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The Newsletter of the
Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

July 2025



Chatter with the Chair

As we turn the page on another academic year, July brings a fresh wave of energy and excitement to our department. We've just said farewell to an outstanding group of Chief Residents, and now we welcome the next generation of surgical trainees. This cycle of mentorship and renewal is at the heart of our mission—and it's what makes July such a special time at MCG.

Welcome, Intern Class of 2025! Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our newest General Surgery interns. These bright and motivated individuals are beginning their journey in one of the most challenging and rewarding fields in medicine. Their orientation week was filled with hands-on simulation, introductions to our faculty and culture, and a strong emphasis on teamwork and professionalism.

We are proud of the diverse backgrounds and experiences they bring to our program. Their enthusiasm reminds us of our own beginnings and reaffirms our commitment to teaching and mentorship.

We have shuffled positions since our original Match:

■ *Our inspired PGY1 group:* Lauren

Guillot, Rachel Hemsath, Alexander Holland, Hussein Kharroubi, Ramya Mohanhumar, Khaled Altartoor, and Kelsey Donoughe

■ *We have 5 Chiefs:* Philip Coffey, Cory Demino, Emily Hammond, Ben Pitt, and Lillie Tien

■ *A large 4th year class,* with some returning researchers: Nicole Brown, Anthony Campbell, Ankit Dhiman, Melissa Easley, Bashir Koko, Imad Radi, and Mikenzie Sturdevant

■ *New faces in the 3rd year class:* Austin Graf, Lauren Herrera, Nuverah Mohsin, Robert Younan, and Adam Weiner

■ *Some relieved PGY2s,* who welcomed the interns: Natalie Domingue, Cole Harp, Nicole Ivan, Alexandra Metzger, Humberto Perez, and Vaishnavi Kavirayani

Academic Growth & Innovation - Our academic programs continue to evolve to meet the needs of modern surgical education:

Simulation & Skills Development - Our interns are already engaging in laparoscopic and robotic training modules, preparing them for early operative experiences.

Mentorship in Action - Each new

resident is paired with a faculty mentor and a senior resident guide, fostering a supportive learning environment from day one.

Research & Scholarship - Building on the momentum from the Moretz Conference and national meetings, we are expanding opportunities for residents to engage in clinical research and scholarly activity.

As we welcome new faces and embrace new challenges, let us recall some more words from the Hippocratic Oath: "Gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow." Here's to another year of learning, teaching, and growing—together.

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



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Emily Hammond earned Emergency Medicine Spring Semester Star – Consultant of the Quarter!

Dr. Hammond is dedicated and bright, and her collaborative spirit has made such a positive impact on patient care. With unwavering professionalism and a keen eye for detail, she continues to

impress us with her ability to juggle multiple fires at once. We are all grateful for her contributions and proud to recognize her achievements.

Dr. Hammond is a joy to work with and I'm always reassured seeing her as a consultant in the ED. She is a true team player and conversations with her in the department are easy and efficient. She manages both her consults and her team well with solid clinical reasoning and skills.

PRESENTATIONS

American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference this July in San Diego, CA:

■ **Domingue N, PGY-2 (presenter), Tien L, Pitt B, Sturdevant M, Holm K, Adam B, Hatley R, Pipkin W, Simmerman Mabes E.** *From Words to Action: Problem Identification and Needs Assessment for an Interdisciplinary Pediatric Trauma Resuscitation Curriculum.*

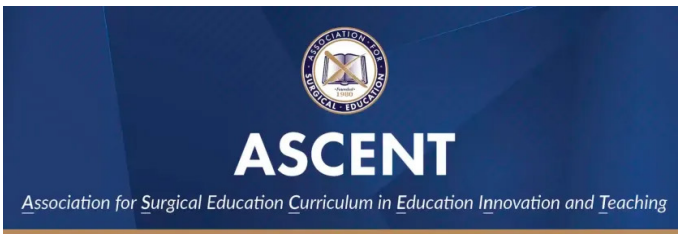
■ **Brown N, PGY-4 (presenter), Aldaheer Z, Howerton S, Lee A, Simmerman Mabes E.** *Development and Implementation of an Informed Consent Curriculum for First-Year Surgical Residents.*

■ **Harp C, PGY-2 (presenter), Moore G, Aldaheer Z, Dunn K, Jones C, Lyon M, Kleinheksel A, Simmerman Mabes E.** *Creation of a Trauma Simulation Curriculum for Rural Trauma Center Quality Improvement.*

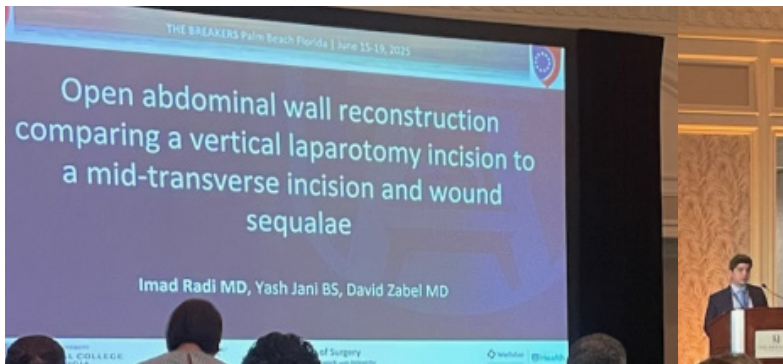
■ **Arkanum E, Pre-Clerkship (presenter), Graf A, Easley M, Ange B, Arkanum E, Lee A, Adam B, Simmerman Mabes E.** *Identifying Training Gaps in General Surgery Residency Training: A Targeted Needs Assessment Guiding Simulation Curriculum Development.*

■ **Gersten J, Pre-Clerkship (presenter), Pitt B, Tien L, Sturdevant M, Holmes K, Hatley R, Pipkin W, Adam B, Simmerman Mabes E.** *Optimizing Pediatric Trauma Resuscitation: Addressing Gaps in Team Dynamics Through Targeted Simulation Training.*

■ **Herrera L, PGY-3 (presenter), Easley M, Hammond E, Graf A, Ange B, Adam B, Lee A, Simmerman Mabes E.** *Development of Common Bile Duct Exploration Simulation Curriculum to Equip Trainees for Rural Surgery Practice.*



Dr. Erika Simmerman Mabes received approval by the executive board of the ASE and will be Co-Director for the Association for Surgical Education Curriculum in Education, Innovation, and Teaching (ASCENT) program, a national surgical simulation curriculum. The program will be starting the 2025-2026 Academic year.



Dr. Imad Radi presented at the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery (SESPRS) in West Palm Beach - 15-19 June.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Congrats to all!



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