

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

October 2025



Chatter with the Chair

Excellence abounds among us!

Earlier this month, the Children's Hospital of Georgia celebrated one of our greats in naming the hospital lobby for Dr. Charles Howell. Dr. Howell is the epitome of **excellence** as demonstrated in his years of care for the children of Georgia and his leadership for our Department of Surgery from 2010 – 2018. He has elevated our entire community to a new level of **excellence** – thank you, Dr. Howell!

Next, the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgery bestowed a lifetime achievement award on Dr. Jack Yu, a long-standing member of our plastic surgery division. Dr. Yu has practiced at MCG for 29 years in helping children and demonstrating **excellent** clinical care. His impact reaches far beyond the walls of MCG as he has gained an **excellent** reputation amongst his peers around the country. He also continues to support our department in a teaching and research role. We are

grateful to enjoy his continued commitment to our mission.

Dr. Renee Hilton was recently presented with an Inspire Award from the American Medical Women's Association. This national award highlights the **excellence** she has shown by mentoring and motivating students and residents to excel in the medical field. Congratulations!

Dr. Erika Mabe has gained another national award during her recent induction into the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. This group acknowledges the **excellent** work she has done in surgical education including her mission across Georgia providing trauma simulation for training rural hospital personnel.

Finally, Dr. Valia Bravo Egana was selected by the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics to serve as a Public Policy Scholar from 2026-2029.

Dr. Bravo Egana has helped propel our transplant program into new levels of **excellence**.

<https://www.ashi-hla.org/>

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi is credited with saying, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch **excellence**."

I encourage you to dive deeper into the pictures and prose to learn more about the **excellence** that is demonstrated within our own department.

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

Jack Yu, MD received the ASMS Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented to a physician who is being honored for a career dedicated to enriching and enhancing the practice of Maxillo-facial Surgery. What a great honor and achievement for Dr. Yu!



2025 AMWA Inspire Awardees



Renee Hilton-Rowe, MD
Assoc Prof, Surgery
Medical College of GA

Renee Hilton, MD won an INSPIRE award from AMWA. 47 awards were given out this year and we are proud she won. This award is nominated by our medical students.



■ Multiple faculty and staff were recognized at the Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Ceremony on Oct. 7. Thank you each for your dedication to our department and congratulations!

5 YEARS

Ashley Creswell, CT Surgery Scheduler

James St. Louis, Peds CT Faculty

Amanda Thorne, Trauma Admin

10 YEARS

Rita Bell, Residency Coordinator

Jeanne Hulse, CT Surgery APP

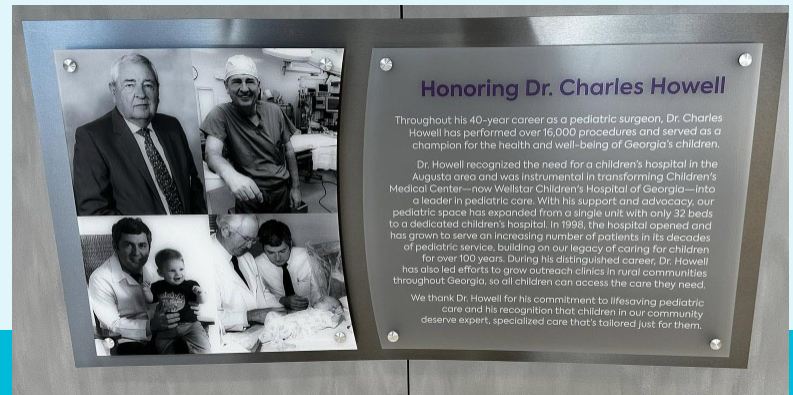
20 YEARS

Walter Pipkin, Peds Surgery Faculty

Erika Mabes, DO was inducted into the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, which recognizes and assembles a cadre of renowned master surgeon educators who work closely with the ACS Division of Education, to advance the science and practice of avant-garde surgical education and training. We are proud of Dr. Mabes.

■ **Daniel Milgrom, MD** was recently inducted as an ACS Fellow. The FACS credential exists to foster the professional growth and development of surgeons, promote high standards and best practices in surgical care, and establish and maintain patients' confidence in the ability and integrity of their surgeon.

■ **Shawn M Doss, M4**, presented at the ACS Conference. On behalf of Surgical Oncology's SOCORG, Doss's two presentations focused on Breast Cancer research.



The lobby of CHOG re-opened Oct. 13 and was named after Charles Howell, MD, the pediatric surgeon who helped make the CHOG a reality. Dr. Howell has performed more than 16,000 procedures during his 40-year career. Augusta Mayor Garnett Johnson read a proclamation declaring Oct. 13, 2025 "Dr. Charles Howell" day. Very well deserved, Dr. Howell!

NEW FACULTY

■ **Roshan D'Cruz, MD**, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery, Dr. D'Cruz joins us from Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he completed his fellowship in Pediatric Surgery. He also completed his General Surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. D'Cruz brings advanced training and a special interest in minimally invasive and robotic techniques, enhancing our department's growing capabilities in precision pediatric surgery.

Save the Date!



**2026 MORETZ
SURGICAL SOCIETY
MARCH 13-14**