

Department at a Glance

Organization

11 Divisions

Abdominal Transplantation

Cardiac Transplantation & Circulatory Support

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Congenital Heart Surgery

General Surgery

General Thoracic Surgery

Pediatric Surgery

Plastic Surgery

Surgical Oncology

Surgical Research

Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Therapy

180 full-time faculty members

31 Professors

24 Associate Professors

60 Assistant Professors

71 Instructors

86 volunteer and adjunct faculty members 180 full-time employees

Education

105 residents and fellows

2,150 applicants for 8 categorical general surgery residency positions

1,500 applicants for 14 preliminary general surgery residency positions

Residency Programs (program director)

General Surgery

Dr. Bradford G. Scott

Congenital Cardiac Surgery

Dr. Charles D. Fraser Jr.

Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Mark V. Mazziotti

Plastic Surgery (Integrated Program)

Dr. Shayan Izaddoost

Surgical Critical Care

Dr. S. Rob Todd

Thoracic Surgery (Cardiothoracic)

Drs. Joseph S. Coselli, Ross Reul, and Denton A. Cooley Vascular Surgery

Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr.

Fellowship Programs (program director)

Aortic Surgery

Dr. Joseph S. Coselli

Liver/Renal Transplantation

Dr. Christine A. O'Mahony

Pediatric Plastic Surgery

Drs. Larry H. Hollier and David Y. Khechoyan

General Thoracic Surgery

Dr. David J. Sugarbaker

Transplant & Mechanical Circulatory Support

Dr. William E. Cohn

VA Chief Residency in Quality and Patient Safety

Dr. Samir S. Awad

Research

Total extramural funding: \$8,608,322

NIH funding: \$3,146,986

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapter: 350

Endowed Chairs

Brad & Melissa Juneau Endowed Chair†

Dr. Jeffrey S. Heinle

Center for Molecular Surgery Chair Dr. Changyi Johnny Chen

Cullen Foundation Endowed Chair

Dr. Joseph S. Coselli

DeBakey-Bard Chair in Surgery Dr. Todd K. Rosengart

Donovan Chair in Congenital Heart Surgery†

Dr. Charles D. Fraser Jr.

George L. Jordan, MD Chair of General Surgery Dr. William E. Fisher

JLH Foundation Chair in Transplant Surgery†

Dr. John A. Goss

Meyer-DeBakey Chair in Investigative Surgery Dr. George P. Noon

Olga Keith Weiss Chair of Surgery

Dr. Steven A. Curley

Dr. David J. Sugarbaker Susan V. Clayton Chair in Surgery†

Dr. Charles D. Fraser Jr.

S. Baron Hardy Chair in Plastic Surgery†

Dr. Larry H. Hollier William J. Pokorny, MD Professorship in Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern Stan and Sue Partee Endowed Professorship in Surgery

Dr. Prasun K. Jalal

Jimmy and Roberta Howell Endowed Chair in Surgery Dr. Scott A. LeMaire (partially funded)

Lester and Sue Smith Endowed Chair in Surgery (unappointed chair)

† Texas Children's Hospital

One of the great legacies in surgery

The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery was so named in 1999 to honor the great legacy of its iconic and longest-serving chairman, who led the department from 1948 to 1993. Dr. DeBakey and the surgeons he recruited and trained advanced the science of medicine, created innovative surgical instruments and techniques, and touched the lives of millions of people.

A prolific physician and teacher, Dr. DeBakey performed more than 60,000 cardiovascular procedures and trained more than 1,000 surgeons who now practice throughout the world.

Considered by many to be the father of cardiovascular surgery, Dr. DeBakey contributed trailblazing discoveries in surgical science and developed techniques that still serve as the basis of modern day surgery.

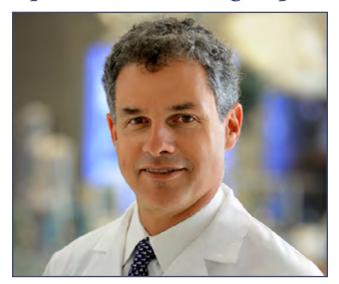
His contributions include, but are not limited to, his role in the performance of the first carotid endarterectomy (1953), excision and homograft replacement of an aneurysm of the abdominal aorta (1954), use of artificial graft material to replace the aorta (1954), aortocoronary artery bypass (1964), and left ventricular assist device implantation (1966).

The Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery salutes the ground breaking work of this great pioneer of surgery, biomedical research, and medical education who shaped the future of our department over the past six decades. We are inspired to advance the legacy of one of the great departments of surgery and chronicle our progress towards that goal in this report.



Message from the Chair

We are pleased to report that our department has continued its accelerated growth and development since the time of our last report, another exciting chapter in the annals of our history.



Our research program has expanded rapidly with funding levels that should take us to the top 40 in NIH ranking. Our new Research Core now manages over 30 ongoing clinical trials and more than \$70 million in submitted grant applications. Our education programs have likewise advanced to attract the highest caliber of candidates to our residency programs. Our incoming board scores are in the top 15th percentile, and our new recruits are achieving the highest American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination (ABSITE) scores in recent memory. Our undergraduate education programs, in turn, are inspiring many of our medical students —over 40 this year—to seek careers in surgery or surgical specialties.

No change in our department has, however, been more significant than that rendered by the joint venture completed by Baylor College of Medicine and Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) in January 2014, which created the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC) as the academic healthcare center and clinical hub of our program. Our department has taken a prominent lead in guiding the growth and development of the new BSLMC with **Dr. David H. Berger** serving as its chief clinical

officer, and a number of our division chiefs taking on service line leadership roles. New suites of multidisciplinary surgical offices have been created de novo over the past 18 months at the Baylor Clinic – which will eventually move to the new McNair Campus – to address the needs of our new and rapidly growing BSLMC programs.

To meet the opportunities offered by our expanding clinical and academic portfolios, in the time since our last report we have appointed over 30 new faculty members and witnessed the expansion of a great variety of new programs and initiatives. We have launched a new Division of General Thoracic Surgery and partnered in the creation of the Lung Institute at Baylor College of Medicine under the leadership of **Dr. David J. Sugarbaker**. We cheered the attainment of NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center status for Baylor under the leadership of Division of Surgical Oncology chief **Dr. Steven A. Curley**.

Amongst our other new faculty, we are pleased to welcome **Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr.** as our new chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Therapy and director of the Vascular Surgery Residency Program. An internationally renowned and accomplished expert in the area of limb salvage, Dr. Mills' vast expertise and experience promises to boost our already highly successful vascular surgery programs and practices and further advance our standing in the field.

We are also very excited to welcome **Dr. S. Rob Todd**, previous associate professor of surgery at
New York University School of Medicine, who has
joined our department as chief of general surgery
and director of the Ginni and Richard Mithoff
Trauma Center at Ben Taub Hospital. Dr. Todd has
already made great strides at Ben Taub advancing the

internationally acclaimed programs built there by chief-of-staff and trauma surgery pioneer

Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox. As the new director of our surgical critical care residency program, Dr. Todd has overseen the recruitment of the largest critical care residency candidate pool in recent memory. Our outstanding recruit from Washington University, **Dr. Robert E. Southard**, shares responsibilities with Dr. Todd for developing our critical care programs, and has led our efforts establishing new surgical critical care units at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.



Dr. Denton Cooley (center) was welcomed back to the department as distinguished emeritus professor by Dr. Todd Rosengart, chair of surgery and Dr. Paul Klotman, president, Baylor College of Medicine

Of our many new faculty members, none can be considered more welcomed or more honored than **Dr. Denton A. Cooley**, who we were most pleased to greet back to the faculty of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery as Distinguished Emeritus Professor in a special ceremony marking the occasion held in summer, 2014. The event was attended by Baylor College of Medicine President Dr. Paul Klotman and many of Dr. Cooley's colleagues from the Texas Heart Institute.

Dr. Cooley also joined us this past year for the 20th Congress of the DeBakey International Surgical Society, commemorating the 60th anniversary of our general surgery residency program. The two-day event was keynoted by Vice President Dick Cheney, a recipient of many of the medical advances innovated in the department by Dr. Cooley, Dr. DeBakey, honoree **Dr. O.H. "Bud" Frazier**, and other department faculty and alumni.

We also continue to cheer the great successes of many of our existing faculty members, including **Dr. Joseph S. Coselli**, who this past year assumed the presidency of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, succeeding Dr. Sugarbaker a year after he too rose to this most prestigious office in the cardiothoracic field.

