End of an Era: Dr. R. Neal Garrison Retires

One of the Department of Surgery’s most beloved faculty members, Dr. R. Neal Garrison, retired at the end of 2015. Dr. Garrison has made extraordinary scientific contributions and is widely recognized as one of the top surgical scientists in the world.

Professor of Surgery and Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and a member of the Graduate Faculty, Dr. Garrison completed his entire surgical residency at the University of Louisville, serving as the first surgical resident to train all five years under Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD. After a Clinical Fellowship in Oncology, Dr. Garrison went on to serve two years as Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. In 1980 Dr. Garrison joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in Surgery and was appointed to full Professor in 1990.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Garrison served as Chief of Surgery for 12 years, Associate Dean for Veterans Affairs and Acting Chief of Staff at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. In addition he directed the Department of Surgery Undergraduate Surgical Education curriculum for eight years. In the eighties, he was instrumental in developing the abdominal organ transplant program for the Department of Surgery. He was the co-founder of the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) in 1987 and continued as its Medical Director. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded the University of Louisville Hospital (ULH) with the HHS Medal of Honor for the organ donation for achieving and maintaining a 75 percent conversion rate in organ donation during this time. ULH also received additional national recognition for meeting or exceeding 3.75 organs per donor over a period of 12 months and 10 percent of donations occurring after cardiac arrest.

Throughout his career, Dr. Garrison has been an active clinical surgeon in the fields of general, vascular and trauma surgery. In addition, he maintained an active bench research laboratory focused on organ blood flow during shock and infection. He received multiple peer-reviewed grants from the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, Surgical Infection Society, Department of Defense, and VA Merit Review since 1983. In the laboratory he mentored more than 40 research fellows, surgical residents and doctoral candidates. Throughout his career Dr. Garrison published more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles, abstracts and book chapters and has served on the Editorial Board or as reviewer for 12 scientific journals.

Dr. Garrison is a member of 28 medical/surgical professional organizations and has been an officer of more than half of them. He was President of the Association for Academic Surgeons and served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of committees for virtually all of these groups. He completed a six-year term as Governor of Kentucky to the American College of Surgeons. He received multiple honors and awards including the Hiram C. Polk Jr. Award for Resident Teaching Excellence on three occasions and was selected by the Louisville Surgical Society as the 2006 Yandell Lecturer and Medal recipient.

Earlier this year, KODA pledged $100,000 to establish the R. Neal Garrison, M.D. Endowed Surgical Lectureship Fund in honor of Dr. Garrison’s role in co-founding KODA and the important work he’s accomplished related to transplantation in Kentucky. The inaugural lecture will be in 2017.
Welcome letter from Dr. McMasters

Welcome to the 2016 issue of Sutureline, a newsletter about the Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville.

Earlier this year, the Louisville medical community lost a legend - Dr. Robert Acland, an internationally renowned microsurgery pioneer. In this issue, we pay tribute to Dr. Acland, welcome a new faculty member, celebrate the retirement of a faculty member, highlight our Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapeutics, boast about numerous faculty and resident accomplishments and much more.

Once again this year, we have drafted an outstanding group of residents in General Surgery and Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. We also have recruited excellent Colorectal Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Pediatric Surgery, Critical Care and ERCP fellows.

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Department this year. We truly appreciate your loyalty to the Department of Surgery. We need your support to continue our missions in surgical education, patient care and research so the tradition of excellence of the Department of Surgery at UofL, which dates back to 1837, can continue.

If you have not already given or have the capacity to do more, please consider making a gift to the Department of Surgery this holiday season.

Warmest wishes for the holidays and the year ahead,

Kelly M. McMasters, M.D., Ph.D.
Ben A. Reid, Sr., MD, Professor and Chairman
Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Department of Surgery
University of Louisville School of Medicine

Brown Cancer Center Creates Owen’s Wish Fund for Cancer Immunotherapy Research

In October, Dr. Kelly McMasters announced the Owen’s Wish Fund for Cancer Immunotherapy Research of the J. Graham Brown Cancer Center. His son Owen died February 15, 2016 following a courageous four-year battle with leukemia.

Soon after he was diagnosed, Owen’s efforts to raise awareness about the nationwide shortage of methotrexate, a life-saving chemotherapy drug for children with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, went viral, gained national media attention, and proved successful for thousands of cancer patients. Owen’s wish was that no other children (or adults) would have to endure the ravages of cancer and its treatment without a meaningful chance to be cured.

