



# IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND  
NEUROSURGERY  
NEWSLETTER

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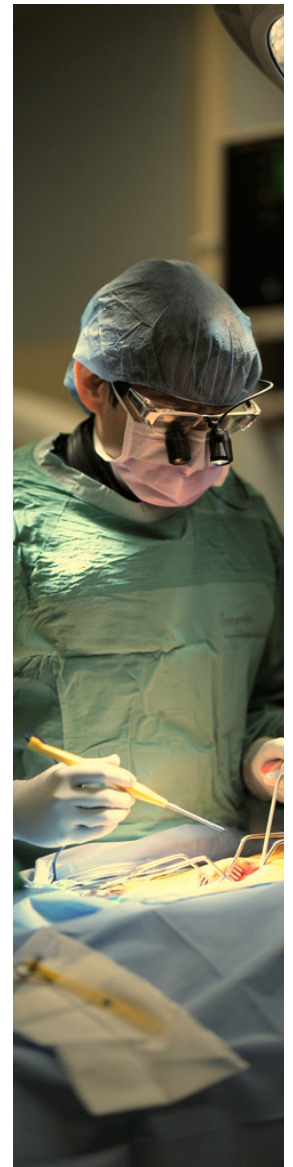
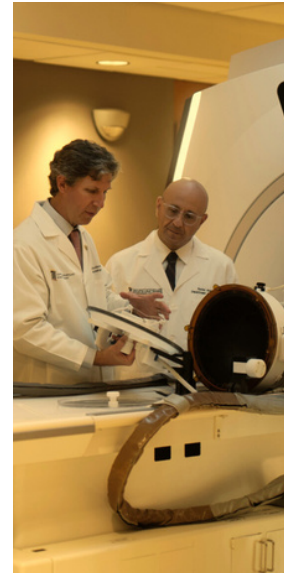
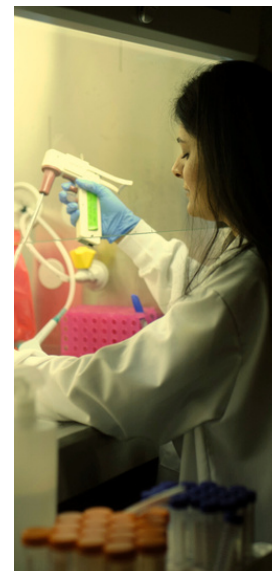
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### SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Interested in writing a column?  
Wanting to share what type of news  
you want to hear more of? Email  
[Neurosurgery.Communications@  
som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Neurosurgery.Communications@som.umaryland.edu)

**MORE  
INSIDE!**





# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## ANNOUNCING THE UPDATED 1ST CORE VALUE...

**Patients first, together!**  
**Always do the right thing**  
**Leave it better than you found it**  
**Drive to Mastery**

We are no longer just "Patients First," but we are "Patients First, *together!*" It takes a team approach to put the patients' best interests first, and the key to accomplishing this is 360° communication. It takes team effort - we all have a part to play in the department's growth and functionality. Therefore the more we communicate with one another, the better we meet the unexpected challenges we face every day.

## NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

**ELIZABETH "BETSY" SHEARER, DNP, CRNP |  
 Cranial/Vascular Team NP**

[eshearer@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:eshearer@som.umaryland.edu)

Highly motivated with a strong background working with neurosurgical patients, Betsy has over six years of experience working within the neurocritical care unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Betsy is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland Doctor of Nursing Practice Program with a focus on adult-gerontological primary care. Betsy's commitment to professional growth is evident through her memberships in organizations such as the Sigma International Honors Society of Nurses and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. These affiliations reflect her dedication to staying updated within the field of advanced nursing practice.