Among our many other faculty and resident recognitions and accomplishments of the past year, a singular achievement is that of **Dr. Faisal G. Bakaeen**, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), who was appointed chair of the Veterans Affairs National Surgical Quality Data Use Group.

We also celebrate with Dr. Kenneth Mattox his appointment as second vice-president of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and congratulate him in the establishment of an ACS International Lectureship and Scholarship Program in his name. Congratulations also go to **Dr. Scott A. LeMaire**, vice chair for research, upon his appointment as editor of the prestigious *Journal of Surgical Research*.

Since the time of publication of our last department report, we have been pleased to open our new Surgical Simulation Lab, hosted by the department in space adjacent to the **DeBakey Surgical Labs** and directed by **Dr. Avo Artinyan** together with **Deborah J. Taylor.** Finally, this past year saw the launch of our Department of Surgery Incubator (DoSI), an innovation think tank led by **Dr. William E. Cohn.**

In short, we are proud to report that the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery continues to flourish and grow, that our accomplishments and milestones proliferate, and that our ability to execute on our aim inspired by Dr. DeBakey – to achieve excellence – has never been greater.

Todd K. Rosengart, MD

Professor and DeBakey-Bard Chair Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery

Department Leadership*



Todd K. Rosengart, MD Chair, Department of Surgery



Bradford G. Scott, MD Vice-Chair for Education



Scott A. LeMaire, MD Vice-Chair for Research



Samir S. Awad, MD, MPH Vice-Chair for Surgical Quality and Safety



John A. Goss, MD Chief, Division of Abdominal Transplantation



Joseph L. Mills Sr., MD



Director, Faculty Education & Development



Joseph S. Coselli, MD Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery



Charles D. Fraser Jr., MD Chief, Division of Congenital Heart Surgery



William E. Fisher, MD Chief, Division of General Surgery



David J. Sugarbaker, MD Chief, Division of General Thoracic Surgery



Jed G. Nuchtern, MD Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery



Larry H. Hollier, MD Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery



Steven A. Curley, MD Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology



Changyi Chen, MD, PhD Chief, Division of Surgical Research



Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Therapy



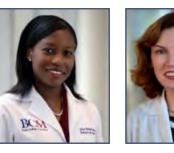
David E. Wesson, MD



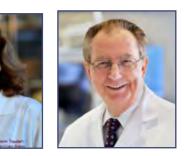
William E. Cohn, MD Director, Surgical Innovation



S. Rob Todd, MD Juliet Holder-Haynes, MD Director, Ginni and Richard Director, Surgery Core Clerkship Mithoff Trauma Center



Barbara W. Trautner, MD, PhD Director, Clinical Research



Kenneth L. Mattox, MD Chief of Staff and Surgeon-in-Chief, Ben Taub Hospital





HEALTHCARE

Our mission is to provide healthcare services that are of the highest quality. We strive to deliver compassionate care for all our patients.

Since its beginning, our department has always been a place of innovation and excellence. In fact, the inscription on Dr. DeBakey's Medal of Honor reads, "My goal in life has been the pursuit of excellence." We are building on that rich heritage as our faculty continues to expand and attract world renowned surgeons with advanced subspecialty training and expertise. We use innovative techniques including advanced minimally invasive and robotic pancreatic, hepatobiliary, gastrointestinal, endocrine, vascular, and thoracic surgery, and offer innovative clinical trials including immunotherapy for cancer. We are serving our local population, including Harris County residents, and our veteran population. Our surgeons, who are leaders in their fields, are attracting patients who are willing to travel great distances to access truly expert care and our proven superior outcomes.

Our surgical team consists of leaders of a tertiary and quaternary referral center in part because of our reputation for being able to handle the most complex surgical problems, from thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms to cancer with liver metastases or peritoneal disease. But we are doing more than just taking on these tough challenges in surgery and saving the lives of critically ill patients. We are committed to providing a patient-centered experience that is second to none.

An important part of our strategy has been the creation of an innovative, integrated program for Acute Care Surgery Services (Trauma [Ben Taub Hospital only], Surgical Critical Care, and Emergency Surgery) spanning all of our hospitals. This program allows us to immediately respond to surgical emergencies while avoiding interruptions in the care of our patients in clinic, the hospital, or the operating room. We have recruited some of the most talented and experienced surgeons in the country to staff this program. As a team, they are available at all times to provide a new focus on acute surgical emergencies and surgical critical care. With subspecialty training and American Board of Surgery special certification in Surgical Critical Care, this new surgical group is implementing the most contemporary, evidence-based ICU protocols shown to improve outcomes in critically ill patients.

Knatalye went home by the end of April and Addy followed in June.

actual separation surgery, and participating in many multidisciplinary conferences.

Photo by Allen Kramer, courtesy Texas Children's Hospital

Researchers in our department are exploring:

- Cellular reprogramming for the treatment of heart failure
- Development of a total artificial heart
- Neurologic outcomes in patients undergoing carotid endarterectomy vs carotid artery stenting
- Use of ventricular assist devices in pediatric heart transplant candidates
- New immunotherapy and direct tumor suppression for treating pancreatic cancer
- Novel treatment strategies for malignant mesothelioma
- New molecular strategies for treating neuroblastoma and other pediatric tumors
- Impact of low case volume on outcomes after pediatric liver transplantation
- New techniques to assess outcomes for the surgical treatment of craniosynostosis
- Effectiveness of preoperative decontamination protocols in preventing surgical site infections

is to conduct important research in surgical disease to improve treatment and quality of life for affected patients, and to train future leaders in academic surgery.

We are dedicated to creating an environment where surgical investigators discover new knowledge, develop innovations, and translate research advances into improvements in patient care. Our efforts to accomplish these goals coalesce into three distinct programs:

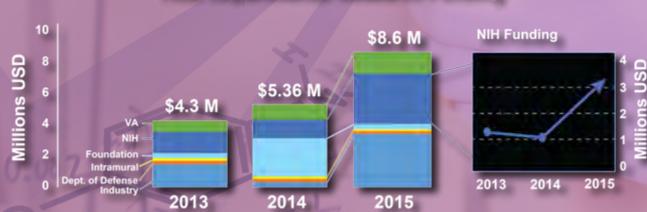
RESEARCH

The mission of the department's research program

- Division of Surgical Research (DSR), led by Dr. Changyi (Johnny) Chen, brings together our basic science researchers and PhDs in a unit that encourages collaboration and interaction with clinicians and physician scientists;
- Surgical Research Core, led by Dr. Barbara W. Trautner, is a team of nearly twenty professionals, including grants managers, clinical research coordinators, database managers, a biostatistician, a medical illustrator, and a medical editor and writer, who provide easily accessible, centralized expertise in clinical research;
- Resident Research Training sabbaticals, which offer to four of our eight general surgery residents two-year focused research sabbaticals during their general surgery residency training.

Surrounding these core programs are a matrix of faculty seed grants, DSR-sponsored weekly research symposia and grant review sessions, newly created resident research requirements that are coupled with research training sessions led by vice chair for research **Dr. Scott**LeMaire, and our departmental innovation incubator led by Dr. William Cohn, all designed to foster and support the research mission. A growing number of campus-wide databases offers the promise of clinical research evaluating patient care provided "The Baylor Way."

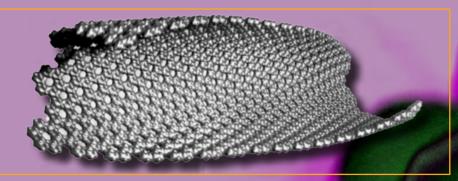
Total Departmental Research Funding





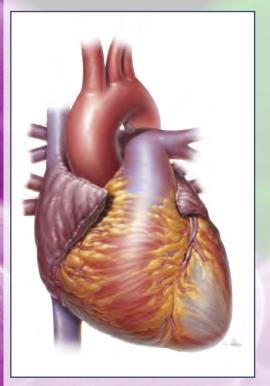
Major Research Grants

RF Treatments for Pancreatic and Liver Cancers



Dr. Steven Curley, professor and chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, has been awarded a three-year, \$9 million grant from NeoTherma Oncology, Inc. for his study titled, "Basic and preclinical research in support of non-invasive radiofrequency (RF) field therapy leading to human clinical trials in pancreatic and hepatocellular cancer." Dr. Curley and his team will study the potential use of RF energy to treat malignancies alone or in combination with drugs and treatment-enhancing agents such as nanoparticles.

