



# POST-OP

## In this issue . . .

### Introducing More New Faculty

- Bariatric Surgeons, General and Laparoscopic Surgeons
- Research Scientist
- Vascular Surgeon, Endovascular Specialist

### Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center Established

### Toddler Born with Facial Cleft Gets Life-Changing Surgery

### Our Trauma Service Ranks Among the Best Statewide

### Research by Our Plastics Team Improves Breast Reconstruction Outcomes After Mastectomy

### Spotlight on Our Chief Of Vascular Surgery

### Residency Program Earns Full Five-Year Reaccreditation With Commendation

### Offering CME Credits

- Surgical Grand Rounds
- Trauma/Critical Care Conference
- Vascular Surgery Conference

### Division Briefs & Alumni News

Plus More!

## Dr. Todd K. Rosengart to Assume Leadership Role at Baylor

*Leaving Stony Brook to Become DeBakey Chairman of Surgery*



MEDIA SERVICES | STONY BROOK MEDICINE

Todd K. Rosengart, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, this fall will leave Stony Brook to assume a new leadership position as chairman of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, TX. He will assume the DeBakey

Bard Chair in Surgery in this role. Dr. Rosengart's appointment is effective November 1.

The Department of Surgery at Baylor includes 92 full-time faculty and 154 voluntary faculty members organized into eight surgical divisions, including transplant and congenital heart, and services five primary hospitals, including the Ben Taub Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, the Texas Heart Institute, and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

The department's education program encompasses over 100 residents and fellows in nearly a dozen different training programs.

continued on Page 15

## Dr. Alexander B. Dagum Appointed Interim Chairman To Maintain Our Momentum And Further Our Mission



MEDIA SERVICES | STONY BROOK MEDICINE

Alexander B. Dagum, MD, professor of surgery and chief of our Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division, has been asked to assume the role of interim chairman of surgery, to help us maintain our momentum during the search to identify our new chairman. Dr. Dagum will begin to transition in October.

continued on Page 5

## Introducing New Leaders of Cardiothoracic Surgery

*Two Top Long Island Heart Surgeons*

We are very pleased to introduce James R. Taylor Jr., MD, professor of surgery, and Harold A. Fernandez, MD, professor of surgery, who in September joined our faculty as chief and deputy chief, respectively, of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division. Both physicians come to Stony Brook from St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, NY, where they held leadership positions.

Dr. Taylor served as vice chair of cardiothoracic surgery at St. Francis and chair of cardiothoracic surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital, and Dr. Fernandez, served as director of the Heart Failure Surgery Division at St. Francis.

Now at Stony Brook, Drs. Taylor and Fernandez will serve together as co-directors of the Heart Institute, in addition to

their leadership roles within the Department.

Todd K. Rosengart, MD, professor and chairman of surgery, says, "With these two outstanding surgeons joining the Stony Brook Heart Institute, already engaged in robotic and minimally invasive bypass and valve surgery, endovascular aortic stenting, artificial heart ("VAD") implantation, and

continued on Page 2





MEDIA SERVICES | STONY BROOK MEDICINE

Dr. Harold A. Fernandez (left) and James R. Taylor Jr., our new cardiac leaders.

Dr. Fernandez, in May, published a memoir titled *Undocumented: My Journey to Princeton and Harvard and Life as a Heart Surgeon* (Tate), and has received national publicity regarding his story as an immigrant who has risen to the height of his profession.

“I am excited to start caring for patients at Stony Brook University Hospital,” Dr. Fernandez says. “I have found that the faculty and staff are extremely dedicated and caring, and I see this as a wonderful opportunity to work with them to advance cardiac care to residents of Long Island—closer to home.

“During the last decade I have had the incredible privilege to work for St. Francis Hospital. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am sad to be leaving a community of friends and colleagues that feels like a family. This has been a tremendous experience that I will always treasure, and which has prepared me well to pursue other clinical and academic goals.

“As I prepare to enter into the next phase of my career at Stony Brook, I am excited to work alongside Dr. Taylor and the skilled medical staff there,” he explains. “I am confident that we will continue to advance the work already underway there to build a world-class program for Suffolk County residents and all of Long Island.” ♦

with our recent approval to launch a percutaneous transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) program, I am confident that we can look forward to many great accomplishments in the days and years to come.”

#### ABOUT DR. TAYLOR

Dr. Taylor received his BS in pharmacy from the University of South Carolina. He received his MD in 1984 from the Medical University of South Carolina, followed by residencies in general and cardiothoracic surgery at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he served as chief resident. He completed a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at the same institution and joined St. Francis in 1991. He is board certified in cardiothoracic surgery.

Since launching his practice on Long Island two decades ago, Dr. Taylor has been one of the most prolific and top-quality cardiothoracic surgeons in New York State.

“I am very excited to join the faculty of Stony Brook University, and to embark upon new opportunities within the Stony Brook Heart Institute,” Dr. Tay-

lor says. “I am thrilled with the notion that I will be educating the next generation of surgeons at a top public university, and very much look forward to working with my new colleagues at Stony Brook.

“I am also extremely grateful for the opportunity to have worked at St. Francis—home to one of New York’s premiere cardiothoracic surgery programs—for the past 20 years,” he adds. “I look forward to bringing that experience to bear as we provide that same high level of care for heart patients at Stony Brook University Hospital.”

#### ABOUT DR. FERNANDEZ

Dr. Fernandez came to the United States at age 13 as an undocumented immigrant from Colombia and within 10 years received his BS in molecular biology from Princeton University. He received his MD in 1993 from Harvard Medical School, followed by a residency in general surgery and a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at NYU Medical Center. He joined St. Francis in 2001, and is board certified in cardiothoracic surgery.

*The Stony Brook Heart Institute is committed to delivery of advanced cardiac surgical techniques and high-quality patient care. Our goal is to construct cardiac surgical procedures designed to address the unique clinical problems of individuals and, thereby, provide the best possible outcome for each patient. Thoughtful and compassionate care for patients and families is one of our foremost concerns.*

— Dr. James R. Taylor Jr.

POST-OP is published by  
The Department of Surgery  
School of Medicine  
Stony Brook Medicine  
Stony Brook, New York

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Todd K. Rosengart, MD

**Writer/Editor**  
Jonathan Cohen, PhD

**Contributing Editor**  
David S. Noel, MBA, CPME

**Advisory Board**  
Roberto Bergamaschi, MD, PhD  
Alexander B. Dagum, MD  
Thomas K. Lee, MD  
Brian J. O’Hea, MD  
Aurora D. Pryor, MD  
David A. Schessel, MD, PhD  
A. Laurie Shroyer, PhD, MSHA  
Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, MD  
James R. Taylor Jr., MD  
Kevin T. Watkins, MD

All correspondence should be sent to:  
Dr. Jonathan Cohen  
Writer/Editor, POST-OP  
Department of Surgery  
Stony Brook Medicine  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8191

jonathan.cohen@  
stonybrookmedicine.edu



Dr. Aurora D. Pryor (fourth from left) in conference with the members of the interdisciplinary team of the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center.

## Interdisciplinary Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center Celebrates First Anniversary with New Faculty and Facilities

*Currently Providing Care for Over 400 Patients With Increasing Numbers of Referrals*

The Stony Brook Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center is celebrating its first anniversary with new faculty and facilities, positioning itself as a bariatric surgery leader on Long Island.

Directed by Aurora D. Pryor, MD, professor of surgery and chief of general surgery, the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center provides a multitude of weight loss procedure options for patients, including Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery, sleeve gastrectomy, and gastric banding via laparoscopic and single-site surgical techniques.

A nationally recognized leader in bariatric and minimally invasive surgery, Dr. Pryor has performed more than 1,000 bariatric surgery cases.

Dr. Pryor joined our faculty last year to establish the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center, and also to lead our General Surgery Division, which comprises eight board-certified surgeons, and a dedicated staff of researchers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants,

and trauma coordinators.

