A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year!
Each time I review our newsletter I continue to be impressed with what our faculty and staff have accomplished.

This past fall we appointed two new Vice Chair’s, Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD as Vice Chair of Finance and Joseph Cleveland, Jr., MD as Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs.

We hosted several guest lecturers and visiting professors; Xue-li Bai, MD, PhD and Tingbo Liang, MD, PhD from our collaboration with Zhejiang University in China; Joseph E. Bavaria, MD from the University of Pennsylvania; Steven J. Fishman MD from Harvard Medical School; Liane S. Feldman, MD from McGill University; and Elizabeth A. Pomfret, MD, PhD from Tufts University.

In addition to hosting these impressive faculty from around the world some of our own faculty were invited to speak at various conferences such as the Western Vascular Society’s Annual Meeting and the South Central Section of the American Urological Association Annual Meeting.

Our accomplishments over the past few months also included two inductees to the American College of Surgeons, Erik Peltz, DO and Maria Albuja-Cruz; and Sanghee Lee, PhD who received the Research Scholar Award from the American Urological Association.

Recognition is also given to those faculty participating in The Institute for Healthcare Quality, Safety and Efficiency 2016 programs. Selection for this program is highly competitive and we look forward to what they will accomplish with this added training.

These academic accomplishments sit equally amongst our clinical accomplishments as our Center for Surgical Innovation hosted a Vascular conference on Aortic Aneurysms, our Cardiothoracic Division begins a cardiac assist device trial; and our Cardiac Transplant and Kidney Transplant teams partnered to provide a patient with much needed replacement organs.

Local community efforts continue to be important as well as our faculty and staff participate in local events such as the Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer walk.

I’d also like to acknowledge David W. Mathes, MD, Division Head of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for the initiative he has taken to begin the Mountain West Society of Plastic Surgeons. This will provide a venue for collaboration and networking amongst plastic surgeons in the region.

It continues to be my privilege to share our successes and upcoming events with you. I hope you enjoy the newsletter that follows.

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Giustí Chair Professor & Chair

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NEW DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD
Vice Chair of Finance

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD on his appointment as the Vice Chair of Finance for our department.

As the new Vice Chair for Finance, Dr. McIntyre will work on developing a detailed understanding of the UPI and Department of Surgery revenue cycles, identifying areas within the Department that are experiencing both positive and adverse results and develop best practices and remediation strategies to optimize the revenue cycle throughout the Department. Dr. McIntyre will also work closely with the Vice Chair of Administration to strengthen communication with UPI leadership in regard to the Department of Surgery revenue cycle with the goal of continuously improving the function of this process. He will follow trends over time for all sources of revenue, develop detailed reports regarding foundation funds and the cash flow derived from those funds in addition to other responsibilities.

Dr. McIntyre attended Tulane University School of Medicine before completing a General Surgery Residency, during which time he was the Chief Resident of Surgery, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. McIntyre has been active in the Department of Surgery since his appointment 23 years ago. Dr. McIntyre will continue in his faculty role with the Division of GI, Tumor and Endocrine Surgery as well as in his roles as the Co-Director of SICU, Director of Trauma Surgery at the University of Colorado Hospital and Chief of General Surgery at the VA.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. McIntyre to the department’s leadership team!

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Giustí Chair Professor & Chair

Joseph Cleveland, Jr., MD
Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Joseph Cleveland, Jr., MD on his appointment as the Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs for our department.

As the new Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs, Dr. Cleveland will serve as the Chair of the Department of Surgery Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee. He will supervise and coordinate the performance and completion of mid-course faculty reviews, Prism reviews, and Post-Tenure reviews. Dr. Cleveland will collaborate with Dennis Boyle, Assistant Dean for Community Based Education at the University of Colorado School of Medicine to identify appropriate incentives and promotion processes for highly contributing members of the Department of Surgery Clinical Faculty, as well as advocate for junior faculty members in divisional and departmental policy development in addition to other responsibilities.

Dr. Cleveland attended University of Washington School of Medicine before completing a General Surgery Residency, during which time he was the Chief Resident of Surgery, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Cleveland continued on with the University of Colorado and completed a Fellowship in Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Cleveland has been active in the Department of Surgery since his appointment 14 years ago. Dr. Cleveland will continue in both his faculty role with the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery as well as the Director of Heart and Lung Transplant at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Cleveland to the department’s leadership team!

