Letter From the Department Chairman

It is very exciting to have the opportunity to write the introduction for the inaugural issue of the MUSC Department of Surgery Newsletter. This ongoing work of art exists because of the hard work and dedicated input from many staff members— their thoughts and time is appreciated. It is my hope that this will be able to develop into an enjoyable means of communicating all of the different achievements, benchmarks, and moments in the life of the Department. It is remarkable how often the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, even if it is only a few doors down the hall.

Change is stressful, and we are certainly in the midst of dramatic changes at both the institutional and departmental levels—new hospitals, new service lines, new Divisions, new administrative structure, and new staff to name a few. I am reminded of a quote that I recently ran across on the topic: “it is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory.” - W. Edwards Deming. We have to be willing to change as individuals and institutions to be able to move into the future. At this particular point in time I believe that the Department of Surgery is in a uniquely privileged position because the majority of the changes that we are facing or creating are positive in nature and ultimately can serve to transform our work and ourselves. However, as with any opportunity there is a risk of failure, and how we manage and respond to these changes both individually and institutionally will determine the level of success which we will be able to enjoy in the future. It is for these reasons that I am driven to make the most of the moment and hope that you are able to share my enthusiasm and excitement. At the very least, after the last month of interviews, I am now certain that I can probably find work as an authoritative Charleston restaurant critic if the need arises.

Quarterly Department Newsletter

This is the Department of Surgery’s 1st official quarterly newsletter. This edition was designed to inform everyone as to what type of information can be found in the newsletter and to encourage everyone to participate in gathering material for each newsletter to come. Thanks to all of you who participated in this edition. We apologize if we did not have a chance to include all of the Department’s wonderful news, accomplishments or achievements. We are hoping that this newsletter will serve as notice to everyone that is interested in spreading the word about something particular that has happened to them, their Division or our Department.

DIVISIONS OF:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- General Surgery
- GI/Laparoscopic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Transplant Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Research
- Education

OUR MISSION:

To provide patient care recognized for excellence integrated with innovative research which leads to the advancement of medical science and state of the art training for our surgeons and future physicians.

OUR VISION:

To attain the level of recognized excellence that will achieve national prominence.
Welcome to the Department!

Elaine Cullars: Admin Assist / Pediatric Surgery  
Ruth Fortini: Admin Assist / Student Services and Education  
Barbara Scott: Admin Assist / Plastic Surgery  
Vicky Tolbert: Admin/Assist / Plastic Surgery  
Charmayne Nesbitt: Admin Spec II (Scheduler) / Surgery  
Joe D’Aquisito: Information Resource Consultant II / Surgery  
Wayne Singleton: Fiscal Analyst III / Research Administration  
Anita DeVeaux: Fiscal Tech I / Research Administration  
Stacy Miers: Admin Assist / Surgical Oncology  
Michael Graves: Research Specialist I / CT Lab

Who’s Coming and Who’s Going

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Stefanie Owczarski, PA: Trauma Surgery  
Sherry Graves, NP: Plastic Surgery  
Dr. Mary E. Lester: Plastic Surgery

Halloween Spirit

Debbie Webb - Clinical Nurse Leader as a hippie and Tikvah Habib - Grants Coordinator as Wonder Woman

Employee Spotlight! Do you know… OSAMA NAGA

In each quarterly newsletter, the department will be selecting one employee at random to get to know a little better. This employee will be asked a series of serious and not so serious questions to be included with his/her picture in the newsletter. Our intention is to be able to recognize what might have been a not-so-familiar face around campus.

This quarter Osama Naga was selected as the employee to spotlight. Osama works for the Department of Surgery as a Research Specialist. He works on the 5th floor of the Hollings Cancer Center. Osama has been with MUSC for one year and considers his “lab mates” to be his family. His hometown is Tanta, Egypt. He hopes to one day visit Thailand and before he dies he would like to travel the world. Osama enjoys watching and/or playing tennis and his hobbies include photography, hiking and biking with fishing being his favorite pastime. His refrigerator must contain ice cream at all times and if this ice cream gives him a toothache, he will know just what to do considering Osama is also a Dentist. The person Osama is most proud of is his uncle and his own accomplishment that he is most proud of would be getting into the research world, which he says is totally different from his work as a clinician but is as exciting. You may see Osama from time to time in Bocci’s, his favorite restaurant. The last book he read was “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” and his favorite television program is “Seinfeld”. Osama’s favorite day of the week is Friday, and he says that he is a “sock, sock, shoe, shoe” kind of guy. His most embarrassing moment was when he almost wrote “Happy Birthday” on a condolence card...oops! Now that we all know a little more about Osama, please be sure say hello when you cross paths with him...maybe he can tell you a little more about himself. Thank you to Osama for being such a good sport. It was a pleasure to get to know you!

