



July 2023 Newsletter

On July 1st we welcomed out new residents and fellows in general surgery, Vascular surgery, and plastics surgery. As the new academic year begins, we are renewing our commitment to the training of all our learners. We understand that with the rapid and ever-changing advances in healthcare, our focus should be to train our medical students, residents, and fellows not for how medicine is practiced today, but how it would be practiced in the future. We must continue to be innovative by embracing new technologies, new methods of teaching and fostering research. This will require us breaking away from old ways and recognizing the fact that our current residents and fellows learnt differently and could always attain the same level of mastery of surgery. This academic year, we will continue to provide resources and emphasize faculty development, especially focusing on residents' teaching and evaluations. This new academic year brings a lot of promise and we are ready for it!

Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS, FACS, FASCRS
Professor and Chair
Isidore Cohn Jr., MD Endowed Chair of Surgery
Department of Surgery
School of Medicine
LSU Health New Orleans



Wins & Accomplishments

RESEARCH DIRECTORSHIPS



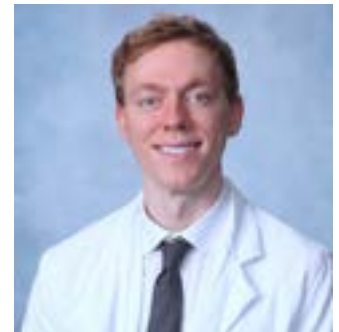
Alison A. Smith, MD, PhD, FACS
Director of Injury Research



Omeed Moaven, MD, FACS
Director of Departmental Sciences

Dr. Harel Schwartzberg Competes In Nassau

The Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery or SESPRS is one of the largest regional societies of plastic surgery in the country. Every year a total of 10 papers are selected to compete for the coveted Glancy award which is award to the best research presentation of the past year. This year the research of Dr. Harel Glen Schwartzberg from the division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery was selected from among 90 other submitted abstracts to compete in the Glancy Competition.



Dr. Schwartzberg traveled to Nassau where he presented his research titled “Increased time interval of Postoperative Flap Monitoring after Autologous breast Reconstruction” to judges from across the Southeastern United States. Dr. Schwartzberg’s research is centered around making autologous breast reconstruction a more accessible and less costly option for patients following mastectomy. Through his multiyear study he was able to prove that by lengthening the interval of postoperative free flap monitoring hospitals can save an average of \$20,000 per patient without sacrificing the safety of the operation. Although he did not win the competition Dr. Schwartzberg’s selection among the Glancy competitors is a testament to the Department of Surgery and the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery’s dedication to continually improving upon their practices to make healthcare more efficient and equitable for all patients.

Graduation 2023



Graduation Awards Winners 2023



Gabrielle Prezkop, MD
Colin Goodier Award



Timothy Legare, MD
Norma J. Preston Humanism Award



Alexander Mikhail, MD
**Douglas Leonovicz Vascular
Surgery Award**



Jenny Stevens, MD, MPH
**Dianne H. Potin Resident Research
Award**



Chavi Rehani, MD
Peter Krusa Burn Resident Award



Donald Mendoza, MD
Warren L. Gottsegen Award



Dhanushka Vitharna, MD
**Paul R. Hastings Critical Care
Award**



Nicholas Taylor, MD
Kennan J. Buechter Trauma Award



Blake Milson, MD
Best Resident Teacher Award



Jenny Stevens, MD
**Hill - Spencer Pediatric Surgery
Award**



Amy DeKerlegand, MD
MIS Resident of the Year



Jace Landry, MD
**Professor's Award for Overall
Excellence in Clinical Performance**



John E. Morrison, Jr., MD, FACS

**Best Faculty Teacher: The W. Chapman
Lee Award**

**Robert C. Batson, MD Outstanding
Faculty Award**

Thank you to our Graduation sponsors!

