



THE SCALPEL

August 2023 Newsletter

Laying a strong foundation for the future.

The department's strategic goals have been centered around four main pillars: patient care, education, research, and philanthropy. In the last several months we have been working hard to achieve these goals by putting better structures in place and improving processes. This has been a collective effort of staff, residents, and faculty, who all share a common goal of seeing us grow into a nationally recognized academic department. We have and continue to invest in infrastructure but more importantly, we are investing in people. We have hired several staff members to support our academic mission, but we also recognize that there is still more to be done.

In addition, we have recently hired two new division chiefs who will bring new perspectives and fresh leadership to foster growth and innovation in their respective divisions. I would like to thank Dr. John Morrison and Dr. Hugo St. Hilaire for their extraordinary leadership and service to the department over the years. Dr. St. Hilaire, an extraordinary surgeon, played a pivotal role in building our plastics division through very turbulent times in addition to strengthening our plastics residency program. Dr. Morrison not only helped build the division of general surgery but was also instrumental in the creation of the colorectal surgery division. He is an extraordinary educator who is also very passionate about inequalities. We have also hired multiple new faculty members as we continue to strengthen our clinical programs and expand research and education.

In the coming months, we will continue to accentuate our collaborations with other departments and national institutions as we lay a strong foundation for a brighter future for the department.

Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS, FACS, FASCRS
Professor and Chair
Isidore Cohn Jr., MD Endowed Chair of Surgery
Department of Surgery
School of Medicine
LSU Health New Orleans



New Faculty This Month



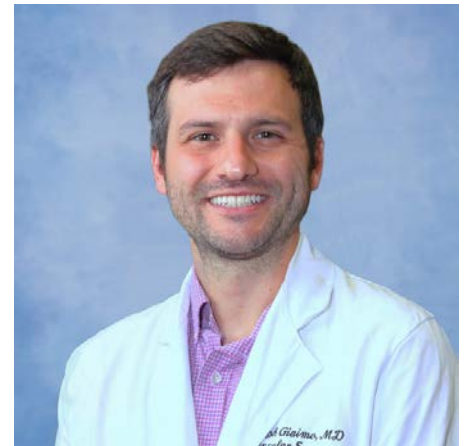
Jenny Lavie, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Starting August 14, 2023

Dr. Jenny Lavie will be returning to the LSU Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery within the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Lavie received her medical degree from the LSU School of Medicine, where she also completed her Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Residency. She went on to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada.

Her clinical interests include all aspects of pediatric plastic surgery, especially cleft lip and palate, pediatric microsurgery, and brachial plexus reconstruction.

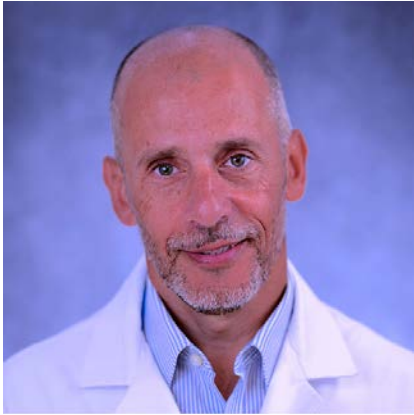
Dr. Joe Giaimo will be joining the LSU Department of Surgery as faculty within the Division of Vascular Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Giaimo received his medical degree from LSU School of Medicine. He remained at LSU for his General Surgery Residency and his Vascular Surgery Fellowship.

Dr. Giaimo's clinical interests include limb salvage, complex dialysis access, and resident education. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and attending Saints' and Pelicans' games.



Joseph Giaimo, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Vascular Surgery
Starting August 14, 2023

Announcing New Division Chiefs



Carlos Galvani, MD, FACS, FASMBS
Chief, Division of General Surgery
Vice Chair, Clinical Operations

Starting October 23, 2023

Dr. Carlos Galvani will be joining the LSU Department of Surgery as the Chief of the Division of General Surgery and the Vice Chair of Clinical Operations. Dr. Galvani received his medical degree from Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Universidad Nacional de Cordoba in Cordoba, Argentina. He completed his General Surgery Residency in Durand Buenos Aires, Argentina at Hospital Carlos G. He went on to complete an Advanced Laproscopic/Robotic Surgery and Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery Fellowships at University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine.

Currently, Dr. Galvani is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at the Department of Surgery at Tulane School of Medicine. Dr Galvani has special interest in weight loss surgery, physiology of the esophagus, gastroesophageal reflux disease, hiatal hernia, surgical treatment of gastroparesis, abdominal wall hernias and the use of robots in gastrointestinal surgery.