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA
The Aragón/Gonzalez-Giustí Chair Professor & Chair
Welcome New Faculty & Staff!

Faculty

Erin McIntyre
Instructor
GI, Tumor & Endocrine

Peggy Walsh
Instructor
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Jonathon Cummock
GI, Tumor & Endocrine

Staff

Elizabeth Vonau
Business Svcs. Professional
GI, Tumor & Endocrine

Honors : : Awards : : Accomplishments

Congratulations to Dr. Sanghee Lee on receiving the American Urological Association 2016 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award. She was selected out of 85 applications based on the potential for a successful career in urologic research, the quality of the mentorship and the high scientific merit of her proposed research project.

Eric Peltz, DO & Maria Albuja-Cruz, MD

Congratulations to Erik Peltz, DO and Maria Albuja-Cruz, MD on their induction to the American College of Surgeons.

Visiting Professors from Zhejiang University - P.R. China

Professor Tingbo Liang, the Vice-President of the Second Affiliated Hospital at Zhejiang University (SAHZU) and Chair of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery and Xue-li Bai, also of SAHZU, visited the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) at the invitation of Richard Schulick, Chair of Surgery.

During his visit Professor Liang presented at Grand Rounds on “Multimodal Approach for Hepatolithiasis: Experience from the East” which was well received. During his visit he also observed a laparoscopic resection of pancreatic duodenal performed by Dr. Barish Edil and Dr. Richard Schulick.

Apart from the academic exchange, Professor Liang also discussed the Resident Joint Training Program and ongoing academic cooperation between the two hospitals. Since the initiation of the program in 2012, 8 residents from both hospitals have been jointly trained. The general surgery residency training program at SAHZU is ACGME approved and is considered to be equivalent to the training at UCH. According to the hospital rankings by US News & World Report, UCH has 9 specialties ranking in the top 50 nationally.

Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD; Randall Meacham, MD; Xue-li Bai, MD, PhD; Tingbo Liang, MD, PhD; Richard D. Schulick, MD; Mark Nehler, MD; Frederick Grover, MD; Greg Steigmann, MD; Bruce Paton, MD
Alan Hopeman’s career pattern differs from other cardiothoracic surgeons of equal professional prominence. For 23 years, he was a career Army Medical Officer but found the time, energy and discipline to combine his active duty assignments with the local academic surgical community.

Dr. Hopeman had three tours of duty at the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital during his career and he and Dorothy decided to make Denver their home upon his retirement. In 1974 he was recruited as Chief of the Cardiothoracic Surgical Division at Denver General Hospital. In 1986 he retired as Emeritus Professor. He continued his role as a teacher and consultant to the Department of Surgery, serving in such capacities as a member of the Selection Committee for a Chairman. He attended Department Grand Rounds regularly. In late 2010 Al and Dorothy moved back to Minneapolis to be close to children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. In late June 2012, Dorothy passed away. Al continues to live in Minneapolis.

Dr. Hopeman continues to be an important influence on the cardiovascular teaching program, both as a role model and as a source of enormous clinical experience.

This year marked the 11th Annual Alan R. Hopeman Lectureship in Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Joseph E. Bavaria of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania was our invited guest. Dr. Bavaria is President-Elect of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons as well as the Director of the Thoracic Aortic Surgery Program at PENN which is a multidisciplinary program encompassing all aspects of aortic disease including thoracic aortic reconstruction and Marfan’s Syndrome. His primary interests include thoracic aortic surgery and, more broadly, Cardio-Aortic surgery. This includes aortic dissection, aortic root and ascending aortic reconstruction, aortic arch surgery and the circulation management necessary for successful aortic arch clinical outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Bavaria’s clinical interests include thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysm surgery and a very busy program in the field of thoracic aortic endovascular stent grafting (TEVAR).

Dr. Bavaria’s thoracic aortic surgery program at the University of Pennsylvania presently performs over 400 reconstructive procedures a year and manages over 2,500 patients a year in the Thoracic Aortic Disease Clinic. Basic research is presently ongoing in the microbiology and pathology of the aortic wall in bicuspid aortic valve disease as well as neurocerebral metabolism and brain protection during cardio-aortic surgery.

