

June 2023 Research Newsletter

# The Cutting Edge

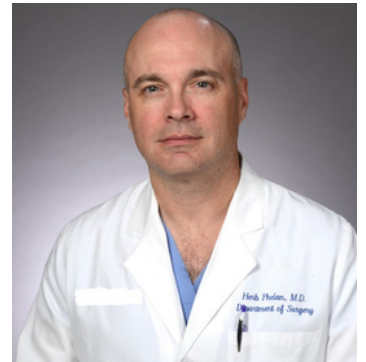
Last month I wrote about the PICO method and its usefulness as a way of crafting your research question. But what about folks who want to take the next step, who think they might want to one day have a career in which research is a significant component? Well, let me start by answering one question with another. What's the difference between a career and a job? Unfortunately, it seems like those terms get used interchangeably. The answer is simple, though. Your job is the place you go to every day that gives you a paycheck. Your career is what you take with you from job to job.

So, if you've decided you want a career in which you'll do the kind of research that can change the way people practice, a necessary first step is to stop thinking in terms of one-off projects and start thinking in terms of research themes. A good theme will be bricks-in-a-wall, results that beget more ideas. The theme you pick will be the vehicle you ride to fame as a rigorous researcher, so you should choose one that's important to your field, that's answerable, and – most importantly – something about which you're passionate. Generally, this decision will have to wait until you're a faculty member, although I have known some serious resident scientists who were able to follow this pathway.

Okay, you've dedicated yourself to this idea of being taken seriously as a researcher. Congratulations! What, then, are the barriers to raising your profile and getting traction for your theme when you're early in your academic career? Well, frankly, you're young, you're inexperienced, and you're a fresh face that's rocking the boat. But do you know what you have going for you, though? What factor helps you stand out from the crowd? You're young, you're inexperienced, and you're a fresh face that's rocking the boat! Remember, most Nobel prize winners get the award for work that was done in their 20s and 30s! That's no accident. You've got fire in the belly, something that old gray hairs like me vaguely remember possessing before Father Time started catching up with us and we became invested in the status quo.

Trust me, nobody ever became a thought leader by duplicating others' results. A good theme will be your way of planting your flag on a new mountain, so be Sir Edmund Hillary, not Ernst Reiss (ie, the second person to climb Mount Everest). The more scientifically controversial the theme, the better! Remember, the goal here is to become known, because once you're known, other doors start opening for you. And lest you accuse me of not having the courage of my convictions, the theme that made my big splash as a young and energetic Assistant Professor was the idea that it was safe to give enoxaparin 24 hours after traumatic brain injury. Many was the time I had verbal tomatoes thrown at me when I was up at the podium. But that was okay. You know why? Because I always knew more about the subject than anybody in the room. That'll be the focus of next month's newsletter. Until then, y'all stay safe.

-Herbert Phelan



**ACS** / AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF SURGEONS

Save the Date!  
ACS 2023 Clinical Congress  
October 22 - 25  
Boston, MA

[REGISTER  
HERE](#)

**Do patient care and in your career you'll impact the lives of 2,000 people. Invent a device, and you'll impact the lives of 200,000. Do high quality research, and you'll impact 2,000,000. - James Carrico, MD**

# RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHT

## JESSICA ZAGORY, MD



My first exposure to the scientific method was in my embryology and physiology courses at Swarthmore College. After graduation, I worked as a research assistant at Northwestern SOM gastroenterology working on liver fibrosis in NAFLD and HCV. I continued clinical research during medical school as well as residency at LSU. I completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles investigating the fibrosis pathway for biliary atresia in murine and human tissue.

With a strong passion for improving healthcare quality and reducing disparities, I am dedicated to ensuring trauma care accessibility for children in juvenile custody. Collaborating with outstanding medical students, I have contributed to projects rehabilitating severely injured children requiring inpatient rehab. As I begin my role as Assistant Program Director, I eagerly look forward to developing a research curriculum that simplifies and demystifies the process for clinical residents. This year has been particularly exciting because med-students I've been working closely with had outstanding oral presentations at ACS, won the Best Quick-Shot at the LSU Research Symposium, and Best Presentation at the OLOL QI Day.



My research "why" is driven by asking impactful questions that benefit others in the future, influencing practice and expanding knowledge. Through mentorship, I aim to foster critical thinking, inspire curiosity, and equip students and residents with evaluation, analysis, and innovative problem-solving skills.



# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



## LSU Health Department of Surgery 1st Annual Research Symposium

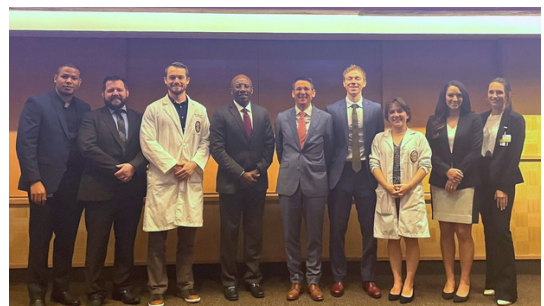
Thank you to all those that submitted Abstracts and Presented. It was your incredible work that made the 1st Annual Research Symposium a resounding success, and we greatly look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Full Presentations: Harel Schwartzberg (PGY-2), Cayley LeBlanc (MS-3), Paige Deville (PGY-3), Jace Landry (PGY-5), Celia Short (PGY-4), Logan Gold (MS-3), David Otohinoyi (Post-Doc), Robert Ross (PBRC Fellow)

Quick-shots: Hannan Malinoski (MS-3), Nicholas Taylor (PGY-5), Morgan Brown (PGY-2), Jaclyn Isabella (PGY-8), Daniela Medina (PGY-1), Ashley Clement (MS-3), Ashlin Hinojosa (MS-4), Robert Ross (PBRC Fellow), Matthew Burger (PGY-5), Hannah Leblanc (MS-3)

Posters: Selby White (MS-2), Gerry Victor (PGY-2), Anne Faulk (MS-3), Shivani Jain (MS-3), Michael Maurer (MS-2), Andrew Mercante (MS-3), Katherine Pavleszek (MS-2), Austin Primeaux (MS-3), Jonathan Richard (MS-2), Ryan Schroeder (MS-2), Leland Van Deventer (MS-3), Jeanette Zavala (MS-4), McKenzie Hargis (MS-3), Paige Deville (PGY-3)

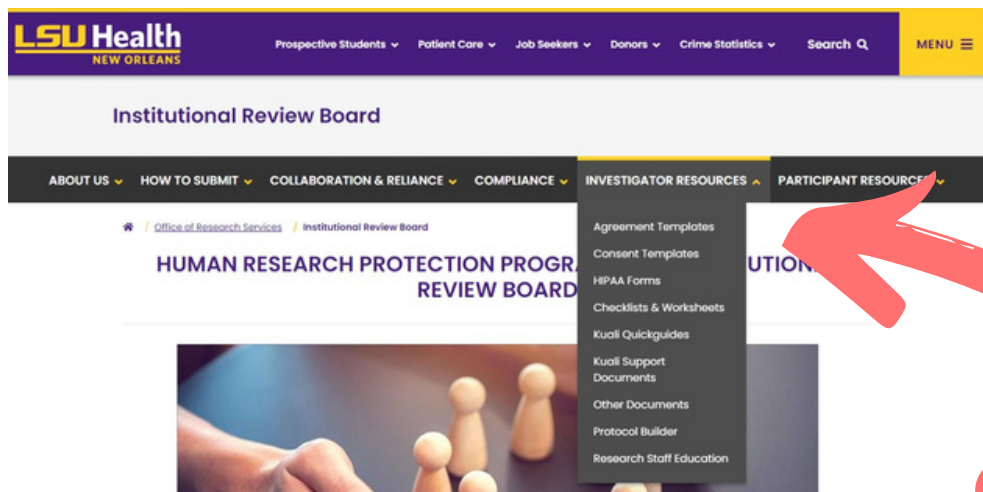
## Plastics Grand Rounds with Guest Speaker Paul Cederna, MD, on Innovation and the Plastic Surgeon



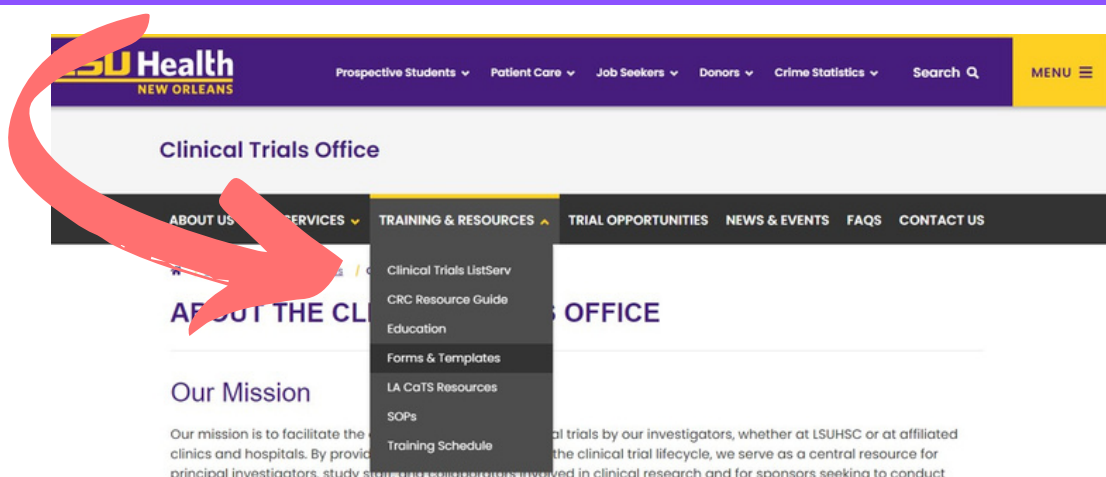
# FORMS AND TEMPLATES

Completing the necessary paperwork for a research study can be an overwhelming task. But on top of that, you may also need to create your Consent, Inclusion/Exclusion Checklist, Data Collection Forms, and Specimen Destruction Log. Making these documents and forms from scratch may be even more challenging than the research itself!