Dr. Curley has been leading a basic science laboratory for over 20 years. Having developed two FDA-approved devices for invasive RF ablation needles to treat unresectable liver cancers, he is currently focusing his studies on optimizing an RF system to be used clinically either alone or together with metallic or semiconducting nanoparticles that heat under RF field induction to kill cancer cells. His group has also performed complex physiochemical measurements of nanoparticles and conjugated them to antibodies, peptides, and pharmacologic agents to target cancer cells. He hopes to test these novel treatments in human clinical trials at Baylor, pending FDA approval of an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE).



NIH-NHLBI Grant for Cardiac Cellular Reprogramming

Dr. Todd Rosengart, professor and chair of Surgery, was awarded a four-year, \$3 million NIH-National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute R01 grant for his research proposal titled, "*In situ* cardiac infarct cellular reprogramming." The goal of this research is to transdifferentiate scar fibroblast cells into new cardiomyocytes *in situ* through injection of reprogramming gene cocktails into areas of myocardial infarction, as an alternative to transplant or assist device implantation for patients with end-stage heart disease.

Dr. Rosengart, one of the pioneers in the field of gene therapy whose work began in the early 90s, now leads a team of scientists engaged in the study of cardiac cellular reprogramming. He holds twelve patents, including those for methods to induce angiogenesis.

NIH Grant for Pancreatic Cancer Research

Dr. Qizhi Cathy Yao, professor of surgery, received a five-year, \$2 million NIH R01 grant for her study entitled, "A novel miR-198 replacement therapy for pancreatic cancer." Dr. Yao and her

team recently discovered a tumorigenic factor interactome connected through the tumor suppressor miR-198 in human pancreatic cancer patient samples and confirmed miR-198 was tumor supressive. Dr. Yao is investigating the possibility that miR-198 and the interactome could serve as a potential prognostic marker and that miR-198 replacement therapy could be used as a therapeutic agent to treat pancreatic cancer.



Game faces on, residents prepare for the annual Surgical Skills Olympics Each year we celebrate our Resident Research Day Symposium, a half day "time out" from daily clinical activities that highlights the exciting research efforts of our residents, fellows, and students. In 2015, we opened this exciting day with an inspiring keynote address given on gender disparities in surgical research by Dr. Melina R. Kibbe, department of surgery professor and vice chair of research at Northwestern University. The submitted abstracts, representing nearly 100% resident participation, were delivered as podium and poster presentations before an audience of over 200. The submissions by trainees and students interested in surgery were judged by a panel of guest physician-scientists. Presentation winners received a certificate of recognition and funding to attend a scientific conference of their choice.

EDUCATION

We are focused on training and educating the next generation of surgeons and surgeonscientists.

Our dynamic educational programs are built upon a strong foundation of an outstanding faculty and a highly qualified cadre of fellows and residents who in turn offer their time and attention to our junior trainees and students. Every year, this experience has led to the development of an ever stronger residency program and the recruitment of a growing class of enthusiastic medical students turning towards careers in surgery.

Under the guidance of outstanding faculty leaders in education and our vice-chair for education **Dr. Bradford G. Scott**, together with a consummate staff of educational administrators led by **Holly Church Shilstone**, our educational curriculum is being expanded and refined each year. New additions include mentorship programs for residents and students, more extensive formative and summative reviews, oral board training for residents, and a new oral exam session scored towards an honors grade for our students.

Our **Global Health Experience** for our General Surgery Residency Program, to begin in July 2016, will include exposure to international, rural, and extramural training in non-traditional specialties such as orthopedics, OB GYN, and urology.

Emblematic of our increased focus on research training, this past year, in addition to our ongoing all-department journal clubs, we held clinical case presentations, research training seminars, and annual Resident Research Day Symposium. We also launched a **Resident Scholar Program** that will allow proficient research residents to matriculate directly into research faculty positions in the department.

Dr. Mattox Honored as Second Vice-President of the ACS



Kenneth L. Mattox, MD was this past year elected second vice-president of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the world's largest surgical professional society. Coincident with this honor, the ACS also announced plans to create the Kenneth L. Mattox International Lectureship and Scholarship Program under the direction of the ACS Committee on Traumasingular honor afforded only the most esteemed members of our professional community.

Dr. Mattox has been a long-serving member of the ACS since becoming a fellow in 1975. He was on the Board of Governors from 1985 to 1991, and again from 1997 to 2004. He also participated on many of its committees and leadership councils; he was chairman of the Medical Device Committee (1983-1985) and senior member of the Committee on Trauma (1989-1995), among others.

"Do your work, 'before' you go to work."
- Dr. Michael E. DeBakey

Z LEADERSHIP

The true strength of our department is a gifted faculty led by a cadre of luminaries each of whom is world-class in their own right.

"A leader should have a powerful vision shared by others, and should have the ability to influence people to achieve their goals." - Dr. Changyi Johnny Chen

"A leader takes his people, both those who are comfortable with the status quo and those who are resistant to change, through the entire process of growth and innovation." - Dr. Joseph S. Coselli

"Leadership means being a positive example to the people who work with me and around me. It means being a mentor and serving the people that I work with."

- Dr. Steven A. Curley

"Being a leader means to serve. It's about how can I help everybody in my division grow their practice and their program and achieve their goals and the goals of the division." - Dr. William E. Fisher

"A leader has the ability to help others move ahead in their careers, supporting both established and developing faculty members. A leader leads by example and is patient because his job is never finished." - **Dr. John A. Goss**

"I think that it is very important that a leader articulates a vision that everyone can sign on to and all row in the same direction." - **Dr. Larry H. Hollier**

"A leader can be like a shepherd: he guides the flock to a destination he has clearly in his mind but can be flexible about how to get there. I follow the shepherd model." - Dr. Joseph L. Mills, Sr.

"A leader must have a clear sense of what he wants to achieve. He must develop or assemble a team that is capable of realizing these goals and facilitate their attempts to achieve them." – **Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern**

"A leader constantly clarifies the team's purpose and keeps the team's focus on its step by step attainments. A leader understands that clarity of purpose and focused attention are the essence of excellence." - **Dr. David J. Sugarbaker**

"Leaders develop an inspired vision of where they want their group to be. When leaders are successful they can guide both colleagues who may be and those who may not be on their side to attain that goal." - **Dr. S. Rob Todd**





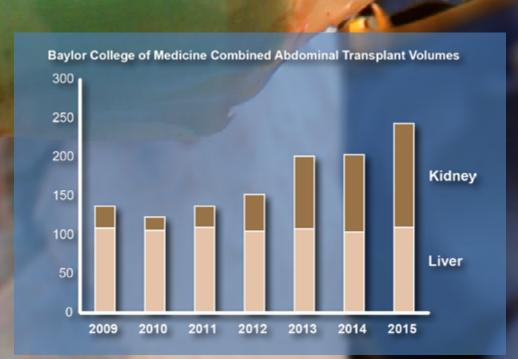
COMMUNITY

It is our vision to promote healthy communities by working with local, regional, and global partners to develop public service initiatives that fulfill unmet needs associated with access to healthcare.

Our department faculty is widely engaged in community outreach regionally and worldwide to help disseminate safe and high quality health care to those in need. A few examples of these initiatives are:

- PurpleStride Houston, back this year, will include the Elkins Pancreas Center team participating in the 5K run and family-friendly walk which raises awareness and support for pancreatic cancer. Dr. George Van Buren II is honorary chairman of the event this year, a role held previously by Dr. William E. Fisher in 2012. The event is organized by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network which has funded researchers in our group in the past.
- Smile Train, the largest organization in the world providing care for children with cleft lip and cleft palate problems, recently appointed **Dr. Larry H. Hollier** as chair of its Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Hollier and his colleagues have been on numerous trips to Haiti sponsored by Smile Train, and have travelled with other organizations to Southeast Asia, Central America and Africa to care for children with cleft deformities and serious burn injuries. Additionally, **Dr. Laura A. Monson** traveled to Egypt and **Dr. Edward Buchanan** traveled to Tanzania to treat these children as well.
- Faith In Practice, a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization that seeks to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor, recently welcomed **Dr. Oluyinka O. Olutoye** and **Dr. Irving J. Zamora** on their medical mission trip to Antigua, Guatemala. Dr. Olutoye is an active medical missionary who has participated in 20 trips to seven countries throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America in the past seven years.

Division of Albadominal Transplantation



Celebrating our 500th Liver Transplant at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center

Under the direction of **Dr. John A. Goss**, the 22 faculty members and the staff of the Liver, Kidney, and Pancreas Center support adult and pediatric transplant programs across the Texas Medical Center. Our surgeons and staff provide transplantation services at Baylor St. Luke's Abdominal Transplant & Liver Disease Clinic, Texas Children's Hospital, and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), which in the past year added kidney transplant to its existing liver transplant program and became one of only five VA centers to perform kidney transplantations for veterans.

