Greetings from the Chairman

I am pleased to call your attention to the third edition of the newsletter from the Department of Surgery. These editions are timed to coincide with the graduation of our residents for each academic year. During the past year, we have had significant advances within the Department.

We were fortunate to recruit Dr. Aaron Ilano, a vascular surgeon, to our Department. The Department continues to perform strongly in many domains; specifically, surgical volume remains strong with continued growth in vascular and bariatric surgery. During the upcoming year we are excited for the arrival of Dr. Michelle DeLeon, a colorectal surgeon, and Dr. Carinne Anderson, a breast surgeon.

The Department has also seen a significant overall reduction in our new 30-day readmission and length of stay rates which will help improve overall institutional performance. Some of the challenges facing the Department in the coming year will be to continue to grow surgical volume and expand our scope of services. In addition, we will continue to face an environment where surgeons will be rewarded more for the quality of their performance as opposed to volume. Nonetheless, the Department is extremely well-positioned to deal with these challenges as we go forward and I anticipate continued growth and success in the coming year.

New Faculty

**Carinne Anderson, MD** will be joining the Division of Breast Surgery in September. A graduate from Jefferson Medical School, she completed her general surgery residency at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, DE. She will have completed a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Mount Sinai—Beth Israel, St. Luke’s, and West in New York, NY. Her clinical interests include oncoplastic breast surgery, care of patients with BRCA and other genetic mutations, as well as benign breast disease. She is Board Certified in Surgery. Her husband, Jim, is an anesthesiologist in the Main Line Healthcare system here in Philadelphia. They have two dogs—Lorelee (a pugle) and Winston (a Brussels griffon).

**Michelle DeLeon, MD** will be joining the Division of Colorectal Surgery in September. She received her BSc (Neuroscience) from Brown University, then earned her MD from Jefferson Medical College in 2011. Thereafter, she completed her general surgery residency at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson in 2017. For the last year, she has been at the Cleveland Clinic serving as a colorectal surgery fellow. She is Board Certified in Surgery. Her clinical interests include minimally invasive/robotic approaches to colon and rectal cancer and IBD, as well as surgical education. She has a Doberman named Duke. Her hobbies include yoga, Pilates, and running.
Graduating Chief Residents

Dr. Alisan Fathalizadeh was born in Tabriz, Iran. She moved with her family to California, and then North Carolina before her first birthday. Her father is a civil engineer and her mother is a real estate agent. She obtained her BS (Biochemistry) from UNC, Chapel Hill in 2008. She matriculated at Michigan State University, where she earned her MD and MPH in 2013 (she was also the recipient of three merit scholarships).

She has produced six manuscripts (with two more in preparation) and nine abstracts. She has been a consistent SCORE question-writer, and also our SCORE champion within the program. This year, she has ably served as our administrative chief resident.

Alisan will be moving to the Cleveland Clinic to complete an MIS/advanced GI surgery fellowship.

Dr. Aimal Khan was born and brought up in remote Northwestern Pakistan. His father was a surgeon trained in Ireland, who tragically died prematurely when Aimal was an adolescent. Among his four siblings are a radiology resident, a neurosurgery resident, and two dentists, all settled in the West. Aimal gained admission to Aga Khan University—the finest and most selective medical school in the Indian Subcontinent. He joined Einstein as a categorical PGY-3 resident after two preliminary years at the University of Florida.

Aimal has produced 18 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts. Aimal married earlier this year—his wife, Aisha is a second-year dental student at NYU. He will be spending a year at the University of Alabama, in an MIS/robotic fellowship.

