SEALS be trained to the level of an intermediator EMT paramedic. This training, beginning in July, comes in at a timely manner as the First Lady has developed an interest in making sure that people in the military on the verge of retirement, have some kind of a civilian job once they leave the military. Dr. McSwain and his group have been asked to become involved in training military medics of all descriptions. Randy Williams, Advanced Trauma Life Support Director at Tulane, recently participated in a roundtable discussion at the White House on April 30th on how this can best be achieved.

Meet Our New Interns
2013 - 2014

Meghan Garstka
Tulane University
(Categorical)

Jeremy John
Emory University
(Categorical)

Shannon McChesney
Rush University
(Categorical)

Joana Ochoa
Jefferson Medical College
(Categorical)

Nathan “Ross” Hewlett
University of South Alabama
(Non-Desig. Prelim)

Menal Jham
Tulane University
(Non-Desig. Prelim)

Justin Miller
LSU – New Orleans
(Non-Desig. Prelim)

Ian “Ross” McCaslin
Tulane University
(Desig. Prelim-Urology)

Carrie Stewart
University of Alabama
(Desig. Prelim-Urology)

David Cai
Tulane University
(ENT)

Amit Patel
East Tennessee State University
(ENT)

Jason Fou
LSU - Shreveport
(ENT)

Tyler Clark
Tulane University
(Ortho)

Robert N. Mead
Tulane University
(Ortho)

Robert L. Smith
Tulane University
(Ortho)

Derrick Umansky
Medical College of Georgia
(Neuro)
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 12th  
Care of the Complex ESRD Patient from Dialysis to Transplant  
Click here for more information and to register!

October 18th  
Alton Ochsner Visiting Professor Lectureship  
Dr. Suzanne Klimberg  
Muriel Balsam Kohn Chair in Breast Surgical Oncology  
Professor of Surgery and Pathology  
Director of Diseases of the Breast Fellowship  
Director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Program  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

October 20th  
Resident BBQ  
The home of Dr. Douglas & Jeanette Slakey  
4-7pm

November 5th  
McSwain Trauma Education Project  
Click here for more information and to register!

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Click here to read the Department of Surgery’s listings of presentations and publications from January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013.
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>PRESENTATION TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 11, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;A Single Year Of Research&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Eric Simms (Resident)</td>
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<td>January 18, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;New Technique In Laparoscopic Colon Surgery&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Emery Minnard West Jefferson Medical Center</td>
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<td>January 25, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Business of Medicine Curriculum For Medical Students, Residents, And Physicians In Practice”</td>
<td>Dr. Arthur Kim</td>
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<td>February 1, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Laparoscopic Hepatobiliary Surgery: Dogma&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph Buell</td>
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<td>February 15, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Surgical Infections-Selected Topics: A Personal Journey”</td>
<td>Dr. Ronald Nichols</td>
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<td>March 1, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Management Of Complex Abdominal Wounds With V.A.C. And/Or Abthera Therapy System”</td>
<td>Dr. Mark Kaplan Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Does Katrina Still Matter?”</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer McGee</td>
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<td>April 5, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Abdominal Wall Reconstruction&quot;</td>
<td>Dr. Abigail Chaffin</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Liver Transplantation At Tulane: An Update”</td>
<td>Dr. Bob Saggi</td>
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<td>April 19, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Resident Debate: Inguinal Hernia Repair, Laparoscopic Vs. Open”</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Thomas (Resident) Dr. Max Trahan (Resident) Dr. Adam Hauch (Resident) Dr. Peter Lundberg (Resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Advances In Adrenal Surgery”</td>
<td>Dr. Eren Berber The Cleveland Clinic</td>
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<td>May 3, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;History Of GME Financing....How Did We Get Here?”</td>
<td>Dr. James Korndorffer</td>
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<td>May 10, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Management Of Common Vascular Problems For The General Surgeon”</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Batson LSU Health Sciences Center</td>
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<td>May 17, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Endovascular Therapy For Critical Limb Ischemia”</td>
<td>Dr. Salman Arain Tulane Heart &amp; Vascular Institute</td>
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<td>May 24, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Surgery Program Review”</td>
<td>Dr. James Korndorffer</td>
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<td>May 31, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;NOMMS-Nicaragua”</td>
<td>Dr. John Guste, Resident</td>
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<td>&quot;The Use Of TPN In The Surgical ICS Setting”</td>
<td>Dr. Kelly Rennie, Resident</td>
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<td>June 7, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Was Warburg Correct”</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Ghere, Resident</td>
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<td>&quot;Keeping It All In The Family: An Introduction To Mennonites &amp; Their Genetic Diseases”</td>
<td>Dr. Marie Unruh, MD</td>
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<td>June 14, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Intraoperative Vagal Nerve Monitoring During Thyroid Surgery”</td>
<td>Dr. Max Trahan, Resident</td>
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<td>&quot;Laparoscopy: The Next Evolution Of Trauma?”</td>
<td>Dr. Marquinn Duke, Resident</td>
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<td>June 21, 2013</td>
<td>&quot;Reflections Of A Starzl Student”</td>
<td>Dr. Ronald Busuttill, MD, PhD,UCLA</td>
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