



# IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND  
NEUROSURGERY  
NEWSLETTER

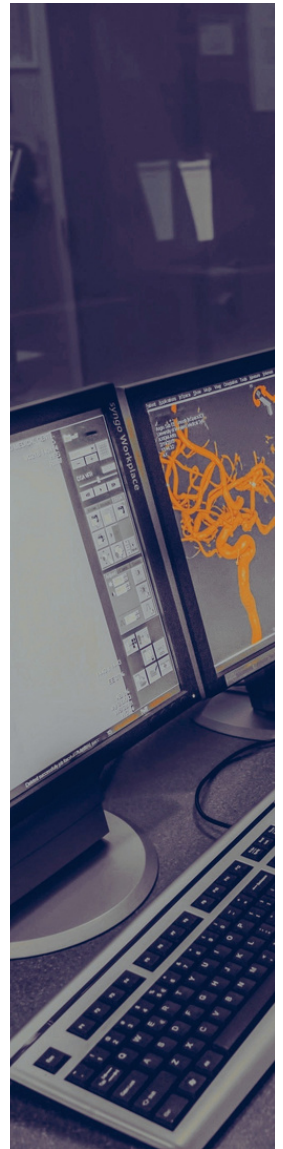
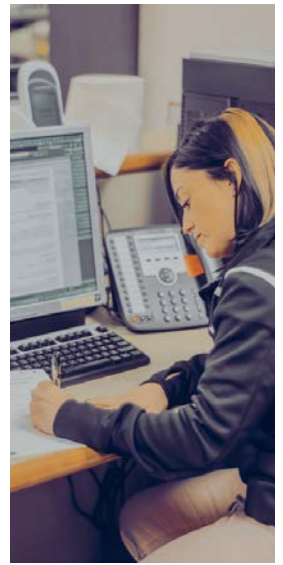
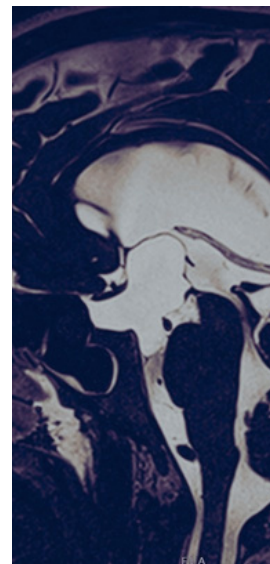
## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Blue Ridge Ranking
- 02 Neuro-Link Exclusive!
- 04 Department Highlights
- 06 Thank You!

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More  
inside!





## DEPARTMENT UPDATES



### *The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research Places The Department in the Top 20*

The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) is an independent, non-profit, scientific research institute founded in 2006 by Robert Roskosi Jr., who serves as President and Scientific Director. The Institute generates an annual ranking of NIH funding for US medical schools and their departments, and the BRIMR data is considered to be the gold standard for medical school research metrics. These data are used throughout the biomedical community for the analysis of medical research and education activities. *Congratulations Maryland Neurosurgery for ranking #19!*

### Remembering Alumni Dr. Herbert S. Bell

1929 - 2021



**Dr. Herbert S. Bell** finished his neurosurgery residency here in 1958, and spent most of his career in Cleveland, Ohio. He is most known for describing 'Bell's cruciate paralysis', a rare syndrome of bilateral upper extremity weakness with sparing of the lower limbs thought to be caused by specific damage to the pyramidal decussation at the cervicomedullary junction after trauma. He was the first neurosurgeon selected by the AANS/CNS for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Bell passed away in December. His obituary can be found [here](#). —Written by **Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD, PGY-4**.

## VISITING SUB-I'S



**Aria Jalalian, MS4**

[Aria.Jalalian@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Aria.Jalalian@som.umaryland.edu)



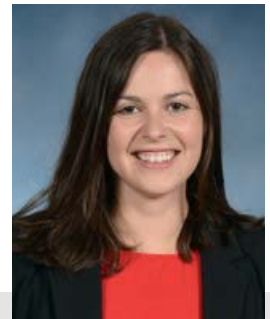
**George Mocros, MS4**

[George.Mocros@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:George.Mocros@som.umaryland.edu)



**Ellen Moxley, MS4**

[Ellen.Moxley@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Ellen.Moxley@som.umaryland.edu)



**Hannah Kass, MS4**

[Hannah.Kass@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Hannah.Kass@som.umaryland.edu)



# Inaugural University of Maryland Neuro-Link Grant Supports Glioblastoma Research Collaboration

Date: February 16, 2022

By: Alyssa Tomlinson, Assistant  
Director of Communication for  
Fischell Department of  
Bioengineering

*Funding pathway promotes high-impact collaborations between the University of Maryland, Baltimore Department of Neurosurgery and the University of Maryland, College Park Fischell Department of Bioengineering.*