“Owen died of leukemia knowing that the science that could have cured him of his cancer was right at our doorstep,” McMasters said. “Cancer immunotherapy has revolutionized the treatment of many types of cancer by harnessing the power of the human body’s immune system to eradicate cancer. The Owen’s Wish Fund will allow the Brown Cancer Center to develop a world-class group of scientists and physicians dedicated to advancing the field of cancer immunotherapy and providing state-of-the-art immunotherapy care for patients in our region.”

To donate, please visit browncancercenter.louisville.edu/owf-fldr.

Welcome letter from Dr. McMasters

Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D.

Brown Cancer Center Creates Owen’s Wish Fund for Cancer Immunotherapy Research

Owen’s Wish Fund for Cancer Immunotherapy Research

To donate, please visit browncancercenter.louisville.edu/owf-fldr.
Dr. Kelly McMasters Named the Ephraim McDowell Physician of the Year

Dr. Kelly McMasters was awarded the Ephraim McDowell Physician of the Year at the 2016 Jewish Hospital & St. Mary’s Foundation Doctors’ Ball.

Dr. McMasters leads the Department of Surgery with more than 50 full-time faculty members, two residency and five fellowship programs. A prolific researcher, dedicated educator, and seasoned administrator, Dr. McMasters greatly enjoys caring for complex surgical oncology patients. He has a busy clinical practice that spans most of the field of surgical oncology, including melanoma, breast cancer, sarcoma, gastrointestinal malignancies, as well as liver, pancreatic and biliary tumors.

“This field is full of opportunities – to do research, to teach, to provide care – but at the end of the day, there is just something good about cutting someone’s cancer out. It’s that simple. Many more solid tumors have been cured because a surgeon cut out the cancer than by all of the chemotherapy and radiation therapy put together,” he said.

Dr. McMasters graduated with honors from Colgate University. He completed the M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Rutgers Medical School, with a Ph.D. in Cell and Developmental Biology from Rutgers University. After completing general surgery residency at the University of Louisville, he performed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In 1996, he joined the faculty of the University of Louisville as the Sam and Lolita Weakley Professor of Surgical Oncology. In 2005, he became the Ben A. Reid, Sr., M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. McMasters is the author and principal investigator of the Sunbelt Melanoma Trial, at the time the world’s largest melanoma study (involving more than 3,600 patients). He also initiated the University of Louisville Breast Cancer Sentinel Lymph Node Study, a 4000+ patient multi-institutional study that helped bring widespread acceptance of this minimally invasive procedure for the staging of breast cancer. His laboratory research interest has been in developing gene therapy approaches for the treatment of cancer, as well as discovery of cancer biomarkers. His research has been funded by the American Cancer Society, the National Institutes of Health, and other organizations over the past 20 years.

Dr. McMasters has published nearly 400 articles in the peer-reviewed literature, more than 20 book chapters, and a book on hepatocellular carcinoma. He has presented his research at a multitude of national and international meetings and has served as a visiting professor at many of the world’s finest institutions. He served as the 2009-2010 President of the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He is President of the Western Surgical Association, President-Elect of the Society of Surgical Oncology, Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association, Vice President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, and Deputy Editor of Annals of Surgical Oncology. He is a member of many other professional and scientific societies.

Dr. Erica Sutton Receives Excellence in Community Service Award

Dr. Erica Sutton received the Excellence in Community Service Award at the 2016 Jewish Hospital & St. Mary’s Foundation Doctors’ Ball. Dr. Sutton, assistant professor of surgery with expertise in minimally invasive procedures and surgical endoscopy, was recently named Director of Community Engagement for the Department of Surgery. She volunteers her services with Surgery on Sunday, an organization that provides in-kind outpatient surgical and endoscopic care to income-eligible members of the Louisville community who are uninsured or under insured. Founded in 2013, Louisville’s Surgery on Sunday is modeled after Surgery on Sunday, Inc., which is based in Lexington, KY and has been serving Kentucky residents since 2008.
DEPARTMENT & ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

DR. SUSAN GALANDIUK was named Editor-in-Chief of Diseases of the Colon and Rectum, the world’s premier journal for the specialty of colorectal surgery. In addition, Dr. Galandiuk was elected Vice President of Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT).

