



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

THE MISSION OF THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY IS TO PROVIDE A COLLEGIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR EDUCATION, INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PROGRAMS.

Chair's Corner



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to all for the 2019-2020 academic year! I hope you all enjoyed your summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. This will be year five as Chair of the Department of Surgery and while much has been accomplished, there is still much to do. Your partnership and support of the department has been appreciated and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

While there were many notable events last year, one stands out – the retirement of our longtime colleague,

Dr. Peter Halford. Dr. Halford was the first graduate of the University of Hawaii surgery training program under Dr. Thomas Whelan and has been a loyal member of the department. He has been the “surgeon’s surgeon,” the Director of Surgical Education at the Queen’s Medical Center, and a leader in the Queen’s Health System, but he has been much more for those who have followed in his footsteps...mentor, advisor, teacher, confidant, and colleague. Through the years, Peter has been the surgeon many “wanted to grow up to be like”... intelligent, excellent judgment and skill mixed with a healthy dose of common sense and humor. Peter was selected by our graduating Chief Residents to be the graduation speaker and he left us with pearls for success as surgeons...lessons he learned along the way and principles he practiced as one of the most successful surgeons to ever practice in Hawai‘i. Peter has been one of my mentors since I was a medical student and as I have told many, Peter has been my “moral compass” in surgery – not because of all the qualities I have mentioned, but because of his integrity, honesty, and compassion.

Peter has retired from his clinical practice, but we are fortunate that he has agreed to assume the role of Director of the Thomas J. Whelan, Jr. Society. Many of you will remember the gala in 2016 to celebrate Dr. Whelan and some of you became members of the Whelan Society, which we started in an effort to perpetuate the memory of Dr. Whelan’s accomplishments and contributions to surgical care in Hawai‘i. For those who attended the John A. Burns School of Medicine or trained in Hawai‘i in surgery, but are more than one degree separated from Dr. Whelan, you have likely been educated or mentored by one of Dr. Whelan’s “disciples.” Peter will lead the growth and development of the Society and I look forward to working with him in his new role. On September 20, 2019, we welcome Dr. Shanu Kothari, our 3rd Annual Whelan Lecturer, who will give a talk titled, “Surgical Lessons from the Lake.”

In closing, thank you for all of your support of the department and the initiatives we have undertaken. We will be opening our annual internal giving campaign and I encourage you to continue supporting the department with your generosity. As always, feel free to call on me...

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

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

Department of Surgery

Chair:

Kenric Murayama, M.D.

Associate Chairs:

Senior Associate Chair: Linda Wong, M.D.

Clinical Affairs: Mark Mugiishi, M.D.

Administration and Finance: Maria Chun, Ph.D.

Research: Russell Woo, M.D.

Academic Affairs: Danny Takanishi, Jr., M.D.

Division Chiefs:

Anesthesia: Jason Isa, M.D.

Critical Care: Mihae Yu, M.D.

General Surgery: Dean Mikami, M.D.

Emergency Medicine: Gregory Suares, M.D.

Neurosurgery: William Obana, M.D.

Ophthalmology: Malcolm Ing, M.D.

Orthopedics: Robert Atkinson, M.D.

Otolaryngology: Daniel Alam, M.D.

Pediatric Surgery: Walton Shim, M.D.

Plastic Surgery: F. Don Parsa, M.D.

Radiology: Michael Meagher, M.D.

Thoracic/CV: Peter Tsai, M.D.

Transplant: Alan Cheung, M.D.

Urology: D. Gary Lattimer, M.D.

Vascular: Elna Masuda, M.D.

