In the past few months we have been busy people. Celebrations abound as our Graduates move on and we welcome a new group of residents and fellows. New appointments are taken as Dr. Duncan Wilcox is named Surgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital Colorado; Dr. Martin McCarter is named Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development for the Department of Surgery, and I am now the Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center, in addition to continuing as Chair for the Department of Surgery.

The trauma center at Denver Health is renamed after Dr. Ernest “Gene” Moore and a number of new faculty and staff join our ranks.

We celebrated our patients with the publication of “The Art of Healing” and enjoyed an evening at the Fulginiti gallery with the patients and the artist responsible for the artwork. It was a very moving night of hearing their stories and seeing their responses to the portraits Arturo painted of them.

Our Burn team represented well at the American Burn Association in Chicago with congratulations going to Devin Boe, recipient of the Best Overall Poster Award.

Dr. Rony Marwan will continue his research of Neural Tube Defects in relation to myelomeningocele (spina bifida) with a 200K Research Scholar Award.

We are also excited to announce the roll out of a new Advanced Practice Provider Surgical Fellowship to begin classes in January 2019.

Additionally we were honored to host David B. Hoyt, MD for the Sarah V. and Ernest E. Moore Trauma Lectureship and Sean C. Grondin, MD, MPH for the 13th Annual Marvin Pomerantz Lectureship in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

As always it continues to be my privilege to share our successes and upcoming events with you. I hope you enjoy the newsletter that follows.
Dr. McCarter attended the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his surgery residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He went on to complete a surgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Program. He began in the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in 2001 and is currently a Professor and the Surgical Director of the Esophageal and Gastric Cancer program. Please join me in welcoming Dr. McCarter to the department’s leadership team!

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

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Martin McCarter, MD, FACS
Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development

Dr. Wilcox joined Children’s Colorado in 2008 as the Chief of Pediatric Urology. He practices at the hospital’s Anschutz Medical Campus location, as well as Children’s Colorado South Campus in Highlands Ranch. He has served as a trustee of the Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation board since 2015, and was recently named The Ponzi Family Chair for the Surgeon-in-Chief by the Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation.

“Duncan Wilcox has proven himself to be an outstanding leader during his tenure as interim surgeon-in-chief,” noted Jena Hausmann, president and CEO of Children’s Colorado. “With his vision, passion and strategic mindset, in addition to his highly regarded medical expertise and research background, he was a natural choice to fill this role on our medical leadership team. I have every confidence that he will lead our already outstanding Center for Children’s Surgery to even greater heights in the future.”

Dr. Wilcox’s primary clinical interests include reconstructive urology, incontinence and patients with bladder disease and complex bladder anomalies. He has led and/or been involved in a number of clinical outcome studies specifically involving hypospadias, undescended testicles and patients with hydronephrosis, or the swelling of a kidney due to a build-up of urine.

He attended medical school at the University of London, trained in pediatric urology and pediatric surgery at the University of London, Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital and was an attending physician in London and UT Southwestern in Dallas.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Martin McCarter, MD on his appointment as the Vice Chair of Strategic Planning and Program Development of our department.

As the new Vice Chair for Strategic Planning and Program Development, Dr. McCarter will work closely with department leadership to develop both long and short term strategies, while maintaining an understanding of current market conditions.

He will work in close collaborative relationships with CU Medicine, Children’s Hospital Colorado and UCH ealth to maintain an understanding of future expansion programs, marketing strategies and clinical initiatives.

Dr. McCarter will serve on the Department of Surgery Executive Committee and work individually with Division Heads to understand the strategic goals of their subspecialties. He will serve as a resource as they develop business proposals for new clinical opportunities both on the Anschutz Campus and within outlying facilities.

Dr. McCarter attended the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his surgery residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He went on to complete a surgery fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Program.

He began in the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in 2001 and is currently a Professor and the Surgical Director of the Esophageal and Gastric Cancer program.

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

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

This publication is viewable online at: http://issuu.com/slangesurgery/docs/August_2018_dos_newsletter
WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF!

Faculty

Serenity Banden, NP
Instructor
Surgical Oncology

Austin DeRosa, MD
Senior Instructor
Urology

Lynette Driscoll, PAC
Instructor
Transplant Surgery

Donald Jacobs, MD
Professor & Division Chief
Vascular Surgery

Paige Kack, NP
Instructor
Pediatric Surgery

Kristen Lowe, DDS
Assistant Professor
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Vera Sekula, PAC
Instructor
Urology

David Sobel, MD
Senior Instructor
Urology

Honor, Awards, Accomplishments

For information on the awards presented at Graduation please see page 5.

Kayla Lang

Congratulations on earning your “Stop the Bleed” certification! Way to go!

