Introducing Our New Surgical Oncologists and Division Chief

We are very pleased to introduce our new chief of surgical oncology Aaron R. Sasson, MD, and his oncologist colleague Joseph Kim, MD

Dr. Sasson comes to Stony Brook Medicine from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, where he was chief of gastrointestinal (GI) surgical oncology at Nebraska Medical Center, and also director of the Gastrointestinal Oncology Center of Excellence at Nebraska Medicine. He joins our faculty as professor of surgery.

Dr. Sasson specializes in cancer surgery, particularly cancers of the GI tract, mainly pancreas cancer, liver cancer, stomach cancer, esophagus cancer, and colon cancer. In addition, he has expertise in the management of endocrine tumors of the intestines and pancreas, as well as intra-abdominal sarcomas.

Dr. Sasson will serve as a leader of Stony Brook University Cancer Center, where he will direct the

Dr. Kim comes to Stony Brook Medicine from the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, CA, where he directed the upper GI tumor surgery service, and where he developed and directed the ACGME-accredited surgical oncology fellowship program. He joins our faculty as associate professor of surgery.

Stony Brook Vascular Center Opens

Offering Expanded Services and Convenience

We are very pleased to announce the opening of the Stony Brook Vascular Center. The spacious new center will facilitate the growing clinical practice of our Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

The Vascular Center is conveniently located in Nicolls Professional Park at 23 South Howell Avenue—just off Middle Country Road in Centereach, NY, where it intersects with Nicolls Road.

The facility is complete with on-site procedure rooms, plus an angiography room.

This patient-friendly facility will serve as the home of our Aortic Center, Center for Vein Care, Hemodialysis Access Center, and Limb Preservation Center.

The Vascular Center shows how Stony Brook Medicine is improving access to high-end specialty care and providing an integrated delivery system that will better serve the needs of Long Islanders.

About the Vascular Center, Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, MD, professor of surgery and chief of vascular and endovascular surgery, says:

“Our new office is designed to offer our patients clinical evaluation with the most advanced diagnostic tests and state-of-the-art procedure rooms for minimally invasive office-based procedures. “We have expanded our facility to include an outpatient angiography suite for diagnostic and therapeutic endovascular interventions.”
Introducing Dr. Aaron R. Sasson

Continued from Page 1

surgical oncology team, which focuses on the diagnosis and management of cancers or potential cancers of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, bile ducts, small intestine, and liver.

Dr. Sasson’s multidisciplinary team at the Cancer Center is a growing unit, and will continue to expand the use of minimally invasive surgery for complex GI tumors and other diseases.

“We are very lucky to have recruited Dr. Sasson to lead our Division of Surgical Oncology,” says Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine. “He is a national leader in the field of gastrointestinal and pancreatic oncology, plus a master surgeon who is much respected by his peers and much sought after by patients.”

“I believe there is a tremendous opportunity for surgical oncology at Stony Brook Medicine.

“The Division of Surgical Oncology’s mission is to advance patient care with the development of outstanding clinical programs, and in collaboration with faculty in the Department of Surgery and other departments here at Stony Brook, to provide the best multidisciplinary treatment of patients with cancer.

“Additionally, the division will develop a strong educational component for medical students and surgical residents, as well as a dynamic research program to incorporate clinical, basic science, and translational research projects.”

—Dr. Aaron R. Sasson

“Dr. Sasson’s contribution to the Cancer Center will undoubtedly be tremendous, as he expands our capabilities to provide leading-edge diagnostic and treatment services.”

A specialist in pancreas surgery, in particular the Whipple operation, Dr. Sasson has to date performed more than 500 pancreas resections, using both conventional open surgery and minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery.

Dr. Sasson’s clinical excellence has been recognized by his peers through his selection for inclusion in the Castle Connolly Guide, America’s Top Doctors, which represents the top 1% of physicians in the nation. In addition, he has been selected for inclusion in the Castle Connolly Guide, America’s Top Doctors for Cancer, as well as the Best Doctors in America database.

Continued on Page 9

Stony Brook Vascular Center

Continued from Page 1

“Our outstanding team extends far beyond this building, and this new center is designed to offer patients a multidisciplinary approach to treatment.

“By delivering care in this manner, patients receive proactive management and early interventions, and are able to maintain a quality of life that would have been otherwise compromised.

“We pride ourselves in not only delivering outcomes that are among the best in the nation, but in treating each patient with a thorough and timely diagnosis and individualized treatment plan to control risk factors, prevent emergencies, and ultimately save lives.”

Our vascular specialists provide diagnosis and treatment of a complete range of vascular disorders, including:
- Arterial blockages (PAD)
- Aneurysms
- Carotid artery disease
- Malformations
- Dialysis access
- Vein disease

Our team includes our seven physicians and a vascular physiologist, plus our clinical and administrative support staff—all dedicated to Stony Brook Medicine’s mission of excellence in patient care.

“We are very excited about the expansion of our vascular team and the new Vascular Center here at Stony Brook Medicine,” says Dr. Mark A. Talamini. “Our vascular specialists have the expertise to take on even the most complex cases, and they are dedicated to providing the best care possible with a focus on quality of life.”

We also offer expertise in:
- Complex aortic aneurysms (AAA and TAA)
- Pelvic congestion syndrome
- Minimally invasive procedures, including angioplasty, stenting, fistulograms, and new treatments for varicose veins

“When patients see one of our experts at the Vascular Center, they are offered the most focused solution to meet their needs, and in many cases, treatments are performed right here on an outpatient basis, with the goal of patients being able to return quickly to their everyday activities with an improved quality of life,” says Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine.

For consultations/appointments with our vascular specialists, please call (631) 638-1670.

The Stony Brook Vascular Center was named Business of the Month for November in Council District 3 by the Town of Brookhaven for its “positive impact on the community.”
The annual Venous Symposium directed by Dr. Antonios Gasparis and Dr. Nicos Labropoulos, which is held in New York, has established itself as one of the premier conferences on issues and treatment related to vein pathology.

These are but a few of the examples where our faculty are making a difference for our patients in the world of surgery on a national level.

We can be particularly proud of our legacy as a department of training the next generation of surgeons. It is thrilling to see the successful careers of previous residents, and to see where our recent resident graduates are investing their careers.

Stony Brook is committed to a number of missions. However, the education of medical students and residents is as true to our core as any other mission.

We hope you take a moment to peruse this issue of POST-OP, and gain an understanding of what is happening here at Stony Brook Medicine.

If you are a previous medical student or resident, we would love to hear from you. Our training programs are competitive, but we welcome applicants and those interested in joining us.

Finally, if you simply wish to learn more about the programs described in these pages, or more about our department, please reach out. I would love to speak with you.

Mark A. Talamini
Professor and Chairman of Surgery
Chief, Surgical Services, Stony Brook Medicine

Chairman’s Message

Stony Brook Surgery is indeed on the move. As the contents of this issue of POST-OP reflect, there is growth in virtually all of our divisions.

We are establishing new clinics in locations away from the main hospital. We are engaged in the association with Southampton Hospital in meaningful ways.

The excellent care rendered by our faculty Stony Brook surgeons is, therefore, becoming more and more available to residents of Suffolk County, the rest of Long Island, and beyond.

