

A watercolor portrait of Macram Ayoub, MD, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red tie with white polka dots. He is holding a pair of glasses in his right hand. The background is a mix of green and brown washes. The portrait is the central focus of the cover.

2021

Annual Report  
Department of Surgery  
Atrium Health Navicent

MACRAM AYOUB, MD  
1938-2020

Brenda Burns 2020

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## Message from the Chair

The last year for the Department of Surgery has been interesting as we have embraced the unknown on a daily basis. Daily schedules and routines were constantly disrupted as we had to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our department, as most other departments in the country, had to focus on emergency general surgery and trauma as elective surgery was limited due to the influx of Covid-19 patients. Although all surgery departments are similar, each department has areas of uniqueness. One of the unique things about our department is the close association between surgery and adult critical care as the chair of adult critical care for the hospital is a surgeon. Dr. Amy Christie, surgical critical care, serves as the chair and was responsible for developing the intensive care units surge plan. Through this plan, the acute care surgeons who were boarded in surgical critical care along with the surgery residents rotated through the COVID-19 intensive care units and provided much needed support to the adult critical care service. The close working relationship between the Department of Surgery and Adult Critical Care was a strength for our institution during these difficult times.



It has been just over two years since Navicent signed the agreement for a strategic combination with Atrium Health. Most recently Wake Forest Baptist Health and Wake Forest School of Medicine joined the Atrium team. The new Atrium health enterprise will bring together clinical expertise, research, innovation and educational capabilities of these renown institutions. The enterprise will care for patients at 42 hospitals with more than 1,500 care locations, reach more than 7 million people across North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia and employ more than 70,000 teammates. This strategic partnership will align the departments of surgery at Navicent in Macon, Atrium in Charlotte and Wake Forest in Winston-Salem and will provide tremendous opportunities for collaboration and research in all areas of surgery. The departments have already started meeting and are developing a roadmap for the future.

Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS  
Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair  
Professor of Surgery  
Mercer University School of Medicine  
Director of Trauma  
Atrium Health Navicent

This has been an unusual and challenging year for the department. The only thing consistent about last year was inconsistencies. However, our faculty, residents and staff performed admirably during these difficult times. They never complained and met every challenge with enthusiasm and great skill. I stand in awe of their sacrifice and dedication and consider it a privilege to work alongside them in the Department of Surgery.

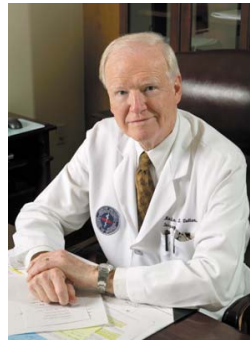
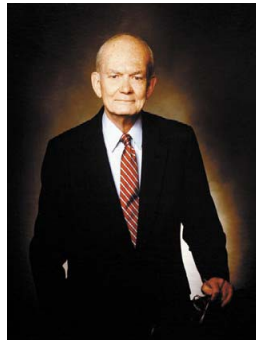
## Department of Surgery Welcomes Mr. Delvecchio S. Finley, President & CEO, Atrium Health Navicent

A Georgia native, Mr. Finley received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Emory University in Atlanta before obtaining a master's degree in public policy from the Sanford Institute for Public Policy at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Finley brings more than 15 years of healthcare leadership to Atrium Health Navicent having most recently served as chief medical officer of Oakland, California-based Alameda Health System.



Finley has been recognized by industry peers for several awards and commendations and currently serves on the American College of Healthcare Executives Board of Governors and the American Hospital Association. Finley, his wife and daughter relocated to Macon, Georgia, at the first of the year.

# Department of Surgery



Left to right: Milford B. Hatcher, Will C. Sealy, Martin L. Dalton, Don K. Nakayama, Dennis W. Ashley

The Residency in Surgery had its start under its founding Chair, Milford B. Hatcher, M.D., in 1958. Internationally famous for arrhythmia surgery, Will C. Sealy, M.D. succeeded him in 1984. In 1991, Martin L. Dalton, M.D. followed Dr. Sealy as Professor and Chair. Under his tenure as chair, academic growth of the department continued with important clinical programs in trauma and critical care and surgical research. The Residency grew from two to four graduating chief resident positions. Don K. Nakayama, M.D., a pediatric surgeon, was named the Milford B. Hatcher Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery in 2007. He recruited pediatric surgery faculty and developed a robust pediatric surgery department. Dr. Dennis W. Ashley was named the Milford B. Hatcher Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery July 1, 2014. In 2017, a 5th graduating chief resident position was added. On September 30, 2019, Dr. Ashley was named the first inaugural Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair of Surgery by the Mercer University School of Medicine. The program is fully accredited by the Residency Review Committee in Surgery of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Residents regularly finish with more than 1,200 operations during the five year training program with extensive experience in all areas of general surgery. Residents enter fellowships in all major surgical specialties. The Surgery Department also supports a third year medical student clerkship program with Mercer University School of Medicine providing a broad experience in trauma, vascular, general and pediatric surgery.

## Mercer University School of Medicine



The Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) was organized in 1982, part of a thirteen-year effort by city and community groups, the Bibb County Medical Society, and the Georgia State Legislature to educate physicians and other health professionals to meet the primary and ancillary healthcare needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia. A second four-year school was opened in 2008 in Savannah. In May 2019, Mercer University announced the relocation and expansion of its Columbus campus. This expansion enabled the MUSM to increase the campus' enrollment to 240 Doctor of Medicine (MD) students over the next several years, eventually equaling the

size of its campuses in Macon and Savannah. MUSM welcomed the Columbus inaugural class of MD students to a temporary space in the fall of 2020 and will move to the new campus location, a 6-acre site on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, when construction is completed in late 2021 or early 2022. Atrium Health Navicent is the primary clinical site at which third and fourth year MUSM students in Macon complete their clinical training.

Other degree programs offered at MUSM include the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences and a Master's of Family Practice. The Class of 2022 MD Program had 1132 applicants, 281 interviewed with 122 accepted for admission.

More than 60 percent of Mercer MD graduates currently practice in the state of Georgia. Of those, more than 80 percent are practicing in rural or medically underserved areas of Georgia.



# Atrium Health

*Navicent Health is now Atrium Health Navicent*

**Atrium Health Navicent (AHN)** has a 100-year history of serving the central and South Georgia regions. At 637 beds, it is the second largest hospital in the state. AHN was ranked second in the state in this year's ranking by *Newsweek* and is the only top performer in central Georgia. Nationally, AHN ranked 110th in the entire U.S. Ten of Navicent's treatments for adult conditions were recognized, including: Cardiology; Diabetes & Endocrinology; Gastroenterology; Gynecology & Obstetrics; Memory Care & Geriatrics; Neurology & Neurosurgery; Pulmonology; Radiation Oncology; Traumatology; Orthopedics & spine surgery; and Urology. It is verified by the American College of Surgeons as a Level I Trauma Center, with more than 3,000 trauma admissions per year. AHN supports residency training programs in family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. Specialty fellowships in surgical critical care, orthopedic traumatology, infectious disease, palliative care, and geriatrics are also available. AHN's graduate medical education programs have more than 100 trainees.

Atrium Health Navicent was incorporated on November 17, 1994, as a non-profit corporation whose primary purpose is to coordinate AHN and other affiliated entities in their mission of providing a comprehensive continuum of high quality, reasonably priced healthcare services to the region. Atrium Health Navicent has 830 beds for medical, surgical, rehabilitation and hospice purposes. The health system includes Atrium Health Navicent, Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital, Baldwin and Peach, (both rural critical access hospitals), Rehabilitation Hospital, Pine Pointe (provides palliative and hospice care in homes and in its facility), Carlyle Place, (continuing care retirement community), and Navicent Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Atrium Health Navicent.

On February 8, 2018, it was announced that Atrium Health Navicent would merge with healthcare giant Atrium Health. "Atrium Health Navicent has a shared mission with Atrium Health to continuously improve healthcare in this region," said Dr. Ninfa M. Saunders, FACHE, president and CEO of Atrium Health Navicent. "This is the first major partnership of its type in the Southeast region and ensures a Macon-based institution will continue to be the leading driver of healthcare in central Georgia and beyond, while continuing to elevate the care that is provided locally. This will also give us access to Atrium Health's wide array of award-winning, proven successes and best practices in healthcare delivery that we can deploy in our service areas. Our ability to provide high level services to improve the health of communities is only possible with support from our community, physicians, employees and partners. We are excited to find a partner that shares in our vision for the future of health." In December 2018, Atrium Health and Atrium Health Navicent signed a definitive agreement to finalize their strategic combination, which became effective January 1, 2019.

Atrium is one of the nation's leading and most innovative healthcare organizations. Atrium is a not-for-profit providing care across North and South Carolina. AHN will act as a regional hub of Atrium Health in Central and South Georgia. This strategic combination will not only improve access to services but will expand care and provide an economic benefit to our existing service areas as well as new communities.

Atrium Health Navicent will continue its role as a teaching hospital maintaining its partnerships with the Mercer University School of Medicine, Middle Georgia State University, Wesleyan College, Central Georgia Technical College, and Georgia College and State University.



Overview of AHN



AHN Main Campus



Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital



Albert Luce, Jr. Heart Institute

# Atrium Health

## Atrium Health and Wake Forest Baptist Health Combine, Create Next-Generation Academic Health System

A new era of healthcare was ushered in on October 9, 2020, as Atrium Health and Wake Forest Baptist Health, including Wake Forest School of Medicine, officially joined together as a single enterprise, Atrium Health. Both health systems are renowned for their clinical expertise and the school of medicine is nationally recognized for its medical education programs and research. With the strategic combination now complete, the collective vision to transform medical education, expand patient-centered research and innovation, and define the next generation of clinical excellence becomes a reality.

The new Atrium Health enterprise will bring clinical expertise together with the research, innovation and the educational capabilities of these renowned institutions to revolutionize the ways people become and stay healthy, changing lives for the better for the more than 7 million people across the region who now have access to care from the combined organization. The enterprise will have over 70,000 teammates working together to provide personalized care for each of the 15 million patient interactions it has each year, fulfilling its mission to improve health, elevate hope and advance healing – for all.

A 16-member board of directors appointed by The Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority (CMHA) and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center (WFUBMC) will provide governance for the new enterprise through the newly formed nonprofit corporation, Atrium Health, Inc. Edward Brown, currently board chair of CMHA, will also chair the board of the new enterprise. CMHA, WFUBMC and Wake Forest University will each retain their own governing boards.

The strategic combination was first announced in April of 2019, with a definitive agreement signed in October of last year following approval by each entity's governing board. With the signing on October 9, the new enterprise takes effect immediately, as will the integration process.

## Education and Research



Wake Forest SOM Atrium Health  
Charlotte, NC

With a vision for creating a next-generation academic health system, the new Atrium Health will not only be a center of excellence for medical care and academics, but also a catalyst for health innovation and economic development. Based on an independent economic analysis, the immediate direct and indirect annual economic and employment impact from the combined enterprise exceeds \$32 billion and 180,000 jobs.

Wake Forest Baptist Health and Wake Forest School of Medicine will become the academic core of Atrium Health, building a second campus of the school of medicine in Charlotte, which is currently the largest city in the U.S. without a 4-year medical school. The growth of the school of medicine will expand existing academic research capabilities in a way that expands opportunities for clinical trials across a large, diverse market with some of the nation's leading medical experts.

We will immediately become one of the largest educators of physicians and other medical professionals in the state, educating over 3,500 total students across more than 100 specialized programs each year while reducing the shortage of doctors in rural and under-served urban communities.



# Faculty

## **Dennis W. Ashley, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair

Professor of Surgery

Director of Trauma

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowships: Trauma Surgery, Grady Hospital, Emory University, Atlanta;

Surgical Critical Care, University of Pittsburgh



## **Douglas Brewer, M.D.**

Clinical Professor of Surgery

Residency: University of Louisville

Fellowships: Research, University of Sydney, Australia



## **Daniel S. Chan, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Chair, Georgia Orthopaedic Trauma Institute

Residency: University of Texas Southwestern

Fellowships: AO International Fellowship, Tübingen, Germany;

Orthopaedic Trauma, Florida Orthopaedic Institute



## **Jason Chapman, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Tennessee, Knoxville



## **Amy B. Christie, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Chair, Critical Care

Director, Adult Critical Care

Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent



## **D. Benjamin Christie, III, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Associate Professor

Program Director, General Surgery Residency

Associate Director, Trauma

Chief of Surgery

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent



# Faculty



## **Arnold Conforti, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Carolinas Medical Center, North Carolina

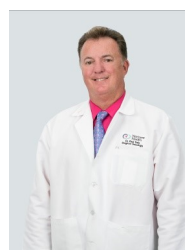
Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, John Wayne Cancer Institute



## **Vincent Culpepper, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent



## **Paul S. Dale, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Professor of Surgery

Chief of Surgical Oncology

Vice Dean of Translational Research

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent



## **Jarrod E. Dumpe, M.D.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Medical College of Georgia

Fellowship: Trauma, Carolinas Medical Center, North Carolina



## **Christopher Franklin, M.D.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: University of Maryland Medical Center

Fellowship: Anesthesiology Critical Care, University of Maryland



## **Joshua Glenn, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Chief, Pediatric Surgery

Residency: Medical University of South Carolina

Fellowship: Pediatric Surgery, Vanderbilt University

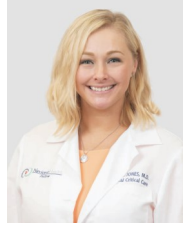


# Faculty

## **Ashley J. Jones, M.D.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Greenville Health System, South Carolina  
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Medical Center, Navicent Health



## **Michael L. Klyachkin, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Associate Professor

Residency: University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington  
Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Stony Brook Medical Center



## **Eric Long, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent  
Fellowship: NIH Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center;  
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent



## **J. William (Billy) Mix, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent  
Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Tennessee, Knoxville



## **Robert J. Parel, II, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

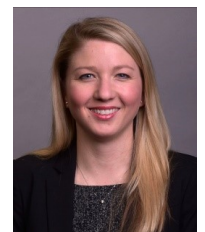
Lead Physician, Surgical Institute  
Residency: Ochsner Clinic



## **Alicia Register, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent



# Faculty



## **Joe Sam Robinson, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Professor of Surgery

Chief, Neurosurgery

Residencies: Emory University and Northwestern University

Fellowship: Research, National Institute of Health, Neurosurgery; Northwest-



## **William B. Schroder, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Associate Professor

Residency: New York University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey



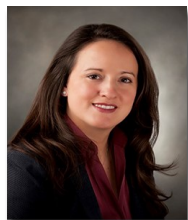
## **Issam J. Shaker, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P.**

Professor of Surgery

Residency: Vanderbilt University Affiliated Hospitals

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vanderbilt University Affiliated Hospitals

Fellowship: Pediatric Surgery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital



## **Sara Strebe-Behrens, M.D.**

Residency: University of Texas-Southwestern

Fellowship: Orthopedic Trauma, The Shock Trauma Center



## **William (Kim) Thompson, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Associate Professor

Associate Chair, Clinical Education

Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



## **Joseph M. Van De Water, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Professor (Emeritus); Assistant Dean for Research, MUSM

Residency: UCLA

Fellowships: Critical Care/Surgical Research, Harvard Medical School;

Cardiac Surgery: Children's Hospital of Los Angeles



# Faculty

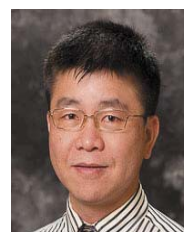
## **Danny M. Vaughn, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Assistant Professor  
Medical Director, Bariatric & Metabolic Institute  
Medical Director, Robotic Surgery  
Associate Director, General Surgery Residency  
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent  
Fellowship: Minimally Invasive Surgery, St Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.



