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PEDIATRIC HEART
PEDIATRIC
PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGICAL ONCOLOGY
THORACIC
TRANSPLANT
TRAUMA & CRITICAL CARE
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THE STITCH

The Newsletter of the
Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA

March 2025



Chatter with the Chair

Congratulations on another successful Moretz Society meeting. We had great attendance from residents, faculty, alumni, students and friends of the Department. A special thanks goes to Megan Mumford and Rachael Singletary who organized the event – we could not have done this without these two fantastic women!

During the Moretz meeting augusta.edu/mcg/surgery/moretz-conference we heard many great presentations, but I want to highlight a special theme. Our students competed for the best presentation (won by Luke Guy M3 from the Southwest campus) with many of these presentations coming from the National Cancer Database of the American College of Surgeons facs.org/quality-programs/-cancer-programs/national-cancer-database/. This dataset has a large amount of data that allows some nice analyses of broad clinical problems. These presentations then foster a “scholarly” mentality amongst these future doctors to regularly pursue real clinical questions. This approach helps

discover new ideas and improve our clinical care. This type of research then leads to more intense and in-depth studies that then become published in peer-reviewed journals, the next academic step in new discoveries. As expected, more research and clinical studies then lead to clinical trials and changing treatments for our patients. Thus, here is explained a surgically simple pathway for academic advancement for those who choose to enter the field. And for those who chose a different path, they have gained extra insight and understanding about the academic pathway. All these steps can lead to better medicine in our community and here in our department. At the Medical College of Georgia, we continue to train great doctors who deliver great medicine as we have over the last 200 years.

And our next class of surgeons are soon to arrive. Stay tuned for our Match class who will be announced this Friday via our social media accounts! x.com/MCG_Surgery and facebook.com/grusurgery/

Dr. Robyn Hatley was awarded the prestigious Moretz Red Jacket at this year's Moretz Surgical Society Conference. The tradition of the Red Jacket dates back to 1984 and has been upheld since. This honor is presented to surgeons who have made significant contributions to MCG surgery. We are incredibly proud of this outstanding accomplishment. Congratulations, Dr. Hatley!

William D Jordan, Jr., MD
Professor and Chair,
Department of Surgery
Medical College of Georgia
Surgeon in Chief



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Congrats!

Dr. Brittany Fields, research resident, won the **Moretz Surgical Society Resident Competition** with her topic on *CA19-9 Normalization and Yield of Laparoscopy After Neoadjuvant Therapy for Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma*.



Luke Guy, Southwest Campus winner of the Battle of the Campuses inaugural **Moretz Surgical Society Medical Student Research Competition** with his topic on *Factors Associated with Surgery Refusal in Patients with Stage I-III Esophageal Cancer*.

PRESENTATIONS

The following Residents will be presenting at the **SAGES 2025 Meeting** from March 12-15, in Long Beach, CA.

- Emily Hammond *Emergent Robotic Management of Incarcerated Paraesophageal Hernia Containing Cecum and Appendix*
- Melissa Easley *Adopting a robotic approach to adrenalectomy: a single, high-volume center's five-year experience*
- Lillie Tien *Robotic Roux-EN-Y Gastric Bypass in a Patient with Situs Inversus Totalis*

The following Residents will be presenting at the **ACS Surgical Simulation Summit** from March 20-21 in Chicago, IL.

- Melissa Easley *Development of Common Bile Duct Exploration Simulation Curriculum to Equip Transfer for Rural General Surgery Practice*
- Lillie Tien *From Words to Action: Problem Identification and Needs Assessment for an Interdisciplinary Pediatric Trauma Resuscitation Curriculum*
- Ben Pitt *Optimizing Pediatric Trauma Resuscitation: Addressing Gaps in Team Dynamics Through Targeted Simulation Training*

PUBLICATIONS

- Wynn, James J. 2024. Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter Insertion and Maintenance. *Seminars in Vascular Surgery*, October.

doi.org/10.1053/j.semvascurg.2024.10.002



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2025 Georgia Society of the ACS Annual Meeting & Obesity Day

September 5-7, 2025

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