Surgical Oncology

Lara Casey
Patient Affairs Coordinator

Kiran Dyamahalli
Post Doc Fellow
GI, Trauma & Endocrine Surgery

Amy Fortner
Executive Assistant
Surgical Oncology

Laboratory Support Specialist

Center for Surgical Innovation

Allie Ivar
Administrative Assistant III
Vascular Surgery

Holly Hulsebus, MPH
Research Assistant
GI, Trauma & Endocrine Surgery

Bryce Jones

Karen Ochoa
Program Assistant
Urology

Kayla Lang
Academic Services Professional
Office of Education

Hao Liu, MD, PhD
Post Doc Fellow
Surgical Oncology

Norma Ochoa
Program Assistant
Urology

Rachael O’Donnell
HR Professional
Finance & Administration

Christian Scott
Division Manager
Cardiothoracic Surgery

Jason Owens
Division Manager
Urology

Jessie Robinson
Division Manager
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Sarah Smith
Business Support Specialist
Transplant Surgery
CONGRATULATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GRADUATES

It is with much pride and appreciation that the Department of Surgery wishes our graduating residents and fellows much success in their continued training and careers!

General Surgery Residents

Mara Additon, MD
Private Practice
Pocatello, Idaho

Nicole Christian, MD
Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Aidan Hamm, MD
Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Carolinwas Medical Center
Charlotte, North Carolina

Douglas Hirth, MD
Private Practice
Grand Junction, Colorado

Kenneth Howell, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Alexander Morton, MD
Assistant Professor
University of Colorado
Denver Health Medical Center
Denver, Colorado

Aline Rau, MD
Plastic Surgery Residency
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Neil Vernardos, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Shelly Wilson, MD
Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Cardiothoracic Fellowship

Richard D. Schulick; Alex Morton; Mara Additon; Aidan Hamm; Shelly Wilson; Aline Rau; Nicole Christian; Doug Hirth; Ken Howell; Neil Venardos; Mark Nehler

Charles Cole, MD
Private Practice
Washington Regional Medical Center
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Brendan Dewan, MD
Private Practice
Austin Texas

Harma Turbendian, MD
Assistant Professor
Wolfson Children’s Hospital
Jacksonville, Florida

Emma Hamilton, MD

Pediatric International Surgery Fellowship

Raphael Vuille-dit-Bille, MD, PhD
Pediatric Surgeon,
University of Basel
Switzerland

Seth Tebockhorst, MD
Hand Surgery Fellowship
University of Texas Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

S. Christopher Derderian, MD
Pediatric Surgery Fellow
Children’s Hospital Colorado

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship

Karen Lo, MD
Private Practice
Denver, Colorado

Harma Turbendian, MD
Assistant Professor
Wolfson Children’s Hospital
Jacksonville, Florida

Emma Hamilton, MD

Pediatric Colorectal Surgery Fellowship

Pediatric Surgical Critical Care Surgery Fellowship
Pediatric Urology Fellowship
Amanda Saltzman, MD
Assistant Professor
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Transplant Surgery Fellowship
Muhammad Khan, MBBS
Transplant Surgeon
Karachi, Pakistan

Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Kathryn Bowser, MD
Assistant Professor
Christiana Care Hospital

Reconstructive Urology Fellowship
Michael Avallone, MD
Private Practice
San Luis Obispo, California

Urology Residents
Michael Maccini, MD
Private Practice
Spokane, Washington

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Michal Radomski, MD
Trauma Acute Care Surgery Fellowship
University of Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

Urology Residents
Trevor Wild, MD
Private Practice
Des Moines, Iowa

Residency Awards
Ernest E. Moore Award for Basic Science
Alison Halpern, MD
PGY 3 General Surgery Resident

Frederick Grover Award for Clinical Research
Julia Coleman, MD
PGY 3 General Surgery Resident

Ben Eiseman Basic Science Research Award
Piyush Sharma, MD
PGY 2 General Surgery Resident

Ben Eiseman Clinical Research Award
Hunter Moore, MD
PGY 4 General Surgery Resident

J. Cuthbert Owens Award
Brandon Chapman, MD
PGY 4 General Surgery Resident

Medical Student Awards
Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award
Nicole Christian, MD
Resident

Alden Harken Clinical Research Award
Aleksander Blubaum
Medical Student

Owens-Swan Award
Helen Madsen
Medical Student

George Packard Award
Andrea Geedes
Medical Student

Medical Student Eiseman Award
Clay Cothren Burlew, MD
Faculty

DeLauro Scholarship
Joshua Mares
Medical Student

Chief Resident Awards
Faculty Teacher of the Year
Ana Gleisner, MD
Faculty

Intern of the Year
Laura Leonard, MD
WELCOME!

