Message from the Chair

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

2011 has been a busy year for the Department of Surgery. We've added three new faculty members. Dr. Jennifer McGee has rejoined the faculty after completing her Kidney Transplant Fellowship. Jennifer is continuing her impressive research into disparities of access and outcomes for surgical care due to racial and gender differences. I believe that Jennifer's research has tremendous potential and has already provided substantial insight into an important aspect of improving patient care.

Dr. Bob Saggi joined the Department in the Section of Abdominal Transplant Surgery. Bob brings with him experience in abdominal transplantation including intestinal. A goal for the upcoming year is to reinstitute our intestinal failure and intestinal transplant program under Bob's leadership.

Dr. Sabrena Noria has joined the Department in the Section of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Sabrena completed her training at the University of Ohio and has plans to create a state of the art metabolic surgical program in cooperation with Chip Bellows and our Endocrine colleagues. This Center will provide a level of expertise and care which will improve the health of countless people in our region.

Tulane's Surgery's international global health initiatives continue to develop and flourish. Under Dr. Bernie Jaffe's leadership and supported by Operation Smile and the American College of Surgeons, our Department has educated hundreds of first responders throughout Asia. Each of our PGY III Residents travels with Dr. Jaffe for a minimum of two weeks. The latest trip in November 2011 involved first responder courses held in Vietnam and Myanmar. The program is planning to expand to Africa in 2012.

In addition to our international first responder initiatives, we have completed an agreement with the Claude Bernard University in Lyon France. Eric Simms will be living and working as a Surgical Resident in Lyon for the next six months. We're excited about the opportunities that our global health initiatives have afforded and the recognition that our commitment to an international presence has given the Department.

2011 was also an exciting year for reconnecting with our alumni and others to increase funding and support for critical needs of the Department. In support of resident education, Dr. James "Butch" Knoepp (MD '71, General Surgery Residency '80) and his wife Dr. Ulla Ule, a graduate of Newcomb College 1970, MD '73, Residency '76, Fellowship '81, and MBA '91, have provided an endowed fund in memory of Dr. Louis Knoepp. This fund will support resident education and research initiatives. The costs of resident education and research are increasing and the need to support these endeavors through gifts and endowments has never been greater. The generous support of people such as Drs. Knoepp and Ule aid the Department tremendously in its educational and research missions.

Another development initiative that has gained momentum is the creation of an endowed fund for the Dr. Norman E. McSwain, Jr. Annual Trauma Conference. Initially supported by a generous lead gift from Dr. McSwain, this annual trauma conference will provide state of the art education in a multi disciplinary format to first responders and health care teams dedicated to the management of the acutely injured patient. This annual conference will be held in New Orleans and will provide an educational resource that currently does not exist. In addition to Dr. McSwain's initial support of the endowment, the NAEMT (National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians) Board has recognized the value of supporting this endowment and the NAEMT Board voted to provide funding. We are well on our way to endowing this annual conference, but we still need additional gifts to make this a reality.

As we look forward to 2012, we will continue to work with our alumni and other supporters of the Department of Surgery in order to further strengthen the educational and research missions of the Department. Please feel free to contact me about opportunities for giving and supporting Surgery and Surgical Services at Tulane.
Eleven years ago Tulane surgeon Dr. Peter Meade volunteered with Doctors Without Borders in Sierra Leone. This summer he returned to the West African country, one of the continent’s poorest, for a two-week stint performing operations aboard the hospital ship Africa Mercy.

The world’s largest charity hospital ship, the Africa Mercy has six operating rooms and a 78-bed hospital. The 499 foot-long vessel, with six operating rooms and a 78-bed hospital for post-operative recovery, is owned and operated by Mercy Ships, a faith-based medical mission organization headquartered in Texas.

“I heard about this for many years and I’ve always wanted to go. Within the last year I decided to pursue it,” says Meade, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery. “The ship serves people at ports along the coast of West Africa where they determine the need is great.”

At screenings, crowds of people stand in line for hours to see a Mercy Ships doctor. Once approved, they are given a date to return to the ship for surgery. The need is always greater than the capacity the ship has for treatment.

“I dealt with things that general surgeons are well versed in dealing with. Basically, I did a lot of hernias and hydroceles,” Meade says. “I did 32 cases during my eight operating room days, about four a day. There is a tremendous backlog of people who need these procedures.”