Dr. Kevin Nguyen was born in Vietnam. In 1992, he immigrated to the US with his family at the age of 10. First educated in an “English as a Second Language” classroom, he excelled in school and was offered admission at UCLA, where he received his BS (Physiological Sciences) in 2006. He then earned a post-baccalaureate degree in 2008 at UC San Diego. From there, he was offered a full scholarship to the University of Wisconsin for medical school, whence he received his MD in 2013. He was selected as the teaching resident for our 3rd year medical students. He has presented at several vascular meetings. Kevin will be pursuing a vascular surgery fellowship at Thomas Jefferson Hospital.
# The Faculty of the Surgery Training Program

Hank Simms, MD, Chairman  
Ramsey Dallal, MD, Vice Chairman  
Amit Joshi, MD, Vice Chairman for Academic Affairs  
Mark Kaplan, MD, Associate Chairman

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bariatric Surgery</th>
<th>Vascular Surgery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ramsey Dallal, MD (Chair)</td>
<td>Rashad Choudry, MD (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renée Tholey, MD</td>
<td>Nadia Awad, MD</td>
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<td>Alfred Trang, MD</td>
<td>Evan Deutsch, MD</td>
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<td>Stephan Whitenack, MD</td>
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<td>Aaron Ilano, MD</td>
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<td>Lisa Jablon, MD (Chair)</td>
<td>Mark Kaplan, MD (Chair)</td>
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<td>Kara Friend, MD</td>
<td>Pak Leung, MD (Associate Chair)</td>
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<td>Jennifer Simmons, MD</td>
<td>Jay Strain, MD</td>
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<td>Radi Zaki, MD (Chair)</td>
<td>Charles Bakhos, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stalin Campos, MD</td>
<td>Cherie Erkmen, MD</td>
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<td>Hitesh Kaul, MD</td>
<td>Salil Shah, MD</td>
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<td>Kamran Khanmoradi, MD</td>
<td>Alexandra Tuluca, MD</td>
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<td>Nikolaos Chandolias, MD</td>
<td>Louis Samuels, MD</td>
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<td>Amit Joshi, MD</td>
<td>Sameer Patel, MD</td>
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<td>Catherine Schermer, MD</td>
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<td>Robert Schiowitz, MD</td>
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<td>Seth Zwillenberg, MD (Chair)</td>
<td>Mark Kotapka, MD (Chair)</td>
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<td>Ray Lesser, MD</td>
<td>Patrick Cooper, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Greenberg, MD (Chair)</td>
<td>Seth Zwillenberg, MD (Chair)</td>
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<td>Ray Lesser, MD</td>
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The Department of Surgery Training Program

Amit Joshi, MD, Program Director
Kara Friend, MD, Associate Program Director
Pak Leung, MD, Clerkship Director
Karlie Wagner, MBA, Program Administrator
Tenesha Diaz, BS, Program Coordinator
Alisan Fathalizadeh, MD, MPH, Administrative Chief Resident

PGY 5
Alisan Fathalizadeh, MD, MPH
Aimal Khan, MD
Kevin Nguyen, MD

PGY 4
Thaer Obaid, MD
Simran Randhawa, MD
Eric Veilleux, MD

PGY 3
Nkem Nweze, MD
Cinthya Yabar Lowder, MD
Eric Weiss, MD

Research Residents
Austin Goetz, MD
Teena Dhir, MD
Michelle Nguyen, MD

PGY 2
Roshan D’Cruz, MD
James Krupp, MD
Aitua Salami, MD, MPH

PGY 1
Kathryn Capasso, MD, MS
Murad Karadsheh, MD
Amrina Cheema, MD

PGY 2—Preliminary
Lori Hutcherson, MD, MPH
Suneel Veerwani, MD

PGY 1—Preliminary
Jason Howard, MD
Rebecca Koscik, MD
Roshmi Bhattacharyya, MD
Kenneth Softness, MD
Avery Braun, DO
Jeffrey Ellis, MD
Andrew Higgins, MD
Visiting Professors

Daniel L. Dent, MD, FACS
Distinguished Teaching Professor, Program Director, Professor of Surgery
UT Health San Antonio
“What I Think We Know About Surgical Education”

Vedra Augenstein, MD, FACS
Associate Professor, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Carolinas Medical Center
“Advances in Abdominal Wall Reconstruction”

Malachi Sheahan III, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery, Program Director in Vascular Surgery, Louisiana State University Healthcare Network
“Redefining our Roles: How to Train Physicians for 2025”

Howard Ross, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Clinical Professor, Chief, Division of Colorectal Surgery, Program Director, Temple University

Emre Gorgun, MD, FACS, FASCRS
Associate Professor, Colorectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic
“What is the Best Surgical Approach to Rectal Cancer?”

Rachel Kelz, MD, MBA, FACS
Professor of Endocrine and Oncologic Surgery, University of Pennsylvania
“How to Influence a Field Using Innovations in Education”
**2017-2018 Scholarly Activity**

**Peer-reviewed Publications**


Naveed MZ, Joshi A, Deutsch E: Multiple Mycotic Visceral Artery Aneurysms. *Am Surg* 2017 Dec 1;83(12):482-484. PMID: 29336743


**Peer-reviewed Grants**

Drs. Friend, Fathalizadeh, Cheema: Lymphedema Index (Einstein Society)

Dr. Jablon: (Komen Foundation)

**Peer-reviewed Oral Presentations**

Salami A, Joshi ART, Anaya DA: Geographic Region is associated with Treatment and Survival Outcomes for Pancreatic Cancer. Annual Meeting of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, Miami Beach, 2017


Nguyen MV, Escobar OH, Mallicote MU, Gayer CP. Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) may protect against intestinal injury in mouse models of peritonitis. Academic Surgical Congress, Jacksonville, FL. 2018 Jan 30.

Nguyen MV, Escobar OH, Mallicote MU, Gayer CP. Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) may protect against intestinal injury in mouse models of peritonitis. Southern California Chapter: American College of Surgeons, Indian Wells, CA. 2018 May 12.

Nguyen MV, Escobar OH, Gayer CP. Farnesoid-X receptor inhibition allows uninhibited epidermal growth factor receptor activity. Surgical Infection Society, Westlake Village, CA 2018 Apr 25.


Salami A, Obaid T, Joshi ART. Improving Care of Patients with Pancreatic Cancer: An Analysis of the SEER Database. 13th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC), February 2018.


Peer-reviewed Poster Abstracts


Invited Speaker, Panelist, or Moderator at National Scientific Meetings

Kaplan M: “Pain Management,” 51st Trauma, Critical Care Surgery, Acute Care Surgery, Las Vegas, April, 2018

Kaplan M: “Splenic Angiography—indications and pitfalls,” 51st Trauma, Critical Care Surgery, Acute Care Surgery, Las Vegas, April, 2018


Erkmen CP. Visiting Professor, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. Robotic Thoracic Surgery, July 2017.


Friend K. "Contemporary Breast Cancer Management for the General Surgeon", Grand Rounds, Department of Surgery, Mercy Health System, November 2017

**Book Chapters**


**Peer-Reviewed SCORE Modules**

Veilleux E: Gastroduodenal Perforation – Diagnosis and Treatment

Karadsheh M, Patel SA: Wound Closure and Postoperative Care

Krupp JC, Patel SA: Disturbances of Wound Healing

Karadsheh M, Tholey RM: Vagotomy and Drainage

D’Cruz R, Tholey RM: Gastrectomy – Partial/Total

Veilleux E, Tholey RM: Gastroduodenal Perforation – Repair

Randhawa SK, Erkmen C: Esophageal Perforation
## Medical School Teaching Appointments

| Professor                            | Hank Simms, MD (TJU)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cherie Erkmen, MD (Temple)</th>
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</table>
| Clinical Professor                  | Mark Kaplan, MD (TJU)   
|                                     | Mark Kotapka, MD (TJH)   |
| Associate Professor                 | Charles Bakhos, MD (Temple)  
|                                     | Amit Joshi, MD (TJU)      
|                                     | Ramsey Dallal (TJU)       |
| Associate Clinical Professor        | Sameer Patel, MD (Temple) |
| Assistant Professor                 | Pak Leung, MD (TJU)      
|                                     | Kara Friend, MD (TJU)     |
| Clinical Assistant Professor        | Richard Greenberg, MD (TJU)  
|                                     | Lisa Jablon, MD (TJU)     
|                                     | Jay Strain, MD (TJU)      
|                                     | Renee Tholey, MD (TJU)    
|                                     | Alfred Trang, MD (TJU)    |
2016-2017 Departmental Awards