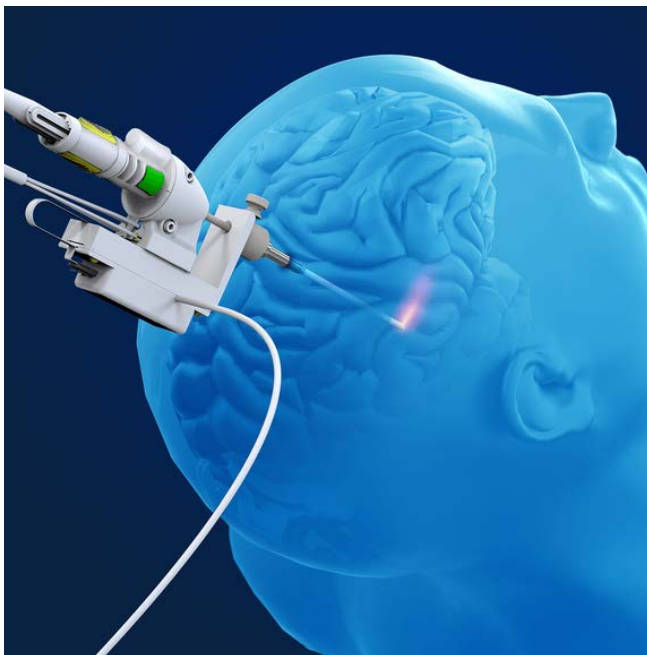
UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

Neurosurgery & Fischell Department of Bioengineering

NEURO-LINK

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Department of Neurosurgery and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) Fischell Department of Bioengineering (BIOE) awarded the inaugural Neuro-Link program grant to a team of UMB/UMCP researchers who are working to develop a novel technique to treat glioblastoma (GBM), the deadliest and most common type of adult brain cancer.

Established last fall, the Neuro-Link funding opportunity provides \$100,000 annually, for up to three years of support. The program aims to accelerate and elevate the impact of joint UMB/UMCP research projects to create innovative new systems, approaches, and technologies to improve patient care.

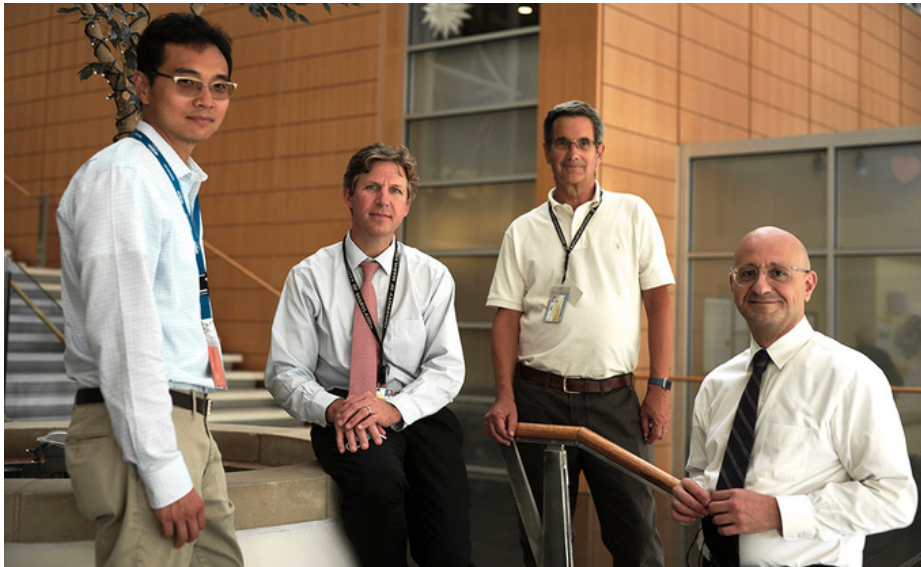


"The Neuro-Link concept – inter-departmental investment in burgeoning co-faculty success across the College Park and Baltimore campuses – may be a model for other cross-campus initiatives designed to leverage the tremendous expertise within our University System," said Department of Neurosurgery Chair **Graeme F. Woodworth, MD**. "This is particularly important when seeking to address complex challenges like brain cancer, which will require highly coordinated, diverse teams to discover new effective treatments."

"This exciting new funding opportunity will help inspire College Park bioengineers and Baltimore researchers and clinicians to work together to address critical gaps in the current management of patients with complex neurosurgical problems," said BIOE chair **John P. Fisher**. "This kind of collaboration represents a pivotal step toward changing the course of brain cancer and other neurological diseases."