During Meade’s tour the volunteers who staffed the ship were from 36 different countries. Specialists included ophthalmologists, maxillofacial surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and anesthesiologists. Physicians, however, make up only a small part of this floating village. There are also nurses, physical therapists, cooks, engineers and writers on board.

Through the cooperation of the entire Mercy Ship’s crew – medical and non-medical – lives are transformed every single day. “Mercy Ships is very well organized,” says Meade, “and we all worked as a team – nobody functions by themselves.”

For more information about Mercy Ships check out their website at http://www.mercyships.org/.
The Herman Ernest Memorial Health Screening Initiative is a collaboration between New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic & Assistance Foundation (NOMAF) and the Department of Otolaryngology at Tulane University School of Medicine and is supported, in part, with funding from NOMAF’s Shari Frank.

Mr. Ernest greatly impacted the Tulane and NOMC medical teams who cared for him. Upon his death his widow, Joyce Ernest, established the NOMAF’s Herman Ernest Memorial Interfaith Health Screening Initiative. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to save lives through early detection. This innovative program will be conducted in partnership with Healing Hands Across the Divide, which provides free head, neck and mouth cancer screenings. The initiative is headed by Dr. Paul Friedlander, Chair of Tulane Otolaryngology, who was Mr. Ernest’s surgeon.

The screenings are focused on raising awareness of head and neck cancers by reaching out to musicians and other members of the Greater New Orleans music community.

The New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic and Assistance Foundation (NOMAF) officially kicked-off its Herman Ernest Memorial Health Screening Initiative on Sunday, AUGUST 7 with a special Satchmo Fest concert in the French Quarter.

For more information please check out their website at: http://www.nomaf.org/herman-ernest/ or contact Stacey Morigeau at programs@nomaf.org.

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**2011 - 2012 MINIMALLY INVASIVE FELLOWSHIP**

**JENNIFER MALSBURY, DO**

This year’s MIS Fellow is Dr. Jennifer Malsbury. She received her medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and recently completed her surgical residency at Waterbury Hospital Health Center in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Under the Directorship of Dr. Charles Bellows, this fellowship is an important part of our training programs. The Fellowship is designed to offer exposure to a broad range of laparoscopic procedures including foregut, bariatric, solid organ, and colorectal. In addition, the Fellow will be exposed to and trained in the educational, research, and administrative aspects of minimally invasive surgery.

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**NEW ORLEANS MUSICIANS ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION**

Did you know that the Department of Surgery received 743 applications for 4 spots?

From those 743 applications, 57 applicants will be interviewed.
Tulane trauma expert Dr. Norman McSwain has returned from Ecuador, where he led doctors and medics from 10 Latin American countries in tactical combat casualty care training. Dr. Norman McSwain is an expert in prehospital trauma life-support training who led doctors and medics from 10 Latin American countries through rigorous scenarios.

McSwain, a professor of surgery, taught training techniques to a group of 25 caregivers. These, in turn, will relay the skills to front-line caregivers who, according to McSwain, “have to take care of wounded patients while the bad guys are still shooting at them.” McSwain pioneered the development of prehospital trauma life-support training in 1981, and worked with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) to publish the textbook on the subject. The textbook is now in the 7th edition and has been translated into 11 languages. Since that time, about 700,000 emergency medical technicians in 55 countries have been trained to care for injured persons until they can receive hospital care.

A combat version of the textbook was published in 2002 providing the curriculum for training military, doctors and medics.

Once in Ecuador, McSwain and an NAEMT colleague learned to adapt the curriculum to the specific needs of Latin American countries, including Mexico, where combat situations might include bank robberies, battles with drug lords and hostage situations, environments that McSwain says are “far more common events than we think about in the United States.”

Combat situations require basic skills for treating trauma but also require specific considerations such as the caregiver knowing how to quickly put a tourniquet on himself while caring for the wounded at the same time. Foremost is learning skills to keep the caregiver and the patient out of harm’s way.

“You wouldn’t put in an endotracheal tube in that kind of environment,” says McSwain, “because the minute you turn on the laryngoscope, the light would draw fire.”
Robert Fitzgibbons, MD, is the Harry E. Stuckenhoff Professor of Surgery at Creighton University School of Medicine and the Director of the Center for Abdominal Wall Reconstruction at Creighton University Medical Center. Dr. Fitzgibbons’ clinical and research efforts over the last 18 years have focused on minimally invasive and laparoscopic surgery techniques relating to the management of abdominal wall hernias. He has been instrumental in developing specific instruments and methods for the surgical repair of hernias.

