

Recent Accomplishments of UW School of Medicine Women Faculty

[Dr. Andrea Hartzler, PhD](#), Associate Professor in the department of Bioinformatics and Medical Education, was awarded a 2.8 million dollar grant to address implicit race bias in communication between parents and providers entitled "UnBIASED" (Understanding Biased patient-provider Interaction And Supporting Enhanced Discourse) with a diversity supplement that expands the work to examine implicit LGBTQ+ bias, awarded specifically to a transgender Latinx PhD student on her team with the goal of promoting workforce diversity in biomedical informatics.

[Dr. Claudia Moreno, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the department of Biomedical Sciences, was named one of 100 inspiring Hispanic/Latinx scientists by Cell Press: <http://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/100-inspiring-hispanic-latinx-scientists-in-america>

[Kelly Stevens, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Biongeneering, was just awarded a \$1M Keck grant, has a paper just accepted in Science and recently had a paper published in Cell (with her as lead author) called 'Fund Black Scientists'. This paper has received national attention, including NIH, who have consulted with Kelly on developing new initiatives.

[Dr. Deborah Fuller, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Microbiology was given a Hope College Distinguished Alumni Award, 2021 by her Alma Mater, Hope College.

[Dr. Kelley Harris, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the department of Genome Sciences and joint appointment with Herbold Computational Biology and Public Health Sciences Division, Fred Hutch, won the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Early-Career Excellence Award.

[Dr. Maitreya Dunham, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Genome Sciences, was elected to the Genetics Society of America Board of Directors.

[Dr. Mary-Claire King, PhD](#), Professor in the departments of Genome Sciences and Medicine (Medical Genetics) has been appointed to the inaugural Science Council of the World Health Organization. The Director-General of WHO describes the Science Council as "the voice of global scientific leadership directly advising him about high-priority scientific issues, and advances in science and technology that could impact public health and clinical practice."

[Dr. Celeste Berg, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Genome Sciences, is currently a member of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences advisory council at NIH.

[Dr. Amber Sabbatini, MD, MPH, FACEP](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the department of Health Services, received \$1.9 million in R01 funding from the National Institute of Aging (NIA) to examine the unintended consequences of CMS's Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program on outcomes for older adults

with hospital observation stays. Dr. Sabbatini is the recipient of the 2021 Young Investigator Award from the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine.

[Dr. Lauren Whiteside, MD, MS, FACEP](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine received an R01 from the National Institute for Drug and Alcohol Abuse (NIDA) for her study entitled, *Emergency Department Longitudinal Care (ED-LINC) Effectiveness Trial Targeting Opioid Use and Related Comorbidity from the ED*.

[Dr. Tonya Palermo, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital, was appointed to hold the Hughes M. and Katherine Blake Endowed Professorship in Health Psychology.

[Dr. Monica S. Vavilala, MD](#), Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine and Director of the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center at Harborview Medical Center, was elected to membership in the Washington State Academy of Sciences.

[Dr. Jennifer Rabbitts, MD](#), Associate Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital, was appointed Section Editor for Pain Medicine-Psychology, Psychiatry, and Brain Neuroscience, and appointed member of the Coalition Building Committee at the United States Association for the Study of Pain.

[Dr. Kelly Michaelson, MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, UWMC Montlake, was awarded a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research Mentored Research Training Grant for her project titled, *"Automated Assessment of Drug Administration in the Operating Room with Smart Eyewear Technology."*

[Dr. Mitra Heshmati, MD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, was awarded a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research Mentored Research Training Grant for her project entitled, *"Dissecting Midbrain Connectivity in Anesthetic Emergence."*

[Dr. Rong Tian, MD, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Bioengineering, Adjunct Professor in the department of Biochemistry and Pathology, and Director of the Medicine Mitochondria and Metabolism Center (MMC), has been selected to deliver the George Brown Memorial Lecture at the Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association this November.

[Dr. Nathalia Jimenez, MD, MPH](#), Associate Professor in the department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine and Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Seattle Children's Hospital, was appointed as the inaugural Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine.

[Dr. Ruanne Barnabas, MSc, MBChB](#), Professor of Global Health, Medicine, Epidemiology (adjunct) was selected as the [Co-Director of the UW/Fred Hutch Center for AIDS Research](#) and

received the Committee on Minority Faculty Advancement (CMFA) [Minority Faculty Mentoring Award](#) at UW.

[Dr. Connie Celum, MD, MPH](#), Professor of Global Health, Medicine, and Epidemiology (adjunct), was selected as the [Director of the UW/Fred Hutch Center for AIDS Research](#).

[Dr. Pamela Collins, MD](#), Professor of Global Health, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences, was appointed to the NIH/DHHS National Advisory Mental Health Council.

[Dr. Alison Drake, PhD, MPH](#), Assistant Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology (adjunct), has recently won \$2.2 million dollars in grant awards. Her work focuses on HIV care, prevention, and family planning.

[Dr. Carey Farquhar, MD, MPH](#), Professor of Global Health, Medicine, Epidemiology, and Vice Dean for Education, School of Public Health, was awarded nearly \$1.4 million dollars in grants. Her work focuses on HIV testing and partner notification in Kenya.

[Dr. Renee Heffron, PhD, MPH](#), Associate Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology, was recently awarded over \$2.1 million in research grants. Her work is dedicated to advancing the field of HIV prevention.

[Dr. Nelly Mugo, MBChB, MMed, MPH](#), Research Associate Professor, Global Health, recently won more than \$1.2 million dollars in grant awards. Her research focuses on HIV and cervical cancer prevention. Dr. Mugo recently [received the Gita Ramjee Prize Award from](#) the International AIDS Society and the Aurum Institute at the 2021 HIV Research for Prevention Conference.

[Dr. Gabrielle O'Malley, PhD, MA](#), Professor of Global Health, recently received over \$10.3 million dollars in research grants. Her work focuses on reproductive health, gender, and health, particularly in HIV prevention, care and treatment programs.

[Dr. Patricia Pavlinac, PhD, MS](#), Assistant Professor of Global Health, recently received over \$1.4 million dollars in research grants. Her work focuses on reducing morbidity and mortality following enteric infections in children, especially focused on *Shigella* vaccine trials.

[Dr. Nancy Puttkammer, PhD, MPH](#), Assistant Professor of Global Health, recently was awarded over \$1 million dollars in research grants. Her research focuses on promoting data use for improvement of the HIV care cascade in resource-limited settings.

[Dr. Deb Bowen, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Bioethics & Humanities received a 2020 NIH Bioethics Supplement to her \$5.6M U01 project "[Implementing the moon: Getting genomic testing to the public](#)". Dr. Bowen also received the [2021 Women in Medicine Award for Lesbian Health Research](#).

[Dr. Gina Campelia, PhD, HEC-C](#), Assistant Professor in the department of Bioethics & Humanities participated in [UW Medicine COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center](#), Subgroup on Equity in Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution.

[Dr. Denise Dudzinski, PhD, MTS, HEC-C](#), Professor and Chair in the department of Bioethics & Humanities was part of the [American Society of Bioethics & Humanities](#) Core Competencies 3rd Edition Task Force, serving to revise the Core Competencies in Healthcare Ethics Consultation, the professional practice guidelines for clinical ethics consultation.

[Dr. Malia Fullerton, DPhil](#), Professor in the department of Bioethics & Humanities was awarded an NIH National Human Genome Research Institute to study "[Cloud-Based Biomedical Data Storage and Analysis: Implications for Trustworthy Governance](#)".

