



IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

01 New Core Value!

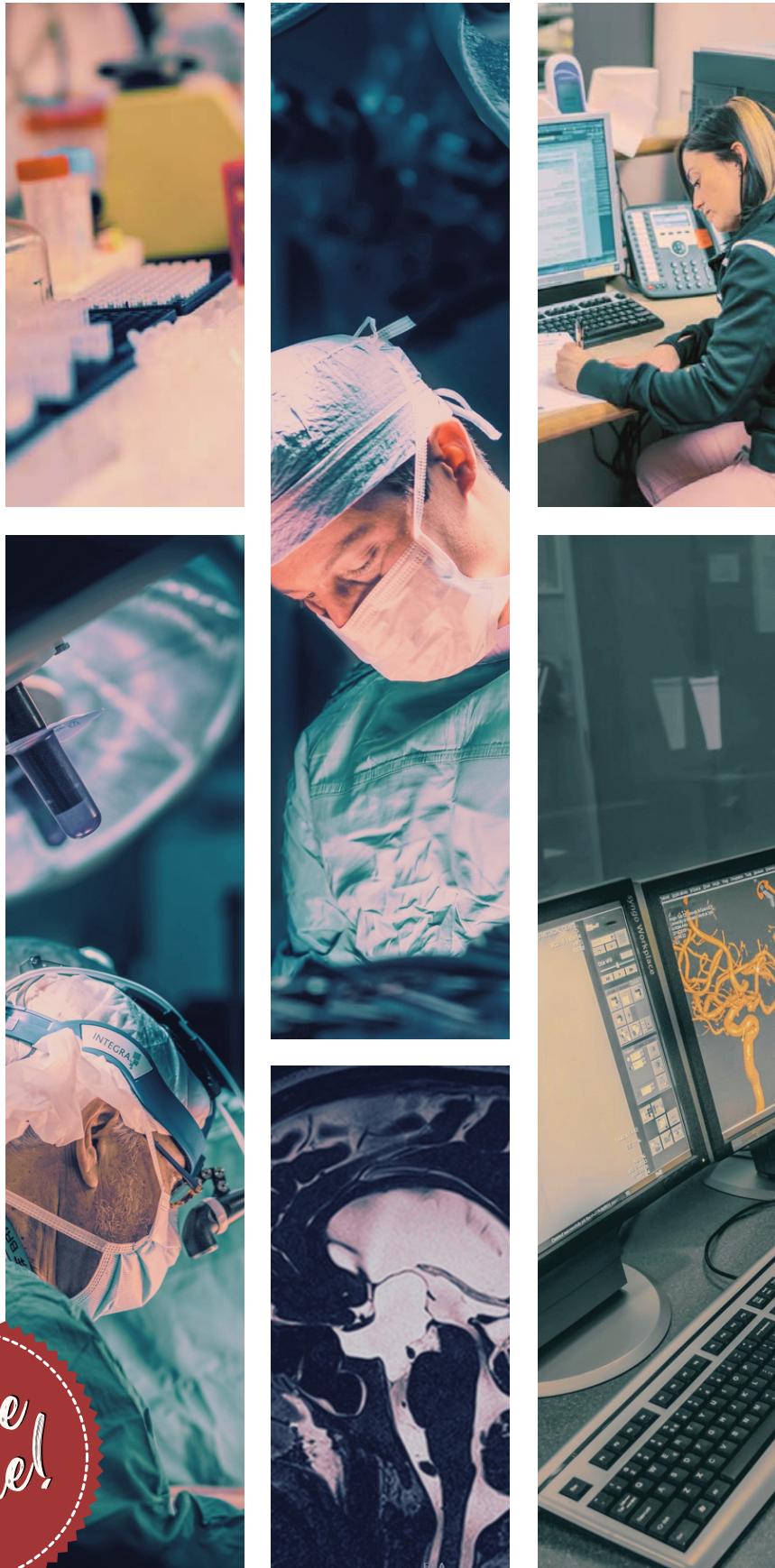
03 Faculty Highlights

05 Lectures, Research & More!

07 Match 2022

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





DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Introducing Our New Core Value!

Dr. Woodworth announced to the department Friday, November 5th during the ice cream social, that we will be embracing a fourth core value...

Drive at Mastery

Which means a desire, each day, to improve yourself, your work environment, and/or your work performance. Whether a person eventually achieves mastery or is deemed to be a master, is not necessarily the focus.