Drs. Mohammad Al Efishat & Danielle Cobb

Dr. Lynn Harrison

Dr. Larry Hollier

Division of Vascular Surgery


Chair of the Department of Surgery

Division of Trauma/ Critical Care Surgery

Graduation Brochure >>>



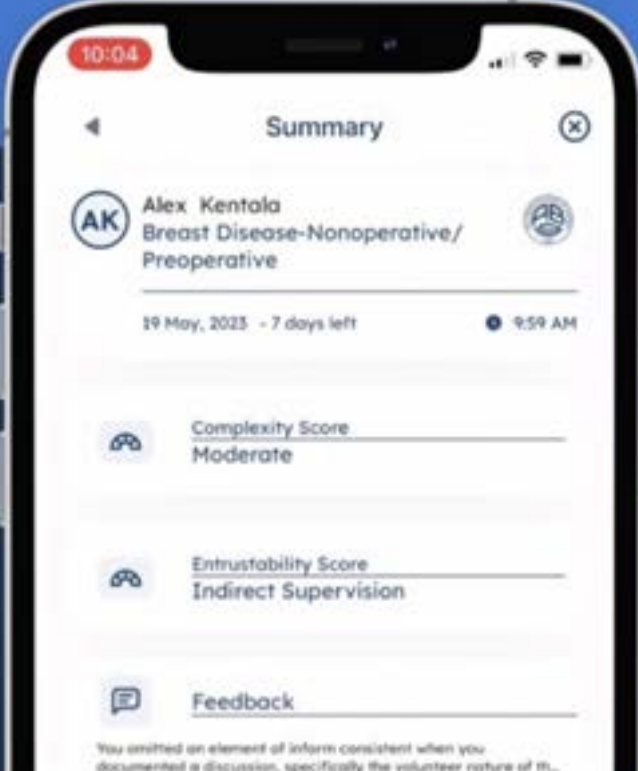
Education Updates



The screenshot shows the SIMPL App interface for Jane Whello, General Surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital. It features a header with the ABS logo and a section titled "Assessments to Complete" with three entries for "Acute Abdomen-Nonoperative/Preoperative" and "Breast Disease-Intensive".

- IDENTIFYING INFORMATION
- ABS BANNER
- ASSESSMENTS TO COMPLETE
- PREVIOUSLY CREATED ASSESSMENTS

EPAs are here! Make sure you have the new SIMPL App downloaded on your phone. Check your emails for more Info from EPA Champion, Dr. Bevier-Rawls.



The screenshot shows the "Summary" screen for Alex Kentala, Breast Disease-Nonoperative/Preoperative. It displays the trainee's name, specialty, and phase, along with a complexity score of "Moderate" and an entrustment level of "Indirect Supervision".

- TRAINEE INFORMATION
- EPA AND PHASE
- CASE COMPLEXITY
- ENTRUSTMENT LEVEL
- FEEDBACK

Alumni Spotlight



Margaret M Morgan, MD, FACS

Associate Chief Medical Officer

Medical Director Perioperative Services

Medical Practice Lead TACS and General Surgery

Trauma and Critical Care Surgeon

Southern Region University of Colorado Health

Hometown: Easton, Pennsylvania

Medical School: Pennsylvania State University

Residency: Lehigh Valley Health Network

Fellowship: Louisiana State University New

Orleans 2014-2015; Faculty 2017-2020

As a military trauma surgeon, I took an interest in the management of penetrating traumatic injuries during my fellowship. With the high volume of penetrating traumas in New Orleans and the right balance of fellows and residents, doing my fellowship at LSU Health was a no-brainer. My fellowship prepared me well for any future deployments with the Navy and Marine Corps. One of the things that is so special about about LSU Surgery is that the residents and fellows are exposed to such a high volume and large variety of cases. That's what makes the surgeons coming out of the program so well-rounded and well-qualified for any career path they choose.

My time at LSU was shaped by the quality education and inspiring people. I learned so much during my critical care fellowship, and I continued to grow and to develop as a trauma surgeon as part of LSU's faculty. The atmosphere and camaraderie was so warm and welcoming, and I'm proud to have been part of a learning environment that was conducive to the best possible educational experience. I am beyond proud of our team's accomplishments, and I take great pride in telling absolutely everyone where I did my training.