Our liver transplant program is one of the busiest in the nation. **Since 1998, our surgeons have performed over 1,500 liver transplants**, with outstanding results. In 2014, we celebrated the 500th liver transplant performed at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. In the past year, over 100 liver transplants were performed by division surgeons, achieving one of the highest survival rates in the country. Pediatric cases counted for almost one-third of these transplants, making this program at Texas Children's Hospital one of the largest in the United States.

Reflective of this astounding track record, this past year Dr. Goss was awarded the Baylor College of Medicine Master Clinician Lifetime Award in recognition of his 17 years of exemplary and consistent clinical service, commendable leadership skills, and continuous service to the community. Speaking of this recognition, Dr. Goss commented, "It's a very nice feeling to know that we've led the way within the Texas Medical Center when it comes to liver transplantation, and helped so many patients."

Dr. Christine A. O'Mahony leads the division's kidney transplant program alongside Dr. Goss. Under her leadership over the past two years, the kidney transplant group has made extraordinary advances. The kidney transplant program at the MEDVAMC was started in 2014 and is expanding this year with the initiation of a living donor program. At BSLMC, living donor transplants have increased by over 60%, and length of stay has decreased by over 50%. Kidney transplant patient and graft survival are the highest ever achieved – at or near 100% in both cases, with similar outstanding results at Texas Children's.

In order to meet these growing clinical and academic responsibilities, assistant professors **Dr. Abbas Rana** and **Dr. Saira A. Khaderi** were recently recruited to the division as new faculty. Drs. Rana and Khaderi, together with fellowship graduate and now instructor **Dr. Ronald Cotton**, are actively involved in clinical outcomes and translational research in abdominal transplantation and collaborate with the NIH-funded Advanced Liver Therapies Research Center, which conducts over 40 clinical trials annually under the direction of hepatology chief **Dr. John M. Vierling**.

The Immune Evaluation Laboratory managed by the division has experienced a meteoric rise in its activities over the past two years, recently adding lab services for the VA Renal Transplant Program. In order to meet these new clinical demands, lab director **Dr. Ronald H. Kerman** recently welcomed **Dr. Peter Jindra** from UCLA as the new assistant laboratory director. Dr. Jindra's contributions have been critical to the successful growth of the HLA lab, now performing over 22,000 studies annually.

Cardiac Transplantation & Circulatory Support

World Leaders in Heart Transplant and Circulatory Support

The Division of Cardiac Transplantation & Circulatory Support has been a leader in the world of transplant and circulatory support surgery. The first successful cardiac transplantation in the U.S. was performed at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC) by **Dr. Denton Cooley** in 1968. The cardiac transplant program was renewed at the Texas Heart Institute (THI) at St. Luke's in 1982. Under the leadership of **Dr. O.H. Frazier**, a total of more than 1,300 heart transplants and over 1,200 VAD implants have been performed at THI/BSLMC, making it one of the world's highest volume programs. Currently, with Stanford-trained assistant professor **Dr. Steve K. Singh** joining the faculty in 2013, the program remains a leader in the field of surgery for the failing heart.

Since the early 1960s when Dr. Michael E. DeBakey obtained the first federal grant to develop an artificial heart, Baylor has remained a world leader in the surgical treatment of heart failure. The expertise of Dr. Frazier, a professor of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, and of previous division chief **Dr. George P. Noon** and colleagues, led to the development of continuous flow (non-pulsatile) LVADs, the most common in worldwide clinical use today. The pumps developed by Dr. Frazier at THI include the HeartMate, the first implantable LVAD approved by the FDA; the HeartMate II, the first continuous flow pump approved by the FDA; the HeartWare, the first centrifugal force continuous flow pump; and the Jarvik 2000, the first pump to demonstrate the feasibility of blood-washed bearings and the cornerstone of all subsequent continuous flow LVAD development. In addition, the MicroMed DeBakey pump developed by Dr. DeBakey and Dr. Noon was the first continuous flow pump implanted.



The development of the total artificial heart was initiated by Dr. DeBakey in the Baylor labs in the 1950s. The Syncardia pump, the most widely used total artificial heart replacement in use today, is a direct descendent of this technology. The first non-tethered implantable total artificial heart was the AbioCor, which was developed in the THI labs under Dr. Frazier's direction.

Today, Dr. Frazier and **Dr. William E. Cohn**, professor of surgery at Baylor and director of the Center for Technology Innovations at THI, are working through funding from the NIH and other supporters to develop a total artificial heart that will deliver blood by means of continuous flow rather than pulsation. This device is smaller, more reliable, and importantly, more durable than previous generations of artificial hearts. Continued NIH funding is also directed to the ongoing pulmonary hypertension studies of Dr. Noon and colleagues.

Innovation clearly remains the hallmark of the division and its visionary leaders. Fellowships in Transplant & Mechanical Circulatory Support, as well as in the TMC Biodesign program, represent important opportunities for trainees drawn from around the world to learn from these true giants of their specialty.

Thoracic Aortic Procedures (2014) Thoracoabdominal 93 Root, ascending, or arch of aorta Endovascular 83 thoracic aorta 182 Descending thoracic aorta (open) 26

Over 10,000 Aortic Procedures and Counting

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, led by **Dr. Joseph S. Coselli**, builds on the rich legacy of surgical innovators—**Drs. Michael E. DeBakey, Denton A. Cooley, E. Stanley Crawford,** and **George P. Noon** among others—who originated many of the 20th Century's ground breaking aortic and cardiac surgical procedures. Today, Dr. Coselli, the world's most experienced aortic surgeon with more than 7,500 aortic and over 3,300 thoracoabdominal aneurysm repairs to his credit, leads a world-renowned team of over 15 surgeons and researchers innovating strategies for the evaluation and treatment of diseases of the aorta and cardiovascular system.

The 1500-plus annual cardiac surgery case volume at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and our Texas Heart Institute research and education affiliate—founded in 1962 by distinguished emeritus professor **Dr. Denton Cooley**—together with the more than 600 adult cardiac cases performed at our Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) and Ben Taub Hospital surgery sites, makes our program one of the largest in the nation. The 350 cases performed at MEDVAMC are the most performed in the VA system, and our site is one of only five VA transcatheter aortic valve replacement programs – and the only one performing trans-apical procedures. Outcomes at the VA, as across the clinical program, are best in class, with morbidity and mortality rates that are amongst the lowest reported results nationally.

A growing portfolio of clinical and translational research efforts in the division, led by our (NIH-funded) vice-chair for research **Dr. Scott A. LeMaire**, includes more than 20 clinical studies in areas ranging from the genetics and molecular biology of aortic disease to applications of new heart valves and aortic grafts. Laboratory studies include the NIH-funded investigations of department chairman **Dr. Todd K. Rosengart**, whose research group is developing a means to use cellular reprogramming to convert cardiac scar tissue into new heart muscle (*see page 13*).

Our three-year cardiothoracic surgery residency program, accepting four residents per year, is the largest in the US. Buoyed by the addition of Division of General Thoracic Surgery chief **Dr. David J. Sugarbaker** and a new general thoracic track program, the application pool for our residency program under the direction of Dr. Coselli and **Dr. Ross M. Reul**, on behalf of Dr. Cooley, has been the strongest in recent memory.

Division of Gongenital Heart Surgery Heart surgeon Dr. E. Dean McKenzie w Texas Children's division chief and surgeon-in-chief of Hospital exas Children's Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr. by Allen Kramer, courtesy Texas Children's Hospita

The Largest and Longest Established Program of its Kind

From its inception at Texas Children's Hospital in 1954 as one of the first of its kind, the Division of Congenital Heart Surgery has become a world leader in pediatric congenital heart surgery. Under the direction of **Dr. Charles D. Fraser Jr.**, who is surgeon-in-chief of Texas Children's, the division pursues its mission to provide the very best possible surgical care for children and adults with congenital and acquired cardiovascular disease in an environment that fosters cutting-edge research and educates tomorrow's leaders in children's cardiac surgery.

The six surgeons of the division perform over 900 operations annually, making it one of the largest congenital heart programs in the country. The division is part of Texas Children's Heart Center, which is ranked number two nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The surgeons team with dedicated cardiologists, cardiovascular anesthesiologists, critical care doctors, perfusionists, mid-level providers, nurses, and pharmacists who are all trained to work specifically with pediatric heart patients.

