

Surgery NEWS

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A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AT NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN QUEENS



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I present our first NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Department of Surgery Newsletter. I am proud to share some of the initiatives we have helped develop and what that means to the residents of Queens.

Our goal is to provide the highest level of complex and innovative surgical care, education for the next generation of surgeons, and groundbreaking clinical research to advance the field of surgery. As a premier provider of multidisciplinary clinical programs, we are continually cultivating a unique environment and hold ourselves to the highest standards of care, incorporating the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQUIP) to review and improve our surgical outcomes on an ongoing basis.

I am also very pleased to welcome several new faculty members to our team, and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Pierre F. Saldinger, MD, FACS
Chairman & Surgeon-in-Chief
Department of Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

Professor of Clinical Surgery
Weill Cornell Medicine

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**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

**NewYork-Presbyterian
Queens**

ADVANCED PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Level 1 Trauma Designation Ensures a Higher Level of Care and Rapid Response



Shown from left to right [starting on bottom row]: Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez-Guardiola, Surgical Resident; Dr. Christine Kang, Surgical Resident; Maribel Contreras, Trauma Registrar; Dr. Hala Omar, Surgical Resident; MaryEllen Zimmermann, RN, Trauma Director; Dr. Michael Kongnyuy, Surgical Resident; Sarah Stankiewicz, Trauma Research Assistant; Dr. Luona Sun, Surgical Resident; Aikaterini Hadoulis, Trauma Registrar; Dr. Leslie Kim, Surgical Resident; Dr. Desiree Villadolid, Surgical Resident; Francesca Sullivan, RN, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator; Gloria Melnic, RN, Trauma Nurse Registrar; Stephanie Zarza, Secretary; Dr. Richard Osei-Frimpong, Surgical Resident; Dr. Jason Sample, Chief, Section of Acute Trauma & Critical Care; Dr. Roger Zhu, Surgical Resident; Dr. Ilan Maizlin, Surgical Resident; Dr. Amory DeRoulet, Surgical Resident; Mark Dekki, Trauma Injury Prevention Coordinator; Altin Qosja, Trauma Registrar; and Dr. Trevor Ellison, Surgical Resident.

The NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Trauma Center has achieved the highest level of distinction given by the American College of Surgeons as a verified Level 1 Trauma Center.



**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
Verified Trauma Center**

We provide 24/7 access to a multidisciplinary team of trauma surgeons, emergency medicine and critical care physicians, neurosurgeons, orthopedic traumatologists, plastic surgeons, radiologists, pediatric critical care specialists, and other allied health professionals.

As one of only a few Level I Trauma Centers in the New York region, our extraordinarily specialized team provides the highest possible level of care for the most complex and severely injured patients, effectively guiding them through all phases of trauma care and recovery.

As part of our long-term commitment to the residents of Queens, we are also working to help make our community a safer place. Millions of injuries occur each year and account for one-third of all emergency department visits.

As a result, our outreach programs focus on the dissemination of information and education on injury prevention.

Collaborative Relationship with Weill Cornell Medicine Leads to Successful Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Treatment Program

The Division of Vascular Surgery and the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery have formed a collaborative relationship to care for patients with thoracic aortic pathology.

Ruptured aortic aneurysms are one of the most fatal surgical emergencies and often times go undiagnosed because they are typically asymptomatic until rupture. At NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine, we now offer individuals that may be at risk, an aortic aneurysm screening to help identify patients who may benefit from an advanced minimally invasive procedure to repair the thoracic portion of the aorta. The procedure, called a Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair (TEVAR), can be performed for a variety of aortic pathologies, including penetrating aortic ulcers, intramural hematoma, aortic dissection and aortic aneurysms.

The TEVAR procedure is similar to Endovascular Repair of Aortic Aneurysm (EVAR) in that access to the aorta is obtained via catheterization of the femoral artery. The device is then advanced and deployed in the thoracic aorta, and excludes the area of pathology from aortic blood flow. The procedure can be performed under local, regional, or general anesthesia, and is usually completed in less than two hours.

As a result of this program, patients receive the expertise and care management by our team to fit their specific needs, rather than care being directed by an individual practitioner. Since the collaboration began, Dr. Dimitrios Avgerino, Attending Surgeon in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery for NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Dr. Rajeev Dayal, Chief of Vascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, have successfully treated multiple patients.



Rajeev Dayal, MD
Chief, Section of Vascular Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Weill Cornell Medicine



Dimitrios V. Avgerino, MD, PhD
Attending Surgeon, Department of
Cardiothoracic Surgery
**NewYork-Presbyterian/
Weill Cornell Medical Center**
Assistant Professor of
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Weill Cornell Medicine

State-of-the-Art Robotics Program Offers Complex Hernia Repair

Complex hernia repair and abdominal wall reconstruction can mean major surgery for many patients. Our specially trained surgeons offer patients a state-of-the-art minimally invasive procedure to perform all types of hernia repair using a robotic system. This system allows our surgeons to use robotic arms to perform procedures visualized on a screen at up to ten times magnification.