Dr. Bavaria’s other clinical interests include valvular heart surgery and he is the Primary Investigator at PENN for the ongoing transcatheter aortic valve trials. He leads an active cardio-aortic clinical research group and is both the institutional and national primary investigator in over 20 industry sponsored, FDA IDE Phase I, II, and III trials as well as ongoing NIH funding in the GenTac study and the CTSNetwork.

Dr. Bavaria graduated with honors in chemical engineering from Tulane University where he also received his medical degree. He was awarded the “gold scalpel”, the highest surgical honor for a graduating Tulane medical student. He completed his general surgery and cardiothoracic training at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.
2015 John R. Lilly Lectureship in Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Lilly’s focus of clinical and research work was in the liver diseases of infants and children. In 1972, he pioneered the operation to correct the formerly fatal disease of biliary atresia. Never having previously been performed in the United States, this operation has now become the treatment of choice for biliary atresia. An inspirational and charismatic teacher, Dr. Lilly was renowned for his “fireside” teaching rounds during which the residents were expected to know the names of all 7 dwarfs and the characters of Alice in Wonderland equally as well as they knew the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Dr. Lilly was a renowned educator, skilled and talented surgeon.

Guest Speaker - Lilly Lectureship

Steven J. Fishman, M.D. is Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Stuart and Jane Weitzman Family Chair in Surgery at Boston Children’s where he is also Vice-Chair of Surgery for Clinical Operations. He is President of the Physicians’ Organization and Senior Vice-President for Access and Business Services at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Fishman obtained his BS and MD degrees at Northwestern University and completed his training in General Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and in Pediatric Surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital. He is active in the practice and teaching of the broad spectrum of Pediatric Surgery, with particular clinical and research focus in the area of Vascular Anomalies. He is Co-Director of the Vascular Anomalies Center at Boston Children’s Hospital. This multidisciplinary group evaluates approximately 1700 patients annually with hemangiomas, rare vascular tumors and vascular malformations of all types. He is President of the International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies. Dr. Fishman created and hosts an international registry of hepatic hemangiomas. He has authored over 200 scientific publications and chapters and two books, including a recent comprehensive reference work on Vascular Anomalies with Drs. John Mulliken and Patricia Burrows. He is an Editorial Consultant for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery Case Reports. In addition, he advises several patient/family-oriented support groups and frequently participates in their gatherings and clinics. At Boston Children’s Dr. Fishman serves in many leadership roles, including as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Hospital Executive Committee.

He has focused on developing evaluation and intervention techniques including innovative operative procedures for the treatment of visceral vascular anomalies and has extensive experience with resecting, debulking and reconstructing vascular malformations and associated overgrown tissues of the torso, genitalia, neck and extremities. In addition, the role of dynamic contrast lymphangiography of the thoracic duct has allowed for novel treatments and reconstruction of thoracic duct anomalies. He is also focusing on the biologic mechanisms involved in the development and progression of these lesions.

This lectureship was established and named as a memorial to Dr. John R. Lilly.

John R. Lilly, M.D. was born on May 23rd, 1929 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he grew up. Dr. Lilly obtained his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1954. He completed internship at Queen’s Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii and surgical residency at the University of California Hospital, San Francisco, California. Following a postgraduate fellowship in pediatric surgery at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children’s Hospital in London, he became the first pediatric surgery resident to train at Children’s Hospital of the District of Columbia under Jud Randolph, MD. He completed a fellowship in transplantation with Dr. Thomas Starzl, at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 1970 and was recruited by Dr. Starzl in 1972, to become Chief of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, a position he held until his death in 1995.
Elizabeth A. Pomfret, MD, PhD is the Chair of the Department of Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Diseases at the Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, Massachusetts and is Professor of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. She is an established multi-organ transplant surgeon with additional surgical training in Live Donor Liver Transplantation.

