Faculty and Residents Awarded Provisional Patent

Pleurodesis is a procedure that prevents fluid buildup in the lungs. Four LSU Health Shreveport surgeons noticed that while it was effective when executed perfectly, it had a lower rate of success in reality. They decided to come up with a solution. Vyas Rao, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery; Navdeep Samra, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery; Sergei Kalsow, MD, recent surgery residency graduate; and Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, MD, surgery resident, have been granted a provisional patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office for their Talc VATS Delivery System (TVDS).

Surgeons often use video-assisted thoracic surgery to perform pleurodesis. This involves the insertion of a spray tube alongside the camera. An angle is inadvertently created between the spray tube and the camera which can lead the surgeon to misguide the Talc if not exactly in line with the camera.

The invention, TVDS, is an attachment piece designed to connect the tubal camera device and talc spray, eliminating the angle between the camera and talc spray tube when inserted separately. The inventors believe that this system will therefore improve the accuracy of pleurodesis and evenly distribute the chemical irritant in the chest cavity.

An article about the device, "Novel Method of Anchoring the Pleurodesis Talc Spraying Catheter to the Thoracoscopic Camera", has been accepted for publication in the journal *The American Surgeon*. 
Chairman’s Message

My column in this issue of the Surgeons’ Loop highlights the contributions and leadership provided by the cadre of women surgeons from our department.

This begins with Dr. Jane Eggerstedt, who has been a faculty member at LSU since 1986. She was recruited by Dr. John C. McDonald to grow the cardiothoracic surgery program here, as well as start a pediatric cardiac surgery program.

Dr. Eggerstedt is a graduate of Loyola University Medical School, where she also completed her general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery residencies. She then completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiac pathology at Boston Children’s and a pediatric cardiac surgery fellowship at Hospital for Sick Children at University of Toronto.

Dr. Eggerstedt headed the CT surgery division from 1986 to 1998, and was recognized for her talent in educating and mentoring medical students and residents. She had served as Student Clerkship Director for the department and was promoted to Assistant Dean for Education Program Development in 2005. In that role, she mentored and inspired many students to aspire to be surgeons; males and females.

She currently serves as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She has led the effort to have LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport verified as a Comprehensive Education Institute by the American College of Surgeons. She has also garnered re-accreditation by the LCME this past summer, critical for the continued success of the medical school, and guided the institution through a successful SACS re-accreditation process as well.

Dr. Mary Mancini is another surgical leader in our department. She is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where she also completed her general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery residencies. Additionally, she completed cardiac transplant and pediatric cardiac surgery fellowships, the latter at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dr. Mancini is the current chief of her division.

At LSU, Dr. Mancini obtained a PhD in Anatomy and Cellular Biology, and garnered the Nina Braunwald Scholarship Award from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. She subsequently completed a Masters in Medical Management at UT Dallas/UT Southwestern. She currently holds a joint appointment in the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, and also serves on the faculty at Louisiana Tech University.

In addition to her administrative and teaching responsibilities, as well as having a busy cardiac and thoracic surgery practice, Dr. Mancini continues to be very active in our community. She sings with the Shreveport Opera, is President of the Shreveport Orchid Society, President of the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association and has invested in and supported various small business ventures in our community.

Dr. Mary Kim has been our Chief of Plastic Surgery since 2009. Dr. Kim obtained her degrees from MIT and Tufts University School of Medicine, both in Boston, MA. In addition to a plastic surgery residency at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Medical Center in Newark, NJ, she completed a fellowship in microvascular and complex wound surgery at University of Mississippi in Jackson, MS. Dr. Kim has inspired interest in plastic surgery among many of our residents, and has helped place them in excellent plastic surgery fellowships.

Dr. Kathryn Richardson is a product of our medical school and residency program. She joined the faculty in 2002 and currently serves as Associate Director for the Regional Burn Center. Additionally, she has served our hospital as chair for the credential committee and on the residency review committee. This summer, Dr. Richardson accepted the post of Program Director for the general surgery residency.

Another LSU alumnus on our faculty is Dr. Joann Alley. She has been a stalwart member at University Health Conway since 1991 and has helped in the training of surgeons for over two decades. She is credited most often by our residents as the single faculty member who taught them how to perform endoscopy well, in addition to other operative procedures.

Other current women faculty members include Drs. Amy Coulter, Jane Sugar and SreyRam Kuy. Dr. Coulter came to us after completing her general surgery residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, and a fellowship in vascular surgery at SUNY-Buffalo, NY. She has been on faculty for two years and has helped initiate a number of novel surgical training and educational venues, including our surgical boot camp. Dr. Sugar recently graduated from our general surgery residency, while Dr. Kuy came to us this spring after completing a general surgery residency at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI and a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship at Yale University. Both are at Overton-Brooks VA Medical Center and are starting their academic careers.