With robotic-assisted repair, the surgeon can accomplish definitive closure of the hernia and perform complex techniques that decrease the tension of the muscles and restore full, or nearly full, function of the abdominal wall. As a result, the risk of recurrent hernias of the abdominal wall, incisional hernias in areas of previous surgery, and the rate of re-admission are all reduced.



Litong Du, Ph.D., MD, FACS
General Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens



Joel Ricci-Gorbea, MD, FACS
General Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

The robotic approach is the least invasive surgical technique and, like laparoscopy, is safe and helps speed recovery. The procedure also reduces wound and mesh complications, and when combined with our enhanced recovery protocols, significantly reduces pain. In most cases, the procedure is ambulatory, and the patient can return home within 24 to 48 hours.

Revolutionizing Vascular Care with Highly Advanced Techniques and Technology

At NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, we offer the full scope of vascular interventions from the treatment of varicose veins, aortic aneurysms and peripheral artery disease (PAD) to carotid artery interventions and vascular access for hemodialysis. Our innovative techniques and imaging tools, combined with a collaborative approach, ensure the highest level of comprehensive vascular care and treatment of complex conditions for our patients.

With a focus on less-invasive care, many of our interventions including endovascular thoracic, abdominal aortic

(Continued on page 8)

NEW FACULTY



Michael J. Amirian, MD

Urologic Surgery

Michael Amirian, MD, joins NewYork-Presbyterian Queens as Attending Surgeon, Section of Urologic Surgery and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Amirian completed his medical degree at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He completed general surgery training followed by training in urologic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University. Serving as Chief Resident, he received advanced training in stone disease, voiding dysfunction, and robotic surgery.

Dr. Amirian is interested in international medicine and volunteer work. He was selected as a Resident Scholar and traveled to Ghana to help establish a surgical workshop during his residency.

Dr. Amirian is at the forefront of medical technology in his field and is committed to providing high-quality care and service to patients every day.



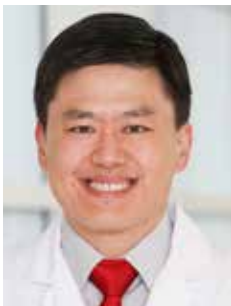
Bruna Babic, MD, MS

Endocrine & General Surgery

Bruna Babic, MD, MS, joined New York Presbyterian Queens in 2016 as Attending General and Endocrine Surgeon, Department of Surgery and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Dr. Babic was raised in New York City and graduated from Colgate University. She then completed graduate school at Columbia University prior to earning her medical degree from Albany Medical College. Her post graduate training includes a residency in General Surgery at the University of Connecticut, followed by a fellowship in Endocrine Oncology at the National Institutes of Health/

National Cancer Institute. Her clinical interests include treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands. Dr. Babic also has experience in rare diseases that include neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas and paragangliomas.



Steven Chao, MD

Colorectal Surgery

Steven Chao, MD, joins NewYork-Presbyterian Queens as an Attending Colorectal Surgeon and is Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. He brings expertise in minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery, sphincter preserving resection of colorectal pathology, management of anorectal diseases, transanal endoscopic microsurgery (TEM) and surgical intervention for inflammatory bowel disease. He also has clinical and research experience in enhanced recovery pathways and robotic surgery to help patients recover faster and safer after colorectal surgery. Born and raised in Queens, Dr. Chao went to Columbia University for his undergraduate degree and the University at Buffalo School of Medicine for his medical education. After completing his general

surgery residency at Brown University, Dr. Chao continued as a clinical instructor in surgery and surgeon at Brown. He completed his fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Rutgers University. Dr. Chao is conversant in Spanish and Mandarin.



Varuna Sundaram, MD, FACS, RPVI

Vascular Surgery

Varuna Sundaram, MD is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center and an Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. After attending medical school at Saint George's University, Grenada, WI in 2007, she went on to complete her internship and residency in General Surgery at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ in 2012 and a vascular surgery fellowship at the University at Buffalo in 2014. Dr. Sundaram previously worked in academic vascular surgery in Pennsylvania for three years before joining the faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens in 2017.

She is a board certified general and vascular surgeon who specializes in the open and minimally invasive surgical treatment of vascular disorders including peripheral vascular disease, venous insufficiency and varicose veins, carotid disease, abdominal and thoracic aortic aneurysms, renovascular and visceral atherosclerotic disease, and hemodialysis access. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery.