Dr. Fitzgibbons has made over 400 national and international presentations on subjects dealing primarily with hernia management and is the author of some 300 scholarly publications, including peer and non-peer reviewed articles, books, book chapters and videotapes, mostly dealing with treatment of abdominal wall hernias.

International Travel

Bernard Jaffe, MD
Teaching “Treatment of Injuries”
Nepal, April/May 2011
Myanmar(Burma), Laos, March 2011
Vietnam, Myanmar(Burma), October/November 2011

Emad Kandil, MD

Peter Meade, MD, MPH
Volunteer Surgeon for 2 weeks with Mercy Ships, Sierra Leone, Africa, August 3 – August 20, 2011

Douglas P. Slakey, MD, MPH
Resident Exchange Program, Lyon, France, Sept 6-9, 2011
Departmental Research

TRANSPLANT SURGERY
Drs. Joseph Buell, Mary Killackey, Anil Paramesh, Douglas Slakey

Ongoing Clinical Research Projects
Integrated Image-guided Ultrasound Ablation System For Cancer Management; NIH (Dr. Buell)

Composite Tissue Engineering; Department Of Defense (Dr. Buell)

A Phase 3, Double-Blind, Double-Dummy, Multi-Center, Prospective, Randomized Study of the Efficacy and Safety of LCP-Tacro™ Tablets, Once Daily, Compared to Prograf® Capsules, Twice Daily, in Combination with Mycophenolate Mofetil for the Prevention of Acute Allograft Rejection in De Novo Adult Kidney Transplant Recipients; LifeCycle Pharma (Drs. Killackey and Buell)

A Multi-Center, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Study to Confirm the Reversal of Hepatorenal Syndrome Type 1 with Lucassen® (Terlipression); Ikaria (Dr. Buell)

Should Lymph Nodes Be Offered as Primary Crossmatch Material instead of Serum by OPOs; AOPO (Dr. Paramesh)

Second generation mTOR inhibitors in new onset, post-transplant DM and as maintenance immunosuppression; Novartis (Dr. Slakey)

Transplant Faculty Research Interests

Dr. Buell
- Advancing ablation technologies for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma
- Medical reversal of hepatorenal syndrome
- Tissue engineering

Dr. Killackey
- The impact of Hep C in kidney transplant recipients and acute rejection events
- Understanding acute rejection risk in long vs. short acting calcineurin inhibitors

Dr. Paramesh
- The impact of Hep C in kidney transplant candidates
- The efficacy of lymph node vs. serum crossmatch assays

Dr. Slakey
- The role of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in organ storage technology
- Laparoscopic liver resections in for complex liver disease
- Electrosurgery in complex liver and pancreas resections
- HIV and solid organ transplantation
- Advanced hemostatic modalities in liver resection

Drs. Korndorffer & Slakey
- Simulation of Surgical Errors/Root Course Analysis

ENDOCRINE SURGERY
Drs. Emad Kandil, Jingling Ma, Zak AbdelMageed, Salem Noureledine, Xinying Li

Basic Science Research Projects
- Targeting multiple cellular pathways in advanced thyroid cancer and identification of novel markers for thyroid cancer; Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium and Dean's Fund (Dr. Kandil)
- Molecular Profiling Analysis of Indeterminate Thyroid Nodule Fine Needle Aspirates to Determine Patterns Predictive of Benign or Malignant Disease; VERACYTE (Dr. Kandil)

Ongoing Clinical Research Projects
- Staged vs. Total Thyroidectomy for Substernal Goiter
- Transaxillary Robotic Thyroidectomy: A Feasibility and Outcomes Study
- Outcome of robotic surgery in parathyroid, adrenal, and GI surgery
- Analysis of SEER database for role Impact of Extensive Neck Dissection on Survival from Papillary and Medullary Thyroid Cancer.
- Meta-analysis on different projects related to endocrine and oncological surgery including but not limited to predictors for Postoperative need for Hormone Replacement, need for surveillance and complications, effectiveness of radioactive iodine versus thyroidectomy in the treatment of Graves’ disease.