## **Zhongbiao Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Director Surgical Laboratories  
Residency: Fujian Provincial People's Hospital, China  
Fellowships: Huashan Hospital Shanghai Medical University, Cardiology



*Your sudden death  
has touched our lives and hearts  
dear colleague*

*the way you have inspired us  
has touched us even more* -unknown

**Dr. Horatio “Cabby” Cabasares,** passed away unexpectedly in December of 2020, after a brief illness. He received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Cebu Institute of Medicine in the Philippines, moved to the United States and began his surgical residency at The Medical Center in 1975. In 1981, he made the decision to move his family to Perry since there was no local surgeon. During the nearly four decades that Cabby spent as a surgeon there, he was instrumental in improving Perry Hospital, adding and updating surgical expertise and helping the hospital become the quality facility it is today. In 2017, Dr. Cabasares described his work, “it is very hard to not get your personal feelings involved,” Cabasares said. “In my early practice years, it was easy to cope because I was still so new to the profession, but as time goes on you begin to make connections with your patients and so when difficult health situations arise, your heart aches for them.”

**Inez D. Jordan,** died suddenly July 14, 2020. She worked at the Medical Center for thirty-five plus years. She started in the Business Office as a Patient Care Representative ending with a position as the Trauma Data Coordinator in Trauma Services. She was a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, community mother and provider, and devoted friend to many. She enjoyed cooking for her children and grandchildren as well as other family and friends. A co-worker wrote “In just a short time knowing Ms. Inez, she was a great mentor and friend. She was always concerned with how I was doing and became like a mother figure to me. I will never forget the encouragement that she gave me. I miss her so much.”

**Dr. Robert Fredrick Mullins,** died unexpectedly June 14, 2020. He was the Medical Director of the JMS Burn Center at Doctors Hospital and President/CEO of Burn and Reconstructive Centers of America. He leaves behind countless medical professionals to carry his legacy of providing world-class care to patients across the globe. He was active with the Georgia Trauma Commission, the Georgia Trauma Foundation, the JMS Research Foundation just to name a few. He was a friend to our department and spoke regularly. A native of the Augusta area, Dr. Mullins could usually be found on his tractor cutting grass or surveying property, when he wasn’t in the operating room. He always enjoyed spending time with his family and was looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild.



# DR. MACRAM AYOUB, MASTER SURGEON

**Dr. Macram Marcus Ayoub**, passed away after battling cancer on December 3, 2020.

Dr. Ayoub's medical career started a long way from Macon, Georgia, as he was born in Egypt and completed medical school at Cairo University. This was followed by surgical training in the United Kingdom where he ultimately became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and England. He moved to the United States and completed additional surgery training at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo and the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon now known as Atrium Health Navicent. He completed additional training in the United States, so that he could practice general surgery and be fully board certified by the American Board of Surgery. As you would expect, he was at the top of his resident class, and after completion of his surgery training, he joined the faculty of the Surgery Department at the Medical Center. He was double boarded with a certificate in general surgery and added qualification in surgical critical care from the American Board of Surgery.



Dr. Macram Ayoub served as faculty of the Department of Surgery at Atrium Health Navicent for over 36 years and was a Professor of Surgery at the Mercer University School of Medicine. He has affected countless lives of his students, residents, patients and peers. He has had a profound effect on surgical education as he has trained over 90 surgical residents and hundreds of medical students. In addition to training multiple residents that practice in Georgia, his impact extends across the United States as his residents are practicing in Texas, Wisconsin, Tennessee, California, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kansas, Alabama, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York, South Dakota, and Virginia. He even has one resident, Dr. Heidi Haun, who is practicing as a missionary surgeon in a Baptist Hospital in Ghana.

Dr. Ayoub was independently board certified and practiced in three different countries throughout his career. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons since 1985 and a member of the American Medical Association, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, the Georgia Surgical Society, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Other society memberships included the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the Southeastern Surgical Congress, past president of the Macon Surgical Society and a founding member of the Will C. Sealy Surgical Society.

Dr. Ayoub was well known for his teaching rounds as many times he would see the patient and check the surgical pathology report before the resident. It was always a competition with the residents to try and "scoop" Dr. Ayoub, but they rarely won. Dr. Andrea Long, a former resident, alluded to this in her reflections of Dr. Ayoub. "I still feel giddy on the few occasions when I can tell you the path results before you can find them out yourself. . . and I love the little smile on your face when I do so." There is an acronym that is known by all the surgery residents WWAD, "What would Ayoub do?" Dr. Craig Wengler, a former resident now practicing in Florida, notes that there is not a day that goes by I don't ask myself "What would Dr. Ayoub do?" "Whether I am in the OR, at a patient's bedside, in clinic, or working with medical students, I am constantly trying to assess situations through your eyes." Dr. Ayoub has earned the respect of all that have ever been trained by him as well as his colleagues. He was the epitome of what a surgeon ought to be. For all who knew him, he truly loved his job and continued to perform surgery until October 2019 before fully retiring in March of 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Sharman Ayoub; children, Dana Ayoub and Evan Ayoub. He was looking forward to the birth of his grandson who will carry on the name Macram for the next generation.



Dr. Ayoub with his wife and two children

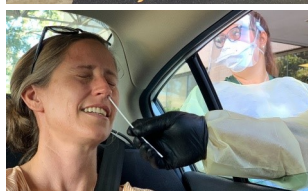


Dr. Ayoub as a child with his siblings



Dr. Ayoub with family, residents & peers

# Feature



## On September 12, 2020, after a three month delay, the Haun family started their journey back to Ghana

After a year of furlough in Florida, the Haun family were ready to return to Ghana; however, COVID restrictions had other plans. “We spent the last 6 weeks in Richmond until we got news that Ghana was re-opening its airport. We returned to Florida last weekend and said goodbye to our church family at Seminole First Baptist. Then we were isolated until we could get COVID tested within 72 hours before our flight - a requirement to enter Ghana. We got our lab results back yesterday and we are all **NEGATIVE!** Then we did the final packing of our bags and said our socially distanced goodbyes to friends and family. Obviously, we got KJ's passport back! And on top of that, we were able to get 5 year, multi-entry visas for Burkina Faso for everyone in the family. God is good!

Through the IMB, a medical company donated 1000 rapid COVID tests to be used at BMC! What a blessing! We can take them back to our hospital and turn 4+ week result turnaround times into <4 hours. Who knows how many lives could be saved with this incredible gift. Pray for God to protect us during the flights and in airports. We have to get COVID tested again upon arrival in Ghana. If we are negative, then we are free to enter the country without a mandated quarantine. Please pray that we don't pick it up enroute!

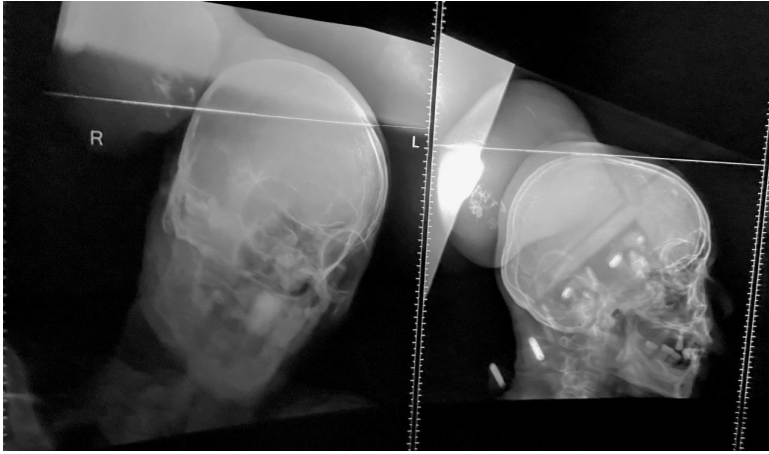


Shortly after we arrived, Dr. Nastia (the surgeon who had been filling in during our absence) left Ghana. It has been extremely challenging for her during the last 6 months with the lack of volunteers to help due to the pandemic. It was a bitter-sweet goodbye but we are so grateful to the Lord for bringing her into our lives at the time when her skills were most needed.”

Northern Ghana, Burkina Faso and Niger have been receiving record amounts of rain and massive flooding is causing issues in the region. People's homes are collapsing, roads are being washed out, crops are destroyed and livestock lost. Please pray for relief and safety for the affected people.

Trey had his unicycles assembled and ready to go on our first day back! He's been teaching his friends to ride and two of them picked it up quickly. Even though we are doing an American Kindergarten curriculum with KJ at home, we have enrolled her in a daily two-hour-long kindergarten in town. She loves being in a classroom setting with friends and looks forward to riding her bike to school every day.





## Removing a 40-year-old, Leaky Head Tumor

An elderly gentleman came to the hospital with a tumor on his head. When asked how long the tumor had been there, he said 40 years! So why, after 40 years, did he finally come to the hospital?

Over the past week, it had been growing significantly in size and it was painful. Besides that, an ulcerating wound had opened on the tumor and it was starting to bleed.

Since the man had lived with the tumor for 40 years, it did not appear to be an aggressive tumor, but I suspect it has had a malignant transformation (in other words, a benign tumor has become cancerous). On exam, the mass was nearly half the size of his head, attached to the scalp on the right. It did not feel like it was attached to the skull, and this was confirmed with an x-ray and ultrasound. When the dressing was removed, maggots were squirming in the wound – a sign of dead flesh. We began to excise the tumor and a rush of blood and clot came pouring out, but then stopped. I was able to remove the tumor down to the covering of the skull, noting that it did not breach this covering. The tumor itself appeared to be cancerous, but the center had been filled with a hematoma (old blood).

I believe the tumor had outgrown its own blood supply and started bleeding into itself. This expansion in size created the ulceration as the pressure on the skin prevented proper blood flow to that area – leading to the dead flesh which attracted the flies.

## Right Humerus Sequestrectomy

I just started back working at BMC and I have been treating many ailments of the extremities. Tumors, ulcers and gangrene of legs and arms have kept me busy.

One young woman came to the hospital with a chronic wound of her right upper arm. As a young girl, multiple wounds opened up on both arms and she has been dealing with the wounds ever since. These wounds were attributed to osteomyelitis or infection of the bones. I discussed the case with an orthopedic surgeon who has spent some time in West Africa. He explained that because this problem started when she was very small, the dead bone was actually the shaft of her humerus from when she was a child!

We gave her antibiotics and took her to the operating room. I pulled out the dead bone, cleaned out the “tunnel” through her arm and packed the wound with gauze. She has healed very well.





# COVID-19

## Georgia Governor Brian Kemp Tours Temporary Medical Unit at Atrium Health Navicent



(Left to right) Governor Brian Kemp, Dennis W. Ashley, MD, Senator John Kennedy and Ninfa Saunders

On Wednesday, May 27, Gov. Brian Kemp visited Macon-Bibb County to tour the temporary medical unit (TMU) at Atrium Health Navicent. At the request of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Macon-Bibb County and Atrium Health Navicent worked closely with the state to stand up a temporary medical unit in Macon-Bibb County.

The 24-bed TMU will provide patients with the same level of care they would expect to find within the hospital. Patients in need of care should report to the hospital, and a triage team will determine which patients are directed to the TMU based on the patient's need and hospital volumes at the time.

The TMU, staffed by Jackson Health and supported by Atrium Health Navicent clinicians, will be used solely to care for patients with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

On his visit, Kemp toured the TMU and praised hospital and county officials for the measures they have taken to protect Georgians from the virus. He also reminded Georgians to continue to take proper precautions as the state begins its limited reopening, encouraging citizens to act responsibly by social distancing, masking, and using proper hand sanitization.

## Virtual Interviews for Residency and Fellowship Programs for the 2020-2021 Interview Season

In a normal year, the residency/fellow selection process is anxiety-provoking. Add a global pandemic to the mix—resulting in key aspects of the process being altered—brings its own unique challenges to the mix. In recognition of the COVID-19 pandemic and with support of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education recommendations, all residency and fellowship interviews for Atrium Health Navicent transitioned to a virtual interview format in lieu of in-person interviews for the 2020/2021 interview season. Both the Critical Care Fellowship program and the General Surgery Residency (GSR) program were required to adjust to this alternative approach. The GSR program chose to interview 12 applicants each Thursday over the course of several months. Organizing and preparing to conduct virtual interviews, including identifying a suitable environment, setting up and practicing technology, and addressing possible complications without losing the effectiveness of the interview was a challenge. Maneuvering through breakout rooms and dealing with loss of internet connection became a real skill.

Irma Miranda, General Surgery Residency Coordinator, deserves recognition for her hard work and organizational skills during this process to ensure a standardized process while creating a comfortable atmosphere for the applicant during the interview.

# COVID-19



Drs. D. Benjamin Christie, III, and Dennis W. Ashley

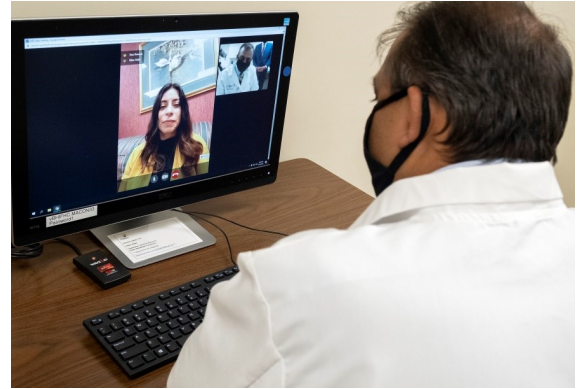
**HOW DO YOU HELP PEOPLE LIVE WELL AMIDST COVID-19?** Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Surgery has been able to establish research initiatives that are resonating on an international scale. The department was awarded a grant from Navicent Health Foundation for the purpose of collecting clinical data on the COVID-19 patient population to further study differences in demographics and patient susceptibilities. We are participating in an international database registry through the Society of Critical Care Medicine where institutions on a global scale are contributing COVID-19 related clinical information in order to provide for more comprehensive worldwide research efforts. Research detailing the treatment of COVID-19 patients in respiratory failure with thrombolytic therapy has been published as well as research on strategies for successful institutional planning for COVID-19 patient surges so that other facilities may have a reference or template to work from in their time of need. Research has been presented related to monitoring an inflammatory marker, D dimer, in COVID-19 patients and its potential use as a predictive measure for mortality risk and need for mechanical ventilation. The department is involved in a national, collaborative study evaluating the use of thrombolytic therapy in COVID-19 patients, participating with Harvard, Denver Health, Beth Israel and other institutions. Additionally, inter-institutional assessments are being conducted comparing treatment strategies and evaluating opportunities for enhanced recovery from COVID-19 respiratory infections with international partners.



