

CARDIOTHORACIC  
GENERAL  
MINIMAL INVASIVE  
PEDIATRIC HEART  
PEDIATRIC  
PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE  
SURGICAL ONCOLOGY  
THORACIC  
TRANSPLANT  
TRAUMA & CRITICAL CARE  
VASCULAR



# THE STITCH

The Newsletter of the  
Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF GEORGIA

January 2026



## Chatter with the Chair

### New Year, New Inspiration

#### Inspiration

We have started our new year and completed our residency interviews. The applicant pool is thriving, and we are excited with the interest from so many qualified applicants. Our current complement of residents remains engaged in the recruiting process and they have become some of our best promoters, both on social media and in the on-site interviews. Now is the time where we gather feedback, recommendations and input from our friends and colleagues who can help us learn more about these candidates.

Please forward any comments to me at [wjordan1@augusta.edu](mailto:wjordan1@augusta.edu).

#### Celebrating Achievements

Look at the inspirational moments that we are celebrating in this month's newsletter. MCG Surgery is present on podiums, posters, and panels around the country. Our Surgical Oncology Research Group is planning a big presence at the

upcoming SSO meeting. Dr. Renee Hilton has recently completed a valuable leadership program at the SSA which led to her visiting professorship at Tulane.

Our Vascular team and Transplant team have recently published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. The Surgical Oncology clinical research team of faculty, residents and students have produced both peer-reviewed publications and had more than 17 abstracts accepted to the SSO meeting being held in Phoenix this March.

#### Living Our Values

All of this hard work and coordinated efforts reflect our value of teamwork. Our team has organized the upcoming Moretz Surgical Society meeting that will be held March 13-14 on our campus in the Harrison Building. I encourage alumni, friends and interested medical professionals to attend. We will highlight some of this research work, present our new surgical faculty, and absorb the wisdom of

two national speakers: Dr. Shanu Kothari of Greenville and Dr. Abigail Chaffin of New Orleans. You are welcome to use the link to register for the conference.

[augusta.edu/mcg/surgery/moretz-conference](http://augusta.edu/mcg/surgery/moretz-conference)

#### Closing Reflection

Our surgery team is functioning well and succeeding in clinical care, research presentations and training the next generation of surgeons. Thank you all for the contributions and support of our mission.

**William D Jordan, Jr., MD**

Professor and Chair,  
Department of Surgery  
Medical College of Georgia  
Surgeon in Chief



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

# CONGRATULATIONS



■ Dr. Hilton has recently completed the Leadership Development Course at Southern Surgical Association. That exposure has led to invited lectures at Tulane and University of Florida. She promotes the needs of surgeons to participate as advocates for equitable, patient centered care.

[instagram.com/p/DTTCUk6gK8F/](https://www.instagram.com/p/DTTCUk6gK8F/)

■ The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) Scientific Assembly is being held January 20 – 23 in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Mabes will be a guest panelist and presenting the following: 2026 Emergency General Surgery Short Course: *The Modernization of Emergency General Surgery through Technical Expertise and Operational Development for our Patients and Teams*. Dr. Gabrielle Moore, Research Resident, will be presenting: *From Conference to Bedside: Implementation of Multi-Disciplinary, Rural Trauma Simulation Curriculum*. EAST Abstract Resuscitation: Shark Tank Edition.

## PUBLICATIONS

■ **Aldaher Z, Patel M, Munagapati S, Doddala B, Agarwal G, Jordan W, El Shazly O.** Comparative Outcomes of Infusion Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis and Ultrasound-Enhanced Catheter-Directed Thrombolysis in Acute Limb Ischemia: A 10-Year Single Institution Retrospective Analysis. *Annals Vasc Surg* 125: 33-39. April 2026.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avsg.2025.12.013>

■ **Agarwal R, Messina NA, Zhang S, Mohsin N, Jordan WD, Soo Hoo AJ.** Cost and Demographic Disparities in Elective Transcarotid Artery Revascularization and Carotid Endarterectomy: A National Inpatient Sample Study: *Ann Vasc Surg* 125: 84-90. April 2026.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avsg.2025.12.006>

■ **Mohammad B, Edwards M, Nimeri A, Thompson C, Johnson-Mann C, Clapp B, Hilton L.** Impact of Telemedicine on Improving Access to Metabolic/Bariatric Surgery Care in Minority and Other Underserved Patients with Obesity, Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases, 2026, ISSN 1550-7289. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soard.2025.11.026>

■ **Doss S, Kapoor V, Brownlee R, Guy L, Milgrom D, Colquhoun S, Arnold A, Yakoub D.** Disaggregating Asian American and Pacific Islander Subpopulations in Esophageal Cancer: Stage, Histology, and Survival. *Ann Surg Oncol* 33, 353–364 (2026).

<https://doi.org/10.1245/s10434-025-18375-6>

■ **Garten B, Bhatt AN, Patel R, Nulu C, Vuppala R, Moumne M, Kotireddy V, Gohel I, Amjad M, Kirolos A, Yakoub D, Estes A.** Tracking Trainee Movement: A Scalable Framework for Analyzing Geographic Retention in Graduate Medical Education. *J Grad Med Educ*. 2025 Dec;17(6):768-772.

<https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-25-00472.1>

■ *Human Immunology* was one of the papers that Dr. Bravo-Egana published in 2025. It was the top, most accessed, paper of 2025 of the journal specialty, Histocompatibility. It was an exploration of the status of the specialty and the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics laboratories around the world. This type of study has never been done before and the data presented is very relevant for organizations such as United Networks for Organ Sharing (UNOS in the US), National Marrow Donor Programs (NMDP in the US) and others in the US and abroad. Dr. Bravo-Egana contributes to the success of our transplant program.

■ Dr. Mabes was chosen to serve on the ACS Accredited Education Institutes Research and Development Committee for a three-year term. The committee serves as the leader in simulation-based research that promotes improvements in surgeon performance and patient outcomes. The mission of the committee is to inspire and nurture research and innovation in healthcare simulation.



■ Division of Surgical Oncology had 17 abstracts accepted to the Society of Surgical Oncology Meeting in March from their research group (SOCORG). Plan to attend the conference in Phoenix, Arizona this March 5-7.

[surgonc.org/events/sso-annual-meeting/](https://surgonc.org/events/sso-annual-meeting/)

*Save the Date!*



**2026 MORETZ  
SURGICAL SOCIETY  
MARCH 13-14**