

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

September 2024



Chatter with the Chair

Since 1828, the Medical College of Georgia has been educating medical students and training our next generation of doctors. That represents 200 years of undergraduate medical education producing great doctors who deliver great medicine. <https://www.augusta.edu/mcg/>

Now we continue to celebrate our growing medical school classes who exceed over 300 each year! More recently, on August 27th, we hosted a surgery interest group with 100 1st and 2nd year medical students who have expressed interest in surgery or a surgical specialty. This event, coordinated by the co-presidents Harsha Sripadrao and Sevana Allen, was a great opportunity for many of our specialties to interact with the students and engage in meaningful conversations. We provided them perspective on our personal lives, our professional achievements and satisfaction in providing care for many different groups of patients. The entire Department of Surgery and the various surgical specialties should be congratulated for their participation in this event. Some of our surgery faculty included,

Dr. David Zabel of plastic surgery, Dr. Robin Hatley of pediatric surgery, Dr. Renee Hilton of minimally invasive surgery, Dr. Bradley Morganstern of urology, Dr. Heather Koehn of ENT, Dr. Terence O’Keeffe of trauma, Dr. Alicia Arnold and Dr. Daniel Milgrom of surgical oncology, Dr. Angello Lin of transplant, Dr. Monte Hunter and Dr. Uzundu Agochukwu of orthopedic surgery, and Dr. Fernando Vale of neurosurgery.

Our department also welcomes this year Peach State scholars, Silas Howerton and Sweta Munagapati. This program identifies first year medical students who are committed to surgery and also practicing in an underserved area in our state after they have completed training. This recent year’s class actually had two exceptional candidates. These students will begin an early and intensive surgery education program to prepare them for surgery residency after three years of medical school. This exciting program in surgery, led by Dr. Steve Colquhoun, will accelerate access to care for many patients and their communities.

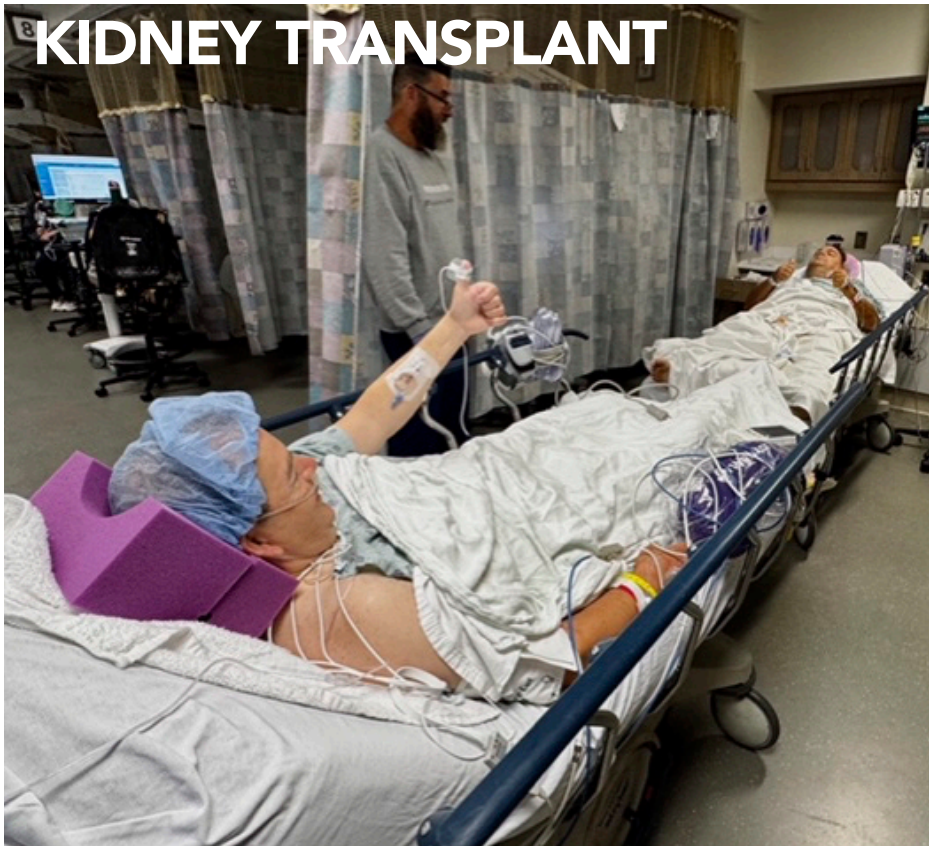
As we reflect on the success of our education of students, we also look to the next stage of their career, including the application for graduate medical education. We are entering the application season where our fourth year students apply for competitive residencies throughout the US. We’re excited to continue that offering. Last year we matched 18 students into surgery programs and are excited for the next season to recruit and place young surgeons in their graduate programs.