# COVID-19



Governor Kemp and First Lady tour virtual care center



Virtual Care Center demonstration

## **Atrium Health Brings Virtual Care Delivery System to Georgia** *New System First of Its Kind in Georgia, to Alleviate Strain on Area Hospitals*

Patients diagnosed with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) may be able to receive hospital-level treatment in the comfort of their own homes. On August 10, 2020, Atrium Health Navicent – in collaboration with Atrium Health – announced its new and innovative virtual care delivery system, which is designed to protect the patient’s health, the health of others and prevent further spread of the virus. “We are thrilled that this innovation in virtual care technology is now available to Georgians seeking care. Atrium Health Navicent’s virtual care system will ensure available hospital capacity for central and south Georgians, while allowing patients who are not acutely ill to recover in their own homes. This innovative asset will serve as another tool in Georgia’s tool belt as we continue our fight against COVID-19 and provide quality care to Georgians in need,” said Gov. Brian Kemp, in attendance at Monday’s announcement in Macon, Georgia.

Atrium Health Navicent’s virtual care delivery system, an expansion of Atrium Health’s COVID-19 Virtual Hospital, will use advanced telemedicine to treat patients who do not require the level of care provided by an intensive care unit (ICU). Through the virtual care delivery system, healthcare providers will offer two levels of care – medical observation and acute care – by remotely monitoring patients 24-hours a day. The care team can monitor blood pressure, oxygen levels and temperature while the patient safely isolates and recovers in their own home. Atrium Health Navicent’s collaborative partner Atrium Health launched their COVID-19 Virtual Hospital in March to great success.

“For years, Atrium Health has been a national leader in telemedicine. And when COVID-19 hit, we explored options to significantly expand bed capacity,” said Gene Woods, president and CEO of Atrium Health. “Within only a week’s time, our Atrium Health COVID-19 Virtual Hospital became a reality and, now, we’ve cared for more than 13,000 patients at home to date through this amazing new virtual care platform. So, as we think about the future of telemedicine and, specifically its application in rural markets, it’s exciting to think about what an incredible and far-reaching impact this will have on our patients in Georgia as we improve health, elevate hope and advance healing for all.”

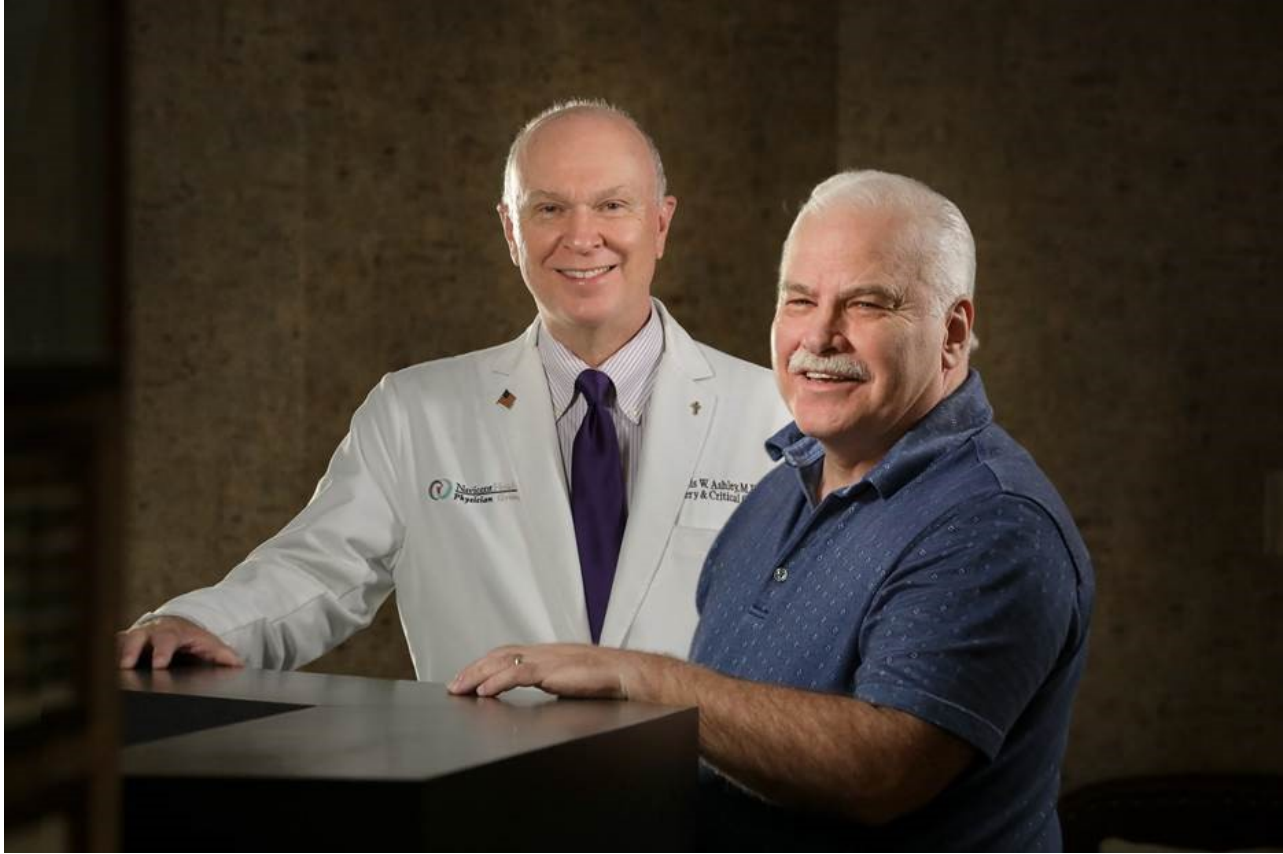
Patients appropriate for treatment through the virtual care delivery system will receive a COVID-19 Home Monitoring Kit, which includes a blood pressure monitor, pulse oximeter (measures blood oxygen and heart rate), thermometer and detailed instructions for use. The patient will monitor and log their vital signs several times a day and have check-in calls with nurses and a physician, as needed. Patients may also access a 24/7 support line for any questions about their health.

Through the virtual care delivery system, care providers can spot any trends or worsening symptoms and provide early intervention, if needed, before an emergency occurs. The virtual care delivery system will provide a convenient way for the patient to receive monitoring at home while allowing hospitals and health systems to reserve critical resources for the critically ill.



# Connect to Purpose

## The Glenn Haskins Story



Dr. Dennis Ashley and Glenn Haskins

“When the covid-19 pandemic began, I never imagined that I would be one to be diagnosed, let alone be one that would have a near death experience, however, thanks to Atrium Health Navicent, I am alive to tell the story!

I was diagnosed with COVID-induced pneumonia, and was being treated at home; however, my pneumonia quickly escalated, and I struggled to breathe. My wife Fran rushed me to the Emergency Room at Atrium Health Navicent, and upon initial assessment, I was immediately transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, whereby all accounts I wasn’t expected to live. By chance, a long-time friend, Dr. Dennis Ashley, was in the ER that day. I know him well and we have had many lunches together. It was always a time of fun chit chat and laughter, but not that day. I had never seen him work. He was calm, deliberate, decisive and very much in control as he gave instructions to those in the room. He discussed trying an experimental protocol on me and explained to my wife that I would only be the sixth person to receive this course of treatment. However, all five patients that received this treatment before me had positive outcomes. Fran readily agreed. Although the next few days were rough, miraculously, I did not require intubation. After a week in the ICU, I was moved to a regular room and three days later, I was being discharged home from the hospital. I still had a long way to go, but thanks to the quick intervention of Dr. Ashley and the medical team, I was alive and able to continue my recovery at home with my wife and family.

Even though I don’t remember much of the hospitalization, I do remember how thankful I was to not only be at Atrium Health Navicent but also to have the quality care that Atrium Health Navicent provided me. To my friend, Dr. Dennis Ashley, Director of Trauma and Chair of Surgery, it is incredibly inadequate to say thank you for saving my life. I am forever indebted to you and Atrium Health Navicent.

Atrium Health Navicent and Dr. Ashley gave me and my family a gift no amount of money could buy.”

# General Surgery Residency

**D. Benjamin Christie, III, MD**

**Program Director**

**Danny Vaughn, MD**

**Associate Program Director**

**Irma Miranda**

**GS Residency Coord.**

**Anna Conner**

**Department Secretary**



## Message from the General Surgery Residency Program Director



Dudley Benjamin Christie, III, MD, FACS  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Mercer University School of Medicine  
General Surgery Program Director  
Associate Director of Trauma

Albert Einstein is credited with having once said: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

The academic year of 2020-2021 was not without its trials. The Department of Surgery was challenged with the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, episodic COVID-19 surges, its attended resource pressure, and the adaptation, and adjustment, to new processes to help mitigate virus related risks. The direct, and indirect, impacts of these issues are not unique to us, but unlike other programs, we did not encapsulate, observe or wait for others to direct. While our balance was threatened, it was not lost.

Thanks to the faculty and residents, the Department took the lead on staffing initiatives during each COVID-19 surge this year. The Chiefs fostered a robust, small-group teaching conference and incorporated virtual learning opportunities to supplant in-person meetings. The Department generated several publications, worked collaboratively with national and international research groups and sowed a high-quality match while converting to a completely digital platform. The case counts and patient encounter statistics for the residents are as high as they have ever been. While our speed may have briefly slowed, we did not stop.

By virtue of these aforementioned strains, the Department of Surgery's invariable, overarching goals and initiatives of education, research, high-quality patient care, and professional development have never been more delicately equipoised in advancement.

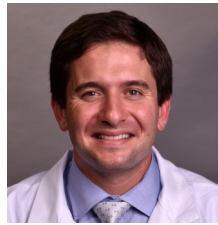
We are proud of our 5 graduating chiefs this year. We are proud of the intellectual and technical skill sets that they have developed. We are proud of the choices that they have made regarding their next destination in their professional lives. We are forever appreciative of their hard work, their sacrifices to our Department, Institution and community during some of the most trying times that planet Earth has ever seen. We will remember them fondly and cherish their friendships. Maintain balance, keep moving.

# General Surgery Residency

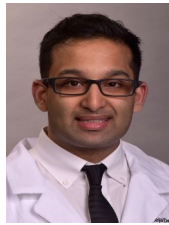
## Residents in Surgery

2020-2021

### PGY 5's



Matthew Barnes



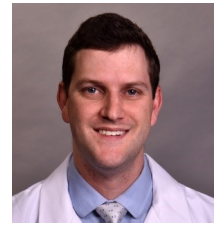
Raviteja Devalla



Hannah Nemec



Timothy Nowack



James Parker

### PGY 4's



Blake Bowden



Eric Forney



Casey Hawes



Carmen Lee

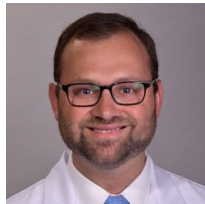


Bill Wallace

### PGY 3's



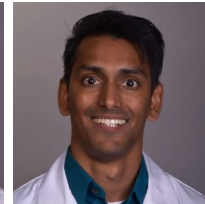
Lindsey Bridges



Josh Ferenczy



Allison Ferenczy



Albert Kazi



Tyler Solomon

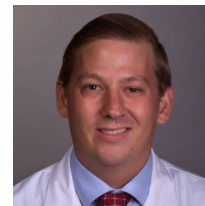
### PGY 2's



Paul Cartwright



Jacob Lowry

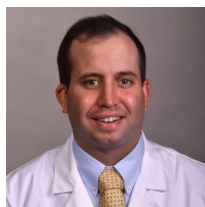


Cory Nonnemacher

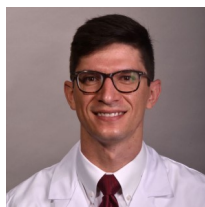


Philip Shillinglaw

### PGY 1's



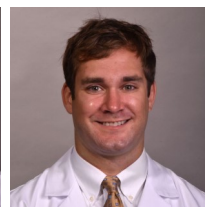
Andrew Barnes



Nicholas Koullas



Rachel Latremouille



Brewton McCluskey



Nehal Ninad



# General Surgery Residency

## WELCOMES NEW PGY 1'S



**Paul Kim, D.O.**, will graduate from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas Campus in May of 2021. He attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where he received his undergraduate degree in Biology-Biochemistry graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. He is tri-lingual speaking both English and Korean proficiently with basic Spanish language skills. His research has resulted in 2 publications, six article submissions and one poster presentation. In 2020, his volunteer and work experience centered around COVID-19. He conducted COVID screening on blood donors as well as ensuring that COVID precautionary measures were met at his local church.



**Thomas Nguyen, M.D.**, will graduate from the California Northstate University College of Medicine in May. He attended the University of California where he received his undergraduate degree in Political Science before his pre-medical post baccalaureate at the California Northstate University College of Health Sciences. During the 2018-2019 school year, he was awarded two medical education scholarships from the Northern California Education Foundation for displaying a commitment to community service. His research led to one poster presentation, one oral presentation and one article submission. He is tri-lingual speaking English and Vietnamese proficiently and Spanish at the basic level.



**Oluwaseun "Seun" Olusanya, D.O.**, will graduate from Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in May. He received his undergraduate degree in Medicine, Health and Society from Vanderbilt University before receiving a Masters in Science in Biomedical Sciences. While in osteopathic school, he received the Snider Whitaker Endowed Scholarship, membership to the Alpha Chi Honor Society and was the DeBusk Research Fellow. He is tri-lingual speaking English proficiently and both Kru/Ibo/Yoruba and Spanish at the basic level. After receiving the rank of Eagle Scout, he continues to show his dedication to community service by investing his time in leadership roles and volunteering.



**Alyse Ragauskas, M.D.**, will graduate from the Mercer University School of Medicine in May. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology and Genetics from the University of Georgia before spending a year at the University of Tennessee Health Science studying Cell Biology and Physiology. She went on to receive a Masters in Science in Preclinical Sciences at the Mercer University School of Medicine. She has been a MAG LEADs Scholar since March of 2018, Student Body President 2020-2021, Class President 2017-2020, and the John Hopkins University CUPID Research Fellow in the summer of 2018. She has extensive research experience resulting in five publications, four oral presentations and eight poster presentations.