Department faculty also are playing significant roles at a national level.

Dr. Aurora Pryor is now serving as the treasurer of SAGES—the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons—a society with 6,000 members strong that focuses on minimally invasive surgery and revolutionary teaching modalities for surgery.

Dr. Dana Telem is the recipient of the SAGES Young Researcher Award for 2016, in recognition of the excellence of her endoscopic surgical research.

Dr. Joseph Kim is now serving as vice chair of the Gastrointestinal Disease Site Workgroup of the Society of Surgical Oncology, the premier organization for surgeons and healthcare providers dedicated to advancing the science and treatment of cancer.

Our vascular group continues to have a national impact, particularly in the field of venous disease.

Selected Recent Publications*


* The names of faculty authors appear in boldface.

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Grateful acknowledgment is made to Torax Medical for use of the LINX illustration on page 7.
Introducing More New Faculty
We are very pleased to announce that the following physicians have joined our faculty:

**Vamsi V. Alli, MD**
*General Surgeon*

**Title**
Instructor of Surgery

**Board Certification**
Eligible in Surgery

**Education**
Medical School
Rutgers U (2008)

**Residency Training**
General Surgery, Rutgers U

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**
- Acute care surgery
- Advanced laparoscopic surgery
- Benign biliary disease
- Gastrointestinal surgery
- Laparoscopic hernia repair
- Surgical endoscopy

**George C. Angelos, MA, MD**
*Colorectal Surgeon*

**Title**
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Board Certification**
Colon & Rectal Surgery Surgery

**Education**
MA
Columbia U (2004; field, Biotechnology)

MD
U of Buffalo (2007)

**Residency Training**
General Surgery, Stony Brook U

**Fellowship Training**
Colon & Rectal Surgery, U of Texas-Huston

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**
- Laparoscopic/robotic & conventional surgery for colorectal cancer, familial polyposis, diverticulitis & rectal prolapse
- Inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn’s & colitis)
- Anorectal abscess, fistula, fissure, anal condyloma, hemorrhoids, constipation & fecal incontinence

**Andrew T. Bates, MD**
*General & Bariatric Surgeon*

**Title**
Instructor of Surgery

**Board Certification**
Eligible in Surgery

**Education**
Medical School
Case Western Reserve U (2010)

**Residency Training**
General Surgery, Mount Sinai Hospital

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**
- Minimally invasive surgery
- Bariatric surgery
- Dysphagia (difficulty swallowing)
- Esophageal conditions & diseases
- Gallbladder disease
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- Hernias
- Obesity
- Spleen disease
- Other abdominal conditions

**Lukasz Czerwonka, MD**
*Head & Neck Surgeon*

**Title**
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Board Certification**
Surgery

**Education**
Medical School

**Residency Training**
General Surgery, Wright State U

**Fellowship Training**
Head & Neck Oncologic Surgery, U of Toronto

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**
- Management of head and neck cancers (incl. oral, lip, tongue, larynx, salivary gland, nasopharynx, skin)
- Sentinel node biopsy
- Thyroid nodules/cancer
- Thyroid ultrasound & biopsy
- Thyroid/parathyroid surgery
- Microvascular reconstructive surgery
- Skull base surgery & reconstruction
Jill C. Genua, MD
Colorectal Surgeon

Title
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Board Certification
Colon & Rectal Surgery
Surgery

Education
Medical School
Albany Medical College (2000)

Residency Training
General Surgery,
Stamford Hospital/Columbia
U College of Physicians &
Surgeons

Fellowship Training
Colon & Rectal Surgery,
Cleveland Clinic Florida

Clinical Interests/Expertise
- Laparoscopic/robotic &
  conventional surgery for
  colorectal cancer, familial
  polyposis, diverticulitis & rectal
  prolapse
- Inflammatory bowel disease
  (Crohn's & colitis)
- Transanal excision of rectal
  polyps
- Anorectal abscess, fistula,
  fissure, anal condyloma,
  hemorrhoids, constipation &
  fecal incontinence

Pamela S. Kim, MD
General & Vein Surgeon

Title
Instructor of Surgery

Board Certification
Eligible in Surgery

Education
Medical School
U of Texas-San Antonio (2010)

Residency Training
General Surgery,
Stony Brook U

Clinical Interests/Expertise
- Venous diseases & syndromes
- Chronic venous disorder
- Chronic venous insufficiency
- Venous obstruction
- Pelvic venous congestion
- Lymphedema
- Venous tumors
- Venous thromboembolism

George J. Koullias, MD, PhD
Vascular & Thoracic Surgeon

Title
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Board Certification
Surgery
Thoracic Surgery
Eligible in Vascular Surgery

Education
Medical School
Aristotle U Medical School (1991)

Residency Training
General Surgery,
New York Medical College
Cardiothoracic Surgery, Yale U

Fellowship Training
Advanced Thoracic Aortic
Endovascular Surgery,
German Heart Institute
Vascular & Endovascular Surgery,
Arizona Heart Institute
Vascular & Endovascular Surgery,
Stony Brook U

Clinical Interests/Expertise
- Thoracic aortic surgery
- Endovascular surgery for
  management of abdominal
  aortic aneurysms
- Endovascular & hybrid
  treatment for thoracic aortic
  aneurysms
- Stroke prevention
- Lower extremity open &
  interventional vascular
  reconstruction
- Minimally invasive treatment of
  venous disease
- Hemodialysis access

Jerry A. Rubano, MD
Intensivist & General Surgeon

Title
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Board Certification
Surgery
Surgical Critical Care

Education
Medical School
New York Medical College (2009)

Residency Training
General Surgery,
Stony Brook U

Fellowship Training
Trauma/Critical Care,
Stony Brook U

Clinical Interests/Expertise
- Pre- & post-operative critical
  care of surgical patients
- Surgical management of
  injured patients—all aspects of
  traumatology
- Basic & advanced minimally
  invasive & laparoscopic surgery
- Management of diseases
  involving the liver, spleen, upper
  & lower GI systems
- Hernia repairs
- Surgical treatment of benign soft-
  tissue tumors
- Tracheostomy & tracheotomy
Jessica R. Schnur, MD  
**General Surgeon**

**Title**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Board Certification**  
Surgery

**Education**  
Medical School  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine (2006)

**Residency Training**  
General Surgery,  
North Shore–Long Island Jewish Medical Center

**Fellowship Training**  
Minimally Invasive & Bariatric Surgery,  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**  
• Acute care surgery  
• Advanced laparoscopic surgery  
• Benign biliary disease  
• Colorectal surgery  
• Gastrointestinal surgery  
• Laparoscopic hernia repair  
• Surgical endoscopy

Nicholas Sikalas, MD  
**Vascular Surgeon**

**Title**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Board Certification**  
Surgery  
Eligible in Vascular Surgery

**Education**  
Medical School  
SUNY Downstate (2008)

**Residency Training**  
General Surgery,  
Drexel U

**Fellowship Training**  
Vascular Surgery,  
Mount Sinai Hospital

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**  
• Arterial & venous surgery  
• Open & minimally invasive endovascular management of all arterial conditions  
• Complex venous disease, including treatment of acute DVT with thrombolysis, pelvic congestion syndrome & vascular malformations  
• Minimally invasive treatment of varicose veins & spider veins  
• Thoracic outlet syndrome  
• Hemodialysis access  
• Lower extremity limb salvage

Abbas A. Younes, MD  
**Pediatric Otolaryngologist**

**Title**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Chief, Pediatric Otolaryngology

**Board Certification**  
Eligible in Otolaryngology

**Education**  
Medical School  
American U of Beirut (1995)

**Residency Training**  
General Surgery & Otolaryngology,  
American U of Beirut

**Fellowship Training**  
Pediatric Otolaryngology,  
Cleveland Clinic  
Pediatric Otolaryngology,  
Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center

**Clinical Interests/Expertise**  
• Management of diseases of the ear, nose & throat in children & adolescents  
• Cochlear implantation  
• Bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) implantation  
• Middle ear surgery including ossiculoplasty  
• Pediatric tracheostomy  
• Difficult airway management & endoscopy  
• Airway reconstruction  
• Pediatric sinus surgery  
• Minimally invasive balloon sinuplasty

If you need surgery, why should you consider an academic medical center?