“We are thrilled to have been able to recruit Dr. Pryor, a national thought leader and innovator whose broad expertise in surgery, including minimally invasive and advanced surgical methods, and her leadership roles in training surgeons, makes her an ideal fit to head the General Surgery Division,” says Todd K. Rosengart, MD, professor and chairman of surgery.

**Dr. Pryor has also initiated a bariatric research program to study novel aspects of interdisciplinary care, aimed at defining the best ideas in medicine.**

“My first year with the Department of Surgery and its General Surgery Division has been very exciting for me, and I am very pleased with the progress we have made to build a major bariatric referral center on Long Island,” says Dr. Pryor.

Dr. Pryor is currently directing studies to evaluate the use of interdisciplinary care involving the disciplines of surgery, nutrition, physical therapy, and psychology, in order to improve ease and

convenience for patients, and, therefore, their compliance—all to maximize success with surgery.

### INTRODUCING DR. TELEM

In August, Dana A. Telem, MD, a general and laparoscopic surgeon with expertise in bariatric surgery, joined our General Surgery Division. She comes to us from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she recently completed fellowship training in laparoscopic surgery and bariatric surgery.

Board certified in surgery, Dr. Telem will focus her practice on advanced laparoscopic, foregut, and bariatric surgery.

An active scholar, Dr. Telem has over 35 peer-reviewed publications and has earned honors for her research, including a 2011 Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Researcher in Training Award.

Her research interests are in bariatrics, surgical education and simulation, and foregut pathology (e.g., GERD, achalasia).



Dr. Aurora D. Pryor



Dr. Dana A. Telem

Dr. Telem received her MD from Jefferson Medical College in 2005, and did her residency training in general surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

At Stony Brook, Dr. Telem will work closely with Dr. Pryor in providing the surgical services of the Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center. ♦

## New Bariatric Surgery Inpatient Unit Opened

*Dedicated Unit Enhances Resources Available To Bariatric Patients*



The Bariatric and Metabolic Weight Loss Center, in July, opened a dedicated patient unit located on University Hospital's ninth floor designed to accommodate the unique needs of the bariatric patient population.

The new unit was created to support the rapidly growing bariatric program, which currently has over 400 patients. The specially designed unit is an added and important resource to our team of bariatric surgeons who perform advanced, minimally invasive weight loss surgery in our state-of-the-art operating rooms.

The new private bariatric inpatient rooms are furnished with special beds and chairs for the comfort of larger patients. These spacious accommodations are designed to provide patients with more room to get up and start walking, allowing for a quicker recovery time.

Glass-tiled bathrooms are spa-like in design and equipped with larger showers and high-quality, safety-conscious grab bars and fixtures. The rooms also have lift systems and air-inflated hover mats for safe and easy transfer to a bed or stretcher. The new unit reflects Stony Brook's commitment to helping bariatric surgery patients feel comfortable, recover faster, experience a smoother stay, and receive the highest quality care.

Our two bariatric surgeons, Dr. Aurora D. Pryor and Dr. Dana A. Telem, see patients at our East Setauket and Smithtown offices, both of which offer convenience and easy access. ♦

## Introducing More New Faculty



**Morad Awadallah, MD**  
*Vascular Surgeon,  
Endovascular Specialist*

**Dr. Morad Awadallah** joins our Vascular Surgery Division. He is the first graduate of our five-year residency training program in vascular surgery. His practice will focus on providing surgical care for the management of all arterial conditions and all aspects of complex venous disease, and will include both conventional open surgery and minimally invasive endovascular surgery. In addition, he will provide hemodialysis access creation and endovascular treatment. His research interests are in defining novel methods for predicting hemodialysis access failure using ultrasound techniques, and in developing methods to predict the occurrence of post-implantation syndrome, after endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms. Dr. Awadallah received his MD from Stony Brook in 2007. A pure product of our university, he received his BS—summa cum laude—here at Stony Brook.



**Daniel N. Rutigliano, DO**  
*General & Laparoscopic  
Surgeon, Critical Care  
Specialist*

**Dr. Daniel N. Rutigliano** joins our General Surgery Division. Board certified in surgery and surgical critical care, he will focus his practice on the complete care of the surgical patient involving trauma, surgery in the acute and emergent setting, and gastrointestinal surgery on an elective basis. He will also serve as a leader of our general surgery residency program. His research interests include cancer cellular biology and angiogenesis, physiology of the trauma patient, injury prevention and outcome measures for adult and pediatric injuries, and surgical education. A distinguished alumnus of our residency program, he did his fellowship training in critical care and trauma at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and his fellowship training in pediatric surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Rutigliano received his DO from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003.



**Jianchang Yang, MD, PhD**  
*Research Scientist*

**Dr. Jianchang Yang**, who has a joint appointment in surgery and pathology, joins our Cardiac Surgery Lab and also the Cancer Center. He comes to Stony Brook from the Nevada Cancer Institute in Las Vegas. Dr. Yang will contribute to our basic and translational research as we advance our program in cardiac gene therapy for the development of a novel "biologic bypass" to treat coronary artery disease. His research interests also include the development of novel therapies for myelodysplastic syndromes and acute myeloid leukemia, using new approaches to killing leukemia stem cells; somatic cell reprogramming and the generation of patient-specific pluripotent progenitor cells for clinical therapies; and the development of stem cell therapies for use in transplantation and the management of various blood disorders. Dr. Yang received his MD from XinJiang University of Medical Sciences (China) in 1993 and his PhD in cardiology from Charité University Medicine Berlin (Germany)—magna cum laude—in 2002.

## Toddler Born with Facial Deformity Gets Life-Changing Surgery

*Our Mission of Excellence Includes Community Service, Here and Abroad*



Angie at her mid-August follow-up visit after her final operation, with Kerry O'Sullivan and Dr. Alexander B. Dagum.

PHOTO: GREGORY FILJANO | STONY BROOK MEDICINE

A 2-year-old girl from Ecuador who was born with a rare facial deformity has recently undergone life-changing surgery here, thanks to the charity of Stony Brook Medicine and Alexander B. Dagum, MD, professor of surgery and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Samanta Angelina (“Angie”) Barreto was born with a rare facial cleft that left her very disfigured. Back in Ecuador, her family didn’t think anything could be done. But Blanca’s House, a nonprofit group that provides free medical care, brought Angie to Long Island for help.

Dr. Dagum and his team used a two-stage approach to repair Angie’s facial cleft. The first procedure was done in June. Then, in July, he continued the staged treatment and reconfigured her facial structure.

“The type of cleft that Angie had occurs in less than one in 100,000 children,” estimates Dr. Dagum, who has traveled around the world and to many third world countries to treat children with many forms of clefts.

**Angie’s mother says she is very happy that in a few years all of this ordeal will be behind her daughter, and that Angie will have a bright future.**

“Dr. Dagum is the backbone of this adventure; without him this wouldn’t be happening!” says Kerry O’Sullivan, RN, a volunteer coordinator at Blanca’s House, who opened her home to Angie and her mother, Samanta, for their sojourn here.

Dr. Dagum ultimately brought Angie’s eye upward and nose down to correct the cleft and her appearance.

During the first procedure, he inserted a balloon-type device called a tissue expander within Angie’s face to expand her skin. This first procedure created new skin.

During the second procedure, Dr. Dagum performed reconstructive surgery, using the new skin, along with bone grafting, to complete the corrective procedure.

Because of the severity of Angie’s condition, both procedures represent a significant educational opportunity for medical trainees and veteran plastic surgeons, which qualifies it as a teaching case through the Stony Brook School of Medicine.

Coming to Stony Brook from Ecuador—traveling more than 3,000 miles—has trans-

formed Angie’s life in a major way. It’s a happy story, and one that gratifies our entire team.

Our faculty and residents have recently participated in two successful medical missions in Angie’s homeland, sponsored by Blanca’s House, with more planned. Dr. Dagum took part in both of them.