TRAUMA AND SURGICAL ICU
Drs. Juan Duchesne, Chrissy Guidry, Eric Simms

The Trauma and Surgical ICU is conducting clinical research in the fields of surgical resuscitation, blood transfusion and coagulation disorders. Currently Dr. Guidry’s research is focused on examining the optimal blood product transfusion ratios in trauma settings and Dr. Simms’s research on the use of spinal immobilization in pre-hospital setting in penetrating trauma. The department is also working on a new Massive Transfusion Protocol to be used at Tulane HSC.

Recent Research Presentations


Tulane Department of Surgery Collaborates with Slidell Memorial Regional Cancer Center

Plastic Surgery and the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery are collaborating with Slidell Memorial Hospital (SMH) to open a Head and Neck Cancer Clinic at the new SMH Regional Cancer Center, located in Slidell, Louisiana. The new clinic, which opened on January 6th, expands the cancer care offered at Slidell Memorial Hospital and provides a more convenient office location for head and neck cancer patients living on the North Shore and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Working at the clinic will be:

- **Dr. Rizwan Aslam**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and a Fellowship trained head and neck oncology / microvascular reconstruction surgeon.
- **Dr. Ernest S. Chiu**, a specialist in facial aesthetic and reconstructive surgery, is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Plastic Surgery Research at Tulane. Dr. Chiu, along with Dr. Paul Friedlander, has recently developed a unique surgical approach to reconstruct the pharyngeal and esophageal lining of patients who have had a significant portion of their neck and larynx removed as part of their cancer treatment.

- **Dr. Paul Friedlander**, a Fellowship trained head and neck surgical oncologist and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology. Dr. Friedlander was one of the first Head and Neck surgeons in Louisiana to offer robot-assisted trans-oral surgery for head and neck cancers, which provides patients an effective, minimally invasive alternative to traditional approaches for oral cavity surgery.

Over 75,000 new cases of head and neck cancers are diagnosed in the United States each year. Head and neck cancers include cancers of the mouth, lip, tongue, salivary glands, tonsils, larynx and pharynx. The number of head and neck cancers is growing each year, in part, to the increasing number of HPV related oral cancers. Tulane and SMH are working jointly to raise community awareness about head and neck cancers and the importance of early detection.
The Alumni section of the Department of Surgery website has been updated to include even more information. If you are searching for other General Surgery or Plastic Surgery alumni, or are interested in finding what alumni or Friends of the Department are located near you, please visit our website.

We want to hear from you if your information has changed or if you know of someone that we have missed. Information can be updated using the online form or you can contact our webmaster, Monique LeCompte, at 504-988-5128 or mlecomp@tulane.edu.

**Click Here To Find Tulane Department of Surgery Alumni**

**General Surgery Alumni & Plastic Surgery Alumni**

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**Provider Courses**

- March 17 - 18 (Open)
- April 21 - 22 (Open)
- May 19 - 20 (Open)
- June 23 - 24 (Tulane Resident)
- July 14 - 15 (LSU Resident)
- July 28 - 29 (Open)
- August 25 - 26 (Open)

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**Refresher Courses**

- March 18 (Open)
- May 12 (Open)
- August 11 (Open)

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**Tulane Trauma Educational Institute**

**Advanced Trauma Life Support**

**Training Schedule 2012**

[http://tulane.edu/som/atls/](http://tulane.edu/som/atls/)
In Memory of Elmo J. Cerise, MD

It is with great sadness that the faculty and staff of the Department of Surgery recognize the passing of Dr. Elmo J. Cerise on Monday, November 21, 2011 at the age of 91 with his family at his side. He is survived by the love of his life and beloved wife of 65 years, Doris Karter Cerise. Dr. Cerise was the father of three children: Elmo John Cerise, Jr. (Bobbie, deceased), Cynthia Cerise Pellerin Brothers who died on November 8, 2005, and Karter Cerise Potts (Ewell), as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dr. Cerise graduated from St. Aloysius High School in 1937, and went on to college at LSU where he and his brother, Paul, performed in the LSU band. Dr. Cerise graduated from LSU, and thereafter LSU Medical Center in 1944, and completed his residency under the direction of Dr. Alton Oschner, at Alton Oschner Medical Foundation, and Charity Hospital in 1952. Dr. Cerise was a Captain in the Navy and was honorably discharged after serving in the Panama Canal Zone. He was a well know surgeon in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area and was a member of the Southern Surgical Society, American College of Surgeons, Pancreas Club, and many other medical associations throughout his lifetime. Dr. Cerise was a member of the Board of Trustees of Loyola University, was a medical professor at the Tulane University School of Medicine for many years.