Dr. Pomfret has a long history of interest in education and initiated a plan for creating and implementing a standardized curriculum for transplant surgery fellows. She served as the first chair of the ASTS National Transplant Surgery Fellowship Curriculum Committee and oversaw the establishment of the platform that hosts over 140 curriculum learning modules. Dr. Pomfret has served as the senior advisor to the ASTS Curriculum Committee for 4 years as it has continued to evolve since its initial launch in 2007. In addition, she is the Fellowship Training Program Director at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center for surgical transplant fellows, mentoring 14 fellows since 1999 and acting as an instructor for surgery residents and medical students at both Tufts Medical School and Lahey Hospital. She served on various organizational and governmental boards including the ASTS Board of Directors as a Councilor-at-Large from 2009 through 2012, and the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors from 2011 – 2014. In addition to serving as President of ILTS, she currently serves as a Board Member on the UNOS Corporate Affairs Committee and was the former Chair of the OPTN/UNOS Liver and Intestinal Transplantation Committee. Dr. Pomfret is an active researcher with a record of peer-reviewed publications and has lectured worldwide on current issues in the field.

Dr. Pomfret’s December 14th presentation at Grand Rounds was titled “Living Donor Liver Transplantation: Donor and Recipient Outcomes” and was well received.

Michelle Cowan, MD; Greg Steigmann, MD; Liane S. Feldman, MD; Richard D. Schulick, MD; Jose Melendez, MD; Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD

Dr Liane Feldman is Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of General Surgery at McGill University. She holds the Steinberg-Bernstein Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Innovation at the McGill University Health Centre where her clinical focus is advanced laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery. She is also the Program Director for the Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship.

Dr. Feldman’s clinical and research interests center on the measurement and improvement of recovery and other outcomes of gastrointestinal surgery. This includes measurement of patient-centered outcomes during surgical recovery; training and assessment of surgeons in laparoscopic techniques; and organization of perioperative care processes. Dr. Feldman established and co-chairs a multidisciplinary group implementing evidence-based Enhanced Recovery perioperative care plans throughout the Department of Surgery at the McGill University Health Centre and has spoken and taught widely on ERAS programs. Dr. Feldman represented Canada as the James IV Traveling Surgeon in 2010 and received the Canadian Association for Medical Education National Award for “distinguished contribution to medical education.” She was an invited member of the Colloquia at Balliol College, Oxford on evaluation of surgical innovation.

Dr. Feldman is author of over 100 articles, book chapters and videos and co-editor of the SAGES manual on the Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy. Her work on ERAS and surgical education has been recognized nationally and internationally.

Dr. Feldman’s September Grand Rounds presentation on “Creating an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Culture” was well received.

James Chandler, MD; Frederick Grover, MD; Igal Kam, MD; John Pomposelli, MD; Elizabeth A. Pomfret, MD; Richard D. Schulick, MD; Clay Burlew, MD; Robert McIntyre, Jr., MD; Randall Meacham, MD

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Announcing the Mountain West Society of Plastic Surgeons

David W. Mathes, MD, Division Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus recently announced the formation of the Mountain West Society of Plastic Surgeons (MWSPS). The mission of this regional society is to promote research, support education, and foster the development of plastic surgery in the western region of the United States. The region is defined as plastic surgeons and plastic surgery programs within the states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Currently the new society has garnered support from the following training programs in the region; Mayo Scottsdale, University of Colorado, University of Nevada, and University of Utah. These organizations have committed to participate in the first annual meeting to be held at Devil’s Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colorado from March 3-6, 2016. It is hoped that the annual meeting will provide a vehicle for scientific interchange and networking opportunities for those within the field of plastic surgery. For more information on this inaugural meeting or about the MWPS please visit: www.mountainwestsps.com

2015 Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Western Vascular Society was held September 19-22, 2015 at the Grand Wailea Resort in Hawaii. At this years conference two of our faculty were selected to present, Omid Jazaeri, MD and Natalia Glebova, MD. Congratulations to them both for their selection and their representation of our Vascular Division.