Last fall, three faculty members and three residents traveled to a provincial town in Ecuador called Babahoyo. Over the course of their three-day mission, the general surgery team performed 20 laparoscopic cholecystectomies and 28 hernia repairs, and the plastic surgery team did 54 reconstructive cases, mostly cleft lip and palate repairs, with a couple repairs of congenital drooping eyelid and some burn reconstruction. ♦

### Dr. Dagum

continued from Page 1

“Since my arrival at Stony Brook two years ago, I have learned that Alex epitomizes the term academic surgeon,” says Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, senior vice president of Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, who appointed Dr. Dagum to serve as our interim chairman.

Dr. Dagum graduated from the University of Ottawa where he was the gold medalist and completed his plastic surgery residency at the University of Toronto in 1993. He subsequently performed a microsurgery fellowship from 1993 to 1994 at the University of Toronto and a hand surgery fellowship from 1994 to 1995 at Stony Brook.

*“I am honored to be appointed interim chairman of surgery. We have a talented and dedicated faculty. During this transition period, I will continue to build and expand on the strong foundation that Dr. Rosengart has established, and I will work on furthering our clinical, educational, and research missions in our department at a national level,” says Dr. Dagum.*

continued on Page 15



SAM LEVITAN PHOTOGRAPHY

## Our Trauma Service Ranks among the Best Statewide, Says 2012 Health Department Report

*Stony Brook University Hospital One of Only Two Hospitals To Repeat This Achievement in Two Consecutive Reports*

The 1.5 million residents of our region are in the best of hands if they are injured and need emergency care. That's really good news! For the latest report of the New York State Trauma System Program, issued earlier this year by the NYS Health Department, Stony Brook University Hospital has demonstrated a lower than expected risk-adjusted mortality rate for the "severe" traumatic injury patients that form the state registry data set.

This high level of performance makes us one of only four trauma centers statewide to have a statistically significant lower than expected mortality rate, and the second hospital ever in New York to repeat this achievement in two consecutive reports.

**University Hospital—our region's only state-designated Level 1 Trauma Center—is among four of 40 trauma centers in the state with survival rates for patients with severe traumatic injury that are significantly above the statewide average.**

Suffice it to say, this record of achievement makes us all proud of the excellent clinical care we provide here at Stony Brook University Hospital, and proud of our trauma registry that records such care with accuracy and completeness.

The achievement is truly a credit to all the individuals involved in our trauma system, from the physicians from all services and departments, which include attendings, fellows, and residents to the nurses, physical and occupational therapists, care coordinators and social workers, and respiratory therapists, together with the support from Stony Brook Medicine's administration.

### RECORD OF EXCELLENCE IN TRAUMA CARE

Our trauma service treats more than 1800 patients annually, among whom at least 800 on average have moderate to severe injuries. Those 800 patients per year are the subject of the state's new three-year report on risk-adjusted mortality.

In addition to direct admissions, we consult on and receive transfers of complex, critically injured patients from all points in Suffolk County, and every community and Level 2 trauma hospital in the region. Stony Brook also serves as EMS control for all of Suffolk County's ground and air ambulances.

Our trauma service has been recognized by multiple state and federal healthcare agencies as providing among the highest level of care to injured patients in the country.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Stony Brook's trauma service is in the top 4% of trauma centers nationwide, with the lowest mortality of any hospital in the United States in treating pedestrian trauma.

NYS Trauma System Reports are periodically produced by the Health Department as quality management tools to document the efficacy of the NYS trauma system. These reports use NYS trauma registry data to detail risk-adjusted mortality rates by trauma center, level of trauma center (regional vs. area), trauma region, and mechanism of injury.

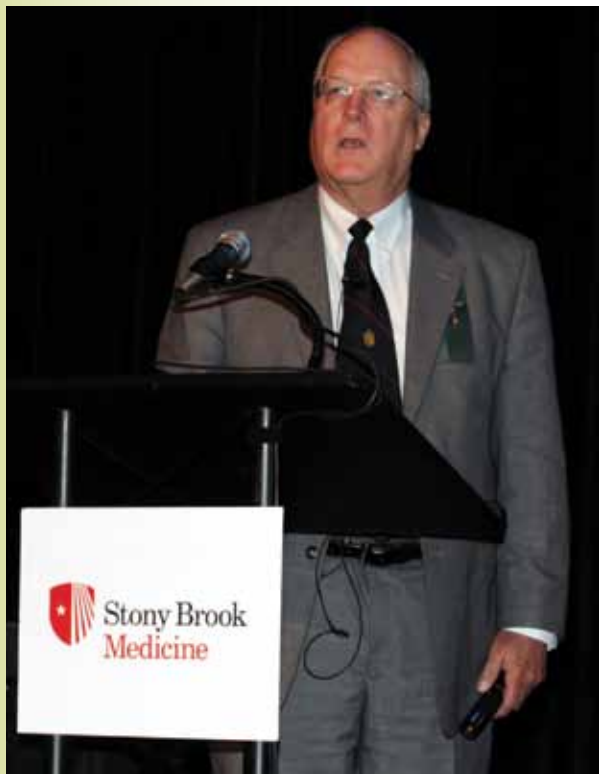
Two types of mortality are examined: "in-patient" (only those severely injured patients who died after being admitted to the trauma center hospital) and "in-hospital" (all severely injured patients who died in the hospital—both the "in-patient" and those that died in the emergency department).

According to the new Health Department report, our risk-adjusted survival rate was 95.15%, compared to the state observed average of 93.81% in 2007-09. The expected survival rate for Stony Brook's patients was 93.22%, based on patients' level of acute illness or injury. Additionally, Stony Brook was one of only two in the state recognized twice consecutively for this achievement for the time periods of 2003-06 and 2007-09. ♦



GERALD BUSHART | DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Our Third Annual Research Day, held in June at the Charles B. Wang Center on West Campus, was a tremendous success. Here, one of our residents is talking about his research with one of the jurors of our poster competition.



GERALD BUSHART | DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Keynote speaker John Mayer Jr., MD, of Harvard Medical School, a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon with an active research program, gave an oral presentation titled "Progress toward a Tissue-Engineered Heart Valve."

With growing basic and translational research throughout the Department, there were 45 posters and presentations of studies conducted by both our faculty and our residents.

### Selected Recent Publications\*

- Anthony TG, **McNurlan MA**. Protein synthesis and degradation. In: Stipanuk MH, Caudill MA, editors. *Biochemical and Physiological Aspects of Human Nutrition*. St. Louis: Saunders, 2012: 256-86.
- Benveniste H, Zhang S, Reinsel RA, Li H, Lee H, Rebecchi M, Moore W, Johansen C, Rothman DL, **Bilfinger TV**. Brain metabolomic profiles of lung cancer patients prior to treatment characterized by proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy. *Int J Clin Exp Med* 2012;5:154-64.
- Bishawi M, Kim B, Moore WH, **Bilfinger TV**. Pulmonary function testing after stereotactic body radiotherapy to the lung. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2012;82:e107-10.
- Ceppa EP, Park CW, Portenier DD, **Pryor AD**. Single-incision laparoscopic right colectomy: an efficient technique. *Surg Laparosc Endosc Percutan Tech* 2012;22:88-94.
- Crystal RG, Kaminsky SM, Hackett NR, **Rosengart TK**. Double-blinded, placebo-controlled, randomized gene therapy using surgery for vector delivery. *Hum Gene Ther* 2012;23:438-41.
- Curci NE, **Bilfinger TV**. Successful multimodality treatment of a young woman with hughes-stovin syndrome. *Am Surg* 2012;78:304-5.
- Dickerson JD II, Park CW, **Pryor AD**. Single-site access surgery. In: Soper NJ, Scott-Conner CEH, editors. *The SAGES Manual: Basic Laparoscopy and Endoscopy*. Vol. 1. 3d ed. New York: Springer, 2012: 87-98.
- Fourman MS, Phillips BT, Rivara A, **Gersch R, Rosengart TK, Dagum AB**. Potential synergy of adenoviral VEGF-All and EGR-1 vectors may optimize the survival of rat McFarlane flaps [abstract]. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2012;130:18.
- Gersch RP**, Kirmizitas A, Sobkow I, Sorrentino G, Thomsen GH, Hadjiargyrou M. Mustn1 is essential for craniofacial chondrogenesis during Xenopus development. *Gene Expr Patterns* 2012 [epub ahead of print].
- Goldman M, Matthews R, Meng H, **Bilfinger T**, Kort S. Evaluation of cardiac involvement with mediastinal lymphoma: the role of innovative integrated cardiovascular imaging. *Echocardiography* 2012 [epub ahead of print].
- Halbreiner MS, Sun E, Asheld J, Buscaglia JM, Nagula S, **McLarty AJ**. Delayed esophago-pericardial fistula after ablation for atrial fibrillation. *Am Surg* 2012;78:146-8.
- Hartendorp PA**, Yeo CJ, Maxwell PJ 4th. Theodor Billroth and his musical life. *Am Surg* 2012;78:282-3.
- Hattler B, Messenger JC, **Shroyer AL**, Collins JF, Haugen SJ, Garcia JA, Baltz JH, Cleveland JC Jr, Novitzky D, Grover FL; for the Veterans Affairs Randomized On/Off Bypass (ROOBY) Study Group. Off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery is associated with worse arterial and saphenous vein graft patency and less effective revascularization: results from the Veterans Affairs Randomized On/Off Bypass (ROOBY) Trial. *Circulation* 2012;125:2827-35.
- Labropoulos N**, Wang ED, Lanier ST, **Khan SU**. Factors associated with poor healing and recurrence of venous ulceration. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2012;129:179-86.
- Lee W, Vemulapalli P, Miller F, Melquist J, **Lee TK**, Darras FS. Partial nephrectomy for a large renal lymphatic malformation in a child presenting with hypertension. *J Pediatr Surg* 2012;47:e23-6.
- Malgor RD, **Bilfinger TV, Labropoulos N**. A systematic review of pulmonary embolism in patients with lung cancer. *Ann Thorac Surg* 2012;94:311-6.
- Malgor RD, **Labropoulos N, Gasparis AP, Landau DS, Tassiopoulos AK**. Results of a new human recombinant thrombin for the treatment of arterial pseudoaneurysm. *Vasc Endovascular Surg* 2012;46:145-9.
- Margolis J, **Bilfinger T, Labropoulos N**. A right-sided aortic arch and aberrant left subclavian artery with proximal segment hypoplasia. *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg* 2012;14:370-1.
- Meisner RJ, **Labropoulos N, Gasparis AP, Lampl J, Xu M, Tassiopoulos AK**. Review of indications and practices of vena caval filters at a large university hospital. *Vasc Endovascular Surg* 2012;46:21-5.
- Okolica D, Bishawi M, Karas JR, Reed JF 3rd, Hussain F, **Bergamaschi R**. Factors influencing postoperative adverse events after Hartmann's reversal. *Colorectal Dis* 2012;14:369-73.
- Park CW, Dickerson JD II, **Pryor AD**. Laparoscopic palliation for pancreatic cancer. In: Nguyen NT, Scott-Conner CEH, editors. *The SAGES Manual: Advanced Laparoscopy and Endoscopy*. Vol 2. 3d ed. New York: Springer, 2012: 365-84.
- Phillips BT, Fourman M, **Dagum AB, Ganz JC, Khan SU, Bui DT**. New vs. old: establishing predictive values for necrosis using the latest laser-assisted indocyanine green dye angiography [abstract]. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2012;130:39.
- Phillips BT, Lanier ST, Conkling N, Wang ED, **Dagum AB, Ganz JC, Khan SU, Bui DT**. Intraoperative perfusion techniques can accurately predict mastectomy skin flap necrosis in breast reconstruction: results of a prospective trial. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 2012;129:778e-88e.
- Raftopoulos I, Reed JF 3rd, **Bergamaschi R**. Circumferential resection margin involvement after laparoscopic abdominoperineal resection for rectal cancer. *Colorectal Dis* 2012;14:431-7.

\* The names of faculty authors appear in boldface.

## Research by Our Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Team Improves Breast Reconstruction Outcomes after Mastectomy

*Defining the Best Ideas in Medicine to Benefit Our Patients*

We are pleased to report that our Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division, in May, published a Level 1–evidence diagnostic study using the latest perfusion (blood flow) technology to assess the viability of skin in immediate breast reconstruction following mastectomy.

The study results show how our use of this technology can reduce postoperative complications. This is really good news for women who want reconstruction after mastectomy, as it means better outcomes with the operation.

The study, titled “Intraoperative Perfusion Techniques Can Accurately Predict Mastectomy Skin Flap Necrosis in Breast Reconstruction: Results of a Prospective Trial,” was published in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

The study represents the first prospective clinical trial to determine the sensitivity, specificity, and predictive values of laser-assisted indocyanine green dye angiography using SPY imaging technology, and to directly compare the predictive accuracy of laser-assisted indocyanine green dye angiography with that of fluorescein dye angiography.

Each year, surgeons perform more than 90,000 breast reconstructions, offering women not just an improved appearance, but a renewed sense of well-being. However, as common and generally safe as these procedures may be, complications occur. The

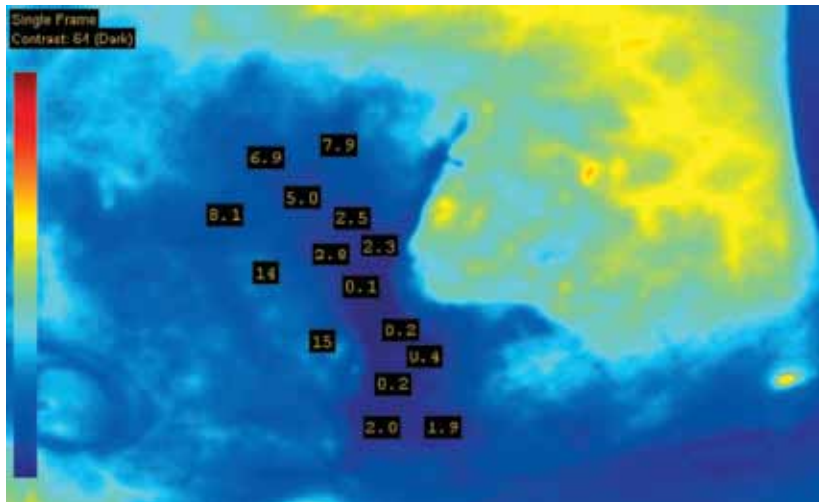
cause of these early complications is often attributed to inadequate tissue perfusion.

Indeed, surgeons report that many of the complications associated with breast reconstruction can be traced back to poor blood flow in the vessels that deliver blood to tissue, or poor circulation in the tissue left behind following the mastectomy.

**Defining the best ideas in medicine through research and then applying them to the patient care we provide here at Stony Brook is a central focus of our mission.**

The principal investigator of the SPY study conducted by our plastic surgeons, Duc T. Bui, MD, associate professor of surgery and director of reconstructive breast surgery, explains: “The ability to predict and prevent skin necrosis (tissue death) has the potential to prevent significant physical and psychological pain for breast cancer patients, as well as substantial costs.”

“The specific aim of this study,” he says, “was to compare two forms of technology that provide quantitative assessments (number values) versus clinical assessment (merely visual) of mastectomy skin flap perfusion.”



SPY analysis of mastectomy skin flap perfusion during procedure, showing areas on the breast skin that have poor blood flow.

Both of these quantitative assessment tools are minimally invasive. The SPY technology is relatively new, and its effectiveness is well proven in other surgical applications. The angiographic method has been used effectively for decades in plastic surgery and other surgical fields.

The ability to accurately assess circulation in tissue, particularly the tissue left behind after mastectomy, might also enable more patients to be candidates for immediate reconstruction.

The first author of the report, Brett T. Phillips, MD, MBA, is a third-year resident in our general surgery residency program, which trains physician-scientists who have the skills to ad-

vance scientific knowledge in order to improve patient care. This is what Stony Brook Medicine is about.

**Other divisions in the Department of Surgery are now using this leading-edge perfusion technology to improve surgical outcomes.**

About the SPY study in which he was a co-investigator, Dr. Phillips says, “Our clinical trial has provided quantitative values that are predictive of postoperative mastectomy skin flap necrosis and that will assist in decreasing postoperative complication rates.” ♦



## Performing Clinical Trials To Advance Patient Care

Our faculty is committed to excellence in research, in order to find new and better treatments for our patients, as part of our commitment to excellence in patient care.

We currently are performing a variety of clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of potentially new treatment options related to the surgical specialties represented by our physicians.

Our goal is to give patients the opportunity to participate in approved and exploratory therapies without long-distance travel.

**Participation in our clinical trials is always completely voluntary, and never interferes with the normal standards for patient care.**

Our clinical trials enable us to use, in addition to established therapies, the newest and most advanced technologies and treatments—long before they are available to other physicians.

Patients participate in our clinical trials only after they receive a complete explanation of their options from their surgeon and surgical team.

For information about current clinical trials in the Department of Surgery, please call our clinical research coordinator Eileen Finnin, RN, at (631) 444-5454.

## Selected Clinical Trials Now Being Conducted By Our Faculty Involve These Conditions:

**Coronary artery disease** / Studying effectiveness of stent use versus bypass surgery for treatment of coronary blockages.

**Coronary artery disease** / Studying different methods of patient education involved in obtaining consent to undergo angiography and possible stenting.

**Aortic valve disease** / Studying different surgical access approaches for valve surgery.

**Critical limb ischemia** / Studying effectiveness of a potentially new treatment to reduce amputation rate and to increase survival—the only opportunity on Long Island for participation in this trial.

**Venous leg ulcers** / Studying new gel used topically in the treatment of these wounds.

**Melanoma** / Studying whether removal of all lymph nodes is necessary in patients who have a positive sentinel node.

**Breast cancer** / Studying effects of nicotine on breast tissue and its possible role in development of breast cancer.

**Soft tissue cancer** / Studying effect of flu vaccine on immune system in patients undergoing cancer surgery.

## Spotlight on . . .

### Dr. Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, Chief of Vascular Surgery

*World-Class Surgeon and Educator  
Leading Our Vascular Division*

We are very pleased to spotlight Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, MD, associate professor of surgery, program director of the vascular surgery residency, and director of the Surgical Skills Center, who last summer was appointed chief of the Vascular Surgery Division.

With a team of five board-certified vascular surgeons plus a new member (the first graduate of our vascular surgery residency), a PhD vascular physiologist, a non-invasive vascular technology specialist, two board-certified podiatric surgeons, and a comprehensive clinical and administrative support staff, the Vascular Surgery Division provides state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment of every aspect of arterial and venous pathology.

“The Vascular Surgery Division has advanced considerably under Dr. Tassiopoulos’ leadership,” says Todd K. Rosengart, MD, professor and chairman of surgery. “Notably the Division has received international acclaim for their expertise in the area of venous disease, recently hosting another international conference attended by a ‘standing room only’ audience.”

“The Stony Brook Vascular Surgery Division has experienced a very significant



Dr. Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos

growth over the past years,” says Dr. Tassiopoulos. “Its members have a significant number of original scientific contributions and continuous presence in national and international vascular organizations and conferences.

“Through our collaboration with the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division and the Cardiovascular Medicine Division, we have developed a comprehensive approach that offers state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment to patients with arterial and venous disease in our community. Our goal is to continue expanding and refining our diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities over time, and to provide the latest and most advanced treatment options for our patients.”

The Division offers inpatient and outpatient services and performs an excess of 2,000 open and endovascular interventions annually, and oversees the vascular labora-

tory, which performs more than 10,000 non-invasive diagnostic vascular studies each year. Vascular surgeons in the Division work collaboratively with the Divisions of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Cardiovascular Medicine for providing best patient care and achieving optimal outcomes.

Dr. Tassiopoulos' role as the director of the Surgical Skills Center in the School of Medicine includes oversight of medical education in the 1,800 square-foot facility, which is dedicated to surgical training of fellows, residents, and medical students.

"We focus on the development of surgical and clinical skills early on in the training process," says Dr. Tassiopoulos.

"The Surgical Skills Center enables us to provide advanced levels of training to build surgical leadership skills and foster effective communication and collaboration between our medical students and the entire healthcare team. It is the most innovative resource available for providing critical assessment of patient safety issues and provides an excel-

lent mechanism for developing and conveying best practices to our students."

Dr. Tassiopoulos is board certified in both general surgery and vascular surgery. He has expertise in minimally invasive endovascular surgery for the management of aortic aneurysms (including treatment for thoracic aortic aneurysms), lower extremity vascular disease, carotid disease, and venous disease; minimally invasive percutaneous closure for varicose veins; and the treatment of spider veins (laser and sclerotherapy).

He also specializes in surgical intervention for stroke prevention (carotid endarterectomy), aortic aneurysms, lower extremity vascular reconstruction, and dialysis access.

An active scholar as well as a dedicated clinician, Dr. Tassiopoulos is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He continues to develop his clinical research activity in venous disease, contributing to the best ideas in medicine that distinguish us. ♦



Dr. Tassiopoulos (left) with resident at controls of laparoscopy simulator in the Surgical Skills Center, along with (from left to right) Drs. Todd K. Rosengart and Richard J. Scriven.

## Dr. Harry S. Soroff (1926-2012) Founding Chairman of Surgery

IN MEMORIAM



GERALD BUSHART | DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Harry S. Soroff, MD, founding chairman of our Department of Surgery, passed away in August, following complications of heart surgery in New York City. He was 86 years old. Dr. Soroff's career at Stony Brook spanned 32 years. He served as chairman of surgery from 1974 to 1989.

Dr. Soroff assembled the original faculty and defined the leadership role and dynamic character of the Department. During the 1980s, he led the Department's transformation from a group of "generalists" into groups with more specialized skills both in the clinical areas and in research.

Dr. Soroff established the Stony Brook Burn Center and also the Living Skin Bank in the mid-1980s, and during

this period he forged the Burn Center's partnership with Suffolk County's volunteer firefighters that led to the establishment of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Burn Center Fund, which continues to provide special support to the Burn Center.

An active physician-scientist, Dr. Soroff was an inventor of medical technology, as well. He was instrumental in developing the external counterpulsation system for treating angina, which is now widely used. Among his other inventions is the steel band for improved sternal closure called Sterna-band, used in cardiothoracic surgery procedures to provide not only effective fixation, but a reduction in both postoperative pain and postoperative hospital stay.

Dr. Soroff's long career as a surgeon and, in particular, his establishment of the Department of Surgery at Stony Brook are a testament to his dauntless, creative, visionary spirit. Plans are underway to honor Dr. Soroff through the establishment of the Harry S. Soroff, MD, Memorial Lectureship in Burn Care and Research, to be part of our visiting professor program.

The Department of Surgery at Stony Brook Medicine has some exciting news. As part of our commitment to provide our patients and community with relevant health information through ongoing communications, we have recently introduced these web-based services: all **new departmental website** including an **interactive blog**, **free monthly e-newsletter** providing health education and department news, and **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.



facebook.com/  
stonybrooksurgery



twitter.com/  
sbusurgery

Please visit us at  
[www.stonybrooksurgery.org](http://www.stonybrooksurgery.org)  
Join our growing online community today!

## ALUMNI NEWS

*Since 1975 when our first graduating residents entered the profession of surgery, 208 physicians have completed their residency training in general surgery at Stony Brook. The alumni of this residency program and our other residency (fellowship) programs now practice surgery throughout the United States, as well as in numerous other countries around the world—and we're proud of their diverse achievements and contributions to healthcare.*

### 2012 Graduating Residents

Name	Career Direction
<b>GENERAL SURGERY</b>	
George Angelos, MD	Colorectal surgery fellowship, U of Texas-Houston
Nicole Curci, MD	Radiology fellowship, Metro Health Hospital, Cleveland, OH
Michael Lieb, DO	Vascular surgery fellowship, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Dhaval Patel, MD	Endocrine oncology research fellowship, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
Michael Polcino, MD	Colorectal surgery fellowship, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY
Stylios Tsintzilonis, MD	General surgery practice, Millinocket Regional Hospital, Millinocket, ME
Julia Zakhaleva, MD	Minimally invasive colorectal surgery fellowship, Colon & Rectal Clinic of Orlando, Orlando, FL
<b>COLORECTAL SURGERY</b>	
Nicole Rodriguez, MD	Private practice, Carolina, Puerto Rico
<b>VASCULAR SURGERY</b>	
Morad Awadallah, MD	Assistant professorship, Stony Brook Medicine's Department of Surgery, in vascular surgery



GERALD BUSHART | DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Our 2012 graduating residents (from left to right), Drs. Dhaval Patel, Stylios Tsintzilonis, Michael Polcino, Nicole Curci, Nicole Rodriguez Guilloty, Morad Awadallah, George Angelos, and Michael Lieb (Dr. Julia Zakhaleva was absent), at the graduation banquet held in June at Insignia in Smithtown, NY.

**alumni news  
submissions**

To submit alumni news online please visit the Department's website at [www.StonyBrookSurgery.org](http://www.StonyBrookSurgery.org)



# CMECMECME

## Continuing Medical Education At Stony Brook Medicine

The Stony Brook School of Medicine provides a wide range of opportunities for continuing medical education (CME).

The purpose of CME is to maintain and improve physician competency to optimize patient care by means of offering quality learning experiences for physicians. These activities should permit physicians to fulfill CME requirements for relicensure, maintenance of certification, hospital privileges, and medical or specialty society membership.

The School of Medicine's Office of Continuing Medical Education was established shortly after the opening of the medical school, and since 1979 has been fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education as a provider of CME for physicians.

The most recent accreditation, in 2009, came with a commendation for the outstanding quality of CME programming at Stony Brook.

For more information, please call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at (631) 444-2094.

### Surgical Grand Rounds

Our Surgical Grand Rounds program offers CME credit through the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. This activity is designated for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

The weekly Surgical Grand Rounds lectures are generally held on Wednesday morning, from 7:00 to 8:00 am, in the Health Sciences Center (level 2, lecture hall 1).

Topics cover the full range of current surgical concerns, focusing on clinical issues of interest to practicing physicians and surgeons. Featured speakers include distinguished visiting professors from the nation's top universities and medical centers.

For more information, please call (631) 444-7875.

### Trauma/Critical Care Conference

The Trauma/Critical Care Conference of the Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Section (General Surgery Division) offers CME credit through the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. This activity is designated for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

The weekly conferences are generally held on Friday morning, from 7:00 to 8:00 am, in the Health Sciences Center in the trauma conference room (level 18, room 040).

Topics cover the full range of concerns related to the trauma/critical care environment, including thoracic injuries, ICU administration/billing, and case histories. Presentations are made by attending physicians, as well as other medical professionals.

For more information, please call (631) 444-8330.

### Vascular Surgery Conference

The Vascular Surgery Conference of the Vascular Surgery Division offers CME credit through the School of Medicine of Stony Brook University. This activity is designated for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

The weekly conferences are generally held on Wednesday morning, from 8:00 to 10:00 am, in the Health Sciences Center in the surgery department classroom (level 19, room 025).

Topics cover the full range of concerns related to the diagnosis and management of vascular disease, with case presentations. Presentations are made by attending physicians and surgical residents, as well as the director of the non-invasive vascular lab.

For more information, please call (631) 444-2037.

## Residency Update

We are very pleased to report that in June the Residency Review Committee (RRC) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) awarded our general surgery residency program a full five-year accreditation cycle.

"This is a stellar accomplishment for our department. Additionally, the surgical RRC has been exceedingly reluctant to award five-year cycles. The average cycle length over the last few years has been about three years," says Richard J. Scriven, MD, associate professor of surgery and director of residency training in general surgery.

The official RRC letter communicating the good news to Dr. Scriven included a commendation for our achievement, stating, "The Review Committee commended the program for its demonstrated substantial compliance with the ACGME's Requirements for Graduate Medical Education."

Established in 1981, the ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States.

Concerning our latest resident match, Dr. Scriven comments, "This is our best match ever, in terms of depth into the list, and highest average USMLE scores."

### 2012 Match Results / New General Surgery Residents\*

- Ryan Chiu, MD. . . . . Albany Medical College (2012)
- Timothy Connolly, MD. . . . . Tufts U (2012)
- Elizabeth Jacobi, MD . . . . . U of Texas-Houston (2012)
- Gabriel Klein, MD. . . . . SUNY Upstate Medical U (2012)
- Richa Verma, MD . . . . . Stony Brook U (2012)
- Kai Zhao, MD. . . . . UMDNJ-Newark (2012)

\* Categorical general surgery positions.

## DIVISION BRIEFS



MEDIA SERVICES | STONY BROOK MEDICINE

### Introducing David S. Noel Our New Departmental Administrator

We are very pleased to introduce David S. Noel, MBA, CMPE, who has joined the Department as our departmental administrator.

Mr. Noel comes to Stony Brook from Vanderbilt University where for nearly 18 years he was a leader in the Section of Surgical Sciences as vice-chair for finance and administration, with a faculty appointment in medical administration. Vanderbilt's Section of Surgical Sciences is very similar in structure to Stony Brook's Department of Surgery.

Prior to Vanderbilt, Mr. Noel spent 22 years (including four years at West Point) as a career army officer. During his time in the army, he served in a myriad of positions including leadership and research-and-development positions. His last two assignments include serving as a battalion executive officer and, lastly, serving as a strategic planner in Europe.

Mr. Noel has a very strong history in surgical administration as well as leadership that enables him to make a solid contribution to the advancement of our department. ♦

#### Breast Surgery

**Dr. Brian J. O'Hea**, associate professor of surgery, chief of breast and oncologic surgery, and director of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center, is pleased to report that in July the Breast Care Center was granted a **full three-year reaccreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC)**; a program administered by the American College of Surgeons).

Our state-of-the-art breast center was the first in New York State to gain this quality-assurance designation. A breast center that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

Dr. O'Hea has been elected president of the **Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund**, which supports both new and established researchers investigating the causes, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer.

The supported research includes studies of the genetic, molecular, cellular, and environmental factors involved in the development and progression of breast cancer; application of the knowledge thus gained to educate medical professionals and increase public awareness for the prevention, detection, and treatment of breast cancer; and studies of the outcomes of breast cancer detection and treatment on patients, their families, and society.

#### Cardiothoracic Surgery

**Dr. Allison J. McLarty**, associate professor of surgery, is co-director of the **ventricular assist device (VAD) program** of the Stony Brook Heart Institute. She continues to advance the VAD program, which, in turn, continues to garner national recognition.

The first and only VAD program on Long Island that provides "destination therapy," our program received **national accreditation** from the Joint Commission after an intensive two-day review by a team of Joint Commission surveyors.

