



WINTER 2022

Medical school graduates have been balanced between the sexes for the past 20 years but women remain an underrepresented minority in the surgical specialties. While women comprise between 5-21% of attendings in surgical subspecialties, residency demographics suggest an increasing number of women entering these fields. The **WOMEN SURGEONS COMMITTEE (WSC)** has been established to help support women in their careers and mentor the next generation of female surgeons. The UCMC WSC is inclusive of the departments of Surgery, Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology and Orthopedics. This committee will promote women and diversity, recognize their unique role as surgeons and mothers, establish cross-specialty mentorship opportunities, and create a community for backing and promotion.

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## 2021-2022 WSC



### Chair: Dr. Sarah Faris

Dr. Faris is an Associate Professor of Urology specializing in reconstructive urology. She has published on outcomes after urologic surgery, and is also highly dedicated to undergraduate and graduate urological medical education. She is Program Director for the Urology residency at the University of Chicago, and is a member of the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons and the American Urological Association.



### Vice Chair, Newsletter, Website + Social Media: Sara Wallace

Dr. Wallace is an Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, specializing in comprehensive lower extremity joint care. She performs a variety of reconstructive and rehabilitative procedures, including minimally invasive knee and hip replacements. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and is the quality chief for the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

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2021-2022 WSC, CONTINUED

**Past Chair: Jessica Donington**

Dr. Donington is a Professor of Surgery and the Chief of the Section of Thoracic Surgery. She specializes in lung cancer treatment and is the surgical chair for the thoracic malignancy group of NRG Oncology Group. She is the immediate past president of Women in Thoracic Surgery, and in addition to her extensive list of publications focusing on thoracic oncology has also published multiple articles on gender in the field of cardiothoracic surgery.

**Executive Committee:  
Advocacy: Sarah Shubeck +  
Dana Suskind**


Dr. Sarah Shubeck is an Assistant Professor of Surgery specializing in breast surgery. She has published extensively on value in breast cancer surgery, and has also been feature in a New York Times article for her advocacy around improving support for surgeon parents.

Dr. Dana Suskind is a Professor of Surgery specializing in Pediatric Otolaryngology. She is also the Co-Director of the Thirty Million Words Center for Early Learning + Public Health, and a renowned researcher in foundational brain development. She is the author of "Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain", and the recently published "Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential".

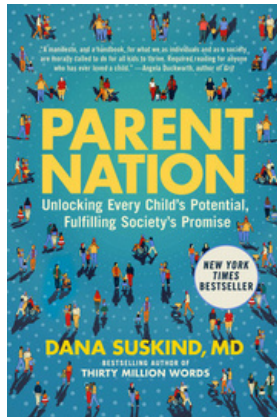
## Faculty Spotlight

**WSC: For many of us at the University of Chicago Medical Center, it's the patients who keep us coming back to work every day. Tell us about your patients.**

DS: Working with patients as a pediatric otolaryngologist and cochlear implant surgeon is the greatest privilege and joy. I choose this career because of my desire to see all children thrive. One of the most rewarding aspects of working with my patients is actually getting to know their parents. In my twenty years of caring for children, I have learned that there are no fiercer advocates for children than their parents. I've seen it, time and time again and it is a beautiful thing to behold. Parents want to give their children what is rightfully theirs, the promise of their promise, even in the face of extreme obstacles.

This incredible dedication is one of the many reasons I've expanded my career outside the operating room to run an applied research center ([TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health](#)) that translates the latest brain science into tools and strategies that parents can use to meet the developmental needs of children — and calls on communities and society as a whole to better support parents in their efforts to do just that!

**WSC: I know that being a mom and a surgeon takes up about 120% of any given day. There are many things that I aspire to do, but haven't quite found a way to make it a reality. What made you decide to write your first book, "Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain"? And how did you find the time in the day?**



DS: I decided to write [Thirty Million Words](#) because I wanted to share widely the incredible science that I had discovered when I started my journey outside of the OR: the science that reveals that every parent, through the power of their words, has the ability to build their children's brains. I wanted all parents, and truly all adults, to recognize this incredible power, not just so that they could wield it themselves, but so society might finally start to treat parents as the important asset that they are.