DR. JESSICA WEAVER won the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Regional Paper Competition, Basic Science Section. She now will be eligible to compete at the National Paper Competition. Her paper is entitled, “Direct Peritoneal Resuscitation Reduces Macrophages and Neutrophils in Kidneys after Brain Death.” Dr. Weaver also was awarded the John M. Houchens Prize, which is given to the doctoral student who represents the most meritorious dissertation for the December commencement. Dr. Weaver is a fourth-year general surgery resident.

DR. SHELDON BOND was selected to receive the 2016 KMA Educational Achievement Award. Dr. Bond has been Director of Student Teaching Programs in the Department of Surgery for the past decade. He also serves as Assistant Dean for Clinical Education.

DR. MATTHEW BENNS has been elected as Vice Chief of Staff at University of Louisville Hospital. The active medical staff members were asked to nominate individuals who were practicing physicians and full-time faculty members of the UofL School of Medicine but not a department chair. Dr. Benns’ position has a three-year term.

DR. KELLY MCMASTERS was named President of Western Surgical Association at the Western’s Annual Meeting in Coronado, Calif.

Dr. Hiram Polk Appointed Commissioner of the Department for Public Health at Health and Family Services

This year, Health and Family Services appointed Dr. Hiram Polk, professor emeritus, Department of Surgery, the Commissioner for the Department of Public Health.

A renowned surgeon, Dr. Polk is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, graduate of Harvard Medical School and served as the Ben A. Reid Professor and Chairman of Surgery at the University of Louisville from 1971 to 2005. While Chairman, Dr. Polk trained more than 330 surgical residents, all of whom hold board certification in general surgery. Dr. Polk also serves as a Steward of The Jockey Club and is a director of the Grayson Research Foundation and the Biomedical Research Foundation in Washington, D.C.

“Many health issues plague the Commonwealth, from chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes, to the serious substance abuse and addiction crisis, especially in pregnant women. Meanwhile, we must be vigilant and prepared to respond to emerging public health issues such as the Zika virus or a potential Hepatitis C outbreak from intravenous drug use,” said Dr. Polk. “I am excited to take on the role of public health commissioner because it gives me an opportunity to direct policy and implement pilot programs to address these very serious issues.”

Academic Excellence

New Faculty

The Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery recruited its outstanding fellow, Dr. Joshua Choo, to join the Department of Surgery. Dr. Choo attended medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where he also completed his general surgery residency. He then completed his fellowship in plastic surgery at the University of Louisville.

CALL TO ALUMNI:
Please keep in touch and let us know what is happening with you, your practice and your family. We apologize in advance for any errors of omission. Please send your news items to RTBomb01@louisville.edu or call 502.931.8804.

Also, if you are on Facebook, join our UofL Department of Surgery Alumni Facebook page, at www.louisvillesurgery.com/alumni.
Robert D. Acland, MBBS, FRCS passed away January 6, 2016. A renaissance
man, Dr. Acland was brilliant, creative, and
inspirational. He was a loving and generous
teacher, husband, and parent. He is greatly
missed by the thousands of medical students
and practitioners who were taught by him
personally, learned from his texts and videos,
or used his microsurgical innovations. The
many patients who benefited from their
doctors’ expertise enabled by Dr. Acland
also suffer his loss.

Dr. Acland graduated from London Hospital Medical
College in 1964 with a Bachelor in Medicine (MB). He
received his MBBS from London University in 1969,
completed internships in the UK and Tanzania, and
residencies in plastic surgery in Glasgow (FRCS in
1969) and London (FRCS in 1970). In 1967, he became
acquainted with Harry Buncke who had written about the
possibilities of microsurgery in immediate distant skin
transfer. Following a visit with him in San Francisco, Dr.
Acland decided to devote his career to microsurgery, and
he is credited with being one of the pioneers in plastic and
reconstructive microsurgery.

In 1976, Robert received an invitation from Dr. Joseph
Kutz of Kleinert and Kutz Hand Care Center to run their
microsurgery lab, the second of its kind in the United
States. In conjunction with this, he also received a
teaching appointment to the University of Louisville
School of Medicine. At this time, with help from a German
manufacturer, he developed one of the first microsurgical
instruments, the Acland micro-vessel clamp, an instrument
that allows surgeons to create a hole in a vessel for end-
to-end anastomosis, as well as the 10-0 nylon sutures and
needles that are still used today.

