FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Pediatric Surgeon Mary Fallat, M.D.
Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary E. Fallat, M.D., the Hirikati S. Nagaraj Professor and Chief of Pediatric Surgery, received the Pediatric Trauma Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award during the 6th annual meeting of the Pediatric Trauma Society Nov. 13-16 in San Diego. She was the fourth recipient of this award.

This year, she also received the 2019 Surgeon’s Award for Service to Safety from the National Safety Council & Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.

A highly respected pediatric surgeon, Dr. Fallat serves as Surgeon-in-Chief of Norton Children’s Hospital, Professor of Surgery and Division Chief of Pediatric Surgery, and past Program Director of the ACGME-accredited Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at the University of Louisville. This year, she also was the Chair of the Surgical Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a compassionate surgeon who has made significant contributions in her field.

“Dr. Fallat’s protean interests and service that she has provided across disciplines for so many years (surgery, trauma, emergency medicine, pediatrics, emergency medical services, ethics) positions her to understand the discipline of surgery from the viewpoints of education, clinical work, administration and collaborative service,” said Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Surgery. “Dr. Fallat achieves excellence in everything she touches. She is thoughtful and deliberate, available, cordial and open. She is the consummate role model for students and trainees.”

Dr. Fallat joined the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Professor in 1987 and became Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and the Surgeon-in-Chief at Norton (formerly Kosair) Children’s Hospital in 2002. She decided to pursue a career in medicine after working in the housekeeping department at Auburn Memorial Hospital in her hometown of Auburn, NY while in high school.

“I met so many interesting patients, and it was because of this job that I turned my back on being a math teacher and decided to become a surgeon,” Dr. Fallat recalled.

Dr. Frank Oski, a pediatric hematologist who wrote the seminal textbook on this topic, swayed her to consider pediatrics. She chose to become a pediatric surgeon when she did an acting internship in Pediatric Surgery as the first rotation of her fourth year of medical school.

“I was immediately sold on both surgery and taking care of children,” Dr. Fallat said.

She said her approach to care is grounded in the concept of patient- and family-centered care.

“I try my best to round with other members of the treatment team when possible, including the child’s nurse or other doctors, so that everyone understands and agrees with the treatment plan, and the family does not receive mixed messages,” Dr. Fallat said. “Philosophically, I like to think that I treat every patient in the same compassionate way that I would want myself or a member of my family to be treated.”

Dr. Fallat’s favorite parts of her job are making rounds on her patients and watching them recover and teaching fellows, residents and students.

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Welcome
letter from Dr. McMasters

Welcome to the 2019 issue of Sutureline, a newsletter about the Hiram C. Polk, Jr., M.D., Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville.

This year, we created a new Division of Immunotherapy, made possible by donations to the Owen’s Wish Fund, and we announced plans to offer a fellowship in Vascular Surgery. We also recruited three dynamic new faculty members, two of whom are former residents. Details about all of these exciting developments are in this issue.

Also in this issue, we pay tribute to former employee John Edward McKiernan, Jr., who passed away in March, continue our faculty and staff feature that we launched in 2017, boast about numerous faculty and staff accomplishments, and much more.

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Department of Surgery this year. We truly appreciate your loyalty. We need your support more than ever this year to continue our missions in surgical education, patient care and research so the tradition of excellence of the Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville, which dates back to 1837, can continue.

If you have not already given or have the capacity to do more, please consider making a gift to the Department of Surgery this holiday season.

Warmest wishes for the holidays and the year ahead,

Kelly M. McMasters, M.D., Ph.D.
Ben A. Reid, Sr., M.D., Professor and Chairman
Hiram C. Polk, Jr., M.D., Department of Surgery
University of Louisville School of Medicine

Department of Surgery to Offer Vascular Surgery Fellowship

Earlier this year, the Division of Vascular Surgery announced that it will offer an ACGME-accredited fellowship in Vascular Surgery in the very near future. The Vascular Fellowship will be a two-year program that will provide fellows with diverse training involving trauma, venous disorders, dialysis access issues, peripheral vascular disease and arterial pathology both elective and emergent.

“We offer an exceptional clinical experience with a huge volume of very diverse patients with vascular problems,” said Amit J. Dwivedi, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapeutics.