In terms of how I found the time ... I didn't! At least not alone. Until we start being able to clone ourselves, I've realized that the key to success in almost anything is building partnerships and collaborations. I never would have been able to write books, do research or build programs without the partnership of many, just as no surgeon would be able to operate without the support of an A Team in the OR, and I wouldn't be able to parent without the support of the village around me. I don't want any mother or any parent to think they should have to — or be able to — do it all alone.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



**Dr. Dana Suskind,  
MD – Pediatric  
Otolaryngology**

2021-2022 WSC, CONTINUED



### Professional Development: Kathryn Rowland

Dr. Kathryn Rowland is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Section of Pediatric Surgery, specializing in a wide range of pediatric conditions. She has published extensively on topics including necrotizing enterocolitis, hereditary cancer syndromes, and physiologic responses to small bowel resection.



### Nominations: Marion Henry

Dr. Marion Henry is a Professor of Surgery in the Section of Pediatric Surgery. She is a former Naval Surgeon, dedicated educator, and passionate surgeon advocate. She has been featured at the American College of Surgeons for her advocacy work.



### Research: Allison Ostdiek

Dr. Allison Ostdiek is an Assistant Professor of Surgery and clinical veterinarian for the Department of Surgery. She utilizes her expertise as both a veterinarian and a researcher to provide high level input and support for animal studies in a variety of surgical models.

## Why Surgery?

I came to the University of Chicago in 2005 as a newly-minted physician, eager to embrace the challenges of surgical residency. Looking back 17 years ago, I vividly recall the unprecedented snowfall we had the night before my interview, one so intense it took two hours to dig my car out that morning. Seriously considering whether it was safe to navigate Lake Shore Drive in a blizzard, I nearly missed the interview. At the time it would never have occurred to me how impactful such a decision would be and isn't that always the case, that the chance encounters and events in our life determine our future directions?

While interviewing for general surgery residencies, the question would always be posed, "What do you want to do when you are finished?" I would invariably respond with some version of, "Anything but vascular surgery." The endless cases that always ended in the need to take down and revise the anastomosis, the pulsatile blood shooting all over the operating room, the smell of a septic foot seemed to be the antithesis of what I imagined surgery to be: clean, controlled and predictable. As I progressed through the program, I had the good fortune to rotate on vascular for the first three years of residency. As my experience matured, I came to appreciate the nuance of a perfect vascular anastomosis and the instant gratification of restoring perfusion or excluding an aneurysm. In the end, it was the ability to build long-term relationships with a patient population truly in need that cemented my decision to make this my life's work. Vascular surgeons are unique in being the surgical specialty that never cures their patients but partners with them to manage their chronic disease state. In the process, we form strong bonds with our patients and it is this relationship that frequently determines the long-term outcomes. When you establish trust, outcomes are vastly improved.

So much of vascular surgery is dictated by social determinants of health. The South Side of Chicago is the home of a population that experiences amputations at a rate twenty times the national average. Twenty times. The lack of access to care, low health literacy, food deserts, and the stigma of amputations are all significant barriers to improving these statistics. I began my career at the University of Chicago based on a desire to train at a serious academic institution but it is the patient population that we serve fuels my staying here. The opportunity to live in the community I serve and make impactful changes for my neighbors is by far the most rewarding aspect of my practice.

We as women surgeons are constantly burdened by the question of if we can, "Have it all." The answer to this is absolutely not. What we do takes incredibly sacrifice, both on our part and on the part of our families. I had three children during my residency and every moment of this was a struggle. What I have come to learn, however, is that the harder one works, the greater the reward. My three boys are the absolute joy of my life and the relative lack of quantity of time with them is mitigated by the quality of time I strive to give them. Being a wife, mother, daughter, neighbor, friend, mentor, teacher, surgeon is a tremendous amount of work. But, I would have it no other way.



Dr. Trissa Babrowski, MD  
Vascular Surgery

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2021-2022 WSC, CONTINUED

**Med Student: Mary Qiu**

Dr. Mary Qiu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology specializing in glaucoma management. She has published extensively in the field of glaucoma and ophthalmology, and is an Associate Junior Faculty Scholar with the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence.

