The start of 2013 has brought renewed enthusiasm and many interesting potential opportunities for the Department of Surgery. The new University Medical Center and Veteran’s Administration hospitals are being built rapidly and are scheduled to open within the next two years. Tulane Surgery will have many opportunities to provide excellent patient care within these facilities. Working with the leadership of Tulane, LSU and the Veteran’s Administration, the Department of Surgery is committed to improving patient access to the best surgical care possible. With these new facilities our residents and students are sure to have access to more patient care, learning, and research opportunities than ever before.

Speaking of residents, the 2013 Match Day was March 15th. The Department of Surgery had 974 applicants representing 111 United States medical schools. We welcome four outstanding new interns to the Tulane Department of Surgery. They are: Meghan Garstka (Tulane University), Jeremy John (Emory University), Shannon McChesney (Rush University), and Joana Ochoa (Jefferson Medical College).

The Department of Surgery continues to pursue national and international outreach. In addition to the international trauma education work that Dr. Jaffe organizes, I recently completed a grant from the Vietnam Education Foundation to assist healthcare teams improve their systems to care for patients with End Stage Renal Disease. My project was in collaboration with the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Hue, Vietnam. It is exciting and rewarding to be a member of a department that is committed to furthering surgical science and surgical education in so many different venues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions or wish to contribute to the missions of the Department of Surgery, I would be delighted to speak with you.

Douglas P. Slakey, MD, MPH
Professor & Chair of Surgery

http://tulane.edu/som/departments/surgery/
**Dr. Anil Paramesh**

- Organized the 2nd Annual “Care of the Complex ESRD Patient from Dialysis to Transplant” CME/CEU program on September 29, 2102. There were 110 participants from three states.
- Invited Speaker for the Association For Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation 20th Annual Meeting that was held in New Orleans on September 19, 2012. He presented “Growing Health Disparities & The Need For Transplant In Our Multicultural Communities”.
- Course Co-Organizer How To Achieve The Preferred Accesses For Hemodialysis And Peritoneal Dialysis”. This is a multidisciplinary CME course arranged in conjunction with the ESRD Network 13 for nephrologists and surgeons. It was held on August 24, 2012.
- Made consultant for Covidien Industries for dialysis access products in September 2012.

**Dr. Emad Kandil**

- Dr. Emad Kandil was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery on January 1, 2013
- 5th Annual Symposium on Thyroid & Parathyroid Diseases
  
  Dr. Emad Kandil hosted his 5th annual symposium on February 16-17, 2013. New updates and insights covering a range of topics on thyroid and parathyroid diseases were offered as hands-on experiences related to ultrasound, endoscopic video-assisted and robotic approaches. World-renowned faculty from Yonsei, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Harvard, M.D. Anderson, Georgia Health Sciences, SUNY Downstate and Johns Hopkins were all in attendance. The highlight of the conference, however, was a special live remote broadcast of Dr. Woong Youn Chung’s OR in Seoul, South Korea where he performed a robotic thyroidectomy; a procedure which he pioneered.

  The symposium featured outstanding lectures, as well as:
  - Hands-on Cadaver Lab (part of the optional post-conference sessions)
  - Hands-on Ultrasound Session
  - Hands-on Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsies with Phantoms
  - Live Case Observation of Robotic Thyroidectomy (part of the optional post-conference sessions)

**Dr. James Korndorffer**, Professor of Clinical Surgery and Director of the Tulane Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, examines a donated mannequin with leaders of St. Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia.

Dr. Korndorffer visited Ethiopia in 2012 to support the school and demonstrated current medical simulation education techniques and how to train with the mannequins. Tulane received a grant to pay for the learning instruments and travel.