In addition to faculty members, we have three female chief residents this year. They are Drs. Caroline DeLeonardis, Arielle Dubose, and Beth Townsend. Dr. Dubose is one of two residents selected to serve as Administrative Chief Resident for the program.

In the past four of five years, at least one of the administrative chiefs has been a female surgeon. This list includes Drs. Katie (Whitlock) Kimbrough, Amanda Ellington, Catherine Parker, and Kaavya (Reddy) Matatova. Dr. Ellington is now in private practice with her husband and practice partner, Dr. Darin Doumite (also an LSU alumnus). Dr. Matatova is in practice in New Orleans, awaiting her husband, LSU alumnus Dr. Tim Matatov, to complete his plastic surgery residency. Dr. Kimbrough is on faculty at University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock, AR. Dr. Parker is on faculty at UAB School of Medicine in Birmingham, AL.

We are indeed very fortunate to have had such a spectacular group of women surgeons represent and serve our department and the medical school.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Li, MD, FACS  
John C. McDonald Chairman in Surgery  
Professor and Chairman of Surgery
Dr. Kathryn Richardson was appointed Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at the beginning of this academic year. She previously served as the Associate Program Director under Dr. Philip Cole. This new role holds a special place in Dr. Richardson's heart given her deep rooted connection to LSU Health Shreveport. Dr. Richardson graduated both medical school and general surgery residency in Shreveport. She was also able to complete her burns fellowship through the Regional Burn Center.

"I am coming to learn about all the work of a program director. Dr Cole was masterful in handling everything that came up," said Dr. Richardson. "I want to take care of everything so residents can focus on learning, managing patient, and learning to operate. I'm looking forward to starting interview season to begin the search for our next set of interns."

The 2013 - 2014 academic year came to a close with the annual Abramson Conference and Resident Graduation. This year’s conference began with presentations from research project finalists and case presentations. Research project finalists included Arielle Dubse, MD; Matthew Sanders, MD; Clint Schoolfield, MD; J. Patrick Smith, MD; and Miles Sugar II, MD. Dr. Matthew Sanders was the recipient of the 2014 Best Research Presentation Award for his "Retrospective review of indications for CT-cystogram in blunt abdominal trauma patients for detection of bladder injury" project.

The 2014 Abramson Visiting Professor was Dr. J. David Richardson, Professor of Surgery and Chief of General Surgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He presented a lecture on "Changes in Management of Injuries to the Liver and Spleen." Dr. Richardson also presented a resident lecture on "Nuances in the Surgical Management of GERD" during his visit.

This year’s banquet honored graduating chief resident Drs. Kristofer Freeland, Sergei Kalsow, Kaavya Reddy Matatova, Jean Sheng, and Jane Sugar. Each reflected on their time in the program and thanked those who helped them become the surgeons they are today. The banquet also included an awards presentation highlighting resident achievement for the year. Drs. Sergei Kalsow, Matthew Sanders, Joseph Zakhary, F. Bennett Pearce, Jr., Lloyd Jones, and Justin Rudd were recognized for scoring in the top 25th percentile in the United States on the American Board of Surgery In-Training Examination (ABSITE). Other awards included most operative cases for each class. The chief resident with the most operative cases from 2009-2014 was Dr. Jean Sheng. Other most operative cases award recipients were recognized for cases during the 2013 - 2014 academic year. Those recipients included Dr. Beth Townsend, Dr. J. Patrick Smith, Dr. Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, and Dr. Ronald Mowad. Awards for best teaching residents and faculty were also presented during the banquet. Dr. Sergei Kalsow received the best teaching senior resident award, and Dr. David Pennywell received the best teaching junior resident award. Drs. Arielle Dubose and Matthew Sanders had the pleasure of presenting Dr. F. Dean Griffen with the best teaching faculty award.

The 2015 Abramson Conference and Graduation Banquet are set for Friday, June 26. All alumni are invited to attend. Please call 318.675.4616 for more details.
Wayne Zhang, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Vascular and Endovascular Division, attended the International Society for Vascular Surgery (ISVS) Annual Meeting and the China Southern Endovascular Congress in Guangzhous, China as an Invited Speaker. His presentations included “Endovascular Treatment of Blunt Traumatic Aortic Injury,” “Perioperative Management of EVAR for Ruptured AAA,” and “Tips and Tricks: EVAR for Challenging Aneurysmal Neck”.

The combined meeting provided vascular surgeons with a conference on the most current information about new developments in clinical practice and relevant research.

While in China, Dr. Zhang spoke as a visiting professor at The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University and People’s Hospital of Henan Province, Zhengzhou University. Dr. Zhang’s travels also took him to Taiwan, where he was invited to speak as a visiting professor at Kaohsiung Medical College in Kaohsiung.