Beyond her professional pursuits, Betsy enjoys spending time with her husband, their dog, exploring local breweries, and reading. She has a passion for travel, and dreams of witnessing all the wonders of the world. With her strong clinical background, genuine empathy for patients, and a zest for personal and professional growth, Betsy is determined to make a lasting impact on the lives of her patients and become a vital member of the department! *Welcome aboard Betsy!*



## JENNA LANGBEIN | Research Fellow at Ksendzovsky Lab

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**Jenna Langbein** is from Brookeville, MD and graduated from Wake Forest University in 2019 with a degree in Biology. She started medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University, and spent a gap year working as a medical scribe at an ENT office and doing research on patients with brain tumors. In medical school, she researched with a clinical neuropsychology lab which aimed to advance neuro-oncology wellness. Jenna also served as president of an organization called The Simple Sunflower, which serves to repurpose flowers from local weddings to distribute to patients receiving care at VCU Medical Center. In her free time, you can catch her at the local farmers market, staying active with a hike or going skiing, or jetting off to somewhere she hasn't been before. *Welcome to the team, Jenna!*



## BRIANA "BRE" BRADFORD, DNP, CRNP | Cranial/Vascular Team NP

TBD

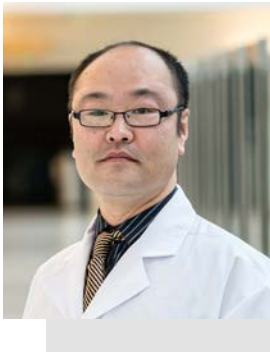
Bre has been an RN for a little over eight years, working at the Adult Neurosciences Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Bre graduated from Bradley University in December 2022 with her doctorate in Nursing Practice. Passionate and eager, she begins her career as a Nurse Practitioner with Maryland Neurosurgery! She is dedicated to improving health equity and wishes to implement quality improvement measures to provide evidence-based care to her patients. Bre lives in Severn, MD with her husband, 1-year-old daughter, dog, and cat. Her hobbies include baking, staying active, and spending time with family. *Welcome to the team, Bre!*

## PHILLIP LONG | Research Assistant at Jia Lab

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**Phillip Long** has recently joined **Xiaofeng Jia, BM, PhD** at the Translational Neuroengineering and Neuroscience Lab as the newest Research Assistant. Phillip will be assisting their research on pro-inflammatory transcription factors mediating neurocognitive deficits following cardiac arrest. Born and raised in Baltimore, Phillip graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and is currently a rising second year medical student at Campbell University, School of Medicine. Previously employed as a unit support aide at the Trauma Resuscitation Unit in the Shock Trauma Center, Phillip has grown to love critical care medicine. Outside of the lab, you can find Phillip playing table tennis, voice acting, and most recently, he was a winner of his school's annual "Mr. CUSOM" pageant - an all-male beauty pageant raising money for the school's free clinic! *Welcome Phillip!*





### BEST WISHES, DR. DU!

Xiaofeng Jia, MD, PhD, FCCM would like the department to join him in congratulating **Jian Du, PhD** on beginning a new chapter in his career at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Du has been with the Translational Neuroengineering and Neuroscience Lab since November of 2015, and since then, has worked incredibly hard in contributing to several first author publications and grant developments. *Best of luck at JHU, Dr. Du!*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEX PALLESCHI!

Congratulations to **Alex Palleschi** for being elevated to **Associate Administrator!**

In this new role, Alex will further innovate and implement initiatives in the clinical practice and education arms in the Department and position our team for high-level collective impact. The Department of Neurosurgery has been in a growth mode for the last several years as we align our services with the priorities of the UMMS neuroscience vision and needs at each hospital that comprises the system. Over the last three years, we have expanded from primarily a UMMC DTC clinical operation to a multi-site clinical and operative practice at 4 system hospitals, the VA, 9 clinic locations, and soon to be in an Ambulatory Surgical Center. As you can imagine, this has led to a more complex and robust operation as we seek to optimize the department's clinical and training opportunities.

As a member of the leadership team, she has been instrumental in developing the department's clinical metrics and accountability scorecards, transformed the department's Patient Satisfaction efforts into an exemplary program of excellence, worked tirelessly to create our culture and physical space that connects and engages our patients, faculty, staff, and residents while positioning the department for multi-disciplinary healthcare leadership, and has been key to strengthening the financial performance of the department. In addition, she has taken on the additional role of leading and coordinating departmental philanthropy initiatives.