Osama says: “Something that most people don’t know about me is that I am also a Dentist.”
What’s Happened and What’s Coming Up:

**OCTOBER 2007:**
- 10/22/2007: Transplant Picnic, Elks Lodge (see pictures to the right)

**NOVEMBER 2007:**
- 11/5/2007: Monthly Department Faculty Meeting
- 11/16/2007: Smithy Lecture with visiting Professor Dr. Douglas Wood

**DECEMBER 2007:**
- 12/7/2008: L.D.I. Meeting
- 12/11/2007: Monthly Department Faculty Meeting
- 12/14/2007: Department Holiday Party. What a great time had by all!

**JANUARY 2008:**
- 1/7/2008: Quarterly Department Faculty Meeting
- 1/15/2008: Quarterly Staff Meeting from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in HCC 120
- 1/22/08: General Surgery Resident Candidate Rank Meeting 4-6 p.m. Room 419
- 1/25/2008: Othersen Lectureship with Visiting Professor

**FEBRUARY 2008:**
- 2/4/2008: Monthly Department Faculty Meeting
- 2/4/2008: ART Opening Date
- 2/12-2/15/2008: S.U.S.—Third Annual Academic Surgical Congress in Huntington Beach, CA

**MARCH 2008:**
- 3/3/2008: Monthly Department Faculty Meeting
- 3/14/2008: L.D.I. Meeting

Family News

**Shaundrea Reid**, Vascular Surgery, had a baby boy on October 27, 2007 weighing in at 7 lbs 15 oz and 22 inches long. His name is Trevino Reid.

**Dr. Mary E. Lester**, Plastic Surgery, was married to her long time sweetheart Joel Corvera this fall and will be leaving us to do a fellowship at Roper. We wish her much luck.

The husband of **Dr. Megan Baker-Ruppel**, Surgical Oncology, has been named Public Information Officer for the Charleston Fire Department. Congratulations to Mark Ruppel!

**Jennie Ridgeway**, PA, Transplant Surgery, and husband Adam are expecting their first child in July 2008. Congratulations, we look forward to the new arrival.

Recruitment Update

We are in the midst of a very busy recruiting season for various Department of Surgery faculty positions. We are delighted that our recruiting efforts thus far have yielded an acceptance from Dr. Michael Hughes in the Division of Transplant Surgery. First and second interviews are currently being scheduled for several candidates for Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Surgical Oncology, and Trauma Surgery faculty positions. In addition, well-qualified Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners will join the Department throughout the coming months. Please make welcome those individuals whom you encounter throughout the interview process!
Dedicated Resident Education Day

Based on a survey that Dr. Brothers sent to Residents and Staff, by 2/3 majority, it was decided that they would take conferences which normally happened throughout the week and concentrate them on one day. The Residents and Staff selected which day and what the format would be for that day. This new schedule will do away with all 6:30 am conferences for the Residents and will open up their schedules during the week. Because it is a concentrated day it will send a strong message that the Department is dedicated to teaching. This Dedicated Education Day will be held every Tuesday and the format is as follows:

7:00-8:00 am: Grand Rounds
1:00-4:00 pm: Simulation Lab (Dr. Morgan will take a different group of residents each week)
4:00-5:00 pm: Morbidity and Mortality Conference (led by Dr. Byrne, this was previously at 6:30 am every Thursday)
5:00-6:00 pm: Basic Science Conference (this Conference is divided into Junior and Senior Residents with Dr. Brothers leading one group and the Chief Residents leading the other)
6:00-7:30 pm: Journal Club (This will only take place once a month and will be led by Amanda Dick)

Although this change has its many advantages, change can be difficult. To make this easier on the residents we will all need to remember to allow them their availability on Tuesday afternoons.

MUSC Surgical Residency Alumni Association

Dr. David Cole has been communicating with Dr. John Sonfield (Residency Class of 2005) in order to establish an MUSC Surgical Alumni Residency Association. Letters have been sent to all Alumni informing them of the above mentioned Surgical Resident Recognition Day and inviting them to attend the presentations along with the cocktail party. In an attempt to attract Alumni, they have also been invited to attend the MUSC Post Graduate Course held by Dr. Adams in April at a significantly reduced registration fee. Dr. Adams will be holding a special dinner for Alumni and spouses following the course.

