

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

May 2025



Chatter with the Chair

Education. A powerful tool to advance our mission. We teach, we train and we expand our impact by treating more patients with more success. May is a month when we celebrate our educational milestones. Last week, we celebrated the Medical College of Georgia's 2025 graduating class with an exciting ceremony. Considering the group of 246 students, 13 of these graduates are headed to traditional surgery programs, while another 41 are going to specialty programs including orthopedics, urology, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, and vascular surgery. These committed graduates represent the work of our faculty, residents and staff who have provided such a welcoming experience for these students who have chosen to join us for their step in the training pathway so they can become surgeons. Congratulations to those students and thanks to ALL the members of the Department of Surgery who have contributed to their education.

Next, we get to celebrate another advanced step in surgical training – fellowship! That next section, when our residents chose to further refine their surgical training. Historically, our program has produced a great number of general surgeons who deliver care to so many patients around our state and region. As surgical treatments become more sophisticated and specialties provide more complex care, surgical fellowships supplement that training and fill the growing patient need. Congratulations to 3 of our 4th year residents who have matched into fellowships – Ben Pitt into Pediatric Surgery, Philip Coffey into Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Cory Demino into Hand Surgery. All these fellowships are quite competitive, and this match rate marks another achievement for our residency. Fantastic!

As the educational/academic year is nearing completion, we prepare for more celebration. We have our own graduation planned for the departing

chief residents on June 20 at the Augusta Country Club. We will also memorialize our Department with the annual group picture on Thursday, June 12. I encourage all residents and faculty to mark your calendars and enjoy these events together. Cheers!

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

The Cardiothoracic team completed their first ECMO transport test run. A combined team of Perfusionist, ECMO Specialists, AirCare crew, and Drs. Lee and Patel are leading this initiative to be able to pick and up transport patients on ECMO at other centers and bring them here to Augusta.



ERIKA MABES, DO
Assistant Professor
Assistant Program Director,
General Surgery Residency
Department of Surgery





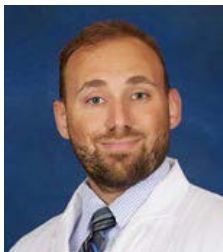
Dr. Erika Mabes was nominated and elected Vice Chair of the Association for Surgical Education Simulation Committee, which is a two-year term followed by advancement to Chair of the committee. She also assisted with program development of the 4-hour ASE Simulation Committee Pre-meeting course: *Simulation-Based Practices for Teaching Coaching, Mentorship, & Leadership Skills to Surgeon Educators.*

Congratulations to our matchers for Fellowship!

The Department of Surgery is very proud of their accomplishments.



Dr. Philip Coffey, PGY-4, will be going to University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, KY for Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship.



Dr. Cory Demino, PGY-4, will be going to University of Pittsburgh Hamot in Erie, Pennsylvania for Hand Surgery Fellowship.



Dr. Ben Pitt, PGY-4, will be going to Riley Children's Hospital at Indiana University in Indianapolis, IN for Pediatric Surgery Fellowship.

PRESENTATIONS

- Emily Hammond, *Chest Wall Reconstruction of an Unusual Chronic Rib Fracture Deformity*, Chest Wall Injury Society Conference at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta, GA April 2025.
- Emily Hammond, *Development and Implementation of a Rural Surgery Initiative: A Novel Approach to Training a True General Surgeon*, Thinking Out of the Box Session. Association for Surgical Education Annual Meeting, Surgical Education Week. Seattle, WA May 2025.
- Gabrielle Moore, *Development of a Multi-Disciplinary, Conference-Based, Rural Trauma Simulation Curriculum*, Thinking Out of the Box Session. Association for Surgical Education Annual Meeting, Surgical Education Week. Seattle, WA May 2025.

Congrats to all!

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SAVE THE DATES!



Picture Day & Chief's Breakfast
Thursday, June 12



Graduation
Friday, June 20 at Augusta Country Club