The Intern of the Year Award for 2017 was presented to James Krupp, MD in recognition of outstanding performance as a resident in General Surgery as chosen by the attending surgical staff and residents.

The Robert G. Somers Award for 2017 was presented to Lawrence Nicholas Cetrulo, MD in recognition of outstanding Resident Educator in General Surgery as chosen by the attending surgical staff and residents.

The Mohan B. Das Award for 2017 was presented to Lawrence Nicholas Cetrulo, MD in recognition of outstanding performance as Chief Resident in General Surgery as chosen by the attending surgical staff and residents.

The Outstanding Clinical Teacher Award for 2017 was presented to Nadia Awad, MD in recognition of outstanding performance as a clinical teacher in General Surgery as chosen by the surgical residents.

The Outstanding Teaching in the Operating Room Award for 2017 was presented to Stephan Whitenack, MD in recognition of outstanding performance as a teacher in the Operating Room as chosen by the surgical residents.
Alumni Spotlight
Laurence Sands, MD, MBA, FACS, FASCRS

Dr. Sands received his MD from Northwestern University in 1990. He completed his surgery residency in 1995, then went to the Cleveland Clinic, Florida to complete a colorectal surgery fellowship in 1996. He has worked at the University of Miami since 1997 and is now Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He has served as President of the South Florida Chapter of the ACS and as a national Governor from the Chapter.

He has written a textbook on anorectal disease, numerous book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles and currently serves as a reviewer for several major medical journals. Most recently, he has established the Laurence R. Sands, MD Endowed Research Chair at the University of Miami, this being the first chair within the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. His academic interests include rectal cancer surgery, surgery for IBD, and robotic surgery. He has also been appointed Vice Chair of Medical Student Education within the Daughtry Family Department of Surgery at the Miller School of Medicine, a reflection of his great interest in teaching the disciplines of general and colon and rectal surgery to fellows, residents, and medical students for which he has won numerous teaching awards within the school. In 2009 he completed his MBA in Healthcare Policy and Management at the University of Miami.

He writes: “I simply love Einstein and the skills I have gained in my career are a direct result of my basic surgical training. I remember distinctly how Dr. Somers taught me that the flow of an operation originates from your brain and not your hands and that the accomplished surgeon is able to see the entire operation in your mind before you even start using the scalpel. I have used this philosophy throughout my 20+ year surgical career. I was also taught at Einstein how to recognize a sick patient and to know when to operate and more importantly when not to operate. This too is a pearl that I try to teach my residents and fellows each and every day. There is no doubt that my success as an academic surgeon is due to the outstanding surgical training and personal attention I received at Einstein.”
Alumni Spotlight

John Henry Pang, MD

Dr. Pang received his MD from the University of Hawaii. He finished as administrative chief resident in 2010, and has spent the past three years as a plastic surgery fellow at the University of Pittsburgh. There, he developed an interest in reconstructive, facial aesthetic, and transgender surgery. Dr. Pang is continuing on to an additional year of fellowship training in the highly specialized field of transgender surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. He is Board Certified in Surgery.

He plans to pursue an academic surgery career specializing in transgender surgery, with a particular interest in resident surgical education, advocacy work, and clinical outcomes research. During Dr. Pang’s time in Pittsburgh, he has continued to publish and present broadly in the field of plastic surgery. During this last year, he has become an expert in transgender surgery, having been invited to lecture internationally.