By: F. Don Parsa, M.D., FACS

Subjectivity plays an essential role when viewing a painting and is dependent on the viewer's personal interpretation of the art work. Such an interpretation is enforced by one's knowledge of the artist's secret or obvious motivations of the subject or the combination of both particularly in regards to historic and mythology-related paintings. Some paintings may have a personal, social or political message that may not be obvious to the viewers without further search. Even when a painting's subject and motivations have been fully understood, our impression and/or the intensity of our appreciation derives for a great part from our disposition in general and our mood at the moment. We are quite often influenced by our personal worldviews and biases/prejudices, and therefore our interpretation of a certain painting or for that matter of any artistic presentation may be totally opposite of what the artist had intended. It is an unfortunate common observation that many visitors stroll in the hallways of museums without reflecting on the art works that grace the walls. Therefore a unified consensus cannot exist among viewers of any art work. As an example, the painting "L'Absinthe" by Degas that was viewed in the last newsletter and shown on this page, has different meaning according to the viewer's knowledge of the artist who painted it, the social and political environment when it was painted, and what the painter tried to project on the canvas. In addition, the viewer's mood and impression at the moment are to be taken into account.



To fully understand Degas's "L'Absinthe," (anise-favored alcoholic beverage) one benefits from reading the well-known masterpiece novel "L'Assommoir" by the 19th century French writer Emile Zola combined with some knowledge, albeit rudimentary, of the mid-nineteenth century society of Paris during the early industrial age. The air of "melancholy," dejection, and depressed mood of the subjects on this painting are vividly present on this canvas. The effect of alcoholism on the individual, if not on the society of the 19th century France are suggested by the bar's extremely gloomy atmosphere and the particular selection of colors.

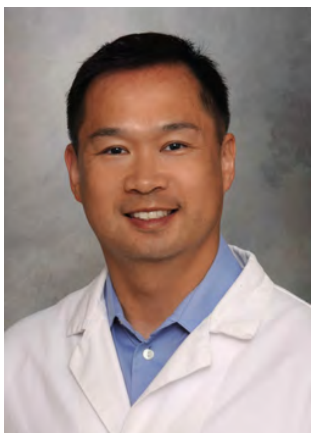
In contrast, the colorful painting, below, reflects the cheerful atmosphere of a surgical operating room as depicted by the beauty and majesty of the Koolaus in the background, and the deep blue ocean in the foreground, with tropical fishes that include several "surgeons fishes" that are swimming peacefully. The atmosphere is cheerful and peaceful. The surgeons are enjoying their work and are not stressed/perturbed by the surface waves (difficulties, unforeseen problems or unexpected complications) as they carry on their work. Such an atmosphere reflects "equanimity," an attribute that was most dear to the Father of Modern Medicine Sir William Osler. According to Osler, equanimity is the disposition of character any surgeon/physician may possess or gain during his/her surgical training years and it goes without saying that all students of surgery must make this as one of their primary goals. This attribute, sought after and refined by surgeons, has been defined as mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situations both in and out of the operating room. Reflecting on "equanimity" allows one to appreciate this painting in a more meaningful manner and understand the underlying motivation of this painting. Otherwise one may simply like the colors, the coral reef and the tropical fishes, or even dislike it thinking that surgeons in an unlikely operating room location is meaningless and silly.

Feel free to contact me if you have any comments: fdparsa@gmail.com

Fereydoun Don Parsa, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery,
Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery.



Surgeons at Work by F. Don Parsa (fdparsa@gmail.com)



By: Russell Woo, M.D., FACS

The new academic year has begun and we are excited to welcome a new group of residents to the University of Hawai'i Department of Surgery. They represent the second class to participate in the UH Surgery Resident Research Program. As the year progresses, they will be speaking with various faculty mentors with the goal of developing their own research interests, skillsets, and projects.

To further support the residents, we will be continuing with the second half of the repeating two-year surgery resident research curriculum. The curriculum began last year as monthly talks given by various faculty and other speakers on topics that ranged from data analysis to public speaking to analyzing a research article. This year we will be expanding the curriculum to include new speakers and topics. Relevant topics will continue to be showcased.

Last academic year, we hosted two mixers with other departments to share what each of us are working on as well as our priorities and interests. Ultimately, we found ways to partner with each other in our research endeavors. We had mixers with Engineering and Public Health. This year, we are looking at inviting other departments throughout the year.

In addition to the Resident Research Program and monthly research conference, we will be organizing two unique events this academic year. In early October 2019, the Department of Surgery and the local chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) will be hosting a research competition that is open to all Hawai'i-based residents and medical students. The program includes presentations, lunch, and an awards ceremony.

An Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) Research Course is also being planned for spring 2020 (or 2021) that would provide an intense, two day course on topics related to academic research that would be open to both faculty and residents. More info will be coming as the committee continues to meet and finalize plans.

If you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings or are interested in becoming involved, please contact Lisa Lucas at 808-586-8225 or surgexec@hawaii.edu.



Ashley Marumoto, MD, presenting her poster at the American Society of Breast Surgeons Annual Meeting on May 2-5, 2019 in Dallas, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS

THOMAS J. WHELAN, JR., M.D. LECTURE AND DINNER will be held this year on September 20, 2019. This year's featured speaker will be Dr. Shanu Kothari, Director of Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery, Gunderson Health System - La Crosse, WI



Dr. Shanu Kothari

Shanu N. Kothari M.D., FACS, FASMBS, is a community surgeon practicing in La Crosse, Wisconsin and an adjunct faculty at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine-Peoria, completed his general surgery residency at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Foundation in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and his fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He established a minimally invasive bariatric surgery program at Gunderson Health System and has served as its Director since 2001. Dr. Kothari also established a Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery and Advanced Laparoscopy Fellowship through the Gunderson Lutheran Medical Foundation in 2003, and has served as the fellowship director since its inception. Dr. Kothari has over 115 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 15 book chapters and has served as the senior editor of a 2011 Surgical Clinics of North America issue dedicated to Metabolic and Bariatric surgery. He is an editor of Obesity Care and Bariatric Surgery, and associate editor of Evidence-Based Approach to Minimally Invasive Surgery and an Associate Editor of Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases.

2019 THOMAS J. WHELAN, JR. M.D. LECTURER

SHANU KOTHARI, MD

*Director of Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery
Gundersen Health System – La Crosse, WI*

‘Surgical Lessons from the Lake’

September 20, 2019 7-8 am

Department of Surgery

The Queen's Medical Center, University Tower, Room 618

Admission free



Whelan Dinner

September 20, 2019 6 pm

3660 on the Rise

\$125 per person

Please register for dinner online at
whelandinner19.eventbrite.com

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the
THOMAS J. WHELAN, JR. MD ENDOWED CHAIR
in the Department of Surgery

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS RECEPTION

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2019

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

LOCATION: COIN-OP (508 4TH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA)

<https://coinopsf.com>

(Please click on above link to go to Coin-Op's website)



THE SOCIETY OF ASIAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS will be holding their annual meeting in Honolulu on Sept. 18-21, 2020.

SAVE THE DATE

2020 5TH ANNUAL SAAS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2020

A wide-angle photograph of Waikiki Beach in Honolulu. In the foreground, the turquoise ocean waves gently wash onto the sandy beach. In the middle ground, a row of modern, multi-story hotel buildings stands along the coastline. In the background, the iconic Diamond Head volcano rises prominently against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

**WAIKIKI BEACH MARRIOTT
RESORT & SPA**
2552 KALAKAUA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The logo of the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, featuring a circular emblem with a caduceus in the center and the text "JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE" and "UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - MANOA" around the perimeter.The logo of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons, featuring a stylized blue flower or star shape with the text "SOCIETY OF ASIAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS" inside.

FUNDRAISING CORNER

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By: Larry Burgess, M.D.

To Surgery faculty and staff,

The 2019 Internal Giving Campaign is right around the corner: October 18 to November 18, 2019. I am co-chairing the campaign again this year with Dr. Karen Thompson (Chair, Department of Pathology). Please see the surgery special fund below, which will help to provide Dr. Murayama and future Chairs the supplemental funds required to move the Department forward.

Donations received within the first week will be eligible to receive matching funds, which will be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 as it has in prior years. There will also be the recurring donation match, to those who provide recurring gifts through payroll deduction or credit card.

I am also personally providing an additional \$5,000 of matching funds in the 'Ohana Challenge. Large departments like Surgery need at least 20 participants to be awarded somewhere between \$500 and \$1500 in matching funds. Any amount small or large counts as a participant for this match. As with the other matching funds pool, it is best to get your donation in by October 25, as all the funds in this match were expended at the end of the first week.

You will be getting an individual email with a link to the Foundation web site to give. If you want to give by payroll deduction, the email will give you instructions on how to fill out the appropriate form. The Department priority fund is the Surgery Education Fund (account #126-2640-4).

For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at lburgess@hawaii.edu, or 294-6934 (cell).

Mahalo for your support!

Larry Burgess, MD

THE INTERNAL GIVING CAMPAIGN will be held this year from Oct. 18, 2019 to Nov. 18, 2019. The Campaign's co-chairs this year will be Dr. Larry Burgess and Dr. Karen Thompson. There will be a kick-off rally, with ice cream sundaes, on Oct. 18, 2019 in the MEB Lobby.



Popcorn vendor Dean Hedges making deliveries during last year's Internal Giving Campaign

CONGRATULATIONS !!



PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations to the following tenure and promotion recipients:

Dr. Kenric Murayama - Tenure

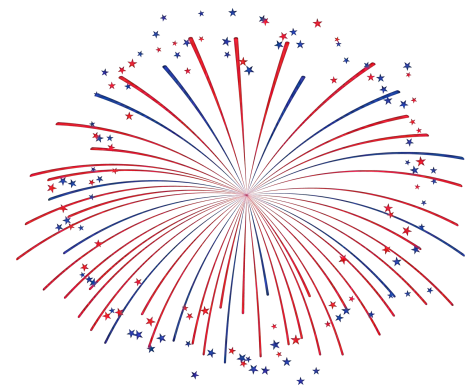
Dr. Dean Mikami - Professor

Dr. Susan Steinemann - Professor

Dr. Tony Katras - Clinical Professor

Dr. Ayman Abdul-Ghani - Associate Clinical Professor

Dr. Cass Nakasone - Associate Clinical Professor



NEW APPOINTMENTS:

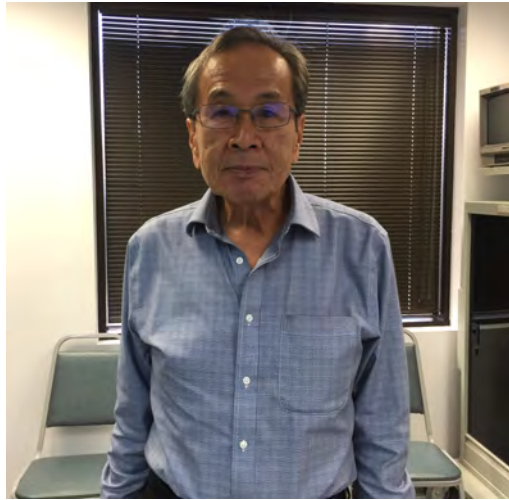
- **Dr. Christina Wai** was appointed the DSE (Director of Surgical Education) at Queen's West.
- **Dr. Gregory Suares** and **Dr. Chad Cryer** were appointed Clerkship Education Committee Co-chairs.

PUBLICATIONS:

Three authored journal publications were submitted by Dr. Della Lin
(Please click on the title if you would like to read the publication)

- [Preserving Perioperative Brain Health Through a Patient Safety Lens](#)
- [Workplace Violence Against Anesthesiologists: We are not Immune to this Patient Safety Threat](#)
- [Statewide Collaborative to Reduce Surgical Site Infections: Results of the Hawaii Surgical Unit-Based Safety Program](#)

Meet Sei Yee, the Department's Clinical Operations Manager



Years in the Department: *I have been with UCERA (dba University Health Partners or UHP) since January 1, 2015.*

Grad From: *Kaimuki High (Go Bulldogs!)*

First Job: *Mac's Market on Monsarrat Ave., now the location of Diamond Head Market and Grill.*

Interests: *Travel to neighbors islands, mainland, Europe and Asia (best breakfast buffets).*

Fun Fact: *Avid ex-Harley-Davidson owner and rider, rode in many Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parades. Lifetime member of HOG (Harley-Davidson Owners Group). I owned a HD Sportster & HD Fatboy. Stopped riding after getting married, new wife wouldn't allow it.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESEARCH MEETING - **September 18, 2019, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm**
Queen's University Tower, Room 618

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



By: Residency Staff

Surgery – The Surgery Graduation Program took place on June 15 at the Mid-Pacific Country Club in the Kaohao Ballroom. This is the third year **Dr. and Mrs. Murayama** have held the graduation event at the Lanikai club and it gets better every year. The UH Surgical Residency Program's FIRST GRADUATE **Peter Halford, MD, FACS** was invited by **Dr. Murayama** to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony and to do a Special Department of Surgery Grand Rounds the day prior (Topic: 10 Commandments - Pearls of Wisdom to Be A Perfect Resident and Successful Surgeon).

Aaron Brown, Judi Anne Ramiscal and Hung Truong, our 2019 graduates, were the honored guests! Faculty who introduced the “graduates as colleagues” to the local surgical community were **Dr. Chad Cryer** (Aaron), **Dr. Carl J. Tadaki** (Judi) and **Dr. Mihae Yu** (Hung). Aaron has opted to go into practice immediately and is checking out different options. Judi begins her fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA. Hung will do a Minimally Invasive Surgery and Bariatric Surgery Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard-Boston-MA). The 2018-2019 graduation awards were presented as follows:

- University of Hawaii Surgical Residency Program Outstanding Resident – **Judi Anne Ramiscal, MD**
- 2019 Resident Teacher of the Year as Selected by the JABSOM Class of 2020 – **Hung Truong, MD**
- ABS In-Training Examination (ABSITE) Award – **Colin Doyle, MD and John Vossler, MD** (*co-recipients*)
- Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons Resident Achievement Award – **Brian Hodgens, MD**
- UH Department of Surgery Cross-Cultural Healthcare Award – **Reid Mahoney, MD**
- 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year Award as Selected by the Residents – **Chad Cryer, MD**

2019-2020 Incoming Residents are: **Gerardo Davalos, MD**, Universidad Internacional del Ecuador Facultad de Ciencias Médicas y de la Salud; **Huseyin Akin Erol, MD**, University of Kentucky COM; **Dylan Goto, MD**, Creighton University SOM; **Larry Hromalik, MD**, Ohio State University COM & PH; **Kiyonari Noguchi, MD**, JABSOM; and **Jonathan Sheu, MD**, University of Miami Miller SOM. We cordially welcome all of our new residents into the program!

Orthopaedics – The Orthopaedics Graduation Program also took place on June 15 at the Mid-Pacific CC in the Lanikai Room. Having both the general surgery and orthopaedics graduation at the same location enables residency program staff to help facilitate (and enjoy) both functions. The program is so appreciative of **Dr. and Mrs. Murayama** for providing this beautiful venue! A total of 144 enjoyed the two graduation events and as a product of the club design, there was a lot of mingling amongst the attendees! **Nick Foeger, MD** and **Jae You, MD** were the 2019 graduates. Dr. Foeger completed the 6-year program (with a research year between his first and second clinical year) and Dr. You completed the 5-year program. Both Chief Residents were acknowledged for their substantial contributions to the training program over the years. Nick has begun his Hand Fellowship at the Carilion Clinic – Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Jae started his Sports Medicine fellowship at the University of California at San Francisco Orthopaedic Institute. The 2018-2019 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) – **Kevin Christensen, MD**
- 2018-19 Research Fellow **Ian Hasegawa, MD** was presented with a Certificate of Completion. Ian has since returned to clinical training as a PGY-3.

