

# **THE CUTTING EDGE**

*DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY*



# A Message from Our Chair: Departmental Growth & Success

I am thrilled to welcome you to the inaugural issue of our revamped newsletter, *The Cutting Edge*. We have a great deal to highlight and much to celebrate!

My hope is to use this forum as a way for us to learn what our talented professionals are accomplishing throughout our ever-growing and productive Department of Surgery. For example, in the last three years we have moved from #10 to #4 in GI & GI Surgery, and the NYU Department of Surgery is now #9 in the *U.S. News & World Report* national rankings, as judged by our nationwide peers. The Manhattan and Brooklyn campuses have grown to a diverse team of 431, including 120 outstanding surgeons. Our surgical research team has achieved national and worldwide acclaim for their

breakthrough discoveries. Our residency and fellowship programs are so sought after that we find ourselves accepting, in many cases, barely 1% of applicants. We had a successful match across all residency programs and are excited to add to our complement of surgeons trained at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. We, of course, could not have done this without the dedicated support of our superb administrative team.

I have set clear goals to make our great department world-class:

- Social and fiscal responsibility
- A clear articulation of culture (empathy, equity, and excellence, with the patient at the center)
- Strong, unified academic divisions—organ specific or disease specific
- Multidisciplinary teams delivering specialty care
- A focus on quality and the patient experience
- Innovative research and the training of future surgical leaders as a priority

The features in this spring issue highlight just a few of the new and exciting accomplishments coming out of the Department of Surgery. We recognize and appreciate the great effort made by our diverse team dedicated to patient care, exploration, and education, and are excited to promote your hard work in our quarterly newsletters. I wish you a healthy and productive spring season.

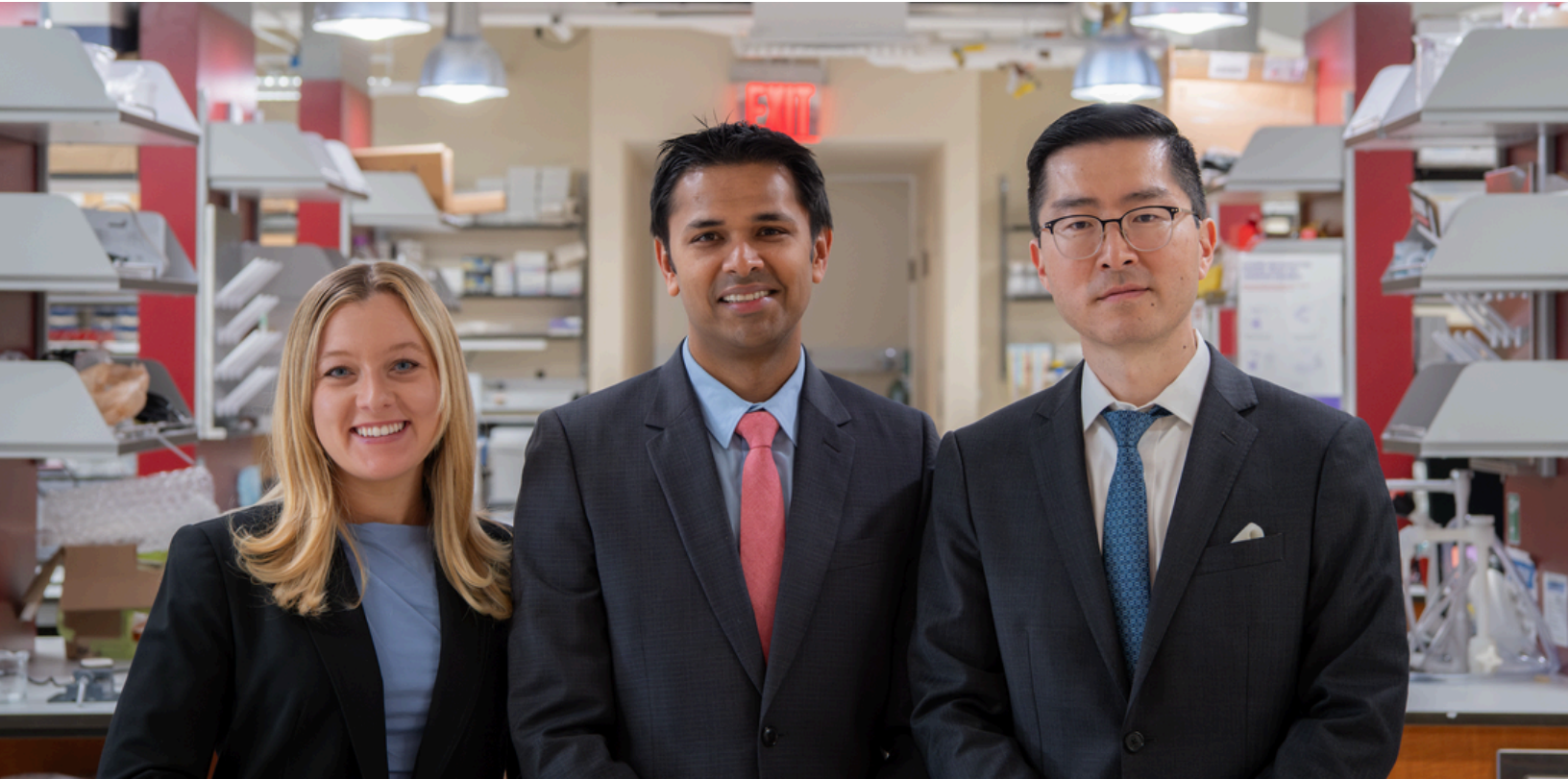
Warmly,



Robert Montgomery, MD, DPhil  
H. Leon Pachter Chair and Professor of Surgery



## Surgical Team Developing New Approach to the Treatment of Deep Vein Thrombosis



*Jamie Schlacter, BS; Karan Garg, MD; and Insoo Suh, MD, at Tech4Health Institute*

*Photo: Matt Ortiz*

An exciting new project is under development from the Surgical Innovation Program which aims to pioneer advancements that promise to redefine the future of surgical practices and enhance patient outcomes. Drs. Karan Garg and Insoo Suh, and Jamie Schlacter, BS, a fourth-year medical student at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, have collaborated over the past year to develop a novel catheter-based technology to better treat deep vein thromboses (DVT).