[Dr. Nancy Jecker, PhD](#), Professor in the department of Bioethics & Humanities was awarded the 2021 [Fulbright US Scholar Award](#) to build bioethics capacity in South Africa. Dr. Jecker also recently received the [Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Center Writing Residency](#) for her project "Fast Aging: Ethical Challenges of Growing Old in the Developing World (book proposal and chapters)".

[Dr. Helene Starks, PhD](#), Associate Professor in the department of Bioethics & Humanities participated on [Hastings Center Workgroup on Dementia and the Ethics of Choosing When to Die](#).

[Dr. Kathleen Sie, MD](#), Professor of Otolaryngology and Division Chief, Seattle Children's Hospital, was recently named president-elect of the American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

[Dr. Deb Cowley, MD](#), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was announced as the recipient of the 2021 American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) Annual Lifetime Service Award.

[Dr. Lorrie Langdale, MD, FACS](#), Professor and Chief, section of General Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, was appointed Program Director for the American College of Surgeons' Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program's (SESAP) 18 Advanced modules.

[Dr. Ronald Maier, MD, FACS](#), Professor & Chief and [Dr. Kathleen O'Connell, MD, MPH](#), Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care, published "[Trail blazers without blades: Surgeons as Palliative Care Physicians in Response to COVID-19](#)" in the Annals of Surgery.

[Dr. Nicole Gibran, MD, FACS](#), Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care received the UW Distinguished Staff Award for their management of the radioactive material leak at the Harborview Medical Center Research and Training (R&T) building.

[Dr. Sherene Shalhub, MD, MPH](#), Associate Professor Division of Vascular Surgery, received the “Pioneer in EDS and HSD Research Award” for demonstrating a long-term commitment to outstanding research and progression into Ehlers-Danlos syndromes, hypermobility spectrum disorders, and the associated symptoms and conditions.

[Dr. Estell Williams, MD](#), Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, was awarded the "[Distinguished Service Award for Community Service and Volunteerism.](#)" UW Health Sciences and UW Medicine pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. yearly, and hereby recognized the incredible accomplishments of Dr. Williams in her service and activism toward social justice.

[Dr. Kathleen Berfield, MD](#), Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Chief of Thoracic Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System, was named the Chair of the inaugural National Surgery Office Thoracic Surgical Advisory Board (SAB). As Chair of the Thoracic SAB, she will lead other Thoracic surgeons within the Veterans Health Administration and serve as subject matter experts to the National Surgery Office and Veterans Health Administration leadership.

[Dr. Tracy Mroz, PhD, OTR/L](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, has received an NIH R01 grant from the of \$2.86 million dollars from the [National Institute on Aging](#) (NIA) entitled "The Impact of Post-Acute Care Payment Changes on Access and Outcomes."

[Dr. Carolyn Baylor, PhD, CCC-SLP](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Co-Director of the Rehabilitation Science PhD Program has received an NIH R01 grant of \$1 million dollars from the [National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders](#) (NIDCD) for the project "Reducing Social Isolation for Adults with Chronic Communication Disabilities."

[Dr. Shelley Wiechman, PhD, ABPP](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, has received the American Burn Association (ABA) Curtis P. Artz Distinguished Service Award.

[Dr. Heather Feldner, PT, PhD, PCS](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Associate Director of the Center for Research and Education on Accessible Technology and Experiences, received an award from the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#) (NIDILRR) for \$1 million dollars for the project "Postdoctoral Training in Physical Computing and Fabrication to Support Innovations for Community Living and Participation."

[Dr. Kristina Adams-Waldorf, MD, FACOG](#), Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and adjunct Professor in Global Health, received an NIH R01 grant to study the impact of emerging viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19 and Zika virus, on pregnancy and maternal-fetal health, and to develop strategies to stop these viruses before the next epidemic.

[Dr. Monica Pagano, MD](#), Associate Professor in the department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, was one of the recipients of the 2021 President's Award from the [American Association of Blood Banks](#).

[Dr. Deepti Reddi, MD](#), Acting Assistant Professor in the department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, was included in [2021 American Society for Clinical Pathology's 40 Under Forty](#). This program "celebrates the brightest emerging leaders and innovators of pathology, laboratory medicine, and ASCP."

[Lisa Taitzman, MD](#), Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, was on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS). She also serves as Vice Chair of the ABOS Graduate Medical Education Committee.

[Dr. Bridget Collins, MD](#), Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care And Sleep Medicine, was selected as this year's recipient of the David J. Pierson Award for Excellence in Education and Mentoring. This award was established to acknowledge those faculty who are recognized by the fellows as being especially dedicated to their education and mentoring.

[Dr. Cristina \(Tina\) Rodriguez, MD](#), Professor in Division of Medical Oncology, was selected as this year's recipient of the Resident Scholarship Mentor Award.

[Dr. Sarah Steinkruger, MD](#), Clinical instructor in Division of General Internal Medicine, received the 37th annual Paul B. Beeson Award in recognition of outstanding clinical teaching and for exemplifying scholarship, humility, compassion, and integrity.

[Dr. Lisa Chew, MD, MPH](#), Associate professor in Division of General Internal Medicine, received a 2021 Thorud Leadership Award in recognition of the skilled leaders who have helped navigate the uncertainty of 2020.

[Dr. Ruanne Barnabas, DPhil](#), Associate Professor in Global Health and Medicine, was awarded 2021 CMFA Minority Faculty Mentoring Award by the UW Committee on Minority Faculty Advancement.

[Dr. Corinne Heinen, MD](#), Clinical Associate Professor in Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is a 2021 Puget Sound Business Journal (PSBJ) Outstanding Voices honoree, and they interviewed her about her work in the LGBTQ+ health care space in the latest issue.

[Dr. Mary-Claire King, PhD](#), Professor of Medical Genetics and genome sciences, is a 2021 recipient of the Canada Gairdner Award "for transforming cancer genetics and oncology with the discovery of inherited susceptibility to breast cancer due to mutation of the BRCA1 gene."

[Dr. Alexandra Molnar, MD](#), Clinical associate professor in Division of General Internal Medicine has been selected as the 2021 UW nominee for the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Award. This is a national teaching award presented by the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) to one clinical faculty member from medical schools across the country who exemplifies positive mentoring, student collaboration, and teaching compassionate, patient-centered care.

[Dr. Mary Flowers, MD](#), professor (Medical Oncology) has received a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Survivorship Special Interested Group, for her immense contribution to the field of transplant survivorship nationally and globally.

[Drs. Catherine Otto, MD](#), and [Karen Stout, MD, FACC](#), in Division of Cardiology were named in a list of 10 female trailblazers in Cardiology by MediFind to bring attention to the female national leaders in their field for their important work.

[Dr. Helen Chu, MD, MPH](#), Associate professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was selected as Washingtonian of the Year. She is credited as the first physician to identify community spread of the novel coronavirus in the United States.

[Dr. Rotonya Carr, MD](#), Associate professor in Department of Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine will be our new Division Head of Gastroenterology, effective October 1, 2021.

[Dr. Erin Kross, MD](#), Associate professor in Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, is the new co-director of the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence (CPCCE).

[Ruth Sanchez, BS, MBA](#), is our new Assistant Director of Medicine Student Programs. Ruth has worked for over 20 years in academic medicine, most recently as a project manager for medical student programs for the Texas A&M Partnership at the Houston Methodist Hospital.