In his career at U of L as Director of the Microsurgery
Teaching Laboratory, he taught microsurgical skills
to students and doctors alike and continued to hold
that position until 1998. During this tenure, Dr. Acland
published the first edition of Acland’s Practice Manual for
Micro-vascular Surgery, also known as the “Red Book,” a
manual on microsurgical techniques. The current edition
was revised in 2008 in a joint effort between the original
author and Dr. Raja Sabapathy (Ganga Hospital) and is
essential for any trainee in microsurgical techniques and
fundamentals of surgical microscopes and their use.

While at U of L, he ascended through the professional
ranks in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, becoming
full Professor in 1986. He also held
Associate appointments in the Departments
of Physiology and Biophysics and of
Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology.
With his retirement, he served as professor
emeritus in the Department of Anatomical
Sciences at the University of Louisville
School of Medicine.

Not content with one successful career as
a reconstructive microsurgeon and director
of the teaching lab, he forged a second
career as a clinical anatomist and became a
pioneer in the field of fresh tissue dissection. From 1981
to 2011, he established and ran the Fresh Tissue Anatomy
Dissection Laboratory for surgeons and students at the
University of Louisville, which was the first of its kind in
the United States, and is considered one of the best and
most respected facilities in the world. He was generous
in sharing his expertise, and his technique of ‘light
embalming’ at the U of L facility has been emulated at
many other medical centers. In 2014, the lab was renamed
in his honor.

His “Sistine Chapel” is the comprehensive Video
Atlas of Human Anatomy into which he put his heart and soul.
Beginning in 1993 and taking nine years to create, the
atlas depicts moving structures—muscles, tendons, and
joints—making the same movements that they make in
life. The videos show complex structures, from bone to
surface anatomy, to provide a foundation for understanding
anatomical structure and function.

Save the Date

JANUARY 26 – 27, 2017
Mathews Oration, Dr. Bruce Wolff, Mayo Clinic

MAY 18 – 19, 2017
Gross Lectureship, Dr. Keith Lillemoe, Massachusetts
general Hospital

JUNE 9, 2017
Chief Resident Paper Presentations at Surgery Grand
Round

JUNE 21, 2017
Chief Resident Graduation Dinner at The Olmsted

OCTOBER 12 – 13, 2017
Yandell/Polk Lectureship, Dr. Sandra Wong,
Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the Geisel School of
Medicine at Dartmouth
The Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapeutics is a dynamic and growing academic division of the Department of Surgery. The division has a tripartite mission that includes the provision of clinical care and services, conduct of clinical and translational research and education, which includes undergraduate medical, graduate, and continuing medical education.

Faculty members of the vascular division provide comprehensive clinical services within the Downtown Louisville Medical Center. Faculty physicians treat the most vascular trauma in Kentucky, providing comprehensive, state-of-the-art services for vascular emergencies throughout the region. The division also is a tertiary referral center for rare and complicated vascular disorders.

Compassionate care is provided for patients with routine disorders as well as complex challenges. The faculty physicians often employ innovative endovascular and hybrid procedures in circumstances in which traditional, open surgical approaches are deemed either too risky or too morbid.

“We strive to individualize approaches to achieve the best outcome for each patient. Collaborative care and teamwork are used in many cases of complex traumatic and oncologic problems, as well,” said Dr. Amit Dwivedi, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapeutics. “Considering the degenerative and complex nature of vascular disease and that those diseases often are accompanied by other health problems, we strive to treat patients in a holistic manner with compassion and dignity. We are committed to providing compassionate, top-notch care to all patients.”

The clinical research program has steadily gained momentum since 2009. Presently, the vascular division faculty are engaged in clinical trials involving carotid artery stenting, use of stents in peripheral artery disease, autologous stem cells for severe arterial insufficiency with poor or no surgical options, lining or “sodding” of prosthetic vascular grafts, and hemodialysis access. Moreover, through collaboration with the Cardiovascular Innovations Institute, efforts are ongoing towards the development of an agenda to investigate fundamental problems in the development and treatment of degenerative vascular disease.

