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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

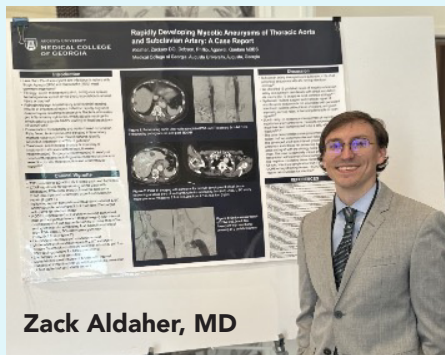
April 2025



Chatter with the Chair

Another Spring is among us where we see the flowers bloom and another successful Masters Week. Nature's regeneration reminds me of the recurring pattern that we have in matching a new class of surgery residents. We have a great intern class including medical students from American University of Beirut to Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Welcome to our new interns and the commitment to surgery training! facebook.com/grusurgery

We have many other items to celebrate in this month's newsletter. The Robert Nesbit and Charles Wray Chair in surgery was endowed last year and then held by our own surgery program director and breast surgeon, Dr. Alicia Arnold. We were able to celebrate this chair with Dr. Betty Wray and Dr. Nesbit with their families this past week. As established in the endowment, Dr. Arnold has used these funds to further enhance the training and education of our surgery residents and students. Our entire department has enjoyed the fruits of



Zack Aldaher, MD

this generous gift with a recent example of Zack Aldaher, PGY2, who won the resident poster competition at the Georgia Vascular Society in Atlanta last week.

Dr. Erika Mabes has led the effort to start a Surgical Education and Surgical Simulation Research Fellowship, funded by the Georgia Trauma Commission and directed through our clinical partners at Emanuel Medical Center. Beginning in July, Dr. Aldaher will be our first Fellow. Congrats to them both for the coming year of new investigation!

An additional congratulations is extended to those who contributed to the WMCG Quality symposium a few weeks ago. One of our outstanding surgery students, Stephanie Hayes, M4, was a finalist and received a 3rd place finish with her work in the MIS Division on improving outcomes for vertical sleeve gastrectomy. Our stars continue to shine!

Will

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



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA



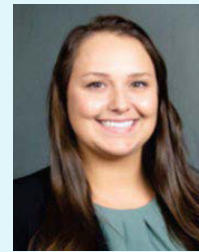
WELCOME

Dr. Ralph Ierardi began March 17th in our Vascular Division as an Associate Professor, coming to us from Advent Health in Celebration, FL.

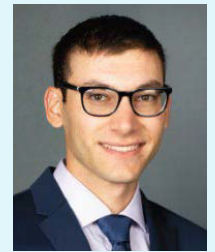
Meet our new incoming **Surgery Residents Class of 2030**. We are proud to have you with us at MCG.



Lauren Guillot
Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans

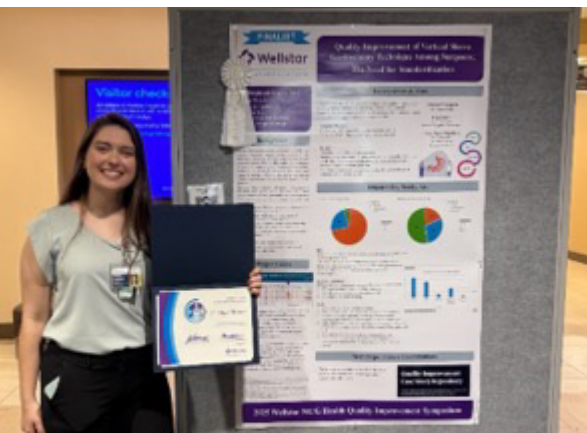


Rachel Hemsath
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas Campus

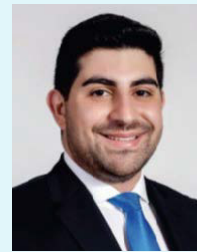


Alexander Holland
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas Campus

Dr. Erika Mabes attended the ACS Surgeons as Educators Course at the end of March. This exclusive course furthers her training as an advanced educator and is partially funded through our Whelchel Award of 2024.



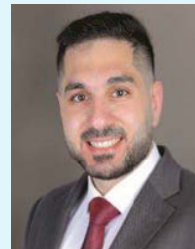
Congratulations to **Stephanie Hayes, M4**, for her poster on *Quality Improvement of Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy Technique Among Surgeons: The Need for Standardization*. She was a finalist, 3rd place, at the Wellstar MCG Quality Symposium.



Hussein Kharroubi
American University of Beirut



Adam Weiner
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School



Khaled Altartoor
Preliminary PGY-1 University of Sharjah College of Medicine



Kelsey Donoughe
Preliminary PGY-1 West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

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I want you to hear one thing from this podcast, obesity is a disease. It's not your fault. It's multifactorial, and you deserve treatment, to have care, to have a provider and a team taking care of you that will advocate for you and get you access to all of the things you need.

- Dr. Renee Hilton




Congrats!

Dr. Renee Hilton was featured in Episode 242 of the **Barination Podcast**, the most listened to bariatric/obesity podcast in the US. Listen here:

[Spotify](#) [Apple](#) [YouTube](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA




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2025 Georgia Society of the ACS Annual Meeting Sept 5-7, Amelia Island
Submit your abstract **ONLINE** by June 6, 2025, at 11:55 pm ET.

knowledgeconnex.secure-platform.com/a/page/GSACS2025