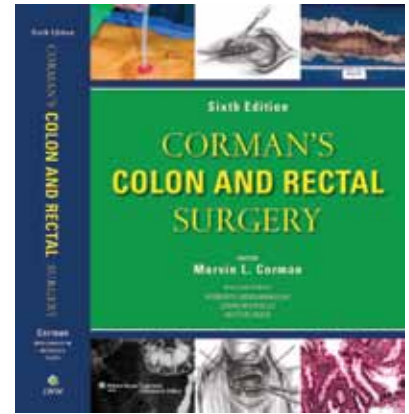
The inspection of the VAD program occurred early last year. The program's "**certification of distinction**" is for a two-year period, with a performance review at the end of the first year.

Accreditation is a **seal of approval** that signals to our patients that they are in a quality program and are in capable hands when they come to Stony Brook.

Last summer, in recognition of the exemplary rollout of our VAD program, the Heart Institute was asked to serve as **one of only three national reference centers** to help other institutions successfully launch VAD initiatives.

During its first year, Dr. McLarty and the VAD team successfully performed seven implants, representing the top 20% of the 32 U.S. non-transplant VAD centers to have achieved this level of success in launching a new program.

Last year, Dr. McLarty received the Town of Brookhaven's "**Woman of the Year**" in Medicine Award.



Established for over 25 years and now in its sixth edition, *Corman's Colon and Rectal Surgery* (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, October 2012)—often referred to as the "bible" of the specialty—provides comprehensive coverage of all diseases and conditions managed by colorectal surgeons. Three co-editors of international repute, including Roberto Bergamaschi, MD, PhD, chief of our Colon and Rectal Surgery Division, have participated in the creation of the present updated edition. The hand of Marvin L. Corman, MD, professor of surgery and a leading member of our Colon and Rectal Surgery Division, can be recognized throughout this gold standard reference text, which, for the first time, carries his name in its formal title.

#### Colon and Rectal Surgery

**Dr. Paula I. Denoya**, assistant professor of surgery, is leading our growing **pelvic floor program**. Conditions treated are fecal incontinence, constipation, obstructed defecation, and rectocele. Additionally, ultrasound exam is performed for anal fistula/abscess, anal pain, and anal or rectal masses (tumors/cancers).

**Sacral nerve neuromodulation (SNN) for fecal incontinence is now available**, as well. SNN is a sacral nerve stimulator that involves implantation of a programmable stimulator under the skin, which delivers low amplitude electrical stimulation via a lead to the sacral nerve.

### General Surgery

**Dr. Marc J. Shapiro**, professor of surgery and anesthesiology, in July presented a paper titled “**Predicting Outcomes in the High-Risk Surgical Patient**,” at the annual American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) conference in Salt Lake City.

As our NSQIP “surgeon champion” and leader, Dr. Shapiro is focused on best practices to continue to make our patient care at Stony Brook the best and safest.

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 2001, NSQIP is a nationally validated, risk-adjusted, outcomes-based approach to measure and improve the quality of surgical care.

**Dr. James A. Vosswinkel**, assistant professor of surgery and chief of trauma and critical care, was honored last fall as one of two Stony Brook Medicine physicians selected by their faculty peers as the recipients of the year’s **Stony Brook University Physicians Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice**.

This award recognizes medical school faculty who exemplify a sustained commitment to excellence in patient care.

### Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

**Dr. Elliot Regenbogen**, assistant professor of surgery, together with Stony Brook colleagues, in April, published the news-making lead article in *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*, the official peer-reviewed publication of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Regenbogen’s report, titled “**Esophageal Reflux Disease Proton Pump Inhibitor Therapy Impact upon Sleep Disturbance**,” presents data based on a systematic literature review that shows use of proton pump inhibitors improves the sleep and daytime quality of life for sufferers of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

The study’s findings offer **hope for many afflicted with sleep disturbance disorder**.

### Pediatric Surgery

The **Cedric J. Priebe Jr., MD, Endowed Pediatric Surgery Lectureship** in March presented its first program, featuring visiting professor Henri R. Ford, MD, surgeon in chief of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

The two-day program started with Dr. Ford participating in a case presentation conference with our medical students and surgical residents. On the morning of the second day, he gave the Cedric J. Priebe Jr., MD, Endowed Pediatric Surgery Lecture, titled “**The Molecular Basis for the Pathogenesis of Necrotizing Enterocolitis**,” as part of our weekly Surgical Grand Rounds lecture series.

**Dr. Richard J. Scriven**, associate professor of surgery and director of residency training in general surgery, has won the **Aesculapius Award for outstanding teaching**.

The Aesculapius Award, initiated in 1991, emphasizes the importance of excellence in education to the success of our school, and recognizes the most outstanding teachers throughout the Stony Brook system.

### Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

**Dr. Jason C. Ganz**, assistant professor of surgery, continues to make news with his remarkable **toe-to-thumb transfer procedures**—by giving patients who lose a hand their hands back.

Since joining our faculty in 2008, Dr. Ganz has attracted media attention on more than one occasion, performing **rare and complicated limb reattachment surgery** as well as toe-to-thumb transfer surgery, both requiring the most sophisticated reconstructive microsurgical expertise.

WPIX TV News featured a story about Dr. Ganz’s successful 11-hour operation reattaching a severed hand. *Newsday* and other Long Island papers have also published stories about his work.

**Dr. Sami U. Khan**, associate professor of surgery and director of cosmetic surgery, was elected by Stony Brook School of Medicine’s Class of 2012 to **membership in the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha National Honor Medical Society**.

### Upper Gastrointestinal and General Oncologic Surgery

**Dr. Kevin T. Watkins**, associate professor of surgery and chief of upper gastrointestinal and general oncologic surgery, and **Dr. Philip Q. Bao**, assistant professor of surgery, in July were in Paris together to present their data on **minimally invasive pancreaticoduodenectomy and pancreatic tumor ablation** with irreversible electroporation (IRE), at the meeting of the International Hepato-Pancreaticobiliary Association.

Our programs in minimally invasive pancreatic surgery and IRE continue to advance, with **patients from around the country coming to us**.

### Vascular Surgery

**Dr. Antonios P. Gasparis**, associate professor of surgery and director of the Stony Brook Vein Center, and **Dr. Nicos Labropoulos**, professor of surgery and director of the Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory, in April directed the **Third Annual Venous Symposium** in New York. It was, as in past years, a resounding success, with stand-room only in several sessions. There were 472 participants from 42 states and 27 countries.

The audience of the two-day symposium comprised vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, interventional cardiologists, cardiologists, phlebologists, general surgeons, and other medical professionals.

With an **international faculty of vascular specialists**, the symposium offered a comprehensive program featuring the latest information on venous disease with opportunities for hands-on learning, a chance to participate in discussions, and time to actively engage with other professionals.

**Next year’s symposium will take place, again in Manhattan**, on April 11-13. It continues to expand its offerings, and is accredited to provide continuing medical education (CME) for physicians.

Our **vascular disease screening program**, over the past year, reached over 600 community participants. These **free-of-charge screenings** focus on the most common forms of vascular disease; namely, abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), carotid artery disease, and peripheral arterial disease (PAD)—all serious and life-threatening, often occurring “silently” without any symptoms.

That’s why early detection and treatment are crucial. **Call (631) 638-2100 for information about this screening program**, which takes place at the Stony Brook Heart Institute. ♦

**Dr. Dagum**

continued from Page 5

Dr. Dagum then returned to the University of Toronto and rose through the ranks of the Ontario Medical Association to become section chair of plastic surgery and president of the Ontario Society of Plastic Surgeons. In 2000, he returned to Stony Brook as associate professor of clinical surgery and orthopedics and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Promoted to full professor in 2009, Dr. Dagum is an active physician-scientist and scholar, with over 50 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

Throughout his career, Dr. Dagum has consistently been motivated by important problems in plastic surgery, concentrating on reconstruction for congenital anomalies, major trauma and cancer, cleft lip and palate, and reconstructive hand surgery.

He has been active in surgical volunteer work overseas with many organizations in caring for the less fortunate (for example, see page 5).