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

SUBASH MARASINI, B. OPTOM, PHD

SMarasini@som.umaryland.edu

Subash Marasini recently started training as a Post-doctoral Fellow under Dr. Xiaofeng Jia. Marasini majored in Biomedical Science, with a concentration in Neuroscience, and received his PhD from Ajou University, School of Medicine, South Korea in 2020. During his PhD program, he was involved in research related to the application of gene modified stem cells for the treatment of neurological disorders, like Ischemic Stroke, Glioblastoma, Alzheimer's Disease, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). In Dr. Jia's

lab he will be conducting research on the rodent models to develop neuroprotective approaches, such as stem cell therapy or hypothermia, as well as, explore the mechanistic pathways involved in the recovery of brain injury after cardiac arrest. *Welcome, Subash!*



EMYLEE MCFARLAND

EMcFarland@som.umaryland.edu

Emylee has just started her position at the Department of Neurosurgery as the Laboratory Research Supervisor in the Translational Therapeutics Research Group (TTRG)! She is originally from Baltimore, but most recently lived in Bozeman, MT. Emylee earned her MLAS (Masters of Lab Animal Science) from Drexel University College of Medicine, and has worked in both research and animal support positions at academic, government, and contract research facilities. Her favorite lab animal is a rat! But outside of the lab, the animals she loves especially are cats and dogs - specifically basset hounds! Emylee enjoys yoga, cheering on the Orioles and Ravens, swimming, reading, and spending time outside. *Welcome aboard, Emylee!*



OLGA DRANOV, DNP, NEUROSURGERY CLINIC

volha.dranov@som.umaryland.edu

In 2004, Olga immigrated to the U.S. from Belarus. Since then, Olga joined the Department as a Nurse Practitioner in the Spine Clinic, and, as of this year, has successfully finished her DNP degree at UMSOM. Her family consists of her husband, her son, Leo (5), her daughter, Viviana (9), and they are about to welcome a brand-new puppy! Olga speaks fluent Russian, enjoys cooking (especially Russian dishes), going outdoors, skiing during the winter, and spending time with her family and friends. *Welcome to the team, Olga!*

SUZANNE HOLLIS, SENIOR GRANTS & CONTRACTS SPECIALIST

shollis@som.umaryland.edu

Suzie Hollis is the new Senior Grants & Contracts Specialist for the Department of Neurology. She last worked in the Sponsored Programs Administration Office here on campus and is happy to bring her insider knowledge to the Neurology/Neurosurgery Team! She will be working directly with our faculty to assist in general pre-award management, as well as applying for grants, contracts, and clinical trials.

Welcome, Suzie!



VISITING SUB-I'S



NEHA AMIN, MS4

NAmin@som.umaryland.edu



KELLY BRIDGHAM, MS4

Kelly.Bridgman@som.umaryland.edu



SERGE TZEUTON, MS4

Serge.Tzeuton@som.umaryland.edu



ALLISON WILLIAMS, MS4

Allison.Williams@som.umaryland.edu

Comment from a grateful patient who received care from our department. Great work Dr. Woodworth and team!

"I always get excellent customer service when interacting with this office. I am highly pleased with Dr. Woodworth's team. He is one of the best...hands down."



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

"Days like [October 21st] make me proud to be serving our patients at the University of Maryland Medical Center and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center."

"Yesterday (10/21/21) was a busy day for the STC Neurosurgery service. We had 4 acute cervical spine injury patients that needed emergent surgery on a rolling basis throughout the day. I want to thank



Dr. Thomas Scalea for expediting the use of 2 ORs at STC and **Dr. Caron Hong** for everything she did to complete the last case in the GOR when staff was slim after hours. But most especially I want to thank our Neurosurgery residents, who unprompted appeared in the ORs to get the job done. I went from one resident assisting to five. **Tim Chryssikos** participated in three of these cases and actually participated is not the correct word. Tim's leadership and skill as a Surgeon allowed us to run these rooms in a safe and effective manner to get the job done for our patients. Many thanks to **Jesse Stockum, Josh Olexa, Jeff Oliver** and **Phelan Shea** without who this could not have happened. Days like yesterday make me proud to be serving our patients at the University of Maryland Medical Center and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. "

— **Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer**

Baltimore
MAGAZINE

**2021 TOP
DOCTORS**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations Top Doctors!

More than 300 of physicians in more than 108 specialties and subspecialties across the University Maryland Medical System have been recognized as "Top Doctors" in the November 2021 issue of Baltimore Magazine. [You can view the full list here.](#)

We especially want to give a shout out to the Top Doctors in...

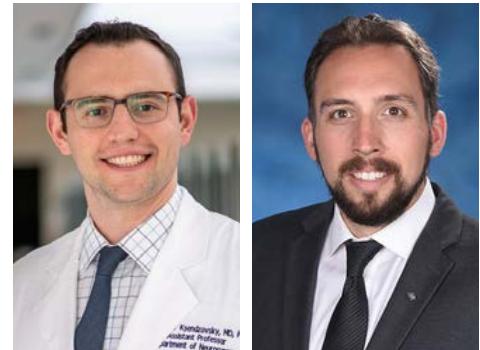
- **Neurosurgery:** Dr. Graeme Woodworth; Dr. Charles Sansur
- **Spine Surgery:** Dr. Steven Ludwig; Dr. Ken Crandall; Dr. Justin Tortolani
- **Trauma:** Dr. David Efron; Dr. Thomas Scalea



AWARDS, PATENTS & GRANTS

THE LISA DEAN MOSELEY FOUNDATION

The Lisa Dean Moseley Foundation has approved The University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation's grant request in the amount of **\$250,000** to support the *A High-Throughput Drug Screening Tool for mTOPopathies* project. This is a multi-PI grant awarded to **Drs. Alex Ksendzovsky and Philip Iffland** to study the use of human stem cells to personalize anti-epileptic drug therapy. *Congratulations!*



NANOPARTICLE PATENT

The Co-directors of the Translational Therapeutic Research Group (TTRG), Drs. Anthony Kim, Graeme Woodworth, and Jeffrey Winkles, were recently received two issued US Patents based on their Decreased non-specific Adhesivity, Receptor-Targeted (DART) nanoparticle technology. Drug therapies currently being used for brain and other cancers provide only modest improvements in patient survival, likely due to a number of drug delivery challenges. To address these limitations, the TTRG team has engineered an innovative therapeutic

delivery platform based on the DART technology to concurrently enable receptor-mediated interactions and minimize non-specific adhesivity to (i) improve nanoparticle blood circulation time and dispersion, (ii) 'slip through' and rapidly penetrate tumor tissues *in vivo*, (iii) promote significantly longer drug retention within the tumor and (iv) overcome MDR transporter-based drug resistance mechanisms. Read more about this patent [here!](#)

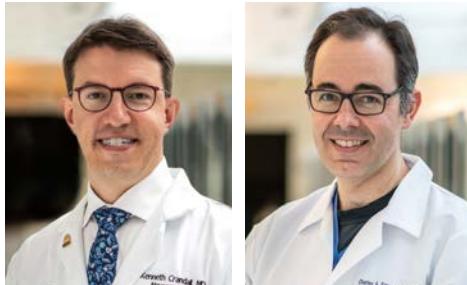
MEDICAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (MELA)

Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer was elected as a **Core Instructor** by the MELA of the University of Maryland School of Medicine! According to MELA standards, Dr. Schwartzbauer has demonstrated substantial commitment and contributions to medical education, and has modeled professionalism, respect, and accountability. This mission is carried out by working closely with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and the Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education to foster a diverse community of dedicated, nationally-recognized leaders in medical education. *Amazing work, Dr. Schwartzbauer!*





LECTURES, RESEARCH & MORE!



PUBLICATIONS

Drs. Ken Crandall and Charles Sansur were published in the Seventh Edition of the *NMS Surgery (National Medical Series for Independent Study)* textbook, on Chapter 26, under Part VII: Surgical Subspecialties.

Dr. Charles Sansur co-published "An Updated Management Algorithm for Incorporating Minimally Invasive Techniques to Treat Thoracolumbar Trauma," in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. You can read the publication on PubMed.gov [here](#).

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES



Dr. Bizhan Aarabi participated as a discussant at the 2021 North American Spine Society's 36th Annual Meeting for the *Spinal Cord Injury: Contemporary Surgical Concepts for Acute Spinal Cord Injury* symposium. This event was held at the Boston Convention Center on October 1st.



Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD, PGY-4 is attending the Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Workshop, hosted by the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (ASSFN) and the University of Colorado, Department of Neurosurgery. This lecture will be held November 11th to the 14th.

In addition, his abstract titled: "Variability in Vascular Supply of Intracranial Meningiomas: An Angiographic and Anatomic Study," was selected for a podium presentation February 18-20th at the 31st Annual North American Skull Base Society (NASBS) meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. *Great work, Abdul!*

CLINICAL RESEARCH

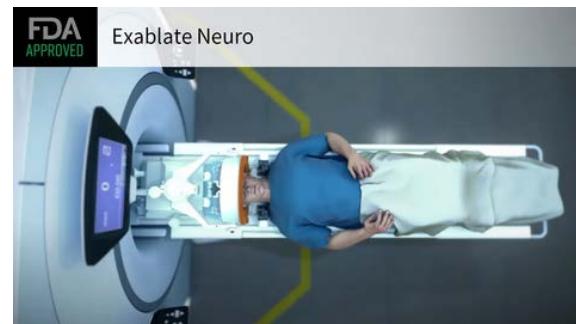
Published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, **Dr. Marc Simard** has written a new review on an important series of discoveries: "Sulfonylurea Receptor 1 in Central Nervous System Injury: An Updated Review." You can read the article [here](#).





FDA APPROVED! EXABLATE NEURO EXCLUSIVE

Neurosurgery research is on a roll with a new FDA approval! Insightec announced on November 3rd, the approval of Exablate Neuro for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease, which uses FUS waves to precisely target and ablate the GPi during a pallidotomy. This approval is the culmination of the PD006 study, led locally by **Dr. Howard Eisenberg**. This FDA approval demonstrates how the department plays a key role in developing novel techniques that ultimately translate to



improved patient care. This is an embodiment of the department's core value of 'leave it better than you found it' and speaks to the tireless work of Dr. Eisenberg, his collaborators, and the Neurosurgery Research Team. Projects like this require highly collaborative work amongst multidisciplinary teams, including researchers from the Department of Neurology and Diagnostic Radiology. This is just one of the many examples how the innovative clinical research done in the department results in FDA approvals, and how Maryland Neurosurgery is a leader in neuroscience research at UMSOM. Read the full Insightec exclusive [here!](#)

MATCH 2022!

VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS
Friday, December 3rd
Friday, December 17th
Friday, January 7th
Friday, January 28th

RANK ORDER MEETING LIST
February, Date TBA

IN-PERSON VISITS
February, Dates TBA

RANK ORDER LIST DEADLINE
Wednesday, March 2nd

MATCH DAY!
Friday, March 18th

INTERVIEW DAY SCHEDULE

8 INTERVIEW GROUPS

11 FACULTY
4 RESIDENTS
PAIRS ARE TBD

Morning Session

08:45 AM	Join Zoom meeting waiting room
09:00 AM	Interview Start (15-minute interviews w/ 5-minute breaks)
12:00 PM	Interviews Conclude

Afternoon Session

12:45 PM	Join Zoom meeting waiting room
01:00 PM	Interviews Start (15-minute interviews w/ 5-minute breaks)
04:00 PM	Interviews Conclude

NEW INTERVIEW PLATFORM: THALAMUS

Used for reviewing applications and scoring. ***Details TBA**

REMINDER: MATCH POLICY

Programs may not ask applicants about their ranking preferences or about programs to which they applied. Programs and applicants can volunteer ranking information.

Programs and applicants may have no communication between the Rank Order List Deadline (Mar 2) and the start of Match Week (Mar 15)

SNS POLICY FOR IN-PERSON VISITS

Applicants may complete in-person visits after the initial virtual interviews to a small number of their priority program(s). ****OPTIONAL and OFFERED AFTER VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS (February)**

ZOOM BEST PRACTICES

- Join the session from the hospital offices.
- Pairs should be together in-person.
- No virtual backgrounds.
- Check your background and lighting!
- Be mindful of your body language and eye contact.
- Do not multitask/be distracted on your computer
- Prepare interview materials in advance
- Keep in mind that the session end time is fixed.

NOVEMBER 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, November 20 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Neuroanatomy Dissection Workshop <i>AXIS Labs, Columbia</i>
Fri, December 3 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews <i>In-Person & Zoom</i>
Wed, December 15 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Holiday Party! <i>The Center Club</i>
Fri, December 17 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews <i>In-Person & Zoom</i>
Fri, January 7 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews <i>In-Person & Zoom</i>
Fri, January 28 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MATCH Interviews <i>In-Person & Zoom</i>

November						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOV. GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, November 4 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	M&M w/ Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer <i>12th Floor & Zoom</i>
Thu, November 11 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Dr. Mohamed Labib <i>12th Floor & Zoom</i>
Thu, November 18 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	M&M w/ Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer <i>12th Floor & Zoom</i>
Thu, November 25	NO CONFERENCES

Holidays	
National Epilepsy Awareness Month	Monday, November 1, 2021
Veteran's Day	Thursday, November 11, 2021
 Happy Thanksgiving!	Thursday, November 25, 2021
American Indian Heritage Day	Friday, November 26, 2021



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

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



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



GOBBLE GOBBLE!

