As the Department of Surgery begins its 175th year, we are experiencing growth and implementing new initiatives in each area of our academic mission. During the past three years, surgery has recruited 13 new full-time faculty who have relocated to Tulane and New Orleans from around the country. They have brought enthusiasm for excellence and determination to promote academic surgery.

The pursuit of clinical excellence has resulted in focused growth in several areas. For example, we established the first academic endocrine surgery section in the region. Advancements in endocrine surgery at Tulane include minimally invasive surgical approaches to thyroid and parathyroid disease and robotic adrenalectomy. The advancement of minimally invasive surgery is a major initiative of the Department. We have several active minimally invasive programs advancing care of the surgical patient, including laparoscopic living donor nephrectomy, metabolic surgery (for obesity), robotic colon resection, liver and pancreas resection, and hernia repair. In addition, Tulane surgeons are developing the newest surgery technique called NOTES (natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery) in cooperation with gastroenterology.

Education has taken a step forward with the creation of the Division of Surgical Education. This new division has responsibility for coordinating and promoting surgery education for students, residents and practicing physicians through CME events. Applying advanced educational techniques, including technical trainers and realistic surgical simulation, our residents have increased the average in-service test score 90% during the past three years. The reputation for excellence encouraged more than 600 resident applicants from across the country this year, and matched three excellent candidates. There has also been growth in our fellowship programs. Tulane now has a fellowship in endocrine and minimally invasive surgery, and we plan to begin a transplant surgery fellowship next year.

Given the success of the Department's clinical and educational programs, it is no surprise that surgery research has witnessed resurgence in productivity. Surgery faculty have many advanced clinical studies such as an NIH-funded study of solid organ transplantation in patients who are HIV positive. Surgical basic science studies are exploring hyperbaric storage of organs for transplant (extending storage time and improving function), the use of adult stem cells to promote cosmetically acceptable healing after trauma, burns, and major surgical resections for cancer, improving life-saving resuscitation after trauma, and new approaches to the treatment of breast cancer. The success of surgical research has resulted in more than 80 presentations at national and international meetings during the past 12 months.

The Surgery Department vision is to promote excellence in academic surgery. The Department recognizes the importance of surgical care, education and science in ensuring Tulane's position as an outstanding medical center. Please visit our new website, [http://surgery.tulane.edu](http://surgery.tulane.edu), to keep up with Surgery events and initiatives.

Douglas P. Slakey, MD, MPH
Regents Professor and
Chair, Department of Surgery
Tulane University Medical Center
New Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon

Abigail Chaffin, MD joins our team of outstanding Tulane plastic and reconstructive surgeons. "We are excited to have her as a member of the faculty, and there is no question that, based upon her qualifications, enthusiasm, interest and skills, she will be an extremely productive member of the faculty," said Douglas P. Slakey, MD, Chair of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Chaffin received her medical degree in 2001 from Wayne State University of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. She pursued her general surgery residency at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center. After completing her training in general surgery she went for another year of training in plastic and reconstructive surgery with Tulane Medical School's Department of Surgery in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She is an Assistant Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Chaffin has a special interest in aesthetic surgery. "I love helping my patients look as young as they feel. There is nothing more satisfying than when I hand my patients the mirror and get the pleasure of seeing that big smile on their face," said Dr. Chaffin. Her special interests include aesthetic surgery, body contouring after bariatric (weight loss) surgery, breast reduction and breast reconstructive surgery. She has christened the new Tulane Aesthetic Center at 1603 Second Street, at the corner of St. Charles Avenue in Uptown New Orleans. In addition, she sees patients at both the Downtown Surgery Clinic and the Lakeside Breast and Surgery Clinic. The Tulane Aesthetic Center offers detailed consultations regarding all types of cosmetic surgery and skin care. Operating rooms and a luxurious overnight stay facility are located in the same location, offering our patients the utmost pampering, convenience and privacy. At the Tulane Aesthetic Center, patients can explore any and all aspects of cosmetic surgical techniques, including breast augmentation, breast reduction, breastlifts, facelift, blepharoplasty, browlift, rhinoplasty, otoplasty, abdominoplasty, liposuction, post-bariatric body & contouring including lower-body lift, as well as Botox, dermal fillers and skin care. Consultation hours are Monday and Friday afternoons from 1pm-5pm.

