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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We are thrilled to present the first edition of our department's new monthly newsletter: The Scalpel. This newsletter is how we will not only keep the department abreast of important news, updates, and accomplishments, but also how we will engage our alumni and reach out to prospective applicants. This is part of our larger goal of enhancing the national footprint of our department.

This month will mark the first six months of my time serving this storied department as chair. I am truly humbled to lead this department at this time and would like to acknowledge that I stand on the shoulders of giants who were here before me. I would like to particularly acknowledge Dr. Batson who not only led this department through very turbulent times but rebuilt and continues to grow it. I am very thankful for his graciousness in welcoming my family and me to NOLA and for making the transition seamless.

In the last six months, through multiple town hall and individual meetings, I have met with every faculty, fellow, resident and staff. I have used each of these opportunities not only to listen and get feedback but to articulate my vision for the department. Over the last few months, I have come to truly appreciate the dedication and passion of all our faculty in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette, for not only providing excellent training to our residents but also providing excellent care to all patients, especially the underprivileged and underserved. They have continued to do this in less-than-ideal conditions with wanting support. I would be remiss not to also acknowledge our wonderful staff who work tirelessly in the background to keep the department afloat.

As I read the history of this storied department, I am amazed by how innovative and forward-thinking the leaders of yesteryear were. They were truly giants in their time and were always pushing the envelope. My goal is to continue to nudge this department to be innovative, relevant, and to always engage in national discussion.

brought in national speakers for our Grand Rounds and will continue to do so. We have sent dozens of residents to conferences and other national meetings. We recently hosted the 57th Annual Cohn-Rives Visiting Professorship, and we have planned our first annual Research Symposium.

My vision is to have our department recognized in the next five years as one of the top surgery departments in the country. Our clinical activity is very strong as we continue to serve our Louisiana community. We will seek to enhance our trainees' education by constantly innovating and improving didactics, thus, preparing them to practice surgery in the 21st century and be lifelong learners. We will strongly encourage research and scholarly activity for both faculty and learners and will support anyone to present their research work in regional and national meetings. We have invested in hiring statisticians and acquiring national databases and will continue to provide infrastructure to make this effort easy for all. We will seek to engage better with the proud alumni of this department and improve philanthropy to better help the department sponsor research and wellness for our faculty and learners.

Despite all the challenges, we have hired more staff to better support our faculty and will continue to do so. Our goal is to continue to grow existing and build new clinical programs in New Orleans at different hospitals. We have in the works plans to expand general surgery and surgical oncology. This will provide new opportunities to train our residents and fellows.

I am very excited about the future of this department as we seek to continue to build from an excellent base but make changes that will open the door to all the future endless possibilities.

Let's make it happen.

VNN



Valentine N. Nfonam, 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



AWARDS & HONORS

Aesculapian Society Excellence in Teaching Awards



Jessica Zagory, MD
Junior Faculty Award



Christopher Brown, MD
Resident/Fellow Award



Charles Chappuis, MD
General Surgery Faculty



Tuan Tran, MD
General Surgery Resident

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Inductees

UMCNO Physician's Award Nominees



Shawn McKinney, MD
Champion of Advancing
Health Equity Award



Valentine Nfonsam, MD
Leadership Award
New Faculty Award



Sharon Stanley, MD
Educator Award

NEW FACES

Our department has grown a lot this year. Here's a look at all the new members of the LSU Surgery family.



Britney Butler, BS
Business Manager
February 2023
From: University of New Orleans



Terie Capella, MSW
Plastics Residency Coordinator
September 2022
From: NOLA Military & Maritime Academy



Jenna Dennis, BS
Research Associate
August 2022
From: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Jake Fontenot, BS
Research Associate
August 2022
From: LSU Dept Biological Engineering



Anastasiya Ivanko, BS
Clinical Trials Coordinator
June 2023
From: Tulane University



Angie LeBoeuf, BS
Surgery Clerkship Coordinator
August 2022
From: Delgado - Business & Technology



Cory Lemon, MPH
Clinical Trials Coordinator
February 2023
From: LSU Dept. of Physical Therapy



Shana Lennard, RN, BSN, CCRP
RN Clinical Trials Coordinator
May 2023
From: University Medical Center



Omeed Moaven, MD
Asst. Professor of Clinical Surgery
July 2022
From: Mayo Clinic Florida



Eisha Mohiuddin, BS
Assistant Business Manager
March 2023
From: LSU Dept. of Anesthesiology