Dr. Pang credits his general surgery residency at Einstein for much of his success. He writes, “From patient care, down to my personal quirks & preferences in the operating room, I am often reminded of my roots at Einstein. The training I received made me a well-prepared, fully-trained surgeon ready to enter the next steps of specialty training. There is an undeniable core of dedication and work ethic often attributed to general surgeons, and this was certainly the example set by the attending surgeons I trained under at Einstein. I aim to emulate them in my work, and in my day to day life. Their hands continue to guide and shape my own.”
### Career Paths of our Recent Graduates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Fellowship(s)</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Talitha Brown, MD</td>
<td>Transition to Practice, Wake Forest, NC</td>
<td>General Surgery, Henderson, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>L. Nicholas Cetrulo, MD</td>
<td>MIS, Carolinas Medical Center</td>
<td>MIS/General Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katarzyna Wolanin, MD</td>
<td>General Surgery, North Platte, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Luanne Force, MD</td>
<td>Colorectal Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, FL</td>
<td>Colorectal Surgery, University of Miami, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farah Karipineni, MD</td>
<td>Endocrine Surgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital</td>
<td>Endocrine Surgery, UCSF, Fresno, CA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susan Kartiko, MD</td>
<td>Critical Care, Boston Medical Center</td>
<td>Acute Care Surgery, Baystate Health System, MA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Heidi Miller, MD</td>
<td>MIS, Case Western</td>
<td>University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Pang, MD</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery, Univ. Pittsburgh Transgender Surgery, Mt. Sinai, NY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stephanie Sea, MD</td>
<td>Critical Care, USC</td>
<td>Trauma Surgery, Our Lady of Lake, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Flora Lee, MD</td>
<td>Vascular, Cooper University Hospital</td>
<td>General Surgery, Miami, FL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nadia Awad, MD</td>
<td>Vascular Surgery, Einstein Healthcare Network, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>Shelby Stewart, MD</td>
<td>Thoracic, BI Deaconess/Harvard</td>
<td>Thoracic Surgery, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jason Andre, MD</td>
<td>Vascular, University of Southern Illinois</td>
<td>Vascular Surgery, Bon Secours Hampton Roads Health System, VA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jose Moreno, MD</td>
<td>Colorectal/MIS, Houston Colorectal Surgical Associates</td>
<td>General Surgery, Community Physician Network, Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Matthew Thomas, MD</td>
<td>CT, Allegheny General Hospital</td>
<td>Cardiac Surgery, Main Line Health System, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amanda Woodworth, MD</td>
<td>Breast, University of Southern California</td>
<td>Breast Surgery, Drexel Surgical Associates, Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Allison Tanck, MD</td>
<td>General Surgery, Peoria, Illinois</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Kathryn Wheel, MD</td>
<td>Acute Care Surgery, Wake Forest</td>
<td>General Surgery, Pocono Medical Center, PA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rajeev Puri, MD</td>
<td>General Surgery, Central Maine Medical Center</td>
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<td>Susan Sees, MD</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Jared Liebman, MD</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
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<td>Michael Fishman, MD</td>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>MIS, Hershey Medical Center</td>
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<td>Joseph Stirparo, MD</td>
<td>Trauma/Critical Care</td>
<td>Acute Care Surgery, Lehigh Valley Health Network, PA</td>
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<td>Tejwant Datta, MD</td>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Bariatric Surgery, Southside Surgical Specialties, Petersburg, VA</td>
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<td>Michael Gillespie, MD</td>
<td>Colorectal</td>
<td>Colorectal Surgery, GBMC, Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>Nicholas Jones, MD</td>
<td>Microvascular</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery, Lexington Plastic Surgeons, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Ariel Spencer, MD</td>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>General Surgery, E. Tenn. State Univ., Johnson City, TN</td>
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<td>Nissin Nahmias, MD</td>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Bariatric Surgery, Stamford Health, Stamford, CT</td>
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<td>Joseph Grisafi, MD</td>
<td>Vascular</td>
<td>Vascular Surgery, Artery and Vein Institute, East Norristown, PA</td>
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