Fortunately, the [IRB](#) and [Clinical Trials Office](#) have done a remarkable job by providing comprehensive forms and templates essential for your research project's successful completion. Whether it's a chart review, case study, or prospective study, having ready-made templates simplifies this process and ensures consistency. It's a wonderful feeling to access these resources and witness how they effortlessly transform your ideas into polished and professional research project.

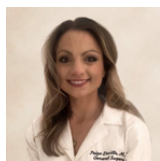


Check out the 'Investigator Resources' tab on the [IRB website](#), and the 'Training & Resources' tab on the [CTO website](#).





## Abstract Acceptance

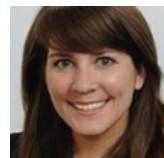


Paige  
Deville  
(PGY-3)

- Paige Deville (PGY-3) had her Abstract, *Oxygen consumption rates and ATP production in adipose-derived stem cells after burn injury in smokers vs. non-smokers - A Pilot Study*, accepted for a Poster Presentation at the 46th Annual Conference on Shock Society

## LSUH-NO 1st Annual Research Symposium - Abstract Presentation Winners

### Full Presentation



Celia  
Short  
(PGY-4)

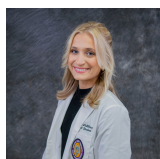


Logan  
Gold  
(MS-3)



Harel  
Schwartzberg  
(PGY-2)

- 1st Place – Celia Short (PGY-4): *Single Cell RNA Sequencing Analysis in Murine Biliary Atresia Model Reveals Subpopulation of Biliary Epithelial Cells with Pro-Inflammatory and Fibrogenic Traits*
- 2nd Place – Logan Gold (MS-3): *Avoiding Missed Bowel Injuries (AMBI) in Blunt Abdominal Trauma: A Prospective Study*
- 3rd Place – Harel Schwartzberg (PGY-2): *Increased Time Intervals in Postoperative Flap Monitoring After Autologous Breast Reconstruction*



Hannah  
Leblanc  
(MS-3)



Morgan  
Brown  
(PGY-2)



Robert  
Ross  
(PBRC Fellow)

### Quick-shot

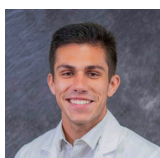
- 1st Place – Hannah Leblanc (MS-3): *Behavioral Sequelae Among Pediatric Trauma Patients After Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation*
- 2nd Place – Morgan Brown (PGY-2): *Let the Kids Sleep: Assessing the Utility of Routine Overnight Vital Sign Assessment in Stable Pediatric Surgical Patients*
- 3rd Place – Robert Ross, MD, MPH: *Women Pursuing Metabolic/Bariatric Surgery are at Increased Risk for Endometrial Cancer*



Michael  
Maurer  
(MS-2)



Katherine  
Pavleszek  
(MS-2)



Austin  
Primeaux  
(MS-3)

### Poster

- 1st Place – Michael Maurer (MS-2): *Stratification of neuroendocrine cancer patients for ecto-5'-nucleotidase inhibition*
- TIE for 2nd Place between:
  - Katherine Pavleszek (MS-2): *Risk Factors for readmission after elective colectomy for uncomplicated diverticulitis*
  - Austin Primeaux (MS-3): *Retrospective Study of Regional Anesthesia or General Anesthesia for Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty*

# UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Organization	Dates	Location
<a href="#">American Society of Clinical Oncology</a>	06/02/23 - 06/06/23	Chicago, IL
<a href="#">American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons</a>	06/03/23 - 06/06/23	Seattle, WA
<a href="#">Central Surgical</a>	06/08/23 - 06/10/23	Cleveland, OH
<a href="#">Vascular and Endovascular Surgery - Spring Meeting</a>	06/14/23 - 06/17/23	National Harbor, MD
<a href="#">Shock Society</a>	06/17/23 - 06/20/23	Portland, OR
<a href="#">Neurotrauma Society</a>	06/25/23 - 06/28/23	Austin, TX
<a href="#">International Pediatric Endosurgery Group</a>	07/05/23 - 07/08/23	Sorrento, Italy
<a href="#">ACS Quality and Safety</a>	07/10/23 - 07/13/23	Minneapolis, MN
<a href="#">Pan American Trauma Society</a>	07/27/23 - 07/30/23	Florianapolis, Brazil
<a href="#">Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)</a>	09/09/23 - 09/13/23	Washington, D.C.
<a href="#">Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS)</a>	09/14/23 - 09/15/23	Baltimore, MD

SAAS membership is **FREE** for Residents and Students, and you do not need to be of Asian descent to join!