Approximately 900,000 Americans are affected by DVT each year. The consequences include the dreaded and life-threatening pulmonary embolism as well as post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS), in which damage to the valves in the lower extremity

veins leads to chronic leg pain, swelling, and ulcers. Current endovascular technology can only remove iliofemoral thrombus (i.e. those located above the groin), but not femoral or popliteal disease, which comprise almost 60% of DVT.

Their proposed device combines modern endovascular approaches with historical open-surgery techniques to treat DVT in more peripheral veins without incurring valvular damage. This technology has the potential to be especially impactful for symptomatic, young adult patients who are at considerable risk for PTS. Preliminary cost-effectiveness analysis suggests that their new device could result in over \$100,000 saved per

person, 45,000 fewer DVT recurrences, and 115,000 fewer cases of PTS.

The project was first presented at the Surgical Innovation Pitch Night held in conjunction with Deerfield Catalyst, a prominent medtech incubator and partner of the Surgical Innovation Program. After brainstorming designs, conducting market and patent landscape research, and gaining insightful input from Department of Surgery faculty and key industry leaders, the group has obtained over \$30,000 of funding from NYU Technology Opportunities and Ventures (TOV). This grant support has been crucial for the initial prototyping, which has been conducted with engineering collaborators at the Tech4Health Institute. It also allowed the group to file a provisional patent to

protect their intellectual property. Future steps for the project include refining the prototype and benchtop testing with an external catheter manufacturing company.

This collaborative effort highlights the creativity that defines the Department and exemplifies the Surgical Innovation Program's commitment to supporting our faculty's efforts to innovate and invent. We are proud of the project's progress thus far and are excited for what is to come.

For questions about this project or the Surgical Innovation Program, please contact [Insoo.Suh@nyulangone.org](mailto:Insoo.Suh@nyulangone.org).



*Karan Garg, MD; Jamie Schlacter, BS; and Insoo Suh, MD*

*Photo: Matt Ortiz*

## The First in NYC: Histotripsy

On February 26, a multidisciplinary team of NYU Langone cancer experts were the first in New York City to treat a patient's liver tumors with histotripsy. Histotripsy is a brand-new, noninvasive form of treatment using nonthermal ultrasonic cavitation, or bubbles, to effectively destroy tumors found in the liver. "The treatment device, named the Edison, received its FDA approval in October of 2023, and NYU Langone Health is one of only 13 locations in the world to have the Edison device," says Dr. Christopher Wolfgang, Chief of the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery.

The procedure is completely noninvasive and will allow for patients to go home the same day, leading to shorter hospital stays than traditional surgical resection. "Histotripsy uses real-time imaging and a very narrow 3mm beam to allow for extremely precise tumor destruction while leaving the surrounding tissue intact," says Dr. Brock Hewitt of the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery. This treatment modality can act as a bridging therapy for those potentially waiting for more extreme curative therapies such as major abdominal surgery. In other cases, histotripsy may be a definitive treatment of the tumor.

There is a very exciting potential for off-target effects in patients with additional disease or microscopic tumors not caught by scans. It has been observed that treating one tumor or mass in the liver can actually lead to an abscopal effect on other tumors, causing them to shrink in size without

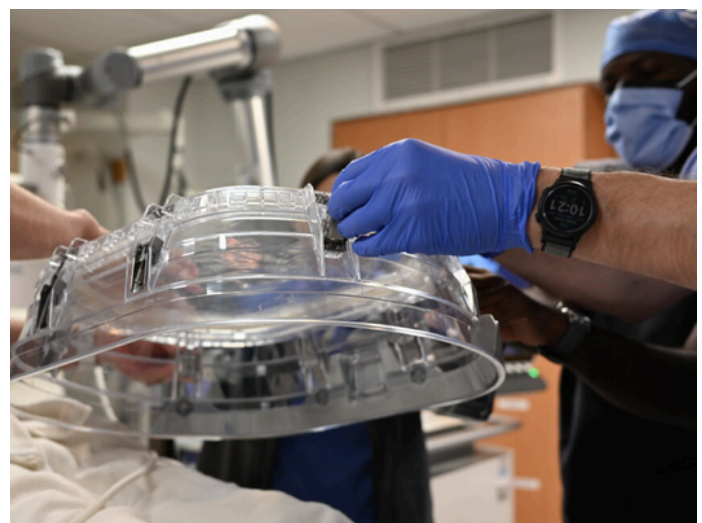
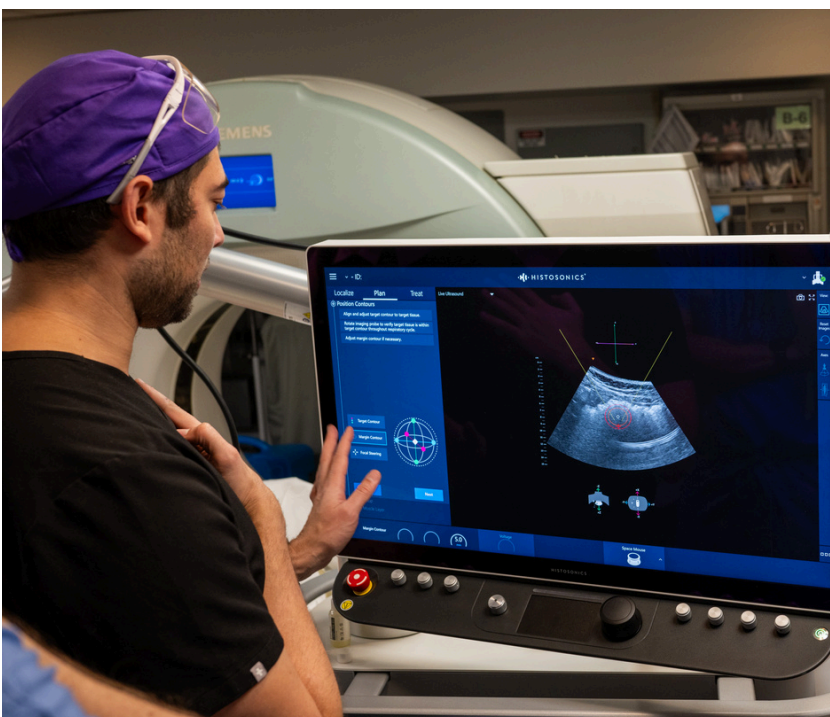


Mikhail Silk, MD; Brock Hewitt, MD, MPH; CT Tech Keneil Henry, CT Tech Katie Regalado, IR Fellow Jason Fisher, MD; and Division Administrator Kaitlin Zielaznicki, MPA

receiving direct treatment. Histotripsy does not destroy tumor antigens, as is the case with surgery or other ablative techniques. Instead these liquified cells are “mopped up” by our immune system giving our immune system another chance to recognize the tumor and invoke a systemic response. “While the data is very preliminary, there have been a few patients that have shown activation of the immune system towards the cancer with their other metastases shrinking after histotripsy of a single liver tumor,” says Dr. Mikhail Silk, an interventional radiologist who is part of the multidisciplinary team of doctors working with histotripsy.

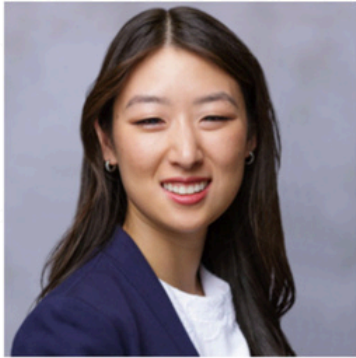
Dr. William Huang, a urologic oncologist, and Dr. Silk are running the #HOPE4KIDNEY trial which is currently enrolling patients with renal cancer to evaluate the benefits of using histotripsy on kidney tumors.

For any questions regarding histotripsy or the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, please contact [Kaitlin.zielaznicki@nyulangone.org](mailto:Kaitlin.zielaznicki@nyulangone.org) or refer patients directly to [@#HPBSurgery@nyulangone.org](https://twitter.com/HPBSurgery).



All photos: Mateo Salcedo

# Manhattan Categorical PGY1s



**Betty Chang, MD**  
University of Illinois



**Kartik Garg, MD**  
University of Louisville



**Allen Huang, MD**  
Oregon Health & Science



**Jonah Klapholz, MD**  
NYU Grossman



**Shreeja Patel, MD**  
Zucker School of Medicine



**Margaux Powell, MD**  
Morehouse School of Medicine



**Andrew Rosowicz, MD**  
Icahn School of Medicine



**Luke Wojtalik, MD**  
NYU Grossman

# Manhattan Preliminary PGY1s

**IR Prelim**



**Carleigh Klusman, MD**  
Baylor College of Medicine

**IR Prelim**



**Jay Sanghvi, MD**  
Icahn School of Medicine

**DR Prelim**



**Frances Zakusilo, MD, PhD**  
University of Rochester

**Anesthesiology Prelim**



**Erik Zhang, MD**  
University of Vermont

**OMFS Prelim**



**Sanjay Naraine, DDS, MD**  
NYU Grossman

**OMFS Prelim**



**Brendan Wu, DDS, MD**  
NYU Grossman

# Vascular Integrated PGY1



Keerthi Harish, MD, MBA  
NYU Grossman

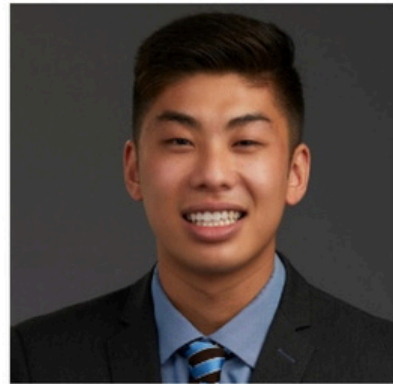
# Brooklyn Categorical PGY1s



Gaby Cordero, MD  
Jacobs School of Medicine



Hanna Lateef, MD  
Florida State University College



Daehan "Justin" Yi, MD  
Rush Medical College

The Department of Surgery is incredibly proud to announce our new 2024-2025 intern classes! With a successful match across all residency programs, we are welcoming 18 incredibly bright and accomplished trainees to our surgery family. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome when you meet them in July.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we extend our gratitude to our dedicated faculty, fellows, residents, and staff who have contributed to the success of our education programs.



# Scrubbed In

## Why did you become a surgeon?

Surgery is a lot of fun. I find myself wanting to be in the operating room quite a bit. But more importantly, my surgical role models were all excellent doctors. Specifically, Dr. JK Saunders, Dr. Steven Cohen, and Dr. Akuezunkpa Ude Welcome were people I wanted to emulate. When I did my subinternship here as a rotating student, interacting with them and watching them work quickly confirmed my desire to become a surgeon.

## What inspired you to pursue transplant surgery?

The field of transplantation is fascinating, both medically and surgically. For our pre- and post-liver transplant patients, both the transplant hepatologist and transplant surgeon co-manage these patients to ensure an optimal outcome. I truly enjoy the collaborative effort in patient care. The surgeries are technically demanding and span the gambit of general surgery. There are big parts of the operation like taking the liver off of the cava and then very fine aspects of the operation like sewing the hepatic arteries or portal veins together. Lastly, I specialize in liver transplant surgery and hepatobiliary surgery and have a keen interest in treating HCC, cholangiocarcinoma, and liver metastases. There is a relatively new field that is emerging, called transplant oncology, where we use transplant as a definitive way of curing malignancies confined to the liver.

## What excites you most about NYU and the future of surgery?

There are an extraordinary number of faculty members here—both seasoned and new—who are moving their respective fields forward. Faculty members such as Dr. Karim Halazun, who is a pioneer in the field of transplant oncology and robotic liver surgery, is doing complex liver surgery seamlessly on the robot. Then you have people like Dr. Adam Griesemer who is pushing the field of pediatric liver transplant surgery and is a prominent figure in the field of xenotransplantation. The future of surgery is very much at NYU, and it's really awesome to work with the group leading the charge in our field. And of course, working with the residents—who are the future of surgery.

## Alejandro Torres-Hernandez, MD



### Clinical Assistant Professor HPB Division and Transplant Institute

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine

Residency: NYU General Surgery

Fellowship: University of Toronto and Toronto General Hospital Abdominal Organ Transplant Fellowship and Hepatopancreatobiliary Fellowship



*Alejandro's first surgery*

# Alejandro Torres-Hernandez, MD

## What has been the best moment of your career so far?

The best moments are when my patients get to go home.

## What advice would you give to a senior trainee going on their first job interview?

Be honest with yourself in terms of what you want and what you need to succeed early on in your career and convey that at the job interview. Consider the places strongly that have the things you need to succeed. I chose NYU because I knew that people like Dr. Montgomery, Dr. Wolfgang, Dr. Kaplan, Dr. Halazun, and Dr. Griesemer would be committed to my development as a surgeon.

## What does a day off look like for you?

Enjoying my time with my wife and kid. And trying to find the best mangos in New York.



## Department of Surgery - Chief Residents 2020

(L-R) Alejandro Torres-Hernandez, MD; Mohamed El Zaeedi, MD; Elizabeth Warnack, MD; H. Leon Pachter, MD; Katherine Teter, MD; Benjamin Medina, MD; Joshua Scheinerman, MD

## Rajam Raghunathan, MD, PhD



**NYU Endocrine Surgery Fellow**

Hometown: Ottawa, Canada

Medical School: McGill University

Residency: University of Toronto & University of Ottawa

### Why did you become a surgeon?

Medicine was a new realm of knowledge that blended anatomy and physiology with humanistic concerns, like how we make decisions, what we value, and how we deal with death and disease. I thought that was really cool and exciting. When I went to medical school, I never expected to like surgery. But then I found this opportunity in surgery to be in a living environment where philosophical concerns were met with biological and physiological ones in a way that I had never really anticipated. Aspects of knowledge, ethics, and decision-making came together in a surprising way, and I was hooked. Surgery gave me an opportunity to solve problems and think critically, and get to do that in a team setting.

### What inspired you to pursue endocrine surgery?

Endocrine surgery was a really lovely gift within surgery because it combines physiology and medicine with the technical aspects of surgery. You have a chance to do a full workup on a patient, try to understand their physiology, investigate their disease process, and balance that with beautiful technical surgeries, in the neck and abdomen. There is also a lot of discussion with patients about their disease, their treatment options, their values and decision-making with them, which can be really interesting.

### What excited you most about NYU during the interview process?

A lot of things! The fact that it was a new program and the chance to be a small part of the development process was really intriguing. I think the biggest draw though was NYU's tremendous commitment to research. There are so many amazing people in the Department of Surgery doing such interesting work on the research front, in endocrine, transplant, and in multiple areas of surgical and clinical research. It was a really great opportunity for me to be part of a community of people who are really successful and passionate and great role models and mentors for research and academic life. I also liked that NYU invests so much in itself, its growth, and in the community, especially over the last 5 to 10 years.



Jason Prescott, MD and Rajam Raghunathan, MD, PhD

# Rajam Raghunathan, MD, PhD



Rajam with other NYC Endocrine Surgery Fellows

## What's the most memorable case you've scrubbed in on?

It's hard to narrow it down. They're memorable for different reasons, some because it was a disease process I had never seen before, an unusual presentation of a familiar condition, or because of the extent of the disease. But if I had to pick a recent case, it was a very large multi-nodular goiter. We do quite a few of them. They can be quite enormous and technically challenging. This one had a tremendous substernal component, where the thyroid actually extended down into the patient's chest. So, it was a tough case, to get it out safely through the incision we had made in the neck. The anatomy was distorted because of the size of the gland, but we were able to identify and protect the vital structures near the thyroid, the nerves that control the voice, and the parathyroid glands that control calcium metabolism. It was really fascinating to see how the surgeon I was working with approached the case. At one point, it became very challenging to maneuver the gland out of the chest and one of the other endocrine surgery attendings scrubbed in to assist. It was really interesting to see them work together, strategize, and complete the case successfully and safely. We were able to help our patient, who no longer has the symptoms and discomfort of a huge compressive goiter. It was also a great example of knowing when to ask for help and remembering that an extra set of hands or another pair of eyes can help you better approach something challenging in the OR.

## What advice would you give to a resident applying to fellowship programs?

Apply widely, not only to maximize your chance of interviews, but also because you're entering a community of practice and applying gives you the chance to introduce yourself to this community. At the interview stage, it's important to think about fit. Your interview is also a chance for you to interview them, so do your research about the program, its strengths and weaknesses, and the geographic location. Would you be comfortable living there? It's also important to ask about placement and the opportunities they give in fellowship to cultivate professional relationships and build your network, so that you're ready for the next step in your career.

## What is your favorite part of the city so far?

Just the sense that New York is this cultural center. I've been reading *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* for many years and it's exciting to be able to read something and then actually go and experience it. It's hard to find that anywhere else in the world that I've lived so far. Geographically, Central Park, for nature! I saw a man feeding like 50 raccoons there one day. I'm still thinking about it.



# Scrubbed In

## Why did you become a doctor? I know you had a long journey here.

Yeah, I did! I double majored in political science and French, and I thought I was going to become a human rights lawyer. When I was a junior in college, I was nervous about how much student debt I had and I didn't want to take out more loans for law school without having some savings. At the time, investment banks were coming to campus and recruiting very heavily. So, I interned for a summer and then after graduation I got a job at J.P. Morgan in syndicated and leveraged finance. I knew I wouldn't stay in finance forever, but I liked the pace of the job and the complexity of synthesizing information from the news and how it impacted the markets. It was a really intense job. I worked 90 hours a week because of the volatility of the credit markets during the subprime mortgage crisis. In my limited free time, I ran with the Front Runners New York (FRNY) running club. When I was training for the NYC Marathon, I did a lot of long runs with a cardiac anesthesiologist. We were running one day, and I said, "You know, I really regret not sticking with science. I liked it in high school and had wanted to become a doctor, but the length of school and the amount of student loans was really overwhelming. And she said, "Well you can go back to school, do a post-baccalaureate, and start over!" I eventually started taking night classes at Columbia University. I would go to work on the trading floor, then take a cab up to Columbia for a 7pm introductory physics class, then go back to my office in midtown to study and finish work. On weekends, I would volunteer at St. Luke's-Roosevelt in the ED. It was brutal, but I got into medical school at Mount Sinai. I think the nice thing about starting medicine after a few years of real-world experience was that the hours didn't feel particularly challenging. I liked medicine because it had the same pace as finance but the purpose of it was more in line with who I am as a person.



Surgery Residents, Les James PGY4 and Sarah Kaslow PGY3

## Les James, MD, MPH



**NYU PGY4 General Surgery Resident**

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Medical School: Icahn School of  
Medicine at Mount Sinai

## Why did you pick NYU for residency?

I applied really broadly to programs, because I thought residency was my chance to leave New York. I had been here for over a decade. I only applied to NYU and one other program in the city. I had done an away rotation at a prestigious program that functioned so seamlessly...you could print the patient list from your phone, the call rooms were palaces, and there were free snacks and a ping-pong table in the call room. I felt like I was at a tech startup! I remember thinking, "How am I going to learn how to take care of patients in a way that is going to allow me to work for an underserved community in a hospital without these resources?" I wanted to be at a large public hospital, with diversity and pathology from all over the world. I interviewed at NYU during Christmas time, and when I walked into Bellevue I was just in awe of the place. You get such a sense of history there and everyone had so much reverence for Bellevue. I left the interview saying, "Wow, this is the most historic public hospital and has been here since 1736. I have to work here. There is no way I can go someplace else." I was really lucky to match here.

# Les James, MD, MPH

## What's the most memorable case you've scrubbed in on?

When I was on Bellevue Trauma call as a PGY4, a person came in with a stab wound to their left chest and after the chest tube was placed in the ED, it was clear that we needed to go to the OR. I got to do the case with Dr. Chris Decker as the trauma attending and Sarah Kaslow (PGY3), one of my closest friends in residency. We did a thoracotomy and over-sewed some bleeding lung parenchyma. It was just a great case, the patient did well, and we were able to fix the problem. It was the first time I felt like, "I can take care of this patient. I know what to do and I know how to fix the problem."

## What excites you about the future of surgery?

It's an amazing time to be in medicine and surgery because there have been so many technological advances that allow us to do more complex surgery, more safely. We are extubating people after CABG on the table in the operating room and discharging them on postoperative day 3...that is just incredible. Open heart surgery used to mean staying intubated for several hours postoperatively and a hospital stay of about a week. More women are in medical schools and more women are going into surgery. The surgical workforce is changing and becoming more reflective of the patients we serve. It's really great that NYU has a strong commitment to diversity.

## What advice would you give to an intern on their first day?

Figure out what your strengths and weaknesses are and find people who can help you enhance your strengths and improve your weaknesses. Also, remember that everyone around you is here because they want to help patients – nurses, APPs, attendings, other residents. It's all about the patient, so come to the table with the mindset that everyone is focused on the same goal. If someone is paging you or Epic chatting you about a consult or a request, they're doing it because they're concerned about a patient and they want you to be concerned, too. I find that if you take a second to remember that, it's easier to step back, appraise the situation, and make good decisions.

## What does a day off look like for you?

I like to Peloton or work out outside if the weather is nice. During the spring and summer, I spend weekends cycling either out by the Rockaways or in the Catskills, if I'm not on call. I live in Gramercy and really enjoy taking long walks with my dog, Clover. I like finding new recipes and going to the farmers market. I'm a homebody so I like to be at home and cook and, like, do laundry [laughs].



*Clover, 11, a very good boy*



*Les presenting her research at the July 2023 Surgery Grand Rounds*

## Liliana Jeudy, BS, MS



### Office Supervisor, General Surgery, Endocrine Surgery & Acute Care Surgery

Hometown: Bronx, NY

College: Mercy College

Master of Science in Counseling &  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal  
Justice

### What does a day at work look like for an office supervisor?

I oversee the daily operations of practice staff while ensuring that our patients have a positive patient experience in our offices. A normal day consists of maintaining the workflow of each clinic and making sure my team feels supported. If any emergencies come about, I want to make sure my team knows how to handle them, while still continuing to keep things running smoothly. I jump in wherever I can, answering phones, checking patients in or out, and addressing immediate concerns that arise. Really just being there to support them, and say, “Hey, we can do this, we can take care of this, and I’m here where I’m needed.”

### How did you choose your career?

Prior to joining NYU, I was an elementary school counselor and a part-time child and family therapist for a preventive agency under the Administration of Children Services (ACS). I made a very brave decision to switch career paths and join NYU because I struggled with infertility at the time, and I was really looking for an organization that offered attainable career paths that were flexible, in terms of schedule, and had good benefits. I joined NYU in 2017 as an intake scheduler and when I got hired, I let my manager know about what was going on in my personal life and she actually referred me to Dr. James Grifo and the NYU Fertility team. She encouraged me to make an appointment, I did, and then within 6 months I was pregnant with my daughter. For anyone who is open and willing to talk about fertility issues, and want more resources, I highly recommend the NYU Fertility Clinic because it was such a positive experience and what could have been costly was made accessible with our NYU benefits. Since starting here, I was promoted to medical secretary for the Department of Surgery and accepted a promotion last year and am now the office supervisor. I’m really lucky; it all worked out, I have a great career, and I now have a 4-year-old daughter!

### What is the best part about your job?

The best part of my job is when I get to make patients and the people on my team smile. I like to sprinkle a little bit of joy wherever I go and brighten everyone’s day. I send out daily emails and include a joke of the day. So, when someone replies or stops me in the hall and says, “Your daily joke made me laugh today” or “This made me smile,” it brings me joy, just being able to do that for another human being. I genuinely care about my team, and I love coming to work because of them.

### What advice would you give someone thinking about going into healthcare administration?

Create the doors that aren’t there, but trust the process, because it’s not going to happen overnight. Utilize professional development resources that are at your disposal and network. Find a mentor, because that’s really important. Also, apply for the positions that you think might not be in your scope or within your ability yet; you’re likely more qualified than you think, with more experience than you realize. Sky’s the limit!

### What does a day off look like for you?

Day off? [Laughs.] One can dream. There are no days off as a mom! Normally it’s endless cuddles with my little one, laundry, and cleaning. Who has a real day off anymore? Maybe if I’m on vacation!

## Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the Department of Surgery!

**Beth Hochman, MD, FACS** – Chief, Division of Acute Care Surgery

**Donna-Marie Manasseh, MD, FACS** – Chief, Division of Breast Surgery at NYU Langone Hospital- Brooklyn

**Oshi Sooy** – Residency Program Coordinator, Education

**Shoshana Grinfeld, MS, RDN, CDN** – Bariatric Coordinator, Division of Bariatric Surgery

**Kerrian Cohen, MSN, FNP-C** – Nurse Practitioner, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery

**Franklin Dwyer, MS, PA-C** – Physician Assistant, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery

**Alessio Marchetti, MD** – Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery

**Camila Hidalgo Salinas, MD** – Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery

**Diomarys Pichardo** – Research Associate, Vascular Surgery Research

**Riyana Bhatt** – Student Research Intern, Surgery Research

**Mercy Robert Williams, PhD** – Postdoctoral Fellow, Surgery Research

**Tessa Flower, BS** – Research Coordinator, CSTAR

**Audrey Badillo, BS** – Research Associate, CSTAR

**Amanda Buster** – Student Research Intern, CSTAR

**Ezrica Brown, MPH/GISc, MSN, RN** – Trauma PI Coordinator, NYU Langone Hospital – Brooklyn

**Marissa Knee, MS, PA-C** – Physician Assistant, Critical Care Surgery, Bellevue Trauma

**Yeimer Bran, MS, PA-C** – Physician Assistant, Robotic Surgery, Bellevue

**Samantha Williams, MS, PA-C** – Physician Assistant, Surgery Clinic, Bellevue



# News, Awards & Recognitions

The **Bellevue Trauma Department** received a grant of \$2,000 from the Bellevue Association to restock their supply of bicycle helmets for patients and to distribute them at public events. The team hopes to reach a wide population and encourage safe bicycling practices to reduce TBI risk.

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**Ann Lee, MD; Michael Grieco, MD; Tresara C. Bell, MD; Janesse Abreu, MS, PA-C; Nicole Schneider, MS, PA-C; Jyoti Narang, MBA, MS, PA-C; Ashley Irving, MS, PA; and Caroline Sheehan, MS, PA-C** were the 2024 recipients of a \$9,000 grant from the Bellevue Association that will contribute to the quality of healthcare and services directly affecting breast and surgical oncology patients.

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**Derek Freitas, MD and Mary Ann Hopkins, MD** received preliminary GME approval for a dedicated global surgery rotation. They were both instrumental in the design of the rotation and educational curricula for the program. They are submitting their proposal to the ACGME/ABS for final approval.

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**Derek Freitas, MD** coordinated and provided a series of dedicated lectures to medical students on their surgery clerkship at the University for Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana as part of the AMPATH partnership. He is also working with surgeons at Tamale Teaching Hospital to work on the analysis of their operative records focusing on Quality Control and Improvement Initiatives.

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**Sommer Gentry, PhD** was selected as one of the inaugural class of Senior Members of her primary professional association, the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS).

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The **Beatrice W. Welters Breast Health Outreach and Navigation Program** received \$3 million from the Bezos Beyond Bridges initiative to establish an endowment for patient navigation.

**Macey Levan, JD, PhD** was elected as Vice President of Patient and Donor Affairs for the national Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). She also was appointed to a workgroup for the State of New York Department of Health, to help implement the new NYS Living Donor Support Act, alongside **Samantha Klitenic, JD**. This bill became law at a time when New York State ranked 50th out of 52 territories on the Donate Life registry.

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**Brendan Parent, JD** was appointed to a workgroup for the State of New York Department of Health to help determine NRP policy and potential amendments to legal determination of death. He also was appointed to the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board for ProCure.

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**Beth Abrams, MPA**, Bariatrics Division Administrator, and **Malissa Milton**, Bariatrics Practice Manager, were recognized for outstanding leadership and achieving the highest engagement survey scores.

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**Kelly Drozdowicz, MD, PGY3** received the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Looking to the Future Scholarship 2024.

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**Jackie Kim, MD, PGY4** received the Sherilyn Gordon Memorial Resident Travel Award at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons 2024 Winter Symposium.

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**Sarah Kaslow, MD, PGY3** received the Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research (CAPER) Junior Investigators Best Abstracts Award.

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**Cherisse Berry, MD** was elected to a six-year term on the Surgery, Anesthesiology, and Trauma (SAT) Study Section (NIH) Reviewer.

# Educator Recognition

The Surgery Clerkship recognizes outstanding educators in the Department of Surgery based on the following criteria:

- formal faculty/resident evaluations completed by students post-clerkship
- named by students during end of clerkship informal feedback sessions as outstanding educators
- have gone above and beyond to further our department's education mission in one or more of the following ways:
  - providing small group instruction
  - providing skills lab instruction
  - completing thoughtful, constructive, and timely evaluations of students (COMET and/or WBAs)
  - recording didactics or precepting other didactic activities
  - serving as education champions
  - serving as role models of the kind of professional commitment, identity, and excellence we all aspire to

## January Educators Recognized

**Ana Velez-Rosborough, MD**



**Marie Fleury, MD**



**Simon Rodier, MD**



**Joohee Son, MD**



## February Educators Recognized

**Manish Tandon, MD**



**Anthony Baez, MD**

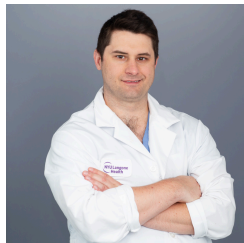


**Rajam Raghunathan, MD, DPhil**



## March Educator Recognized

**David Ianacone, MD**



# Faculty Promotions

Kepal Patel, MD, Professor, Departments of Surgery, Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Sheila Blumberg, MD, Clinical Associate Professor

Patricia Chui, MD, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor

Julia Park, MD, Clinical Associate Professor

Ryan Robalino, DO, Clinical Assistant Professor

Michael Klein, MD, Clinical Associate Professor

John K. Saunders, MD, Clinical Associate Professor

Ann Lee, MD, Associate Professor

Akuezunkpa Ude Welcome, MD, Associate Professor

The Department encourages and stands ready to assist eligible colleagues to proceed with the process. If you have served six years at your current rank, please contact Dr, Mark Hochberg to explain the promotion process and Arelis Espinal to coordinate your documents.

The Faculty Academic Appointments and Promotions Team:

Dr. Mark Hochberg, Dr. Kepal Patel, and Arelis Espinal

# Staff Promotions

Johanna Paguay – Administrative Coordinator, Center for Surgical & Transplant Applied Research

Katya Kaplow, MPH – Senior Data Analyst, Center for Surgical & Transplant Applied Research

Acacia Sharma – Research Project Manager, Division of Breast Surgery

Ariana Akkaya, MHA – Project Manager, Department of Surgery

# Publications

McAteer J, Kalluri DD, Abedon RR, Qin CX, Auerbach SR, Charnaya O, Danziger-Isakov LA, Ebel NH, Feldman AG, Hsu EK, Mohammad S, Perito ER, Thomas AM, **Chiang TPY**, Garonzik-Wang JM, **Segev DL**, Werbel WA, Mogul DB. Anti-spike antibody durability after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in adolescent solid organ transplant recipients. *Pediatr Transplant*. 2024 Feb;28(1):e14671.

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**Klitenic SB**, **Levan ML** The internet and social media's impact on paid legal and illegal organ donation. *InLiving Donor Organ Transplantation*. Academic Press. 2024 Jan 1 (pp. 217-224).

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Dilly J, Abbassi L, Hennessey CJ, Uribe GA, **Parent B**, Yang A, Kapner KS, Li Z, Dasgupta S, Jordan A, Hoffman MT. Abstract A093: Deciphering acquired resistance to KRASG12D inhibition in a mouse model of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Cancer Research*. 2024 Jan 16;84(2\_Supplement):A093-.

Ramachandran A, Siddiqui E, Moazami N, **Lonze B**, Reyentovich A, James L, Saraon T, Goldberg R, Kadosh B, Katz S, Smith DE. Outcomes Using Donor Hearts With Moderate To Severe Left Ventricular Hypertrophy After The 2018 OPTN/UNOS Allocation Changes. *Journal of Cardiac Failure*. 2024 Jan 1;30(1):135.

**Patel SS**, **Kim JI**, **Stewart DE**, **Segev DL**, **Massie AB**. Organ Nonutilization Following Revision to the Public Health Service Donor Risk Criteria for HIV, HCV, or HBV Transmission. *Transplantation*. 2024 Feb 16.

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**Lazar DJ**, **Ferzli GS**. Is the Robotic Revolution Stunting Surgical Skills? *American Journal of Surgery*. *Currently under review*.

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- Grewal M, Habib JR, Paluszek O, **Cohen SM**, **Wolfgang CL**, **Javed AA**. The Role of Intraoperative Pancreatoscopy in the Surgical Management of Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms: A Scoping Review. *Pancreas* 53(3):p e280-e287, March 2024. | DOI: 10.1097/MPA.0000000000002294

# Invited Talks

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina  
Title: Multiobjective Optimization for Designing Organ Allocation

Date: February 12, 2024

**Sommer Gentry, PhD**

Grand Rounds at Virginia Commonwealth University  
Title: Physical and Cognitive Frailty in Transplantation

Date: February 15, 2024

**Mara McAdams DeMarco, PhD**

Cutting Edge of Transplantation (CEOT)

Title: Shared Decision-Making Tools Around Organ Acceptance (kidney breakout session)

Date: February 24, 2024

**Darren Stewart, MS**

Mid America Transplant Ethics Symposium

Title: Ethical and Legal Implications of NRP (presentation)

Date: February 28, 2024

**Brendan Parent, JD**

Developing National NRP Standards & Approaches – National Collaboration Forum, Denver, CO

Title: Ethical Considerations (NRP)—How Do We Move Forward?

Date: March 20-21, 2024

**Brendan Parent, JD**

American Donation and Transplant Foundation Living Donor Conference, Nashville, TN

Title: ESKD in Previous Kidney Donors: What Does the Data Show?

Date: March 5, 2024

**Macey Levan, JD, PhD**

American Foundation for Donation and Transplantation  
Title: Understanding Current Weight Management Modalities for the Living Donor

Date: March 7, 2024

**Babak Orandi, MD, PhD**

NOS VCA Committee Meeting

Title: Face & Whole Eye Transplantation: New Frontiers in Transplantation; Breaking Barriers with a 'Team of Teams'

Date: March 4, 2024

**Bruce Gelb, MD**

Grand Rounds at Bellevue Hospital, Department of Geriatrics

Title: PAD - What Every Clinician Needs To Know

Date: February 22, 2024

**Todd Berland, MD**

Grand Rounds at NYU Long Island, Department of Surgery

Title: Modern Perspectives on Neonatal & Pediatric ECMO

Date: February 26, 2024

**Jason Fisher, MD, FACS, FAAP, FAMIA**

Design for Implementation: The Future of Trauma Research and Clinical Guidance Conference Series, Chicago, IL.

Title: Health Equity Metrics & Trauma

Date: February 21, 2024

**Cherisse Berry, MD**

Grand Rounds at UTHealth Houston, Department of Surgery

Title: At the intersection of health equity and inclusive excellence: Strategies to eliminate health care disparities within surgery

Date: February 29, 2024

**Cherisse Berry, MD**

14th annual International Women in Surgery Career Symposium 2024, Tampa, Florida.

Title: Mentoring Excellence: Strategies for Effective Mentorship and Sponsorship

Date: March 24, 2024

**Cherisse Berry, MD**

Grand Rounds at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital

Title: From Vision to Reality: Building a Multidisciplinary Esophageal Center of Excellence

Date: February 29, 2024

**Tanuja Damani, MD**

Grand Rounds at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY

Title: Modernizing Mentorship: Recognizing Missteps, Mistakes, and Misunderstandings

Date: January 24, 2024

**Russell S. Berman, MD**

Boca Raton Regional Hospital Internal Medicine Symposium

Title: Breast Cancer Screening: An Evidence-Based Approach

Date: March 24, 2024

**Kathie-Ann Joseph, MD**

# Presentations

**Lazar DJ, Em S, Saunders JK, Chui P, Park J, Einersen P, Somoza E, Parikh M, Lipman J.** Successful Conservative Management of Early Post-Op Obstruction Following Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass. Accepted for poster presentation at ASMBMS 2024 Annual Meeting. June 9-13, 2024.

**Lazar DJ, Vu AH, Tursunova N, Ferzli G.** Preservation of the Gastrophrenic Ligament Allows for Antireflux Surgery in Medically Refractory GERD Following Sleeve Gastrectomy. Accepted for poster presentation at SAGES 2024 Annual Meeting. April 17-20, 2024.

**Lazar DJ, Ferzli G.** Are We Diluting Surgical Training? A Perspective Of The Impact Of Robotics On Surgical Trainees. Accepted for poster presentation at SAGES 2024 Annual Meeting. April 17-20, 2024.

**Carey D, Vu AH, Brown A, Lazar DJ, Ayres J, Schroder J, Gujral A, Tursunova N, Ferzli GS, Cheema F, Tchokouani L.** Costs of Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Compared to Robotic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: a Multi-Center Study. Accepted for oral presentation at SAGES 2024 Annual Meeting. April 17-20, 2024.

**Brown A, Vu AH, Carey D, Lazar DJ, Ayres J, Schroder J, Gujral A, Tursunova N, Ferzli GS, Cheema F, Tchokouani L.** Costs of Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy Compared to Robotic Sleeve Gastrectomy: a Multi-Center Study. Accepted for oral presentation at SAGES 2024 Annual Meeting. April 17-20, 2024.

**Carey D, Vu A, Brown A, Tchokouani L.** Acutely Incarcerated Jejunojunostomy in Recurrent Umbilical Hernia in Patient with Remote Laparoscopic Roux En-Y-Gastric Bypass: A Rare Case Report and Literature Review. Accepted for oral presentation at SAGES 2024

**Lazar DJ, Ferzli G.** Ramifications of the Robotic Revolution in Surgery. Oral presentation at the International Congress and Workshop of the Egyptian Society of Laparoscopic Surgery. Cairo, Egypt. February 15-16, 2024.

**Lazar DJ, Ferzli G.** Dare We Critique the Use of the Robotic Platform in Surgery? Oral presentation at the 19th Congress of Digestive Surgery, Nice, France. November 17, 2023.

**Larson K, Sebastian S, Vu AH, Chuang E, Hwang F.** Phytobezoar after Gastrectomy Requiring Surgical Intervention: a Rare Case Report and Review. Accepted for poster presentation at SAGES 2024.

**Huber M, Vu AH, Woo J, Chuang E, Victory J.** Gastric perforation after splenic artery embolization and splenectomy. Accepted for poster presentation at SAGES 2024.

**Chuang E, Chiang J, Patil R, Vu AH, Ferzli G.** Gastric Remnant Leak after Revisional Bariatric Surgery for Laparoscopic Gastric Plication: a Rare Case Report and Review. Accepted for poster presentation at SAGES 2024.

**Kim JI, Stern J, Khalil K, Jaffe I, Aljabban I, Ayares D, Dandro A, Fazio-Kroll AL, Hilbert T, Griesemer A, Montgomery RA, Mangiola M.** Cryoprecipitate and Fresh Frozen Plasma Xenobody Testing. (Poster presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Zhang J, Sadek M, Iannuzzi L, Rockman C, Garg K, Taffet A, Mullick A, Berland T, Maldonado T, Jacobowitz J, Ross F.** Total Contact Casting Promotes Wound Healing in Peripheral Artery Disease and Diabetic Foot Ulcers. Accepted for oral presentation at SCVS March 2024.

**Jaffe I, Kim JI, Aljabban I, Khalil K, Weldon E, Bisen S, Griesemer A, Stern J, Montgomery RA, Sommer P.** Maintaining a Brain-Dead Decedent for Long-Term Xenotransplantation Research. (Poster presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Aljabban I, Kim JI, Jaffe I, Khalil K, Griesemer A, Stern J, Montgomery RA.** Surgical Approach for Long-Term Study of Porcine Renal Xenografts in a Brain-Dead Human Decedent Model. (Poster presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Aljabban I, Kim JI, Jaffe I, Khalil K, Lorber M, Ayares D, Dandro A, Fazio-Kroll AL, Hilbert T, Montgomery RA, Stern J, Mangiola M, Griesemer A.** Washing Packed Red Blood Cells Significantly Reduce Levels of Preformed Xenobodies. (Poster presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Khalil K, Esker R, Kim JI, Jaffe I, Aljabban I, Montgomery RA, Griesemer A, Stern J.** Vancomycin Pharmacokinetics in a Brain-Dead Decedent with a Xenokidney Transplant. (Poster presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Stern J, Kim JI, Tatapudi V, Mattoo A, Sommer P, Mangiola M, Weldon E, Jaffe I, Aljabban I, Skolnik E, Goldfarb D, Esker R, Bisen S, Dandro A, Lorber M, Ayares D, Mehta S, Khalil K, Griesemer A, Montgomery RA.** Long-term function of a Gal-KO Xenothymokidney Transplant in a Brain-Dead Decedent. (Platform presentation at 24th Annual ASTS Winter Symposium, Miami, Florida. 2024 Jan 11-14).

**Drozdzowicz K, Wadowski B, Angel L, Natalini J, Qayum S, Lesko M, Geraci T, Chang S, Chan J.** NYU Langone Health, New York, NY Perioperative Serum Lactate Does Not Affect Lung Transplant Survival. Accepted to present at the American Transplant Congress May 31-June 7, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA

**Prendergast K, Hu J, Tsiperson V, Kryeziu S, Russo M, Garippa R, Singer S, Hameed M, Crago AM.** "Identifying druggable targets in desmoid fibromatosis using an shRNA screen." Society of Surgical Oncology Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. March 2024.

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**Kaslow SR, Sharma AR**, Lee C, Quinn G, Kang S, **Wolfgang CL**, Braithwaite S, **Sacks GD**. Quantifying Patient Risk Threshold in Managing Pancreatic Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms. Poster Presentation at the 2024 Academic Surgical Congress Meeting, Washington DC. February 2024

**C. Donnelly, S. Patel, T. Chiang, M. Levan, M. Varma, R. Singh, D. Segev, A. Massie.** Decreased Functional and Academic Status Associated with Graft Failure and Mortality in Pediatric Heart Transplantation. Accepted for mini-oral presentation at the American Transplant Congress 2024.

**C. Donnelly, S. Patel, M. Levan, M. Varma, R. Singh, D. Segev, A. B. Massie.** It's Getting Better All the Time: Increased Pediatric Heart Transplant and Decreased Mortality Following Heart Allocation Policy Change. Accepted for mini-oral presentation at the American Transplant Congress 2024.

**C. Donnelly, T. Chiang, S. Patel, M. Levan, M. Varma, R. Singh, D. Segev, A. Massie.** High Risk Age Window for Graft Failure in Pediatric Heart Transplantation Worse in Female, Black, Publicly Insured, and Functionally Impaired Recipients. Accepted for poster presentation at the New York Epidemiologic Forum 2024.

**Lee AY.** Managing complications of advanced gastric cancer – obstruction and bleeding. Presented at the 2024 SSO Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. March 22, 2024.

Ludwig K, **Joseph KA**, Jeruss J, et al., Trends in the Application and Match Rates of the SSO Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program. Presented at the 2024 SSO Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. March 2024

**Baez A, Ozdemir Z, Amburn T, Marmer A, Arthurs L, Guth A, Schnabel F.** Breast Cancer and Hormonal Therapy in Transgender Patients: A Review of Case and Cohort Study Literature. Poster presentation at Society of Surgical Oncology Meeting. March 2024

**Baez A, Ozdemir Z, Arthurs L, Marmer A, Amburn T, Guth A, Schnabel F.** Factors Associated with Genomic Data Contribution from Breast Cancer Survivors in the All Of Us Research Program. Poster presentation at Society of Surgical Oncology. March 2024

**Baez A, Marmer A, Ozdemir Z, Sevdalis A, Dimaggio C, Guth A, Schnabel F.** Preoperative MRI and the Rate of DCIS Upstage to Invasive Cancer. Poster presentation at The American Society of Breast Surgeons Meeting. April 2024

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