I hope you are equally impressed by these accomplishments and, with her proven ability to lead impactful initiatives, she stands out as the right person for this vital role! *-David Newton*



### CONGRATULATIONS, STEPHANIE JANARD!



**Stephanie Janard**, the Senior Media Relations Manager for UMMC, has recently been elected to the Board of Directors for the Parkinson's Foundation of the National Capital Area (**PFNCA**). (For those who don't know Stephanie, she plays an integral role in promoting Maryland Neurosurgery's many newsworthy accomplishments to major media outlets, such as *The Baltimore Sun* and *USA Today*).

"I was inspired to apply for this position because of the interactions I've had with several of our patients with Parkinson's, who have all had significant mobility restored thanks to Maryland Neurosurgery & Neurology's incredible skills. I'm hoping this new role, as it unfolds, will be of benefit to our mission and patients here." *Congratulations, Stephanie!*

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

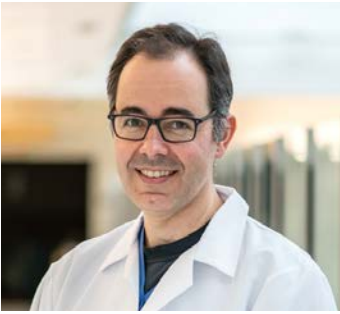
**Jacob Cherian, MD** has passed his oral examination of the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) and is now officially board certified and diplomate of the ABNS! To go into more detail, the oral examination is the last event in the initial certification process, which explores knowledge and judgement in clinical neurosurgical practice after an applicant has been an independent practitioner. *Congratulations, Dr. Cherian!*



**Whitney Parker, MD, PhD** has been awarded the Dr. Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Award in the category of women faculty members conducting innovative basic or translational biomedical research! It was noted by the organization committee of this award that there were a large number of very impressive nominations, but Dr. Parker was selected for her outstanding achievements!

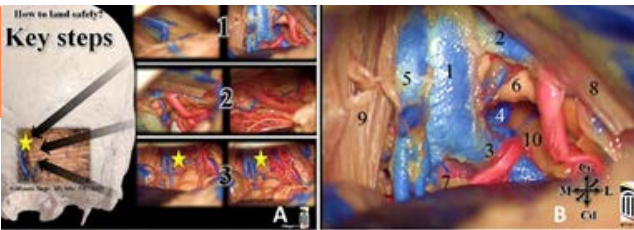
"Just two months after announcing the world's first positive surgical trial for the deadliest type of stroke, NICO Corporation is awarding **Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS; Marc Simard, MD, PhD; and Mohamed Labib, MD** \$200,000 with the goal of building on ENRICH (Early MiNimally-invasive Removal of ICH) conclusions to further improve patient outcomes following hemorrhagic stroke." According to NICO, this is the 2nd largest grant given in their history! To read the full press release by Sue Goin, please click [here](#)! *Congratulations everyone!*





**Charley Sansur, MD, MHSc**, in collaboration with **Steven Ludwig, MD**, patent #11,672,672 titled: "Dural Repair Repair Method of Use," has been issued on June 13th and is valid until February 2, 2040. The dural repair devices and methods enhance the ability of a surgeon to repair a patients dura mater, or dura, during surgery of the central nervous system. To read the entire patent, click the link [here](#).

## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### NICOLE WENGER, MD, MBA, PGY-4



**Alhusain Nagm, MD, MSc, PhD-NS** and **Tina Wang, MA** are thrilled to report: **Nicole Wenger, MD, MBA, PGY-4** recently completed a six-week stint at the Skull Base 360 lab! During her rotation, she delved into a myriad of skull base surgical approaches and techniques under direct guidance of Dr. Nagm. The hands-on environment of the lab allowed Nicole the opportunity to thoroughly investigate and understand neuroanatomy in 3D. She documented all her experiences in a dissection guide aimed to educate aspiring neurosurgeons. The rotation not only bolstered Nicole's confidence in her anatomical knowledge but also better equipped her to manage more intricate surgeries. (Figure 1: A&B - Pineal region step-by-step dissection at the Skull Base 360° Lab (©AN)) *Congratulations, Nicole - Amazing work!*