Dr. Korndorffer was recently named the Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

As of January 1, 2013 **Drs. Michael Ellis** (left) And **Steven Jones** (right) transferred from HCA to the full time faculty of the Tulane Medical School. Dr. Ellis is a Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology and Dr. Jones is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery.
STAFF NEWS

The 5th Annual American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeon’s Fall Meeting & Program Coordinator’s Symposium was held October 26-30th here in New Orleans, Louisiana. This organization consists of program chairs and directors of the ACGME approved plastic surgery residency programs that work together on improving the educational quality for plastic surgery residents. Approximately 50 coordinators from different universities across the U.S. were in attendance for the coordinators symposium. This year Debra Felix, Senior Residency Program Coordinator for Plastic Surgery, was the host coordinator and sat on a panel discussion as well. She was elected as a member to the PC Symposium Planning Committee for 2012 and assigned for the 2013 Symposium. Debra Felix received an award from the ACAPS President for her dedication in working behind the scenes for this year’s fall meeting. She’s been with Tulane for 25 years, the Surgery family 20 years, and in plastic surgery 5 years.

American Heart Association Heart Walk 2012

The Department of Surgery raised $949 for the American Heart Association. Several staff members walked in the Heart Walk on Saturday, November 17, 2012 in Audubon Park.

(To R: Patricia Hugger, Verenia Roussell, Lauren Dickerson, Debra Felix and her daughter Ire)

TULANE’S DID YOU KNOW?

- TULANE’S ENROLLMENT 2012-13
  - Undergraduate: 8,423
  - Graduate and Professional: 5,063
  - Total: 13,486 — 7,507 females and 5,979 males

- Tulane University President Scott Cowen is the new chair of the Association of American Universities.
- Tulane scientists have found a way to convert newspaper and other plant based materials into car fuel.
- Check out more interesting Tulane facts at: http://tulane.edu/about/did-you-know.cfm
Juan Duchesne, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, has been honored by the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery for having written one of the Top 20 Most-Cited Articles for 2010, 2009, and 2008 during the annual meeting in September 2012. In 2010 Dr. Duchesne’s article, “Damage Control Resuscitation in Combination With Damage Control Laparotomy: A Survival Advantage” was the 4th most cited article. Another article, “Damage Control Resuscitation: The New Face of Damage Control” was the 6th most cited article. He had two articles in the Top 10 Most Cited Articles. In 2009, Dr. Duchesne’s article, “Hemostatic Resuscitation During Surgery Improves Survival in Patients with Traumatic-Induced Coagulopathy” was the 20th most cited article. In 2008, “Review Of Current Blood Transfusions Strategies In A Mature Level 1 Trauma Center: Were We Wrong For The Last 60 Years?” was the 9th most cited article.

Norman McSwain, MD, Professor of Surgery, was conferred membership into the Order of Military Medical Merit by President Obama and the United States Army Medical Department. This membership was awarded due to Dr. McSwain’s dedicated application of talent, effort and spirit that has made a significant exemplary contribution to the United States Army Medical Department.

Dr. McSwain has also been appointed as a member of the Trauma and Injury Subcommittee of the Defense Health Board. Dr. McSwain will be meeting with the White House Medical Staff and the First Lady's Initiative for Education of Returning Military Medics. Dr. McSwain, along with Randy Williams, NREMT-P, in conjunction with the Tulane Trauma Educational Institute, have developed a first of its kind bridge course for military medics to obtain the needed additional training to become licensed and employable once they return to civilian life. This course is designed for military medics who are interested in sitting for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) written and practical examination. The course will be held at Tulane School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. McSwain also traveled to Uruguay to present at the 2nd Latin-American PHTLS Congress in Montevideo, Uruguay. Dr. McSwain presented numerous lectures during the meeting and also attended the National Coordinators Meeting while in Montevideo.

Peter Meade, MD, MPH, spent his October vacation on Mercy Ships taking care of some the world’s poorest who were in need of medical attention. Please see article on page 6 and note that Sixty Minutes recently aired a segment on the Africa Mercy Ship and it can be found by clicking here: “Sixty Minutes”.

At Tulane he has continued to refine the medical student surgical curriculum. Tulane students have improved national test scores in surgery, and are now above national averages.
Department of Neurosurgery

In July 2013 the Department of Neurosurgery will welcome a new chairman, Aaron S. Dumont, MD and two new faculty members, Ricky Medel, MD and Manish Singh, MD.

**Dr. Dumont** will be coming to Tulane from the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a medical graduate of the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He completed his neurological surgery residency at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, Virginia. He completed his Cerebrovascular, Endovascular and Skull Base Surgery at the University of Virginia Health System.