[Alyssa Williamson, MBA, MHA](#), joined us as our new administrator in the Division of Cardiology on July 1, 2021. Alyssa has 17-years of experience in medical field in increasingly progressive leadership roles.

[Betsy Buswell, MBA](#), is our new Vice Chair of Finance and Administration, effective April 5, 2021. Betsy has a bachelor's degree in psychology and MBA from the University of Washington, and brings a wide range of experience to bring to this role.

[Mona Deprey, MS](#), is the new administrator in the Division of Hematology, effective June 1, 2021. Mona has over 15 years of management and research experience, most recently as grants and contracts manager for the UW Department of Pharmaceuticals.

[Dr. Nancy Simon, MD, MPH](#), Clinical associate professor in Division of General Internal Medicine is the Medical Director of the Women's Health Care Center at Roosevelt, effective July 1.

[Dr. Barbara Jung, MD](#), Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine, joins the presidential line up for the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA). She will serve as vice president, president-elect and will become president in 2023.

[Dr. Bessie Young, MD, MPH](#), Professor in Division of Nephrology and associate chair for diversity and inclusion, is the new medical director and associate dean for Healthcare Equity.

[Dr. Connie Celum, MD, MPH](#), Professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases is lead investigator on a \$122 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to test the effectiveness of a once-a-month oral pill to prevent HIV.

[Dr. Sylvia LaCourse, MD, MPH](#), Assistant professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases was awarded a \$3.3M 5-year R01 from NIH/NIAID to continue development and evaluation of a blood-based exosome detection diagnostic for pediatric TB diagnosis.

[Dr. Noelle Benzekri, MD, MA, DTM&H](#), Assistant professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases is lead investigator on an award from the Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation entitled, "Promoting Forest Conservation and Culture in Western Uganda through Indigenous Food Sovereignty."

[Dr. McKenna Eastment, MD, MPH](#), Assistant professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases, [Dr. Leah Marcotte, MD](#), Assistant professor Division of General Internal Medicine, and [Dr. Ana Weil, MD, MPH](#), Assistant professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases were awarded Chair of Medicine Scholars Awards.

[Dr. Susan Graham, MD, MPH, PhD](#), in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases, [Dr. Jane Simoni, PhD](#), Professor in Department of Psychology and [Dr. Pamela Collins, MD, MPH](#), Professor in Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences co-led the Behavioral Research Center for HIV (BIRCH) funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, will provide infrastructure and support for high-impact science on HIV and mental health and a research home for like-minded scholars.

Drs. [Connie Celum, MD, MPH](#), Professor, and [Ruanne Barnabas, MD, DPhil](#), Professor in Department of Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have been announced as the next director and co-director of the University of Washington/Fred Hutch Center for AIDS Research (CFAR).

[Dr. Chaitra Ujjani, MD](#), Clinical associate professor in Division of Medical Oncology was awarded a \$706,563 grant from the CLL Global Research Foundation for a "Multicenter Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccines in Patients with CLL."

[Crystal Brown, MD](#), Acting Assistant Professor in Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine and [Helen Stankiewicz Karita, MD](#), Acting Assistant Professor in Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases were awarded the Department of Medicine Diversity Academic Development Scholar Awards (DADSA), which was developed to promote and foster the transition of meritorious URM trainees to the roles of junior faculty and principal investigator.

Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine Women in Medicine and Science

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Dr. Tonya Palermo, PhD

Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
Seattle Children's Hospital

Dr. Palermo was recently appointed to hold the Hughes M. and Katherine Blake Endowed Professorship in Health Psychology.

Dr. Palermo was also awarded a supplement of \$73,835 to her NIH-funded T32 Grant Award in order to develop a resilience program for postdoctoral trainees over the course of the 2021-2022 academic year.

Dr. Tonya Palermo is a professor of anesthesiology, pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She serves as associate director for the Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development. Dr. Palermo's longstanding NIH-funded research program has focused on assessment and treatment of chronic pain in children and adolescents. She is specifically interested in cognitive-behavioral interventions; delivery of psychological treatment via eHealth and mHealth interventions; sleep disturbances; and parent/family factors as they relate to pain treatment. Through her work as program director for the University of Washington Anesthesiology T32 program and for the Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Pain Research, Dr. Palermo is active in training clinician-scientists at the postdoctoral and junior faculty level.

Dr. Palermo serves on the executive boards of the Society of Pediatric Psychology and the American Pain Society, serves as editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology and has been elected a fellow of the American Psychological Association. She also serves as a member of the advisory council for the Center for Scientific Review at NIH.

Dr. Monica S. Vavilala, MD

Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
Director, Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center (HIPRC)
Harborview Medical Center

Dr. Vavilala has been elected to membership in the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS).

WSAS is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established by the Washington State Legislature to respond to scientific and technical questions to inform public policy. WSAS helps Washington confront challenges in areas benefiting from its 300+ members' expertise in physical

sciences and mathematics, engineering and technology, biological sciences, health sciences, and social and behavioral sciences.

Dr. Vavilala was also appointed as a member of the Neurological Sciences and Disorders A (NSD-A) Subcommittee of the Neurological Disorders and Stroke Initial Review Group, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

Dr. Vavilala is a Tenured Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics and Director of the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center (HIPRC). She also holds an adjunct appointment in Health Systems and Population Health. Dr. Vavilala completed her medical school education and pediatrics residency at McGovern Medical School and then a residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Washington. Her clinical practice is at Harborview Medical Center. As a physician scientist with over 20 years of continuous federal research funding and over 340 peer reviewed publications, Dr. Vavilala has mentored over 30 trainees, all of whom are in academic settings. Using a team science approach, Dr. Vavilala reestablished the UW HIPRC – the only center of its kind on the West Coast – as one of nine CDC funded injury control centers. She is the only anesthesiologist to have this interdisciplinary public health leadership role. True to its mission of reducing the injury and violence burden across the lifespan, the HIPRC is internationally recognized for its contributions to improving the health of the public.

Dr. Jennifer Rabbitts, MBChB

Associate Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
Seattle Children's Hospital

Dr. Rabbitts was recently appointed Section Editor for Pain Medicine – Section Editor for Psychology, Psychiatry, and Brain Neuroscience.

Dr. Rabbitts was also appointed as a member of the Coalition Building Committee at the United States Association for the Study of Pain and a member of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia Young Investigator Grant Review Committee.

Dr. Jennifer Rabbitts is an associate professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She practices as a pediatric anesthesiologist and pain physician at Seattle Children's Hospital. Her NIH-funded research program focuses on assessing and improving pain and health outcomes after pediatric surgery. She is specifically interested in bio-psychosocial risk and resilience factors for delayed recovery, mechanisms underlying acute to chronic pain transition and treatments to enhance recovery and improve long-term pain and health outcomes in adolescents undergoing major surgery.

Dr. Rabbitts is active in service, currently serving on the scientific program committee for the International Symposium of Pediatric Pain, on the editorial boards of the Journal of Pain, Pain Medicine and Pediatric Anesthesia, and as co-chair for the ChildKind International Pediatric Pain Resource Committee. She is passionate about mentoring students and early career faculty, serving as a mentor for the Women's Empowerment and Leadership Initiative of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, and the University of Washington Innovations in Pain Research Summer Program.

Dr. Kelly Michaelson, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine
UWMC Montlake

Dr. Michaelson was awarded a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Mentored Research Training Grant (MRTG) in the amount of \$250,000 for her project titled, “Automated Assessment of Drug Administration in the Operating Room with Smart Eyewear Technology.”