Delora Mount, MD, FACS, FAAP
Professor of Clinical Surgery
July 2022
From: University of Wisconsin-Madison



Ariza Sisavath, MBA, CRA
Clinical Research Project Manager
February 2023
From: LSU Healthcare Network



Kelli Summers, MD
Asst. Professor of Clinical Surgery
September 2022
From: LSU Vascular Surgery Residency



Savannah Thibodeaux, BS
Dept. Operations Coordinator
June 2022
From: Families Helping Families of GNO



Olivia Warren, BS
Research Associate
August 2022

EDUCATION UPDATES



In the last six months, we have made incredible strides in resident education. We have brought in three national speakers, and we are planning on four more by the end of June. We have sent dozens of residents to present their work and research at national conferences including Academic Surgical Congress, Southeastern Surgical Congress, Society of Surgical Oncology, American Burn Association, and more. This April, three of our education leadership faculty and three of our coordinators are attending the Surgical Education Week to learn from and share with other program directors and coordinators from around the country.

We've had multiple town halls and small group listening sessions with all the residents and fellows across our programs. These sessions have kicked off incredible discussions around not only how to grow our program, but how to better serve our residents in their education and careers. We are excited to begin a resident research group to provide new collaboration opportunities and more support for the residents interested in surgical research.

Our residents are continuing to present abstracts, win awards, and place into competitive fellowships, but we see even more room for growth in our program. Starting with the new academic year, we will be making some changes to didactics, aligning our educational conferences between New Orleans and Baton Rouge campuses. We want to increase our in-service exam scores, board pass rates, and overall general knowledge within the residency programs.

Thanks to everyone that helped build and grow this program to what it is today, and thanks to everyone helping to grow for tomorrow!



Incoming Residents

General Surgery 2023 - 2024

Categorical Interns



Prelim Interns



Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery 2023 - 2024



Vascular Surgery 2023 - 2024



RESEARCH UPDATES



We have a new research newsletter: The Cutting Edge! The goal of this missive will be to highlight resources, accomplishments, and updates that should be helpful for anyone looking to do science in our department. As this is a new endeavor, please don't hesitate to give us feedback on it!

As anyone who's ever tried to do research will tell you, it's hard. Really, really hard. There's lots of paperwork. Sometimes results don't turn out as you hoped. Maybe your research assistant breaks their hand and can't run assays for 12 weeks. I myself just got a critique from a journal reviewer last week that made me feel like an orangutan and someone in a lab coat was trying to teach me three dimensional chess. I just wanted to flip the table over.

But then there's those other times. The results come back showing what started off as a curiosity strong enough to drive you to sit down and decide "I'm going to study this" pays off and the question gets answered. The grant application gets funded, providing social proof that your idea has merit. Results build on each other like bricks in a wall, serving as a platform for others to climb on their own journeys of discovery. Man, that's the good stuff. Check back in this space every month to see what Dr. Nfonsam and I are doing to help enhance the latter!



Hebert Phelan, MD, FACS
Vice Chair of Research

LSU HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

1ST ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2023

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**TIMOTHY M. PAWLIK, MD, PHD, MPH,
MTS, MBA, FACS, FSSO, FRACS (HON.)**

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, ONCOLOGY
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SURGEON-IN-CHIEF
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER
MEDICAL CENTER

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
CENTER AUDITORIUM

MAY 4, 2023
7AM - 12PM

**Abstract Deadline:
April 14, 2023**

The poster features a dark purple background with a white molecular structure graphic on the left. The text is in white and yellow. A yellow banner at the bottom right highlights the abstract deadline.

Our visiting professor, Dr. Fiemu Nwariaku kicked off the 57th annual Cohn Rives Visiting Professorship In Surgery with his presentation about the alignment of health systems and academic surgery. We also had presentations from five faculty members and six residents.



residents and fellows into the Cohn Rives Surgical Society.

Cohn Rives Officers 2023-2024

President - Fabienne Gray, MD

Vice-President - Seeyuen Lee, MD

Treasurer - Bruce Torrance, MD

Secretary - Valentine Nfonsam, MD



ROBERT BATSON, MD, FACS



This January, the distinguished Dr. Robert C. Batson retired from the LSU School of Medicine. To say that he is missed would be an understatement. Dr Batson joined the Surgery faculty at LSU Medical Center in 1976. He served as the Program Director of the Vascular Surgery fellowship from 1980-1989, and again in 1996-2005, and Chief of the Section of Vascular Surgery from 1996 to 2011. In 2010, after a vacancy in leadership, he was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Surgery and was shortly thereafter named Chair in 2011.