Regularly check the (coming soon) [DOS Clinical Research Resources Calendar](#) for all the latest Conference Schedules.

# UPCOMING ABSTRACT DEADLINES

Organization	Deadline
<a href="#">Society of Asian Academic Surgeons</a>	05/31/23
<a href="#">Extracorporeal Life Support Organization</a>	06/01/23
<a href="#">American Burn Association</a>	06/16/23
<a href="#">ACS - Trauma Quality Improvement Program</a>	06/30/23
<a href="#">Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma</a>	07/01/23
<a href="#">American Pancreatic Association</a>	07/10/23
<a href="#">Society of Thoracic Surgeons</a>	07/20/23
Chest Wall Injury Summit (Abstract submission site to open soon)	11/01/23
<a href="#">Boswick Symposium</a>	11/15/23

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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## National Institute of Health - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Biomedical Alcohol Research Training Program (NIAAA T32)

**Due Date: N/A**

**Amount: Variable**

The goal of the program is to provide mentorship and focused training so that young MD and PhD scientists can become familiar with the biomedical problems related to excessive alcohol consumption and acquire the tools to perform high quality, competitive research. For more information, [click here](#).

## American College of Surgeons

Resident Research Scholarship

**Due Date: N/A**

**Amount: \$30k/yr. for 2-years**

The applicant must be a Resident Member of the ACS, who has completed at least 2 postdoctoral years in an accredited surgical training program (any specialty) in the United States or Canada at the time the scholarship starts (July of the award year). Scholarships do not support research after completion of the chief residency year. For more information, [click here](#).

Regularly check the (coming soon) [DOS Clinical Research Resources Funding Opportunities List](#) for all the latest Funding Opportunities.



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Society of Surgical Oncology

### Clinical Investigator Award

**Due Date: N/A**

**Amount: \$50k per year for 2-years (\$100k total)**

The Clinical Investigator Award promotes patient-focused research conducted by surgical oncologists in clinical and translational science. Please contact Pam Hayden, Assistant Director, Quality and Research Programs, with any questions at [pamhayden@surgonc.org](mailto:pamhayden@surgonc.org).

### Young Investigator Award

**Due Date: N/A**

**Amount: up to \$25k for 1-year**

The Young Investigator Award promotes and recognizes clinical and translational research that advances innovative ideas and concepts designed to improve health outcomes through advances in the delivery of cancer-related care. Please contact Pam Hayden, Assistant Director, Quality and Research Programs, with any questions at [pamhayden@surgonc.org](mailto:pamhayden@surgonc.org).

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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Association for Academic Surgery

AAS/AASF Basic Science/Translational Research Award

**Applications Open: 06/26/23**

**Deadline: 08/07/23**

**Amount: \$30k for one year**

**Funding Period: 07/01/24 - 06/30/25**

This award provides an eligible resident or fellow who has completed at least two years of postgraduate training in a surgical discipline the opportunity to spend one year in a full-time research position with an AAS member. The award of \$30,000 for one year per award may be used for salary support or for the direct-cost expenditures of the research. The award is to be expended solely for the purpose of the sponsored research. Visit their [website](#) for all the information about the award.

## The Thoracic Surgery Foundation

TSF Resident Research Fellowship

**Due Date: 09/15/23**

**Amount: up to \$60k per year for 2-years (\$120k total)**

These awards are designed to provide salary and/or direct experimental support for surgical trainees who wish to acquire investigational skills. Although a specific research program is required as the major component of the application, emphasis in making the award is placed on the potential of the applicant, based on prior accomplishments, and the quality of the educational experience for the applicant. Particular emphasis is placed on evidence of supervisory interaction in preparation of the application, the extent to which research training and a productive educational experience is convincingly described, and the training environment. Find all the details on their [website](#).

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## School of Medicine Research Café

As highlighted in the previous and current issues of *The Cutting Edge*, there are many online resources that LSUH-NO offers to assist aspiring researchers. But what about resources for more seasoned scientists? Introducing the Research Café!

The Research Café offers workshops, classes and seminars in subjects that are crucial to an academic research career, including Research Resources, Grant Writing, Publishing Your Research and Identifying Funding Sources for your research. Most workshops are offered both in-person and virtually, however some are only offered in-person due to the topic and goals discussion.

For a full list of the 2022 - 2023 topics and recordings, visit the [Research Café homepage](#), and check your email for all the latest info about upcoming workshops.



Check out the [School of Medicine Research Home Page](#) for many resources available for various research activities.