In 2014, Texas Children's Hospital celebrated the 30th anniversary of its heart transplant program. Thirty years ealier, Dr. Denton Cooley and Dr. Bud Frazier successfully completed the first heart transplant on an infant in the United States. This past year, the program also achieved a national record for the most transplantations in a single year: 32 heart and 16 lung transplant procedures.

The division's **Pediatric Cardiac Bioengineering Laboratory**, a collaboration between Texas Children's, Baylor, and Rice University, is developing innovative translational therapies for pediatric patients with cardiac disease. Research focuses on investigating the influences of biophysical cues and electrical stimulation on the development and maturation of heart cells and tissues. Significant progress is being made in growing heart tissue that can be used to repair congenital heart defects, replacing heart muscle that is absent or damaged.

The division offers one of only 11 national fellowships in congenital cardiac surgery recognized by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Participants in the fellowship program receive intense training in pediatric congenital heart disease, including heart and lung transplantation, in one of the world's largest pediatric heart failure/ventricular assist device (VAD) programs. The programs at Texas Children's, which are among the largest and most successful programs in the nation, also offer training in fetal surgery and adult congenital heart disease. This fellowship program has produced graduates that have taken leadership positions at prestigious institutions all over the world.

For more information on Congenital Heart Surgery education and collaboration opportunities, call 832-826-1929 or email Lesa Porterfield at Importer@texaschildrens.org.

Division of Trauma and Surgery Cases at Ben Taub Hospital Penetrating trauma surgical procedures 7,484 73% Blunt trauma 2,630

Bringing Acute Care Surgery and Closed-Unit Critical Care to Our Campus

The Division of General Surgery, under the leadership of **Dr. William E. Fisher**, is bringing a new array of specialty care to Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC) at the same time it is introducing closed-unit critical care and acute care surgery services campus-wide. Equally important are the tremendous strides the division has made in the past 18 months integrating its clinical services and research programs across our campus, with cross-institutional faculty appointments, universal clinical care protocols, and campus-wide research databases. These unprecedented efforts set the stage for optimized patient care and a research powerhouse representing Baylor surgical care.

Specialty services brought to BSLMC by Baylor surgeons include a new endocrine surgery section led by **Dr. James W. Suliburk**, and new colorectal and bariatric surgery programs led by **Dr. Avo Artinyan**, and **Dr. Juliet Holder-Haynes**, respectively. The latter are deploying advanced upper and lower abdominal robotic procedures, all newly offered at BSLMC. Closed-unit critical care, introduced to BSLMC by **Dr. Robert E. Southard**, represents another major advancement of the BSLMC surgical program spearheaded by the division.

Major reorganization of our surgical programs is also underway at Ben Taub Hospital, the cornerstone of our training program and outreach to our community. Led by **Dr. Kenneth L. Mattox**, chief-of-staff, and **Dr. S. Rob Todd**, chief of general surgery and director of the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center, Ben Taub continues to extend its decades-long status as one of the busiest level I trauma centers in the US—over 13,000 trauma patients and 3,000 acute care admissions annually. This iconic center, which serves approximately one million of the underserved in Houston, nearly a quarter of the entire population of Harris County, is undergoing a unprecedented expansion of its faculty and acute care surgery programs, and is leading efforts for coordinated trauma services across the CHI Houston Network.

Surgery services at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), the primary healthcare provider for almost 130,000 veterans in Southeast Texas, continue to denote leadership across the VA system – both in volume and quality. Under the supervision of **Dr. Samir S. Awad**, operative care line executive and chief of surgery, the division's seven surgeons have led the MEDVAMC to its ranking as the most advanced of the VA's 141 medical centers. Emblematic of these efforts, the program recently received a national Chief Resident in Quality and Patient Safety Initiative Grant, funding fellowship training in Lean Management.

Division of General Thoracic Surger **Mesothelioma Treatment Center US Patient Origin**

Lung Institute and Mesothelioma Treatment Center Founded

World-renowned surgeon **Dr. David J. Sugarbaker** arrived at the Texas Medical Center (TMC) last summer and promptly founded our new Division of General Thoracic Surgery, the Lung Institute, which integrates medical and surgical treatments for benign and malignant non-cardiac thoracic diseases, and the Mesothelioma Treatment Center (MTC), focused on the evaluation and treatment of patients with mesothelioma. Astoundingly, within its first year of operation, the division recorded over 1,100 clinic visits and 400 surgical cases cared for by a multidisciplinary team of experts ranging from surgeons to medical oncologists, radiologist, and social workers.

Associate division chief **Dr. Bryan M. Burt** and **Dr. Shawn S. Groth**, director of Esophageal Surgical Services–former trainees of Dr. Sugarbaker–recruited from Stanford University and UPMC, respectively, help lead a team that is quickly making its mark in the TMC.

Advanced techniques pioneered by Dr. Sugarbaker and colleagues that are now offered at BSLMC include extrapleural pneumonectomy and inter-operative heated chemotherapy for the treatment of mesothelioma. The Center for Dysphagia and Swallowing Disorders, co-founded and co-directed by Dr. Groth, likewise provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to benign esophageal disease, supported by a team of otolaryngologists, gastroenterologists, radiologists, speech therapists, and nutritionists to evaluate and treat swallowing difficulties.

Research within the division is also up and running. The General Thoracic Surgery Laboratory established by Dr. Burt, a recent recipient of the Franklin H. Martin MD, FACS Faculty Research Fellowship from the American College of Surgeons, is engaged in the study of the biology of mesothelioma. A number of clinical trials are already underway, and a thoracic tissue bank has already been established in partnership with faculty in the Division of General Surgery and other departmental research leaders.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sugarbaker, a new general thoracic track residency and a fellowship program are being added to our portfolio of post graduate training programs, and our cardiothoracic program this past year enjoyed its largest and strongest recruitment class in recent years.

Division Chief Dr. David Sugarbaker and Dr. Bryan Burt in the OR.



A Key Contributor to a

National Top Four Hospital
The Division of Pediatric Surgery, headed by Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern,

The Division of Pediatric Surgery, headed by **Dr. Jed G. Nuchtern**, includes 16 full-time faculty members and staff physicians at Texas Children's Hospital who combine dedication to patient care with exceptional education and training, advanced research, and development of a broad range of better treatments and individualized surgical procedures that range from the routine to the highly complex.

U.S. News & World Report in its 2015-2016 edition once again ranked Texas Children's as one of the top four children's hospitals nationally— the only hospital in Texas awarded an honor roll distinction. The pioneering efforts of previous division chief **Dr. David E. Wesson** to deploy the Pediatric National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, the first multispecialty outcomes-based program to measure the quality of children's surgical care, has been a critical tool to Texas Children's achieving exemplary surgical outcomes. **Dr. Allen L. Milewicz's** recent appointment as chief surgical officer of the Texas Children's Hospital West Campus promises to further extend these outstanding clinical outcomes across the greater Houston region.

The many unique programs offered by division faculty include the pediatric bariatric surgery program led by **Dr. Mary L. Brandt** and the fetal surgery service led by **Dr. Darrell L. Cass** and **Dr. Oluyinka O. Olutoye**. The fetal surgery service leads the nation in both performing and developing techniques to diagnose and treat congenital abnormalities including cardiac conditions, twin-twin transfusion syndrome, spina bifida, and congenital diaphragmatic hernia in the unborn child.

Research is a priority in the division and its pediatric oncology studies have contributed to making Texas Children's the *U.S. News and World Report* #1 hospital in Texas for treating pediatric cancer. Texas Children's likewise recently earned top honors from Healthcare Informatics magazine for its program to identify best practices and improve outcomes for children with appendicitis. The recent recruitment of NIH-funded physician-scientist **Dr. Sundeep Keswani**, whose research focuses on wound healing, will add another facet to these innovations born at Texas Children's.

In addition to its traditional residency training programs, the division also offers clinical and research fellowships in clinical surgery, oncologic cell biology, fetal therapy, and wound healing. In short, the Division of Pediatric Surgery exhibits excellence in all dimensions.

Division of Plastic Photo by Agapito Sanchez

Top Press Ganey Scores Reflect Remarkable Dedication to Patient Service

Surgeons in the Division of Plastic Surgery combine the science of medicine with the art of plastic surgery at the Center for Aesthetic Surgery, Ben Taub Hospital, Houston Methodist Hospital, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Texas Children's Hospital. **Dr. Larry H. Hollier** leads a team of 10 surgeons who perform a wide variety of reconstructive and other plastic surgery procedures on patients of all ages.

At Texas Children's, a multidisciplinary team of otolaryngologists, dermatologists, radiologists, neurosurgeons, speech therapists, and genetic counselors provide specialized care in the treatment and surgical correction of craniofacial abnormalities, cleft lip and palate, and other complex and common congenital abnormalities.