Dr Batson has many awards and accolades to his name, including membership in Alpha Omega Alpha, recipient of the Shipley Award of the Southern Surgical Association, and on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Vascular Society, LSU Medical Alumni Association, and the LSU Medical Center Foundation. He has served as President of the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the James D. Rives Surgical Society, the Jesse E. Thompson Vascular Society, New Orleans Surgical Society, Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society, Surgical Association of Louisiana. He has over 30 refereed published manuscripts.

Dr Batson's greatest legacy, however, can be seen in the generations of surgical residents and fellows trained under his watchful eye. During his tenure as Chair, he saw over 100 residents and fellows graduate from LSU New Orleans. The General Surgery Residency grew from 8 graduating chiefs per year to 11, becoming one of the largest programs in the country. There was addition of integrated Vascular and Plastic Surgery programs; Colorectal, Minimally Invasive/Metabolic Surgery Fellowships; and recruitment of nationally prominent surgeons to lead clinical programs. He loved to teach, and we were honored to be able to name the Robert C. Batson Faculty Award this year.

Dr. Batson has been a pillar of our department for decades, and he has graciously agreed to continue to serve as a mentor to our residents and faculty. He has received an Emeritus appointment within our department. Please join us in expressing our profound gratitude to Dr. Batson for his service to our department and our institution.





This year's LA-ACS was a huge success for LSU Surgery! We had presentations from residents, medical students, and faculty.

We are the **third-year reigning champs of Surgical Jeopardy.**

And we swept four of six awards presented:

- Best Paper — Celia A. Short, MD (PGY-4)
- Med Student — Logan Gold (MS3)
- ePoster I — Paige Deville, MD (PGY-4)
- ePoster II — Jeanette Zavala (MS4)



LCMC AQUISITION OF TULANE

LCMC-Tulane partnership shakes up NOLA healthcare market

Aidan McCahill, Contributing Writer
October 19, 2022

The recent acquisition of Tulane Hospital by LCMC is one of the biggest news in New Orleans. This acquisition puts two competing medical institutions under one umbrella, LCMC. While many may see challenges, which of course are plenty, We see opportunity for not only partnership between the two institutions, but opportunity to grow and provide better quality care for our patients and community. The LCMC leadership has made it clear on multiple occasions that UMC will remain a primary LSU hospital while East Jefferson hospital will be a primary Tulane hospital. We do not see any negative impact of this merger on our trainees, but instead see the potential of leveraging this to expand the training sites and opportunities of our learners in New Orleans. This is going to be choppy at the beginning, but we plan to be in the forefront of this change to be able to shape the future outcome.



Tulane Medical Center, the primary teaching hospital for Tulane University's School of Medicine, will shift many of its services to other local hospitals over the next two years to allow for new graduate programs. (Staff Photo)

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Paige Deville, MD

PGY-4, General Surgery Resident
Currently in Research Year

Started Residency: July 2019

Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Medical School: LSU Health - New Orleans

I have a brother who is 2 years older than me and we've always been close. He went to LSU medical school as well, and when he was a third-year student on his surgery rotation he called me one day and said "Paige, you are such a surgeon." Then, I had surgery as my first block of third year (With Dr. Chris Johnson and Dr. Blake Platt as my residents). As I went through all the other specialties throughout the year, I kept thinking back to my surgery rotation because that was what I envisioned "being a doctor" to look like. I've always been super creative and artistic - surgery combined academics with creativity and it captivated me in a way that was unexpected.

This research year was a decision that I made for a variety of reasons, but ultimately a gut feeling. Dr. Smith, Dr. Phelan, and Dr. Carter created an opportunity for me that I will never be able to thank them enough for.

My biggest project, and the one with the steepest learning curve this year, has been our mice wound healing model. We had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC in January and spend the day at a lab that is experienced in mice wound models to get tips for setting up our experiments.



The overarching aim of this project is to create burns on these mice and study the tensile strength, microbiome, and histology of wound healing 9 days after the burn injury in mice that will be treated with different combinations of cytokines and antibiotics. Before this year I couldn't have told you the difference between a mouse and a rat (which is a big deal to mix up, I learned), and now I know more than I ever should admit about mice.