**Membership: Kyra Nicholson**

Dr. Kyra Nicholson is a PGY-2R resident in the General Surgery Program. She is currently spending two years working on health services and outcomes research in breast surgery and completing a master's program. She recently completed the MacLean Center's Medical Ethics Fellowship, and currently serves as the co-chair for the Sub-committee on Community Outreach and Engagement for the Department of Surgery's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

# Women in Surgical History

## FIRST FEMALE ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENT GRADUATE + FACULTY

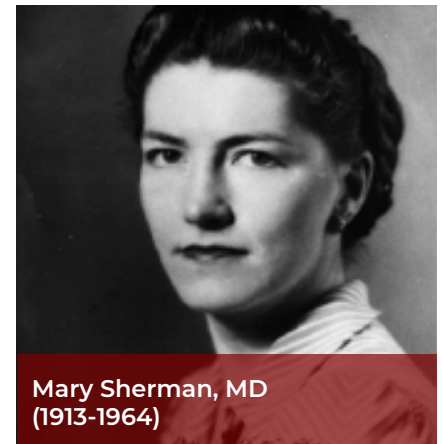
### Mary Sherman, MD

Dr. Mary Sherman was born on April 21, 1913, in Evanston, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1934, followed by a Master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1935. After working as an instructor at the University of Illinois French Institute in Paris, she enrolled in medical school. Graduating as the top student in her class, she earned her medical degree in 1941 from the University of Chicago. She first pursued an internship in pediatrics, but ultimately accepted an offer to join the residency program in orthopaedic surgery at University of Chicago in 1942. During World War II, medical residents were in short supply throughout the country, and, for a time,

Dr. Sherman was the sole resident assisting with orthopaedic care at the University of Chicago. After her residency, Dr. Sherman was promoted to Instructor in 1944 and Assistant Professor in 1947. She became an expert in the field of bone pathology and made seminal contributions to orthopaedic research with her two articles: *The Pathology of Ununited Fractures of the Neck of the Femur* (1947, co-written with Dallas B. Phemister) and *Osteoid Osteoma: Review of the Literature and Report of Thirty Cases* (1947). She later relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana,

becoming the director of bone pathology at the Ochsner Clinic. In 1953, Dr. Sherman became an associate professor at Tulane Medical School, and was internationally known for her treatment of and research on bone cancer. Dr. Sherman was the first woman to be elected to the American Orthopaedic Association, in 1954, and she was also the first female ABOS oral examiner. She was found dead on July 21, 1964, and her murder still remains unsolved. Dr. Sherman did not only achieve a remarkable career in medicine, she also demonstrated a lifelong dedication to learning, intellectual curiosity, and mentorship.

*Historical information provided by Dr. Michael Simon*



Mary Sherman, MD  
(1913-1964)

## SECOND FEMALE ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENT GRADUATE AT UCHICAGO

### Leslie P. Dean, MD

Dr. Leslie Dean graduated from Bates College with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry. She then worked as a forensic scientist/chemist/micro analyst at the Highland Park Crime Laboratory for 4 years before attending medical

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## WOMEN IN SURGICAL HISTORY, CONTINUED

school at the University of Chicago. Her internship and orthopaedic surgical residency were also completed at the University of Chicago followed by a 1 year Hand Surgery Fellowship at the Hand Center of San Antonio under the mentorship of Dr. David P. Green. Her first 4 years of private practice were in Atlanta, GA. Then, she moved to Anchorage, Alaska where she practiced for over 20 years at Anchorage Fracture and Orthopedic Clinic. When she moved to Alaska, she was one of only 2 full time hand surgeons in private practice and the only hand surgeon highly interested in hand trauma which led to performing the first toe to finger transplant in the state after an individual lost 4 fingers due to a hunting accident.

### What aspects of UChicago's program caught your eye?

I was very familiar with the University of Chicago Orthopaedic Section (at that time we were a section of the Surgery Department) having been on several rotations while being a medical student on campus. I felt that a small section, only 2 residents per year, would provide me with the best educational experience. We worked in small teams (one attending, one senior resident, one junior resident with no fellows except on the Orthopaedic Oncology service) so there were tremendous opportunities for one-on-one teaching, and we were given significant responsibilities. The south side of Chicago provided a diverse patient population while the University and Hyde Park provided an enriching cultural, academic, and social environment.

### What was one highlight of your residency training?

A highlight of residency was having a 6 month rotation as the only resident on the hand service working with Dr. Daniel Mass. This is when I discovered the joy of hand surgery and how much it fit my practice goals and talents. I was able to treat infants through the aged, see a wide variety of medical problems (repetitive use, trauma, inflammatory/autoimmune, arthritis), perform varied surgical procedures (fracture fixation to micro surgery) and was fascinated with the intricacy of hand mechanics/function.