Dr. Michaelson is a former Bonica Scholar who joined the Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine Department as a faculty member after graduating from the residency program. She is interested in developing and translating emerging technologies into the clinical space, and she aims to transform anesthesiology electronic medical records by documenting actions in real time in the operating room to decrease EMR errors and improve patient care and safety.

In Dr. Michaelson’s current project, she’s working to develop computer algorithms that will automatically detect syringes and drug delivery events; she hopes to embed these algorithms into smart eyewear, such as Google glasses, to provide an early alert before a drug is given to a patient, and to eliminate manual charting of drug delivery. Her goal with this project is to improve the fidelity of the EMR, making future work like predictive analytics more useful. On the hardware side, Dr. Michaelson is working on sensing neuromuscular paralysis with a device she built using mechanomyography and comparing it to commercial devices. She is also finishing up a smartphone-based PT/INR device that utilizes the smartphone vibration motor and camera to shake a blood sample and detect when clotting has occurred.

Dr. Mitra Heshmati, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Dr. Heshmati was awarded a Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Mentored Research Training Grant (MRTG) in the amount of \$250,000 for her project titled, “Dissecting Midbrain Connectivity in Anesthetic Emergence.”

This project focuses on the role of dopaminergic signaling in promoting emergence from anesthesia, comparing effects of commonly used intravenous and inhalational anesthetics, using in vivo fiber photometry and neural circuit dissection in mice.

Dr. Heshmati is a former Bonica Scholar who joined the Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine Department as a faculty member after graduating from the residency program. While training in the laboratory of Michael Bruchas, Ph.D., in the Center for Excellence in the Neurobiology of Addiction Pain and Emotion, she studied the effects of anesthesia on neural circuits. This study was informed by her clinical work as an anesthesiologist.

At the University of Washington, Dr. Heshmati’s goal is to learn in vivo fiber photometry and whole brain imaging, and to apply this toolset towards studying the mechanisms underlying emergence from general anesthesia. These studies will result in a greater mechanistic understanding of emergence at the neural circuit level with the overarching goal of identifying therapeutic interventions to promote more rapid

emergence and mitigate the emergence phenomena of agitation and delirium following general anesthesia. In the future, she plans to continue developing relevant translational models to further a

mechanistic understanding of mesolimbic circuits engaged in anesthesia and pain states that will advance both clinical anesthesiology and basic neuroscience.

Dr. Rong Tian, MD, PhD

Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine, Bioengineering
Adjunct Professor, Biochemistry, Pathology, Medicine
Mitochondria and Metabolism Center (MMC)

Dr. Rong Tian has been selected to deliver the George Brown Memorial Lecture at the Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association this November.

She will speak on Mitochondrial Mechanism in Heart Failure. The George E. Brown Memorial Lecture was established in 1935 to honor Dr. Brown, founder of the Circulation Council (now the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences) of the American Heart Association. It is the most prestigious basic science lecture presented at the AHA Scientific Sessions. The first Brown Memorial Lecture was delivered in 1937 by Walter Cannon, MD, who described “fight or flight response”. Other Brown Lecturers include Eugene Braunwald, MD, James T. Willerson, MD, and Joseph Loscalzo, MD, PhD.

Dr. Rong Tian joined the University of Washington in 2009 as the founding director of the Mitochondria and Metabolism Center. Dr. Tian is currently Professor of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine and Bioengineering, Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry, Pathology and Medicine. She is also the Editor in Chief for Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology.

Dr. Tian is an internationally recognized leader in cardiac metabolism and mitochondrial biology. Her laboratory has made seminal contributions to the field by combining molecular targeting strategies with vigorous in vivo metabolic phenotyping via powerful technology of multi-nuclear NMR spectroscopy, proteomics and metabolomics. Her research on cardiac substrate metabolism, AMPK signaling cascade and mitochondrial function have challenged the dogma and have brought vitality to a classic field. Her recent work on NAD metabolism has led to groundbreaking discoveries and the first in human trial for heart failure. Dr. Tian has published ~130 peer reviewed papers with a total citation of >11300, and an H-index of 57.

Since joining the UW faculty, Dr. Tian has received approximately \$25 million research funds from the NIH. Her lab at UW has trained ~50 students and fellows, and she has successfully sponsored more than 10 pre- and postdoctoral fellowships and similar numbers of career development awards. Under Dr. Tian’s leadership, the Mitochondria and Metabolism Center has developed into a unit of 10 faculty members with an annual research funding over \$5 million.

Dr. Tian has received many honors and awards, including the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Heart Association Basic Science Council, Research Achievement Award of the International Society for Heart Research, Bernard and Joan Marshall Distinguished Investigator of the British Society for Cardiovascular Research, and Berne Distinguished Lecturer of the American Physiological Society.

Dr. Nathalia Jimenez, MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Seattle Children's Hospital

Dr. Nathalia Jimenez was appointed as the inaugural Vice Chair for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) for the Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine.

Dr. Jimenez brings her experience in disparities research, recruitment and mentoring of diverse students at the UW School of Medicine, and EDI leadership at the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia to this important leadership position. Since her appointment, Dr. Jimenez and the EDI Council have implemented EDI criteria into faculty promotions, begun drafting a longitudinal module on responding to bias and microaggressions in the field, and introduced the "EDI Brief" – a monthly department-wide communication that brings awareness to EDI-related topics. Following the conceptual framework of the UW Healthcare equity blueprint and the UW Diversity Strategic Plan, the Dr. Jimenez and the Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine EDI Council are also working on educational efforts to promote cultural humility in patient care and to address micro- and macro-aggressions in the workplace.

Department of Surgery Women Faculty News 2020-2021



Dr. Kris Calhoun, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dr. Kristine Calhoun Receives 2020 UW School Of Medicine Award For Excellence In Mentoring Women Faculty

Dr. Calhoun received the 2020 UW School of Medicine Award for Excellence in Mentoring Women Faculty. "I was absolutely shocked that I was not only nominated for this award, but that I actually was awarded it. There are so many fantastic mentors throughout our department, as well as the School of Medicine in general, that I am humbled to have been singled out," said Dr. Calhoun. "Mentoring is something that I place high value on—I have been the recipient of excellent mentoring in my own career and make it a priority to give back to those earlier in theirs, which makes this award so meaningful. It was humbling to read the letters of support and see my impact on others but so, so gratifying. Awards like this that look at mentoring and teaching are special to me and mean that I am accomplishing the goals I set for myself when I joined an academic practice. I am so, so thankful, grateful and appreciative." [Complete Surgery Synopsis article for nomination comments >>](#)

Dr. Kris Calhoun Selected To Serve As The Academic Co-Chair On UW SOM Patient Care Committee

As Academic Co-Chair and in partnership with Executive Co-Chair, Dr. Mark Whipple, Associate Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and

Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education, Assistant Dean for Curriculum UW SOM, **Dr. Calhoun** will set agendas, lead meetings, ensure adequate and appropriate documentation of meetings and decisions, convene task forces and special groups as needed, serve as liaison to the Curriculum Committee, oversee or delegate oversight as appropriate the work of appointed committees and subcommittees, and report recommendations from the Patient Care Phase Committee to the Curriculum Committee.