Institute for Healthcare Quality, Safety and Efficiency (IHQSE) 2016 Certificate Training Program (CTP) - Cohort 4

The IHQSE is a partnership between the University of Colorado School of Medicine, University of Colorado College of Nursing, University Physicians, Inc., Children’s Hospital and the University of Colorado Hospital with the overarching goal to fundamentally improve the care we provide to our patients. Each year applications are accepted from candidate groups that can represent outpatient clinics, hospital units, or multi-site clinical programs. These applications are reviewed and the selected groups are notified. Here are the 2016 Certificate Training Program Teams and their members:

Adolescent Medicine
Elizabeth Gonzales-Salazar
Anissa Jones, MSN, CSN, RN
Jennifer Woods, MD

Inpatient Medical Unit
Donna Border, MS, RN
Heidi McNeely, RN
Kimberly O’Hara, MD

Liver Transplant Program
Katherine Evers, RN, BSN, MBA
Shikha Sundaram, MD, MScI
Michael Wachs, MD*

PACU
Melissa Brooks, MD
Renee Crowder, RN
Sarah Derieg, RN
Norman Friedman, MD

Blood Cancer BMT
Clay Smith, MD
Lindsey McMenimen, RN
Jamie Nordhaen, RN
Glen Peterson, RN, DNP, ACNP
Karley Traudman, DNP, ANP-BC

Pancreas Program
Christian Bartsch, PA-C, MSHS, MPH*
Shannon Haas, BSN, RN, CMSRN
Angela Hill, RN

Periop - Outpatient OR
Holger Eltzschig, MD, PhD
Christopher Lace, MD
Christine Woodman, RN

Rehab Therapy Services
Matthew Gallagher, PT, DPT
Katherine Payne, MD
Deborah Steward, RN

Surgical Trauma ICU
Jason Brainard, MD
Elise Bueno, RN, BS, CCRN

Urology & Female Pelvic Medicine Reconstructive Surgery
Kathleen Connell, MD
Randall Meacham, MD*
Steven Peck, MD

Urology Oncology Clinic
Cheryl Fiscelli, RN, MSN, CAPA
Paul Maroni, MD*

Vascular Surgery
Donovan Ellison, RN
Ashley Vavra, MD*

* = Department of Surgery Faculty

The CTP is the IHQSE’s most rigorous professional development program for clinical unit and program leaders; focusing intensively on the development and enhancement of highly functioning Clinical Leadership Teams capable of transforming the quality, safety, operational efficiency, and experience of care for patients. It is a year-long course, running annually from January through December, with classes held twice a month.

The program places special emphasis on 1) selecting, developing, and supporting inter-disciplinary, inter-professional teams skilled at leading change; 2) enabling those teams to integrate analysis of quality, safety, operational efficiency, patient experience, staff/provider engagement, and cost data into strategic decision making and 3) establishing the necessary culture and infrastructure to facilitate continuous performance improvement. CTP graduates are expected to drive ongoing management, alignment with strategic organizational priorities, and integrated process improvement initiatives.
Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Walk 2015

The Denver Event raised more than $62,000 and attracted over 500 people. Your determination and partnership was the driving force behind this success, and we thank you for your support.

Special thanks also to our many Denver volunteers and sponsors, whose generosity of spirit and tangible donations helped to ensure the success of this event.

Congratulations and Thanks, Denver!

2015 South Central Section American Urological Association Annual Meeting

The 94th Annual Meeting of the South Central Section of the American Urological Association was held October 28-31, in Scottsdale Arizona at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort and Spa.

At this year’s conference Brian Flynn, MD was elected President Elect and Kyle Rove, MD was elected as Resident Section Representative; McCabe Kenny, MD was a member of the First Place team in the Resident Quiz Bowl and Nicholas Westfall, MD was on the Second Place team.

Robert Larke, MD; Michael Maccini, MD; Jason Warncke, MD; Nicholas Westfall, MD; and Trevor Wild, MD were selected to give resident presentations.

Invited Speaker Nicholas Cost, MD presented the “Current Management of Children, Adolescents and Young Adults with Testicular Malignancy” and Fernando Kim, MD presented the “American Urological Association 2015 Choosing Wisely Recommendations”.

Additionally the following faculty served as moderators: Randall B. Meacham, MD; Paul D. Maroni, MD; Vijaya M. Vemulakonda, MD, JD, FCLM.

Overall it was a hugely successful conference. Next year’s conference will be held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado September 28- October 1, 2016.
**Double Win for University of Colorado Hospital Transplant Patient**

By: Tyler Smith, UCHealth

On Feb. 24, Samuel Johns was popping Tums for a bout of stubborn indigestion as he prepared to leave home to work his job as an elevator mechanic with Schindler Elevators in Lakewood. When he became light-headed and dizzy a short time later, he headed to the ED at St. Anthony’s Hospital. There he suffered a major heart attack and flat-lined.