Outside of work, Dr. Galvani enjoys (trying to) play golf, playing futbol with his kids, barbequing, working out, and going to the movies.

Dr. Tim Schaub will be joining the LSU Department of Surgery as the Chief of the Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Schaub received his medical degree from University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School. He completed his General Surgery Residency in Ann Arbor, MI at University of Michigan Health Systems. He went on to complete a Plastic Surgery residency and Hand/Microsurgery Fellowship at UT Southwestern University.

Currently, Dr. Schaub is an Associate Professor at both the University of Arizona and Creighton University, and he is the Director of the Hand and Microsurgery Program at Phoenix Children's Hospital Medical Group in Phoenix, AZ. His clinical and research interests include pediatric microsurgery, congenital hand surgery, limb salvage, and optimization of clinical efficiencies to improve patient and provider satisfaction.

In his free time, Dr. Schaub enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, son, and their two golden retrievers. He also enjoys running and fishing.



Timothy A. Schaub, MD, FACS
Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery

Starting November 6, 2023

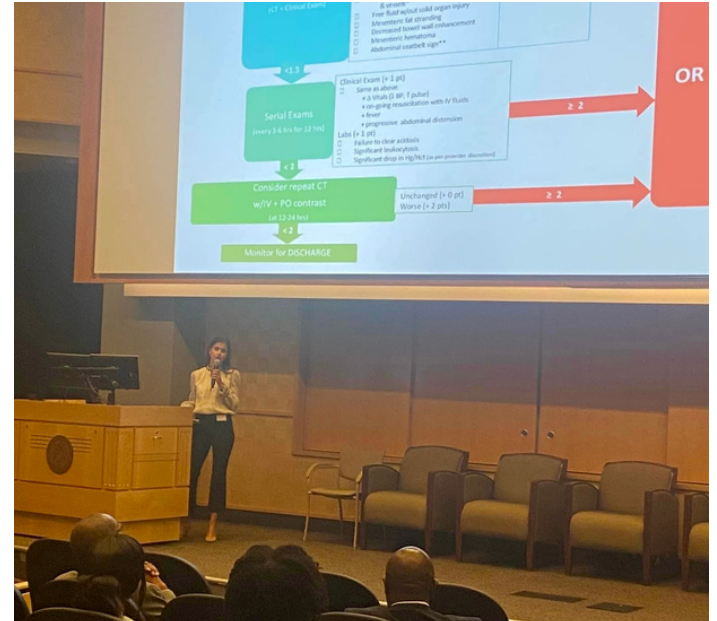


2023

ANNUAL CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

JULY 29 - AUGUST 2

NEW ORLEANS, LA



LSU Health hosted several sessions as part of the NMA's Annual Convention, including the Drew Walker Symposium, a robotics simulation training with Intuitive, and a symposium on equitable access to behavioral health services with the Department of Psychiatry. Huge thanks to everyone involved with the planning and implementation of these events!



Education Updates



Thursday conferences have a new location! We have moved our educational programming back to campus within the Human Development Center. This move gives us more control over technical controls, and it helps us synchronize didactics and Grand Rounds across our campuses.



Congratulations to the General Surgery Class of 2023! They had a 100% pass rate for the written boards General Surgery Qualifying Exam. We're so proud of these graduates for their hard work and dedication to the field of surgery.

Alumni Spotlight



Robert J. Allen, Sr, MD, FACS

Founder, Center for Microsurgical Breast Reconstruction

Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery, LSUHSC

Hometown: Forence, SC

Medical School: Medical University of South Carolina, 1976

Residency: General and Plastic Surgery at LSU

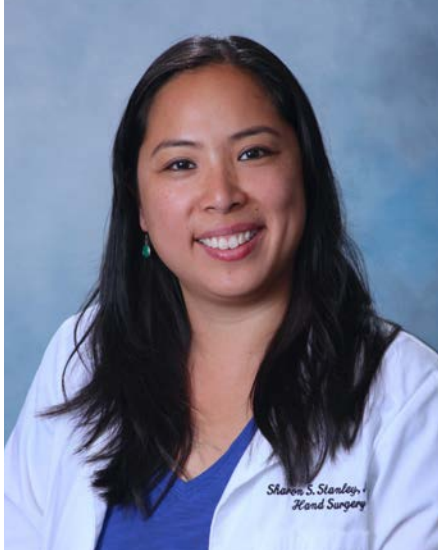
Fellowship: Microsurgery at NYUMC

Dr. Allen chose LSU after completing a Sub-Internship under Drs. Alan Stoler with Dr. Robert Batson as Chief Resident in 1975. He is proud of how LSU excels in training surgeons for the future, and would like to see LSU Surgery continue that legacy of excellence and foster innovations within specialties.