In response to her selection as Co-Chair, Dr. Calhoun expresses "I am excited to be appointed Co-Chair for the Patient Care Committee within the SOM, which oversees all of the required clerkships at the 3rd year level. This is my second year as surgery clerkship director, so being co-chair will allow me to make sure the voice of the surgery clerkship is heard and work towards making positive changes for our students. Interest in surgery as a career continues to grow, so having a surgeon's voice on this committee will be key as we move forward."



Dr. Lorrie Langdale, Professor & Chief, Section of General Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Program Director for the American College of Surgeons' Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program's (SESAP) 18 Advanced modules

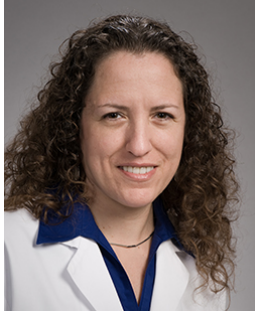
Dr. Langdale was appointed Program Director for the American College of Surgeons' Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program's (SESAP) 18 Advanced modules. Now in its 17th edition, the SESAP is the premier educational resource for practicing surgeons. To further enhance its value to those with increasingly focused fields of practice, the College launched a pilot "Advanced" modular edition in 2019 under the leadership of Dr. John Weigelt that was extraordinarily successful." I have served as a SESAP author for nearly 25 years and I am honored to have been asked to lead the Advanced Edition for SESAP 18," said Dr. Langdale." Dr. Weigelt will continue to direct the all- encompassing Core and Audio versions of SESAP. We are planning to build six distinct Advanced modules, addressing timely, challenging and controversial topics in Trauma, Surgical Critical Care, Abdomen (to include abdominal wall reconstruction, HPB, and Sarcoma), Alimentary tract (to include bariatrics as well as GI benign and malignant diseases), Endocrine, and Breast/ Melanoma. The program will be offered as individual modules so surgeons can hone their CME to their needs and interests. I am recruiting experts from across the country to develop the questions and critiques. Our goal is to tackle those thorny problems that can confound the practicing surgeon and offer solutions through analysis of the available evidence. This is an

exciting time in surgical education and in assuming this new role for ACS, it is my goal to maintain the excellence that the American surgeon has come to expect from SESAP.”



Dr. Deborah Marquardt, Assistant Professor, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Dr. Marquardt was awarded the Association of American Medical Colleges Western Group on Educational Affairs (WGEA) mini-grant for her project "Tailoring Anatomy Review in Core Clinical Clerkships: A Needs Assessment." The WGEA "seeks to promote scholarship in medical education that examines interventions, modalities, and educational content created within the Western region." "This project grew out of many observations of challenges medical students and junior residents from many specialties were having in recalling and utilizing previously learned anatomy knowledge in the process of their surgery clerkship and daily work," said Dr. Marquardt. "Concurrent with my observations that led to the idea for this project, there is an ongoing initiative nationally to create greater vertical integration of basic science information into core clinical clerkships. However, there is little to no literature that has investigated the best way to do this, (i.e. no road map to the destination). Our project aims to gain insight into how to best integrate a basic science core topic (anatomy) into a clinical clerkship in a tailored and realistic way to meet the needs of students and the demands and limitations of clerkships. We anticipate this this will not only provide insight and direction for greater anatomy integration but will also provide a template that may be used to integrate other core basic science subjects in the future as well." Dr. Marquardt continues, "this project is being mentored through the Association of Surgical Education's Surgery Education Research Fellowship in which I am currently participating."



Dr. Elina Quiroga, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

Dr. Quiroga was awarded the UW School of Medicine 2020 Minority Faculty Mentoring Award for providing encouragement and support for the career and development of minority mentees. This award recognizes the need for excellence in mentoring under-represented faculty groups to achieve diversity and inclusion—key elements that can unleash creativity and innovation so the health care needs of our region are met. Dr. Quiroga expresses, "I am truly humbled and honored to receive the 2020 Minority Faculty Mentoring Award from the UW School of Medicine, Committee on Minority Faculty Advancement, Center for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Office of the Dean. I'm fortunate to have learned from outstanding mentors myself, and it is thanks to them that I have the privilege and opportunity to work with mentees myself. There is much work ahead to address racism and health care injustice in medicine, and I am fortunate to work in a place that encourages action and continuous progress in identifying and dismantling inequity in care, culture, and policy." This annual award is supported through the Office of the Dean, Office of Academic Affairs, the Center for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Committee on Minority Faculty Advancement.



Dr. Kathleen O'Connell, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care

Drs. Ron Maier, Professor & Chief and Kathleen O'Connell, Assistant Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care, published ["Trail blazers without blades: Surgeons as Palliative Care Physicians in Response to COVID-19"](#) in the Annals of Surgery. Dr. O'Connell explains, "In this manuscript, we acknowledge the growing global need for palliative care services within the context of COVID-19 and the negative implications for surgical patients (i.e. delays in goals of care conversations due to limited bandwidth of the palliative care service). We highlight the opportunity for surgeons with an interest in palliative care to establish a role as a surgical palliative care champion within their group and provide resources for skill acquisition and community integration."



Dr. Nicole Gibran, Professor, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care

Dr. Nicole Gibran Receives UW Distinguished Staff Award

Dr. Gibran is one of 53 Radiological Release Response Team members who received the UW Distinguished Staff Award for their management of the radioactive material leak at the Harborview Medical Center

Research and Training (R&T) building.

While the general public was safe, the researchers who worked in and whose research was housed in the building were not. Those who had been in R&T at the time of the leak were evacuated, and those who intended on going to their labs the next day weren't allowed to.

Dr. Gibran helped to find them new work spaces. She had recently been appointed associate dean for research and graduate education and suddenly had 200 labless researchers to worry about—including herself, as her lab was housed in R&T.

“People literally left experiments on their benches and were planning to come back the next day. In week s after the leak we were still finding tissue samples on counters,” she says.

During the first few days, she routinely checked on all the freezers holding research materials to make sure they weren't failing—the HVAC in the building had been turned off to prevent the cesium from spreading, and a strange May heatwave was hitting the Seattle area.

Then she had to work on finding space at other UW Medicine facilities for the displaced researchers and their equipment and create access schedules for those who had to share too –small lab spaces. A big part of her job has also been keeping researchers updated on the cleanup progress and providing reassurance, for both researchers and the radiation teams doing the cleanup.



Dr. Meghan Flanagan, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dr. Meghan Flanagan Receives Young Investigator Award

[Swim Across America](#) is a national advocacy and philanthropic organization which funds innovative and cutting-edge clinical trials and cancer research. This year, two Department of Surgery faculty members received highly competitive **Young Investigator Awards**, which grant \$75,000 to junior faculty to pursue basic, translational, or clinical cancer research. Dr. Jonathan Sham, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, is collaborating with Dr. William Ratner, Professor, Department of Bioengineering, on their project "Novel Drug-eluting Biopolymer to Reduce Pancreatic Fistula and Improve Outcomes After Pancreatic Surgery." Together they are developing a novel biopolymer that can be used during pancreatic surgery to reduce the rates of pancreatic fistula, which is a major cause of perioperative morbidity, mortality, and decreased long-term survival, and results in over \$38M in increased healthcare costs in the United States each year.

Dr. **Meghan Flanagan**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery, is working with a multi-disciplinary group of researchers and clinicians at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center on their project, "Association of HSD3B1 (1245C) genotype with recurrence among post-menopausal women with estrogen receptor-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer." This work aims to evaluate the association of a novel genetic mutation with aromatase inhibitor resistance and breast cancer recurrence among post-menopausal women with estrogen receptor-positive (ER+), HER2-negative breast cancer. If found to be associated with recurrence and aromatase inhibitor resistance, testing for this mutation may become routine and will have treatment implications for hundreds of thousands of women diagnosed with ER+ breast cancer annually in the United States.