Johns, now 53, survived the event, but it left both his heart and kidneys irreparably damaged. He is now on the road to recovery, thanks to a double heart and kidney transplant performed at University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) on Nov. 7 – the first in Colorado. Johns received his new heart in a six-hour procedure that was followed by a break of equal length to make sure the organ was working well. A second team then transplanted a healthy kidney.

The double procedure required careful coordination between the cardiac and kidney transplant teams, as well as cardiothoracic surgery, pharmacy, social work, and other providers, said UCH cardiologist Amrut Ambardekar, MD, medical director of the Cardiac Transplant Program. He noted that both Peter Kennealey, MD, surgical director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant programs at UCH; and Natasha Altman, MD, an assistant professor of Cardiology with the CU School of Medicine who specializes in heart failure, had experience with double heart-kidney transplants at other institutions.

“We thought, ‘Why send the patient somewhere else?’ We have to try,” Ambardekar said.

The effort was rewarded. Johns left UCH Nov. 17 to return to his home in Littleton to recuperate with the help of his wife Lori and daughters, Sara, 20, and Melissa, 14. The day after his discharge, Johns was back at UCH, not for treatment, but for media coverage of his case.

“The patient has done exceedingly well and his case is a glowing example of how the multidisciplinary approach to organ transplantation works so well at the University of Colorado Hospital,” Kennealey said in a statement.

The nine-month struggle came without warning, Johns said from his hospital bed in UCH’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) just hours before he was discharged. There is a history of cardiac problems on both sides of his family – his father suffered a fatal heart attack – but he says he had no prior heart problems. His life changed with the February attack, however.

The half-hour of CPR delivered by rescuers who saved his failing heart that day left him with broken ribs, he said. The hospital implanted an arterial stent and Johns went home 12 days later with a life jacket fitted with an alarm and electrical paddles to shock his heart in an emergency. He was supposed to wear the jacket for 40 days; the alarm went off 15 hours after he put it on.

Back at St. Anthony’s, Johns had a defibrillator implanted to control violent bouts of ventricular tachycardia (VT) that set his heart racing uncontrollably. He underwent dialysis at UCH to treat kidney damage caused by severely diminished blood flow from his heart. His heart-pumping function was only a third of normal, said Ambardekar.

Ambardekar prescribed heart and kidney medications, but they failed to restore Johns to health. By September, the only remaining option was to place him on transplant lists for both a heart and a kidney – preferably from the same donor.

“Often the kidneys will recover with medication treatment, but with the lack of blood flow and so many episodes of VT, he had suffered multiple insults,” Ambardekar said. “Even with several months of treatment, the kidneys couldn’t get better.”

During the wait for a donor, Johns wore a fanny pack that delivered regular infusions of Dobutamine, a drug used to improve blood circulation. Fatigued and short of breath, he couldn’t work or do much to help Melissa or Lori, who, he said, held down three jobs to keep the family afloat financially.

On Nov. 6, the hospital called to say that organs from a single donor had arrived – news that was simultaneously welcome and anxiety-producing.

“I was very stressed out because it all became a reality just that quick,” Johns said.

Around midnight on Nov. 7, cardiothoracic surgeon Ashok Babu, MD, began the heart transplant. He finished up at 6 a.m. Following the break to ensure the heart was pumping adequately, Kennealey and his team transplanted Johns’ donor kidney in a two-and-a-half-hour procedure.

“Johns recovers at UCH with (from left) wife Lori and daughters Sara and Melissa.”

**Click here to read the complete UCH Insider Article**
Standing over a cadaver, CU vascular surgeon Mark Nehler, MD (left), talks with trainees about locating a paravisceral abdominal aneurysm.

**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH AORTIC ANEURYSMS**

By Tyler Smith, UCHealth

On a recent Friday morning, some 20 young scrub-clad surgeons milled about a large room in the Bioscience Park Center near the Anschutz Medical Campus. After a couple of minutes, they divided into groups and clustered around tables to listen to instructors discuss the fine points of repairing aortic aneurysms.

These were not dry medical lectures, however. At three of the tables, the instructors spoke as they thrust their hands into the open chest cavities of cadavers, exposing organs as the learners looked on intently, taking in the fine points of retroperineal, thoracoabdominal, and paravisceral technique.

