Chair's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an eventful several months as you will see in this edition of the Department of Surgery newsletter. Having just completed my first three years as Chair and Program Director I would like to thank you for your support of the department. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of the department leadership and staff without whom we could not have accomplished what we have in three years. The phrase “It takes a village” from an African proverb is applicable to running a department and its training programs. What many don’t realize is that our department works with the collaboration and collegiality of staff from the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University Health Partners of Hawai‘i, and Hawai‘i Residency Programs…on any given day, staff from all three work together in support of all of our activities!

We had another very successful match and look forward to working with our outstanding incoming class of surgery trainees in general surgery, orthopedic surgery, and surgical critical care. Our graduating residents and fellows continue to do exceedingly well after training whether entering practice or pursuing post-training specialty fellowships. The advent of a new academic year is also associated with some exciting new leadership appointments. Dr. Russell Woo was named Associate Chair for Research and has already done an outstanding job developing a research curriculum to foster more academic production. Dr. Chad Cryer is our new clerkship director for the medical students and will be assisted by Dr. Stacey Woodruff. Dr. Dean Mikami became an Associate Program Director last year and helped us achieve a 100% pass rate on the newly required Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery curriculum. Dr. Lorin Lee was selected to be an Associate Program Director for the Orthopaedic Surgery training program and has already made an impact. Dr. Danny Takanishi is now Associate Chair for Academic Affairs and will be instrumental in advancing our faculty development and continuing education programs.

We will again be honoring the memory of “The General,” Dr. Thomas J. Whelan, the longstanding chair of the department who was instrumental in training many of the surgeons practicing in Hawai‘i today. We are fortunate that in early October 2018, Dr. Nathaniel "Nat" Soper will be our 2nd annual Thomas J. Whelan Lecturer. Dr. Soper is currently the Chair of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, and is a past-president of both the SSAT and SAGES. We do hope you can join us for this celebration to honor Dr. Whelan.

In closing, I believe we are a department on the rise and are looking forward to another exciting year. In the words of John F. Kennedy, “Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.” We are trying and beginning to accomplish…Kenric Murayama

Please feel free to contact me at any time at (808)586-8225 or kenricm@hawaii.edu

Check out our web site: http://surgery.jabsom.hawaii.edu You can also contact us at: hawaiisurg@gmail.com
Explanation of “Colorful Nature:"

The colorful painting shown on this page was presented in the previous newsletter and the question was asked “why are there colors in nature and how did they come to be during the course of evolution;” or “what is their impact on the individual? Why colorful plants, flowers and animals even exist since they do not appear to offer any survival advantage?”

It is known that colorful flowers appeared on the planet millions of years before humans did. With their appearance a new dimension, that of beautiful forms, colors and scents, was added to the original prevailing landscape of shades of brown, grey and black. We may speculate that the greatest of all mysteries, “Beauty,” was born with the appearance of the very first colorful flower and plant.

We may also speculate that our apelike hominoid ancestors some 6 million years ago at one point began appreciating the variety of forms, the diversity of colors and the wonderful aroma emanating from the increasing number of flowers. As they progressed on the evolutionary ladder, we may also consider that the fine art of affection and love would have blossomed as men and women picked these flowers and offered them to those they appreciated and loved. In this sense, one may reflect that human affection, compassion and love as well as the art of healing and medicine that stem from these values have good part of their roots in colors because of the beauty they express.

People and poets from all continents including the Pacific islands and Hawaiian islands have been chanting the beauty of colorful flowers as their most profound expression of love and Aloha for centuries. The great American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson had this to say: “Earth laughs in colorful flowers;” and elsewhere: “Flowers are a proud assertion that a ray of Beauty outvalues and overrides all the utilities and all the material possessions of the world (1844).”

Colors have embellished human life for thousands of years as witnessed in the well-known Lascaux caves in southern France and elsewhere. The homo sapiens (Cro-Magnon) who created such colorful artworks also were major advocates of love and compassion for future generations. Surgery should also be viewed as well as enjoyed as a most highly refined form of art that began with beautiful colorful paintings on the walls of caves by our ancestors some 30,000-40,000 years ago.
RESEARCH AND ACADEMICS

By: Russell Woo, M.D., Associate Chair for Research

The academic year 2017-2018 was a productive one for the faculty, residents, and students in the University of Hawai‘i Department of Surgery. This was highlighted by many contributions to the science and practice of surgery. Members of the department authored over 26 manuscripts in peer reviewed journals and presented at multiple regional, national and international conferences.

