

CARDIOTHORACIC
 GENERAL
 MINIMAL INVASIVE
 PEDIATRIC HEART
 PEDIATRIC
 PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE
 SURGICAL ONCOLOGY
 THORACIC
 TRANSPLANT
 TRAUMA & CRITICAL CARE
 VASCULAR



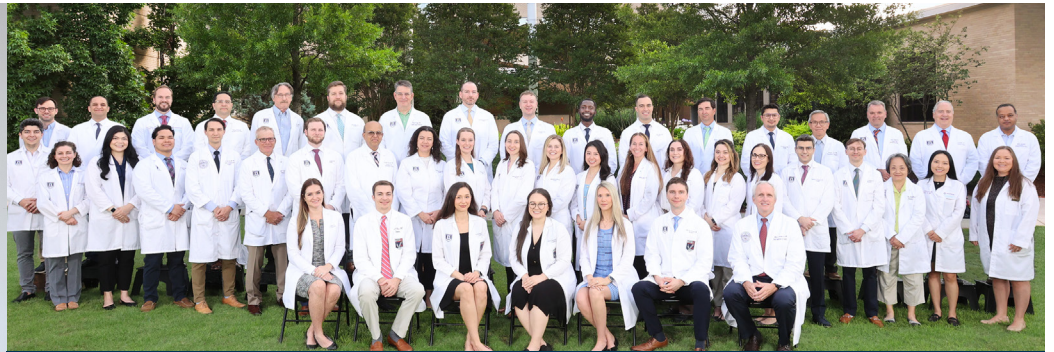
THE STITCH

The Newsletter of the
 Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
 MEDICAL COLLEGE
 OF GEORGIA

April 2026



Chatter with the Chair

WE ARE BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Inspiration

Being a surgeon is one of the greatest callings we can enjoy. The impact of our work on the lives of our patients is immeasurable! All of us feel that extra joy of professional satisfaction when we see the results of our clinical work and the gratitude of the patient. Likewise, we can exponentially grow our impact in the teaching of our craft and training the next generation of surgeons. We had a fantastic Match class in March, and we also secured our first trainee for the new integrated vascular residency program that will start in July. We exercise our talents and impute that same sense of commitment on those students and residents who join our journey. Now, let's pause for a moment and reflect on charge we have to care for our patients, inspire our learners, and build on the integrity of professionalism!

Celebrating Achievements

April has been filled with scholarly achievements and civic contributions. Our cardio-thoracic team has led the effort in raising money and awareness for the local

Heart Walk. Drs. Lee and Miller each took "a pie in the face" for the cause – thank you! Our surgical education team has gained extra visibility in the many presentations at Surgical Education Week that is being held in our own backyard – Atlanta. Our vascular team has traveled outside the state to show our intensive clinical review about amputation after lytic treatment at the Florida vascular society meeting. Our oncology team recently won a research award from the Latino Surgical Society in Chicago.

Closing Reflection

Clinical research and presentation of our work is often highlighted in this newsletter and has become a focus of our educational process. We recognize that only a few of our graduates will eventually land in a research environment. The often traveled clinical path further encourages me to teach the concepts of "research" that are then translated to lifelong learning. Our surgical discipline is centered around the concept of continuous gathering of information and learning new concepts. The continued motivation to seek better treatment and develop a deeper understanding of human

health can provide a better foundation for the care we deliver to our patients. Not only do we train our students and residents in the art and science of surgery, we instill the desire for continued learning long after the formal process is completed.

'Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire.'

–W.B. Yeats

William D Jordan, Jr., MD
 Professor and Chair,
 Department of Surgery
 Medical College of Georgia
 Surgeon in Chief



AFFILIATED WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

CONGRATULATIONS



The Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia is proud to announce ACGME accreditation of our new Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Program.

This program offers comprehensive training in open and endovascular surgery within a collaborative academic medical center committed to surgical excellence, education, and innovation.

The incoming Integrated Vascular Surgery Resident is **Santh Lanka, MBBS**. He completed medical school at Rangaraya Medical College, in Suryaraopeta, India, Prelim 1 position at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL, and is currently in Prelim 2 position at the Zucker School of Medicine in Staten Islan, NY.



■ We completed our first trans-carotid TAVR successfully on April 14 with **Dr. Lee, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Arora** at Wellstar MCG. This was the first one in the CSRA and our 474th TAVR. We also surpassed 100 MitraClip implantations.



2026 Surgical Symposium April 24-26

■ Recipient of the LSS 2026 Research Award: **Christopher Vakkur** - Med student Class of 2027 - Primary Author, and **Dr. Yakoub** is the co-author of *Prognostic Impact of KRAS Mutation with Completeness of Cytoreduction in Patients Undergoing Cytoreductive Surgery and Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy*.

THANK YOU



■ Two of our CT surgeons, **Dr. Richard Lee** and **Dr. Daniel Miller**, generously partnered with perioperative services in support of the American Heart Association by agreeing to take a pie to the face. Alongside **Dr. Herekar** from our anesthesia team, their enthusiasm and willingness to engage helped raise \$875 toward our perioperative team's total of approximately \$3,900. Across the Wellstar MCG system, a remarkable \$23,292.10 has been raised in support of the Heart Walk. We are incredibly grateful for the collaboration, spirit, and commitment to such an important cause.

For info or to donate to the CSRA Heart Walk, visit: https://www2.heart.org/site/TR/?fr_id=12627&pg=entry



■ **Dr. Hatley** stays active at the Campus Recreation Center, where he has been a member since 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

- Revere AS, Zhan-Moodie SM, Ruiz TL, Sharma S, Ange B, Yu JC. **A Retrospective Study of Factors Affecting Preoperative BMI in Patients Undergoing Reduction Mammoplasty.** *The American Journal of Cosmetic Surgery.* 2026;0(0). doi:10.1177/07488068261431487
- Graf A, Hammond E, Holmes K, Holsten S, Lee A, Simmerman Mabes E. **Training Beyond City Limits: a Descriptive Case-Log Analysis of a Rural Surgery Initiative in General Surgery Residency Training.** *Global Surg Educ* 5, 107 (2026). doi.org/10.1007/s44186-026-00511-9
- Camillo C, Moroi M, Kosuri Y, Campbell A, Adamo A, Patel K, Karcher C, Bauer S, Albino D, Bektik E, Peng T, Pei L, Chan C, Fung K, Sekulic M, Nandakumar R, Faridmoayer E, Kho C, Bernante B, Romanov A, Tamimi M, Grau J, Takeda K, Ferrari G. **Ex Vivo Hypothermic Perfusion Enables 48-Hour Heart Preservation and Bench-Top Functional Recovery via Normothermic Reperfusion in a Porcine Model.** *Journal of the American Heart Association.* 2026. doi:10.1161/JAHA.125.045800

PRESENTATIONS

Surgical Education Week this April in Atlanta, GA

- Moore G, et.al *Evaluating Narrative Feedback of Entrustable Professional Activities in General Surgery: A Mixed-Methods Approach.*
- Ivan N, et al. *Closing the Loop: Sustained Gains in Communication and Confidence through a Multidisciplinary Trauma Simulation Curriculum.*
- Aldaher Z, et. al *Bringing the Trauma Bay to the Backroads: Implementing a Portable Simulation Curriculum for Rural Hospitals – The Pilot Year.*
- Sturdevant M, Howerton S, Aldaher Z, et. al *From Pilot to Practice: Expanding a Structured Informed Consent Curriculum for General Surgery Interns.*
- Domingue N, et. al *Capturing Chaos with Clarity: Validation of a Trauma Video Review Tool to Enhance Team Performance and Training.*
- Aldan R, et. al *Simulation Meets Surgery: Implementing a LCBDE Simulation Curriculum for Rural Surgery Preparedness.*


Florida Vascular Society

- Aldaher Z, DO, *Socioeconomic Risks in Patients with Major Amputation Following Catheter Directed Thrombolysis for Acute Limb Ischemia: A Ten-Year Single Institution*
<https://fvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Zackery-Aldaher-Submit-Aldaher-Fvs-2026-Presentation.pdf>

MCG's Research Day: April 24th, 2026

- Yellamraju, S, Jubin M, Dinsmore RC, *Labiaplasty: Avoiding Pitfalls and Optimizing Outcomes*, Poster presentation

Save the Dates!

Graduation 
Friday, June 26

SOCIAL MEDIA
   @mcgsurgery

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2026 GS-ACS Annual Meeting & Obesity Day
georgiaacs.org/annualmeeting
August 28 – 30, 2026

ACS

RITZ-CARLTON AMELIA ISLAND
4750 AMELIA ISLAND PKWY
AMELIA ISLAND, FL 32034



2026 Georgia Society of the ACS Annual Meeting Aug 28-30, Amelia Island
Submit your abstract **ONLINE** by June 19, 2026 at 11:45 pm ET.

knowledgeconnex.secure-platform.com/a/page/GSACS2026