FELLOWS

Burn Surgery Fellowship
Jessica Hard, MD
University of Colorado

Cardiothoracic Fellowship
Vicente Valero, MD
Johns Hopkins University

Congenital Cardiac Fellowship
Matthew Stone, MD
University of Virginia

Pediatric Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Andrew Trecartin, MD
Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Mohammed Ageel, MD
University of Toledo

Pediatric Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Brian Blackwood, MD
Rush University Medical Center

Pediatric Urology Fellowship
Sarah Hecht, MD
Oregon Health Science University

Plastic Surgery Fellowship
Aline Rau, MD
University of Colorado

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Amy Gore, MD
Rutgers University

Alexander Schwed, MD
Harbor, UCLA Medical Center

Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Fellowship
Michal Radomski, MD
George Washington University Hospital

Nicole Werner, MD
University of Michigan

Transplant Surgery Fellowship
Hillary Yaffe, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Montefiore Medical Center

Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Sammy Siada, DO
UCSF - Fresno

RESIDENTS

General Surgery Residency
Danielle Abbitt, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Central Florida

Samuel Antoine, MD
Urology - Preliminary
Columbia University College

Michael Atwell, MD
Urology - Preliminary
University of Illinois

Sara Chiochetti, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
Rowan University

Dylan Coughlin, MD
General Surgery - Preliminary
University of Colorado

Kevin Choy, MD
General Surgery - Categorical
Florida State University

This publication is viewable online at: http://issuu.com/slangsurgery/docs/August_2018_dos_newsletter
Margot DeBot, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Rush Medical College

James Dunbar, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
West Virginia University

Adam Dyas, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
University of Alabama

Tiffany Hsiao, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Virginia Commonwealth

Daniel Kissau, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Wayne State University

Anna Kotlarz, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Florida State University

Alexander Kurth, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
University of Texas - SW

Thien Le, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
University of Colorado

Janet Lee, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Virginia Commonwealth

Helen Madsen, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
University of Colorado

Lea Matthews, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Thomas Jefferson

Amber Moyer, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Temple University

Vivian Nguyen, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
University of Colorado

Carson Petrash, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
University of Texas - SW

Miguel Rodriguez-Homs, MD  
Urology - Preliminary  
University of Iowa

Paul Salazar, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Indiana University

Daniel Sassoon, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Indiana University

Tarek Shihab, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Texas Tech Odessa

Michaela Sljivich, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
University of Texas MB

Keval Tilva, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Emory University

Kathleen Turner, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Wayne State University

Ryan Venor, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
New York Medical College

Connor Wiles, MD  
General Surgery - Preliminary  
Oregon Health and Science

Matthew Winn, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Medical College of Georgia

Dor Yoeli, MD  
General Surgery - Categorical  
Baylor College

Plastic Surgery Residency

Ryan Constantine, MD  
Texas A&M University, COM

Leela Mundra, MD  
University of Miami, SOM

Becky King, MD  
University of Colorado

Urology Residency

Rodrigo Rodrigues Pessoa, MD  
University of Colorado

Jeffrey Morrison  
University of Colorado

Nadia Halstead, MD  
University of Colorado
ARTURO GARCIA'S passion was painting, but he had fallen back on a job as a bartender to pay the bills. During a shift at Tres Margaritas, the restaurant in Lakewood where he worked, he was stricken with abdominal pains that proved to be signs of a rare form of cancer.

At University of Colorado Hospital, Arturo received a state-of-the-art surgery called the Whipple procedure, which halted the cancer's progress, but he still had to fight for his life as his weakened body battled a life-threatening infection for weeks in the hospital. Then came 12 rounds of chemotherapy.

Arturo made it through the ordeal, and the experience changed his life. Distractions and mundane concerns dropped away, and the essentials of his life came into sharper focus: his love for his family, his need for meaning and purpose, and his passion for painting. He vowed to find a way to make art central to his life, and to help others find healing and meaning through art.

Fast-forward three years to 2016, when the Department of Surgery was working on a Surgical Care Report to keep stakeholders informed of the Department's growth and progress. Dr. Richard Schulick, Chair of the Department, wanted the report to go beyond financial figures and lists of accomplishments. Through discussions with faculty and staff, the decision was made to include the personal stories of several patients to illustrate the heart of the work we do in our department. Our team is large, and our activities are complex, but the ultimate goal is simple: Improve Every Life.

To illustrate the patients' stories—in a literal sense—the Department reached out to Arturo, who was busily engaged with his new life, painting in a bold new style and selling his work at galleries in Denver. Arturo loved the idea, and the Department, together with UCH, commissioned him to paint eight portraits of patients whose lives had been changed by the work of our surgeons. (One of those patients was Arturo himself.)

The paintings are featured, in digital form, in the Department's 2017 Surgical Care Report, The Art of Healing.

This summer, Arturo's paintings went on display in the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. On June 22, 2018, the Department of Surgery held a reception to celebrate the exhibition. Arturo had previously "met" his fellow patients only through photographs, but now he had the opportunity to meet them in person. At the reception, he movingly described how these human connections were the "last stitch" in his healing process, which began in the hospital, continued at home and through his work in the studio finally came full circle into the community.

"Art helps sick people. The very least that I can do is try to give back what was given to me."

- Arturo Garcia
Those of us who have confronted the sudden possibility of death or faced a health or physical threat in our lives have one thing in common: a bigger appreciation for life than we had before and a new awareness.