**Daniel Sircar, M.D.**, will graduate from the Medical College of Georgia in May. He received his undergraduate degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Biochemistry graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. He has participated with several research studies with radiation and medical oncology. He is bi-lingual speaking English proficiently and basic skills in Urdu. Although being a father of three and the primary caretaker, he found time to volunteer in multiple projects including developing and presenting a lecture series on student wellness, professional communication and sexual harassment to 190 first year medical school students.

# General Surgery Residency

## 2021 GRADUATING CHIEF RESIDENTS

**Matthew Alan Barnes, M.D.**, will complete his general surgery residency at Atrium Health Navicent in June. He attended University of South Alabama receiving his medical degree in May of 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from Birmingham Southern College in Biology with a minor in Spanish. Upon completion of residency, he and his wife, Blake, will remain in Macon to begin a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Atrium Health Navicent.



**Raviteja Naga Devalla, M.D.**, was born in Guntur, India. He majored in Biology and Chemistry at the University of Rhode Island. He completed medical school at Trinity School of Medicine. Upon completion of residency, he will begin a 2-year fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



**Hannah M. Nemec, M.D.**, grew up in rural Catawba, Virginia. She majored in Chemistry at Roanoke College with a Concentration in Health Care Administration. She went on to earn her Medical Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. Upon completion of residency, she and her husband, Gregory, will be moving to Las Vegas where she will begin a two-year fellowship in Acute Care Surgery (Trauma Surgery and Surgical Critical Care).



**Timothy Elliott Nowack, M.D.**, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He majored in Biology at Georgia Tech where he graduated with honors, and later earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia. Upon completion of residency, he and his wife, Kelsey, will move to Miami where he will begin a fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery.



**James Cole Parker, M.D.**, is a native of Eastern North Carolina. He completed his bachelor's degree in Chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill prior to medical school at Trinity School of Medicine in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. After residency, Dr. Parker will be moving to Kansas City with his wife, Lynndsey, and their one-year old daughter, Annie, to attend a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at Saint Luke's Hospital.





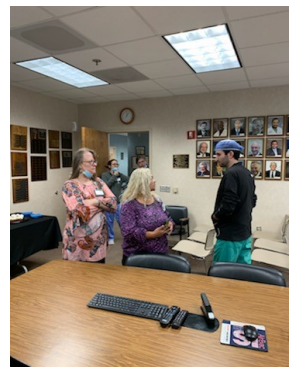
# General Surgery Residency



CELEBRATE WITH US!!! MARCH 19, 2021 @ 1 PM

## MATCH DAY REVEAL PARTY

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED





# General Surgery Residency



The American College of Surgeons (ACS) developed a program for new surgeons who have completed residency and are entering into the practice of general surgery. The Mastery in General Surgery Program formerly known as the Transition to Practice program supports the transition to independent practice in general surgery. Goals include:

- ⇒ Building autonomy, decision-making, and clinical skills
- ⇒ Developing experience in practice management, leadership, and quality improvement
- ⇒ Learning the business of medicine
- ⇒ Launching a career in general surgery

In July of 2013, Atrium Health Navicent in conjunction with the Mercer University School of Medicine became only 1 of 11 programs in the nation to offer this program. We partnered with Dr. William Pannell and Dr. Vince Culpepper and Crisp Regional Hospital. Our program along with the University of Tennessee were the only two programs that had transition to practice associates that first year. The program has now transitioned to two new sites with senior teaching associates at each site.

## **Mercer/Navicent Hawkinsville Campus Taylor Regional Hospital, Hawkinsville, Georgia**

**Robert C. Campbell, MD, Senior Associate**, obtained his undergraduate degree from Emory University in Atlanta receiving his medical degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine. He went on to complete his residency at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Georgia. He remains active in the United States Army Reserve with the rank of Colonel and commands the 3297th U.S. Army Hospital. He has a special interest in breast surgery and breast cancer prevention. He is affiliated with Taylor Regional Hospital.



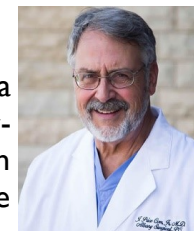
**Dr. Jessica Enderson** (right) is the current transition to practice associate at the Hawkinsville Campus. She will amass over 500 cases this year and has accepted a position in a small town in Idaho as a solo surgeon.



The Mercer/Hawkinsville location has filled for the academic year 2021-22 with Dr. Jonathan Bouchez. His anticipated start date is August 1, 2021.

## **Mercer/Navicent Albany Campus Albany Surgical, Albany, Georgia**

**J. Price Corr, Jr., MD, FACS, Senior Associate**, is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine. He completed a residency in general surgery at the Medical College of Georgia and returned home to Albany, Georgia, to practice in 1982. He was a founding partner of Albany Surgical, P.C. in 1986 and is affiliated with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.



# General Surgery Clerkship



Danny Vaughn, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor  
Director, GS Clerkship

Danny Vaughn, M.D., is the Clerkship Director for the third and fourth year Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) students. The junior clerkship is an eight-week program on three clinical campuses: Macon, Savannah and Columbus. The objective of the clerkship is to provide a broad clinical exposure in a variety of clinical arenas to teach the clinical surgical clerks the principles of surgical disease, its recognition and plans of management. The clinical settings include classroom activities, outpatient clinical patient exposure, the operating room, the recovery room, the intensive care unit and the wards.



As with every other clerkship program, the advent of COVID-19 impacted the day-to-day activities. With specific adjustments to the schedule and curriculum, medical students were allowed to continue their studies safely and on schedule.



On March 26, 2021, MUSM held a Honors and Awards ceremony to honor both students and faculty in the clerkship programs, which includes internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry, pediatrics, family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology. Med Ed Surgery gives two awards to deserving students. The Will C. Sealy award was presented to John Buchanan (top left) for the most outstanding performance on the surgical clerkship and the



Joe Sam Robinson award was presented to Tyler Giles (middle left) for the best performance for a student entering into a surgical sub specialty. Both John (Baylor University Medical Center) and Tyler (University of Mississippi Medical Center) have matched with surgery residency programs. Alyse Ragauskas, MUSM graduate who will join our general surgery residency program in July, presented Dr. Vaughn (right) with the Outstanding Surgical Faculty award. Cory Nonnemacher, PGY-2, was chosen by the medical students as Resident of the Year.



## Mercer University School of Medicine Students Participate in Research

In the past year, medical students rotating on the surgery rotation, have volunteered to participate in a number of research study projects. Alyse Ragauskas, Salima Mahkani, John Buchanan, Scott Cannon, Reuben Reynolds and Lindsey Theodore have been abstracting data for the COVID Society of Critical Care Society multi-institutional, retrospective review of COVID patient ICU care. Marshall Williams and Mital Patel are working on the research project "Do Isolated Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhages Require Transfer?". They will be presenting their research at an internal bi-campus research event at Mercer on May 13, 2021. Daniel Strawn and Brad Poole have been participating in a study entitled "Safety and Efficacy of Early DVT Prophylaxis in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injuries."

Alyse Ragauskas, MS4, while on her surgery rotation, researched how hospital systems of similar size to Atrium Health Navicent could utilize principles of mass casualty preparedness to craft a plan for a future contagion response strategy in an effort to balance patient care responsibilities and education endeavors while mitigating COVID-19. Her research, "Strategies for General Surgery Training Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic", was published in the November *American Surgeon*.

The Surgical Oncology department mentored a Mercer Medical Student Summer Scholar, Claire Belay, MS3. Her research titled "Are perineural invasion and lymphovascular invasion significant predictors of breast cancer outcomes?" has been accepted for presentation at the 2021 International Meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

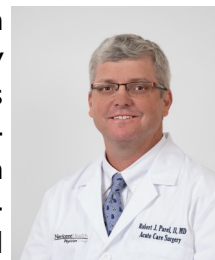
# General Surgery

D. Ashley, MD DB Christie, MD A. Jones, MD E. Long, MD R. Parel, MD A. Scott, MD W. Thompson, MD D. Vaughn, MD



## Message from the Lead Physician

The 2020-2021 academic year was a challenging one for the Surgical Institute (SI) at Atrium Health Navicent (AHN). COVID-19 disrupted our usual practice patterns and adjustments were made daily in serving the surgical needs of our patients. We employed virtual visits and prioritized procedures while remaining available for surgical and trauma emergencies. Our most heartfelt challenge, however, was the passing of two of our own, Dr. Macram Ayoub and Dr. Horatio Cabasares. Both men had been pillars of the Middle Georgia surgical community since the 1980's providing care to countless patients while remaining invaluable mentors to both the surgical faculty and surgical residents. SI will not be able to replace these legendary surgeons but hopefully will use them as models as we move forward.



Robert Parel, II, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor  
Lead Physician, Surgical  
Institute

The Surgical Institute continues to provide high quality and cutting edge procedures across a broad spectrum of surgical diseases. Employing these skills in Macon while expanding our services to include new offices in Atrium Health Baldwin as well as Perry Hospital. This is in addition to our already running satellite offices in Monroe County, Putnam County, and Houston County. Our practice in Houston County was especially exciting this year as one of our graduates Dr. Tony Scott took over the helm and continued to grow SI's presence and reputation there. SI physicians also remained active this year with leadership roles across the hospital as well as the Navicent Health Physician group. Examples include Dr. Christie elected as Chief of Surgery for AHN hospital, Dr. Ashley named chairman of the leadership council for NHPG, Dr. Parel named Chairman of the Finance council for NHPG, and Dr. Vaughn named to the Medical Executive Committee.

Goals going forward are to continue to grow our footprint while maintaining an emphasis on quality and best practices. SI specializes in broad based general surgery with expertise in a wide array of procedures to include but not limited to digestive surgery, endocrine surgery, trauma surgery, hernia surgery, breast surgery and reflux surgery. We do this through a seasoned faculty who maintain and can perform many of these procedures with a minimally invasive technique.

## Office Staff

### Rachel Taylor, MHA, LPN: Practice Manager

Nichole Brown: Practice Assistant  
Terry Sandefur: Practice Assistant  
Tara Cocking, CMA: Medical Assistant  
Brooke Holloway, CHAA: Surgery Coordinator  
Madison Couch, RD, LD: Registered Dietitian  
Devona Vance, CPC: Coder  
Susan Woodard, LPN  
Vicki Hughley, LPN  
Brandon Bradley, PA-C

Jennifer Peebles: Practice Assistant  
Candice Jones: Practice Assistant  
Crendon Corbin, CMA: Medical Assistant  
Jennifer Crowder, CPAR: Surgery Coordinator  
Megan Paredes, CPC: Coder  
Nortortsha Wimberley, CPC, CHAA: Coder  
Alissa Mollo, LPN  
Michelle Rowell, NP-C, CBN

### SURGICAL INSTITUTE OFFICE LOCATIONS

#### Eatonton

106 Hospital Perimeter Dr

#### Forsyth

120 N Lee St  
Suite C

#### Macon

840 Pine St  
Suite 750

#### Milledgeville

1201 Columbia Dr

#### Warner Robins

320 Margie Dr



# Minimally Invasive Surgery

**Robert J. Parel II, M.D., FACS**

**Joshua Glenn, M.D., FACS**

**Danny Vaughn, M.D., FACS**

**Michelle Rowell, NP**



## Message from the Director



Danny Vaughn, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor  
Director, GS Clerkship  
Associate Director, GS Residency  
Medical Director, Bariatrics  
Medical Director, Robotic Surgery

This past year has been one of the most challenging since I joined the faculty in 2012. No one could have anticipated the disruption that was upcoming with COVID-19. It was the “shot heard round the world” within the medical community across the globe. While I realize that COVID’s effect on our division was nothing compared to that of our Critical Care colleagues, it was a significant obstacle to our efforts. As I reflect on the past year, I realize that despite the challenges we still managed to put forth some significant accomplishments.

Since the inception of our Bariatric Surgery program here at Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) in 2013, we have strived to increase our footprint in central Georgia. Our program expanded to include adolescent patients this past year. With the help of Drs. Josh Glenn and Yameka Head, this has been a resounding success. We also took a significant step forward with the decision to begin a bariatric surgery program at Houston Medical Center. To date, this has been well received within the medical community in Houston County. Our goal is to have the case numbers required to apply for Center of Excellence designation within the next 2 years. Just recently, Dr. Rob Parel held the first bariatric clinic at Atrium Health Baldwin, with plans to bring

bariatric procedures to that institution on a limited basis. Lastly, we bolstered our commitment to patient advocacy through our efforts within the Georgia State Chapter of the ASMBS. Those efforts are detailed on the opposing page.

The robotic surgery program here at AHN has continued to grow over the past year. In March of 2020, we were fortunate to acquire our second DaVinci XI robot at AHN. This resulted in a significant increase in our capability. Coincidentally, that was just in time for elective cases to be suspended due to COVID-19. Despite this, our robotic case numbers still increased slightly in 2020. More importantly, we have maintained our commitment to resident education in robotics. Through the direction of Dr. Ashley Jones, our robotics simulation curriculum provides junior residents the skills needed to enter the operating room with confidence during their initial robotic surgical opportunities. Graduating chiefs continue to leave our program with their robotics certificate, enabling them to obtain credentialing in robotics at other institutions. We have recently reinstated our robotics steering committee here at AHN. Goals of the committee are to improve efficiency, minimize costs, improve resident education, and improve accessibility of the robotic platform to surgeons throughout the institution.

On a final note, I would like to bring special attention to one particular achievement. This is the success that I am most proud of personally. We are fortunate to have two of our graduating chiefs match into Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship positions. Dr. James Parker matched at Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City and Dr. Tim Nowack matched at Baptist Health South Florida. This is significant considering the increasing competitiveness of the MIS fellowship match. We wish them the best in their continued training and look forward to their future contributions in the field of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

# Minimally Invasive Surgery



## Georgia State Chapter of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Visit Capitol

The Georgia Chapter of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) was originally founded in 2009. Since that time, the priority of the organization has been to improve access to care for residents of Georgia. Georgia holds the dubious distinction of being one of only six states in the country that does not cover bariatric surgery for state employees.

In 2018, the Georgia chapter was reorganized with new bylaws and officers. Dr. Danny Vaughn, immediate Past President, played an instrumental role in this endeavor. Chapter members testified before legislative committees at the state Capitol on multiple occasions in an effort to convince the state government to include bariatric surgery coverage in the state health benefit plan. Unfortunately, these efforts did not yield results in 2018 and 2019.