The answer is clear: to be in the place where the newest and the best surgery is being developed, practiced, and taught. And to be cared for by a team of the brightest, most engaged minds in medicine.

This is what patients get at Stony Brook Medicine, where we are committed to innovation. Our team is always asking, “How can surgery be better?”

The physicians and other healthcare professionals of Stony Brook Surgical Associates—the clinical practice of the Department of Surgery—provide comprehensive care for both adults and children with a wide variety of problems requiring surgery.

In keeping with Stony Brook Medicine’s mission of excellence in patient care, we offer specialized surgical services with several clinical programs and facilities unique in our region.

For our multiple practice locations and the phone numbers to call for appointments/consultations with our physicians, please see pages 19-20.
Implanting a Magnetic Band To Prevent Heartburn  
New Minimally Invasive Procedure Represents An Advance in Treatment of Acid Reflux

Our Bariatric, Foregut, and Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery Division is now performing an innovative new procedure to implant a small magnetic band to help prevent gastric reflux in patients who suffer from gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), commonly known as heartburn, or acid indigestion, the most common symptom of GERD.

Our surgeons are the first on Long Island to be specially trained and certified to use the LINX Reflux Management System. Use of this innovative system further demonstrates our department’s commitment to performing procedures with leading-edge technology to lead the way in patient care.

The new minimally invasive surgical procedure represents the latest advancement in the treatment of GERD. Surgeons implant the LINX band—a small, flexible band of titanium beads with magnetic cores—around the patient’s esophagus just above the stomach (see illustration at right). The magnetic attraction between the beads strengthens the weakened esophageal sphincter’s barrier function. The procedure usually takes less than an hour to perform.

The band is strong enough to allow food and liquids to pass normally to the stomach, but immediately closes after swallowing to restore the magnetic barrier to reflux.

Following the procedure, patients are able to resume a normal diet, and will typically resume normal activities in less than a week.

Studies have shown the banding procedure decreases esophageal acid exposure, improves reflux symptoms and quality of life, and allows cessation of proton pump inhibitor medication in most patients.

“This new procedure represents a substantial advancement in our ability to treat patients who suffer from GERD,” says Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine.

Dr. Talamini, who performs the LINX procedure, adds: “In addition to excellent clinical results, LINX provides many lifestyle benefits compared to the traditional surgery for reflux called Nissen fundoplication. Studies show that implanting the magnetic band often reduces or eliminates the need for medications, and offers improved quality of life for our patients.”

Also performing the procedure here are fellow gastrointestinal surgeons Aurora D. Pryor, MD, professor of surgery, chief of bariatric, foregut, and advanced gastrointestinal surgery, and director of the Stony Brook Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center; and Dana A. Telem, MD, assistant professor of surgery and associate director of the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center.

Drs. Talamini, Pryor, and Telem all have advanced laparoscopic skills, and are leaders in the area of minimally invasive surgery. The LINX band is implanted laparoscopically.

“The LINX procedure, which uses the novel LINX technology, is indicated for patients diagnosed with reflux who continue to have chronic reflux symptoms despite maximum medical therapy,” says Dr. Pryor.

“GERD is a caused by a mechanical defect and requires a mechanical solution, which is achieved through the minimally invasive LINX procedure,” Dr. Telem says. “Using this procedure, we have another effective way to directly benefit many patients who suffer from acid reflux.”

The LINX device was FDA approved in March 2012 after ten years of development and testing, including two clinical trials with 144 patients. A total of 400 implant procedures were performed over five years of clinical use.

A review analysis published in December of this year in Surgical Endoscopy found LINX to be “as effective as the medical and conventional surgical therapies.” The authors further conclude LINX “will play a more important role in the treatment of GERD because of its unique advantage.”

For consultations/appointments with our gastrointestinal specialists who provide LINX as a treatment option for GERD, please call (631) 638-GERD (4373).
Creating the John J. Ricotta Professorship in Surgery
Perpetuating Dr. Ricotta’s Legacy of Excellence

We are very pleased to announce the campaign to establish the John J. Ricotta Professorship in Surgery. This professorship, once funded, will be the first endowed professorship in our department. It will enable us to expand our faculty with a distinguished appointment, and to further our mission of excellence in patient care, education, and research.

In addition, he has recruited and helped mentor dozens of faculty members across multiple institutions. His involvement in the professional and personal development of physicians and surgeons remains the highlight of his academic career.

As our department’s leader, Dr. Ricotta hired over 50 full-time faculty members to build and expand the department, including several of our current leaders who continue to distinguish the department’s clinical and academic excellence:

- Roberto Bergamaschi, MD, PhD, chief of colon and rectal surgery, and leader of Stony Brook Cancer Center’s colorectal oncology team;
- Marvin L. Corman, editor of Corman’s Colon and Rectal Surgery now in its sixth edition (“the gold standard in its discipline,” JAMA), and first director of our colon and rectal surgery fellowship program;
- Alexander B. Dagum, MD, chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and executive vice chair of surgery;
- Allison J. McLarty, MD, director of our ventricular assist device program, and associate director of our general surgery residency program;
- Ghassan J. Samara, MD, leader of Stony Brook Cancer Center’s head and neck, thyroid oncology team;
- Steven Sandoval, MD, medical director of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Burn Center at Stony Brook Medicine;
- David A. Schessell, MD, PhD, chief of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery;
- Marc J. Shapiro, MD, director of our surgical critical care fellowship program;
- Richard J. Scriven, MD, director of our general surgery residency program;
- Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, MD, chief of vascular and endovascular surgery, director of our vascular surgery residency program, and director of our Surgical Skills Center;
- James A. Vosswinkel, MD, chief of trauma, emergency surgery, and surgical critical care, and medical director of Stony Brook Trauma Center.

Several of these physician-scientists are recognized as not only national leaders in their fields but international leaders. All are making surgery better.

Our endowment goal for the professorship is $750K.

About Dr. Ricotta, Dr. Tassiopoulos says: “John is a visionary in medical education. He was instrumental in Stony Brook’s becoming one of the first six institutions in the country to adopt an integrated five-year vascular surgery residency. This training paradigm is now the accepted practice nationwide.”

