



ITL IN THE LOUPES

FACULTY

A new Assistant Professor joins Maryland Neurosurgery!

PROMOTIONS

Drs. Ken Crandall and Anthony Kim receive new titles

RESEARCH

Grant award announcements, published articles & more!



*We face challenges to improve
lives by solving complex
neurosurgical problems.*

**Patients first,
together!**

**Always do the right
thing**

**Leave it better than
you found it**

Drive to mastery

Maryland Neurosurgery

CORE VALUES

— Faculty

Meet Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery!

Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD has returned to Maryland Neurosurgery, this time as Assistant Professor! Dr. Chryssikos, who completed his residency in the spring of 2022, is now a valued faculty member at our institution. For those on our team who may not yet be familiar with Dr. Chryssikos, we are excited to welcome him back!

Dr. Chryssikos was born and raised in Baltimore, but he's lived in different cities growing up over the years like Philadelphia, Houston, and San Francisco. His siblings and their families reside in the Philadelphia area, but his parents are closer to home and live in Howard County. Dr. Chryssikos enjoys reading, traveling, attending concerts, listening to music, and playing "Par 3" golf. He played lacrosse in high school and college, and still enjoys watching sports—especially the Ravens and the Orioles.

Together with his girlfriend Michelle, they spent an amazing time in California this past year. Some highlights include



Dr. Chryssikos with girlfriend, Michelle Collins



visiting Napa, Bodega Bay, Point Reyes, and trips to San Diego, LA, Palm Springs, and Hawaii. During Dr. Chryssikos's fellowship, he attended conferences and courses in Sweden, Israel, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Florida, and Hawaii!

Dr. Chryssikos studied at Loyola High School in Towson, MD, and subsequently went on to Swathmore College for his undergraduate degree. He then attended graduate school at Rice University in Houston, where he completed his PhD in anthropology with a dissertation on social relations of collaborative scientific research, which he regards to be a great and fulfilling success.



The Chryssikos family

“Although I initially thought I would become a college professor, I realized during graduate school that I wanted to become a doctor and take care of patients.” It was then that Dr. Chryssikos came back to Maryland to complete medical school and his neurosurgery residency at the University of Maryland.

“I was drawn to neurosurgery in large part because of the people and the great mentors that I found in the field—people who are the kind of doctors I wanted to be. I had always

been a pretty active person, and my best subject in school was neuroscience, therefore I thought neurosurgery to be a good fit for me.” Dr. Chryssikos goes on to say, “I knew I wanted to take on the big challenges neurosurgery offers and to become someone that patients and other doctors can count on in difficult situations. I was drawn to spine surgery because of how complex the spine is, how much thought goes into every operation, and because of the variety of procedures that are performed on the spine—some operations are labor-intensive reconstructions while others are delicate microsurgeries, for instance.”

“Also, many people don’t realize this, but the modern human spine evolved to provide us with upright posture (and the ability to walk on two feet instead of four) before our brains evolved into what they are today. And so, in my opinion, our spines are no less important than our brains in making us who and what we are!”

In 2023, Dr. Chryssikos completed a fellowship in complex and minimally invasive spine surgery at UCSF, where he was fortunate to learn from some “incredibly talented and caring” mentors and, in the process, took care of many inspiring patients. “My goal in attending the fellowship was to advance my clinical and surgical skills as a spine surgeon in order to provide my patients with the best possible care and outcomes.”



Dr. Chryssikos performing MIS Lumbar Decompression with Dr. Lee Tan, Co-Director of UCSF Spine Fellowship.

As a new faculty member at Maryland Neurosurgery, Dr. Chryssikos is looking forward to meeting and caring for the

patients of the Baltimore community, as well as bring the skills he’s learned during his fellowship, and at the University of Maryland, to help teach the next generation of residents and medical students. “I am also especially excited to be working with my new neurosurgery faculty colleagues—people who I have always looked up to and admired. Together with our administration, colleagues, and residents, I am looking forward to working on an outcomes registry that will help us carry out clinical research in spine surgery for the benefit of our patients. I am excited about our department’s upcoming involvement in the BIG10 neurosurgery consortium, which is a new initiative dedicated to working with fellow neurosurgeons throughout the country on innovative, multi-center clinical trials.”

Welcome Dr. Chryssikos to the team! We’re thrilled to have you back, and we’re excited to see you thrive in your new position as a Maryland Neurosurgery faculty member!



Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD

September Faculty Spotlight

On July 21st, the Shock Trauma Surgical Critical Care fellows voted **Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD** for Surgical Critical Care Attending of the Year! This award is given to recognize ‘excellence as a physician, educator, and mentor.’

“To receive this recognition from this incredible group of dedicated, hardworking, and ridiculously talented fellows is humbling. They are truly the cream of the crop, and I am sure that I have taken away more than I have given them.” Dr. Schwartzbauer says. But that’s not the only highlight for Dr. Schwartzbauer.

On August 11th at 4S Shock Trauma Tower, the incredible staff of the Neurotrauma Center (right image) showed their amazing team spirit by throwing a surprise 1st Annual Medical Director Appreciation Day in honor of Dr. Schwartzbauer! “This is less about me than the Neurotrauma Center, which continually exceeds performance benchmarks across the board while treating some of the sickest patients in the region—all while maintaining a caring family atmosphere for patients, families, and each other. They are the best!”



Dr. Schwartzbauer has also recently received the Neurosurgery Research Committee pilot grant of \$35,000! The project on the “association of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) of the ABCC8 and TRPM4 genes with spinal cord injury progression on MRI and American Spinal Institute Association (ASIA) impairment scale grade conversion outcome key personnel,” is spearheaded by both the Neurosurgery and the Orthopaedics in the Program in Trauma with our very own **Nathan Han, MD, PGY-7** as Sub-PI. To read the full pilot grant project details, please click the link [HERE](#).



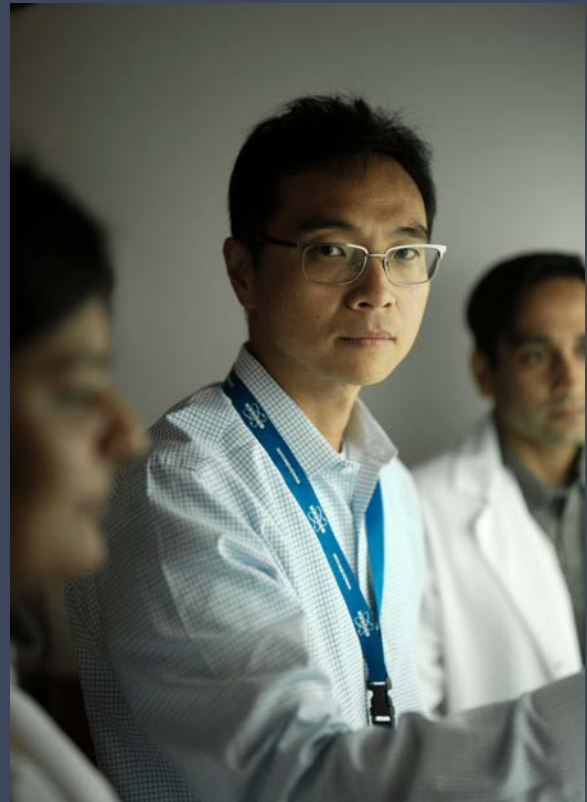
On September 1st Dr. Schwartzbauer was featured on Fox 45 News to weigh in on Boston University’s recently released study on chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which suggests that it’s not just professional athletes, like NFL players, who are diagnosed with this degenerative brain disease. Researchers found that young, amateur athletes who play some of the most physical contact sports also seem to be at risk, despite their comparatively short, lower-profile playing careers. To watch the full interview click the image seen on the left or click [HERE](#).

— Promotions



Ken Crandall, MD, FAANS, FACS

Ken Crandall, MD, FAANS, FACS, was promoted to Associate Professor of Neurosurgery! Not only that, he has also been named Director of Spinal Oncology. *Congratulations Dr. Crandall!*



Anthony Kim, PhD

Anthony Kim, PhD, Co-Director of the Translational Therapeutics Research Groups (TTRG) was promoted to Professor of Neurosurgery on August 17th. *Congratulations Dr. Kim!*

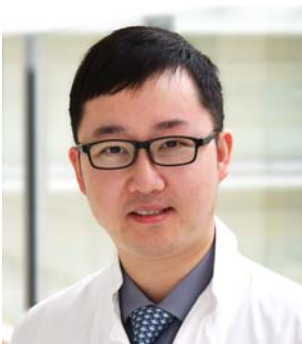
— Research

Alex Ksendzovsky, MD, PhD and Phil Iffland, PhD Receive Grant



Alex Ksendzovsky, MD, PhD, and Co-PI Phil Iffland, PhD was awarded \$40,000 by the Multi-Disciplinary Review Group for the study titled: “hiPSC-based Screening for Patients with STRADa and TSC2 mTORopathy. Congratulations!

Chixiang Chen, PhD Article in The American Statistician



Chixiang Chen, PhD is the first author of the study titled: “Multiple-model-based robust estimation of casual treatment effect on a binary outcome with integrated information from secondary outcomes,” which has been accepted by *The American*

Statistician. The data application in this paper explores casual effects of AD treatment on AD patients. *Amazing work, Dr. Chen!*

Adarsha Malla Awarded Pre-doctoral Training Award



Adarsha Malla, MD/PhD student in the Medical Student Training Program (MSTP), has been awarded a UMB Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) TL1 Pre-doctoral Training Award!

Adarsha was also selected for a Pre-doctoral Trainee position on the NIH T32 Cancer Biology Training Grant (PIs: Toni Antalís, PhD and Curt Civin, MD) and was issued a total funding amount of \$50,000. The grant study titled: “ImmunoPET Evaluation of Focused Ultrasound-mediated Delivery and Immunomodulation by anti-CD47 Immunotherapy in the Setting of Current Standard-of-Care Treatment for Glioblastoma” is projected to take one year to complete. To read the full summary of the project, click [HERE](#). *Congratulations Adarsha!*

Introducing Alexandra Seas, the Newest Addition to TTRG



Alexandra Seas, MD/PhD student in the MSTP, will be conducting her PhD thesis research in TTRG. Alexandra received her BS in chemical engineering from UMBC in May of 2021. She has an

extensive undergraduate student research experience, working on projects at UMBC, Duke University, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She will primarily be involved in the TTRG’s focused ultrasound research group. *Welcome Alexandra!*

UPCOMING EVENTS



2023 CNS Annual Meeting

Time: Time varies each day
Dates: September 9th - September 13th
Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, DC

*Click [HERE](#) to view the entire schedule

SEP
9



Skull Base 360° Lab Courses

Time: TBA
Dates: October 13th - October 14th (Open Skull Base Course); October 20th - October 21st (Endoscopic Endonasal Course)
Location: TBA

OCT
13



NASS 38th Annual Meeting

Time: Time varies each day
Dates: October 18th - October 21st
Location: Los Angeles California

*Click [HERE](#) to view the entire schedule

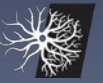
OCT
18



Ibrahimi Lecture with Ziya L. Gokaslan, MD, FAANS, FACS

Time: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Dates: November 16, 2023
Location: UMB Campus

NOV
16



WASHINGTON, D.C. | SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2023

MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY CNS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Kenneth Crandall, MD Charley Sansur, MD, MHSc	SYM02A: Comprehensive Management of Spinal Trauma
12:45 PM - 4:15 PM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD	SYM02B: Cutting-Edge Treatments in Neurotrauma

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

10:05 AM - 10:25 AM	Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD	SYM13A: Advanced Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery: Operative Nuances, Indications, and Complication Avoidance: MIS Interbody Approach Selection Algorithm
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

2:50 PM - 4:20 PM	Whitney Parker, MD, PhD	Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery 2: Fellowship in Training in Pediatric Neurosurgery-Challenges and Opportunities
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD	Interactive Poster Presentation: Intraoperative Ultrasound Using a Linear (minimally invasive) Transducer During Anterior Cervical Surgery #1054

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

7:42 AM - 7:48 AM	Konrad Walek, MD (Abstract Presenting Author)	Sunrise Science Session - Neurotrauma and Critical Care 2: Lesion Combination on Susceptibility-Weighted MRI Predicts Functional Recovery after Diffuse Axonal Injury #438
12:20 PM - 1:50 PM	Charley Sansur, MD, MHSc	W25: SI Joint Fusion: Indications, Technique, and Outcomes
12:20 PM - 1:50 PM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD	W26: Long-term Sequela for Head Injury Patients



SEPTEMBER 2023

GRAND ROUNDS SCHEDULE

August

3rd	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Nicole Wenger, MBA, MD <i>PGY-3 Resident</i>	"Skull Base 360: My Time in the Skull Base 360 Lab"
10th	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Nick Theodore, MD, FACS, FAANS <i>Professor of Neurosurgery</i>	"Engineering the Future of Spinal Surgery"
17th	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Joshua Lim, MD <i>Neurosurgeon at the Center for Brain & Spine</i>	"Grand Rounds at the University of Maryland"
24th	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Anthony Kim, PhD <i>Co-Director of TTRG</i>	"Skull Base 360: My Time in the Skull Base 360 Lab"

AUGUST 31ST GRAND ROUNDS - CANCELED

September

7th	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast & Open Discussion	
14th	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Ken Crandall, MD <i>Associate Professor of Neurosurgery</i>	
21st	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD <i>Professor of Neurosurgery</i>	
28th	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD <i>Associate Professor of Neurosurgery</i>	

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are looking for stories, achievements, heroics, tidbits, and fun stuff to feature in *In The Loupes* and to share within the University of Maryland and our surrounding communities.

If you are interested in writing a column or would like to share news you'd like to hear more of, feel free to email at rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu

If you would like to submit your news via the Neurosurgery News Portal, click [HERE](#).

Rachel McGowan