When I was asked to do a series of portraits of people who had been in some sort of health distress, perhaps even facing the possibility of dying, I immediately became interested. The whole experience was too familiar to me: I had been there. So I took on the project, moved especially by one common denominator that outweighed all the rest: the experience of survival, of recovery, of healing. In short, the experience of life on a different level; one that has a new meaning and a new purpose.

In 2016-17 I painted eight portraits of people of all ages, genders and cultures, including one of myself. All I had were their photos and the spirit carried by their powerful stories which related to mine in the sense that we all seemed to have one thing in common: we wanted to live.

From personal experience I have discovered that anything is possible when you want it badly enough and work towards achieving it. The universal power of intent is immense. In our case, the universe conspired, and we had the willingness, the thirst for life, the means, and when the doctors appeared, the medicine. We were ready. We wanted to live. Life showed up.

The colorful faces, the different hues, the explosion of color, are all parallel to the universe: we are all one and moving as one. The cells move, the stars and the galaxies move, the thick ubiquitous strokes of oil paint are frozen as they move, propelled by the pallet knives onto the canvas like meteorites in the vast universe.

In my pallet, color is beauty, and beauty is life itself. The warmth of humanity makes itself evident in the canvas. Our true nature is not abstract as our brain sketches it. Our true nature comes from the deepest silence within, from happiness, from love. The spirit thrives on our true nature.

The portraits painted for the "Art of Healing Surgical Care Report" are a eulogy to our true human nature, to the light of our beautiful spirit and to its healing.

To view more of Arturo’s artwork visit:

www.arturogarciafineart.com
DENVER HEALTH RENAMES TRAUMA CENTER TO HONOR DR. MOORE

Denver Health is thrilled and honored to announce the renaming and dedication of its Trauma Center as the Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health, after Denver Health Director of Surgical Research Dr. Ernest E. ’Gene’ Moore. The dedication came at a special ceremony on July 10. During his more than four decades of continued service at Denver Health, Dr. Moore has achieved international recognition as a “godfather” in the field of trauma. Under his leadership, Denver Health pioneered the state’s first Level 1 Trauma Center – an academic commitment to advance the study of trauma care and research worldwide.

Countless current and former Denver Health patients credit Dr. Moore with saving their lives, including Denver Police Sgt. Tony Lopez and Jourdan Block.

Dr. Moore began his career at Denver Health in 1976 and served as the Chief of Trauma, Chief of Surgery and the first Bruce M. Rockwell Distinguished Chair in Trauma Surgery before his current role as Director of Surgical Research. He also serves as Vice Chairman for Research and is a Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University of Colorado Denver, a Denver Health partner hospital.

Denver Health is the leading trauma referral hospital in Colorado and serves six neighboring states in the Rocky Mountain Region, managing all types of trauma cases for both adult and pediatric patients. Denver Health’s trauma research laboratory has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for 30 consecutive years.

As the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the city of Denver, some 18,000 trauma patients annually and the Center receives transfers from more than 60 regional hospitals.

Denver Health has a long history of providing the most advanced trauma care. Since 1860 (our first trauma patient arrived by horse after a gunshot wound from a duel), the trauma center has remained a pioneer in trauma care. As the first Trauma Center in Colorado, Denver Health was just re-verified and designated as a Level 1 Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons and the State of Colorado, continuing a long legacy of providing care for the most severely injured.

Dr. Moore is co-author of Trauma and the editor of the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, both leading publications in the field of trauma.

The Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health is one of the nation’s leading Level 1 Trauma Centers. With one of the highest survival rates in the country (98 percent) for the most severe injuries, the Center is both nationally and internationally recognized for innovative care of the injured patient. Denver Health’s skilled and specialized trauma surgeons have written much of the key literature in trauma today.

Gene Moore, MD; Charles Fox, MD; Barry Platnick, MD; Ryan Lawless, MD; Mitch Cohen, MD; Clay Cothren Burlew, MD; Frederic Pieracci, MD; Eric Campion, MD

Ernest E. Moore, MD
Dr. Schulick Named Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA

Richard D. Schulick, MD, MBA, a renowned cancer surgeon and accomplished administrative leader, has been named director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center to lead a $100 million investment in the program over the next five years.

“...to have a leader as talented as Dr. Schulick already on our faculty and ready to enhance the high-quality research and care provided by the faculty and staff of the CU Cancer Center,” said John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, dean of the School of Medicine. “Dr. Schulick will be implementing an impressive plan to extend the reach of the cancer center, further integrate our research and clinical programs and improve the quality of life for the patients we serve.”

After Beating Her Heroin Addiction, This Woman Now Hopes to Keep Her Legs

By: Ryan Hearer, 9News, May 29, 2018

AURORA - When we think of heroin addicts in recovery we think of counseling and methadone clinics. What we don’t often see are the physical scars, the destruction that sticking yourself with a needle can have over time.

Blair Hubbard, unfortunately, knows all too well what kind of damage a heroin addiction can do. Her journey started after receiving a prescription for opioids at a dentist’s office.

After six years of abusing pills, she turned to heroin.