Indeed, Dr. Ricotta has dedicated his professional career to the education and training of surgeons and to advancing the care of patients with vascular disease.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Dr. Ricotta was educated as an undergraduate at Yale University. He earned his medical degree and completed a surgical residency at Johns Hopkins University.

All told, Dr. Ricotta spent 20 years as a professor of surgery at the State University of New York. He returned to Buffalo, NY, as professor of surgery at SUNY-Buffalo in 1988 where he was chief of surgery at Millard Fillmore Hospitals, founded the department’s Division of Vascular Surgery, and established a vascular surgery training program.

Dr. Ricotta moved to Stony Brook in 1997 to serve as chairman of our department. During his time with us, he strengthened the clinical and academic performance of the department. He worked with the faculty to revamp all our educational programs.

As an academic surgeon, Dr. Ricotta has authored more than 250 articles and book chapters in all areas of vascular disease, and has lectured all over the world on all aspects of vascular care.

Currently, Dr. Ricotta is practicing as a vascular surgeon in Washington, DC, where he is chairman emeritus of the Department of Surgery at Washington Hospital Center and professor of surgery at both Georgetown University and George Washington University. In addition, he is a senior director of the American Board of Surgery.

For more information and/or to make a donation (fully tax deductible), please call Ann Boyd-Stewart, assistant vice president of medical advancement, at (631) 444-1091, or email her at Ann.Boyd-Stewart@stonybrookmedicine.edu.

The decision to honor John J. Ricotta, MD, professor emeritus of surgery, was based on his distinguished leadership during his tenure here as chairman from 1997 to 2008.

Dr. Ricotta was a dynamic leader at Stony Brook Medicine (known then as Stony Brook University Medical Center). He earned the respect and admiration of all who encountered him. He was not only a great surgeon and physician-scientist, but a great teacher and gentleman. In short, he was for us a model of excellence.

“During the course of his career, Dr. Ricotta has participated in the education of hundreds of medical students, surgical residents, and vascular surgery fellows,” says Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine.
Dr. Joseph Kim
Continued from Page 1

Dr. Kim specializes in GI surgical oncology with a focus on hepatobiliary-pancreatic disease. He will advance minimally invasive (laparoscopic and robotic) liver, pancreatic, and gastric surgery for Stony Brook Medicine, and he brings his expertise with cytoreduction and heated intra-peritoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for peritoneal surface cancers.

“Dr. Kim is well known as an excellent clinical surgeon,” says Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine.

“He has mentored scores of residents and fellows, and brings a reputation for active effective teaching in the operating rooms and clinics. We expect he will rapidly become clinically busy, caring for patients afflicted with cancer from throughout Suffolk County and beyond.”

Dr. Kim received his MD in 1998 from the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He trained in general surgery at the University of Cincinnati, and then completed a three-year fellowship in surgical oncology at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, CA.

Following his training, Dr. Kim joined the City of Hope National Medical Center in 2006, where he rose to the rank of associate professor of surgery.

An active scholar as well as clinician, Dr. Kim is the author or co-author of more than 90 publications, many in high-impact surgical and cancer journals. He serves as a reviewer for numerous journals, including Annals of Surgery, Annals of Surgical Oncology, British Journal of Surgery, Cancer, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, among several others.

Last year, Dr. Kim published a leading-edge textbook titled Surgery for Cancers of the Gastrointestinal Tract: A Step-by-Step Approach (Springer). This 329-page textbook, supplemented by videos, provides a concise summary of the current management of each GI cancer, and is of great utility to not only surgeons at all levels of training, but also for surgeons in practice who seek to reinforce or learn new surgical techniques.

As a scientist, Dr. Kim is currently conducting research aimed at characterizing the role of chemokine receptors in GI cancers and, ultimately, identifying novel therapeutic agents to prolong the survival of patients with these cancers.

For consultations/appointments with Dr. Kim, please call his office at (631) 444-8086.

Dr. Aaron R. Sasson
Continued from Page 2

Dr. Sasson received his MD in 1993 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) in 1993. He completed his residency training in general surgery at the University of California, San Diego, and his fellowship training in surgical oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Subsequently, in 2001, Dr. Sasson joined the surgical faculty at the University of Nebraska, where over the course of a decade he rose in rank from assistant professor to full professor.

Dr. Sasson’s commitment to advancing surgery is demonstrated by his scholarly activity. He has to date nearly 70 publications to his credit, including both peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters.

As a scientist, Dr. Sasson is currently focusing his research on the development of early diagnostic tests for pancreatic cancer and on multimodality treatment of pancreatic and biliary malignancies.

Dr. Sasson is an active member of several research groups, including the Early Detection Research Network Pancreatic Cancer Working Group, Gastrointestinal Spore: Inter-SPORE Clinical Committee, and Pancreatic Cancer Collaborative Registry (member, Steering Committee), among others.

For consultations/appointments with Dr. Sasson, please call his office at (631) 444-8086.

Sixth Annual Research Day Celebrates Our Discoveries

The Department of Surgery’s Sixth Annual Research Day took place in June at the Charles B. Wang Center on west campus of Stony Brook University.

This year’s Research Day program was another great success, as the event continues to grow, with more research presentations.

The morning forum showcased ongoing and completed research projects by way of oral platform presentations, as well as a poster competition by our residents, medical students, and faculty.

“Stony Brook Medicine is geared for making research happen,” said Mark A. Talamini, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine, in his opening remarks at the program.

“The keynote speaker was Charles J. Yeo, MD, professor and chairman of surgical oncology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. A national leader in the management of pancreatic cancer, he is co-director of the Pancreas, Biliary and Related Cancer Center at Jefferson University Hospital.

Dr. Yeo’s talk, “The New Faces of Pancreatic Cancer Treatment,” addressed the need for advances in research to increase the survival of patients with pancreatic cancer, which currently is one of the deadliest cancers.
2015 RESEARCH DAY POSTERS

Here are the titles/authors of the posters exhibited at this year’s Research Day. Together, they demonstrate the range of research activity within our department, and the impressive productivity of our residents and students:

- Accuracy of VTE assessment and compliance with prophylaxis | Kim P, Gasparis AP, Tassiopoulos AK, Labropoulos N. Winner of poster competition. Dr. Kim will receive the expenses to attend a scientific meeting where she can present her study.
- Acute diverticulitis with abscess and/or retroperitoneal pericolic air: a randomized controlled Trial | Youk, I, McConnolly T, Sullivan R, Bergamaschi R.
- Acute gallbladder volvulus: an unexpected intraoperative finding | Abbas S, Chantachote C, Gracia G.
- Alpha cell contributes to new beta cells after a non-diabeticogenic injury to the pancreas | El-Gohary Y, Gittes G.
- Beyond the learning curve: bile duct injuries following laparoscopic cholecystectomy normalize to open in the modern era | Halbert C, Telem DA. Semi-finalist in poster competition.
- Burn rates negatively related to median household income: an analysis of burn registry data from Stony Brook University Hospital, NY, USA | Chi J, Singer A, Sandoval S, Thode H.
- Comparing the psychological and cosmetic outcomes of nipple-sparing mastectomy with simple mastectomy | Kryeziu S, Huston TL, Risk CR.
- Differences between sex in clinical presentation and outcomes after peripheral vascular intervention | Jaisinski P, Tassiopoulos AK, Kokkoris AA.
- Do not snare sessile rectal polyps | Lee J, Connolly T, Ogunowo D, Bergamaschi R.
- Effect of minimally invasive surgery fellowship on residents’ case log | Altieri M, Telem DA, Scriven RJ, Thornton D, Halbert C, Pryor AD.
- Emergency department DVT management: a 5-year analysis of admissions data | Svestka M, Telem DA, Tassiopoulos AK, Gasparis AP.
- Evaluation for rectal cancer before proceeding with a restorative proctocolectomy for ulcerative colitis | Abbas S, Connolly TM, Zitein E, Bergamaschi R.
- Examining coronary artery bypass grafting outcomes of multi-institutional cardiac surgeons: should the regionalization of CABG services be revisited? | Bilfinger TV, Shroyer AL, Taylor JR Jr, Giaio W, Bishawi M.
- Extravascular vs standard abdominoperineal resection for rectal adenocarcinoma | Hartendorp P, Giarababicetta S, Vellavailli S, Bergamaschi R.
- Fabrication of an in vitro 3D model of tissue-engineered human skin for use as skin graft | Singh G, Klein G, Bui DT, Dagum AB.
- Iatrogenic diaphragmatic hernia in infants: potentially catastrophic when overlooked | El-Gohary Y, Schuster I, Scriven RJ, Coren CV, Kessler E.
- Identifying the prevalence of lower extremity deep vein thrombosis among high-risk inpatients at Stony Brook University Hospital | Nzeribe A, Labropoulos N.
- Lap band outcomes from 19,221 patients across centers and over a decade within the state of New York | Altieri M, Yang J, Telem DA, Meng Z, Frenkel C, Halbert C, Talamini MA, Pryor AD.
- Laparoscopic right colectomy versus laparoscopic-assisted colorectal polyectomy for endoscopically unrectable right colon polyps: a randomized controlled trial | Connolly TM, Yang K, Lascardes C, Buscaglia J, Denoya PI, Nagula S, Bucobo JC, Rajapakse R, Richards R, Bergamaschi R.
- Laparoscopic treatment of superior mesenteric artery syndrome | Nasser AE, Chu G, Brathwaite CE.
- Large animal model of tissue ischemia associated with hand-assisted colorectal resection | Leonard M, You K, Connolly T, Sullivan R, Bergamaschi R.
- Management trends in ulcerative colitis in the biologic era | Codipilly D, Chamili MZ, Meng Z, Yang J, Telem DA, Denoya PI.
- Patient satisfaction scores: factors influencing patient perceptions of surgical management, care, and outcome | Kaymakcalan O, Klein G.
- Post-mastectomy seroma and infection: correlated to timing of drain removal? | Trostler M, Landford W, Klein G, Khan SU.
- Prevalence of ECA internalization in patients with ipsilateral ICA occlusion | Monastiriots S, Arunachalam S, Labropoulos N.
- A prospective analysis of physical exam findings in the diagnosis of facial fractures | Timashpolsky A, Seyeed SM, Romezier JL, Rosenfeld EA, Conkling N, Dagum AB.
- A prospective, cross-over analysis of the effect and duration of botulinum toxin type A using digital image speckle correlation versus standard approach in the management of glabellar rhytids | Verma R, Klein G, Rafailovich M, Xu Y, Bui DT, Dagum AB.
- Prospective long-term comparison of anticoagulation treatment versus thrombolysis in patients with acute iliofemoral thrombosis | Spentzouris G, Labropoulos N, Foeth P, Gasparis AP, Tassiopoulos AK, Bakgaard N.
- Quantitative cleft lip evaluations amongst different medical professionals utilizing a basal view | Douglas A, Klein G, Shih J, Kelly R, Gelfand MA, Khan SU, Bui DT, Dagum AB.
- Retrospective review of outcomes of complex abdominal wall hernia repairs | Peredo A, Klein G, Shih J, Khan SU.
- Review of readmissions following breast reconstruction during the first postoperative year at a single institution | Klein G, Lipoff D, Laskowski R, Timashpolsky A, Bui DT, Dagum AB, Khan SU.
- Risk analysis for post-operative complications after immediate tissue expander breast reconstruction | Klein G, Landford W, Yang JU, Shroyer AL, O’Hea BJ, Dagum AB, Bui DT, Khan SU.
- Robotic approaches may offer benefit in colorectal procedures, more controversial in other areas: a review of 168,248 cases | Altieri M, Yang J, Telem DA, Zhu J, Halbert C, Talamini MA, Pryor AD.
- Role of ALT flaps in foot reconstruction | Gulamhussein T, Gelfand MA, Bui DT.
- Skate flap technique utilizing the native nipple-areola complex for improving long-term nipple projection after nipple-sparing mastectomy | Gooch J, Huston TL.
- A statewide analysis of the quality, complaint, and demographics of readmissions following breast reconstructive surgery, ventral hernia repair, and ventral hernia repair with panniculectomy | Laskowski RA, Klein GM, Lipof DM, Khan SU.
- Validity of current VTE risk assessment models for overweight and obese surgical patients | Frenkel C, Detoy K.
- Venous thromboembolism in plastic surgery | Peredo AL, Khan SU, Labropoulos N.
- Vertically-drawn, closed-incision, negative-pressure wound therapy following high-risk stenotomies | Niles KP, Subrize M, Lima F, Khalkia R, Leiboff AR, Fernandez HA.
- Visual spatial intelligence is not predictive of medical student residency selection | Villamor AN, Pryor AD. Semi-finalist in poster competition.

Next year’s Research Day will take place on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at the Wang Center. For more information, please call (631) 444-7875.
RESIDENCY UPDATE

Since 1975 when our first graduating residents entered the profession of surgery, 224 physicians have completed their residency training in general surgery at Stony Brook. The alumni of this residency program and our other residency (fellowship) programs now practice surgery throughout the United States, as well as in numerous other countries around the world—and we’re proud of their diverse achievements and contributions to healthcare.

2015 Graduating Residents & Fellows

**GENERAL SURGERY**
- Jason Chiu, MD .........................Hyperbaric medicine fellowship, U of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Leonard Copertino, MD ............ Surgical faculty position, VA Medical Center, Northport, NY
- Makkalon Em, MD .................Private practice in general surgery, Caribou, ME
- Pamela Kim, MD .....................Phlebology fellowship, Center for Vein Care, Stony Brook U
- Georgios Spentzouris, MD .......Vascular surgery fellowship, Stony Brook U

**VASCULAR SURGERY**
- Carl Gonzales, MD ....................Private practice in vascular surgery, Conyers, GA
- Brian Kelly, MD ........................Private practice in vascular surgery, Stamford, CT

**COLORECTAL SURGERY**
- Cristan Anderson, MD .............Private practice in colorectal surgery, Rockport, ME

**MIS/BARIATRIC SURGERY**
- Caitlin Halbert, DO ..................Attending surgeon, Christiana Care Health System, Newark, DE

**TRAUMA/CRITICAL CARE**
- Jerry Rubano, MD ....................Assistant professorship in surgery (Trauma, Emergency Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care Division), Stony Brook U