Anyone with questions can contact Caroline Barber at 504-988-4167.

Meet Our Patient Concierge

The Department of Surgery welcomes Caroline Barber, our Patient Concierge. As our department continues to strive for excellence, one of our goals is to make sure that every patient and family has a positive experience within the Tulane system. In order to accomplish this goal, it became apparent to us that we needed someone within our department to be the initial contact for prospective patients and a trusted resource for our existing patients.

Caroline comes to our department with years of customer service experience. She believes that establishing trust with a patient is extremely important and is the key to making the patient feel positive about Tulane as their choice for health care. In order to accomplish this "you need to put yourself in their shoes and follow through on any and all arrangements you discuss with the patient. If you say you’re going to call them back in five minutes then make sure you do that," said Caroline.

Caroline will be providing services and information such as:

- Recommending the best surgeon for the patient
- Scheduling appointments
- Transportation
- Parking
- Lodging
- Follow-Up Questionnaire

To speak to Caroline call 1-877-378-7874 or email her at crbarber@tulane.edu.
Advanced Hernia & Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Clinical Program

The internationally known specialists at the Tulane’s Hernia and Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Clinical Program perform a variety of different repair techniques, both laparoscopic (minimally invasive) and open, for all types of hernias. We are composed of a dedicated team of surgeons and nurses with a special interest in providing evidence-based care in the field of hernia surgery and research of new hernia techniques and meshes. The breadth of experience that our surgeons and staff can offer patients are a variety of hernia repairs, such as diaphragmatic, inguinal, incisional/ventral, umbilical, para-esophageal and para-stomal all in one setting. We also offer a multi-specialty approach to the preoperative assessment and optimization of all patients undergoing hernia surgery. Preoperative optimization will be carried out in conjunction with input from the anaesthetist, cardiologist and family medicine physician. Our hospital is equipped with modern rooms, the latest biologic and synthetic mesh material and a well equipped ICU to manage even the most challenging, complex or recurrent hernia cases.

This multi-specialty clinics committed to providing quality patient-centered care in a personable and timely manner. Dr. Bellows has a major interest in hernia surgery and is devoted to hernia diagnosis and repair. Moreover, he has pioneered the use of biologic meshes in the United States.

Tulane is a leader currently participating in nationally recognized clinical trails aimed at improving hernia repair techniques and patient outcomes. Our goal for this clinical program is to meet and exceed the expectations of exceptional patient service and clinical outcomes. We are taking critical steps toward eradicating delays and improving patient satisfaction by providing evidence-based care, empowering patients to participate in decisions about their own healthcare, reducing morbidity and mortality by eliminating medical errors and applying state-of-the-art algorithms which reduce unnecessary variability in care delivery.

Charles F. Bellows, III, MD, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief, General Surgery & Minimally Invasive Surgery

2008 Spirit of Charity Award

Norman McSwain, MD was awarded the "Spirit of Charity Award" by the Medical Center of Louisiana Foundation. The award salutes contributions to Charity Hospital’s mission.
Simulation Center Opens!

For more than 170 years, Tulane University has been a leader in medical education and healthcare. On January 26, 2009, this tradition was continued with the opening of the Tulane Center for Advanced Medical Simulation and Team Training. At a ceremony attended by Tulane Medical Center board members, representatives from the School of Medicine and the Office of the President, invited guests were given a tour of the facility and were encouraged to get hands-on experience with the wide array of equipment with the assistance of the staff.

The Simulation Center, a 14,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, incorporates high-fidelity simulation equipment and modern educational techniques to provide skills-based and team training for healthcare professionals at all levels. Located at 131 South Robertson on the Tulane downtown campus, the Center was created to develop training to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare, improve education, reduce medical errors to improve patient safety, allow for multi-disciplinary research, provide an environment for healthcare development, and set a standard for national education training and certification.