Drs. Judy Chen*, Assistant Professor, **Meghan Flanagan**, Assistant Professor, Venu Pillarisetty, Associate Professor, Raymond Yeung, Division of General Surgery and Jorge Reyes, Professor & Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery UW Medicine | The Huddle | January 20, 2020 ["The Good Luck Rituals of Medical Experts"](#) * (this is included under Dr. Chen's section as well)



Dr. Sherene Shalhub, Associate Professor Division of Vascular Surgery

Pioneer in EDS and HSD Research Award

Dr. Shalhub received the "Pioneer in EDS and HSD Research Award" for her demonstrating a long-term commitment to outstanding research and progression into Ehlers-Danlos syndromes, hypermobility spectrum disorders, and the associated symptoms and conditions. "I am truly humbled," said Dr. Shalhub. "I feel a deep sense of gratitude every day for all the help and support from everyone to make this possible."

Dr. Sherene Shalhub Moderates Society for Vascular Surgery 's (SVS) COVID-19 Town Hall

Dr. Shalhub moderated the Society for Vascular Surgery 's (SVS) COVID-19 Town Hall in May 2020 along with Dr. Kim Hodgson, SVS President. The event was devoted to the "Clinical Challenges in Managing Vascular Patients with COVID-19." The meeting was designed to address the spectrum of challenges vascular surgeons face in caring for patients with COVID-19, including: maintaining personal protection; preventing transmission among patients and staff; providing vascular access for critically ill patients; managing vascular access complications; diagnosing and treating emergency manifestations of vascular disease; managing deep venous thromboses; managing thrombotic complications in non-vascular patients; considering thrombotic prophylaxis algorithms; and having strategies to provide proper care while minimizing vascular lab tech exposure. Dr. Shalhub shares "The SVS town halls have been a great opportunity to hear from SVS leadership and members about their experiences and thoughts regarding the impact of COVID-19 on vascular surgery. We recently analyzed the data from the "COVID-19 Pandemic Practice, Anxiety, Coping and Support Survey for Vascular Surgeons," which was sponsored by the SVS Wellness Committee, and identified several areas where vascular surgeons can be supported at institutional, regional, and national societal levels. Town halls are one way to address these concerns. For example, many found the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE) to be stressful; we immediately leveraged this information to have some of the time during the town hall to discuss the process , especially from hospitals with large volumes of patients infected with COVID-19."

Received PCORI Funding

The [Aortic Dissection Collaborative](#), led by Dr. Shalhub, received a funding award through the [Patient- Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) Eugene Washington

Engagement Awards program to convene a collaborative of patients with—and at risk for—aortic dissection.

The team aims to improve the management of aortic dissection and increase quality of life for people impacted by this condition. To do so, the collaborative is engaging stakeholders to build a research infrastructure focused on patient-centered outcomes. It will feature research training; support and networking among patients, physicians and researchers with expertise in aortic dissection; research consortia dedicated to aortic dissection; industry stakeholders; and patient advocacy groups.

The main deliverable over the next two years is to create a virtual research network and establish research priorities among the stakeholder group, Shalhub explained. These research priorities will then be used to guide future research proposals that reflect patient centered priorities.

Vascular Hero

Dr. Shalhub was recognized as a “Vascular Hero” through Vascular Cures’ #vascularhero social media campaign. Each year, Vascular Cures honors, celebrates and appreciates heroes who are on the front line battling the devastating effects of vascular disease such as strokes, pulmonary embolisms, aortic aneurysms, vascular dementia and peripheral artery disease. Vascular Cures requested nominations by posting the nominee’s photo or a story on social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram) with the hashtag #vascularhero and the tag @vascularcures.

Dr. Shalhub remarked, “I am deeply honored to be named a vascular hero: None of this work is possible alone and I am grateful for our partners in the VEDS and Aortic Dissection Collaboratives. Engaging patients as partners in the research process has been one of the most fulfilling experiences as a surgeon and researcher.”



Dr. Estell Williams, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

Dr. Estell Williams Receives 2021 Distinguished Service Award

UW Health Sciences and UW Medicine pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. yearly, and during this challenging time of the COVID pandemic it is being done with a dynamic and engaging website celebrating his life and the diversity at the UW. As part of this celebration, the committee confers a ["Distinguished Service Award for Community Service and Volunteerism."](#)

A plaque bearing the names of the recipients is on display in the lobby of the UW Health Sciences Center. The inscription on this plaque is a quote by Dr. King that reads: "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in. This year the event committee unanimously chose Estell J. Williams, MD, to receive the 2021 Distinguished Service Award. The values highlighted this year are a reflection, **Where do we go from here?: Embracing Truth, Demanding Justice, Supporting Community, Valuing Service, Looking Ahead.**

[MLK Day 2021: Where do we go from here?](#) A website in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, recognizing members from our own community who have dedicated themselves to lives of service. Although this year we cannot all gather together in the same room, we have created this website to continue our tradition of sharing inspiring stories, powerful music and an overwhelming sense of hope and unity.

Dr. Estell Williams Elected to WSMA Board of Directors

Dr. Estell Williams, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Emergency General Surgery, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) Foundation for Health Care Improvement as a physician member-at-large. She will serve in this capacity for a 3-year term. The mission of the Foundation is to create transformational health care change at all levels-individual, organizational, and statewide. The Foundation goals are to strengthen physician wellness and restore the joy of practice, enhance the patient/physician partnership and advance quality care and patient safety. The Foundation has recently added addressing disparities in healthcare as one of its four goals, which Dr. Williams was specifically invited to help spearhead. She is excited to expand her passion for advocating for marginalized patients through this role and extends a debt of gratitude to Dr. Mika Sinanan, Professor, Division of General Surgery, who was instrumental in nominating her for this opportunity.



[#WHITECOATSFORBLACKLIVES Surgery Synopsis Story](#)

(Spring 2020 Issue) "Last Saturday, I along with my husband Edwin Lindo, co-organized a march for justice, attracting nearly 10,000 healthcare workers. It all began from a letter I penned explaining my life experiences and encounters with racism. The protest was a beautiful sight. While I still do not consider a single march a win, to see healthcare workers recognizing the connection with their community and making the connection that health extends beyond the walls of hospitals and clinics is a start. It was inspiring to so many and allowed people to connect that we are all seeking to make our world better. While I may feel the stagnation of progress, I am speaking up for change, because I refuse to suffer in

silence any longer and feel so fortunate to have a department that stands with me."

Dr. Estell Williams, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery KUOW News | June 8, 2020 ["Physician balances pandemic and activism: 'We need to think of racism as a disease'"](#)



Dr. Eileen Bulger, Professor & Chief, Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care

The Harborview Medical Center Military-Civilian Partnership for Trauma Training

For many years, Harborview Medical Center (HMC) has served as a training site for residents from Madigan Army Medical Center in General Surgery and Emergency Medicine. In addition, there have been active collaborations to support the training of special forces medics in the Emergency Department and on the Burn Service. We are excited to announce that this program is now advancing to a formal collaboration in which the US Army has designated Harborview Medical Center as one of its initial Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training programs, which will support the integration of all members of military surgical teams into Harborview for training on a rotating basis. These military surgical teams include Special Operations Teams and Forward Surgical Teams, which must provide damage control surgery and resuscitation in the most austere environments. The teams include surgeons, emergency medicine physicians, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants, and combat medics. The Army has recognized the value of ensuring they are always ready to deploy by maintaining their skills in a busy Level 1 trauma center.