### What advice do you have for the next generation of providers that are interested in orthopaedic surgery?

Orthopaedic Surgery is a wonderful avocation. We truly change and improve people's lives. It is a responsibility and privilege that we should not take lightly. We need to constantly strive for excellence, continue to learn and improve our knowledge base and skill set, always remain humble, and remember to listen to our patients while treating them with kindness and respect.

### Did you have any hesitancy applying to orthopaedics at a time when there was low female representation?

I grew up in "the dark ages". During recess in elementary school I played softball or soccer with the boys; I was the only girl in junior and senior high bands (pep/marching/concert) that played a brass instrument; I was the only woman Chemistry major in my college graduation class; I was the only woman forensic scientist at the lab where I worked. Being the only woman resident was just a normal progression in my career and not a novelty for me.



Additionally, Dr. Mary Sherman had graduated many years prior so I was not "the first" which in and of itself may add layers of responsibilities and pressure. I always felt that I had the encouragement and support of the faculty, especially Dr. Michael Simon, my chairman, as well as my fellow co-residents. Therefore, being the sole woman resident was never a limitation but a wonderful opportunity and adventure. I learned how to deal with the gender stereotypes and expectations. This came from some fellow doctors in other departments, some female nurses, and some patients. This never held me back, and I even came to view the title "lady doctor" from patients as a term of endearment.

# Recent Graduate Spotlight



**Sarah (Mimi) Gaines,  
General Surgery**

During her time at the University of Chicago, Dr. Gaines spent three years in the Alverdy lab conducting research on colorectal cancer and the microbiome. She has published multiple papers in the fields of colorectal, vascular, and breast surgery, and was awarded prestigious NIH T32 and F32 grants during her research time. Outside of the hospital she enjoys spending time with her husband and son, and will be staying in Chicago as a Vascular surgery fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital next year.



**Bailey Su,  
General Surgery**

As a former division 1 lacrosse champion, it was only natural that Dr. Su apply her leadership, organization, and teamwork skills to the job of being one of the general surgery administrative chiefs. In addition to leading the residency during her chief year, Dr. Su has published multiple papers on foregut and anti-reflux surgery, and wrote the seminal expert consensus on the use of a novel technology, Endoflip, in minimally invasive foregut surgery. Dr. Su is also mom to daughters Zoe and Avery, and enjoys spending time with them and her husband outside of work. She will be heading to Duke next year to continue her training as a Cardiothoracic Surgery fellow.



**Ashley Williamson,  
General Surgery**

Over her seven-year general surgery residency at the University of Chicago, Dr. Williamson not only served as one of the general surgery administrative chiefs, but was also recognized for her basic science research, teaching, and leadership. She recently published a first-author manuscript in Neoplasia from her work in the Alverdy lab, presented as an ACS podium speaker, and was recognized by medical students for her teaching with the Gold Humanism award. When not busy traveling the world with her wife (fellow surgeon & U of C otolaryngology alum Dr. Aimee Kennedy), she is spending time with their two French bull dogs and making plans to buy her first plane. Dr. Williamson will be moving north this summer to begin her fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the University of Wisconsin.



**Vanessa Buie,  
General Surgery**

Dr. Buie not only completed her residency in general surgery during her time at the University of Chicago, but also earned a MBA through the Booth School of Business, concentrating in Managerial and Organizational Behavior and Operations Management. She was an invited participant at the 2018 IHI National Forum CEO's summit and a Choosing Wisely competition winner for her "MD/APP in room" button which is currently in use throughout the UCMC hospital campus. She is an advocate for provider wellness, and enjoys DIY-ing and spending time with close friends. After graduation she will spend a year as an attending physician in the section of General Surgery at UCMC after which she plans to complete a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

## RECENT GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED



**Dara Adams,  
ENT**

Dr. Adams was active in scholarship during her time in the otolaryngology program, conducting research in telemedicine within rhinology and olfactory dysfunction. She was awarded numerous resident scholarship awards, and was an early leader in describing safe tracheotomy for COVID-19 patients during the pandemic with her publication "A surgical safety checklist for performing tracheotomy in patients with Coronavirus Disease 19". When not busy with clinical care or research she can be found enjoying the Chicago outdoors with her two daughters (Claire & Josie) and husband! She will be heading to Mass Eye and Ear next year to complete a fellowship in Rhinology and endoscopic skull base surgery.



**Farida Hakim,  
Ophtho**

Dr. Hakim was inspired to enter the field of ophthalmology by her mother, who is also an ophthalmologist, and it has been a pleasure to follow in her footsteps. In medical school she investigated novel therapeutics for toxoplasmosis and also developed an interest in medical education and medical education research. She has continued to pursue this in residency, working to develop a wet lab curriculum for cataract surgery and participation in the MERITS program at UChicago. Outside of ophthalmology, Dr. Hakim and her husband enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors, cooking and baking and exploring the cultural and culinary offerings of Chicago. After residency, she will be returning to Pennsylvania for Cornea and Refractive Surgery fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh.



**Saira Khanna,  
Ophtho**

Dr. Khanna is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. During her time at the University of Chicago she studied laser prophylaxis for retinal detachment in patients with Stickler syndrome and the role of metformin in wet age-related macular degeneration. She described a novel surgical technique in her 2022 abstract on the use of goniotomy in combination with non-valved glaucoma tube shunts. During her residency she was also recognized for her outstanding in-service exam performance and excellence in extraocular surgery. After graduation Dr. Khanna will be moving to St. Louis to begin a fellowship in Vitreoretinal surgery at the Retina Institute!



**Zhuangjun (June)  
Si, Ophtho**

Dr. Si is a graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Buffalo Jacobs School of Medical & Biological Sciences. During residency she published papers on a unique case of inflammatory response in a patient on Miltefosine for Acanthamoeba Keratitis and the use of a novel technique for early post-operative intraocular pressure control. After graduation she will be heading to Duke to complete a Glaucoma fellowship.



RECENT GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED



**Lydia Williams, Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery**



**Kiera Kingston, Orthopedic Surgery**

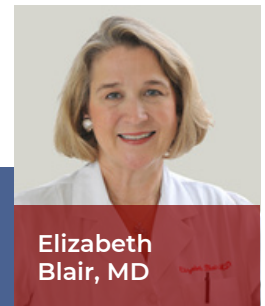
Dr. Williams is one of the chief residents in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. After graduation, she will be completing a fellowship in Pediatric Plastic and Craniofacial Surgery at Children’s National Hospital in D. C. Dr. Williams’s first exposure to surgery was with cleft lip and palate kids, which ultimately drove her interest in pursuing plastic surgery as a career. She is looking forward to working with a world class cleft team at Children’s National, and bringing her training full circle! To her, these surgeries are the epitome of restoring form in order to restore function-- a mantra of the PRS world -- and she finds them particularly fulfilling for the lifelong relationships that are built with patients and their families. In addition, Dr. Williams is a talented oil painter, and looks forward to continuing to develop her art as well as pursue some of her other passions including volunteer work and spending time outdoors!

Dr. Kingston was drawn to the University of Chicago due to the culture of the residency program and the anticipated Trauma Center. She felt that the high-volume trauma experience would build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that would help her succeed as an attending in the future. During her time at UCMC she published on outcomes in shoulder surgery. After graduation she plans to complete fellowships in both Sports Medicine and in Foot and Ankle Surgery, setting herself up to become an expert in lower extremity sports care and fill a unique niche in orthopedics!

# WSC 2022 Awards



This year’s Mary Harris Thompson awardee was Dr. Elizabeth Blair from the section of otolaryngology. In her nomination form the following was said about Dr. Blair:



**Elizabeth Blair, MD**



## MARY HARRIS THOMPSON AWARD

Mary Harris Thompson was one of the first women to

practice medicine in Chicago. She was a surgeon, the first female officer in the Chicago Medical Society, a Section Chair for the American Medical Association, and the founder of The Chicago Hospital for Women and Children. She is the best faculty we have in Orthopaedics. She is the current president of the Hand Society and has maintained tremendous amounts of clinical and academic responsibility while also being an incredible mentor to residents. She is an incredible person and should be recognized for all of her incredible achievements while also being an incredible person.

“Dr. Blair is highly accomplished and has always been a trailblazer. At the time of Dr. Blair’s residency training, she represented one of a small handful (<10) of female ENT surgeons. She went on to complete a prestigious head and neck fellowship at MD Anderson. Dr. Blair served in the army early in her career as a physician. She received 2 army achievement medals, 1 army commendation medal, and 1 meritorious service medal. Throughout her career, she has received several awards for distinguished hospital service. She has also been listed to the Top Doctors list by Chicago Magazine for 9 years in a row. On top of this, she has published extensively on head and neck oncology topics, notably on de-escalation protocols for head and neck cancer. She is an incredibly skilled surgeon. She regularly and successfully performs procedures from different subspecialties within ENT. Her dedication to her patients is unparalleled. Subsequently, her patients are devoted to her and have been known to drive for hours or fly in for their appointments. On a personal level, Dr. Blair cares deeply about her role as an educator and mentor for our residency program. She is often the driving force behind hands-on educational events for the residents.”