In support of these efforts, the department has continued its monthly research meetings. This remains a forum where surgeons can share and discuss research ideas and foster collaboration. In June, we were privileged to have members representing multiple IRBs across the state of Hawaii participate in an in-depth question and answer session. Earlier in the year, Dr. Chad Walton from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Hawai‘i spoke to the group about available resources to assist with research funding.

As we embark on the new academic year, we are excited to launch a year-long educational curriculum for all general surgery residents aimed at providing practical education on the fundamentals of hypothesis driven biomedical research. Dr. Linda Wong will be delivering the first lecture entitled “Why do Research?” The research curriculum will be coordinated with a structured research requirement designed to provide residents with a meaningful experience in surgical research.

Additionally, we held an off-site Research Development Retreat on Saturday, July 14th in the afternoon. It was a productive meeting with a lot of discussion and great input from the faculty, residents and students who attended. Goals and expectations for the year were laid out.

One of the outcomes from the meeting was the trial implementation of small working groups by interest or topic. These working groups (or PODS) would meet independently from the monthly research meeting and provide the leaders and other mentors with opportunities to work closely with residents and students with similar interests.

Below is the initial list of groups and their respective leaders.

- Basic Science – Dr. Linda Wong
- Innovation/Tech – Dr. Russell Woo
- Education – Dr. Susan Steinemann
- Administrative Data – Dr. Linda Wong
- QI – Dr. Frank Zhao
- PEDS – Dr. Russell Woo
- MIS/General Surgery – Dr. Dean Mikami
We invite all members of the department to attend both the monthly research meetings as well as the research curriculum lectures. Please contact Lisa Lucas at surgexec@hawaii.edu for information.

More info will be coming out regarding the working groups. If you would like to join one, please contact the leader or Lisa Lucas at (808)586-8225 or at surgexec@hawaii.edu.

We invite all members of the department to attend both the monthly research meetings as well as the research curriculum lectures. Please contact Lisa Lucas at surgexec@hawaii.edu for information.

Sincerely, Russell Woo MD

A research development retreat was held at Dr. Murayama’s home on July 14, 2018. He and Dr. Woo met with a number of faulty, residents, and upper level medical students to obtain input on formalizing a plan for the department’s research efforts.
GRADUATION SPEAKER

JABSOM (’82) and HRP alumnus Dr. Eric Matayoshi was the invited guest speaker at this year’s general surgery residency graduation. After retiring from a successful career at Kaiser, Dr. Matayoshi became the Chair of Surgery at the Digestive Disease Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

In addition to presenting at Grand Rounds, Dr. Matayoshi also shared his wisdom with the residents, faculty, and guests on June 16, 2018 at the Mid-Pacific Country Club. Echoing the famous poem by Robert Frost, Dr. Matayoshi shared ten pearls of wisdom that could lead anyone (surgeon or not) to a healthier work-life balance.

The Road Not Taken - A Life in General Surgery

(Observations from two decades as a chief of surgery

Much is made about the road taken or not taken in life. Decisions that impact the direction of one’s career and life experiences. The most successful surgeons are the ones who are offered the most opportunities, those who have a greater variety of options and flexibility in their lives. It isn’t so much the fork in the road that one takes, but the number of forks in the road that drives satisfaction and happiness in your career. And once you take it, excel in it. There are more forks to come.

1. Find the subspecialty you like and focus on excellence

Don’t be distracted. No matter how good or how bad a situation appears, avoid the drama around you. Stay focused on your career choice and perform your best. Those who rise above expectations are noticed, appreciated, and rewarded.

2. Surround yourself with good people

Negativity is a drag on performance. The best and the brightest tend to find solutions to problems, see opportunity instead of problems, and success in life and relationships. Find people with good ethics, honor and behavior. It rubs off.