At the Center for Aesthetic Surgery, an ultra-modern facility fully equipped to support state-of-the-art surgical techniques and surgical care, faculty surgeons led by **Dr. Shayan Izaddoost** address the cosmetic and reconstructive surgery needs of hundreds of adult patients each year.

The division has repeatedly earned top honors in Press Ganey scoring for patient service, reflective of a true commitment to patient care.

Research in the division focuses on improving the care of patients with tissue injuries and congenital deficiencies, including studies evaluating the biologic response to resorbable plate and screw fixation. The division is currently leading a large-scale study of outcomes in pediatric craniofacial surgery. Another large, multicenter trial led by assistant professor **Dr. Rodger H. Brown** seeks to determine the proper role of peri-operative antibiotics in breast surgery.

The six-year, multi-institutional Plastic Surgery Integrated Residency Program is one of the highest ranked programs in the country, and one of the oldest in the US. An associated Pediatric Plastic Surgery Fellowship Program offers advanced training in craniofacial surgery and other procedures specific to this population.

Division of Surgical Oncology Surgical oncology chief Dr. Steven Curley Photo by Agapito Sanchez

Achieving NCI Designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center

Comprehensive Cancer Center designation is a rare honor – earned by only 45 centers nationally. The Division of Surgical Oncology under the leadership of **Dr. Steven A. Curley**, in collaboration with partners across Baylor at the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center, joined these esteemed ranks for the first time in 2015. This designation recognizes, in part, the broad array of expertise in surgical oncology now offered by division faculty, including treatments for soft tissue, gastrointestinal, breast, skin, and endocrine cancers.

In addition to having extremely busy, highly specialized programs in liver, pancreatic, and colorectal cancer, led respectively by Drs. Steven Curley, William E. Fisher, and Avo Artinyan, the division this past year saw the launch of new sarcoma and melanoma programs under the supervision of associate professor Dr. Eugene A. Choi, a former trainee of Dr. Curley, who was recently recruited from the University of Chicago. Dr. Choi is partnering with UPMC graduate Dr. George Van Buren II to expand our Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemoperfusion (HIPEC) program, now being applied also by oncologists in the Division of General Thoracic Surgery. Robotic and transanal endoscopic microsurgery procedures pioneered at Baylor by Drs. Fisher, Artinyan and Van Buren are likewise being advanced in a growing list of advanced oncologic applications.

To meet the needs of a growing program, our surgical oncology team was joined this year by assistant professors **Dr. Hop S. Tran Cao** and **Dr. Cary Hsu**, who add greater depth to very busy oncology teams led by **Dr. Christy Chai** and **Dr. Nader Massarweh** at the MEDVAMC and **Dr. Eric J. Silberfein** at Ben Taub Hospital. Whether new or existing, all faculty members are extensively engaged in clinical research aided by a growing list of cross-campus clinical databases.

Translation research in the division is highlighted by innovations in the Electromagnetic Field & Nanomaterials Research Laboratory of Dr. Steven Curley, which is led by PhDs **Dr. Stuart Corr** and **Dr. Rita Serda**. Supported by a \$9 million grant to Dr. Curley from NeoTherma Oncology, Inc., these investigators are identifying new ways of treating liver and other cancers with novel radiofrequency ablation techniques augmented by nanoparticle delivery strategies— truly the exemplar of cutting edge research (*see page 12*).

Division of Surgical Researc \$3.1 Min NIH funding

Leading the Charge to NIH Top 40 Status

The Division of Surgical Research (DSR), led by division chief **Dr. Changyi Johnny Chen** and vice-chair for research **Dr. Scott A. LeMaire**, includes 14 primary (PhD) and 14 joint faculty members primarily focused on basic and translational research. The mission of the division is to promote the development and growth of highly successful research programs by providing a supportive environment for investigators. Division PhD scientists work together with surgeons to investigate molecular mechanisms of surgical diseases and to develop new strategies for the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases, such as pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, aortic aneurysms and dissection, heart failure, mesothelioma, and neuroblastoma.

The division benefits from resources that include well-established human tissue banks, a wide variety of clinically relevant animal models, molecular biology and nanotechnology expertise, and integrative imaging. The DSR promotes scientific discussions and extensive collaborations through regular seminar series and grant review sessions, provides advice and technical assistance in conducting experimental studies, supports core utilization of equipment and resources, and sponsors the development of joint research projects, grants, and publications.

Joining its many other highly productive researchers, the division recently welcomed associate professor **Dr. Rita Serda**, assistant professor **Dr. Stuart Corr**, and assistant professor **Dr. Jian-Ming Lu**. Dr. Serda and Dr. Corr work together in using nanotechnology and radio waves to drive the accumulation of therapeutics at sites of pathology with the major goal of stimulating anticancer immune responses. Dr. Lu's research focuses on the delivery of nanoparticlegene/drug complexes targeted to cancer and vascular cells with antibodies or other specific proteins conjugated to PLGA-based nanoparticles.

Exemplifying the success of DSR scientists, special kudos go to longstanding DSR member **Dr. Qizhi Cathy Yao**, who received a 5-year NIH R01 grant award for her studies of pancreatic cancer (*see page 13*), and who also received the Barry Stephen Smith Memorial Pancreatic Cancer Award from the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center for her pre-clinical study of pancreatic cancer immunotherapy.

Vascular surgery chief Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr.

Building a Limb Salvage Program for Texas and Beyond

The Division of Vascular Surgery & Endovascular Therapy this past year welcomed world-renowned vascular surgeon **Dr. Joseph L. Mills Sr.** as its new chief. Among his many achievements, Dr. Mills has served as president of the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery, director and immediate past chair of the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery, and is currently a member of the Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Surgery. He is co-editor of the prestigious "Rutherford's Vascular Surgery" (7th and 8th editions), the "go-to" textbook for vascular surgery.

Before coming to Baylor, Dr. Mills served as chief of the vascular surgery program at the University of Arizona (1994-2015), where he founded and co-directed the widely acclaimed Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance (SALSA). Based upon this experience, Dr. Mills is building at Baylor a state-of-the-art **Limb Salvage Service** that will seamlessly integrate vascular surgery and podiatry in both outpatient and inpatient settings, with the goal of reducing amputations in patients with peripheral artery disease and diabetes.

With eight full-time faculty surgeons working across the Texas Medical Center, the division offers a full array of minimally invasive endovascular interventions as well as traditional open surgical procedures ranging from a new fenestrated aortic graft program to treatment for complex vascular trauma. As a foundation for its new programs, the division's peripheral vascular lab was recently accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). IAC accreditation is a "seal of approval" that patients can rely on as an indication that the facility has been carefully critiqued on all aspects of its operations considered relevant by medical experts in the field

To support its robust existing clinical and research programs, the division looks forward to welcoming **Dr. Bijan Najafi** to its research team. With multiple NIH and SBIR research grants, Dr. Nijafi will bring new expertise in diagnosing and treating gait and motor dysfunction, delivered to patients through highly innovative and entrepreneurial development

The two-year, ACGME-accredited Vascular Surgery Residency Program at Baylor has remained one of the premier vascular surgery training programs in the country since its establishment by Dr. Michael E. DeBakey and Dr. E. Stanley Crawford in 1970. To better meet the training needs of modern-day vascular surgery, a new "0-5" track has been submitted for approval to RRC with an anticipated start date of July 2016.

Programs in Education Michael E. DeBakey Summer Surgery students class of 2015

Undergraduate Medical Education Programs

A core mission of the department is to inspire and train the next generation of surgeons by providing medical students with broad exposure and experience that meets core surgical competencies in both surgical knowledge and skills. Under the direction of clerkship director Dr. Juliet Holder-Haynes, associate program director Dr. Bindi Naik-Mathuria, assistant program director Dr. Stephanie Gordy and academic coordinator Ashley Crummedyo, our faculty are actively involved in all educational aspects of our medical student programs, including an eightweek core surgery clerkship rotation for third-year medical students and surgery electives for fourth-year medical students from Baylor and other schools. New additions to our curriculum include small group didactic sessions, sim lab training sessions, end-of-rotation oral exams to enhance eligibility for honors grades, weekly bedside Chairman's Rounds, and an informal monthly "coffee club" meeting with the chairman.

In addition, we have recently expanded our medical student surgical electives to include cardiovascular surgery, vascular surgery, adult cardiac surgery, general thoracic surgery, and surgical oncology at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center; congenital cardiac surgery at Texas Children's Hospital; adult cardiac surgery at Ben Taub Hospital; and Surgical Intensive Care Unit at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC).