In 1992, Dr. Allen pioneered the Diep Flap for breast reconstruction at the LSU Charity Hospital. This advancement has gone on to revolutionize breast reconstruction options for women undergoing a mastectomy.

Currently, Dr. Allen is working with the LSU Health Foundation to establish the first endowed Chair of Plastic Surgery. His current research is combining the Surgical Delay Phenomenon with the Perforator Concept, which is inspired by his favorite LSU attending Dr. Bert Myers for his internationally recognized work on the Delay Phenomenon and Skin Flaps.

Faculty Spotlight



Sharon S. Stanley, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Joined Faculty: 2021

Hometown: Denville, NJ

Medical School: UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School

General Surgery Residency: Northwell Health (NSLIJMC)

Plastic Surgery Residency: University of Miami-Jackson Health System

Orthopedic Hand Surgery Fellowship: Integris Health

I chose LSU surgery because of the complex cases, the desire to treat the underserved population in New Orleans, and the ability to grow as a surgeon. I wanted to have the opportunity to push the boundaries and also continue to learn and improve my skills by challenging myself. I also wanted to teach residents, and I love the culture and spirit that embodies New Orleans.

I love working with the LSU Plastic Surgery residents. They are unique and wonderful in different ways, and they have this great bond that makes them so resilient. Their eagerness to learn and have fun makes it really enjoyable to train them. It is also extremely rewarding to be able to serve our community by treating very complex and debilitating injuries in patients who do not have a lot of financial means or emotional support. It has taught me that medicine and surgery is a holistic practice, and that treating a patient's problem requires not just technical skills, but creativity, open minded-ness, and understanding of their social situation. The other aspect of my practice that I enjoy is working with other surgical specialties to solve complex problems.

LSU has so much to offer in the fields of hand surgery, extremity surgery, and limb salvage. The pathology we see is often unusual in its severity, frequency, and complexity. I think we have a lot of knowledge to share with the world through publications and regional/national meetings. Our hand and upper extremity volume is immense, and there is more than enough case volume and variety to support a hand fellowship. Within the fields of hand and extremity surgery, I would also like to see us expand into the Children's Hospital and care for the children who come from all over Louisiana and sometimes neighboring states with congenital hand differences, sequelae of burn injuries, spasticity from cerebral palsy, and brachial plexus birth injuries.

I am currently working on a few research projects including the epidemiology of upper extremity injuries at University Medical Center, the unusually high proportion of carpal coalition encountered in this patient population, and reviewing the efforts and costs of regional hand transfers to a level 1 trauma center. I'm also getting more involved in the national hand society - American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) - and have joined the committee for resident and fellow education.

Resident Spotlight



Danielle "Alex" Dooley, MD

PGY-5, General Surgery Resident
Administrative Chief Resident

Hometown: Carencro, LA

Medical School: LSU Health - New Orleans

As an LSU medical student I was able to see the quality of surgical residents that LSU fosters, and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it. I'm proud for many reasons, but mostly because work hard to take care of the people in Louisiana who need it the most. Even spread out across three cities, we are a close knit group that I consider my family.

Looking towards the future, I hope that our research presence continues to grow and that it becomes easier for residents to get involved early in training. As this year's Administrative Co-Chief Resident, along with Dr. Carr, we plan to continue to strengthen our program and trying to make residents' lives better in any way that we can.

I am currently applying for a colorectal surgery fellowship, and plan to practice in Louisiana after finishing training.

Wellness Corner



How do you relax?

August 15 is National Relaxation Day: a reminder to all of us that we must make time for ourselves in order to show up and care for others. Everyone is different, and everyone has their own way to relax from the stresses of work and life. Some people enjoy meditation, reading, or other solitary activities. Others may relax better with friends and family over a group meal or happy hour at the bar. However you choose to relax, make sure you take care of yourself.



"Reading nonmedical books and going to the spa"

- Shawn McKinney, MD, MPH, FACS
Vice Chair of Surgical Quality



"A technique that I find to help relax me in any situation is Box Breathing"

- Cory Lemon, Clinical Trials Coordinator



"Traveling, massages, reading, and dinner with friends"

- Fabienne Gray, MD, FACS
Interim Division Chief, Pediatric Surgery



"Flying or scuba diving"

- Lance Stuke, MD, MPH, FACS
General Surgery Residency Program Director



"Wood working and backpacking"

- John Hunt, MD, FACS
Division Chief, Trauma/Critical Care

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