**Dr. Ricky Medel** is finishing up his residency at the University of Charlottesville, Virginia where he is the Chief Resident of Neurological Surgery. He graduated from the University of Toledo School of Medicine in Ohio.

**Dr. Singh** will be coming to Tulane from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia where he will have recently completed a complex spine and adult deformity fellowship. He is a medical school graduate of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College in Allahabad, India and a neurosurgery resident graduate from Tulane University Medical School/Ochsner Clinical Foundation, New Orleans.

Department of Otolaryngology

Head & Neck Cancer Screenings

For the third year in a row, the Tulane Department of Otolaryngology was invited to perform head and neck cancer screening at the Martin Luther King Celebration parade in New Orleans. Tulane medical students, residents, and faculty stressed early detection and prevention of these malignancies.

This outreach event is one of many performed under the auspice of Healing Hands Across the Divide - a Tulane, faith, and community based partnership focused on cancer health care disparities headed by Dr. Paul Friedlander, Chair of Tulane Otolaryngology. The team also partnered in the Super Bowl 2013 Dorsett Spectacular Health Fair on January 30th.

For information and dates regarding upcoming screenings, visit www.facebook.com/HealingHandsAcrossTheDivide.
Instead of relaxing on a beach somewhere, Dr. Peter Meade of Tulane recently spent his vacation performing surgeries on a hospital ship that provides care for some of the world's poorest people. In early October, Meade, a member of the Section of Trauma Surgery and Critical Care, spent two weeks aboard the ship as it was docked in Guinea, a country located on the west coast of Africa.

"It's just been great," Meade said. "You're with people who are there for the same reason as you are, and that is to help others and also remind them about God."

The Africa Mercy, a nearly 500-foot-long ship converted from a Dutch ferry boat, is operated by the Christian-based humanitarian organization Mercy Ships.

"The interesting thing about going to these places is that these are Muslim countries," Meade said. "They get to see the good side of us, and believe me, that has impact."

Equipped with six operating rooms, an intensive care unit, and space for up to 78 patients, the Africa Mercy is the largest charity hospital ship in the world. As the ship's general surgeon, Meade operated mostly on patients with hernias and hydroceles. The ship also provides care through specialists such as orthopedic surgeons, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and physical therapists.

"There are limits," Meade said. "The blood bank isn't that huge. The blood bank is usually the people on board."

Like a land-based hospital, the Africa Mercy serves patients year-round. It never leaves for a break period or holiday and only sails up and down the coast of Africa to serve nearby countries.

Volunteers travel to and from the ship at their own expense and typically stay on board for about two weeks, although some stay several years or even permanently. Volunteers also pay for their living expenses, but the ship eliminates the hassles of shopping and running errands by keeping a constant supply of food and other necessities on board.

For Meade, the ship provides everything he needs, and paying for his travel is simply part of his gift to the organization, he said.

The "floating village," he said referring to the ship, even has a school on board for volunteers who bring their children. "It's a very family-friendly organization, which is different than a lot of these other groups that usually don't include a bunk for your family."

Meade said he first took an interest in humanitarian work after spending some time in Mexico as a medical student. Over the last 25 years, he has worked with nine different organizations and has traveled to 15 different countries as a volunteer doctor.

"What do I get out of it?" Meade said. "I feel I'm doing God's work, and that's work worth doing."

Having volunteered on the Africa Mercy last year, Meade said he plans to make it his annual "vacation" spot for the future, but is "committed to the people in New Orleans" and promises to come back home.
Nineteen years ago in the delivery room, doctors knew something was wrong with one of the newborn identical twin girls.

But it wasn’t until now when the girls from Chopin, Louisiana, needed doctors at Tulane to help.

One stepped up to show courage and love for her sister.

The Delrie family has a reason to share hugs and shed tears of joy after Tulane surgeons said all went well when one identical twin made a decision to save her sister's life.

"And I said, 'I want to give my kidney to my sister because I love her.' I'd do it for anybody, anyone of my family members," said Daisy Delrie, 19, through tears.