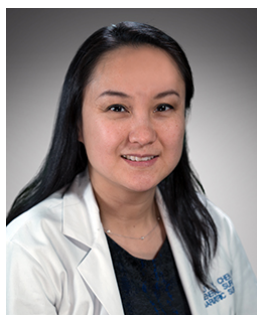
The Department of Surgery has led this effort under the direction of Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Chief of Trauma at Harborview, and Dr. Bryce Robinson, Associate Medical Director for Critical Care, who will serve as a mentor to the surgeons participating. Our first two participants in this program are Drs. Brian Beldowicz and John McClellan, who joined the Department of Surgery this past year. Lieutenant Colonel Beldowicz completed his Surgical Critical Care and Trauma Fellowship at UC Davis and after several deployments was stationed at Madigan Army Medical Center. Major John McClellan completed his surgery residency at Madigan and joined the trauma faculty at HMC for one year prior to starting his Surgical Critical Care and Burn Fellowship at HMC this month. Both Drs. Beldowicz and McClellan serve in leadership roles on Special Operations medical teams and have had multiple deployments. In describing their initial experiences, Dr. Beldowicz writes, "At Harborview, John and I are privileged to practice with some of the most experienced and insightful medical professionals across a variety of trauma-related specialties, and we experience the volume and complexity of patients necessary to continuously develop our understanding of trauma physiology and patterns of injury. When we're overseas and we encounter severely injured patients in uniquely challenging circumstances, we don't have to invent some completely novel solution. Instead, we draw from the experience and perspectives we accumulate every single day to adapt the highest standard of care to less than ideal situations. In a way, it's the logical progression of providing exceptional care without exception. We're just extending it to the world's most unforgiving environments." Dr. McClellan writes, "This collaboration has been instrumental to my development as a new General Surgeon. The time spent working closely with the experienced HMC Staff refreshed and expanded my knowledge of managing a wide range of traumatic injuries. Additionally, these skills gained were crucial to my most recent deployment. I am very grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to continuing to build this relationship in the years to come."

KOMO News | May 9, 2020 ["Number of COVID-19 patients drops by half at UW Medicine facilities"](#)

Dr. Sam Mandell, Assistant Professor, Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor & Chief, Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care KOMO News | May 18, 2020 ["Hospital machine touted as 'last best option' to treat COVID-19 patients"](#)

2020 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Dr. Eileen Bulger, Professor and Chief, presented two talks, the first titled, "Scudder Oration on Trauma: I'm not Comfortable With This," and the second, "Addressing the Social Determinates to Reduce Firearm Violence."



Dr. Judy Chen, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery

Drs. Judy Chen, Assistant Professor, Meghan Flanagan, Assistant Professor, Venu Pillarisetty, Associate Professor, Raymond Yeung, Division of General Surgery and Jorge Reyes, Professor & Chief, Division of Transplant Surgery UW Medicine | The Huddle | January 20, 2020 ["The Good Luck Rituals of Medical Experts"](#)



Dr. Giana Davidson, Associate Professor, Division of General Surgery

Preventing Medication-Related Problems in Care Transitions to Skilled Nursing Facilities

In September, Giana Davidson, MD, MPH, and her team launched a 5-year cluster randomized [trial](#) funded by the Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality. This R01 will test the effectiveness of a new healthcare transition program focused on reducing medication-related problems and improving patient- and caregiver reported measures of the quality-of-care transitions for patients transitioning from hospitals to skilled nursing facilities (SNF). The team has focused on improving care coordination for people discharged to skilled nursing facilities following hospitalization given the unique challenges for patients and their caregivers during this time. These patients are at particularly high risk for poor outcomes given they are often medically complex, have had an unexpected hospitalization, and/or require a healthcare team that can be fragmented and include primary care teams, subspecialists, and the SNF and rehabilitation teams, often none of whom share a common electronic medical record. This work has brought together a team with a range of expertise focused on addressing the gaps in transitions of care that ultimately exposes some of our most vulnerable patients to complications, emotional distress, and costly medical errors. Importantly, this team is also focused on better understanding how care transitions may be experienced differently by some people (e.g., those that are minoritized, do not speak English, lack social support, or have low health literacy) and will examine equity in outcomes of the intervention across the health system. In addition to Dr. Davidson, this team includes Elizabeth Austin, MPH, Research Scientist, Department of Health Services; Zachary Marcum, PharmD, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy; Thuan Ong, MD, MPH, geriatrician, palliative care physician and the Medical Director for UW Medicine Post-Acute Care; Edwin Lindo, JD, critical race scholar and Assistant Dean of Social and Health Justice; Oleg Zaslavsky, PhD, MHA, BSN, Associate Professor, School of Nursing; Bryan Comstock, MS, Senior Biostatistician in the Center for Biomedical Statistics; Sarah Monsell, MS, Biostatistician in

the Center for Biomedical Statistics; Mariam Hantouli, MD, Research Fellow, Department of Surgery; and Margo Godersky, Project Manager, Department of Surgery.

CODA Appendicitis Trial Brings Together Past and Current DOS Members

A collaboration of past and current Department of Surgery members lead national trial to answer the question: Are antibiotics as good as surgery to treat appendicitis?

Antibiotics may be a good choice for some, but not all, patients with appendicitis, according to results from the Comparing Outcomes of antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) Trial, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) on October 5, 2020. The CODA Trial was led by current Department of Surgery faculty members – Drs. David Flum, Professor and Associate Chair for research served as Co-Principal Investigator, and **Giana Davidson**, Associate Professor, directed the Clinical Coordinating Center, leading the participation of 25 clinical sites in 14 states across the US. Current faculty members Joseph Cuschieri, Professor, and former faculty member Dr. Heather Evans led Harbor view Medical Center’s participation in the trial. Affiliate Associate Professor, Dr. Danielle Lavalley, led the CODA Stakeholder Coordinating Center. The CODA Trial is the largest study to date comparing appendectomy and antibiotics for appendicitis, with 1,552 participants enrolled (roughly three times larger than the previous largest trial) in the randomized cohort. Funded by the Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute and designed in partnership with patient stakeholders, CODA aimed to answer the question, “Based on my unique characteristics, preferences, and outcomes of interest, are antibiotics as good as appendectomy?” As the CODA Trial was ramping up, the team reached out to several Department of Surgery alumni to bring their own health systems on board. “We were striving for a trial that captured the range of severity of appendicitis cases, diversity of health systems, and the broad range of experiences in healthcare to better understand what ‘success’ in treatment looks like for our patients,” said Dr. Davidson. “Developing and successfully completing a trial that was able to recruit patients to randomize to surgery or medical therapy 24/7 at 25 sites across the US took a tremendous amount of trust, communication, and collaboration across our individual teams. UW has produced phenomenal surgeon leaders and researchers, and for many of us, the years of experience we had in training together was a catalyst to launch this work. I’m hopeful it will be the first of our work together.” Five Department of Surgery alumni led the CODA trial at their hospitals: Dr. Damien Carter (Maine Medical Center); Dr. F. Thurston Drake (Boston Medical Center); Dr. Kate Mandell (Swedish Medical Center); Dr. Sabrina Sanchez (Boston Medical Center); and Dr. Callie Thompson (Vanderbilt University). “For me, and I know for my partner Dr. Sanchez as well, the opportunity to lead a trial of this magnitude was a huge opportunity,” said Dr. Drake. “The pragmatic nature of the trial made it fit well in different clinical environments, and the CODA team, in particular Dr. Davidson and [CODA project manager] Erin Fannon, were really hands on in making sure we were successful.” CODA results indicated that at least in the short-term, antibiotics are not worse than appendectomy for appendicitis, as measured