On February 4, 2020, the Georgia Chapter of the ASMBS sponsored Obesity Awareness Day at the Georgia State Capitol. ASMBS members were present and spoke on the floor of the State House of Representatives regarding obesity and importance of providing surgical treatments to Georgia state employees. Resolutions supporting Obesity Awareness Day were read in both the House and Senate. Dr. Renee Hilton, Vice-President of Georgia Chapter of ASMBS, met with Governor Brian Kemp in February of 2020 to discuss plans for the benefit to be added back into the state employee health benefit plan. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a stall on legislative action as well as additional meetings with the Governor. The goal for 2021 is to rekindle these efforts. As a first step, the chapter reached out to the Governor regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this virus has on patients with obesity.

The efforts of the Georgia Chapter of the ASMBS were highlighted in the May 2021 edition of the *Bariatric Times* in an article entitled “The Georgia State Chapter of the ASMBS—Fighting for Access to Care”.



**First Row:** Dr. Renee Hilton, Dr. Jamil Stetler, Dr. Aaron Bolduc  
**Second Row:** GA Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan, Dr. Danny Vaughn, Dr. Oliver Whipple, State Senator Ben Watson, MD



**Left to Right:** Representative Sharon Cooper, Dr. Oliver Whipple, Representative Mark Newton, MD, Dr. Jamil Stetler, Dr. Danny Vaughn, Dr. Aaron Bolduc, Dr. Renee Hilton, Representative Katie Dempsey, Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives David Ralston

# Pediatric Surgery

**Issam Shaker, M.D., FACS**

**Joshua Glenn, M.D., FACS**

**Roger Pitt, MD**



## Message from the Chief



Joshua Glenn, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor  
Chief, Pediatric Surgery

The year of 2020-2021 has been a time of adaptation and perseverance for all practices through the challenges presented by COVID-19. The unknown aspect of how COVID-19 would affect the pediatric population created unique challenges on the implementation of appropriate precautions for the safety of the children and adolescents undergoing operations. We are pleased to report that COVID cases in the pediatric surgical population have been rare with many of the cases being asymptomatic.

The option of virtual visits for pre-operative and post-operative care has been one positive resource the COVID pandemic brought to our practice. This option greatly expanded our accessibility to the pediatric population in the rural areas of Georgia. We have also continued to offer in-person pre-operative and post-operative visits at our satellite clinic in Albany, Georgia.

Even in the face of COVID-19, Pediatric Surgical Associates at Atrium Navicent Health has continued to grow and thrive. Despite the challenges faced, the number of surgical cases performed has increased from previous years.

We are proud to share some of the advances we have made in the field during 2020. Thanks to our collaboration with Dr. Vaughn, Bariatric Surgical Institute, and Dr. Head, Healthy Me Clinic at CHC, we have implemented the first Adolescent Bariatric Surgery program in the state. We have had a resounding success with this program with great outcomes thus far. We are pleased to be able to offer minimally invasive robotic surgery within our children's hospital operating area as well.

We have had the unique opportunity to perform EXIT procedures in the children's hospital. The EXIT procedure is coordinated between pediatric surgery, high-risk obstetrics providers and other subspecialty teams.

On a final note of accomplishment, we are proud to have performed the first successful magnetic repair of esophageal atresia performed in Georgia. Long gap esophageal atresia accounts for less than 10% and presents as a challenging surgical problem. A novel device has been approved by the FDA on a compassionate use basis that uses rare earth magnets to slowly bring the two ends of the esophagus together. Dr Glenn and the team were the first to bring this device to Georgia.



# Surgical Critical Care

A. Christie, M.D.

C. Franklin, M.D.

D. Ashley, M.D.

D. B. Christie, M.D.

A. Jones, M.D.

E. Long, M.D.



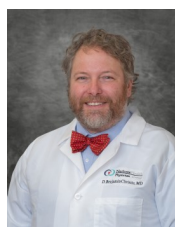
Janna Bates, PA



Barclay Burns, NP



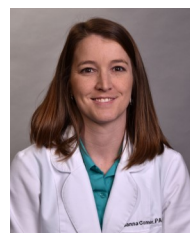
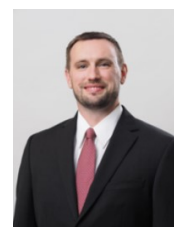
Laura Caraway, NP



Shane Hill, NP



Brandi Sheppard, NP



## Message from the Chair of Adult Critical Care

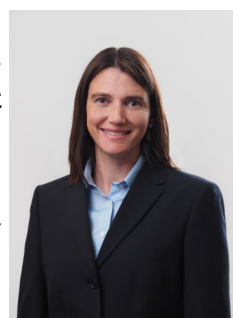
Surgical Critical Care Services at Atrium Health Navicent continues its commitment to clinical outcomes research, quality improvement initiatives for ICU protocol development, and providing administrative leadership for transitioning to dedicated intensivist staffing in Navicent's Adult Critical Care Units. We continue to onboard excellent intensivist faculty to support this multi-disciplinary department.

In the academic year of 2020-2021, our Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit moved to a newly renovated 24-bed unit that allows the Surgery Department to better support not only our trauma ICU patients, but also additional surgical service lines whose patients may require ICU management. This state of the art ICU also has a dedicated CT scanner that allows us to readily image critical patients without having to travel out of the unit.

Beyond our faculty's commitment to the Surgical Trauma ICU, the faculty, as well as our residents, were crucial to supporting the 2020-2021 COVID surges that required expansion of our ICU footprint. We could not have provided such high level ICU care without this team effort!

Additionally, the critical care team led by the leadership of Drs. Dennis Ashley and Benjie Christie published in the *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* a case series describing early outcomes with utilization of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) in COVID-19 associated respiratory distress. This research team is also supporting an institutional randomized control trial comparing the use of tPA to therapeutic heparin in COVID-19 respiratory failure. Finally, our Surgery/Trauma Research and Process Improvement staff have propelled our Atrium Health Navicent critical care team into national recognition as they consistently input Top 5 data entry amongst hospitals participating in the Society of Critical Care Medicine VIRUS COVID-19 Registry.

We look forward to welcoming two Surgical Critical Care Fellows for the academic year of 2021-2022. One of these fellows is our very own, Dr. Matthew Barnes. We are so glad that Dr. Barnes has opted to continue his fellowship training at Atrium Health Navicent!



Amy B. Christie, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor  
Mercer University SOM  
Chair, Critical Care  
Director, Adult Critical Care  
PD, SCC Fellowship  
Atrium Health Navicent

# Surgical Critical Care

## Fellowship Program Welcomes New Fellows



**Melissa Ward, MD,** will complete her general surgery residency at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, in June. She attended Dalhousie University New Brunswick receiving her medical degree in 2015. She received her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Science from the University of Ottawa. Because of her love for research, she is also currently studying for her Master of Science in Health Sciences Education from McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario. In 2019, she received both the George W. Leroux Memorial Award for residents in the Department of Surgery who show promise in the field and the Health Sciences Education Graduate Studies Award which is awarded to full-time, thesis-stream students in the Master of Science in Health Sciences Education program. In 2018, she received the Health Sciences Education Graduate Studies Award as well as the Best Senior, Non-Masters Research Presentation at the General Surgery Research Day. She has collaborated on multiple research projects resulting in six publications, three oral presentations and four poster presentations as well as having several projects in progress. She has held several leadership roles including, but not limited to, Past-President and Vice-President, Professional Association of Residents and Interns (PARIM) of Manitoba and Chair, Human Resource Committee, PARIM.

“I am choosing to pursue a fellowship in surgical critical care and trauma because this field combines diversity in clinical care, leadership and collaboration as key skills, and research, all in a high acuity setting that requires strong time management skills and decisiveness.”



**Matthew Barnes, MD,** will complete his general surgery residency at Atrium Health Navicent in June. He attended University of South Alabama receiving his medical degree in May of 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from Birmingham Southern College in Biology with a minor in Spanish. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and Beta Beta Beta Honor Society. He has collaborated on several research projects resulting in one oral presentation and one publication as well as having projects in progress. He is a resident member of the American College of Surgeons and Bibb County Medical Society.

“I do not foresee a day when management of the critically ill does not spark excitement. Ultimately, I believe that having a foundation in both surgery and critical care will make me a better physician who is more equipped to manage my patients.”

## SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) has a 100-year history of serving the central and South Georgia regions. It is the second largest hospital in the state of Georgia. It is verified by the American College of Surgeons as a Level I Trauma Center with more than 3,500 trauma admissions per year. AHN is affiliated with the Mercer University School of Medicine.

The one-year ACGME accredited surgical critical care fellowship training at the Atrium Health Navicent began in 2008 with one fellowship position. The program expanded to two fellowship positions in 2013. The program consists of rotations in STICU, CVICU, PICU, and MSICU as well as two in house electives (Radiology, Infectious Disease, Interventional Radiology and Endovascular, Advanced Cardiology Techniques, and Geriatrics & Palliative Care) and/or an away elective (Burns). During the surgical critical care experience, the fellows will broaden their basic skills and fundamental knowledge about diseases, disorders, and conditions; diagnosis and assessment methods; and surgical procedures that fall within the study of acute surgical problems and critical care. The program also has a robust educational program consisting of a lecture series, Sim Lab training, and board review. The Comprehensive Board Prep Bundle is provided for each fellow to enhance their learning experience and to use in board preparation. The fellows receive an educational stipend of \$1,500 per year for the purchase of books, journals, society memberships/dues, or the attendance to educational conferences.

# Surgical Oncology & Colorectal Surgery

Paul Dale, M.D.

Arnold Conforti, M.D.

Doug Brewer, M.D.

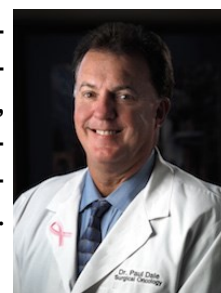
Nikki Gibbs, NP



## Message from the Chief

This past year has been one of growth and change for the Division of Surgical Oncology and Colorectal Surgery. Our lead colorectal surgeon Dr. Doug Brewer's administrative talents were recognized as he was appointed the Chief Medical Officer at Atrium Health Baldwin in Milledgeville, Georgia. Working with Dr. Brewer and their CEO we have been able to expand our cancer services to Atrium Health Baldwin by sharing our cancer registrars' responsibilities, providing operational administrative leadership, and offering onsite Surgical Oncology surgery services with Dr. Paul Dale who is now on their medical staff.

Our Division continues to be academically productive. Through a grant provided by the generous support of the Navicent Health Foundation, we mentored a Mercer Medical Student Summer Scholar, Claire Belay, MS3. Her research titled "Are perineural invasion and lymphovascular invasion significant predictors of breast cancer outcomes?" has been accepted for presentation at the 2021 International Meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons. Dr. Dale was honored to give the biannual John Wayne Cancer Foundation Alumni Lectureship on "Clinician Burnout". He also moderated one of the Melanoma sessions at the Society of Surgical Oncology International Conference on Surgical Cancer Care.



Paul Dale, MD, FACS  
Chief, Surgical Oncology  
Vice Dean of Translational  
Research

The Peyton Anderson Cancer Center leadership team, under the direction of Carla Sims, was also successful in re-accreditation of both their American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer Program and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancer. Both were virtual over a 2-day timeline, and we were the first institution to have both programs recertified virtually in the nation. In addition, we have completed our 2-year application process for the newly developed American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer, and will have our site visit scheduled in May. When successful, we will be the first accredited program in Georgia and one of the first in the Southeast, demonstrating our commitment to excellence and the dedicated multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of rectal cancer.

The cancer service line integration with Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, N.C. continues to strengthen and flourish. Among the benefits of the relationship is the collaboration around genetic testing and counseling. Genetic counseling is now being provided virtually through LCI, offering our patients more expertise in discussing their treatment and follow up when they have a genetic predisposition for specific cancers.

The 2020-2021 academic year was certainly one we shall not soon forget in the Division of Surgical Oncology and Colorectal Surgery. The challenges the Covid-19 virus delivered to us all during this past year presented compounding issues for our cancer center and our patients. Thanks to our Atrium Health Navicent leadership, we were able to continue delivering compassionate multidisciplinary care to our cancer patients. While no visitors were allowed in the hospital and patients went through cancer surgeries and chemotherapy treatments without their loved ones at their side, our fantastic team of clinicians, nurses, residents, and support teams stepped up and supported them through that journey.

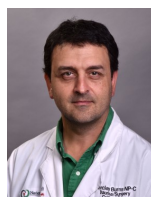
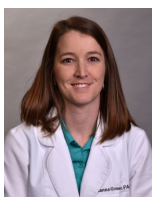


# Trauma Services

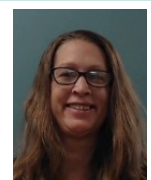
D. Ashley, MD DB Christie, MD A. Jones, MD E. Long, MD R. Parel, MD W. Thompson, MD D. Vaughn, MD



J. Bates, PA L. Caraway, NP B. Burns, NP S. Hill, NP B. Sheppard, NP T. Johns, MSN J. Dulin, RN



R. Adiga, MS K. Smith, BS, EMT R. Axlund, CSTR P. Judd K. Thomas, CPC S. Roberson, MSPLC V. Land, BS



Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) - Macon, Georgia, is the only American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma verified Level I trauma center in middle Georgia.

AHN's Level I trauma team, comprised of numerous surgeons in various specialties as well as highly-trained and specialized clinicians, is available 24 hours per day and able to provide the most sophisticated level of care for trauma patients. In addition, as a Level I trauma center, AHN

leads the field in research in Georgia and provides training for future surgeons through residency and fellowship programs. Our mission is to provide quality care quickly for the trauma patient. This includes evaluation, treatment and prevention of serious injuries encompassing pre-hospital, hospital and follow-up care.



Trauma Services welcomed **Robyn Axlund** in October of 2020 as the new Trauma Data Coordinator. Robyn joined us from Richmond, Virginia, where she worked as Lead Trauma Registrar at Chippenham Medical Center. She received her Associates degree from Pierce College located in Puyallup, Washington and is a certified specialist in trauma registry, certified abbreviated injury scale specialist and certified professional coder.

# Trauma Services

**"AHN Trauma Services delivers evidence-based quality of care through the hard work of our talented providers and administrative team. Our program was built on and continues to rest on the shoulders of giants, and we truly have a bright future." □**

~ Tracy Johns

## Message from the Trauma Program Manager

What an eventful year! We've experienced a pandemic, ever increasing momentum in patient improvement and patient safety (PIPS), a 5% increase in trauma volumes, a surge in research activity, and staff changes.

**COVID Pandemic:** To adapt to the 'new' normal while protecting one another, our trauma surgeons, residents and advanced practice providers divided into a larger number of teams with fewer members. This cut down on the chance of cross-contamination and accidental spread of the virus. The call schedule was revised to have fewer people in the hospital at any one time. Our residents and critical care boarded physicians provided care as the number of COVID ICUs increased. Protocols were developed for IV heparin and tPA use with COVID patients with worsening respiratory function. Heparin and tPA use, including patient outcomes, was published and there is an ongoing, prospective randomized trial comparing treatment outcomes. Our providers also participated in the creation of an Atrium, multi-institutional COVID care protocol.



Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN-BC, CPHQ  
Trauma Program Manager

**Trauma Care:** Even through the pandemic, our trauma patient volume increased 5% from 2019 to 3,984 patients (avg 332 patients/month) with 76% (3014) of all patients admitted and an average injury severity score of 8. Mechanism of injury types show 80% blunt, 14% penetrating and 6% other or burn injuries. The most common causes of injury show 32% motor vehicle and motor cycle accidents followed by 35% falls (22% ground level falls). Patients arriving from scene of injury comprised 64% our population while the remaining 36% of patients were transferred from an outside facility. With a transfer rate this high, it is not surprising that our trauma team treated patients injured in 72 Georgia counties, 45% of all Georgia counties.

**Performance Improvement and Patient Safety- (PIPS):** As mentioned in the 2020 report, our trauma PIPS program continues to demonstrate effectiveness and maturity as evidenced by:

- **Venous thrombolytic (VTE) prophylaxis:** Compared to pre-intervention (fall 2017), our 2019 and 2020 trauma quality improvement program reports (TQIP) indicated the pulmonary embolus odds ratio dropped as low as to 0.56, lowering the benchmark decile from 10 (worst) to one or two (best). Patients receiving no chemoprophylaxis decreased to 23% and was lower than all hospitals (32%). With publication of updated trauma VTE prophylaxis guidelines, Western Trauma Association (2020) and eastern association of surgery in trauma (later in 2021), VTE prophylaxis guidelines updates are planned.
- **Whole Blood Use:** Starting June 2020, whole blood has been available only for trauma use, primarily tier 1 trauma team activations. By the end of 2020, 103 units, avg 14 units/month, were transfused and no adverse events were reported. Whole blood may be used individually or as the beginning of the massive transfusion protocol (MTP). There were 55 trauma MTP activations in 2020.
- **PEG Tube Securement:** From a case reviewed early 2020, an opportunity for improvement was identified related to procurement of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes. Our PIPS coordinator, Jo C, lead an interdepartmental effort to identify best practice, find a device (PEG protect), obtain approval for evaluation and pilot use. Best practice includes use of the PEG protect securement device and an abdominal binder. The pilot started in September 2020 and has been adopted into practice for all patients. Since then, there has been a decrease in PEG tube dislodgement. PEG tube securement continues to be monitored 100% for trauma patients.

# Trauma Services

- **Pediatric Imaging:** As part of a state trauma system initiative, a state pediatric trauma imaging guideline was established to decrease unnecessary imaging and decrease radiation exposure in pediatric trauma patients. Compliance with the pediatric imaging guideline continues to be monitored for all pediatric trauma patients.
- **Rib Fracture Care Guideline:** In January 2020, trauma services initiated a best-practice guideline for care of patients with rib or sternal fractures with a focused patient cohort at high risk for respiratory compromise. The guideline addresses everything from incentive spirometry use, multi-modal analgesia, end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, to indications for surgical stabilization of fractures with post-op outpatient care recommendations. While many variables may affect these 2 complications, a before and after comparison does show a statistically significant decreased incidence for unplanned ICU admits as shown below:

National Trauma Data Bank Complication	2019 n = 3005	2020 n = 3014	p value
Unplanned ICU admits	58	39	0.05
Unplanned Intubations	51	36	0.102
<i>Data Source: trauma registry; n = trauma admits; N-I Chi-squared test for proportions used for statistical analysis.</i>			

**Trauma Research:** Beginning with the start of our Trauma Research Coordinator, Rajani Adiga, research infrastructure blossomed in 2020. Through a talented administrative team in the lead, we now better to support research by:

**REDCap Use:** REDCap is HIPPA compliant database that was built by a team at Vanderbilt through a national institutes of health (NIH) grant. It is used in > 5,000 institutions in 141 countries and use is free for non-profit organizations. Late in 2019, the facility went live with REDCap. The trauma department has 4 research studies, 1 PIPS initiative and 2 department projects supported in this platform.

**Trauma Research Intranet:** With a research process description, links to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) website and forms, we have mapped out a quick 'how to' for those wanting to start research.

**Trauma/Surgery IRB Member:** Recognizing the leadership in trauma and surgery research, Dr. Ashley became a member of the facility's IRB in 2020.

**Grant Support:** Through two state and an organizational grant, we have financial support for 2 trauma (Rib Plating and TEG) and 2 COVID related research studies supported.

**Expanded Research Participation:** Starting last year, research participation increased at a state and international level. In a multi-institutional state study led by researchers at Grady, we are examining tourniquet use for Georgia trauma patients. We are an invited participant for a national study related to trauma patients with a history of direct oral anticoagulant with a diagnosis of intracerebral hemorrhage. The study's goal is to identify the best time to resume the patient's anticoagulant medication.

**Lead for a Multi-Institutional Study:** In January, a multi-institutional, grant support study was started exploring the predictive value of thrombo-elastography (TEG) for venous thromboembolic events for trauma patient. The TEG study has put trauma services 'on the map' since this is the first-time researcher from our hospital have functioned as the lead facility in a multi-institutional research project.

- **Biostatistician – Med Ed:** Surgery and Trauma Services has been honored by Dr. Anne Montgomery's support with her statistical analysis in 2020. Dr. Montgomery is a faculty member of the Mercer University School of Medicine and a member of the Population Health and Medical Research Committee. She has worked on studies including the effects of insurance status on cancer patients, residency education on airway control, and a variety of general surgery and trauma topics.



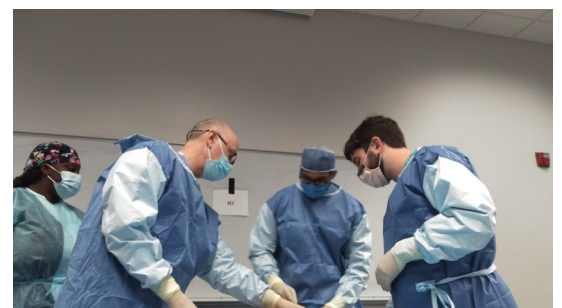
# Trauma Services

## Region 5 Trauma Skills Lab aka Cadaver Lab

February 26, 2021

Central Georgia Technical College

Sponsored by the Georgia EMS Association & the Georgia Trauma Commission





# Trauma Services

## Education and Outreach

**Trauma care knowledge and skills need to be continuously updated, refined, and expanded through targeted trauma care training.**

—Region 5 EMS Regional Trauma Advisory Committee, Regional Trauma Plan



Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)  
Central Georgia Technical College



Stop the Bleed  
Middle Georgia State University



Tactical Emergency Casualty Care  
Old West Laurens School



Trauma Training Equipment  
Regional Equipment Cache



Trauma Skill Lab  
Central Georgia Technical College



Trauma Skills Lab  
Central Georgia Technical College



Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC-LEO)  
Monroe County Convention Center



Stop the Bleed  
Middle Georgia State University

# Trauma Services

**Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans 1-44 years old.**

## Injury Prevention

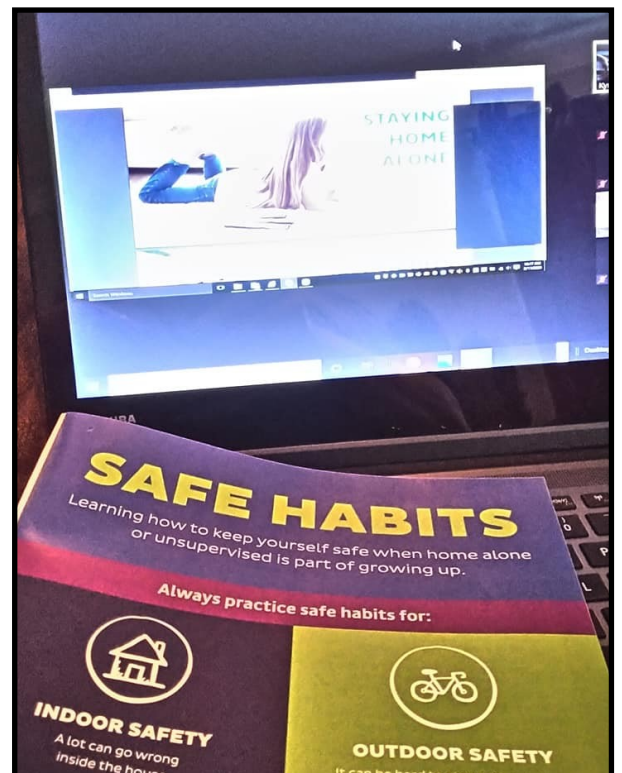
As the Central Georgia's only level one trauma center, Atrium Health Navicent is dedicated to reducing the magnitude and occurrence of traumatic injury. Atrium Health Navicent is committed to being a source of expertise and leadership in the prevention of injury. The provision of programming that seeks to heighten public awareness, prevent injury, and educate stakeholders is integral to the realization of the Trauma Services Mission. Our trauma program has an organized and effective approach to injury prevention and prioritizes our efforts based on local trauma registry and epidemiologic data. Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, Kristal Claxton Smith, chairs the Injury Prevention Subcommittees of the Georgia Committee of Trauma Excellence (GCTE) and the Central Georgia Region 5 Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC). She works in collaboration with community organizations and partnering public safety agencies to assure the trauma department is engaged in a wide-range of prevention initiatives.

During the past year, new sources of stress and disruptions to daily routines contributed to an increase risk of injury for many members of our community. Knowing the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic reaches beyond the effects of the virus itself, Trauma Services and our injury prevention partners remain committed to combatting the risk of injury while social distancing. Despite the postponement or cancellation of many scheduled community based programs, Georgia's trauma system and injury prevention community continues to leverage technology, social media, innovation, and relationships to assure the continuity of our prevention efforts.

### NEW THIS YEAR:

## Safe@Home

Safe@Home by Safe Sitter® is a program designed for students in grades 4-6 to prepare them to be safe when they are home alone. Realizing that virtual learning and the challenges of pandemic living were creating new injury risks for many of Georgia's children, Region 5 RTAC Injury Prevention Subcommittee in partnership the Trauma Programs at Atrium Health Navicent and Augusta University offered virtual Safe@Home programs beginning in the Fall of 2020. Trauma Program staff and partners facilitated the two-hour offerings and taught students how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies. Students were also provided with free course materials and introduced to the Safe Sitter® First Aid Chart and learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses.





# Trauma Services

NEW THIS YEAR:

## Drive Thru for Health & Safety



From COVID testing to vaccination clinics, drive-thru events became a regular occurrence in the past year. Partnering with the Region 5 RTAC Injury Prevention Subcommittee, Central Georgia EMS for Children, Heartland EMS, Georgia Department of Public Health, Communities in Schools, the Bleckley County Pilot Club, and countless other regional partners, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, Kristal Smith, organized the Region's first Drive Thru for Health & Safety. The event was held July 31st at Heartland EMS Headquarters in Cochran Georgia. Students from local Pre-Ks through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade were provided with free school supplies, bike helmets, face masks and other safety-themed giveaways. Parents were able to acquire gun locks and household essentials. Car seat checks were also offered on site. During the two-hour event, more than 400 children were served. The event was deemed a huge success, and two additional Central Georgia counties will host Drive Thru for Health & Safety in 2021.

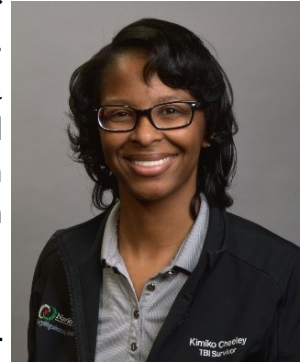


# Trauma Services

## Trauma Survivors Network

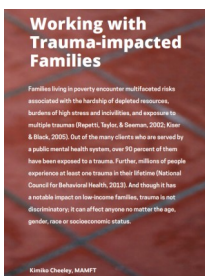
### Message from the Trauma Survivors Network Coordinator

I know things have been crazy for a year and we did not get to do much in person for our trauma patients and family; however, we were able to give out Christmas stockings in December of 2020. During the first part of 2021, I worked on the Trauma Survivors Day virtual celebration in collaboration with Atrium Health Charlotte and Wake Forest University. This celebration was held May 19th on Facebook Live with patient stories from each trauma center involved. A trauma survivor from Atrium Health Navicent, Chloe Fowler, shared her story (see below).

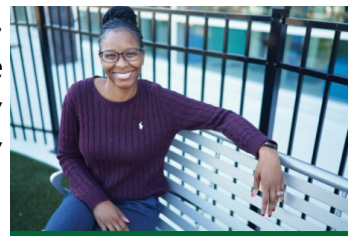


TSN Coordinator  
Kimiko Cheeley

Even though I have not had many opportunities to meet one-on-one with trauma patients and their families, I have not been idle in promoting trauma resources for trauma survivors. My own trauma survivor story was video taped by the Georgia Trauma Foundation as well as the Shepherd Center. In March 2021, I was asked to be a member of the National Trauma Survivor Network Advisory Committee. This committee includes professionals in trauma care, trauma survivors and their families. The Council advises the American Trauma Society on components and implementation of the national TSN as well as activities and resources for trauma survivors.



My article on “Working with Trauma-Impacted Families” was published in the March/April edition of the *Family Therapy Magazine* published by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. I am an alumni of Georgia College and State University (GCSU) and my trauma survivor story was featured by GCSU on *Front Page* in January 2021 (<https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/6539>).



Kimiko Cheeley

### Chloe's Story



On June 17th, 2014, Chloe Fowler was involved in a motor vehicle crash. She sustained bilateral open injuries to her lower extremities. Chloe presented with a right open tibia-fibular fracture with an associated degloving. She was initially sent home with home health until she was able to tolerate outpatient therapy. Chloe endured 13 surgeries and was in a wheelchair for three months. She graduated from home health therapy to outpatient therapy at Atrium Health Navicent Rehab in October 2014, where she relearned how to walk. She completed therapy in March of 2015. Chloe is now an OR nurse at Atrium Health Navicent.



# Featured Research

## Society of Critical Care Virus COVID-19 Global Registry Participation

The COVID-19 pandemic, which started over a year ago, has infected 131 million people worldwide and has claimed 2.85 million lives. At the onset of the pandemic, the treatment modalities were rapidly changing as the virus was spreading at a fast pace all over the world with varied complications and increased death rate especially in United States. The Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) recognized the immediate need to create a COVID-19 registry in order to capture current ICU/hospital care patterns. The registry provided near-real time observational comparative effectiveness studies to learn effective treatment strategies and/or provide meaningful hypotheses for clinical trials. This important global health initiative allowed the sharing of COVID-19 treatments across the globe and continues to this day. The Adult Critical Care Department, under the leadership of Dr. Amy Christie, recognized the importance of a collaborative registry among national and international investigators and elected to join the VIRUS: COVID-19 registry project. This learning collaborative allowed Atrium Health Navicent to participate in population health efforts throughout community and academic hospitals with the end goal of providing improved care to our patients locally.

