

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



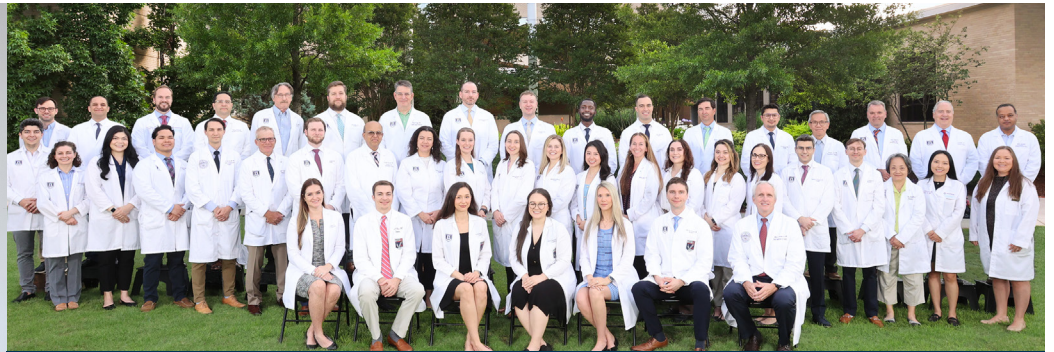
THE STITCH

The Newsletter of the
Department of Surgery



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA

May 2026



Chatter with the Chair

BRINGING TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING TO OUR CURRENT PROGRAM

Inspiration

Perhaps the only thing that does not change is change itself. As medicine evolves, so must our training programs. This month, we welcomed a new addition to our operating suite: the single port robotic system, expanding our ability to offer advanced, minimally invasive treatment options. Our Otolaryngology colleagues were among the first to use this technology, successfully removing a challenging pharyngeal tumor—an extraordinary achievement for both patient care and surgical innovation.

To support this progress, we continue to enhance our simulation based curriculum. Our simulation lab now serves as a dedicated environment where students and residents can safely practice new techniques, refine their skills, and even develop novel approaches before ever entering the clinical arena. This investment ensures that our trainees are prepared for the rapidly advancing landscape of modern surgery.

Celebrating Achievements

Our residents continue to demonstrate remarkable commitment to mastering advanced surgical skills. We are proud to announce that three of our fourth year residents have matched into competitive fellowships beginning in 2027—thoracic

surgery, vascular surgery, and plastic surgery. Their success reflects both their dedication and our department's commitment to fostering excellence.

Last month, our faculty and residents represented us with distinction at Surgical Education Week in Atlanta.

■ Dr. Erika Mabes and Dr. Gabi Moore were recognized for their outstanding presentations and contributions.

■ Dr. Mabes continues to lead several initiatives within the Association for Surgical Education. She received a competitive CESERT Pyramid grant for her RITS program in the state.

■ Dr. Moore was awarded a collaborative grant on educational milestones—an impressive accomplishment that highlights the strength of our educational mission.

Closing Reflection

Innovation and learning are part of our training paradigm. As we celebrate some of these accomplishments, we strive to teach the principles of surgical care.

Our discipline thrives on curiosity—the drive to gather information, question assumptions, and seek better solutions for our patients. By teaching the innovation in care, we aim to cultivate lifelong learners who remain engaged, adaptable, and committed to advancing surgical care long

after residency. The collective team remain committed to those goals and the extending MCG community help remind us of the lasting impact that we have as the process continues. Thank you all for your contributions and support.

Living Our Values

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." —Alvin Toffler

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



Anthony G. Campbell
Vascular Surgery
Fellowship
University of Mississippi



Ankit Dhiman
Thoracic Surgery
Fellowship
Mayo Clinic



Imad Radi
Plastic Surgery
Fellowship
Emory University
Atlanta



REGION'S FIRST PROCEDURE USING DA VINCI SINGLE PORT ROBOTIC SYSTEM

The milestone case marks a new era of advanced surgical care, bringing innovative technology, less invasive procedures and faster recovery options to patients across the CSRA. Thank you to **Andrea Putzier, Tim Minton, Dr. Aaron Bolduc, Jason Turner**, our surgical services team, our CFO, **Ceci Turner**, and COO, **Juan Guzman**, for helping make this vision a reality. This feat required the collaboration of many on the robotic team and help from the adrenal center. Kudos!

ROBOTIC IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Our entire training system has many avenues to advance new technology including simulators that are used for practice. Our residents (and even attendings) can learn new procedures and sharpen their skills on the simulator before entering the operating theater to perform said procedure for a patient.



Natalie Dominigue



Mikenzie Sturdevant

CONGRATULATIONS

2026 ASE/APDS COLLABORATIVE GRANT WINNER

■ **Dr. Gabrielle Moore** received the award for her project, *Associations between ACGME Milestones and General Surgery Examination Performance*

Primary Investigators: Gabrielle Moore, MD, Brigitte Smith, MD, MHPE, FACS, FSVS

Project Team: Alan Schwartz, PhD, JD, Sean Hogan, PhD, Libby Weaver, MD, MHPE, Yoon Soo Park, PhD, Ting Sun, PhD

THE DEBRA DAROSA SCHOLAR

■ **Dr. Erika Simmerman Mabes** was awarded The Debra DaRosa Scholar, a prestigious honor recognizing an Association for Surgical Education member dedicated to advancing their career as a surgical educator through the pursuit of new knowledge and skills.

The Debra DaRosa scholar supports this long-term goal of building a sustainable, reproducible model for surgical education that extends beyond academic medical centers and meaningfully address educational inequities in under-resourced settings. Dr. Mabes has continued this simulation program and gaining media attention as she carries it around the state.




■ **Dr. Erika Simmerman Mabes** was awarded one of the CESERT Pyramid Grants by the Association for Surgical Education for her project, *Sustaining and Scaling a Statewide Interactive Trauma Simulation Outreach Program*.

PUBLICATIONS

■ Campbell A, Adamo A, Bektik E, Kosuri Y, Karcher C, Levine D, Ramakrishnan R, Grau J, Levy R, Ferrari G, **Inhibition of the Serotonin Transporter and Risk of Heart Valve Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**, *European Journal of Pharmacology Impact Factor of 4.7 (JVS is ~3.6)*

▲ walb.com/2026/05/20/saving-lives-small-town-ers-phoebe-hosts-hands-on-simulations-trauma-responders/

Save the Dates!

Graduation 
Friday, June 26

SOCIAL MEDIA
 @mcgsurgery

Follow Us!



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