

CARDIOTHORACIC
GENERAL
MINIMAL INVASIVE
PEDIATRIC HEART
PEDIATRIC
PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGICAL ONCOLOGY
THORACIC
TRANSPLANT
TRAUMA & CRITICAL CARE
VASCULAR



THE STITCH

The Newsletter of the
Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA

August 2024



Chatter with the Chair

Welcome to the updated version of the Department of Surgery newsletter!

We plan to offer monthly updates about events in and around our Department. You can read about the new Whelchel award, or learn about the presentations of our residents at national meetings. Note our transplant surgeons have been really busy with so many transplants these last 2 years. Congrats! In the meantime, we ask that you provide us with important news about your activities, particularly information that you would like to tell your colleagues. We plan to circulate this newsletter both inside and outside the Department and also to post the newsletter on our website.

We are excited to celebrate some of our accomplishments over

the last year and welcome the new academic year with a fresh set of surgery residents. Our new interns hail across the US from Arizona to Florida. It's great to see eager and motivated learners as a part of our team. New initiatives in the Department include further development of the simulation lab, a manual dexterity assessment tool for our students, and an active Surgical Oncology research group that has produced many insightful projects. All this momentum carries us towards our goal of seeking excellence with our entire surgical team.

It's also time to prepare submissions for our annual Moretz meeting that is scheduled for February 28-March 1, 2025. The deadline for abstract submission is December 2, 2024, so start your data gathering and research submission early so

we can showcase your good work. Moretz Society President, Dr. Renee Hilton, has an outstanding program planned and wants to have your best research projects presented. We have also secured Dr. Julie Freischlag for the Mansberger lecture.

Sincerely,

William D Jordan, Jr., MD
Professor and Chair,
Department of Surgery
Medical College of Georgia
Surgeon in Chief,
Wellstar MCG Health



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AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

WHELCHEL AWARDS

Dr. Dee Whelchel and Mr. Curtis Mills recently presented the annual Whelchel Awards, named in memory of Dr. John Davis Whelchel, Jr. who graduated from MCG in 1966.

Dr. Melissa Easley received the Whelchel Resident Award, which is awarded to a PGY-3 Surgery Resident that:

- Shows promising skill set in operating room
- Advocates for exemplary patient care
- Shows extra interest in improving patient care delivery

Dr. Erika Mabes was presented the Whelchel Faculty Award, given to an Assistant Professor that:

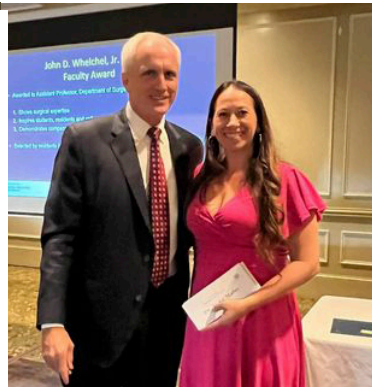
- Shows Surgical expertise
- Inspires students, residents and colleagues
- Demonstrates compassionate bedside manner to improve clinical care

Dr. Whelchel was a successful transplant surgeon. His mentor, Dr. Benedict Cosimi, said, "He will be remembered for his surgical prowess, boundless energy, inspiring mentorship, relentless efforts to improve organ accessibility."

Warmest congratulations to Dr. Easley and Dr. Mabes on this well-deserved recognition of outstanding achievement and many thanks to the Whelchel family.



Dr. Melissa Easley



Dr. Erika Mabes

Congrats!

MIS – Dr. Hilton received the Distinguished Service Award from ASMBS

CARDIAC & THORACIC – Dr. Richard Lee and Dr. Daniel Miller participated as examiners in the *Primary Certifying Examination for Thoracic Surgery*



WELCOME

Dr. Angello Lin joined Department of Surgery as the new Transplant Chief. He graduated from Emory School of Medicine and was excited MCG would help him pursue his purpose of innovation.



"The department here is very supportive of me trying new methods, and I was drawn to that," Dr. Lin said.

Dr. Lin performed our first En-bloc procedure by successfully connecting a kidney and pancreas prior to transplant, reducing surgery and recovery time.

TRANSPLANT

■ Dr. Lin and the team of Dr. Jim Wynn, Dr. Ahmad Mirza, and Dr. Valia Bravo-Egana achieved a milestone by performing over 100 kidney transplants per academic year for two consecutive years—an unprecedented accomplishment in the program's history.

■ Transplant continued to have no findings on the CMS Site Survey!

PRESENTATIONS

TRAUMA – Dr. Mikenzie Sturdevant presented "Development of a Multidisciplinary Trauma Simulation Curriculum: A Novel Educational Model to Improve Resident Education, Team Communication, and Trauma Resuscitation Outcomes" at the ACS Quality Conference July 18-20. Dr. Mikenzie Sturdevant and Dr. Lillie Tien also presented four posters for our work on remodeling the trauma bay, developing a trauma video review tool, and development of a multidisciplinary trauma simulation curriculum.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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