When Daisy heard that her identical twin Sadie's kidneys had failed to the point of needing dialysis, she volunteered without being asked and without hesitation.

But doctors wanted her in better health for the surgery.

"He told me, you know, if I couldn't get my weight under control that I wouldn't be able to give my kidney to my sister. And oh, that made me really, really, really, upset. So I've been working hard ever since," Daisy said.

With the help of Weight Watchers, in three months she lost 25 pounds. The surgery was performed with no complications on January 29th.

"After the surgery I still can't tell them apart. Thank God one of them is wearing a donor t-shirt, one of them a recipient t-shirt, otherwise I would not know which is my patient," said Dr. Anil Paramesh, director of the living donor transplant program at Tulane.

It was Dr. Paramesh's first time to transplant a kidney from identical twins. Usually whatever caused one's kidneys to fail is genetic, so both twins have the same condition. But Sadie and Daisy are different. They don't have a genetic problem. It was in the womb, sharing one placenta, where Sadie's blood supply was not sufficient, so her kidneys never developed. And over the years her kidneys got weaker.

"She was developing features of renal failure, you know, tiredness, lethargy, inability to eat," explained Dr. Paramesh.

He said half of one kidney in a healthy person is enough to do its job. Daisy has a healthy future ahead. Sadie now has three kidneys, her own failing ones and her sister's, which now sits just below her hip.

"I didn't want her to (donate) at the beginning, but as time went on, I just figured it was for the best," said Sadie Delrie, 19, the recipient.

"I know both of them was scared. But they were some troopers," said their father Curtis Delrie as his eyes welled up with tears.

While the twins were at Tulane in New Orleans having surgery, people back home were throwing a fundraiser to help with the medical bills.

"Thank you everybody for being there for us, the prayers and everything and just being there. Thank you so much," said the twins' mother Susan Delrie, who could hardly talk through her tears.

For the twins' parents, today is bitter sweet. One of their four daughters saved another's life. But missing was Lauren, who just a semester away from her nursing degree was lost in a car wreck.

For Sadie, because her new kidney is genetically like her own, the good news is that she may be able to get off of the immunosuppressant drugs (anti-rejection drugs) that can have side effects. She's on them for a few months just in case, since the environment can alter even how identical genes work.

These 19-year-olds never thought they could get closer, but life proved them wrong.

Daisy spent only two nights in the hospital. Sadie, who got a new kidney, spent four nights.

Both will return to college at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.
A vascular surgeon at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center has developed what he calls “an obvious solution to a complex problem.”

Carlos Bechara, M.D., a Tulane surgery resident graduate, developed a way to treat flush iliac artery occlusion, which refers to blockage of an artery where it splits and branches into two. This condition is difficult to treat with minimally invasive surgery because with branching arteries, there is no room to thread a wire and catheter through the blockage in order to place a stent. A stent is a hollow stainless steel tube, much like a soda straw, that holds an artery open and keeps it from closing again.

“Blockage in branching arteries is most often treated with open bypass surgery, where the patient’s chest is surgically opened,” said Bechara, who also serves as program director of the vascular surgery fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. “But open surgery is riskier than minimally invasive surgery where doctors thread a catheter through an artery in the groin area, and steer it through the body’s network of veins until it reaches the point of blockage. But when the blockage is where the arteries branch, this is often impossible to do.”

Bechara overcame this obstacle by placing a balloon at the fork of the artery to allow the wire to pass through the blockage and to allow a stent to be inserted. With this technique, surgeons are able to avoid the risks associated with open surgery.

“I did not think much about this technique when I first performed the procedure except that it was an obvious solution to a complex problem,” said Bechara. “Since publishing an article about this in the Journal of Vascular Surgery, I’ve already been told by other surgeons that they’ve had great success using this technique.”

Bechara’s technique was featured during the 39th Annual Symposium on Vascular and Endovascular Issues, Techniques and Horizons, held recently in New York. The symposium is one of the world’s largest gatherings of vascular surgeons and vascular specialists.

“I’m proud the technique that I developed was featured at one of the most prominent vascular meetings in the world,” said Bechara, who has successfully treated 12 patients with this technique to date. “Something like this is a dream come true for a young surgeon like myself.”
Greetings fellow alumni! It’s Josh Landes, recent Tulane surgical residency graduate. I would like to give back to the Tulane Surgical community and decided the easiest way was to create a webpage. The idea is to keep us up to date with each other and what’s going on in the Tulane Surgery Department. I’d like for this to be interactive, so feel free to comment on any posts or even write one yourself. You can find the webpage by clicking here: http://tulane.moonfruit.com/.

Also see the Surgery Department Alumni section on our website at http://tulane.edu/som/departments/surgery/alumni/index.cfm. There you can search for alumni. Please contact Monique LeCompte with any to your contact information, or other topics you would like featured in The Cutting Edge.

ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Click here to read the Department of Surgery’s listings of presentations and publications from July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

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The 2013 Surgery Resident Graduation will be held at the Hotel Monteleone on Friday, June 21st. The graduation banquet will be in the beautiful LaNouvelle Orleans East Ballroom. The Hotel Monteleone, famous for its Carousel Bar, has undergone a multimillion dollar renovation that was just completed. The Department of Surgery has secured a block of rooms for those wishing to stay at the hotel for this event. The start date for the special rate is June 19th and the end date is June 23rd. For reservations please call 800-535-9595 and request the “Tulane Department of Surgery Resident Grad” group block. This room rate is good only for reservations booked by May 7th. Be sure to mark your calendars!
## Grand Rounds Presenters

**July 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012**

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>August 3, 2012</td>
<td>“What’s New In Transplant OR?”</td>
<td>Anil Parmesh, MD</td>
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<td>August 10, 2102</td>
<td>“Carotid Stenting: Perspectives On The CREST Trial”</td>
<td>Albert Devon Sam, II, MD</td>
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<td>August 17, 2012</td>
<td>“Controversies In Pediatric Appendicitis”</td>
<td>Rodney B. Steiner, MD</td>
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<td>August 24, 2012</td>
<td>“It Worked For Me....”</td>
<td>Juan C. Duchesne, MD</td>
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<td>September 7, 2012</td>
<td>“Surgery Grand Rounds &amp; TUME 2012-2013 Compliance Session”</td>
<td>Sue Straumanis, CPC, CHC</td>
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<td>September 14, 2012</td>
<td>“My American College Of Surgeons Traveling Fellowship To Germany”</td>
<td>Emad Kandil, MD</td>
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<td>September 21, 2012</td>
<td>“Police Dog Bites”</td>
<td>Peter C. Meade, MD, MPH</td>
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<td>October 5, 2012</td>
<td>“Non-Obstetric Surgery On The Pregnant Patient”</td>
<td>Steven D. Jones, MD, MPH</td>
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<td>October 12, 2012</td>
<td>“Abdominal Trauma: When To Cut And How!”</td>
<td>Norman E. McSwain, Jr, MD</td>
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<td>October 19, 2012</td>
<td>“Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia: Advances &amp; Controversies”</td>
<td>Anne Fischer, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>October 26, 2012</td>
<td>2012 Alton Ochsner Visiting Professor Lecture “Current Trends In The Management Of Malignant Melanoma - A Surgical Perspective”</td>
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<td>November 2, 2012</td>
<td>“Crossing The Event Horizon”</td>
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<td>“Pancreatic Nesidioblastosis”</td>
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<td>November 16, 2012</td>
<td>“Dialysis Access: Advances In Surgical Management”</td>
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<td>December 7, 2012</td>
<td>“Beyond Training: Using Simulation To Improve Patient Safety”</td>
<td>James R. Korndorffer, Jr, MD</td>
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<td>December 14, 2012</td>
<td>“Clinical Documentation Improvement For Surgical Services” - Severity of Illness, Risk of Mortality and Hospital Acquired Conditions Documentation</td>
<td>Donisia Lee, RN &amp; Ina Corley, RN</td>
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Grand Rounds is held every Friday, unless noted otherwise, at 8am in room 6065.

To be added to the Grand Rounds email listserv please email your email address to mlecomp@tulane.edu.