MUSC Surgical Resident Recognition Day

The first annual Surgical Resident Recognition Day will be held on Friday, May 23rd, 2008 from 2:30-5:00 pm in Gazes Auditorium. On this day Residents will be given the opportunity to present papers to a panel of judges who will in turn award prizes for the best papers. This event will be followed by a cocktail party.

General Surgery Residency Interview Dates

- Friday, November 30th, 2007 and Saturday, December 1st, 2007
- Friday, December 7th, 2007 and Saturday, December 8th, 2007
- Friday, January 4th, 2008 and Saturday, January 5th, 2008
- Friday, January 11th, 2008 and Saturday, January 12th, 2008
What makes up 100% of our Department of Surgery FY08 Pillar Goals?

10% = FINANCE
- Attain operating margin of 2.0%
- Increase Dean’s Research Return on Investment

15% = PEOPLE
- Maintain rating of >4.0 on Faculty Senate Survey of Chairs
- Improve employee satisfaction mean score
- Maintain faculty turnover at <8%

20% = GROWTH
- Increase outpatient transactions to 10.0%
- Increase inpatient transactions to 7.0%
- Increase operative procedures
- Increase accrual to cancer therapeutic studies

24% = SERVICE
- Improve outpatient satisfaction percentile to 75%
- Improve inpatient satisfaction percentile to 75%
- Develop and meet standards of a level I trauma center
- Assist in the recruitment of a VA Chief of Surgery

31% = QUALITY
- Successfully reorganize as strategically planned
- Achieve hospital mortality index of 0.8
- Increase NIH funding
- Overall College
- Improve College AAMC pass rate (both Step 1 & 2) to meet or exceed national average (both Step 1 & 2)
- Improve USMLE2 department score (medical students) to department national average
- Increase overall diversity

COMING SOON – COMMUNICATON BOARDS
will be displayed throughout the department. These boards will keep faculty and staff reminded of our departmental pillar goals and updated on our progress toward achieving these goals. The first communication board will be developed by the Chairman’s office and all divisions are encouraged to display their own unique goals within their geographic location. These boards can also serve as a fun way to communicate within the divisions by announcing or displaying interesting topics or news.

Standard of the Month

“The 10-5 Challenge”
So far, while walking the halls, I have noticed this challenge taking effect. The concept is simple. The challenge acknowledges an individual from 10 feet away by making eye contact and smiling and saying “hello” at five feet away. Sounds simple, right? We all need to remember to continue this challenge even long after the posters have been taken down. You never know whose day you might brighten with a smile and a sincere word of recognition. Thank you to all who have been participating in this challenge. I look forward to seeing you in the halls.

“AIDET Always”
Acknowledge and Introduce begin this challenge followed by duration and explanation and completed with a Thank You. Through use of these keywords at key times, we will reduce patient anxiety, improve clinical outcomes, and increase patient and staff satisfaction. AIDET has a proven track record of increasing patient satisfaction survey results. AIDET should be used as a structure for communication and we should use good judgment with the steps appropriate for every situation.
Achievements, Acknowledgements and Awards

Nina Johnson-West, who works as an Administrative Assistant in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division, was recognized and received an Applause Award. She drove to Mt. Pleasant after work to meet a lost and concerned elderly husband of a patient (who had been on the road for hours) to give him written directions for how he could get to his wife.

Dr. Andre Hebra, Pediatric Surgery, and Dr. Nestor Esnaola, Surgical Oncology, were both selected by a group of their peers to be included in the Best Doctors in America 2007-2008 database. Inclusion in this database is a remarkable honor considering that an exhaustive peer-review survey by thousands of doctors determines which physicians get included. They will be receiving a plaque for this accomplishment.

Dr. LaDawn Talbott and Dr. Dennis Schimpf, Plastic Surgery Chief Residents, both had their paper accepted to the Plastic Surgery Chief Residents Conference. This is the 3rd year in a row! There are about 125 papers accepted from 89 residencies. It is fortunate to have both accepted.

Dr. Andre Hebra, Pediatric Surgery, received The Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons Award for Best Pediatric Surgery Scientific Paper during the 16th SLS Annual Meeting and Endo Expo 2007 held in San Francisco, CA in September. The title of his paper was “Robotic Swenson Pull-Through for Hirschsprung’s Disease in Infants”. Congratulations Dr. Hebra!