At a second set of tables, the instruction focused on practicing putting in grafts and suturing on model torsos.

By the end of the two-hour session, the group had received a flood of information about the repair of aneurysms – ballooning that weakens the walls of the aorta, the largest blood vessel in the body. Later that afternoon, there was more hands-on training, this time on machines that allow trainees to simulate advancing and placing endografts with the aortic artery using the wires, catheters, deployment devices, and X-ray imaging machines that are the tools of the craft.

The Nov. 6 event, billed as the “Mile High Aortic Tech Exchange,” took place in a 1,900-square-foot training facility that is the centerpiece of the Center for Surgical Innovation (CSI), a program developed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The CU Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy section was co-sponsor with the CSI and CU’s Center for Collaborative Bioinnovation – a joint initiative of the Bioengineering Department and the Vascular Surgery section.

Spots for the gathering filled quickly, said Sarah Massena, executive director of the CSI. That’s been the case since the center moved into the new space last February, she added. The CSI had 71 training sessions for the first quarter of fiscal year 2016 (July 1 to Sept. 30, 2015), well ahead of the total of 159 for all of fiscal year 2015, Massena said.

A dozen CU surgical program faculty members participated in the vascular surgery event, which was developed and directed by Omid Jazaeri, MD, assistant professor of Vascular Surgery and Interventional Radiology. Three invited faculty – Jason Lee of Stanford; David Rigberg, from UCLA; and Murray Shames, from the University of South Florida – also participated. A $40,000 educational grant from medical device manufacturer Medtronic to the CU Foundation paid for most of the expenses, Jazaeri said, but the purpose of the gathering was training and learning, not sales.

“Sometimes there are gaps in knowledge because of a lack of volume of cases and expertise, or practice patterns,” Jazaeri said. “These educational events allow people with expertise to come together in a focused manner to present trends and data and information about managing aortic disease. There are many different tools to treat [it], and our faculty are skilled in using many medical devices.”

Jazaeri noted that open and minimally invasive surgical techniques were not the sole focus of the conference. Shames, for example, addressed determining whether or not patients need aortic surgery. Jazaeri discussed radiation safety, and Beth Kujawski, manager of clinical reimbursement for the Department of Radiology at University of Colorado Hospital, provided information about coding for vascular surgical procedures.

Rigberg, who is section chief of vascular surgery at Santa Monica-UCLA Hospital, said relatively small, hands-on training sessions like the one at CSI have become more common in the past several years and are especially valued in the vascular surgery community, which is relatively small.

“Every vascular trainee attends one at some point,” Rigberg said. The courses aren’t all about learning the newest techniques, either, he added. With the proliferation of endograft repair, for example, training in open procedures is more in demand, he said.

To read the complete UCH Insider Article
Beat goes on for UCH patient, thanks to Cardiac Assist Device Trial

By: Tyler Smith, UCHealth

Ed Jungbluth spent eight years in the Marine Corps, a portion of it as a line sergeant in charge of supplying food, radios, and equipment for soldiers stationed in Japan during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, he completed stints in leadership positions promoting tourism in Colorado and New Mexico.

At 81, Jungbluth is a plainspoken, articulate man with a strong personality and a wife and marriage to match. He’s been married to Mimi for 48 years. Physically, however, Jungbluth’s congestive heart disease, which led to a heart attack in 1988, has made raking leaves or painting the trim on his home monumental tasks. Until recently, there was little hope of improvement.

“I had mushrooming problems,” he said. “I was tired, weak, and lethargic. I couldn’t do much. I couldn’t breathe.”

His cardiologist in Albuquerque, N.M., referred Jungbluth to University of Colorado Hospital, and on Sept. 14, he underwent a procedure to give his ailing heart a boost. Surgeons Ashok Babu, MD, and Joseph Cleveland, MD, implanted in Jungbluth a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) capable of pumping up to 10 liters (2.6 gallons) of oxygen-rich blood per minute to his body.

Jungbluth is the first UCH patient enrolled in the MOMENTUM 3 clinical trial of Thoratec Corporation’s HeartMate 3 LVAD. The trial ultimately aims to sign up slightly more than 1,000 patients at 60 sites nationwide; UCH is the only participating hospital in the Rocky Mountain region.