Jacqueline Tsai, MD

Breast Surgery

Jacqueline Tsai, MD, joined New York Presbyterian Queens in 2016 as an Attending Breast Surgeon and is Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. She obtained her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry and completed her residency in General Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, followed by a fellowship in Breast Surgery at Stanford University. Dr. Tsai specializes exclusively in the treatment of breast diseases and has an interest in clinical research with innovative techniques for nipple preservation in high risk patients. She has written review questions for the Breast Education Self-Assessment Program for the American Society of Breast Surgeons, chapters in leading text books, and clinical research studies. Dr. Tsai is fluent in Mandarin.



Daniel J. Hagler, MD

Acute Care Surgery

Daniel Hagler, MD, joined New York Presbyterian Queens in 2016 as a Trauma, Acute Care and Critical Care Surgeon with the Department of Surgery and is Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is board certified in both general surgery and surgical critical care. Dr. Hagler was born and raised in New York City and completed his undergraduate degree at Brooklyn College. He received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His postgraduate training includes a residency in General Surgery at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Westchester Medical Center. His clinical interests include the treatment of traumatic injuries, emergency general surgery, and critical illness.

RESIDENTS CORNER

Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD, Ariel Shuchleib, MD (PGY-5), Eric Zimmerman, MD, (PGY-1), Litong Du, MD, FACS and Talat Addasi, MD, FACS – Contributed to the video presentation “*Laparoscopic Management of Technically Challenging Gastric GIST*” and the video presentation “*Modern Surgery Meets an Old Procedure: Laparoscopic Surgery for Peptic Ulcer Disease*” was presented by **Ariel Shuchleib, MD (PGY5)** for the SAGES (Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons) 2016 Annual Meeting held in Boston, MA.

Anthony Dakwar, MD, (PGY-4) – Presentation for the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons “*CT Pelvimetry: Application Towards Laparoscopic Low Anterior Resection for Rectal Cancer*” hosted in Los Angeles, CA. Podium presentation “*Long Term Effects on Pulmonary Function Post-Fontan Procedure*” for the American College of Surgeons 2016 Clinical Congress held in Washington, D.C.

Dana Ferrari, MD, (PGY-1) – “*Bile Salt Enterolith Mimicking Gallstone Ileus*” poster presentation at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Resident Research Day 2016.

Daiji Kano, MD, (PGY-1) – “*All Hands on Deck? Role of Trauma Activation on Anticoagulated Geriatric Patients who Present after a Fall*” presented at the Southwest Trauma and Acute Care Symposium in Scottsdale, AZ.

Phoenix Vuong, MD, (PGY-4) – “*National Outcomes for Drainage of Pancreatic Pseudocysts: An Analysis of Non-operative versus Surgical Approaches*” won second place at the Association of Women Surgeons 2016 Annual Starr Poster Contest for Students and Residents in Washington, D.C.

Praise Matemavi, MD, (PGY-5) – “*Utility of Repeat Head Computed Tomography for Intracranial Hemorrhage in Trauma*” presented at the 2016 Annual Trauma Center Association of Americas Trauma Conference in San Diego, CA.

Saurabh Sharma, MD, Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD, Ariel Shuchleib, MD, (PGY-5), Joel Ricci-Gorbea, MD, and Stephen Merola, MD, – “*Endoscopic Stent Treatment for Gastric Sleeve Leak: Effective Strategy with Intolerability in Current Series*” presented at the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) and The Obesity Society (TOS) 2016 Obesity Week hosted in New Orleans, LA.

Yaniv Cozacov, MD, (PGY-4), Eric Zimmerman, MD, and Pierre F. Saldinger, MD, FACS – (2017) “*Laparoscopic Hepatectomy using combined Saline Linked Radiofrequency Bipolar Electrocautery System and Ultrasonic Dissector for Superior Hemostasis and Dissection*” ePoster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association in Miami Beach, FL.

Yaniv Cozacov, MD, (PGY-4), Ariel Ourian, MD, (PGY-5) and Talat Addasi, MD, FACS – (2017) “*Management of Splenic Artery Pseudoaneurysm Rupture following Central Pancreatectomy and Roux-en-y Pancreaticojejunostomy Reconstruction*” ePoster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association in Miami Beach, FL.

Yaniv Cozacov, MD, Phoenix Vuong, MD, N. Addasi, MD, FACS and Stephen Merola, MD – “*Postoperative Adverse Outcomes in Intellectually Disabled Surgical Patients Undergoing Cholecystectomy: A Nationwide Population-Based Study*” poster presentation at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Resident Research Day 2017.

Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD, Yaniv Cozacov, MD and Pierre F. Saldinger, MD, FACS – “*Giant Solitary Fibrous Tumor Acquiring Three Quadrants*” poster presentation at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Resident Research Day 2017.

