

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 2025



## Chatter with the Chair

We can accomplish a goal quickly if we work alone. We can go farther and accomplish even more when we work in teams. I am immensely proud of our department and the accomplishments we have reached when working as a TEAM!

Our Surgical Oncology team continues to promote new therapies. They performed a minimally invasive Whipple procedure using our daVinci robot in June. Fantastic! This feat was accomplished with collaborative efforts of surgery, anesthesia, nursing staff and robot experts. The cancer team continues to advance here at MCG. Dr. Danny Yakoub was also named the new Chair of the ACS Commission on Cancer. This honor for Dr. Yakoub could not be accomplished without the support of the whole team.

Next, our Cardiac surgery team collaborating with the Heart Failure Cardiology team have received an

ELSO Gold Award of Excellence. This feat demonstrates the team effort of working across disciplines to provide extracorporeal life support for critically ill patients. Congratulations to the heart team!

Emily Hammond recently matched into an endocrine fellowship for 2026. While she is an exceptional chief resident with an outstanding CV, her successful match into the program was also a reflection of the core efforts of our team. She has spent 4+ years in training, performing clinical research with a team and gaining the support of her co-residents and faculty. While she could have matched at many programs on her own merits, she has also benefited from the strong support of a dedicated team that helped secure an excellent placement. Congrats, Dr. Hammond!

Lastly, as we celebrate these successes, remember that a team

carries your success even farther. We are part of a team that cares for our patients, a team of nurses, technicians, consultants, and patient advocates. Remember to thank every member of your team and that each of us contributes something important to our success in patient care and medical education.

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



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# CONGRATULATIONS

Our **CT Surgery team** received the GOLD ELSO Award of Excellence for our program. This is a testament to the collective commitment and expertise of our entire clinical support staff, ECMO specialists, and the institution. They have achieved this status within a short period and speaks highly of the clinical expertise and passion. This award is a prestigious recognition for exceptional contributions and commitment to the field of extracorporeal life support.



**Dr. Emily Hammond** matched in Endocrine Surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee!



Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Danny Yakoub**. He is the new ACS Commission on Cancer Chair for Georgia!



On June 19th, we performed the first robotic Whipple! The team consisted of **Drs. Danny Yakoub, Steven Colquhoun, and Daniel Milgrom**. The procedure lasted 5 hours with a 5-day inpatient stay. The patient did very well and was discharged home with no complications.



## DR. ST. LOUIS PUBLICATIONS

■ **Elizabeth H. Stephens, Eric N. Feins, Tara Karamlou, Brett R. Anderson, Bahaaldin Alsoufi, Mark S. Bleiweis, Yves d'Udekem, Jennifer S. Nelson, Awais Ashfaq, Bradley S. Marino, James D. St. Louis, Hani K. Najm, Joseph W. Turek, Danial Ahmad, Joseph A. Dearani, Jeffrey P. Jacobs**. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Neonates and Infants With Coarctation. *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery, Volume 118, Issue 3, 2024, Pages 527-544*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2024.04.012>.

■ **Ignacio Juaneda, MD, Lucca Pizzulli, MD, Paula Ferrari, MD, Rodrigo Molinas, MD, Juan Diaz, MD, Irma Azar, MD, Alejandro Allub, MD, Ernesto Juaneda, MD, PhD, James St Louis, MD, Alejandro Peirone, MD, and Jenkins Kathy, MD, MPH**. Outcomes of Atrioventricular Septal Defect Repair: Two-Institutions, 10-Year Experience in Cordoba, Argentina. *World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery. 2025;16(4):509-515*. doi:10.1177/21501351241305135.

■ **Jaggers J, Winlaw D, Fuller S, Sethi N, Kochilas L, Adachi I, Stone M, Browne L, Khoo N, da Cruz E, Petit C, Lapar D, Stout K, Donofrio M, St Louis J**. 2025 American Association for Thoracic Surgery Congenital Cardiac Surgery Working Group- Expert consensus document on the management of patients with pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2025 Aug;170(2):336-352*. doi: 10.1016/j.jtcvs.2025.03.034.

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