In conjunction with his colleagues, Dr. Dagum has tirelessly helped restore form and function to many, many patients. He has been a strong advocate for his division, and for growing the educational mission at Stony Brook Medicine.

“Based on his scholarship, devotion to our educational mission and his outstanding clinical standards, I am convinced that Alex is a perfect person to lead the Department of Surgery in this time of transition to new leadership,” stated Dr. Kaushansky in announcing Dr. Dagum’s appointment. ♦

**Dr. Rosengart**

continued from Page 1

Dr. Rosengart says, “I view this as an opportunity that I could not refuse, but I also view it largely as a reflection on the great standing and reputation of our department here at Stony Brook.”

Dr. Rosengart joined our faculty in 2006 as chief of cardiothoracic surgery. In 2009, he was appointed chairman of surgery, after serving as interim chairman for a year. During his tenure as chairman, he continued to serve as chief of cardiothoracic surgery and co-director of the Stony Brook Heart Institute.

Under the leadership of Dr. Rosengart, our Department of Surgery has grown from 27 full-time faculty members to nearly 50 clinicians, educators, and research faculty

members currently. The number of hospital surgical procedures performed by the Department of Surgery has grown over 30% during the four years of Dr. Rosengart’s leadership, topping 8,000 for the first time in our history, and the revenues of the Department have grown from \$25 million in 2008-09 to \$36 million in 2011-12.

In the past four years, our research and education programs have seen the launch of the Surgical Skills Center, our highly successful annual Resident Research Days and a department research seed grant program, and the recent full accreditation with commendation of the general surgery residency program, as well as its three fellowship programs.

“During his tenure here as chairman of surgery, Todd has served Stony Brook Medicine with distinction. I hope you will join me in wishing nothing but the very best for him as he takes over the reins of, like its namesake, a storied department of surgery,” said Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, senior vice president of Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, in announcing Dr. Rosengart’s departure. ♦

*Farewell from Dr. Rosengart to the Department*

*“It will be with the warmest feelings and greatest fondness that I will always look back on these past four years that I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as the chairman of our Department of Surgery, and the seven years that I have served as chief of cardiothoracic surgery.*

*“They have been without question among the most rewarding years of my professional career—ones filled with great memories of the accomplishments we have realized and the challenges we have overcome together.*

*“Most important, these seven years have allowed me the great opportunity to work closely with the many wonderful members of our faculty and staff, and to interact with the outstanding residents and students who have worked and learned together with us during this time.*

*“The comradery that we have shared has been the highlight of my tenure, and our striving together to make our department better was the greatest of rewards. I know our department will continue to grow and succeed, under the stewardship of Dr. Alexander Dagum and that of our other leadership, as the Department looks forward to the vision of a new chair.*

*“I sincerely hope that whatever contributions I have been able to make will serve the Department well as it continues our journey of progress in helping our patients, teaching our students, and gaining new knowledge.*

*“Thank you again for the privilege of having allowed me the honor of serving as your chair.”*

**Free CME Opportunities**  
See Page 12



SAM LEVITAN PHOTOGRAPHY



**Stony Brook Medicine**  
**University Physicians**

[www.StonyBrookPhysicians.org](http://www.StonyBrookPhysicians.org)

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

**Surgical Care Center**  
37 Research Way  
East Setauket, NY 11733  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-4539 (fax)

**Cancer Center /  
Carol M. Baldwin  
Breast Care Center**  
3 Edmund D. Pellegrino Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11794  
(631) 638-1000 (tel)  
(631) 444-6348 (fax)

**Plastic & Cosmetic  
Surgery Center / Vein Center**  
24 Research Way, Suite 100  
East Setauket, NY 11733  
(631) 444-4666 (tel)  
(631) 444-4610 (fax)

**Smithtown Office**  
222 Middle Country Road  
Suite 209  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-4539 (fax)

**Peconic Bay Office**  
31 Main Road  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
(631) 444-1820 (tel)  
(631) 444-8963 (fax)

**Outpatient Services Center**  
225 West Montauk Highway  
Hampton Bays, NY 11946  
(631) 723-5000 (tel)  
(631) 723-5010 (fax)

The State University of New York at Stony Brook is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educator and employer. This publication can be made available in an alternative format upon request.

Please visit the **Department of Surgery** website at [www.StonyBrookSurgery.org](http://www.StonyBrookSurgery.org)

## Stony Brook Surgical Associates

**BARIATRIC SURGERY**  
(631) 444-2274 (tel)  
(631) 444-6176 (fax)  
Aurora D. Pryor, MD  
Dana A. Telem, MD

**BREAST SURGERY**  
(631) 638-1000 (tel)  
(631) 638-0720 (fax)  
Martyn W. Burk, MD, PhD  
Patricia A. Farrelly, MD  
Brian J. O'Hea, MD  
Christine R. Rizk, MD

**BURN CARE**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-6176 (fax)  
Steven Sandoval, MD  
Marc J. Shapiro, MD

**CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY**  
(631) 444-1820 (tel)  
(631) 444-8963 (fax)  
Thomas V. Bilfinger, MD, ScD  
Harold A. Fernandez, MD  
Sandeep Gupta, MD  
Allison J. McLarty, MD  
Todd K. Rosengart, MD  
Frank C. Seifert, MD  
James R. Taylor Jr., MD

**COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY**  
(631) 638-1000 (tel)  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-6348 (fax)  
Roberto Bergamaschi, MD, PhD  
Marvin L. Corman, MD  
Paula I. Denoya, MD  
Marc E. Finkelstein, MD  
Arnold R. Leiboff, MD  
William B. Smithy, MD  
Robert D. Turoff, MD

**GENERAL SURGERY**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-6176 (fax)  
Jared M. Huston, MD  
Michael F. Paccione, MD  
Aurora D. Pryor, MD  
Daniel N. Rutigliano, DO  
Steven Sandoval, MD  
Marc J. Shapiro, MD  
Dana A. Telem, MD  
James A. Vosswinkel, MD

**MELANOMA AND  
SARCOMA SURGERY**  
(631) 630-1000 (tel)  
(631) 444-8315 (fax)  
Colette R.J. Pameijer, MD

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD  
AND NECK SURGERY (ENT)**  
(631) 444-4121 (tel)  
(631) 444-4189 (fax)  
Mark F. Marzouk, MD  
Elliot Regenbogen, MD  
Ghassan J. Samara, MD  
David A. Schessel, MD, PhD  
Wasył Szeremeta, MD

**PEDIATRIC SURGERY**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-8824 (fax)  
Thomas K. Lee, MD  
Richard J. Scriven, MD

**PLASTIC AND  
RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY**  
(631) 444-4666 (tel)  
(631) 444-4610 (fax)  
Duc T. Bui, MD  
Alexander B. Dagum, MD  
Jason C. Ganz, MD  
Mark A. Gelfand, MD

Tara L. Huston, MD  
Steven M. Katz, MD  
Sami U. Khan, MD

**PODIATRIC SURGERY**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-4539 (fax)  
Valerie A. Brunetti, DPM  
Bernard F. Martin, DPM

**TRAUMA/SURGICAL  
CRITICAL CARE**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-6176 (fax)  
Evan R. Geller, MD  
Jared M. Huston, MD  
Michael F. Paccione, MD  
Daniel N. Rutigliano, DO  
Steven Sandoval, MD  
Marc J. Shapiro, MD  
James A. Vosswinkel, MD

**UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL  
AND GENERAL ONCOLOGIC  
SURGERY**  
(631) 638-8086 (tel)  
(631) 444-6348 (fax)  
Philip Q. Bao, MD  
Kevin T. Watkins, MD

**VASCULAR SURGERY**  
(631) 444-4545 (tel)  
(631) 444-8824 (fax)  
Morad Awadallah, MD  
Antonios P. Gasparis, MD  
Mazen M. Hashisho, MD  
David S. Landau, MD  
Shang A. Loh, MD  
Apostolos K. Tassiopoulos, MD