Phoenix Vuong, MD, Yaniv Cozacov, MD, N. Addasi, MD, FACS and Stephen Merola, MD – “*Postoperative Outcomes in Intellectually Disabled General Surgical Patients*” poster presentation NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Resident Research Day 2017.

Publications

Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD, Ariel Shuchleib, MD, Alexandra E. Halevi (PGY-2), Sergei Aksenov, MD, Pierre F. Saldinger, MD, FACS – “*Giant Type III Well-Differentiated Neuroendocrine Tumor of the Stomach: A Case Report*” published in the International Journal of Surgery Case Reports, Volume 25, 62-65.

Anthony Dakwar, MD, James Wysock, MD, and James Satterfield, MD – “*Severe Hydronephrosis and Perinephric Urinoma with Rupture of Renal Fornix Secondary to Postoperative Urinary Retention Following Laparoscopic Umbilical Hernia Repair*” published in Urology Case Reports, 2016 PMC 6754843, online Dec. 19, 2016.

MaryEllen Zimmermann, RN, Praise Matemavi, DO, G Melnic, Jason Sample, MD – “*Utility of Repeat Head Computed Tomography for Intracranial Hemorrhage After Trauma and Importance of Direct Patient Care*” published in the Journal of Trauma Nursing Case Reports, Sep-Oct 2016, Volume 23(5): 304-306.

Ariel Ourian, MD – “*Risk Factors for Under Triage of Serious Trauma in Patients Aged 65 and Older Presenting to the Emergency Department*” published in Trauma Conference International, July 2016.

EVENTS

Visiting Professors

Ground Rounds Speaker – January 4, 2017
“Lessons Learned from Orlando Mass Shooting”

Joseph Ibrahim, MD
Trauma Director
Orlando Reginal Medical Center

Chassin Grand Rounds Speaker – April 19, 2017
*“Value-Based Care Transformation:
What is the Surgeons Role?”*

Susan Moffatt-Bruce, MD
Chief Quality & Patient Safety Officer
Ohio State University Medical Center

Ground Rounds Speaker – April 5, 2017
“Complications of Bariatric Surgery”

Raul Rosenthal, MD
*Chairman, Department of General Surgery; Director,
General Surgery Residency Program; Director, Section
of Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Surgery; Director,
Bariatric and Metabolic Institute; Director, Minimally
Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship Program*
Cleveland Clinic Florida

Trauma Events

The Department of Surgery along with the Division of Acute, Trauma and Critical Care hosted the following events in 2017.

2017 Trauma Symposium

A Trauma Symposium: Trauma Care in a Level 1 Trauma Center **“Rescue to Recovery”** was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Topics discussed included:

- Acute Care Surgery: The Current Model of Trauma and Emergency Surgical Care Delivery
- NYS Trauma System: Past, Present and Future
- Injury Prevention in the Community
- Aging of the Trauma Patient “Trauma Delta”

Trauma Survivors Brunch

The Second Annual Survivors Brunch was held on Friday, May 19, 2017. The brunch was sponsored by the Trauma Survivors Network (TSN). TSN is a community of patients and families who are looking to connect with one another and rebuild their lives after a serious injury. The American Trauma Society (ATS), the leading organization advocating for the injured and their families, in partnership with hospitals around the country, is committed to growing the TSN by providing the programs and resources patients and families tell us they need to manage their recovery and improve their lives. We are proud to partner with such progressive and proactive organizations that help us administer the best patient care to our trauma patients and their families.

Revolutionizing Vascular Care with Highly Advanced Techniques and Technology

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aneurysm repair, stenting, and atherectomy are performed in our fully functional hybrid OR. The hybrid OR was one of the first to be developed in the tri-state area and features advanced imaging such as advanced fluoroscopy and digital angiography.

Other advanced procedures include treating carotid arteries which can lead to stroke using either peripheral arterial bypass or percutaneous transluminal angioplasty with drug-eluting balloons that deliver a dose of paclitaxel to

the artery walls to decrease the risk of in-stent stenosis; treating venous disease using several minimally invasive techniques including ultra-sound guided foam and visual sclerotherapy, ambulatory phlebectomy and radiofrequency ablation; and managing lower-extremity arterial disease and aggressively pursuing limb salvage for patients that may face amputation.

“Our goal is to provide the highest level of **complex and innovative surgical care**, education for the **next generation** of surgeons, and groundbreaking clinical research to **advance the field of surgery.**”

NewYork-Presbyterian

Queens

56-45 Main Street
Flushing, NY 11355-5095

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To find a doctor, call 718-670-2000
or 800-282-6684.

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If you have any questions, please call the Department of Surgery at 718-670-2989 or email us at deq9003@nyp.org