“When you start using needles, the obsession to get a hit becomes - it takes over,” said Hubbard.

She got clean in 2011. She said she recalls struggling to find a place that she hadn’t already stuck herself with a needle.

“I know people, myself included, that have cried over not being able to find a hit,” she said. “So, you start looking everywhere. Everywhere you can. I am essentially scarred from head to toe.”

Some wounds scar. Others fester. Both of Blair’s legs have had open wounds that became infected.

“...the skin and soft tissue get infected. It falls apart. If it is overlying a tendon or nerve or bone, it becomes a real problem,” said Dr. Tae Chong, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at UCHealth. “If you can’t clear the infection and give her some new tissue to cover it, she is going to lose that leg. She’s going to get an amputation.”

Blair’s had a handful of surgeries to make this happen. It’s pushed her into debt. She spends more time in hospitals than she ever expected. But she knows she’s one of the lucky ones.

“There are a large number of users who are living with open wounds and abscesses, that are really, really sick. And I don’t think society really understands that,” she said.

This stage of her life is about getting back to being Blair. A person she once lost and has found again.

Broncos Stadium Employees Given Life Saving Training Before Season

By: Dillon Thomas, CBS4, July 16, 2018

Every Sunday, during Denver Broncos season, ticket holders trust stadium employees to take them to their seats, or to even serve them fresh food. But, after the training they received Sunday, Broncos fans can now trust many with their lives.

Thanks to a partnership with UCHealth, hundreds of stadium employees were given training on how to stop life threatening bleeding situations.

“It gives them more skills to help people if they are in need”, said Dr. Robert McIntyre, Medical Director of Trauma Services at University of Colorado Hospital.

McIntyre said the training the staff members received was needed, especially as critical responses increase in frequency. “This course is all about teaching people how to recognize bleeding that might be life threatening,” McIntyre said.

Employees at UCHealth volunteered their time to train the staff. “It was very informative, just to be able to save somebody’s life if you are put in that situation,” said Jeremiah Holmes, a stadium employee.

Mile High Stadium is already equipped with AED’s throughout the concourses. The stadium pledged to implement kits throughout the building as well, that will help employees stop the bleed in the future.

“AURORA - When we think of heroin addicts in recovery we think of counseling and methadone clinics. What we don’t often see are the physical scars, the destruction that sticking yourself with a needle can have over time.

Blair Hubbard, unfortunately, knows all too well what kind of damage a heroin addiction can do. Her journey started after receiving a prescription for opioids at a dentist’s office.

After six years of abusing pills, she turned to heroin.

“When you start using needles, the obsession to get a hit becomes - it takes over,” said Hubbard.

She got clean in 2011. She said she recalls struggling to find a place that she hadn’t already stuck herself with a needle.

“I know people, myself included, that have cried over not being able to find a hit,” she said. “So, you start looking everywhere. Everywhere you can. I am essentially scarred from head to toe.”

Some wounds scar. Others fester. Both of Blair’s legs have had open wounds that became infected.

“When I first started shooting heroin, whatever the heroin was cut with essentially ruined my skin,” she said, lying in a hospital bed at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Two years after she stopped using heroin, doctors agreed to skin grafts that close up the wounds.

“The skin and soft tissue get infected. It falls apart. If it is overlying a tendon or nerve or bone, it becomes a real problem,” said Dr. Tae Chong, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon at UCHealth. “If you can’t clear the infection and give her some new tissue to cover it, she is going to lose that leg. She’s going to get an amputation.”

Blair’s had a handful of surgeries to make this happen. It’s pushed her into debt. She spends more time in hospitals than she ever expected. But she knows she’s one of the lucky ones.

“There are a large number of users who are living with open wounds and abscesses, that are really, really sick. And I don’t think society really understands that,” she said.

This stage of her life is about getting back to being Blair. A person she once lost and has found again.
Neural tube defects (NTDs) are the leading cause of central nervous system malformation in humans and a devastating birth defect that produces progressive damage to the developing spinal cord. The health care cost of these defects amounts to $1,400,000 per child affected by a NTD, specifically myelomeningocele (spina bifida), over a 20-year life span.

The landmark NIH-sponsored Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMs) led to a paradigm shift in the management of NTDs and has established that prenatal repair of these defects results in a significant reduction in the need for postnatal ventriculoperitoneal shunting. However, prenatal repair comes with significant risks to both mother and baby; with increased risk of premature rupture of membranes, preterm delivery and uterine scar complications. Furthermore, it is offered relatively late (23-24 weeks) in relation to formation of the delicate nervous system.

In our mouse model of burn injury, we were able to reduce expansion of these suppressive cells by inhibiting a particular aspect of the inflammatory response to injury, the soluble interleukin-6 receptor pathway. These studies suggest that targeting specific components of the initial inflammatory response to injury could restore or improve suppressed immunity not only in burn-injured patients, but potentially in other critically ill patients suffering from similar immune dysfunction.