Michael E. DeBakey Summer Surgery Program

The Michael E. DeBakey Summer Surgery Program encourages highly accomplished undergraduate students chosen from a national pool of candidates to pursue a medical career by allowing them to work side by side with medical students, residents, faculty, and healthcare staff in a hospital environment.

Program director **Dr. Shayan Izaddoost** and academic coordinator Ashley Crummedyo have taken this venerated program to even greater heights. This past summer, the program committee selected 15 of 170 applicants from across the nation to participate in an eight-week program of "hands-on" clinical activities, faculty mentorship, and lectures. The program culminated with a memorable "Last Swan Song" event in which students presented their experiences to a departmental audience.



Our department is privileged to train over 100 residents and fellows annually in seven residency programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education: general surgery, thoracic surgery, vascular surgery, congenital cardiac surgery, plastic surgery, pediatric surgery, and surgical critical care. Our department also offers nearly half a dozen non-ACGME fellowships approved by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and provides additional training in specific areas of surgical interest such as aortic surgery, pediatric plastic surgery, and liver and kidney transplantation.

The number and qualifications of the over 4,000 applicants to our programs increase every year, a positive reflection of the strength of our training. This past year, the board scores of our incoming residents were in the top 15% nationally, and the in-service exam scores of our junior residents were the highest ever recorded for our program.

In addition to the outstanding commitment and qualifications of our trainees, much of the credit for the educational successes goes to our outstanding vice chair for education and general surgery program director Dr. Bradford G. Scott, general surgery associate program director **Dr. Eric J. Silberfein**, and lead academic coordinator **Sydney Webster**, who work together with our tremendous faculty, faculty education leadership, and administrative team leader Holly Church Shilstone. New programs instituted by this team and other department leaders include a sim lab, research training curriculum, and a global health initiative.

In collaboration with the College, we have also developed an ombudsman program to aid trainee feedback to program leadership. Our new wellness program coordinated by residents and faculty representatives featured our first faculty-resident kickball game, led by Dr. George Van Buren II and Dr. R. Mario Vera. This past year, we held our Second Annual Surgical Jeopardy competition for faculty and residents, and our Second Annual Sim Lab Skills Olympics.

Our specialty residency training programs are also thriving. This year, the number of applications to the thoracic surgery residency program increased by 75 % and the number of applicants interviewed from top medical schools doubled. Our surgical critical care residency program received twice as many applications and the vascular surgery residency program will be expanded with an integrated ("0-5") slot in 2016.



A Modern Facility for a State-of-the-Art Program

In 2014, we opened the doors to a beautiful new \$2 million **Baylor College of Medicine Simulation Center**, hosted by the Department of Surgery as a core resource for the entire College. The renovated Sim Center is used by members of a number of Baylor clinical departments, including surgery, medicine, anesthesiology, and orthopedics. Built adjacent to and incorporating the historic "DeBakey Labs" in the main College building, the Sim Center features a wide variety of state-of-the-art computerized surgical simulators, a series of basic skills trainers, three fullyequipped operating rooms, and one imaging room with fluoroscopic imaging capabilities. The center also incorporates a classroom setting with high quality audio visual equipment and two-way conferencing capability for didactic and conference needs.

Sim Center director **Dr. Avo Artinyan** and assistant director **Deborah J. Taylor** lead and oversee this comprehensive resource for surgical education. The Center provides training for residents and fellows in standard and minimally invasive surgical techniques, training for medical students on the basics of knot tying and suturing, continuing medical education (CME) for practicing surgeons, and support to the biomedical industry as a core laboratory.

The Sim Center program carries on the decades-long history of the DeBakey Labs, which through the years have yielded life-saving medical devices, including the artificial heart, ventricular assist devices, and autologous blood salvage.

Accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, the laboratories continue to serve as a site for preclinical studies and post-approval training in new surgical techniques.



A Multipurpose Support Team Fostering a Growing Clinical Research Portfolio

The Surgical Research Core, led by Dr. Barbara W. Trautner and vice chair for research Dr. Scott A. LeMaire, includes a cadre of nearly 20 team members, including clinical trial coordinators, grant managers, database experts, a biostatistician, a medical writer and editor, and a medical illustrator. The core team serves all faculty members, trainees, and students in the Department of Surgery and their collaborators. This comprehensive clinical trial management service achieves efficiency through direct one-on-one contact with researchers, providing support for grant submission, clinical trial start up and management, and eventually manuscript preparation and submission.

As a result of this collaborative effort, the number of clinical trials under management by the Core has increased from 4 last year to 18 current active clinical studies (and an additional 12 in start-up). Our NIH funding has likewise increased by 250% in the past year (from \$1.2 to \$3.1 million), placing us in a predicted top 40 rank among surgery departments. Our total extramural research funding has increased from \$4 million in 2013 to \$8.6 million in 2015, achieved through a total of \$39 million in grant submissions to the NIH, DoD, AHRQ, CPRIT, and multiple foundations in 2014.



Publications & Honors

In the past year the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery faculty members and trainees published over 350 scientific articles and book chapters. Highlights of these accomplishments are provided below.

Publication Highlights

Single- vs double-lung transplantation in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis since the implementation of lung allocation based on medical need.

Schaffer JM, Singh SK, Reitz BA, Zamanian RT, Mallidi HR. *JAMA* 2015; 313: 936-948.

A comparison of single- vs double-lung transplantation outcomes observed between 2005 and 2012 showed that double-lung transplantation was associated with better graft survival than single-lung transplantation in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and with no survival differences in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at 5 years.

Transcatheter aortic-valve replacement with a self-expanding prosthesis.

Adams DH, Popma JJ, Reardon MJ, Yakubov SJ, Coselli JS, ; U.S. CoreValve Clinical Investigators et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2014 May (19):1790-8.

This study showed that in patients with severe aortic stenosis who are at increased surgical risk, transcatheter aortic-valve replacement (TAVR) with a self-expanding transcatheter aortic-valve bioprosthesis was associated with a significantly higher rate of survival at 1 year than surgical aortic-valve replacement.

A randomized prospective multicenter trial of pancreaticoduodenectomy with and without routine intraperitoneal drainage.

Van Buren G II, Bloomston M, Hughes SJ, Winter J, Behrman SW, Zyromski NJ, Vollmer C, Velanovich V, Riall T, Muscarella P, Trevino J, Nakeeb A, Schmidt CM, Behrns K, Ellison EC, Barakat O, Perry KA, Drebin J, House M, Abdel-Misih S, Silberfein EJ, Goldin S, Brown K, Mohammed S, Hodges SE, McElhany A, Issazadeh M, Jo E, Mo Q, Fisher WE. *Ann Surg* 2014,259:605-612.

This multicenter clinical trial produced level 1 data showing that the elimination of intraperitoneal drainage in all cases of pancreaticoduodenectomy increases the frequency and severity of complications.

Major Funding

PI: **Dr. Steven A. Curley** "Basic and preclinical studies supporting kanzius radiofrequency (RF) field treatment of malignant solid tumors: basic science and preclinical data to support human clinical trials," \$3,252,972 (NeoTherma Oncology Inc.)

PI: **Dr. Steven A. Curley** "Targeted nanoparticles and Kanzius RF field treatment of pancreas and liver cancer," \$1,981,341 (Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation)

PI: **Dr. Scott A. LeMaire** "Targeting the inflammasome to prevent thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections," \$396,250 (National Institutes of Health)

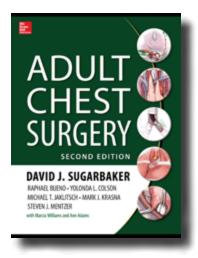
PI: **Dr. William E. Fisher** "Building a Pancreas Surgery Consortium via RCT of Drain Placement," \$217,938 (National Institutes of Health)

PI: **Dr. Todd K. Rosengart** "*In situ* cardiac infarct cellular reprogramming," \$681,002 (National Institutes of Health)

PI: **Dr. Kaiyi Li** "Characterization and targeting BRIT1 deficiency in breast cancer," \$324,738 (National Institutes of Health)

PI: **Dr. Qizhi Cathy Yao** "A novel miR-198 replacement therapy for pancreatic cancer," \$393,627 (National Institutes of Health)

Published Textbooks



Sugarbaker D, Bueno R, Colson YL, Jacklitsch M, Krasna M, Mentzer SJ. Adult Chest Surgery, Second Edition. Second Ed, McGraw-Hill Education / Medical; 2015 January 12, 2015.