For more information or to arrange a tour of the facility, contact Jennifer Calzada at 504-988-9150, or visit the website at http://tulane.edu/som/sim/.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We hope you will keep in touch.

Let us know what you would like to hear about and if you have any news to share with us.

We welcome your input for this newsletter, so please email us at surgery@tulane.edu or give us a call at (504) 988-5128.

2009 Theodore Drapanas Lecture

June 19, 2009

Drapanas lecturer

Andrew S. Klein, MD, FACS, MBA
Director, Comprehensive Transplant Center
Professor of Surgery
Esther and Mark Shulman Chair in Surgery and Transplant Medicine
The Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles

To learn more about Dr. Klein go to: http://www.csme.edu/6606.html
Faculty News

Abigail Chaffin, MD

Presentations

January 7, 2009 Body Contouring after Bariatric Surgery; Tulane University Department of Grand Rounds

Ernie Chiu, MD

Presentations

January 2009 Current Management of Vascular Anomalies, Tulane Pediatric Department of Grand Rounds New Orleans, LA

February 19-21, 2009 Supraclavicular Artery Flap. Aesthetic Facial Reconstruction Symposia in Adults and Children Symposium, San Diego, CA

April 2009 Head and Neck Oncologic Reconstruction using Supraclavicular Artery Island Flap. M.D.Anderson Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds, Houston, TX

Juan Duchesne, MD

Appointments

Appointed to the editorial review board for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Presentations

March 2009 "Advanced Trauma Life Support and Prehospital Trauma Life Support on the road: An educational imperative"

Norman McSwain, MD

Presentations

March 2009 "Advanced Trauma Life Support and Prehospital Trauma Life Support on the road: An educational imperative"

Jennifer McGee, MD

Presentations

April 3, 2009 More Focus Needed on African American Female Kidney Transplant Recipients; 19th Annual Meeting of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons
Faculty News Continued

Anil Paramesh, MD

Publications


Poster Presentations


Invited Lectures

February 4, 2009 "Overview of Abdominal Organ Transplantation," Grand Rounds presentation at the Lakeside Medical Center and Hospital, Bangalore, India.


February 11, 2009 "Over of Pancreatic Transplantation," Grand Rounds presentation in Narayana Hrudalaya Hospital, Bangalore, India.

March 17 and 19th, 2009 "Introduction to Transplantation," co-creator and speaker for internet based teaching seminar for dialysis centers and patients, ESRD Network 13. March

Chart Reviews

Title: Surgical Outcomes of Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomies with Vascular Anomalies
PI: Paramesh, Sub-Investigators: Slakey DS, Florman SS, Al-Abbas H, Killackey MT, CL Yau

Appointments

January 2009 Medical Director, Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA).

Doug Slakey, MD, MPH

Grant

The Effect of Certican and Reduced Dose Tacrolimus on Glucose Metabolism and Post-Kidney Transplant Diabetes in Kidney Transplant Patients. ISS Budget 600,000.

Editorial Review Board and Consulting Groups

Reviewer, American Transplant Congress, 2009

Reviewer, American Journal of Transplantation, 2009

Papers Submitted


Faculty News Continued

Dr. Slakey Continued

Presentations

January 14, 2009 "Management of Pancreas Cystic Neoplasms," Surgical Grand Rounds, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA


Poster Presentations

January 15-18th, 2009 "Differences in levels of P-Selectin Expression in Cold Storage of Kidneys in University of Wisconsin and Histidine-Tryptophan-Ketoglutarate Solutions," poster presentation at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons' 9th Annual State of the Art Winter Symposium, Marco Island, Florida


January 15-18th, 2009 "Is the Effect of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy on P-Selectin Expression During Cold Organ Preservation Tissue Dependent?" poster presentation at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons' 9th Annual State of the Art Winter Symposium, Marco Island, Florida

Invited Lecture