### JESSE STOKUM, MD, PHD, PGY-5

**Jesse Stokum, MD, PhD, PGY-5**, along with fellow coauthors **Dr. Marc Simard, Bosung Shim, Serban Negoita...** have recently been highlighted in *Science Signaling Magazine* for their study titled: "Cation flux through SUR1-TRPM4 and NCX1 in astrocyte endfeet induces water influx through AQP4 and brain swelling after ischemic." To read the full study please click [here](#). *Congratulations Jesse!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO!

Click the image to view the program and schedule



### Maryland Neurosurgery & Hoth Intelligence Intern Workshop

- **Time:** 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- **Dates:** Saturday, July 22, 2023
- **Location:** UM Bio Park, Skull Base 360 Lab, 3rd Floor Room 335



### Fall 2023 Neuroanatomy Workshop

More information to come about this event. Will most likely take place in late September of 2023.



### 2023 CNS Annual Meeting

- **Time:** TBA
- **Dates:** September 9th - 13th
- **Location:** Walter E. Washington Convention Center, DC



### NASS 38th Annual Meeting

- **Time:** TBA
- **Date:** October 18th - 21st
- **Location:** Los Angeles, CA



### Department Happy Hour!

- **Time:** TBA
- **Date:** October
- **Location:** Baltimore, MD



### Fall 2023 Ibrahimi Lecture with Ziya L. Gokaslan, MD, FAANS, FACS

- **Time:** TBA
- **Date:** November
- **Location:** UMB Campus

*\*Please note that the times, dates, and locations of these events are subject to change*

# JULY 2023

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

### JUNE GRAND ROUNDS

<p><b>Thu, June 1</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Nathan Han, MD</b> PGY-6 Resident of Neurosurgery, UMSOM <i>"Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome: Relevance in Spine Surgery"</i></p>
<p><b>Thu, June 8</b> 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Sophie White, MPH, C-TAGME</b> Senior Academic Specialist, Neurosurgery, UMSOM <i>"Mock Oral Boards"</i></p>
<p><b>Thu, June 15</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Nick Caffes, MD &amp; Jeff Oliver, MD</b> PGY-7 Residents of Neurosurgery, UMSOM <i>"Chief Resident Talk"</i></p>
<p><b>Thu, June 22</b> 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD</b> Associate Professor of Neurosurgery, UMSOM <i>"M&amp;M"</i></p>
<p><b>Thu, June 29</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>NO CONFERENCES</b></p>

### JULY GRAND ROUNDS AT-A-GLANCE

<p><b>Thu, July 6</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS</b></p>
<p><b>Thu, July 13</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Kristopher Hooten, MD</b></p>
<p><b>Thu, July 20</b> 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS &amp; Uttam Bodanapally, MBBS</b></p>
<p><b>Thu, July 27</b> 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD</b></p>

JUNE				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JULY				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

### HOLIDAYS

- 6/1 - Black Lives Matter Month; Pride Month
- 6/8 - World Brain Tumor Day
- 6/14 - National Nursing Assistants Week
- 6/18 - Father's Day
- 6/19 - Juneteenth (UMB CLOSED)
- 6/21 - National Day of Indigenous People
- 7/4 - Independence Day (UMB CLOSED)
- 7/10 - Eid al-Adha
- 7/18 - Islamic New Year
- 7/22 - World Brain Day
- 7/27 - Ashura





# HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?



We are looking for stories, achievements, heroics, tidbits, and fun stuff to feature in In the Loupes and to share within University of Maryland and our surrounding communities. If you are interested in writing a column or want to share what type of news you want to hear more, feel free to email at [rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:rcmcgowan@som.umaryland.edu)

If you would like to submit your news via the Neurosurgery News Portal, click or copy and paste the link below into your browser.

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY NEWS PORTAL!](#)**

## STAY COOL OUT THERE!