Innovative approaches are needed to offer protection of the nervous tissue along with minimizing risks of the procedure. All recent investigations focus on utilizing 2-3 incisions that may prove beneficial in reducing uterine and maternal complications but will not change the age of application and unfortunately require prolonged operative times with potential neurodevelopmental and physiological risks to the fetus.

Using our unique and successful NTD mouse model, we have developed a novel Reverse Thermal Gel (RTG) patch to protect the neural tube defect from the amniotic fluid early in gestation (16-18 weeks), while minimizing the size and number of chorioamniotic membrane violations and the prolonged maternal and fetal anesthesia.

Having performed the necessary preparatory work in our NTD mouse model, we now aim to apply our approach to the sheep model prior to human translation.

This approach has the potential to revolutionize the current management of NTDs and will be essential before clinical trials can be translated to humans. Not only will the development of a needle-based approach allow a paradigm shift in the timing and method of repair, but it will also minimize surgical and anesthetic risks by shortening operating room time thus further improving maternal and neonatal outcomes beyond open repairs.

The research scholar award will provide sufficient funds to obtain the required preliminary data for a larger NIH R01 study.
NEW ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP

The Department of Surgery and UHealth are excited to announce a new 12-month Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Surgical Fellowship. This program will provide extensive training and experience in the pre-, intra-, and post-operative settings across a variety of clinics and surgery divisions at both the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora and at the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado. The fellowship is ideal for new graduates who wish to pursue a career in surgery or practicing APPs who wish to change career focus.

The APP fellowship will provide surgical didactic and clinical experience to both Physician Assistants and Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioners across the continuum of care for surgical patients. Didactic education includes a comprehensive training orientation, skills labs, and weekly education lectures. The clinical rotations will occur across a variety of surgical specialty teams including but not limited to trauma and acute care, surgical oncology, breast surgery, urology, and intensive care. The fellowship will provide opportunities for these fellows to engage in research and quality improvement initiatives within the hospital, with the support of UHealth faculty and staff.

The program will begin accepting applications September 2018 with a start date of our first class on January 2019.

For more information contact: Christian Bartsch, PA-Cchristan.bartsch@ucdenver.edu.

2ND ANNUAL SARAH V. AND ERNEST E. MOORE TRAUMA LECTURESHIP

We were honored to host David B. Hoyt as the second annual Sarah V. and Ernest E. Moore Visiting Professor. Dr. Hoyt is a nationally recognized trauma surgeon and currently serves as the Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Dr. Hoyt attended Amherst College for his undergraduate studies and received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his surgical residency at the UC San Diego School of Medicine (UCSD) in 1984 and joined the faculty at UCSD where he served as a Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. He was appointed Professor of Surgery in 1995 and awarded The Monroe E. Trout Professorship in Surgery in 1996.

In 2006, he was recruited to the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine (UCI) where he was named the Chairman of the Department of Surgery and the John E. Connolly Professor of Surgery and was later appointed the Vice Executive Dean in 2008.

Dr. Hoyt has authored over 480 publications. Dr. Hoyt’s research interests involve basic and clinical work in a variety of important areas related to trauma patients and trauma care systems, including cytokine regulation, the isolation of trauma active peptides, trauma registries, violence prevention, crash investigation, and long-term outcomes research. Dr. Hoyt holds membership on the editorial boards of The World Journal of Emergency Surgery, Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Journal of Trauma, Shock, and Open Access Emergency Medicine.

13TH ANNUAL MARVIN POMERANTZ LECTURESHIP IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

We were pleased to host Dr. Sean C. Grondin as this year’s speaker for the 13th Annual Marvin Pomerantz lectureship. In 1998, Dr. Grondin completed his thoracic surgery residency at the University of Toronto. He subsequently completed a thoracic oncology fellowship at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and a Master’s Degree in Clinical Effectiveness at the Harvard School of Public Health. From 1999 to 2000, Dr. Grondin finished a second fellowship in Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Grondin began his clinical practice at Northwestern University in Chicago prior to moving to Alberta, Canada in 2002. Currently, Dr. Grondin is Professor and Head, Department of Surgery, University of Calgary and President of the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeons. He also serves as the Canadian Director on the Board of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Secretary of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association. Dr. Grondin has received several awards including the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada “Mentor of the Year” award as well as the 2016 King James IV Canadian Traveling Fellowship award.

Dr. Grondin’s particular areas of interest include all aspects of thoracic oncology (lung and esophageal cancer, mediastinal malignancies, and mesothelioma) and minimally invasive thoracic surgery. Dr. Grondin is also interested in research related to surgical workforce planning and the development of educational programs that assist in the enhancement of leadership skills for faculty members and trainees.
The base of her larynx and just below it. The diagnosis was a rare condition called idiopathic subglottic stenosis.

The “idiopathic” in idiopathic subglottic stenosis means the narrowing was of unknown cause, arose spontaneously or both. (Sometimes the cause of the stenosis is understood – it can happen after intubation or as a reaction to a tracheostomy tube that’s damaged the airway, or because of an illness called Wegener’s granulomatosis.)