There have been several other projects we have been working on, and all-in-all I couldn't have asked for a better experience this year. Having this opportunity within our program is something I am proud to tell people we have at LSU, and I'm excited to see how many amazing things future residents are able to accomplish under Dr. Smith's guidance in the years to come.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Alison A. Smith, MD, PhD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery

Division of Trauma and Critical Care

Joined Faculty: September 2020

Hometown: Pittsburg, PA

Medical School: Tulane University for MD/PhD

Residency: General Surgery at Tulane University

Fellowship: Trauma/Critical Care at UT Health San Antonio



*Dr. Smith's research team (from left to right):
Cameron Fontenot, Olivia Warren, Dr. Alison Smith, Jenna Dennis, and Dr. Paige Deville*

I chose to come to LSU because I want to spend my career improving trauma, critical care, and acute care for the greater New Orleans area through clinical work and research. I'm proud of the department's strong tradition of excellent clinical care. I believe we have a bright future to become one of the best academic surgical departments in the country. In fact, I want the department to become a research powerhouse.

Currently, I have a basic science lab focused on wound healing. I also help the medical students and residents on clinical research projects. At LSU, I am a member of the IRB and I am a co-advisor for the Students International Health Organization. On a national level, I am a committee member for EAST and AAST trauma organizations. I am a board member for the Association for Academic Surgery Foundation. I am a member of the non-profit organizations McSwain Trauma Education Project and Sante Total: Healthcare for Haiti.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jimmy Craven MD, MBA, FACS

Hometown: Metairie, LA

Medical School: LSU Health Shreveport (c/o 1997)

Residency: LSU Vascular Surgery (1997 - 2002)

Fellowship: LSU Vascular Surgery (2002 - 2003)

After practicing with Bob Batson for three years at West Jeff, I moved to Baton Rouge to work with CVT Surgical Center in 2006. After serving as Associate CMO of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, I joined OLOL Physician Group as their President of their 550 provider network. After consolidating the physician groups across our health system, I now serve as President of our 1250 provider network across Louisiana and Mississippi.

I chose LSU Surgery because Charity Hospital provided a clinical experience unmatched to the programs I ranked. It provided the opportunity to make independent clinical and surgical decisions throughout residency that were invaluable to my maturity as a surgeon. Not to mention Joe's Bar was down the block from the hospital!

I'm proud of the autonomy LSU provided me. The networking of surgical leaders my time with the department and Bob Batson afforded me have paid dividends throughout my career. I would do it all over again without any hesitation. I have enjoyed my time with the alumni arm of the Cohn-Rives since graduating, but I am looking forward to tomorrow's surgical leaders carrying on such a historic tradition. Our departments visiting professorship is the longest running visiting professorship in the history of the LSU New Orleans.

Clinically I remain active with the support of my old partners in CVT and my PA Nicolette. I will never give up clinical medicine it is my identity.



Professionally with FMOL/ OLOL I am focused on 'Smart Growth'. We have onboarded over 160 providers in 2022 and have an aggressive growth plan for 2023. Outside of my clinical and professional jobs, I serve on the community practice section steering committee for the Society of Vascular Surgery. I also serve on the boards of a surgical specialty hospital and a statewide urgent care company. Personally have the most understanding wife Courtney and 2 children Ellie and Jacob who I pray one day will pursue a medical career and feel as fulfilled as I do.

WELLNESS CORNER

In the coming years, the department of surgery will invest more in improving the wellbeing of our staff, trainees and faculty. We will do this by promoting team building events and finding ways to acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contributions of everyone to the department.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Department of Surgery

NEW HEADSHOTS

Come by during any of the times below for a new headshot.
This is **REQUIRED** for all faculty, staff, and residents.



CALS Building – 8th Floor

~~Thursday, April 6~~
10am - 12pm

Friday, June 2
1pm - 3pm

Wednesday, May 3
3pm - 5pm

Monday, June 26
9am - 11am

**** WHITE COATS REQUIRED ****

**Three more
chances!**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

1ST ANNUAL
RESEARCH
SYMPOSIUM 2023

**Abstract Deadline:
April 14, 2023**

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
CENTER AUDITORIUM**

**MAY 4, 2023
7AM – 12PM**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**TIMOTHY M. PAWLIK, MD, PHD, MPH,
MTS, MBA, FACS, FSSO, FRACS (HON.)**

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, ONCOLOGY
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SURGEON-IN-CHIEF
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER
MEDICAL CENTER

SAVE THE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

GRADUATION

JUNE 24, 2023

More details coming soon



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