A chair in the surgery department was established in his name at the Tulane University Medical Center and an award was presented yearly in his name to the best all around surgical resident in the medical school. He was a devout Catholic, having been a parishioner of St. Pius X Parish for many years, thereafter a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, and thereafter St. Alphonsus Parish. Dr. Cerise was the chairman of the Archbishop Community Appeal in 1990, was a member of the Order of St. Lazurus, and was presented the John Paul II award as the outstanding Catholic of the year.

Dr. Cerise was the St. Aloysius alumnus of the year in 1996, and served on many other civic organizations in the metropolitan area. He enjoyed sailing as his favorite past-time and was a member of the Southern Yacht Club as well as a former member of the Lakeshore Club, and was a member of the Boston Club and several carnival organizations.

“He was a magnificent surgeon and a very strong supporter of Tulane Surgery.”

Norman McSwain
Professor, Tulane University, Department of Surgery
Trauma Director, Spirit of Charity Trauma Center, ILH
Faculty Publications & Presentations
Tulane University School of Medicine
Department of Surgery
July 1, 2011 - December 30, 2011

Name: CHARLES F. BELLOWS, III, MD
Department: Surgery - General
Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Publications


Name: JOSEPH F. BUELL, MD
Department: Surgery - Abdominal Transplant
Academic Rank: Professor

Publications


Presentations - Dr. Buell Continued


Name: ERNEST S. CHIU, MD
Department: Surgery - Plastic Surgery
Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Publications


Presentations


Name: JUAN C. DUCHESNE, MD
Department: Surgery - Trauma/Critical Care
Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Publications


Publications - Dr. Duchesne continued


Presentations


DUCHESNE, J. C. (Presenter & Author), Metropolitan New Orleans EMS Conference, Tulane Medical Center/Tulane Trauma Educational Institute, New Orleans, LA, "Permissive Hypotension," Local, Accepted. (October 11, 2011).


PAUL L. FRIEDLANDER, MD
Otolaryngology - General
Associate Professor


GIUSEPPE GAGLIARDI, MD
Surgery - Research
Instructor


BERNARD M. JAFFE, MD
Surgery - General
Professor Emeritus


EMAD KANDIL, MD

Surgery - General/Endocrinology

Assistant Professor


MARY T. KILLACKEY, MD

Surgery - Abdominal Transplant

Associate Professor

Name: JENNIFER MCGEE, MD
Department: Surgery - General
Academic Rank: Assistant Professor

Publications


Name: NORMAN E. MCSWAIN, Jr., MD
Department: Surgery - Trauma/Critical Care
Academic Rank: Professor

Publications


Presentations

Dr. McSwain continued

MCSWAIN, N. E. (Presenter & Author), Special Operations Medical Association, Special Operations Medical Association, Tampa, FL, "TCCC in South America," National, Accepted. (December 12, 2011).


MCSWAIN, N. E. (Presenter & Author), The 2011 San Diego Day of Trauma, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA, "Damage Control Decision Making," National, Accepted. (October 29, 2011).

MCSWAIN, N. E. (Presenter & Author), The 2011 San Diego Day of Trauma, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA, "Intra-Operative Fluid & Transfusion Strategies," National, Accepted. (October 29, 2011).

MCSWAIN, N. E. (Presenter & Author), Metropolitan New Orleans EMS Conference, Tulane Medical Center/Tulane Trauma Educational Institute, New Orleans, LA, "Prehospital Trauma Resuscitation," Local, Accepted. (October 11, 2011).

MCSWAIN, N. E. (Presenter & Author), Trauma Regional Advisory Council V and Veterans Administration, Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX, "Hurricane Katrina--Lessons Learned," Invited. (August 16, 2011).


Name: ANIL S. PARAMESH, MD
Department: Surgery - Abdominal Transplant
Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Publications


Name: DOUGLAS P. SLAKEY, MD, MPH
Department: Surgery - Abdominal Transplant
Academic Rank: Professor

Publications


Presentations


Name: RONALD A. STEIN, JD, APRN, NP-C
Department: Surgery - Abdominal Transplant
Academic Rank: Instructor

Presentation

STEIN, R. A., National League for Nursing Education Summit, Baltimore, Maryland, "Cultural Sensitization of Nursing Students to Inner City Client's Economic Constraints."