She had to sleep sitting up, so she slept poorly. It was hard to eat. Her daughter Olivia, 3, was having a hard time adjusting to this new reality. “She didn’t understand why I couldn’t speak, couldn’t read her stories, couldn’t sing to her at night,” Williams said.

“And I couldn’t physically bend over, so there was less physical contact.”

But there was hope. It arrived in the form of Dr. John Mitchell, the University of Colorado School of Medicine’s chief of general thoracic surgery who practices at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital. Mitchell is among the few surgeons in the country with deep experience in the challenging surgical repair of idiopathic subglottic stenosis.

We tend to associate the term “elite” with athletes, but it also applies to Lindsey Williams. She’s among one of fewer than 500 board-certified veterinary technician specialists in emergency and critical care in the world. That’s about the same number of people who play NBA basketball.

For a couple of months, she had noticed that she was having a harder time breathing. She wondered if allergens or forest fires in the region had something to do with it. A visit to Nashville, Tenn., for a conference answered those questions. “They were not having forest fires, and there was completely different plant life, and it was worse,” she said.

Then, about three weeks into the fall semester, she woke up barely able to breathe. Williams’s husband Zachary took her to the emergency room, and her work-at-home day turned into a day at the local hospital. Her breathing problem had nothing to do with her lungs; rather, it was caused by a narrowing of her airway at the base of her larynx and just below it. The diagnosis was a rare condition called idiopathic subglottic stenosis.

The “idiopathic” in idiopathic subglottic stenosis means the narrowing was of unknown cause, arose spontaneously or both. (Sometimes the cause of the stenosis is understood – it can happen after intubation or as a reaction to a tracheostomy tube that’s damaged the airway, or because of an illness called Wegener’s granulomatosis.)...
DENVER HEALTH WILL SOON OFFER LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY FOR TRANSGENDER PATIENTS
By: Sara Fleming, Westword, July 9, 2018

Two years ago, when Stacia Hoskins came out as transgender at age thirty, her entire life was upended. Most of her family, who are deeply religious, stopped talking to her completely. Her marriage ended, though her wife and kids remain supportive. She lost a good job at a software company — she presumes because she is transgender. She had to change her name, her birth certificate and her driver’s license. But the emotional stress of the change was worth it, she says, for the sense of freedom she finally felt.

But in order to really feel like herself, she needed to change her appearance. While living as a man, Hoskins had a beard so thick that it was impossible to shave every day. She feared that even if she started dressing and introducing herself as a woman, people would see her as a “man in a dress.” She wanted to like who she saw when she looked in the mirror. It wasn’t just her body hair, the clothing she wore, or her sexual organs that Hoskins was concerned about; it was the bone structure of her face. Hormones helped to redistribute the fat in her face to make it look more feminine, but she knew that the bones in her face had already developed and that it was “rough and masculine.”

Hoskins’s next step in transition is to undergo facial feminization surgery, a procedure she says she’s wanted since before coming out. Although the surgery is well known within the transgender community, it is not yet widely available. But that’s changing, and Colorado will be at the forefront of the surgery’s newfound popularity.

The LGBT Center of Excellence at Denver Health, which opened in 2017, will begin to offer facial feminization surgery this summer, making Denver Health one of only three public hospitals in the nation to offer it, according to Trans Health Care’s surgeon directory.

“Denver Health’s mission is Level One Care for All, and the organization realized we could do better to serve the LGBTQ population of Denver. We believe that no matter who you are that we are here to provide care through a person’s life span,” Kari Kuka, the center’s administrative director, wrote in an email.

According to Kuka, Denver Health has long provided the LGBTQ community with services such as HIV prevention and care, but patients wanted local access to gender confirmation surgeries, for which patients frequently have to travel to other states.

Facial feminization surgery is a combination of various plastic surgeries, usually performed at the same time, meant to soften and feminize masculine bone structure. In the procedure, the brow line is lifted, the forehead is made shorter, the Adam’s apple is reduced, the nose is made smaller. According to Sable Schultz, transgender program manager at the GLBT Community Center of Colorado, a majority of transgender women now consider facial feminization surgery as a step in their transition.

As part of its new transgender program, Denver Health will also offer chest reconstruction, hysterectomies, orchietomies and vaginoplasty. It will be the only hospital in the state and one of very few “safety net hospitals” in the country to offer comprehensive care with the needs of transgender patients specifically in mind, according to Kuka. Already, there is a two-year wait list for vaginoplasty, and fifteen patients have expressed interest in facial feminization, which involves extensive consultations before the procedure can take place. (Denver Health’s Dr. David Khechoyan, who specializes in cranial facial plastic surgery for trauma patients, will begin consulting with patients next month.)

Though availability is expanding, transgender surgeries are still extremely expensive. According to the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, facial feminization surgery is particularly inaccessible because almost all insurance companies deem it a cosmetic procedure and refuse to cover it. Depending on what needs to be done, it can cost upwards of $35,000 to $50,000, according to Kuka. “This is a surgery that is really out of reach for the majority of the population,” Kuka says.