In June 2020, after obtaining funding from Navicent Health Foundation and IRB approval, a team of 12 people including 6 medical students, started entering clinical data of COVID-19 positive patients into a massive REDCap database. The exhaustive database, designed by Society of Critical Care Medicine and Mayo Clinic, has over 675 variables to capture demographics, comorbidities, medications, treatment methods, complications, and outcomes for all COVID-19 positive patients admitted to the hospital with a minimum hospital stay of 2 days.

By the end of March 2021, we have entered over 1000 patients' unidentified data into the global registry making our hospital in the top 5% of hospitals participating in the COVID-19 Registry. To date, over 300 hospitals have participated worldwide and contributed over 71,000 unique patient data points making this one of the largest repositories of information about COVID-19 infection. We have been granted access to the worldwide COVID registry to study the impact of pre-admission antithrombotic therapy (both antiplatelet and anticoagulation) on outcomes in patients admitted to the hospital with COVID-19. Data analysis should be completed soon. In addition, we started a novel randomized pilot study to compare the effectiveness of Heparin drip alone versus a combination of Heparin with Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA) to treat patients admitted to our hospital suffering with Hypoxemia from COVID-19 Pneumonia. We have also published our initial case series evaluating outcomes of COVID-19 patients receiving tPA to treat Hypoxia.

Since January of 2021, our hospital has been one of the top 5 weekly winners consistently for highest enrollments in the SCCM VIRUS COVID-19 Registry weekly Newsletter. With our team's hard work and dedication, we have put our hospital on the global map. Having the unique opportunity to participate in this global initiative, allows our institution to better understand the outcomes of COVID-19 and secondarily identify which treatment strategies are the most effective for our patients both in combating COVID-19 and future pandemic outbreaks.





**RESEARCH PROJECTS**

1. Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures in Octogenarians and Beyond – What are the Outcomes?
2. What is the Impact of Pre-Admission Antithrombotic Therapy on Outcomes in Patients Admitted to the Hospital with COVID-19?
3. Comparison of Dexamethasone to Methylprednisolone in Patients with COVID-19 Pneumonia Related to ARDS
4. A Prospective Randomized Clinical Trial Comparing Tissue Plasminogen Activator and Heparin Drip to Heparin Drip Alone in Patients with Hypoxemia from COVID-19 Pneumonia: A Pilot-Study
5. Tissue Plasminogen Activator Use in COVID-19 Severe Respiratory Failure: A Multicenter Observational Study
6. Viral Infection and Respiratory Illness Universal Study: COVID-19 Registry and Validation of C2D2 (Critical Data Dictionary)
7. The Impact of COVID-19 on the Incidence of Traumatic Injury
8. Identifying Knowledge Gaps in Tourniquet Application in the State of Georgia: A Multi-Institutional Study in Two Level I Trauma Centers
9. Evaluation of ImaCor Smart Software V2 aka ImaCor One Touch Hemodynamics
10. Prospective Randomized Trial of Metal versus Resorbable Plates in Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures
11. Do Isolated Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhages Require Transfer?
12. A Case for Cost Savings as it Relates to Crofab Antivenom Use
13. Can Thromboelastography be Predictive of Venous Thromboembolism after Trauma? A Longitudinal, Prospective, Multi-Institutional Study
14. Safety and Efficacy of Early DVT Prophylaxis in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injuries
15. Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury: A Chest Wall Injury Society Multi center Retrospective Cohort Study
16. Patient Outcomes for Obese Trauma Patients Treated with a Weight-Based VTE Prophylaxis Protocol at a Level I Trauma Center
17. Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures in Adults with Multiple Rib Fractures after Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR); A Chest Wall Injury Society Multicenter Retrospective Cohort Study
18. NeuRx Diaphragm Pacing System
19. Overall Quality of Life and Post-Op Complication Rates for LINX Device Anti-Reflux Surgery
20. Retrospective Analysis of Apixaban Use after Bariatric Surgery
21. Ventral/Incisional and Inguinal Hernia
22. Correlation of D-dimer and Outcomes in COVID-19 Patients
23. Early Outcomes with Utilization of Tissue Plasminogen Activator in COVID-19 Associated Respiratory Distress
24. Multimodal Analgesia and Decreased Opioid Use in Adult Trauma Patients
25. Tissue Plasminogen Activator Use in COVID-19 Non Ventilation Patients

# 2020 Chief Resident Graduation

Residency programs in 2020 scrambled to provide a graduation program that would provide a safe environment in light of COVID-19. Many programs chose to go virtual and skip the traditional in-person banquet. Our program allowed the graduating chiefs to decide. Although they chose to forego both an in-person and virtual graduation program, the program wanted to honor the graduates and residents who excelled during the academic year.

## Awards

Scholastic Achievement Award for Highest in-Training Exam Score  
**John P. Shillinglaw, MD**

Sealy-Dalton Award for the Most Improved In-Training Score  
**Andrew Drahos, MD**

Physician Warrior Poet Award  
**Anthony Scott, MD**

Robotic & Minimally Invasive Award of the year  
**James C. Parker, MD**

Dr. Macram M. Ayoub Resident Teaching Award Faculty of the Year  
**Amy B. Christie, MD**

Resident of the Year  
**Christopher J. Jean-Louis, DO**

Intern of the Year  
**Cory Nonnemacher, MD**

Trauma Resident of the Year  
**Hannah Nemec, MD**

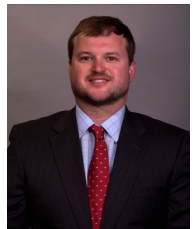
## 2020 CHIEF RESIDENTS



**Andrew "Andy" Drahos, M.D.** was born in Bloomington, Indiana. He received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University before earning his medical degree from Indiana University. Upon completion of residency, he and his wife of 3-years, Alison, will move to Indiana where he will begin a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care.



**Christopher J. Jean-Louis, D.O.** was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his undergraduate degree from Savannah State University. He completed medical school at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Upon completion of residency, he will begin a one year fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology at the University of Arkansas Medical Center. Chris and his wife, Shanelle, have two children Noah and Leah.



**Alexander "Alex" Sapp, M.D.** is a native of Cumming, Georgia. He received his undergraduate degree from LaGrange College. He earned his medical degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine. After graduation, he, his wife Brooke, and son Cason will move to Chattanooga, Tennessee where he will begin a fellowship in vascular surgery.



**Anthony "Tony" Scott, M.D.** was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He completed his associates degree at Middle Georgia College before completing his undergraduate and medical degree at Mercer University. Upon completion of residency, Tony joined the Atrium Health Navicent and served as junior faculty for one year with the Department of Surgery. He will begin a fellowship in Breast Oncology at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in August of 2021.

## Events

# Perfusing a Cadaver for Skills Training

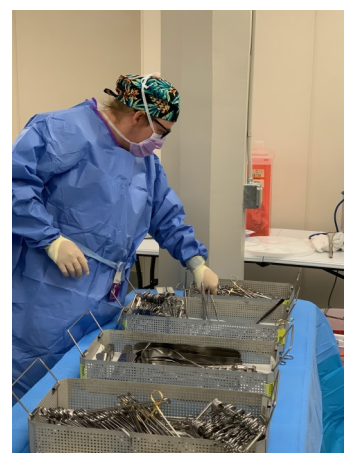
On May 25, 2021, the Med Ed Surgery department hosted its first perfused cadaver lab in conjunction with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Anatomy Department and Mercer University School of Medicine.

**What is a perfused cadaver lab?** A perfused cadaver lab takes fresh, non-embalmed bodies and perfuses the cadaver using a bypass pump and special dyes to create much more realistic operative scenarios. This includes improved dissection plans, true to life coloration of the tissue, distention of the blood vessels and the ability to create bleeding.

**Why are perfused cadavers important in surgical education?** There are a number of factors including increased non-operative management, improved endovascular techniques, and work hour restrictions which have led to an overall decrease in both traumatic and elective major vascular operative cases. This leaves the current generation of general surgery residents less prepared than their predecessors. One way to combat this is through improved and enhanced simulation techniques, the best of which is perfused cadaver training.

**What are some additional benefits of the lab?** The lab allows the opportunity for residents to perform complete operations without the assistance of the attending. This allows for improved identification of areas of improvement in operative technique and objective data points to compare residents. The lab also allows for assessment of critical non-operative management skills which are necessary for surgeons including team communication, management of the environment and maintenance of professional behavior.

**What is the future direction of the lab?** Our goal is to develop a longitudinal curriculum to take place throughout our residents training. This will include full trauma case scenarios with a multidisciplinary team with an additional goal of performing elective surgery procedures.





# Honors and Awards



**D. Benjamin Christie, III, MD**, was named Governor for the state of Georgia for the American College of Surgeons.

## Board of Governor Duties

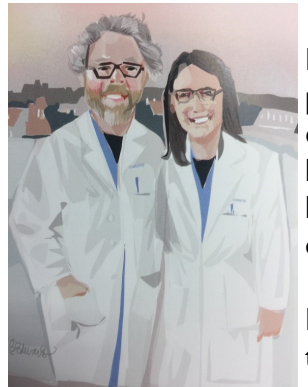
- Provide bi-directional communication between the Board of Governors and your constituents
- Actively participate in a Board of Governors workgroup
- Attend the Leadership & Advocacy Summit
- Participate in Board of Governors meetings, Convocation, and the Annual Business Meeting of Members at the Clinical Congress (October 3-8, 2020 in Chicago)
- Complete Annual Survey
- Attend Chapter meetings
- Provide reports to your Chapter
- Participate in local Committee on Applicants meetings and interviews
- Promote ACS Fellowship in your State/Province
- Welcome and engage new Fellows from your area into the ACS



**Amy B. Christie, MD**, was featured in the July 2020 issue of the *Macon Magazine The Good-Doers Issue*. Excerpts from this article written by Renee Corwine are shared below.

“As the director of adult critical care at Atrium Health Navicent, Dr. Amy Christie, works with the ‘sickest of the sick’ and has been at the forefront of the hospital’s COVID-19 battle since day one. An intensivist with a background in general surgery, Dr. Christie loves the critical care side of medicine.

As part of the ICU team, Dr. christie helped design the units that now care for COVID-19 patients, and also helped the hospital develop its surge and staffing plans, which she called ‘an evolving operation’ and ‘a collaborative effort.’



Dr. Christie was the first intensivist at Navicent to take shifts to care for patients who tested positive for COVID-19. ‘She has worked tirelessly and stayed on top of the continuously updated information on COVID-19. Because of her attention to detail and commitment, the hospital has had great success in treating COVID-19 patients,’ said Dr. Patrice Walker, the hospital’s chief medical officer. ‘Her patients’ stories of recovery give hope and inspiration to our teammates, our community and others battling this virus.’

In some cases, patients have reached back out to Navicent providers to share updates about their recovery. ‘One early patient shared a video of himself exercising and playing the *Rocky* theme song; it was great,’ Dr. Christie said.



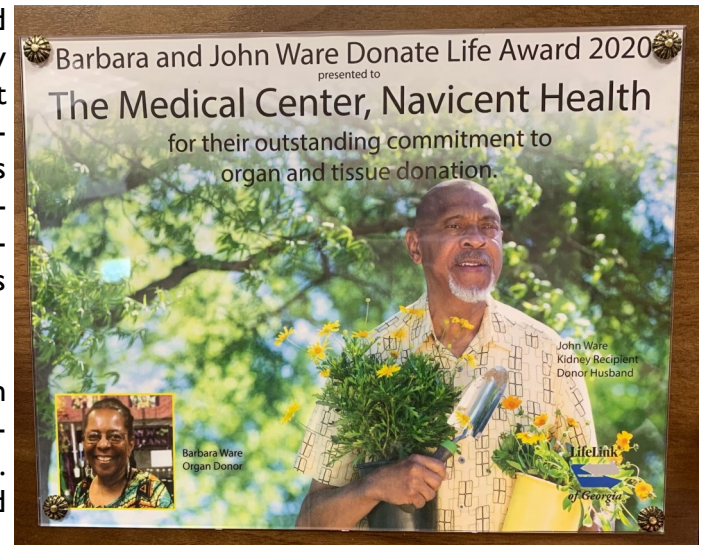
While she is flattered that some consider her a hero, she credited the ICU’s team approach as the true hero. ‘In this time of unknown and fear, we all have to look to each other and depend on each other. In these time, none of us has all the answers,’ she said. ‘I appreciate the recognition, but I’ve always believed in the team approach. I lead by action or example. People who know me know that I’m quiet in my day-to-day. I try to work hard and do the best I can to connect with the team, our patients and their families.’”

# Honors and Awards

## Barbara and John Ware Donate Life Award 2020

**Navicent** has always been a huge champion for LifeLink and we are pleased to present you with this award. The review committee was particularly impressed with the effort that went into the BPA feature last year. The result was an impressive 87% increase in organ referrals. In addition, Navicent is one of only a few systems to implement a system-wide donation committee to share and spread best practices. Your commitment to flag raisings and honor walks further demonstrates your support for donation and donor families.

This well-deserved award was presented to Atrium Health Navicent on Thursday, January 14th during the Georgia Hospital Association's Annual Patient Safety and Quality Summit. Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN, Trauma Program Manager, received this award on behalf of Navicent.



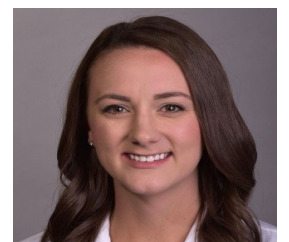
After retirement from the United States Army, John Ware (above) experienced kidney failure and required a lifesaving kidney transplant. He and his wife, Barbara (at left), already spent their time volunteering for numerous worthy causes but John's experience as a transplant recipient added another important mission to their lives – organ donation. Together, John and Barbara, who had been registered organ donors years before transplantation impacted their lives directly, encouraged others in their community to register as organ donors because, as John said, "If I had not received my transplant, I would not be here today." Eight years following John's kidney transplant, Barbara suffered a stroke and John carried out her decision to become an organ donor. Knowing Barbara gave life to others in the same way he had received provides John with comfort and pride.



**Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN-BC** state-appointed Parliamentarian for the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council of Georgia. A Parliamentarian is an expert in rules of order and the proper procedures for the conduct of meetings of deliberative assemblies. Parliamentarians assist organizations in the drafting and interpretation of bylaws and rules of order, and the planning and conduct of meetings.



**Allison Ferenczy, MD, PGY 3**, won 1st place in the Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons paper competition presenting "Correlation of D-dimer and Outcomes in COVID-19 Patients." She went on to represent Georgia in the Southeast regional competition.