3. Find a mentor

We all need role models. Especially when times are tough.

4. When you need it, ask for advice or help. It's not a sign of weakness

Surgery is tough. Life can be tough. Don’t go through it alone. Collaboration will save you from a lot of heartache.

5. Be patient

Life is a journey. No matter what you have, you will always want more. Try to make each year better than the one before. Set reasonable goals and expectations. A strong and steady pace will win the day.
6. **Beware of debt**
   Nothing is a bigger anchor in life than debt. Keep it reasonable.

7. **Take frequent breaks – and turn off the e-mail**
   Do it more than once a year.

8. **Keep your friends close, and your family closer**
   The one fork in the road that I would change is the one that gives me more time with family.

9. **Travel**
   It will make you a better person and a better doctor.

10. **Be nice, even if it hurts**
    Especially at times of severe stress and pressure. Understanding, generosity, and kindness. It is often the difference between a good outcome and a bad one.

Best of luck to all of you.

A special thank you to the Robert T. Wong Lectureship Fund for supporting Dr. Matayoshi’s visit.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FACULTY MEETING - Sept. 17, 2018 & Oct. 18, 2018, 5:30PM - 6:30PM
Queen's University Tower, Room 618
FOR COMPENSATED AND NON-COMPENSATED FACULTY

RESEARCH MEETING - August 16, 2018, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Queen's University Tower, Room 618

6th Cross Cultural Health Care Conference

Visit: cchc-conference.jabsom.hawaii.edu for additional information including:

- Online Registration
- Conference Schedule
- Speaker Bios
- Poster Presentations

Early Bird Registration ends on October 31, 2018

Surgical Innovation, Technology and Education Symposium

Friday, Feb. 1 and Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019
Hyatt Regency Waikiki
Honolulu, HI

Hot Topics
Minimally Invasive Management of Acute Surgical Disease
New Technologies in Minimally Invasive Surgery
Healthcare Economics
Leadership in Surgery
Innovative Nursing Solutions

More details to come.
ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

DEADLINE FOR NON-COMPENSATED FACULTY PROMOTION APPLICATIONS -- NOVEMBER 30, 2018

Non-compensated faculty interested in applying for promotion, please submit the following to Alison Romero (aromero@ucera.org) by Friday, November 30, 2018:

- Letter of intent (addressed to Dr. Murayama);
- Latest cv listing the areas of teaching, research, service, etc. (see link to M-Series criteria below);
- Recommendation letters (minimum of three) addressed to Dr. Murayama. (The signed letters can be emailed to aromero@ucera.org or sent via U.S. Mail to UHM Dept. of Surgery, 1356 Lusitana Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813; attn: Alison).

For information on the minimum qualifications for each rank, please see the link below: JABSOM M-Series Criteria:


The Departmental Personnel Committee (DPC) will review all complete applications and provide its recommendation to the Department Chair. The Department Chair’s recommendation is then submitted to the Dean for his review and approval. You should receive notification of the outcome no later than July 1, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Danny Takanishi (dtakanis@hawaii.edu) or Dr. Maria Chun (mariachu@hawaii.edu)

WHELAN LECTURER

SPEAKER: Nathaniel J. Soper, M.D., FACS
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

DATE: October 12, 2018 - 7:00 am to 8:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Queen's University Tower, Room 618

Nathaniel J. Soper graduated from the University of Iowa School of Medicine and completed a residency in general surgery, including a year of laboratory investigation under the mentorship of Layton F. Rikkers, at the University of Utah Hospitals. Dr. Soper then spent two years as an NIH-funded fellow at the Digestive Disease Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, mentored by Keith Kelly and Michael Sarr. He joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in 1988, and rose to the rank of Professor of Surgery. Dr. Soper was a staff surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Washington University. Dr. Soper was Director of the Washington University Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, an industry-funded multi-disciplinary group. In December 2003, Dr. Soper became Professor of Surgery, Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs and Director of MIS at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He was named Interim Chair and Residency Program Director for General Surgery in 2006. On July 1, 2007 he was appointed the Loyal and Edith Davis Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University and Surgeon-in-Chief at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. In 2011 he relinquished the program directorship, but continues to be active academically and clinically, with a robust practice in advanced minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Soper's research interests have revolved around the applications of MIS for gastrointestinal disease, gallstones and benign esophageal disorders, as well as ultrasound and motility of the gastrointestinal tract. He has published more than 200 manuscripts, edited 17 textbooks and authored more than 100 book chapters. He serves on a number of editorial boards, is a member of numerous professional societies, and is immediate Past-President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and its current Chair of the Board. Dr. Soper is also Past-President of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the International Society of Digestive Surgery, the Central Surgical Association and the St. Louis Surgical Society.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS RECEPTION - BOSTON, MA