by the EQ-5D13 measure of general health status. Among those assigned to antibiotics, there was an approximately 3 in 10 rate of appendectomy by 90 days, and patients with an appendicolith had a higher rate of appendectomy (25% if no appendicolith and 41% with appendicolith). Overall, antibiotics were associated with a higher rate of adverse outcomes than appendectomy, but this higher rate was largely driven by the appendicolith subgroup. Patients without an appendicolith were not at higher risk for complications. Antibiotics were associated with more days in both the emergency department and hospital after initial treatment. There were fewer days of missed work by both patients and caregivers in the antibiotics group. There is a chance of missing a cancer of the appendix when an appendectomy is not done – CODA found cancers in 7/776 appendectomy-assigned and 2/776 antibiotics-assigned participants at 90 days with a mean age of 47 years (range 21 to 74). Clinical outcomes including the impact of a delay in diagnosis and risk factors associated with an occult neoplasm will be a future area of focus of the CODA trial to help patients and surgeons determine if an antibiotic or surgical treatment should be considered. “There were advantages and disadvantages to each treatment, and patients will value these differently based on their unique characteristics, concerns, and perspectives,” said Dr. Flum. Some people will look at these trade-offs and find antibiotics an acceptable, or even preferable option. Others will look at these trade-offs and choose appendectomy. Clinicians, researchers, and health systems can play an important role in encouraging this individualized approach to treatment by developing and deploying decision support tools to help patients prioritize and weigh multiple outcomes. The CODA Trial is ongoing and future publications will detail long-term results, factors associated with antibiotic treatment success, and results from observational and EMR-only cohorts. CODA was managed by the team in the Department of Surgery’s Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE). More information on the CODA Trial and results can be found on the [CODA website](#).

New Role As UW School of Medicine (SOM) Assistant Dean of Professionalism

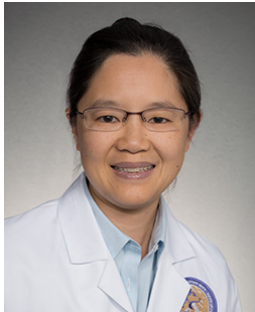
Dr. Davidson started her new role as UW School of Medicine (SOM) Assistant Dean of Professionalism. Partnering with Drs. Trish Kritek and Anne Browning in the Office of Faculty Affairs, her focus is addressing the current climate impacting students, trainees, staff and faculty across SOM. Dr. Davidson will serve as Chair of the Continuous Professionalism Improvement (CPI) Committee for the SOM, which is a role originally led by one of her mentors and former Department of Surgery Chair, Dr. Carlos Pellegrini. Dr. Davidson stated, “I have been inspired by the commitment that UW has made in working towards a climate that honors the diversity of individuals we educate, care for, work with, and mentor. The development of the U W Medicine Equity Blueprint and wellness initiatives including the UW Medicine Peer to Peer Program are examples that reflect values I am passionate about : 1) looking for ways that our systemic-isms (e.g., racism, sexism, ableism)

have led to variable health experiences for our patients and differential educational opportunities for our trainees and advancement of our faculty, and 2) examine how we can better support one another to thrive within this environment to achieve our academic aspirations and improve the health of the community. I am inspired by the collaboration of the team in the Office of Faculty Affairs and the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Paula Houston in the Office of Healthcare Equity."

Drs. Giana Davidson, Associate Professor and Douglas E. Wood, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair UW Medicine | Newsroom | May 19, 2020 ["Study: Pandemic halts, delays 28 million elective surgeries"](#)

2020 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Drs. David Flum, Professor and Associate Chair for Research, and **Giana Davidson**, Associate Professor and Section Chief of Emergency General Surgery, presented "Antibiotics for Appendicitis? What the Results from the CODA Trial Mean for Your Practice," and hosted a virtual press conference on the same topic. Dr. Giana Davidson additionally spoke on the "Ethical Consideration for Surgeons Participating in Clinical Research."



Dr. Gale Tang, Associate Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery

Dr. Tang was appointed the new Associate Editor of JVS Vascular Science.



Dr. Kimberly Riehle, Associate Professor, Division of Pediatric General Surgery

2020 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Dr. Riehle lectured on "Pediatric Head and Neck Masses."



Dr. Kathleen Berfield, Assistant Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Chief of Thoracic Surgery, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Dr. Berfield was named the Chair of the inaugural National Surgery Office Thoracic Surgical Advisory Board (SAB). As Chair of the Thoracic SAB, she will lead other Thoracic surgeons within the Veterans Health Administration and serve as subject matter experts to the National Surgery Office and Veterans Health Administration leadership. Dr. Berfield, previously served on the Cardiothoracic Surgery SAB and started her 3- year term as Chair for Thoracic Surgery on June 1st.

Family Medicine

Kimberly Harmon received the [AMSSM Founders' Award](#), which is a sports medicine top honor.

Amanda Kost was named 2021 [Family Medicine Educator of the Year](#) by the Washington Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP).

Judy Pauwels who was honored with the UW School of Medicine Excellence in Mentoring Women Faculty Award for 2020.

Allison Cole is the lead researcher on The Rural Community Support for Colonoscopy project, a five-year, \$2,954,806 project funded by the National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), that aims to address rural colorectal cancer health disparities. The project will work with rural primary care practices in the WWAMI region to implement a patient navigation program to support colonoscopy completion among rural residents with a positive fecal immunochemical test (FIT) kit. This grant is a significant accomplishment for a Family Medicine researcher.

Center for Health Workforce Studies Director, **Bianca Frogner**, provided expert testimony on March 10th to the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee to discuss the Health Profession Opportunity Grant Program (HPOG). [Full testimonies and video of the event are available](#) and a [news brief on the event](#) was published by Community College Daily.

Kari Stephens was named a Psychology Internship Faculty Award winner for the Integrated Primary Care Track for the second year in a row, by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Kari Stephens now serves as Deputy Director for the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center NACC

Emily Godfrey (and team Anna Fiastro and Molly Ruben) was awarded one of only five grants by the Society of Family Planning Research Fund for Innovations in medication abortion service delivery. Their

project will evaluate the extent to which early abortion services provided through telemedicine shifts abortion access in WA State and evaluate best practices for patient-provider communication related to improving telemedicine service delivery. Emily and Anna are also co-investigators on a second of these five awards through the Reproductive Health Access Project, in which they will evaluate patients' experiences of receiving first trimester abortion care via telemedicine in a primary care safety net clinic in Boston, MA.

Viet Nguyen (resident, class of 2020), **Alexa Lindley** and **Emily Godfrey** published in BMJ Case Reports (Phleboliths mistaken for intraperitoneal TCU380A IUD in the presence of missing strings: A case report). This is the first peer-reviewed publication from the UW DFM Women's Health Research and Scholarship Lab, which is a dyad mentoring model (faculty from Research Section and Residency Section) to increase scholarship and research skills in Family Medicine.

Ashley Austin won the Harry Galanty Young Investigator Award for her research presentation at the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting.