A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

The first quarter of 2015 has certainly roared in like a lion. We’ve seen our first double lung and liver transplant, our 2000th liver transplant; we’ve honored a long standing friend of the Department, Dr. Aragon and hosted a blood drive in honor of Aurora police officer Ryan Burns. In addition, we have proudly published our first annual report, with striking imagery of our surgeons and residents.

Change is definitely in the air as our Center for Surgical Innovation expands into a new location and continues to look for new ways to bring hands on training to local medical institutions. As we continue to grow we welcome new faculty and celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues.

We are looking forward to visiting with our guest speakers over the next few months. Which include, O. James Garden, CBE, MD, FRCSEd, FRSE of the University of Edinburgh; Julia Tchou, MD, PhD, FACS of the University of Pennsylvania; Ronald DeMatteo, MD, FACS of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Ara Vaporciyan, MD, FACS, MHPE of the University of Texas; and Rosemary Kozar, MD, PhD of the University of Maryland. Additionally we will hold our 2nd Annual Department of Surgery Research Symposium this May.

Hopefully you enjoy reading through this account of our past successes and upcoming events.

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA, FACS
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Giustí Chair
Professor & Chair
DR. GUILLERMO “BILL” ARAGÓN IS HONORED AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DONOR RECOGNITION DINNER

On Thursday, March 12, 2015 the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus honored Guillermo (Bill) Aragón and María de Lourdes Gonzalez-Guisti de Aragón at the Eighth Annual Donor Recognition Dinner for their philanthropic contributions to the University specifically to the Department of Surgery. The dinner was held at the Sea- well Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts in Denver, CO.

Dr. and Mrs. Aragón have a rich history of close intergenerational family ties, anchored by truly global roots. Bill grew up in Costa Rica and María in Puerto Rico, and they met in New York City as college students.

After earning his bachelor’s degree at Columbia in 1943, Dr. Aragón served in the U.S. Army before attending medical school at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Bill and María were married in Puerto Rico in 1946, and Bill earned his degree two years later.

Inspired by several prominent medical articles written by highly revered cardiac surgeon Henry Swan, the first full-time surgical chairman at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Bill and María moved to Denver and began their long relationship with CU. Upon meeting with Dr. Swan, Bill was offered and accepted a position at the CU School of Medicine in 1951. He later entered his clinical residency with a rotation at Denver General and finished his training in 1955.

Bill retired in 1990, nearly 40 years after his first position in Denver as a surgical resident, and he and María remained involved in her family’s commercial real estate business in Puerto Rico. The couple greatly enjoyed dancing and frequent ski trips with their three children to their vacation home in Breckenridge.

Dr. Aragón served on the University of Colorado Foundation Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2005, and was named Emeritus Clinical Professor in 2011. María passed away last June at the age of 91. We greatly appreciate their involvement with the Department of Surgery.

DRS. KAM AND WEYANT LEAD LIVER TEAM IN COLORADO’S FIRST DOUBLE-LUNG AND LIVER TRANSPLANT

Sean McCabe, a 30-year old man from Nebraska, came to University of Colorado Hospital this month for a second chance at life.

Since birth, Sean had been living with cystic fibrosis, a disease that causes severe dysfunction in the respiratory and digestive systems. Despite his doctors’ best efforts to manage the disease, Sean was struggling: his weight had dropped below 90 pounds, and he was not expected to live much longer. To have a chance at long-term survival, he would need two new lungs and a new liver.

When lungs and liver from a single donor became available, Sean made the trip from Nebraska to Colorado. On March 10, a twelve-hour operation began. Dr. Igal Kam led the team that replaced Sean’s liver, and Dr. Michael Weyant led the team that replaced Sean’s lungs.

The surgery was a success. It was the first-ever double lung and liver transplant to be performed in the state of Colorado.

Just days after the operation, Sean is breathing normally and is able to walk. The danger of organ rejection must be closely monitored, but Sean’s prognosis is good. He now has a chance at something he never thought would be his: a life free of cystic fibrosis.

You can read more about Sean’s surgery in the Denver Post.
AURORA OFFICER SHOT DURING TRAFFIC STOP AT CENTER OF BLOOD DRIVE

AURORA, Colo. (CBS4) - Aurora Police Officer Ryan Burns was seriously injured when he was shot during a traffic stop in November. Now he’s asking others to give the gift of life with a blood drive he organized to thank the community for its support during his recovery.

“We’re here to give blood in support of Officer Burns,” said Aurora Police Lt. Michael McClelland.

Burns was wounded after pulling over a car thief on Nov. 14. The suspect in the shooting fled the scene but was captured a few days later.

“He gave his blood for us so this is simple, we give our blood for him,” said McClelland.

Burns underwent four surgeries and received five pints of blood at University of Colorado Hospital.

On Wednesday Bonfils Blood Center turned a room at Aurora City Hall into a blood donation center. City of Aurora employees were among the 87 people who made an appointment and took a few minutes to make a big difference in someone else’s life.

“We like to step up for one another so it’s just everyone’s way of showing support for him,” said Aurora Police spokesman Sean Pascal.

“We’re a family. I’ve been on the department for 18 years and I know they’re my secondary family. I know if something like this happened to me they’d take care of me,” said McClelland.

Burns organized the blood drive as a way to say, “thank you” to the community for supporting him, to the doctors and nurses who helped save his life and to the donors who gave their blood to keep him alive.

“That doesn’t surprise me at all, that’s his character. He’s always thinking of others instead of himself,” said Pascal.

If you are interested in donating blood, visits Bonfils.org.

Aurora Police Officer Ryan Burns, wounded in a shooting during a traffic stop on Aug. 14, 2014, gives a thumbs-up from his hospital bed.

In addition to assisting with the coordination of the drive, Darci Dreiling, Vascular Surgery Division Manager, also participated by donating.

Thank you for coordinating the blood drive on Friday. We had another awesome day in honor of Office Burns! Your efforts made this a very special event. Our conservative goal was to collect 39 units and we actually collected 56, with 33 first time donors, which was incredible. The units collected will enhance and/or save the lives of 168 individuals.

Carolyn Conway
Community Donor Representative
Bonfils Blood Center
CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY FACULTY HONORED AT THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF AWARDS DINNER

Distinguished Service Award
Greg Stiegmann, MD

Outstanding Leadership as Medical Staff President
Robert McIntyre, MD

WELCOME NEW HIRES!

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Katherine McCabe, MSN
Instructor

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Megan Swope
PRA

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Sharon Durlak
Laboratory Coord. I

GI, Tumor, Endocrine & Burn Surgery
Brian B. Miller, PA-C, MSPAS
Instructor

GI, Tumor, Endocrine & Burn Surgery
Azure Brame
Administrative Assistant II

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Tae Chong, MD
Visiting Associate Professor

Save the Date
May 18, 2015
2nd Annual
Department of Surgery Research Symposium
10TH VAIL CARDIOTHORACIC TRANSPLANTATION CONFERENCE

February 21, 2015 marked the start of the 10th Vail Cardi thoracic Transplantation Conference which lasted five days at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort. Course Directors, Martin Zamora, MD and Frederick Grover, MD, were joined by over 100 attendees and invited lecturers to mark the occasion. The biennial event started in 1997 and welcomed participants from all over the world including Australia, Canada, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. This ACCME CME designated event included talks ranging from thoracic transplantation, medical treatment of end stage cardiac and pulmonary failure, and the use of mechanical assist devices in patient care. Collaboration and education was met with excellent weather providing a beautiful backdrop to the exchange of information.

Final dates have not been established yet for the 11th conference but it is expected to be in February-March 2017.

Congo to Colorado and Back Again

by Todd Neff | UCH Insider, Central

It was a Friday evening, and most of the surgeons’ offices up and down the fifth-floor hallway were empty and dark. David Kuwayama, MD, MPA, had agreed to talk about his experience volunteering last fall with Doctors Without Borders in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). His door had been open, and the light from the office had seemed bright in the dusk...

...And now I had asked him what he had seen in the DRC, where he had spent five weeks of unpaid leave in October and November 2014. He did surgery after surgery in Rutshuru on the edge of Virunga National Park, where Dian Fossey had once studied her gorillas, and where her fate has since been suffered by so many.

Kuwayama looked tired, which was understandable: He had returned at 1 a.m. on Monday from two weeks climbing two Ecuadoran peaks and had commenced the first of three surgeries less than seven hours later. Today, he had done a seven-hour aortic-hepatic bypass. His eyes opened a bit wider as he thought about my question. I imagined his mind’s replaying of horrors no one should ever have to see.

“It’s just incredible what people can do to each other,” he said finally...

...Congo to CO. He started his faculty position at the University of Colorado in October 2012. He would have to wait two-and-a-half years for his next Doctors Without Borders mission. It took time, Kuwayama said, for the small but growing vascular surgery practice at University of Colorado Hospital to blossom to the point that it could handle his extended absence.

Even then it still wasn’t a given: Mark Nehler, MD, who leads the CU School of Medicine’s Vascular Surgery section, agreed in principle, but Kuwayama’s absence from a busy practice meant that everybody else on the team would have to see more patients and take more calls. He called together vascular surgeons Natalia Glebova, MD, PhD; Omid Jazaeri, MD; and Ashley Vavra, MD.

“We voted. Everybody said, ‘Yep, this is an important thing,’” Nehler said. ...

And so, in October, Kuwayama flew to Kigali, Rwanda, traveled by road to Goma and across the DRC border to Rutshuru. Fossey’s gorillas share Virunga National Park with all variety of guerillas and militias in constant conflict fueled by tribal rivalries, racketeering gangs, sectarian strife, and conflict minerals. It all yields a steady stream of dead and wounded. ...
by Tyler Smith | UCH Insider, Central

Late last week, a five-person surgical team hunched over the hip of a figure lying on a table under OR lights. They manipulated the joint while they talked quietly. One wielded a marker he used to target the points of incision. Minutes later they began cutting through the skin and pushing aside tissue.

The team, from Porter Hospital in Denver, was working through a hip-replacement procedure with unfamiliar surgical equipment. Rather than iron out the kinks in a live setting, the group worked on a cadaver in a technologically well-equipped room the size of several ORs at the new home of the Center for Surgical Innovation (CSI) on the edge of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

The CSI has been part of the CU School of Medicine for about a decade, and its purpose hasn’t changed. It’s a venue for surgeons running the gamut of experience to learn and practice surgical techniques. Coursework is developed by CU faculty in five founding departments: Neurosurgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology, and Surgery.

Major move. The CSI was housed in the Education 1 building on campus until mid-February, when it moved west to the new space in the Bioscience Park Center on Montview Boulevard. It is a major upgrade in terms of both space and technology. The new lab is 1,900 square feet, more than 70 percent larger than the Ed 1 facility, and the entire center is more than double the size of the original.

The lab is equipped with five 65-inch television screens that display high-definition images of the work done on the operating tables. The procedures can also be beamed to another big screen in a nearby conference room or via the Web to facilities around the world, said CSI Executive Director Sarah Massena.

As the Porter team began working, CSI lab manager Peter Mouser used an iPad to wirelessly control the cameras shooting the action. Walking past stacks of instrument trays and tables covered with enough tools to open a medical Ace Hardware store, Mouser pointed to other major additions: a $60,000 Steris washer for decontaminating instruments – in the old lab, they had to be washed by hand and then sent to Sterile Processing at University of Colorado Hospital – and a C-arm for imaging. The CSI owns the arm, saving the $2,700-a-day rent that another training facility would have to charge, Mouser said. “We have everything here that you would have in an OR,” Mouser said.

Slow start. It’s a far cry from the CSI’s humble beginnings in 2004, said CSI Medical Director Thomas Robinson, MD. “We had nothing to start,” Robinson said. He and a couple of colleagues won a $300,000 grant from endoscope manufacturer Karl Storz in 2006, enough to bring in Massena to create and implement a business strategy.

The long-range goal, Robinson said, was to free the individual departments from the chores of creating courses, writing protocols, and finding and paying for their own equipment. Instead, he and Massena envisioned a centralized, well-equipped facility with established coursework and education delivered in lab and didactic settings.

“We wanted to create the infrastructure so that the faculty of the course wouldn’t have to do any of the logistics. … They could just come in and teach it.” The logistics, such as procuring cadaveric tissue, proved to be a difficult barrier, Robinson said. But the CSI built a sustainable financial model around donations and grants from equipment companies and income from surgeons around the country and internationally who come in for training. Since its opening in 2007, the center has either broken even or finished in the black every year, Massena said.

To read the complete UCH Insider Article please click the link below.
Open House
April 22, 2015, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Center for Surgical Innovation
Biosciences Park Center
12635 E. Montview Boulevard

Climbing Buddies’ Friendship Extends to ORs
by Todd Neff | UCH Insider, Central

If Hollywood were to make a buddy movie about David Kuwayama and Robert Meguid, it might be called “Smart and Smarter.” Rather than bumbling along and leaving comedic damage in their wake, the plot, if faithful at all to the reality at University of Colorado Hospital, would involve them teaming up, superhero-style, to repair the bodily damage of people like Dawn Scott, who didn’t know where else to turn. ..

...The case. Dawn Scott’s was one of those surgeries. Scott, 37, had an exceptionally bad case of thoracic outlet syndrome resulting in subclavian vein obstruction. The Cody, Wyo. attorney also had a complicated medical history. In 1998, as a 20-year-old undergraduate at the University of Northern Colorado, she was diagnosed with epithelioid hemangioendothelioma (EHE), a rare cancer, in the right subclavian vein beneath her collarbone.

That treatment involved surgery and also chemotherapy infusions, the port for which went into her left subclavian vein. That vein collapsed, and in 2001, radiologists in northern Colorado placed a stent to hold it open.

The stent failed. Ten more stents were placed, each failing under the squeeze of Dawn’s left clavicle and first rib. With the pulsing blood unable to drain, the pressure in her left arm skyrocketed, causing pain, swelling, and discomfort so severe that she deferred her first year of law school at the University of Wyoming.

The misery went on for more than a decade. Doctors in Cody, where she moved after graduating from law school in 2005, suggested lymphedema as a possible cause, though her lymph nodes had never been a problem. By the summer of 2014, Scott suffered from more and more debilitating headaches, to the point of being bedridden.

“I was losing more days to being in bed or feeling lousy than I was being productive or doing things,” Scott said.

To finish reading about Dawn Scott’s case please click the link below.
Upcoming Events

March 23, 2015

Grand Rounds

Management of Anorectal Malformations
John Bealer, MD
Associate Professor, Pediatric Surgery
Director, Bowel Management Program

Laparoscopic Loop Ileostomy with Colonic Lavage for C. Diff
Franklin Wright, MD
Assistant Professor, GITES

March 30, 2015

Henry Swan Visiting Professorship in Surgery

Grand Rounds

Bile Duct Injury—Lessons from History
O. James Garden, CBE, MD, FRCSEd, FRSE
Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery and Honorary Consultant Surgeon
Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgical Services
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
The University of Edinburgh

April 6, 2015

Grand Rounds

Update on NSQIP Outcomes and CU Improvement Efforts
Jennifer Bruny, MD
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Management of Patients with Collagen/Vascular Aortic Disease
T. Brett Reece, MD
Assistant Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Natalia Glebova, MD
Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery

April 13, 2015

Grand Rounds

Management of Early Stage Prostate Cancer; Current & Future Trends
Al Barqawi, MD
Associate Professor, Urology

Bariatric Surgery Update 2015
Jon Schoen, MD
Assistant Professor, GITES

April 20, 2015

Grand Rounds

Novel Treatment Strategies for Triple Negative Breast Cancer
Julia C. Tchou, MD, PhD, FACS
Associate Professor, Clinical Surgery
René Rowan Breast Center
Perelman Ctr. for Advanced Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

April 27, 2015

Grand Rounds

H. James Fox Visiting Professor

Surgery and Science of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor
Ronald DeMatteo, MD, FACS
Vice Chair, Department of Surgery
Head, Division of General Surgical Oncology
Leslie H. Blumgart Chair in Surgery
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York

May 4, 2015

Grand Rounds

2015 Pomerantz Lectureship

Topic to be announced
Ara A. Vaporciyan, MD, FACS, MHPE
Professor and Deputy Chair
Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Division of Surgery
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

May 11, 2015

Grand Rounds

Clinical Research during Surgical Missions to the Third World
Frederic Deleyiannis, MD
Professor, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Surgical Care of Chronic Venous Obstruction
David Kuwayama, MD
Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery

May 18, 2015

2nd Annual Research Symposium

Topic to be announced
Rosemary Ann Kozar, MD, PhD
Shock Trauma Center
University of Maryland

May 25, 2015

Grand Rounds

No Grand Rounds
Due to Memorial Day Holiday