**New Chief Residents**

**GENERAL SURGERY**
- Syed Abbas, MD ......................St. George U ('10)
- Patrick Hartendorp, MD ..........Jefferson U ('11)
- Lily Hsieh, MD .....................U of Pittsburgh ('11)
- Ahmed Nasser, MD ...............Tufts U ('09)
- Spyridon Pagkratis, MD ...........U of Athens ('06)
- Andrew Peredo, MD ...............St. George’s U ('11)

**VASCULAR SURGERY**
- Justin Margolis, MD ...............Stony Brook U ('11)

**Incoming Residents/Categorical PGY-1**

**GENERAL SURGERY**
- Ewen Chao, MD ......................Albany Medical College ('15)
- Salvatore Crusco, MD .............U of Central Florida ('15)
- Joseph Ferrara, MD ...............Drexel U ('15)
- Jocellie Marquez, MD ............Stony Brook U ('15)
- Anish Shah, MD ...................Icahn at Mt. Sinai ('15)
- Jessica Simon, MD ................U of Vermont ('15)

**VASCULAR SURGERY**
- Edvard Skripochnik, MD ......Albert Einstein ('15)

NOTE: Richard J. Scriven, MD, associate professor of surgery and director of the general surgery residency, comments on the results of the 2015 Residency Match Day:

“We were successful in recruiting a FANTASTIC group of incoming categorical surgical residents.

“These results are a ‘team win.’ I have already spoken to each of our new family members, and they said they chose us for many reasons, but among the most important was the positive changes and sense of excitement that they felt on their visit.

“Also, perhaps most mentioned, was the camaraderie and collegiality they felt among the residents, staff, and faculty.”
Dr. Maria Altieri (third from left) received the 2015 Esther Rentas Resident Research Award, pictured here with (left to right) Drs. Mark Melendez (SBM Surgery Class of '10), Aurora Pryor, and Laurie Shroyer. Established in 2010 by Dr. Melendez in memory of his grandmother, this award helps residents in pursuing basic and clinical surgical research. When a resident at Stony Brook, Dr. Melendez was a prolific researcher himself.

Dr. Andrew Peredo (second from left) received the 2015 David J. Kreis Jr. Award for Excellence in Clinical Service in Trauma Surgery, pictured here with members of the trauma team: (left to right) Drs. James Vossinkwakel, Jerry Rubano, and Marc Shapiro. Established in 2000, this annual award is presented to a senior (fourth-year) surgical resident by the Trauma, Emergency Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care Division in honor of the late Dr. Kreis, who was the founding chief of our trauma/surgical critical care service, and who served with distinction on our faculty until his untimely death.

Residents Win Regional Surgical Jeopardy Championship

Earning Yearlong Bragging Rights For General Surgery Residents

Our resident Jeopardy team—William Gioia, DO (PGY-4), Gabriel Klein (PGY-3), and Spyridon Pagkratis, MD (PGY-5)—won first place in the annual Resident Jeopardy Competition sponsored by the Brooklyn and Long Island Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

The competition took place in December in New York, NY. Each Jeopardy team consisted of three residents at different levels of training. First-place winners each earned $100, but most of all, yearlong bragging rights for general surgery residents.

Surgical Jeopardy is modeled after the popular TV show and in content by a game created by the American College of Surgeons to test and increase surgeons’ knowledge. The college has held Surgical Jeopardy at its annual Clinical Congress for over a decade. The game tests general and specialty surgery knowledge of residents around the country, and has been a great success.

Our residents and faculty faced off in our first annual Jeopardy game here at Stony Brook in 2008, with questions on “All the World’s a Stage” (tumor staging), “Tons of Fun” (bariatric surgery), and “Odds and Ends” (colorectal surgery), among other categories.

Recent Publications

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ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Tom R. Karl (‘81) is now practicing as a pediatric cardiac surgeon at the Johns Hopkins All Children’s Heart Institute in St. Petersburg, FL. He started there in December 2014. Prior to this position, he was at the University of Queensland, Australia, where he served as professor of surgery and consultant cardiothoracic surgeon and director of research. His areas of expertise include all aspects of pediatric and congenital cardiothoracic surgery and intensive care. He also serves as an associate editor and editorial board member for *Cardiology in the Young*, the leading medical journal in the world dedicated to the care of patients with pediatric and congenital heart disease. He is one of the six surgeons in the Johns Hopkins Children’s Heart Surgery program, a collaboration that includes All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and Florida Hospital in Orlando. It is one of the largest in the country, with surgeons performing more than 1,000 pediatric and congenital cardiothoracic operations per year. Recent publications include:


In addition, Dr. Karl is a musician who plays alto sax, guitar, bass, and keyboards with the Baby Blue Sound Collective, a diverse group of musical healthcare professionals who care for children and young adults with congenital heart disease.

Dr. Charles R. Dinerstein (’82) has founded Surgical Analytics, a consulting firm that specializes in the innovative use of clinical information and hospital collaboration to advance surgical practices (www.surgicalanalytics.com). Previously, he was practicing vascular surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon, PA, and served as medical director of vascular surgery. Prior to joining the Good Samaritan Hospital, he was chairman of surgery at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, NJ, and a champion of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Project.

Dr. Patricia R. Kennedy (’92) has been on the surgical faculty at the Indiana School of Medicine since 2005. She is the medical director of breast care at Indiana University Health North Hospital. Her clinical practice is focused on breast disease. She served as medical director of the Faulkner Breast Center of the Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital, in Jamaica Plain, MA, prior to going to Indiana University where she developed the multidisciplinary breast center at Indiana University Health North Hospital. She is a surveyor for the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, visiting breast programs across the United States to ensure that women are offered the highest standards of care for breast disease. She also volunteers for Casting for Recovery, a wellness program for breast cancer patients and survivors that incorporates education and support with the art of fly fishing.

Dr. John J. Doski (’93) is a pediatric surgeon practicing in San Antonio, TX. He currently serves as the chief of surgery at Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital. (He has served as chair of surgery and chief of staff at Children’s Hospital of San Antonio.) He also serves as cancer liaison physician for Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital with the American College of Surgeons, and is on the surgery executive committee of the Children’s Oncology Group, a clinical trials group supported by the National Cancer Institute. Recent publications include:


Dr. Celso Dias (’08) in November completed his first year of practice as a vascular surgeon in Springfield, MA. He operates at Mercy Medical Center there. Previously, he was practicing in Presque Isle, ME, where for three years he was chair of the surgery department at The Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC), the leading provider of healthcare services in Northern Maine.

Dr. Emily Wood (’13) in June completed her two-year fellowship training in vascular and endovascular surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She has joined the surgical faculty at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Oklahoma City, where her position as assistant professor is in the Department of Surgery’s Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

ALUMNI NEWS SUBMISSIONS

To submit alumni news online, please visit the Department of Surgery website at www.medicine.stonybrookmedicine.edu/surgery/about/news/alumni.
DIVISION BRIEFS

Bariatric, Foregut, and Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery

Dr. Aurora D. Pryor, professor of surgery and chief of bariatric, foregut, and advanced gastrointestinal surgery, in April was elected treasurer of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). This is a three-year leadership position on the SAGES Board of Governors.

Dr. Pryor served as program chair of the 2015 SAGES annual meeting held in April in Nashville, TN. It furthered the long-standing tradition of SAGES in providing strong didactic sessions by world-renowned experts, combined with exploration of innovative technology in the broad spectrum of gastrointestinal surgery.