# Honors and Awards



**Yep, It Can Happen!**



On July 30, 2020, Med Ed Surgery and Trauma Services Administrative Coordinator, Virginia Land, officiated the marriage of general surgery residents Mallory Blake Bowden and Matthew Barnes in her office. No kidding!

Most states must rely on members of the clergy—priests, ministers, rabbis, and other head religious figures—or public figures like judges, court clerks, and justices of the peace to perform weddings. HOWEVER, starting August 29, 2019, Alabama no longer issues traditional marriage licenses. Instead, couples wanting to get wed submit a notarized marriage certificate that will be recorded—but not issued—by Probate Judges. “The new law eliminates the need for a license to be obtained in advance and a ceremony is no longer required.” Unbeknownst to all parties, the residents, who are from Alabama, were married wearing scrubs in between cases. Congratulations to the happy couple!



**Amy Christie MD (left), Rajani Adiga MS (right), and research team** were acknowledged by the Society of Critical Care Medicine as weekly winners on multiple occasions for enrolling new patients in the World-Wide SCCM Virus COVID-19 Registry. This is an ongoing multi-institutional study.



**Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN, Trauma Program Manager,** received a plaque of appreciation from the trauma registrars, trauma data coordinator and research coordinator for her tireless efforts to develop a trauma registry program as the gold standard.



**Josephine Fabico-Dulin, RN,** was awarded the 2020 Chairman's Award for her outstanding work for developing a process of identifying performance improvement events and developing corrective action plans as well as developing guidelines to decrease complications and unplanned events.



# Honors and Awards

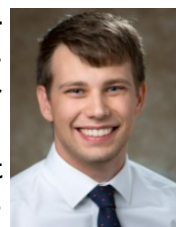
**Dudley Benjamin Christie, III, M.D., FACS** was elected by his peers as the Chief of Surgery at Atrium Health Navicent in 2020.



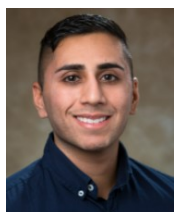
**Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN, Trauma Program Manager**, was elected as Vice-Chair of the Georgia Committee for Trauma Excellence.



**Mital Patel, MS3 (left), and Marshall Williams, MS3 (right)**, presented their research on “Do Isolated Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhages Require Transfer? A Retrospective Review of the Inpatient Care Required of Them at a Level I Trauma Center Over a 6-Year Period” at the 2021 Annual Joint Research virtual conference held on Thursday, May 13, 2021. This opportunity was an internal bi-campus research event where students present their research projects and data in the scientific setting. Submissions were open to all Mercer faculty members and students. Awards were given in both oral and poster presentation categories. Both Mital and Marshall have worked over the past year with general surgery resident Dr. Eric Forney, PGY5, as well as surgery attendings Dr. Dennis Ashley and Dr. Benjamin Christie, III.



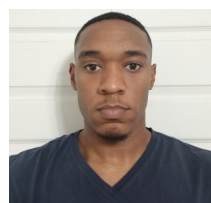
**Mital Patel** presented their data and won first place for best oral presentation.



**The Jocelyn A. Rankin Student Excellence in Library Research Award** recognizes a Mercer University School of Medicine student who demonstrates outstanding proficiency in the use of the Libraries’ collections, services and resources, and exceptional information seeking literacy skills. The intent of the Award is to promote extensive and meaningful resources and services, and to foster the development of life-long learning in students. The award honors Jocelyn A. Rankin, PhD, founder and director of the Medical Library on the Macon campus and founder of GaIN (Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information).



The 2021 winners were **Mital Patel, MS3 and Marshall Williams, MS3** on their research highlighted above.



The Mercer Summer Scholars program was reinstated in 2020 to fund medical student research between their first and second year of medical school. It is a 6-week program that coincides with their 8 weeks of break. When a student is awarded a spot in the Summer Scholars program, it comes with a monetary award of \$1800. At the end of the program, students will present a 10-12 minute research presentation on their project. We are excited to announce that **Dante Zanders, MS2**



**(left), and Gabriella Stribling, MS1 (Right)** were chosen to participate in clinical research with the Med Ed Surgery department for 2021.

# Publications

## Publications

**A Sapp, A Drahos, M Lashley, A Christie, DB Christie.** The Impact of Hemodynamic Transesophageal Echocardiography on Acute Kidney Injury Management and Use of Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy in Trauma. *Am Surg.* 2020 Mar 1;86(3):190-194.

**H Nemec, A Smith, DB Christie III.** Giant Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor of the Stomach. *Am Surg.* 2020 Jul. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820942137.

**AL Drahos, AM Scott, DW Ashley.** Multimodal Analgesia and Decreased Opioid Use in Adult Trauma Patients. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;86(8):950-954.

**H Nemec, H Atalah, M Kling, L Nichols, B Powers, DW Ashley.** Does Human Amnion Membrane Prevent Post-Operative Abdominal Adhesions? *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;86(8):1038-1042.

**C Lee, M Honaker.** Colorectal Cancer Presenting as a presacral Mass. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820949991.

**T Nowack, C Nonnemacher, DB Christie.** Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery as an Adjunct to Rib Fixation. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug. 00(0):1-3. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820943642

**W Wallace, DB Christie III.** Early Operative Ligation in the Management of Bilateral Chylothoraces After Blunt Thoracic Injury. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820942148.

**A Scott, P Dale, A. Conforti, J. Gibbs.** Integration of a 31-Gene Expression Profile and Clinical Decision Making in the Treatment of Melanoma. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;86(11):1561-1564.

**H Nemec, DB Christie, A Montgomery, D Vaughn.** The Wittmann Patch: Superior Closure for the Open Abdomen. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;86(8):981-984. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820942156.

**A Sapp, D Vaughn, DB Christie.** Transdiaphragmatic Intercostal Hernia After Trauma: A Case Report, Literature Review, and Discussion of a Challenging Clinical Scenario. *Am Surg.* 2020 Oct;00(0):1-3. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820945273.

**DB Christie, HM Nemec, AM Scott, JT Buchanan, CM Franklin, A Ahmed, MS Khan, CW Callender, EA James, AB Christie, DW Ashley.** Early Outcomes with Utilization of Tissue Plasminogen Activator in COVID-19 Associated Respiratory Distress: A Series of Five Cases. *J Trauma and Acute Care Surg.* September 2020;89(3):448-452.

**WA Wallace, DB Christie.** Triple Traumatic Hernia. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;00(0):1-3. DOI:10.1177/0003134820945252.

**AME Ragauskas, AM Scott, DB Christie III, DM Vaughn, AB Christie, DW Ashley.** Strategies for General Surgery Training Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Am Surg.* First Online. 2020 Nov;0(0):1-7. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820966271.

# Publications & Presentations

## Publications continued

**WA Wallace, DB Christie.** Triple Traumatic Hernia. *Am Surg.* 2020 Aug;00(0):1-3.  
DOI:10.1177/0003134820945252.

**AME Ragauskas, AM Scott, DB Christie III, DM Vaughn, AB Christie, DW Ashley.** Strategies for General Surgery Training Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Am Surg.* First Online. 2020 Nov;0(0):1-7. DOI: 10.1177/0003134820966271.

J Prins, E Van Lieshout, F Ali-Osman, ... **DB Christie III, T Nowack,** et al. Outcome after surgical stabilization of rib fractures versus nonoperative treatment in patients with multiple rib fractures and moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (CWIS-TBI). *J Trauma and Acute Care Surg.* 2021 Mar. 1;90(3):492-500.

**E Forney, N Stokes, D Ashley, A Montgomery, DB Christie III.** Can Education and Enhanced Medical Director Oversight Improve Definitive Airway Control in the Prehospital Environment? *Am Surg.* 2021;87(1):159-161.

**L Bridges, MD Honaker,** BE Smith, A Montgomery. Insurance Status in Rectal Cancer is Associated with Age at Diagnosis and May Be Associated with Overall Survival. *Am Surg.* 2021;87(1):105-108.

**J Ferenczy, H Nemec, M Ayoub.** Traumatic Evisceration and Incarceration of Small Bowel Through Vaginal Cuff: A Rare Surgical Emergency. *Am Surg.* 2021;87(1):138-139.

**JJ Johns, J Fabico-Dulin, J Dulin, DA Ashley.** Comprehensive Initiative to Decrease Trauma Venous Thromboembolism. *J of Trauma Nursing.* In Press.

## Presentations

**TJ Johns, MSN, RN-BC, CPHQ.** Driving Down the Incidence of Trauma Patient Venous Thromboembolism (VTE). Medical Center, Navicent Health. VTE Committee. Macon, Georgia. January 24, 2020.

**DM Vaughn, MD.** Bariatric Surgery. Family Practice Grand Rounds. Medical Center, Navicent Health. Macon, Georgia. January 24, 2020.

**Dudley B. Christie, III, M.D.** Associate Professor of Surgery, Mercer University School of Medicine, Atrium Health Navicent presented the lecture "Procedures for Surgical Aptitude Assessment; The Anatomy of an Unexpected Event" at the Thursday Grand Rounds February 13, 2020.

**W Thompson, M.D.** Quality Improvement Potpourri. Grand Rounds. Medical Center, Navicent Health. Macon, GA. February 27, 2020.



# Presentations and Grand Rounds

## Presentations—Continued

**W Thompson, M.D.** Quality Improvement Potpourri. Grand Rounds. Medical Center, Navicent Health. Macon, GA. February 27, 2020.

**AB Christie, MD.** Understand the Critical Care Needs and Complications of COVID-19 Patients. Institutional Grand Rounds. Medical Center, Navicent Health. Macon, GA. April 20, 2020.

**DB Christie, III, MD.** Management of Multiple Rib Fractures in the University Hospital of Cucuta, Colombia. Moderator. Chest Wall Injury Summit Virtual. April 24, 2020.

**DB Christie, III, MD.** Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures Improves Outcomes in the Geriatric Patient Population. Oral Presentation. Chest Wall Injury Summit Virtual. April 24, 2020.

**DB Christie, III, MD.** How Many Screws to Use: A report of outcomes after surgical stabilization of rib fractures where less than the manufacturer recommended screw number were applied. Oral Presentation. Chest Wall Injury Summit Virtual. April 25, 2020.

**DB Christie, III, MD.** Building a Successful Rib Fixation Program Webinar. Panelist. February 23, 2021.

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## GRAND ROUNDS

Due to COVID-19, Med Ed Surgery had to make the difficult decision to cancel all medical education conferences in March of 2020. This included Surgery/Trauma Grand Rounds and Mortality & Morbidity (M&M), Trauma Symposium, Day of Surgery and the list goes on. We watched as other residency programs struggled with the same issue. Some adjusted to virtual meetings as others canceled. Initially, Med Ed Surgery made the decision to not convert to a virtual platform for these educational conferences as it was “all hands on deck” as we shifted to an emergency schedule in order to sufficiently care for the influx of COVID patients. With a second and third wave of COVID rolling across the nation in mid summer and again in the early fall, the cancelation of conferences was extended until the end of the year. After nearly a year, Surgery/Trauma Grand Rounds and M&M has been reinstated. We held our first in person conference April 1, 2021, in the Eversole Auditorium. Even with social distancing and a modified schedule, this has brought a sense of normalcy.



**Christopher Franklin, M.D.,** Critical Care Intensivist, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Atrium Health Navicent presented “Right Ventricular Failure in the ICU” at the Thursday Grand Rounds April 1, 2021.



**Joe Sam Robinson, M.D.,** Professor of Neurosurgery, Mercer University School of Medicine and Chief of Neurosurgery, Atrium Health Navicent presented “A Novel Bat-borne Virus Strikes the World Order” at the Thursday Grand Rounds May 6, 2021.



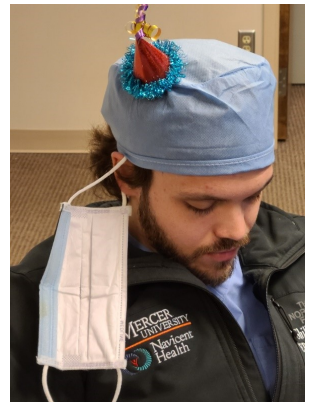
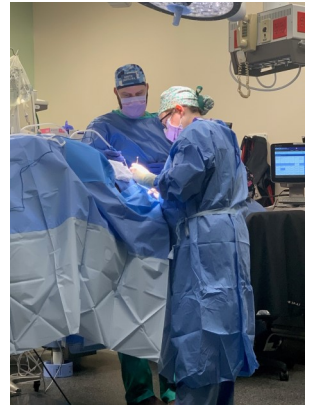


# Work, Fun and Family



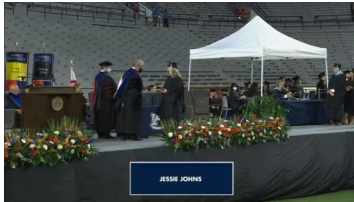
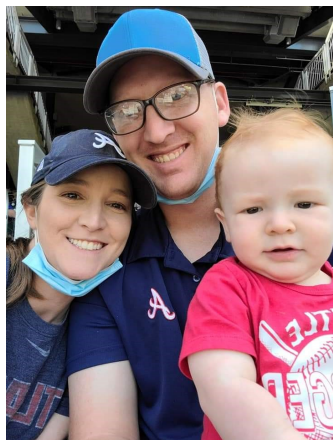


# Work, Fun and Family





# Work, Fun and Family





# Acknowledgements

**Virginia Land**, Editor for the Annual Report and Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Surgery and Trauma Services, **Irma Miranda**, Residency Coordinator, and **Anna Conner**, Department Secretary provide invaluable administrative support.



## Atrium Health Navicent Executive Team:

Delvecchio Finley, President & CEO  
 Dr. Tom Oliver, President, Hospitals and Clinics, Navicent Health Enterprise  
 Dr. Sanford Duke, Executive Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer  
 Chris Wilde, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
 Susan Harris, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
 Elbert McQueen, Senior Vice President, Post Acute Services and Physician Relations  
 Tracey Blalock, Chief Nursing Executive and Chief Nursing Officer  
 Dr. Patrice Walker, Chief Medical Officer  
 Omer Awan, Chief Information Officer and Chief Digital Officer  
 Dr. Sandra Moore, Designated Institutional Official  
 Dr. Dennis Ashley, Academic Affairs Chair  
 Lori Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Dr. Dean Kindler, Senior Vice President, Physician-in-Chief, Navicent Health Physicians Group



### Surgery Faculty

Front Row: Drs. Robert Parel, Macram Ayoub (deceased), Eric Long, and Ashley Jones

Back Row: Drs. Amy Christie, Benjie Christie, Dennis Ashley, Danny Vaughn, and William Thompson



### Mercer University School of Medicine:

Jean Sumner, M.D., Dean

Edwin Grimsley, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Macon Campus