DATE: October 22, 2018
TIME: 6 PM - 8 PM
LOCATION: The Barking Crab (88 Sleeper St., Boston, MA)
Searching for professional development opportunities, ways to become more involved, or just needing information on where to go? Visit JABSOM’s Office of Faculty Affairs helpful Web site compiled by Lori Emery. (http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/faculty/facdev/faculty-handbook/)

**Under Faculty Development Resources, you’ll find:**

Teaching/Educational Skills Development Resources  
Research/Scholarly Skills Development Resources  
Clinical Skills Development Resources  
New Faculty Orientation  
Useful Links to Get Started at JABSOM Useful Links to Get Started at UH  
UH Faculty Policies and Procedures  
Service – Opportunities to Get Involved  
Honors and Awards

**Under Useful Links, you'll find:**

Medical Professional Links  
Research Professional Links  
Related Sites  
Academic Resources  
Resources for New Medical Faculty  
Resources for Balancing Professional and Personal Lives

Soon to be updated with this year’s information, there is also a helpful page on JABSOM Promotion & Tenure Information/Resources.(http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/faculty/facdev/appt-promo-tenure/)
RECENT HAPPENINGS

Dr. Peter Halford, the very first general surgery resident from our program, kindly hosted a welcome picnic at his home for our residents.
Meet Nicole Stenstrom, our Clerkship Coordinator for the department.

Years in the Department:  Started on August 14, 2017

Grad From:  Kalani High School

First Job:  Consolidated Theatres Koko Marina 8

Interests:  I enjoy cooking, baking, and going to the beach.

Fun Fact:  I go diving for shells to make ocean inspired jewelry.
Surgery – The Surgery Graduation Program took place on June 16 at the Mid-Pacific Country Club in the Kaohao Ballroom. The house was full! JABSOM and UH Surgical Residency Program alumnus Eric Z. Matayoshi, MD, FACS was invited by Dr. Murayama to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony and to do a Department Grand Rounds as the Robert T. Wong Visiting Professor (Topic: Innovation, Technology and Surgery – 2018). Dr. Matayoshi is the Department Chair, General Surgery Digestive Disease Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi. Dr. Matayoshi was accompanied by his wife Dr. Aleza Matayoshi who is also a JABSOM graduate and did her internal medicine residency at the UH Program.

Leonard “Kasey” Welsh and Christina Souther, our 2018 graduates, were the honored guests! Faculty who introduced the “graduates as colleagues” to the local surgical community were Dr. Cedric Lorenzo (Kasey) and Dr. Michael Hayashi (Christina). Kasey has moved to North Carolina to do a Minimally Invasive Surgery Research Fellowship at Duke, which will be followed by a Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship in 2019. Christina has opted to go into practice immediately and is checking out different options. The 2017-2018 graduation awards were presented as follows:

- UH Surgical Residency Program Outstanding Resident – Christina Souther, MD and Kasey Welsh, MD (Co-recipients)
- Resident Teacher of the Year as Selected by the JABSOM Class of 2018 – Yuen-Jing Alexis Chen, MD
- Faculty Teacher of the Year as Selected by the JABSOM Class of 2019 – Chad Cryer, MD
- In-Training Examination (ABSITE) Award – John Vossler, MD
- Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons Resident Achievement Award – Aaron Brown, MD
- UH Department of Surgery Cross-Cultural Healthcare Award – Yuen-Jing Alexis Chen, MD
- Teacher of the Year Award as Selected by the Residents – Dean Mikami, MD, FACS

Yuen-Jing Alexis Chen, MD, University of Oklahoma COM, completed a Preliminary Year with the Residency Program on June 30, 2018. On July 1 she entered the Program as a PGY-1 Categorical Resident having matched with us back in March! Also entering the Program with Alexis were: Matthew Kawahara, MD, JABSOM; Reid Sakamoto, MD, Keck SOM USC; Farris Serio, DO, Touro University; Adam Hernandez, MD, University of South Carolina; and Brett Matoian, MD, University of Colorado SOM; we cordially welcome all of our new residents into the program!