Hoskins expects an uphill battle with her insurance company before she can determine whether she’ll be able to undergo facial feminization procedures at Denver Health. She plans to argue that the surgery is not cosmetic but medically necessary in order to address gender dysphoria, the deep anxiety that transgender people feel when they aren’t recognized as the gender with which they identify.

“[Cisgender people] don’t understand how deep it goes and the problems it can cause when you wake up every morning and you feel like you look like a gender other than what you are,” says Hoskins. “It has really deep psychological repercussions that, especially over the course of time, can really wreak havoc on your mental health. It’s much different from just saying, ‘Oh, I wish my nose was a little bit thinner.’”
## Upcoming Events

### August 20, 2018
- **Core Curriculum**
  - **Critical Care II**
    - Lisa Ferrigno, MD
    - Assist. Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital
  - **Critical Care III**
    - Lauren Steward, MD
    - Assist. Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital

### August 27, 2018
- **Core Curriculum**
  - **Critical Care IV**
    - Jamie Coleman, MD
    - Assoc. Professor; GITES
    - Denver Health Medical Center
  - **Critical Care V**
    - Ryan Lawless, MD
    - Assist. Professor; GITES
    - Denver Health Medical Center

### September 3, 2018
- **No Conferences**
  - **Labor Day**

### September 10, 2018
- **John H. & Cynthia H. Schultz**
  - Ronald M. Stewart, MD
  - Chair, Department of Surgery
  - UT Health Science Center
  - San Antonio, Texas

### September 17, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Surgical Assets in Modern Warfare**
    - Franklin Wright, MD
    - Assoc. Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital
  - **Evolution in Mechanical Circulatory Support**
    - Jay Pal, MD, PhD
    - Assoc. Prof.; Cardiothoracic Surgery
    - University of Colorado Hospital

### September 24, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Title Pending**
  - **Update in Breast Cancer**
    - Colleen Murphy, MD
    - Assist. Professor; Surgical Oncology
    - Lone Tree Breast Center

### October 1, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Traumatic Brain Injury & Beta-Blockade: Beneficial?**
    - Thomas Schroeppe1, MD
    - Assist. Professor; GITES
    - Memorial Hospital Central
  - **Traumatic Aortic Injury**
    - Eric Peltz, DO
    - Assist. Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital

### October 8, 2018
- **14th Annual Alan R. Hopeman**
  - John Mayer, Jr., MD
  - Professor of Surgery
  - Harvard Medical School
  - Tommy Kaplan Chair in Cardiovascular Studies
  - Children’s Hospital Boston

### October 15, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Peritoneal Metastases**
    - Steven Ahrendt, MD
    - Professor, Surgical Oncology
    - University of Colorado Hospital
  - **Surgical Management of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence in 2018**
    - Janine Oliver, MD
    - Assistant Professor; Urology
    - University of Colorado Hospital

### October 22, 2018
- **No Conferences**
  - **American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting**

### October 29, 2018
- **ACS Visiting Surgeons Symposium**
  - Kenichiro Araki, MD, PhD
    - Div. of Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery
    - Gunma University Graduate SOM, Maebashi, Japan
  - Carsten Kamphues, MD
    - Interdisciplinary Tumor Center
    - Charite University of Medicine Berlin
  - Marin Palavecino, MD
    - Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery
    - Hospital Italiano, Buenos Aires

### November 5, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Robotics in Thoracic Surgery**
    - Christopher Scott, MD
    - Professor, Cardiotoracic Surgery
    - University of Colorado Hospital
  - **Pelvic Organ Prolapse**
    - Eliza Birnbaum, MD
    - Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital

### November 12, 2018
- **John R. Lilly Memorial Lectureship**
  - **Long Term Quality of Life in Patients with Pediatric Surgical Disease**
    - Marjorie J. Arca, MD
    - Clinical Director
    - Surgical Critical Care
    - Children’s Hospital Wisconsin
    - Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin

### November 19, 2018
- **No Conferences**
  - **Thanksgiving Week**

### November 26, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Anorectal Malformation**
    - Andrea Bischoff, MD
    - Assoc. Prof.; Pediatric Surgery
    - Children’s Hospital Colorado
  - **Surgical and Endovascular Management of Vascular Trauma**
    - Charles Fox, MD
    - Assoc. Prof.; Vascular Surgery
    - Denver Health Medical Center

### December 3, 2018
- **Grand Rounds**
  - **Measuring Craniosynostosis Surgery Outcomes in 3D**
    - David Khechoyan, MD
    - Assist. Prof.; Plastic Surgery
    - Children’s Hospital Colorado
  - **Evaluating Quality of Care in an ICU**
    - Lauren Steward, MD
    - Asst. Professor; GITES
    - University of Colorado Hospital

This publication is viewable online at: http://issuu.com/slangesurgery/docs/August_2018_dos_newsletter