In addition to his international travels, Dr. Zhang was recently awarded distinguished fellow status by the Society for Vascular Surgery. This designation is bestowed upon practicing vascular surgeons who set themselves apart by making substantial contributions in research, service and education.

Dr. Zhang graduated from Henan Medical University in Zhengzhou, Henan, China. He completed both a surgical residency and vascular and endovascular surgery fellowship from State University of New York at Buffalo, in Buffalo, New York. He is board certified in both general surgery and vascular surgery. He has extensive research and clinical experience and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.
LSU Health Shreveport has received notification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) that the regional trauma center led by the School of Medicine has received three-year re-accreditation. The facility at University Health was licensed as the first Level 1 Trauma Center in Louisiana in 1991. Level 1 denotes the highest level of care for emergency conditions and traumatic injuries.

The re-accreditation comes after a concerted two-year effort by the school, which included recruitment of a recognized leader in trauma care, Dr. John Owings, to serve as Director of Trauma Services and Professor of Surgery at the LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine. Dr. Owings was recruited through a national search from the University of California Davis, one of the nation’s busiest trauma centers.

While he led the re-accreditation process for the medical school and trauma center, Dr. Owings shared the credit.

“This is a team effort by the School of Medicine. It was all the hard work of the faculty and trauma team working together and seeing things from a new direction that made it possible,” said Owings. “The level of commitment from leadership, including the chancellor, was vital. This has made it possible for the trauma program to return to being the best trauma program in the state of Louisiana. Now we can focus on becoming the best Trauma Center in the country.”

“Our faith in Dr. Owings was certainly rewarded,” said LSU Health Shreveport Chancellor Dr. Robert Barish. “When we recruited him, we had confidence that he would lead us through this rigorous process that began over two years ago. I want to thank Dr. Owings on this wonderful achievement. We are very very pleased.”

“This is for the community,” the chancellor said.

When the trauma center faced re-accreditation in 2012, the ACS surveyors advised LSU to bring in a dedicated trauma expert for leadership. The surveyors were concerned about administrative issues, not patient care. They recommended adding people and processes before the center could be re-verified. Over the past five years, the health sciences center has recruited a number of specialists, including trauma specialists and orthopedic trauma surgeons, along with Owings. They enabled the center to continue to provide the highest level of trauma care during the two-year re-verification process.

“This success has been years in the making,” said Dr. John Marymont, Interim Dean of the School of Medicine. “We have put together an outstanding team to deliver outstanding Level 1 Trauma care. This includes traumatologists, surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons who are second to none.”

Dr. Benjamin Li, Chairman of the Department of Surgery at LSU Health Shreveport, noted the importance of Level 1 trauma care for patients in the region and also for the educational mission of the academic medical center.

“It is crucial for training and education, not only for surgeons, but also for many other specialties including radiology, emergency medicine, critical care medicine, ENT, oral & maxillofacial surgery and anesthesia, among others,” he said.

Marymont and Barish thanked the community, University Health and Willis-Knighton Health System, for providing critical financial support for the trauma center. Willis-Knighton has been the lead sponsor for LSU’s annual “An Evening for Heroes,” which honors emergency responders in the region and raises money for the trauma program at LSU. The Biomedical Research Foundation was also a sponsor for the event.

**Trauma Symposium Hosts Army Command Surgeon**

The 5th Annual Trauma Symposium featured speakers from seven different specialties/subspecialties and two speakers from trauma related organizations. Dr. James J. Geracci, Command Surgeon for the US Army spoke about “Prehospital Lessons from the Battlefield: Tourniquets and Other Innovations.” Dr. Geracci is currently stationed in Fort Hood, TX.

Other speakers at the symposium included Drs. Jonathan Carroll, Steven Conrad, Amy Coulter, Jay Dujon, G. E. Ghali, Christina Notarianni, John Owings, Navdeep Samra, and Todd Thoma, all LSU Health Shreveport faculty members. Ms. Deborah Spann, CERN TriRegional Coordinator Regions 6, 7, and 8, and Mr. Donnie Woodyard, Jr., Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, also spoke about changes to their organizations.
Department Hosts Second Annual

INTERN BOOT CAMP

Intern Boot Camp was established by Dr. Tze-Woei Tan in 2013 as an effort to provide new surgery interns a strong foundation before their first day of residency. The two-day workshop allows surgery and surgery subspecialty interns to learn the basics of their new role. Topics are presented by current surgery residents and include “A Day in the Life of an Intern,” common clinical problems, professionalism and communication, radiology for surgeons, studying for ABSITE, and a suturing skills lab. The boot camp experience also allows new interns the opportunity to become acquainted with the program, faculty, and fellow residents.