Orthopaedics – The Orthopaedics Graduation Program also took place on June 16 at the Mid-Pacific CC in the Lanikai Room. John Dupaix, MD and Christopher A.K.L. Lau, MD were the 2018 graduates. Dr. Dupaix completed the 6-year program (with a research year between the first and second clinical year) and Dr. Lau completed the 5-year program. Both Chief Residents were acknowledged for their substantial contributions to the training program over the years. John begins his Hand Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Chris begins his Sports Medicine fellowship at the Southern California Orthopaedic Institute. The 2017-18 Orthopaedic Residency Program Awards at the graduation event were:
• Allen B. Richardson Award for Excellence (presented by the Chief Residents) – Patrick C. Murray, MD

• Alan Pavel Outstanding Teacher Award (presented by the Junior Residents) – Jeffery Kimo Harpstrite, MD

• 2016-17 Research Fellow Mariya Opanova, MD and 2017-18 Research Fellow Anne Wright, MD were presented with Certificates of Completion. Both have since returned to clinical training (Mariya PGY4 and Anne PGY3).

The Department extends a warm welcome to the 2018 Orthopaedic residents: Trent Tamate, MD, JABSOM and John Livingstone, MD from Western Michigan U. Homer Stryker SOM. Trent will do the 5-year program and John will do the 6-year research track completing a research fellowship between his second and third years of clinical training.

Surgical Critical Care – Colin Doyle, MD and Stephanie Yan, MD completed the SCC Fellowship in June 2018. Colin has since returned to our surgical residency program as a PGY4 and Stephanie is in the process of finding a practice location.

The 2018-19 Surgical Critical Care Fellows are: Anand C. Patel, MD who completed his surgical residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Program, Jae Won Lee, MD who completed her training at the University of Illinois, COM at Chicago Program; and Fariha Sheikh, MD who completed her training at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Program in New Hampshire.
Jae Won Lee, MD
Anand Patel, MD
Fariha Sheikh, MD

Dr. Murayama with the Chief Residents Christina Souther and L. “Kasey” Welsh on ABSITE Day

Dean Jerris Hedges, Dr. Aleza and Dr. Eric Matayoshi, Dr. and Mrs. Murayama, and Dr. Joey Tadaki

HRP Staff: Lori Bland, Naomi Gagabi, Karen Kurihara and Jamie Castelo

Dr. and Mrs. Atkinson, Dr. Kimo and Dr. Amy Harpstrite and Dr. Paul Ryan (TAMC)

Dr. Stephanie Yan, Dr. Mihae Yu and Mr. Lee Krusa

Dr. David Inouye, Dr. Colin Doyle, Lori Bland and Dr. Yu
Drs. Stephanie Yoshimura, Yuen-Jing Alexis Chen, Christina Souther, Judi Ramiscal and Ashley Marumoto

Chief Residents Christina Souther and L. "Kasey" Welsh

Dr. Murayama and Dr. John Vossler

Dr. Murayama and Dr. Chen

Dr. Murayama and Dr. Aaron Brown

Please send your story ideas to Mike Yamashita at: my7@hawaii.edu
Save the Date  
Friday, October 12, 2018

For the 2018 Thomas J. Whelan Lecture:

Engendering Operative Autonomy Among Surgical Trainees

Nathaniel J. Soper, M.D.  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
Loyal and Edith Davis Professor of Surgery,  
Northwestern  
University Feinberg School of Medicine

7 a.m. to 8 a.m.  
UHM Department of Surgery  
University Tower, Room 618

AND

Whelan Dinner  
6 pm  
Pacific Club

More information and registration coming soon.