Sincerely,

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



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA



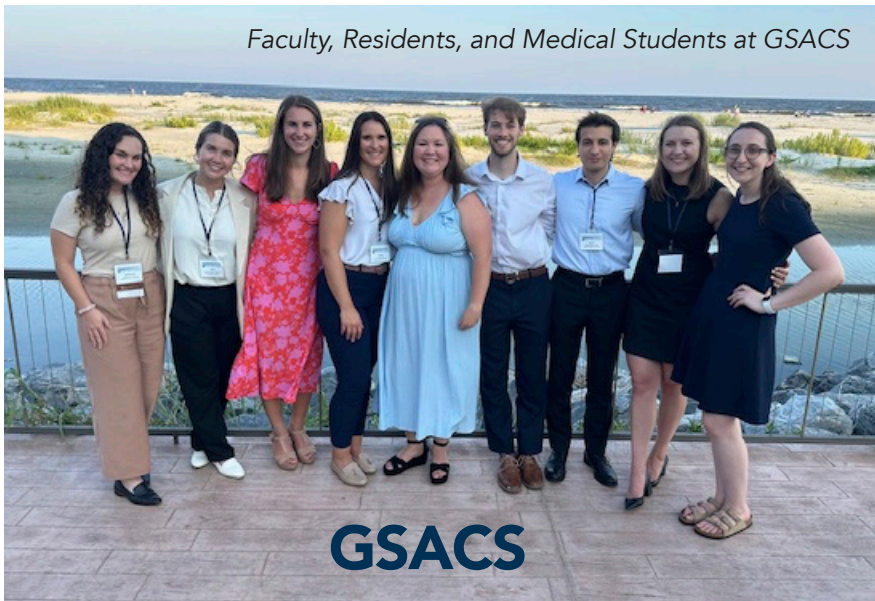
KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Drs. Lin and Wynn teamed up to perform a living donor kidney transplant for two brothers which allowed the donor's brother to get a great kidney – this PACU picture tells the story – thumbs up all around!

HLA

The HLA (Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics) lab has done it again! Their hard work and determination were able to help clinicians figure out the complex immunological portions of several patient's illness. In addition to their accreditation for histocompatibility for all transplant subspecialties, they are also accredited for histocompatibility and immunogenetics for non-transplant purposes, such as transfusion support.

Congrats!



Faculty, Residents, and Medical Students at GSACS

GSACS



Dr. Easley accepts her award

We had a wonderful time at GSACS and brought home some awards!

Congratulations to –

- Dr. Renee Hilton for earning her Presidential Gavel for 2 years of service with GSACS.
- Dr. Lillie Tien, Resident, for first place on Robotic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass in a Patient with Situs Inversus Totalis.
- Dr. Melissa Easley, Resident, for first place on "Does Insurance Matter? Bariatric Surgery Outcomes at a Single Center."

- Lianni Maldonado, Registered Dietician, for receiving the Georgia Bariatric Excellence Award.
- Archana Venkatesan, Medical Student, for first place on Demographic Disparities in Time to Treatment and Surgery for Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) During the COVID-19 Era.
- Malek Mounme, Medical Student, for second place on Factors Influencing Survival in Stage IV Early-Age-Onset Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma.



RENEE HILTON, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Associate Professor
Section Chief, Minimally
Invasive & Bariatric Surgery
Department of Surgery



Dr. Hilton was selected by the MCG Office for Faculty Success and her peers for "AU/MCG Woman Who Inspires" for the 2024 Women in Medicine Month Campaign. Congratulations Dr. Hilton.

You're a Star Performer!

Join us as we celebrate our Top Performers
Patient Experience Star Ratings

PUBLICATIONS

St Louis JD, Jacobs JP, Bateson BP, Tchervenkov CI, Austin EH, Kirklin JK. *Establishment of a Global Platform for the Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease by "Creation and Unification of National Congenital Heart Surgery Databases and Registries": It's Time!* World J Pediatr Congenit Heart Surg. 2024 Aug 9:21501351241256607.

Holmes, Kathryn, Pearl Shah, Melanie Jones, Ryan Langston, Faizal Asumda, and Jack Yu. *"Delayed Wound Healing in a Young Patient with TNXB Variants and the Role of WES."* FACE (2024): 27325016241274964.



Congratulations to our Physician Patient Experience Star Performers!

Dr. Walter Pipkin
Dr. Robyn Hatley
Dr. Richard Lee
Dr. Alicia Arnold
Dr. Daniel Miller
Dr. Jaine McKenzie
Dr. Aaron Bolduc

SOCIAL MEDIA



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**MORETZ SURGICAL SOCIETY IS FEB 28 & MARCH 1.
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS DEC 2, 2024.**