One important change in the trial of the HeartMate 3 is that patients will be less likely to “beat up the blood,” as Cleveland put it. “It’s like the difference between driving your car down I-25 instead of a narrow alleyway.”

The wider space between rotor and housing means the device will be more likely to “beat up the blood,” as Cleveland put it. “It’s like the difference between driving your car down I-25 instead of a narrow alleyway.”

The HeartMate 3 includes “artificial pulse” technology, which is designed to imitate the normal flow of blood in the body as it is pumped from the heart. Every two seconds the pump “revs down” and then quickly increases the number of revolutions, Brieke said. This fills the pump with blood, making it work harder, thereby washing out the internal mechanism and reducing the chance of blood becoming stagnant and clotting, he explained.

“Blood is not like oil,” Brieke said. “It is a living substance, and blood will clot with less-than-normal flow.” In addition, a more regular pulse of blood to the organs of the body could help to reduce bleeding in areas like the GI tract, a problem frequently associated with LVADs in the past, Brieke said. Whether or not the HeartMate 3 helps with that problem remains to be seen, he emphasized.

From the surgical perspective, Cleveland said the HeartMate 3 is smaller and therefore no longer requires surgeons to create a pocket for the device outside the pericardium – the membrane surrounding the heart – by cutting the patient’s diaphragm. Instead, surgeons cut a smaller ’V’ shape to reach the bottom of the pericardium, where they implant the device.

“We were not transplant candidates. Like the GI tract, a problem could help to reduce bleeding in areas like the GI tract, a problem frequently associated with LVADs in the past, Brieke said. Whether or not the HeartMate 3 helps with that problem remains to be seen, he emphasized.

“Blood is not like oil,” Brieke said. “It is a living substance, and blood will clot with less-than-normal flow.” In addition, a more regular pulse of blood to the organs of the body could help to reduce bleeding in areas like the GI tract, a problem frequently associated with LVADs in the past, Brieke said. Whether or not the HeartMate 3 helps with that problem remains to be seen, he emphasized.

"There is less trauma and risk of infection for the patient," Cleveland said...
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11, 2016</td>
<td>6:30 am - 8:00 am</td>
<td>Grand Rounds</td>
<td>The US Physicians Workforce Shortage</td>
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<td>Randall Meacham, MD, Professor, Urology, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>Vascular Anomalies</td>
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<td>Ann Kulongowski, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital Colorado</td>
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<td>January 18, 2016</td>
<td>6:30 am - 8:00 am</td>
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<td>Professionalism: Why It Is Important</td>
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<td>Endoscopic Energy Use: Is there Data?</td>
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<td>Edward Jones, MD, Assistant Professor, GITES, VA Eastern CO Health Care</td>
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<td>Ana Gleisner, MD, Assistant Professor, GITES, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement</td>
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<td>Joseph Cleveland, Jr., MD, Professor, Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>February 8, 2016</td>
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<td>Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Individual-Specific, Beat-to-Beat Trending of Significant Human Blood Loss</td>
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<td>Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections: A Critical Review for Surgeons</td>
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<td>Lisa Ferrigno, MD, Assistant Professor, GITES, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>February 15, 2016</td>
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<td>Recent Advances in the Surgical Management of Breast Cancer</td>
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<td>Eleni Tousimis, MD, PhD, Director of the MedStar, Breast Health Program, Georgetown University Hospital</td>
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<td>Using REDcap for Data Management</td>
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<td>The Difficult Parathyroidectomy</td>
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<td>Maria Albija-Cruz, MD, Assistant Professor, GITES, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>Developing an Organizational Vision</td>
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<td>Ashley Vavra, MD, Assistant Professor, Vascular, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>Surgical Education: The Lifelong Process</td>
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<td>Use of DCD Donors in Pediatric Cardiac Transplant</td>
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<td>Patient Safety in Surgery: Review of Basic Principles</td>
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<td>Fernando Kim, MD, Professor, Urology, University of Colorado Hospital</td>
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<td>REBOA and Other Catheter Based Interventions for Hemorrhagic Shock</td>
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<td>Grand Rounds</td>
<td>COPIC Medical Staff: Risk Management</td>
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<td>May 2, 2016</td>
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