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WSC 2022 AWARDS, CONTINUED

# Photo Highlights



Under the leadership of ophthalmology attending Dr. Sarah Hilkert-Rodriguez this all-women eye team is keeping our eyes sharp! From left to right: Gelele Henderson (surgical tech), Julia McLaughlin (CRNA), Dr. Lindsay Chun (Ophtho PGY-3), Dr. Hilkert-Rodriguez, and Merle Simon (RN).



Dr. Ashley Suah (general surgery graduate, current 2nd year transplant fellow at Emory University) takes Dr. Kayla Polcari (General Surgery, PGY-2R) through a trauma laparotomy.



Breast Surgery fellow Dr. Anna Chichura (2nd from left) was awarded the "Outstanding Scientific Presentation" award at the ABS this year. Featured here with mentors Dr. Kathy Yao, Dr. Catherine Pesce, and Dr. Katherine Kopkash

She is the best faculty we have in Orthopaedics. She is the current president of the Hand Society and has maintained tremendous amounts of clinical and academic responsibility while also being an incredible mentor to residents. She is an incredible person and should be recognized for all of her incredible achievements while also being an incredible person.

## WSC HONOR ROLL

Dr. The following faculty & residents were nominated by fellows, residents, and medical students as being outstanding role models in their fields.

### Dimitra Skondra

Dr. Skondra is a full-time retinal surgeon and researcher investigating how diet and the microbiome affects retinal health. While maintaining a very busy clinical and surgical practice, she still takes the time to mentor many residents and fellows with award winning research projects. Dr. Skondra is an amazingly caring doctor and mentor for her patients and trainees.

### Jennifer Wolf

She is the best faculty we have in Orthopaedics. She is the current president of the Hand Society and has maintained tremendous amounts of clinical and academic responsibility while also being an incredible mentor to residents. She is an incredible person and should be recognized for all of her incredible achievements while also being an incredible person.

### Priya Prakash

Dr. Prakash has always been supportive and encouraging relating to work and life. She clearly cares about trainees and wants us to do well. She is also an incredible advocate for her patients which is admirable and sets a precedent for others to follow.

### Ashley Williamson

Dr. Williamson was a role model to me on my first general surgery rotation (vascular). She empowered me as an intern and integrated myself and everyone into the team flawlessly. She always knew what was happening with the patients no matter how busy the service was and gave me the confidence to grow as a young physician.

### Mary Qiu

She has gone above and beyond trying to maximize surgical opportunities for her trainees, both residents and medical students. So much of how she structures her OR and schedule is centered around trying to give us the best possible experience. She is an outstanding surgeon who is pioneering a lot of innovative techniques in the field of surgical glaucoma.

### Kelly Hynes

Dr. Hynes is a great teacher both clinically and operatively. She is a thoughtful surgeon and technically skilled. Within our department she is a leader and has been part of several QI projects, including piloting our hip fracture pathway. She is committed to education and learning, and currently is completing her masters in informatics. She is also academically productive, I published two manuscripts with her this past year. Dr. Hynes is a favorite amongst the residents and was a finalist for top teaching faculty member this year.



## WSC HONOR ROLL, CONTINUED

**Elizabeth Blair**

Dr. Blair is a leader at this institution and in the field of ENT. She's paved the road for many women in our field and did so through significant adversity. She's caring and is always looking out for the well-being of her residents. She's also a champion in supporting women's rights especially in healthcare.

**Nirali Patel**

Nirali is an exemplary resident. Often takes on both chief level tasks such as staffing consults and emergency airways as well as intern tasks such as updating lists in order to allow junior residents teaching/OR time. She is kind, selfless, dedicated, and surgically very gifted. Excellent female role model!

**Dr. Jen Cone**

Dr. Cone plays a vital role in the development of General Surgery Residents and is a leader and supporter especially of our female residents. As an APD, she runs the intern surgical bootcamp and has enhanced the program tremendously since I was an intern. She also serves as an academic advisor and is one of the most active mentors I've ever had - always making me feel comfortable and supporting through rough times. She provides guidance as a surgeon mom and I always find her advice empowering. Moreover, she is an excellent teacher and treats everyone with respect even when mistakes are made. I know many of us hope to embody Dr. Cone as an attending in our future.