Fellows will receive clinical training through six-month rotations at Norton Hospital and three months at both Veteran’s Affairs Hospital and UofL Hospital each year.

In addition to working closely with faculty on complex procedures, the fellows will provide post-operative care for patients with the assistance of junior residents on service at each hospital.

“The diverse clinical interests and expertise of the faculty members allows the fellow to gain surgical experience in all aspects of vascular surgery,” Dr. Dwivedi said.

The fellows will also participate with the faculty in clinical and translational research projects related to vascular pathology.

To learn more, visit louisvillesurgery.com/fellowshipsVascular.html
Owen’s Wish Fund Update

The Owen’s Wish Fund for Cancer Immunotherapy Research at the James Graham Brown Cancer Center was established in honor of Owen McMasters in October 2016. Friends of Dr. Kelly McMasters created this fund to allow the cancer center to develop a world-class group of scientists and physicians dedicated to advancing the field of cancer immunotherapy and providing state-of-the-art immunotherapy care for patients in our region.

To date, supporters have generously donated $143,649 to Owen’s Wish. This fund has grown into a center-wide movement to light the way for our immunotherapy efforts that led to an additional $1,475,000 in recent philanthropy to support a CAR T-Cell clinical trial. The Department of Surgery has been able to develop a new Division of Immunotherapy with seven faculty members dedicated to discovering new approaches to using a patient’s own immune system to fight cancer.

To donate, please visit uoflbrowncancercenter.org/owens-wish or reach out to Katy O’Toole at 502.852.3523.

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“She teaches continuously, in the OR, on the wards, in the hallway and by the bedside,” Dr. McMasters said. “She is an excellent teacher, as evidenced by her numerous teaching awards. More importantly, Dr. Fallat teaches by example. The learners are not only surgical trainees—they are medical residents, nurses, parents and ancillary personnel, as well.”

Dr. Fallat is a prolific researcher. She has published innumerable peer-reviewed papers, many of which are guidelines and evidence-based statements. She is currently involved in a project funded by the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma designed to determine the current status of pediatric trauma system development in each state and develop a scoring system that will enable regional strategies to improve the pediatric trauma network of care. She is also interested in access to surgical and surgical subspecialty care for children in rural and underserved America.

“Dr. Fallat is a scholar, transcribing her clinical experience into the permanent literature and generating new knowledge, all the while teaching trainees how it is done,” Dr. McMasters said.

She is excited about the future of the Division of Pediatric Surgery.

“The Division will grow by at least two faculty as we expand existing services, (have) multidisciplinary involvement in clinics and improve access to care,” Dr. Fallat said. “I anticipate many exciting opportunities as we integrate University of Louisville and Norton Health Care efforts on behalf of the children in our community, state and referral base in Indiana.”

When she is not working, Dr. Fallat enjoys spending time with her family, especially on vacation.

“Perhaps one of our best trips was to Barbados, when we also were able to visit my high school friend, who was the American Consulate in Barbados at the time,” Dr. Fallat said. “Now that our children are grown, I love going to Napa!”

Stay on the cutting edge!

Send us your updated address so we can stay in touch!

Send your information to radhika.bombard@louisville.edu or call 502.931.8804.
The Department of Surgery established the Samuel Gross, M.D., Career of Service Award in 2006 to honor physicians who have dedicated their lives to medicine. This year’s recipient is lifelong friend of the Department of Surgery, former resident, clinical faculty member and dedicated surgeon Stephen Self, M.D.

Dr. Self received his medical degree in 1985 from the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He became a vascular surgeon after completing his residency at the University of Louisville in 1990 and a fellowship at the University of Florida in 1993.

He has been on the clinical faculty in the Department of Surgery for nearly three decades and served our country when he volunteered at the U.S. Army’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He treated soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. Self specializes in vascular surgery and has treated patients in the area for more than 30 years. He has been a member of numerous professional organizations including the Kentucky Medical Society, Southeastern Surgical Congress and the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery. He has served as a Fellow for the American College of Surgeons and Society for Vascular Surgery. He also served as Chairman of Surgery for Jewish Hospital and on the Jewish Hospital and St. Mary’s Healthcare Board of Trustees.

The Department of Surgery presented the 2019 Samuel Gross, M.D. Career of Service Award to Dr. Self at the 2019 Chief Residents’ Dinner in June.

Beloved former Department of Surgery employee John Edward McKiernan, Jr. passed away Friday, March 1, 2019. He was 78.

A graduate of Flaget High School class of 1958 and Western Kentucky University, John was a proud U.S. Navy veteran and long-time member of St. Barnabas parish.

In the late 1960s John taught commercial business at Seneca, Fairdale, Western and Southern high schools. He was employed for 20 years at the L&N Railroad and later at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts Broadway Series. He retired from the University of Louisville Department of Surgery in 2009 after 12 years of service.

A seasoned world traveler, he was loved and remembered for his passion for dancing, Frank Sinatra music, his larger-than-life personality and generous heart. He possessed a natural gift for conversation and was interested in everyone who crossed his path. In his Flaget days he was the jitterbug king at just about every Catholic teen club in Louisville. He was especially proud of his Irish Catholic heritage and was admired and adored by everyone.

At John’s request, expressions of sympathy may be made to Presentation Academy Development Office, 861 South Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40202.

In Memoriam

Department Bids Farewell to Faithful Employee, John Edward McKiernan

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Louisvillesurgery.com
plasticsurgeonslouisville.com
Colidoscope.com
UofLPhysicians.com
GORDON TOBIN, M.D., professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, received the Kentucky Medical Association’s 2019 Distinguished Service Award in September. Dr. Tobin was recognized for his significant contributions to the field of medicine.

His career encompasses surgical education, pioneering medical research, care for the underserved at home and abroad and physician leadership in local, state and national organizations.

KELLY McMASTERS, M.D., Ph.D., was named president of the Southern Surgical Association, one of the nation’s leading surgical societies dedicated to furthering the study and practice of surgery. Dr. McMasters previously served a five-year term as secretary of the Southern Surgical Association.

GLEN FRANKLIN, M.D., was honored by the Louisville Fire Department with its annual Donald M. “Doc” Thomas, M.D. Award in March. The award is presented to an individual who makes significant contributions to health, safety and medical education.

KEITH MILLER, M.D., received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at UofL Convocation in May. Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards recognize graduating students and faculty members who demonstrate both clinical excellence and outstanding compassion in the delivery of care and who show respect for patients, their families and health-care colleagues.

Academic Excellence
New Faculty

Alumni DYLAN ADAMSON, M.D., joined the Division of Transplantation. He attended medical school at University of Toledo College of Medicine. He then completed his general surgery residency at University of Louisville and a fellowship in Abdominal Organ Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

TYLER ELLIS, M.D., MSCR, joined the Colon and Rectal Surgery Section of the Division of General Surgery. He attended medical school at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC. He then completed his general surgery residency at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a fellowship in colorectal surgery at University of Massachusetts in Worcester, MA. He also has a fellowship in clinical research from Medical University of South Carolina.

Alumni SAMUEL CARSON, M.D., joined the Division of General Surgery. He attended medical school at McGovern Medical School in Houston, TX. He then completed his general surgery residency at University of Louisville School of Medicine and a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Colon and Rectal Surgery at Houston Methodist.
Molly Burke-Poole, Graduate Medical Education Administrator for the Department of Surgery, received the UofL School of Medicine’s 2019 Dean’s Lifetime Achievement Award in November.

Affably referred to as the Department’s “Resident Mom” for her role in coordinating the Department of Surgery Residency Program for more than two decades, Molly works closely with each resident to ensure they are successful during their training.

“She is every resident’s best friend, confidant, life coach, counselor, cheerleader and chaplain. She laughs with them, cries with them, and shares their joys and sorrows,” said Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Surgery. “Although we have 50 residents, she knows all of their spouses and children not only by name, but knows all about their lives. She is the most empathetic person I have ever known. She always has a smile on her face and a kind word on her lips.”

Molly joined the Department nearly 30 years ago as an Administrative Assistant to William Cheadle, M.D. When he became Program Director of the residency program in 1995, Molly worked behind the scenes with Angela Jones, former Residency Coordinator.

“I would not have won this award without all of his guidance, training, love and support over the years. Dr. Cheadle trained me and believed in me, Dr. (Hiram) Polk took a chance on me, and Dr. McMasters has always valued me,” Molly said.

As Graduate Medical Education Administrator for Surgery, Molly assists the program directors of the General Surgery Residency Program and subspecialty programs with graduate medical education for the surgery training program.

“Under Molly’s guidance, our residency program continues to be renowned as one of the top surgical residency programs in the country. She could write a book on running a successful surgical residency training program,” Dr. McMasters said. “If you want to understand how we are able to compete with top surgery training programs in recruiting the very best residents—look no farther than Molly. The applicants flock to her in droves.”

Molly has numerous fond memories of her time working in the Department. One that stands out was getting married at the home of Dr. Cheadle and his wife, Mary.

“Danny and I were supposed to go the courthouse, and Dr. Cheadle was going to stand up for me, but he wanted to give me away and do it at their home,” she said. “I believe the entire Department was there. He gave me away that day 25 years ago, and we tease that he has been trying to give me away ever since.”

Molly also has fond memories of community service activities the Department has done including the times she...continued at the top of next page
and others dressed up to visit nursing homes.

When she is not working, Molly loves to dance.

“I’ve been dancing in one form or another since I was 3 years old from tap and jazz to ballet and toe,” she said. “I enjoy Zumba, reading, spending time with Danny, going to our church, St. Martins de Tours, and of course, playing with my fur babies.”

She says it is an honor and privilege to work in the Department of Surgery.

“I truly feel loved by my surgery family. They are there for you when you need them,” Molly said. “In 2006, Danny had a grand mal seizure and was rushed to UofL Hospital. When the automatic doors to the ER opened, there stood Dr. McMasters with his arms wide open to comfort me. Drs. Eric Davis and Glen Franklin and the entire Trauma Team were all there waiting to take care of one of their own. I love to tell that story during applicant interview season because I want them to know the kind of people that I am so honored to work with. God has truly blessed me.”

The Department of Surgery is proud to announce the creation of the Division of Immunotherapy, which is leading the way to improve our understanding of the role of immunotherapy in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

Led by Jun Yan, M.D., Ph.D., Director, this team of researchers is engaged in pioneering research designed to trigger our bodies’ own immune system to fight disease. The faculty members in this Division are leaders in the field. They include: Zhong-bin Deng, Ph.D., Chuanlin Ding, Ph.D., Chuanlin Ding, Ph.D., Hongying Hao, M.D., Ph.D., Robert A. Mitchell, Ph.D. and Kavitha Yaddanapudi, M.S., Ph.D.

To learn more, visit louisvillesurgery.com/immunotherapy

Sutureline
www.louisvillesurgery.com
In addition to Molly Burke-Poole, two other staff members were recognized at the Dean’s Award Ceremony in November. Senior Research Coordinator Margaret Abby received the UofL School of Medicine Excellence in an Administrative Office Award and UofL Physicians Medical Assistant Pamela Boone received the UofL Physicians’ Clinical Staff Award in a Clinical Department Award.

Margaret has been with the Department of Surgery for nearly 30 years. She joined the Department as an Assistant Medical Editor and served in that role until 2013 when she was named the Grants and Editing Specialist. She was promoted to her current role in 2017. She also serves on the Dean’s Grant Talent Team led by Karan Chavis and the Boomerang Training Committee, which is part of the SMART Staff Development Initiative sponsored by the Dean’s Office.

“The faculty of the Department of Surgery heavily relies on Maggie in the submission of research grants and as a medical editor for numerous books, book chapters and journal articles. She has been instrumental in our Department securing several research grants, including five from the National Institutes of Health,” said Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Surgery. “She handles an incredible volume of grant submissions and publications with incredible efficiency. She is an entire grant and publications office in one individual.”

Pam has been with the surgical practice for more than three decades. She exudes a warmth and compassion for patients that can’t be taught.

“Pam is a skilled, experienced Medical Assistant who ensures each patient gets the proper care they need. She coordinates complex multidisciplinary patient care with exceptional skill and compassion,” said Dr. McMasters. “Pam always goes above and beyond for our patients. The love she feels for each of them is palpable. Pam’s moral compass is pointed due north, unwavering, and everyone around her feels the strength of her ethical standards. Pam sets the standard for all of us when it comes to treating others. Our patients include the great and mighty as well as the least among us. Pam treats all with equal respect, empathy, compassion, and dignity.”

The University of Louisville has enrolled the first patient in AngioDynamics’ NanoKnife® Irreversible Electroporation (IRE) “Data IRE Cancer Treatment” clinical study (DIRECT). The DIRECT Study supports a proposed expanded use of the NanoKnife System in the treatment of stage III pancreatic cancer.

“We are pleased to be the first enrolling site. The DIRECT Study represents an important milestone in the standardization of care for patients with stage III pancreatic cancer,” said Robert C.G. Martin, M.D., Ph.D., co-principal investigator of the DIRECT Study, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Professor of Surgery.

“Our goal is to generate important data that should standardize and optimize the use of IRE in the treatment of locally advanced pancreatic cancer, significantly improving outcomes for patients with this late-stage diagnosis,” Dr. Martin said.
Nine Department Faculty Members Voted Top Docs In Their Specialty

Congrats to the following physicians named Louisville Magazine’s 2019 Top Docs in their respective categories:

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**GENERAL SURGERY**

Matthew V. Benns, M.D.  
Keith R. Miller, M.D.

**PLASTIC SURGERY**

Terry M. McCurry, M.D.  
Jarrod A. Little, M.D.

**SURGICAL ONCOLOGY**

Michael E. Egger, M.D., M.P.H.  
Robert C.G. Martin II, M.D., Ph.D.  
Kelly M. McMasters, M.D., Ph.D.  
Charles R. Scoggins, M.D., M.B.A.

**VASCULAR SURGERY**

Amit J. Dwivedi, M.D.

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www.louisvillesurgery.com
Gunshot Victims Thank Trauma Team for Saving Their Lives

Christopher 2X Game Changers, along with gunshot wound survivors treated at UofL Hospital, recognized the Trauma Team at UofL for their life-saving care of victims of gun violence from 2003-2019. The Trauma Team at UofL includes numerous trauma surgeons, nurses and staff who dedicate their lives to saving others. Since 2003, they have treated more than 3,000 victims with gunshot wounds.

Department Celebrates Retirement of Dedicated Cancer Researchers

The Department of Surgery celebrated the retirement of research faculty members H. Sam Zhou, Ph.D. and X. Mei Rao, M.D. in June.

In 2002, Drs. Zhou and Rao joined the research team of Kelly McMasters, M.D., Ph.D., and the James Graham Brown Cancer Center to conduct research in the field of cancer gene therapy. Working closely with his wife, Dr. Rao, Dr. Zhou has had continuous research funding throughout his career in the Department of Surgery, including his work as Principal Investigator on a $1 million NIH R01 grant funded from 2009-2014. Together, their work on oncolytic virus replication and cancer gene therapy resulted in multiple high-quality publications and major contributions to science.

“Dr. Zhou and Dr. Rao have dedicated their careers to the fight against cancer and have made significant contributions to the field,” said Dr. McMasters. “It is our honor to celebrate their careers.”
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  ☐ VISA  ☐ MCard  ☐ AmExp

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Denise Nuehring
Senior Director of Development
University of Louisville
School of Medicine l University Advancement
132 East Gray Street
Louisville, KY 40202
Where Are They Now

2019 Residents

LINDSAY ARNOLD, M.D., Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
EMILY BOND, M.D., Cardiothoracic Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
JORDAN BOND, M.D., Vascular Fellowship, University of Tennessee-Memphis, Memphis, TN
RYAN CHEN, M.D., Private Practice, Mercy Hospital of Folsom, Sacramento, CA
NATHAN LUDWIG, M.D., Private Practice, Texas Surgical Specialists, Waxahachie, TX
NATALIA PAEZ, M.D., Surgical Oncology Fellowship, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
TRIPP PALMER, M.D., Private Practice, Memorial & Katy Surgical Specialists, Houston, TX
LELA POSEY, M.D., Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
ERIN SCHUMER, M.D., Cardiothoracic Fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Call to Alumni:
Please keep in touch and let us know what is happening with you, your practice and your family. We apologize in advance for any errors of omission. Please send your news items and updated addresses to radhika.bombard@louisville.edu or call 502.931.8804.