Kibbe MR, **LeMaire SA** (Eds.). Success in Academic Surgery: Basic Science. Springer, 2014

Honors & Awards

Faculty

Avo Artinyan, MD, MS: Fellow, American Surgical Association

Neal R. Barshes, MD, MPH: Society for Vascular Surgery EJ Wylie Fellowship (Mentor: J. Mills Sr., MD)

Faisal G. Bakaeen, MD: 2014 TSFRE Alley-Sheridan Scholarship Chair of the Surgical Quality Data Use Group (SQDUG) within the National Surgery Office

David H. Berger, MD, MHCM: Editor-in-Chief, Perioperative Care & Operating Room Management

Bryan Burt, MD: American College of Surgeons Franklin Martin Faculty Research Fellowship Fellow, American Surgical Association

Mary L. Brandt, MD: Distinguished honoree at the Hearts of Gold Gala: Honoring Women in Health & Medical Science Elected member of the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors Committee on Surgical Volunteerism and Humanitarian Awards **William E. Cohn, MD:** Innovations in Cardiovascular Interventions Best Start-Up Award

Joseph S. Coselli, MD: President, American Association for Thoracic Surgery Inaugural TSRA Travel Fellowship Mentor (A. Jassar, MD)

Steven A. Curley, MD: Chief, Oncology Service Line for CHI St. Luke's Health

John A. Goss, MD: Baylor College of Medicine Master Clinician Award George P. Noon Faculty Professionalism Award

Shayan Izaddoost, MD, PhD: Fellow, American College of Surgeons

Peter Jindra, PhD: Chair, American Society of Transplantation, Community of Practice Committee

Ronald H. Kerman, PhD: Fellow, American Society of Transplantation



At the Alumni Symposium & 20th Congress of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society, former Vice President Dick Cheney is interviewed by Dr. Todd K. Rosengart.

Photo by Margi Levin

Panagiotis Kougias, MD: Baylor College of Medicine Rising Star Clinician Award

Scott A. LeMaire, MD: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Surgical Research*Michael E. DeBakey, MD, Excellence in Research Award

Kenneth L. Mattox, MD: Second Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons Kenneth L. Mattox International Lectureship and Scholarship

Mónica E. López, MD: Healthcare Informatics Innovator Award

E. Dean McKenzie, MD: Fellow, American College of Surgeons

Allen L. Milewicz, MD: Chief Surgical Officer, Texas Children's Hospital West Campus

Bindi J. Naik-Mathuria, MD: Fellow, American Surgical Association

George P. Noon, MD: Roy M. Huffington Award for Excellence 2014 Ben and Margaret Love Foundation Bobby Alford Award for Academic Clinical Professionalism

Oluyinka O. Olutoye, MD, PhD: Fellow, American Society of Transplantation

Ourania Preventza, MD: 2014 TSFRE Alley-Sheridan Scholarship Fellow, American College of Surgeons

Todd K. Rosengart, MD: Chairman, Baylor-UT Affiliated Medical Service Vice-Chair, Baylor Faculty Group Practice Committee

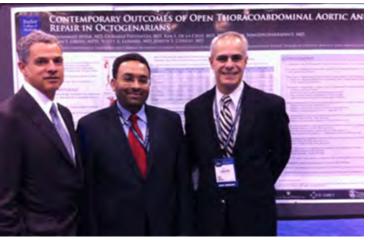
Bradford G. Scott, MD: Clinical Faculty of the Quarter, Baylor College of Medicine Elected to Baylor's Graduate Medical Education Executive Committee

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Rita Serda, PhD: Academic Director of the Advanced Technology Core



Dr. Joseph S. Coselli (left), with Dr. Joseph A. Dearani, chair of Cardiovascular Surgery at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Coselli was the 25th John W. Kirklin Visiting Professor in Cardiac Surgery and Related Problems at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.







Hu Ying Shen, MD, PhD: American Heart Association Summer 2014 Grant-in-Aid

Eric J. Silberfein, MD: Association for Surgical Education Phillip J. Wolfson Award

Vivek P. Singh, PhD: Outstanding New Investigator Award, Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2014 Scientific Sessions, American Heart Association American Heart Association's Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences BCVS Abstract Travel Grant

James W. Suliburk, MD: Editor, American College of Surgeons Young Fellows Community Moore Foundation Patient and Family Engagement Early Career Investigator Award by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Norman L. Sussman, MD: Inaugural Fellow, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease

S. Rob Todd, MD: Fellow, American Surgical Association

Peter I. Tsai, MD: American College of Surgeons Scholarships Committee Editorial board, Journal of Surgical Research 2014 TSFRE Alley-Sheridan Scholarship Baylor Rising Star Clinician Award

Sanjeev A. Vasudevan, MD: Editorial board, Scientific Reports

Matthew J. Wall Jr., MD: DeBakey Distinguished Service Award Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award

George Van Buren II, MD: Fellow, American Surgical Association

Honors & Awards

Residents, Fellows, and Students

Paulette Abbas, MD: Best Poster Award, Sixth Annual Texas Children's Surgical Research Day (Mentors: D. Cass, MD; O. Olutoye, MD, PhD; and M. López, MD)

Adesola C. Akinkuotu, MD: Best Oral Presentation, Sixth Annual Texas Children's Surgical Research Day (Mentors: D. Cass, MD; O. Olutoye, MD, PhD; and M. López, MD)

Award, Adult Cardiac Surgery Section, 2014 American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) 94th Annual Meeting

Jennifer Carpenter, MD: Association of Academic Surgeons Travel Award (Mentor: M. Brandt, MD)

Anand V. Ganapathy: Travel Scholarship to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery. (Mentors: R. Gilani, MD and H. Mallidi, MD)

Ricky Haywood-Watson II, MD, PhD: Society of Thoracic Surgeons Looking to the Future Scholarship (Mentor: D. Sugarbaker, MD)

Jason Ho, MD: T32 fellowship (Mentor: S. Curley, MD)

Michael S. Hughes: Third place, Outstanding Poster Presentation at the 56th Annual National Student Research Forum (Mentors: H. Shen, MD, PhD and S. LeMaire, MD)

Irene T. Ma, MD: Second place, Commission on Cancer National Paper Competition (Mentor: S. Vasudevan, MD)

Meredith C. Mason, MD: Third place, Best Oral Presentation; South Texas ACS Chapter (Mentor: D. Anaya, MD)

Somala Mohammed, MD: American Association for Cancer Research Scholar-In-Training Award (Mentor: D. Anaya, MD)

Sonia T. Orcutt, MD: Raleigh R. Ross Texas Surgical Society Scholarship

Vivekkumar B. Patel, MD: First place Best Oral Presentation; S. Texas ACS Chapter (Mentor: T. Rosengart, MD) Best Poster, 2015 CVRI Symposium (Mentor: T. Rosengart, MD)

Celia Robinson, MD: Second place, Resident Muhammad Aftab, MD: Resident Research Poster Award Poster Presentation at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Surgical Infection Society (SIS)

> Yesenia Rojas, MD: Best of International Society of Pediatric Surgical Oncology (IPSO) session (Mentor: J. Nuchtern, MD)

> Brandi B. Scully, MD, MS: Women in Thoracic Surgery Scholarship (Mentor: S. LeMaire, MD)

Fariha Sheikh, MD: Starr Poster Resident Award, Association of Women Surgeons (Mentor: O. Olutoye, MD)

Yan Shi, MD: Best Oral Presentation, IPSO/ SIOP Congress (Mentor: S. Vasudevan, MD) Samuel Stal Research Award for outstanding research by a resident or fellow, Sixth Annual Texas Children's Surgical Research Day (Mentors: J. Nuchtern, MD and S. Vasudevan, MD)

Darrell Wu, MD: Finalist, C. Walton Lillehei Resident Award 2014 American Association for Thoracic Surgery, 94th Annual Meeting

Nader Zamani, MD: Travel Scholarship, Society for Vascular Surgery to attend the 2015 Vascular Annual Meeting

Yanqiu (Yan) Zheng, MD: American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Outstanding Poster Award at the 56th Annual National Student Research Forum (Mentors: H. Shen, MD, PhD and S. LeMaire, MD)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

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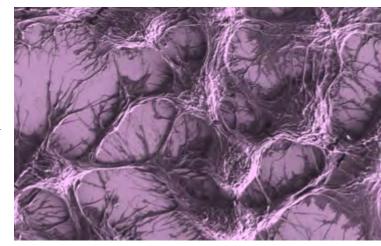
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Book Chapters

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