Dr. Pryor in June performed the first LINX procedure for gastroesophageal reflux disease at Stony Brook Medicine (see page 7).

Dr. Mark A. Talamini, professor and chairman of surgery, and chief of surgical services at Stony Brook Medicine, in May served as chair of the FDA’s Gastroenterology and Urology Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee.

Over the course of two days, the panel focused on recent reports about the transmission of infections associated with use and reprocessing of duodenoscopes in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) procedures in U.S. hospitals.

Dr. Dana A. Telem, assistant professor of surgery, is the recipient of the 2016 SAGES Young Researcher Award. The criteria for this award include significant research, publication, or presentation at national meetings, and dedication to an academic career. She will be honored in March at the SAGES annual meeting.

Breast and Oncologic Surgery

Dr. Brian J. O’Hea, associate professor of surgery and chief of breast and oncologic surgery, in October hosted Stony Brook Medicine’s community education program, “Breast Cancer Overview and Update.” Stony Brook physicians discussed the latest imaging techniques, prevention strategies, and treatment options for breast cancer.

Dr. O’Hea in August provided his expert opinion on a news-making scientific study that concluded treatment of very early breast cancer—Stage 0, as it is commonly known—may make no difference. It raised a lot of questions and caused much concern.

On our blog Dr. O’Hea clarified how a woman’s needs can supersede the science and justify surgery: “It’s the woman who is diagnosed with breast cancer, not the medical community, that should be happy with the [treatment] decision.”

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Dr. Thomas V. Bilfinger, professor of surgery and director of thoracic surgery, was again selected for inclusion in New York Magazine’s Best Doctors issue published in June. The 1,282 peer-selected physicians on the 2015 list represent the top 2% of physicians in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Dr. Bilfinger continues to give presentations at national and international meetings. Among his recent presentations are:


Dr. Bilfinger has been appointed acting chief of cardiothoracic surgery, and will serve in this capacity until the recruitment of the permanent chief is completed.

Dr. Allison J. McLarty, associate professor of surgery and associate director of the general surgery residency program, in February was the keynote speaker at Stony Brook University’s Black History Month closing ceremony, addressing an audience of mostly students.

Dr. McLarty said: “There is a lot of power in our choices. I think a lot more than you realize.

“I encourage students to think hard about the lives they want to lead. I tell them surgery is satisfying, but very consuming. If you can’t think of anything that will make you happy other than surgery, then do it.”

“The thing that helps you when you are doing something challenging is that you’re really passionate about it.”

Dr. McLarty told the audience that being a doctor was her dream ever since she was a little girl.

Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Roberto Bergamaschi, professor of surgery and chief of colon and rectal surgery, in August published another textbook in an area in which he has demonstrated himself to be a world leader; namely, minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. The 214-page book, titled Training in Minimal Access Surgery, was published by Springer-Verlag.

Dr. Bergamaschi, with co-editors Drs. Nader Francis, Abe Fingerhut, and Roger Motson, has assembled a comprehensive book that serves as an essential training tool for all those involved with training and education in minimally invasive surgery.

There is well-established and robust evidence to support the benefits of laparoscopic surgery in terms of better pain control, fewer complications, and shorter length of stay with an earlier return to work. Hence, there is now widespread adoption of laparoscopic techniques in many surgical specialties including colorectal and morbid obesity surgery around the world.

Dr. Marvin L. Corman, professor of surgery, in June received the 2015 Outstanding Faculty Teaching Scholar Award from the department, presented at our Research Day program.

Dr. Paula I. Denoya, assistant professor of surgery, and her colleagues continue to advance use of robotic minimally...
invasive surgery for treatment of colon and rectal cancer, diverticulitis, and inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Arnold R. Leiboff, assistant professor of surgery, has again been selected as a “Top Doctor” for inclusion in Castle Connolly’s Top Doctors: New York Metro Area, published in February. He has been selected for the past 15 consecutive years. This selection is based on screening by a physician-directed research team that identifies the top 10% of physicians in the tri-state metropolitan New York area.

Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Dr. Elliot Regenbogen, assistant professor of surgery, in August was awarded funding from the Department of Surgery’s Small Grants Program for his research project titled “Characterizing Epidemiological Trends Including Factors Related to Readmission among Preterm Infants with Apnea of Prematurity.”

This study will test the hypothesis that, based on pilot study findings, preterm infants with apnea of prematurity (AOP) and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) will have a longer hospital length of stay when compared to similar gestation age cohorts, but have a lower readmission rate than those with AOP alone.

The study’s overall goal is to improve the quality of care for this very vulnerable, high-risk, pediatric patient sub-population. Medical student Shouling Zhang is co-investigator, and Dr. A. Laurie W. Shroyer, professor of surgery and vice chair for research, senior faculty mentor.

To determine the statewide and local trends, the researchers will use the New York State Department of Health’s Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System data set.

Dr. Regenbogen in April presented these studies at national meetings (co-authors include faculty in the Department of Surgery):


Pediatric Surgery
Dr. Richard J. Scriven, associate professor of surgery and director of the general surgery residency, in November received media coverage for his remarkable surgery performed on a newborn to correct colonic atresia; only 1 in 80,000 to 100,000 babies are born with the condition. Newsday called the child the “Stony Brook miracle baby.”

Dr. Scriven in September took part in the four-day medical mission in Ecuador sponsored by Blanca’s House. A veteran of missions there, he performed numerous hernia repairs and gallbladder removals.

In May, Dr. Scriven was honored for his “many years of dedicated service to the Committee on Admissions” by the School of Medicine.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Dr. Alexander B. Dagum, professor of surgery and orthopaedics, executive vice chair of surgery, and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, was again selected for inclusion in New York Magazine’s Best Doctors issue published in June. The 1,282 peer-selected physicians on the 2015 list represent the top 2% of physicians in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Dr. Dagum in April served as co-director of the 17th Annual Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Center Symposium held at Stony Brook Medicine.

The purpose of the symposium was to educate community physicians and dentists about the importance and different aspects of the multidisciplinary team approach to the care of patients with cleft palate-craniofacial disorders. It provides the information needed to facilitate the necessary coordination with each other to give their patients the best possible care.

Long committed to surgical volunteerism, Dr. Dagum in May traveled on an EMAS mission to Yunnan, China, to perform repairs of cleft lips/palates, burn scars, and congenital anomalies—all mostly in children.

Dr. Dagum in September took part in the four-day medical mission in Ecuador sponsored by Blanca’s House. He performed numerous repairs of cleft lips/palates, burn scars, and congenital anomalies, as he has done on previous missions there.

Dr. Tara L. Huston, assistant professor of surgery and dermatology, in June was elected to a second term as an officer on the Stony Brook University Hospital Medical Board. Her two-year term started on July 1.

Dr. Huston in July was featured in the article “Protect against Uptick in Scalp Skin Cancer Cases” published in the Times of Huntington-Northport to warn the community.

Surgical Oncology
Dr. Joseph Kim, associate professor of surgery, in November served on a study section of the National Institutes of Health to review grant applications related to diagnosis and treatment of cancer. This includes biomarkers as prognosticators of cancer, bi-immunotherapies of cancer, and novel approaches to treating cancer.