**Nora Jaskowiak**

Dr. Jaskowiak is an excellent teacher to medical students, residents and fellows. She makes a point of teaching about the history of breast cancer, breast cancer surgical clinical trials, or various topics relating to the surgical management of the breast in every case. She involves students and lower level residents in suturing during every case they are present in, regardless of how long the process might take. She is extremely patient with trainees.

**Lucia Madariaga**

Dr. Madariaga is the epitome of an academic surgeon. She is an excellent educator, engaged in research and a phenomenal doctor and surgeon. She always maintains a positive attitude and is always available to lend a helping hand.

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED



From left to right we have Alanna Stachler (RN), Dr. Jessica Donington (thoracic attending), Dr. Andrea Liu (general surgery, PGY-3), Dr. Bailey Su (general surgery graduate, current cardiothoracic surgery fellow at Duke University), Dr. Candace Cuppini (Anesthesia, CA-3), and Rowe Aquino (RN) running this all-female thoracic surgery OR!

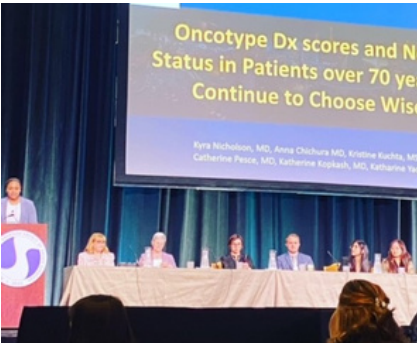


U of C female surgery faculty seen at the Society of Surgical Chairs Women's Committee leadership reception: (from L to R) Dr. Sarah Shubeck (breast surgery), Dr. Sarah Faris (urology), Dr. Patricia Turner (Minimally Invasive Surgery & current executive director of the American College of Surgeons), Dr. Jessica Donington (thoracic surgery), Dr. Bethany Slater (pediatric surgery), and Dr. Marion Henry (pediatric surgery).

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED



Dr. Vanessa Collins (general surgery, PGY-2R) and Dr. Julia Amundson (general surgery, PGY-3R) present their minimally invasive surgery research at this year's SAGES conference



Dr. Kyra Nicholson (general surgery, PGY-2R) presents her research on breast cancer at the ABS meeting this past year.



Dr. Sara Wallace (orthopedic surgery) knocks out a knee replacement with the help of Meghan Day (PA-C) and Margie Ferreira (RN)!

## Honors + Awards

### Rachael Sundland, Pediatric Surgery (Research Fellow)

- \$5,000 grant for ongoing research with allotted time for presentation at the 33rd Annual International ELSO Conference from Extracorporeal Life Support Organization, December 2021

### Jessica Kandel, Pediatric Surgery

- President, American Pediatric Surgical Association by APSA, May 2022

### Jennifer Wolf, Orthopaedic Surgery

- Grant for collaborative network studying gunshot violence with global partnership by International Institute of Research in Paris, May 2022
- President-Elect, ascending to President in fall 2022 by American Society for Surgery of the Hand, October 2021

### Sarah Faris, Urology

- Best Reviewer Award by Journal of Urology in May 2022
- Distinguished Leader in Diversity and Inclusion Award by UCM, May 2022
- Grant for \$250,413 investigator sponsored research program grant as PI studying the role of antibiotics after penile prosthesis by Boston Scientific, 2021

### Summer Hanson, PRS

- Young Clinical Investigator Award by Breast Cancer Research Foundation, May 2022
- Academic Scholar Award from American Association of Plastic Surgeons, 2021-2022

### Kerith Luchins, Surgery (Animal Resources Center)

- Promoted to Associate Professor by U of C BSD, April 2022

### Emma Dwyer, Orthopaedic Surgery

- RJOs Jacquelin Perry, MD, Resident Research Grant/ Awarded \$2,800 by Ruth Jackson Orthopedic Society, February 2022

### Brandyn Castro, Neurosurgery Resident

- Research Grant: \$50K; Translational Bridge Research Fellowship \$75K; Ronald L Bittner Award on Brain Tumor Research from NREF; Northwestern University; AANS, 2020-2022

### Betty Theriault, Surgery (Animal Resources Center)

- Awarded Pravin N. Bhatt Scientific Investigator Award and invited to present Wallace P. Rowe Lecture by American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS), June 2021