Dr. Fred Crawford, CT Surgery, was presented with the Order of the Palmetto award in November. The award, which is the state’s highest honor conferred on a civilian and is selected by the governor, was presented to Dr. Crawford by former Gov. James Edwards during a ceremony and dinner of 200 colleagues, family and friends honoring Dr. Crawford’s 18 years of extraordinary contributions as MUSC’s Surgery Department Chairman.

Recent Research Advancements

CONGRATULATIONS to Drs. Prabhakar Baliga, Michael Mitas, T.Y. Hsia and Yi Zhang for their recent funded grant awards:

Dr. Baliga—R01: A program to increase Living Donations in African Americans for NIH/NIDDK.

Dr. Mitas—Sub-Award: Prognostic Value of Map/E-cadherin Expression Ratio in Stage II Colorectal Cancer for MUSC Foundation.

Dr. Hsia—Received two year funding from the March of Dimes (MOD) in the amount of $150,000.

Dr. Zhang—Adoptive Therapy of HCV: Associated Hepatocellular Carcinoma from MUSC/Hollings Cancer Center, American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES:

On October 17, 2007 Dr. Robert Sade presented the Maurice B. Siegel, MD Lectureship at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. The lecture was entitled “Inside the AMA: Is making ethics policy like making sausages?”

The following week, on October 24, 2007, Dr. Robert Sade gave 2 lectures at the University of Chicago. One was to Surgical Grand Rounds, entitled “A story of two giants: The surgical collaboration of Alexis Carrel and Charles Lindberg.”. The other was to the McLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics entitled “Why Doctors Won’t Treat Lawyers: Medical Ethics and Medical Malpractice.
IT Tip of the Quarter

How to search your Outlook Inbox for specific emails by keyword:

Have you ever had an email you wanted to retrieve, but you couldn’t remember when you received it? (Ex. You received an email several months ago, but all you remember is that the subject line contained the word “payroll”.) Here’s an easy way to find your emails.

1) In Outlook, **click** on ***tools, find, find.***

2) You will see the Look for: box as shown below. Type the word you want to find in the box. (Ex: payroll)

3) **Click** the Find Now

4) You will see any email with payroll in the subject line as well as any messages that contain the word in the text. (You can also click the **Options** button and uncheck the **Search All Text in Each Message** box, if you only want to search the subject line.)

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Hollings Cancer Center held the 2nd Annual “Through the Kaleidoscope”
The event was on November 3, 2007 and was designed to raise funds and awareness of all types of cancer.

*Left:* Mrs. Kathy Cole and Dr. David Cole

*Below:* Mr. Iggy Pla and Dr. Denise Carneiro-Pla

*Above:* Dr. Ramsay Camp and Miss Kathleen Noel

*Right:* Mrs. Laurrie Rumpp and Mr. Kenyon Rumpp
A dedication ceremony was held on October 12th, 2007 to publicly introduce the new Ashley River Tower (ART). The ceremony was followed by a reception for invited guests inside ART’s conservatory. ART is scheduled to begin receiving patients in February of 2008. ART will focus on delivering quality heart, vascular and digestive disease services. The first of its kind on many levels in the Southeast, ART will add 641,000 square feet of clinical space and feature a diagnostic treatment building, a patient hospitality tower, and a conservatory designed to connect the two spaces while offering a comfortable gathering place for patients, families and employees. By expanding its clinical service space with ART and future facilities, MUSC has continued to demonstrate its commitment to providing outstanding care in an atmosphere where advanced medical technology and current research combine to offer superior treatments for every patient. ART will serve as a pilot facility for a new initiative developed to further enhance quality patient care at MUSC. By coordinating and locating services together via a service line process, medical center administration sees the future at MUSC as even more patient-centric. The facility will include 156 beds for cardiovascular and digestive disease services, 9 state-of-the-art operating rooms, 3 leading-edge electrophysiology labs, 4 interventional/diagnostic catheterization labs, 3 interventional radiology labs, 9 endoscopy suites, 2 motility rooms, outpatient clinics that accommodate more than 100,000 visits, a specialized area providing immediate care to patients with chest pain or other emergent cardiovascular symptoms, imaging capacity to include 2 diagnostic CTs, 1 diagnostic MRI, 3 nuclear camera and 3 RF rooms, dedicated spaces for academic and care management teams throughout the facility, and a flexible design to allow for future advances in technology and treatment modalities. February 4th is the scheduled 1st patient care day.