Surgical Research
Dr. Giuseppe Caso, research assistant professor of surgery, and Dr. Margaret A. McNurlan, professor of surgery, are co-authors of the following study presented at the Experimental Biology 2015 Meeting, held in Boston, MA, in the spring: “Effect of Coenzyme Q10 Supplementation in Patients with Statin-Related Myalgia” (authors: Mazirka P, Jones E, Strachan P, McNurlan MA, Lawson W, Caso G).

Dr. A. Laurie W. Shroyer, professor of surgery and vice chair for research, continues to give lectures and presentations throughout the country. Among recent ones are:

• Designing a randomized controlled trial. Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Department of Surgery, Clinical Trials Mini-Course; Boston, MA, May 2015.
• Overview of the CSP#517-FS study status and update. Annual VA Research Meeting: Denver, CO, April 2015.
women will result in better long-term outcomes. Dr. Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, professor of surgery and chief of vascular and endovascular surgery, is co-investigator as well as senior faculty mentor.

The study’s overall goal is to provide the means for better recognition of early PAD to improve clinical outcomes including survival, decreased need for amputation, improved functional status, and reduced interventions.

Dr. Kokkosis in June gave the following presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), held in Chicago, IL: “Update from Recent 0+5 Graduate—Was I Prepared for Practice?”

Also in June, Dr. Kokkosis was awarded an SVS Women’s Leadership Training Grant. The purpose of the grant program is to help develop strong women leaders in vascular surgery who will exhibit the outstanding accomplishments and exceptional personal qualities of those vascular surgeons recognized by the SVS for their lifetime achievements.

Dr. Shang A. Loh, assistant professor of surgery, in June received the Fabio Giron Teaching Award, which was presented to him at the graduation ceremony for residents and fellows.

Dr. Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, professor of surgery and chief of vascular and endovascular surgery, was again selected for inclusion in New York Magazine’s Best Doctors issue published in June. The 1,282 peer-selected physicians on the 2015 list represent the top 2% of physicians in the greater New York metropolitan area.

The Sixth Annual Venous Symposium—directed by Dr. Antonios P. Gasparis, professor of surgery, and Dr. Nicos Labropoulos, professor of surgery—was held in April in New York, NY, and was a great success with 400-plus health professionals in attendance.

The Venous Symposium has established itself as one of the premier international vein meetings, and provides all specialists a complete program on the current knowledge and management of venous disease. Participation provides a maximum of 22.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Next year’s symposium will take place on April 14-16, 2016, in New York. For more information, please visit the symposium’s website: www.venous-symposium.com.

Recent Publications

Continued from Page 13


The weekly Surgical Grand Rounds lectures are generally held on Wednesday morning, from 7:00 to 8:00 am, in the Health Sciences Center (level 2, lecture hall 1).

Topics cover the full range of current surgical concerns, focusing on clinical issues of interest to practicing physicians and surgeons. Featured speakers include distinguished visiting professors from the nation’s top universities and medical centers.

For more information, please call (631) 444-1611.

Vascular Surgery Conference

The Vascular Surgery Conference of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Division offers CME credit through the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. This activity is designated for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

The weekly conferences are generally held on Wednesday morning, from 8:00 to 10:00 am, in the Health Sciences Center in the surgery department classroom (level 19, room 025).

Topics cover the full range of concerns related to the diagnosis and management of vascular disease, with case presentations. Presentations are made by surgical residents, as well as the director of the non-invasive vascular lab and attending physicians.

For more information, please call (631) 444-2037/-2683.

Trauma/Critical Care Conference: For information about this education event, please call (631) 444-9030.
Our Department Administrator Earns Top Healthcare Management Credential

The Leadership of Our Department Is Highly Qualified to Achieve Excellence

Mr. Hutter joined the Department of Surgery’s leadership team in April 2014 as the department administrator and also the business manager of Stony Brook Surgical Associates. He had previously been our interim administrator for more than three years, and knows well how to help us succeed.

Mr. Hutter has been a healthcare executive at Stony Brook Medicine since 2008, when he joined the Department of Pathology as its senior administrative director. In that position, among other accomplishments, he created a financial plan that is a model of success.

Prior to Stony Brook, Mr. Hutter was director of ambulatory care (2005-06), then director of operations (2006-08) at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital in New York, NY. He had held other leadership and administrative positions at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he started his career in healthcare in 2002.

A native Longer Islander, Mr. Hutter received his MBA in finance and MS in healthcare management from St. Joseph’s College in 2006. He subsequently earned board certification as a certified medical practice executive (CMPE) from the Medical Group Management Association, the nation’s leading association for medical practice executives and demonstrating professional/community involvement. Fellows are also committed to ongoing professional development and undergo recertification every three years.

Our department administrator holds the distinction of being board certified in healthcare management.

Because healthcare management ultimately affects the people in our communities, it is critically important to have a standard of excellence promoted by a professional organization,” says Thomas C. Dolan, PhD, FACHE, CAE, president and chief executive officer ofACHE.

“By becoming an ACHE Fellow and simultaneously earning board certification from ACHE, healthcare leaders can show that they are committed to providing high-quality service to their patients and community.”

Fellow status represents achievement of the highest standard of professional development. In fact, only 7,500 healthcare executives hold this distinction.

To obtain Fellow status, candidates must fulfill multiple requirements, including passing a comprehensive examination, meeting academic and experiential criteria, earning continuing education credits, and demonstrating professional...
Heart Institute
University Hospital
Level 5
101 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11794
(631) 444-6590 (tel)
(631) 444-8963 (fax)

Surgical Care Center
37 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733
(631) 444-4545 (tel)
(631) 444-4539 (fax)

Cancer Center / Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center
3 Edmund D. Pellegrino Road
Stony Brook, NY 11794
(631) 638-1000 (tel)
(631) 444-6348 (fax)

Plastic & Cosmetic Surgery Center
24 Research Way
Suite 100
East Setauket, NY 11733
(631) 444-4666 (tel)
(631) 444-4610 (fax)

Vascular Center
Nicolls Professional Park
23 South Howell Avenue
Suite G
Centereach, NY 11743
(631) 638-1670 (tel)
(631) 638-1691 (fax)

Center for Vein Care
Nicolls Professional Park
23 South Howell Avenue
Suite G
Centereach, NY 11743
and
225 West Montauk Highway
Hampton Bays, NY 11946
and
240 Meeting House Lane
The Schenck Building
Southampton, NY 11968
and
222 Middle Country Road
Suite 209
Smithtown, NY 11787
and
160 Middle Road
Suite 3
Sayville, NY 11782
and
864 West Jericho Turnpike
Huntington, NY 11743
and
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222 Middle Country Road
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(631) 638-2800 (tel)
(631) 638-2830 (fax)

Outpatient Services Center
225 West Montauk Highway
Hampton Bays, NY 11946
(631) 723-5000 (tel)
(631) 723-5010 (fax)

Eastern Suffolk Cardiology
951 Roanoke Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-7773 (tel)
(631) 727-7832 (fax)
and
676 County Road 39A
Southampton, NY 11968
(631) 283-2070 (tel)
(631) 283-5927 (fax)

Southampton Vascular Office
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