Faculty Spotlight



Patrick Greiffenstein, MD, FACS

Associate Professor, Clinical Surgery- Division of Trauma

Joined Faculty: 2012

Hometown: Bogota, Columbia

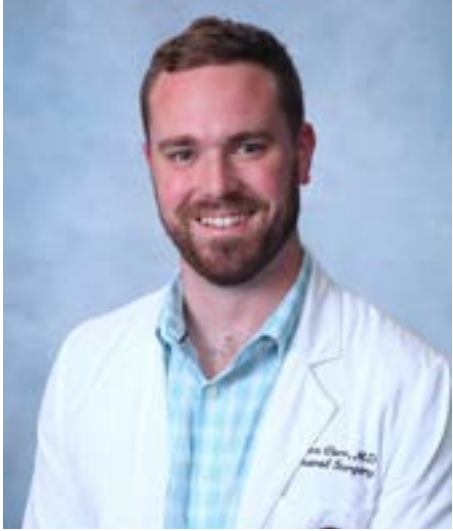
Medical School: St. George's University- Grenada, West Indies

Residency/Fellowship: LSUHSC

In searching for a place to call home for my residency and fellowship, LSU Surgery was the obvious choice for me. At LSU Surgery, I found a deep sense of camaraderie. I've developed connections to last a lifetime. LSU Surgery also has a long legacy of caring for all those most vulnerable in the area, and I'm proud to be a part of that caring team. I was also attracted to the culture of commitment to the community through the hardest of times that LSU Surgery possesses.

It is my mission to take the lessons that I've been taught during my time at LSU Surgery and strive to advance the department even farther. I would love to be an institution that is renowned for its trauma research and innovation- we have the patients, we have the people, we just need the institutional support. I've made steps towards this in my work in redefining the "Trauma PEA," reprioritizing acute resuscitation of pulselessness in trauma, and gaining a better understanding of the impact of severe rib fractures on respiratory mechanics.

Resident Spotlight



Brian Carr, MD

PGY-5, General Surgery Resident
Administrative Chief Resident

Hometown: Metairie, LA

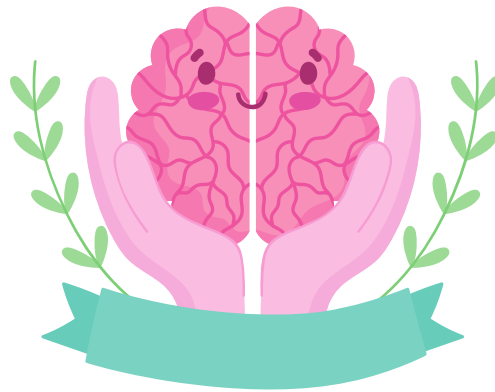
Medical School: LSU Health - New Orleans

Having done medical school at LSU, I knew to expect hands-on training. My preliminary year reinforced not only that, but also the breadth of disease types and severities that we treat here. While choosing a place for residency, I had no doubt that LSU was the place that I wanted to finish my training.

LSU Surgery treats patients at many hospitals across South Louisiana regardless of insurance status, background, etc. The program continues to carry on the legacy of charity throughout the state, and it serves our communities well. In the future, I hope to see LSU continue to produce well-trained technical surgeons while expanding upon our national research presence and strengthening the LSU name.

After residency, I plan to pursue a Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship and continue to strengthen my education. Until then, as administrative chiefs, Dr. Dooley and I hope to strengthen the organization as a whole by starting with the program itself. With 60+ residents across 3 cities, this goal is a large feat, but it is one that can improve the overall experience of the residents.

Wellness Corner



Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Whether you are experiencing feelings of suicide or are worried about another, there is help available. If you think someone needs help, don't wait. If you need further guidance or you are in a crisis:

Call or text: 988

Chat at 988lifeline.org

Call the Physician Support Line at (888) 409-0141

Six Actions for Suicide Prevention and Awareness:

1. Learn the Vital Signs
2. Share prevention resources
3. Prepare before a moment of crisis
4. Check in with a physician
5. Understand and remove structural barriers
6. Create a culture of wellbeing

[Read more >>>](#)

We can help! Campus Assistance Program (CAP) offers free, confidential services available to all faculty, staff, residents, and students. Contact them at (504)-568-8888 or click [here](#) to learn more about the provided services.

**Campus
Assistance
Program**

(504) 568-8888

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services available to all
faculty, staff, residents
& students.*

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

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