The Department extends a warm welcome to the 2019 incoming Orthopaedic residents: **Thomas “Keola” Kane, IV, MD, JABSOM** and **Collin Walsh, MD** from the **University of Oklahoma COM**. Collin will do the 5-year program and Keola will do the 6-year research track completing a research fellowship between his second and third years of clinical training.

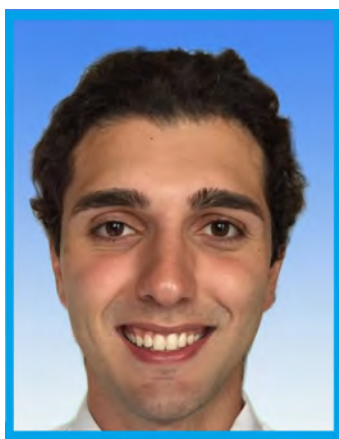
Surgical Critical Care – **Jae Won Lee, MD, Anand Patel, MD** and **Fariha Sheikh, MD** completed the SCC Fellowship in June 2019. Jae Won will practice at The Queens Medical Center, Anand will be going into private practice, and Fariha will become a Trauma/Critical Care Attending at Rutgers in New Jersey.

The 2019-2020 Surgical Critical Care Fellows are: **Jason Brown, MD** who completed his surgical residency at the Marshall University Program; **Yousif Sandokji, MB BS** who has completed 3 years of surgical residency training at the University of Toledo Program; and **Genia Taitano, MD** a JABSOM Grad who has completed 3 years of surgical residency training at the University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center Program.

SURGERY



Gerardo Davalos, MD



Huseyin Erol, MD



Dylan Goto, MD



Larry Hromalik, MD



Kiyonari Noguchi, MD

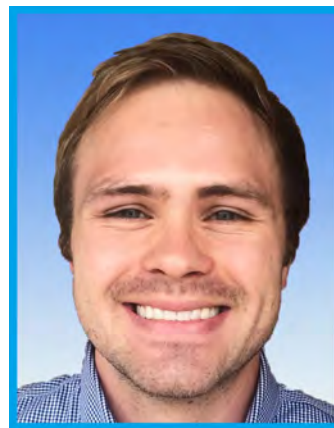


Jonathan Sheu, MD

ORTHOPAEDICS



Thomas Kane, IV, MD



Collin Walsh, MD

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE



Jason Brown, MD



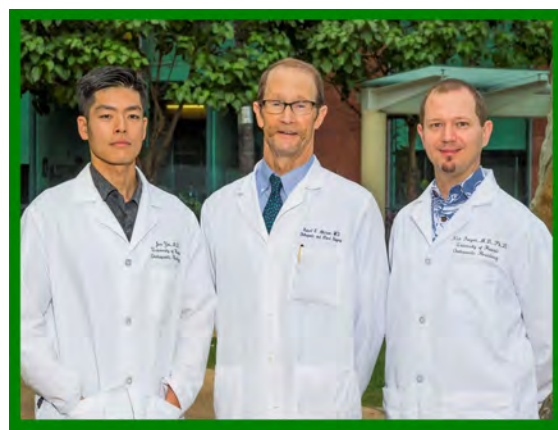
Yousif Sandokji, MB, BS



Genia Taitano, MD



Dr. Murayama with the Surgery Chiefs



Dr. Atkinson and the Orthopaedic Chiefs



The Graduates! - Anand "Sid" Patel, Judi Anne Ramiscal, Jae Won Lee, Fariha Sheikh, Hung Truong and Aaron Brown



John Attenello, John Livingstone, and Orthopaedic Chief Resident Nick Foeger



Peter Halford, MD, FACS



Hung Truong, Mihae Yu, Aaron Brown, and Judi Anne Ramiscal



Dr. Murayama and Dr. Brian Hodgins



Dr. Murayama and Dr. Colin Doyle



Dr. Murayama and Dr. John Vossler



Dr. Murayama and Dr. Chad Cryer



Dr. Murayama and Dr. Reid Mahoney



Dr. Murayama and Dr. Judi Anne Ramiscal