The vascular division strives to provide the best educational experiences possible for the medical students and residents of the University of Louisville School of Medicine through regularly scheduled lectures, conferences, Grand Rounds, and visiting professor programs. These programs dovetail with the division’s continuing medical education program in which faculty provide practicing physicians updates on basic guidelines and new approaches for the management of vascular illness.

Faculty members also serve in leadership roles at the various hospitals we use. These activities include participation on medical staff committees as well as less-structured, ad-hoc work to demand and ensure that our patients are provided with the best care possible and that our hospitals provide the best facilities possible for the provision of vascular care.
The Department of Surgery established the Samuel Gross, M.D., Career of Service Award in 2006 to honor physicians who have dedicated their lives to medicine. This year’s recipient is lifelong friend of the Department of Surgery, former resident, clinical faculty member and dedicated surgeon Dr. Timir Banerjee.

A native of India and third-generation physician, Dr. Banerjee received his medical degree in 1967 from the University of Calcutta. He performed internships in Calcutta and New Delhi and in the United States at St. Joseph Infirmary in Louisville. He completed one year of a general surgery residency at St. Joseph Infirmary before undertaking his neurosurgery residency at Ohio State University.

Dr. Banerjee spent four years on the neurosurgery faculty at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before establishing a longtime practice in Louisville. He also served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a commander from 1982-1985. Although Dr. Banerjee officially retired from active practice in 1997, he continues to serve as a clinical professor of neurosurgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and is employed part time at Norton Health Care Immediate Care Centers.

Every year for more than two decades, Dr. Banerjee has volunteered with the Medical Benevolence Foundation and the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS) in locations including India, Nepal, Brazil, Peru, Honduras, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia. In 1997, responding to a need in the Louisville community, Dr. Banerjee founded the Society for the Prevention of Aggressiveness and Violence Among Adolescents (SPAVA), partnering with the University and Archdiocese of Louisville. Dr. Banerjee teaches the principles of benevolence in elementary, middle and high schools. In 2005, Dr. Banerjee walked across America in 87 days to bring awareness to SPAVA and teach children about perseverance and determination. Dr. Banerjee has published numerous medical articles and books and has presented many scientific papers.

Dr. Banerjee established the Lily Banerjee Trust in honor of his mother. Through this trust, he has generously supported philanthropic efforts in the areas of medicine and social programs throughout the developing world and in the United States. Among his contributions: brain surgery drills in Peru, stereotactic equipment in Brazil, prepaid care for leprosy and cancer patients in India, an MRI and Neuro-ICU in Nepal, and crop research in Zimbabwe. This trust also helped to establish the Dr. Hiram Polk & Lily Banerjee Chair of Surgery.

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
GIFT FORM

This is a joint gift with my spouse:

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

☐ This is an outright gift.

☐ I pledge to give _________ in ___ payments.

☐ I would like to be billed

☐ monthly, ☐ quarterly or ☐ yearly.

☐ I am a UofL employee and interested in payroll deduction. Please contact me to set this up.

☐ Enclosed is a check (payable to UofL Foundation).

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MCard ☐ AmExp

____________________________________
Account Number Exp. Date

Signature ___________________________

Name as it appears on card (please print)

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY WITH A GIFT OF $__________

I/my spouse work(s) for a matching gift company:

________________________________________

Questions? Contact Allison Gardner
Samblanet at 502.852.7817 or email her
at allison.gardner@louisville.edu.

Please mail this form back to:
Lex Wafford
UofL Department of Surgery
Ambulatory Care Building
550 South Jackson Street
Second Floor
Louisville, KY 40202

www.louisvillesurgery.com
Where Are They Now

2016 Residents

DR. VALERIE EMUAKHAGBON, Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship, University of South Florida
DR. TATHYANA FENSTERER, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship, University of Iowa
DR. PAUL LINSKY, Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, University of Alabama
DR. MICHAEL MACKOWSKI, Private Practice, Aurora BayCare Medical Center, Green Bay, WI
DR. JOHN MAIJUB, Vascular Surgery Fellowship, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
DR. SWOPE MUNDAY, Private Practice, Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, Danville, KY
DR. DANIELLE PATTERSON, Private Practice, Baptist East Hospital, Louisville, KY
DR. BENJAMIN STAHL, Private Practice, Marin General Hospital, San Francisco, CA

Stay on the cutting edge!
Send us your updated address so we can stay in touch!
Send your information to RTBomb01@louisville.edu or call 502.931.8804.