Along with Woodworth, neurosurgery faculty members **Drs. Anthony J. Kim** and **Jeffrey A. Winkles** and BIOE faculty member **Huang Chiao (Joe) Huang, PhD** are principal investigators on the first Neuro-Link-funded project. Together, they are working with plasmonic technology and nanoscale engineering to improve the safety and efficacy of a laser-based procedure increasingly used to treat deep-seated, unresectable tumors, such as those found in the brain.

Neurosurgeons who use this procedure – known as laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT) – would apply a high-powered laser that essentially burns and shrinks the tumor. For decades, this kind of thermal priming has been known to increase the efficacy of subsequent radiation treatments to treat cancers. Traditionally, LITT poses unique challenges for brain cancer treatment because it is difficult to limit LITT's thermal effects on surrounding, healthy brain tissue.



From left to right: Drs. Anthony Kim, Graeme Woodworth, Jeffrey Winkles, and Pavlos "Paul" Anastasiadis

Recognizing this, the Neuro-Link-backed team is working on a technique that uses specialized nanoparticles and an advanced local drug delivery strategy that bypasses the blood-brain barrier and penetrates tumor tissues to enhance how LITT targets tumor cells while significantly reducing LITT's effect on surrounding normal brain cells.

"The work proposed here by our UMB and UMCP team has the potential to reveal a new way to improve the current LITT procedure, thereby improving outcomes for both primary and recurrent GBM patients with unresectable tumors," Winkles said.

"This exciting new partnership will accelerate potential clinical translation of innovative new biomedical technologies to improve patient care," Kim said.

The research group plans to use their Neuro-Link funding to generate the data they need to compete for large, multi-investigator grants. They hope to expand their work to address broader areas of brain cancer research, including further investigation into the blood-brain tumor barrier, cancer chemoresistance, and cancer imaging and treatment.

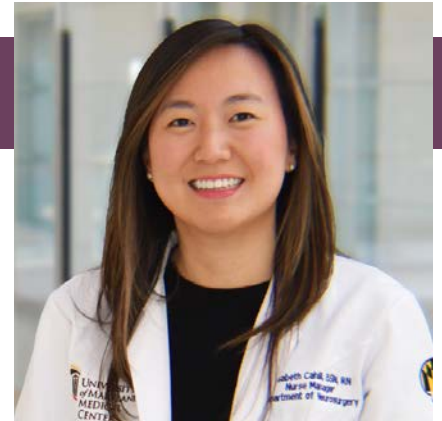
"This strategic alliance will help bridge gaps in basic knowledge and clinical experience by engaging the strengths of clinical, preclinical, and other investigators, increasing the likelihood to deliver a new medical solution for glioma patients," Huang said.

Department of Neurosurgery faculty member **Pavlos "Paul" Anastasiadis** (UMB) and BIOE graduate student **Sumiao Pang** are also regular contributors to this project.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: LIZ CAHILL

"I wanted to nominate Liz because I admire her dedication to patient care, sunny disposition, and positive attitude! I work in the same office space as Liz, and every time I hear her speak to a patient over the phone, she is so kind and empathetic. I believe her to be an integral part of this department. Even though I've only been here a short while, I've noticed she embodies every single core value of the department, and is an absolute pleasure to work with!" —Written by **Rachel McGowan**.



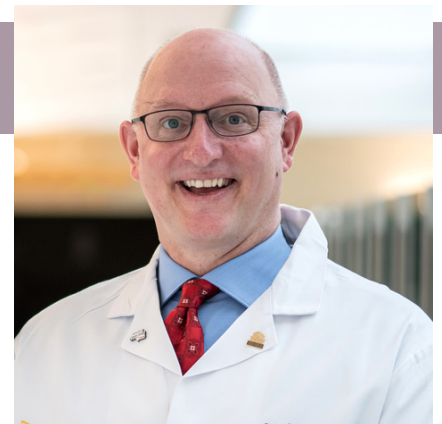
## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: RICCARDO SERRA



**Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-2**, will be inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) Honor Medical Society this month! ΑΩΑ admission is reserved for very exceptional residents who are recognized for their high attainment in the medical sciences, practice, and related fields. To be admitted into Beta Chapter at UMSOM, Riccardo was recognized for displaying perpetual excellence in neurosurgery. *Congratulations, Riccardo!*

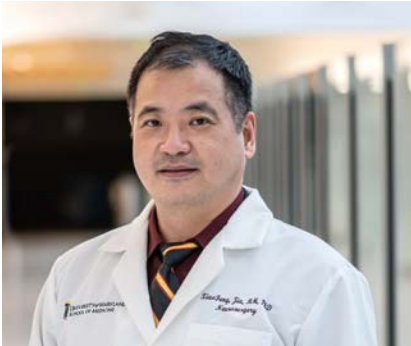
## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. SCHWARTZBAUER!

**Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD** was appointed Honorary Faculty in the Centre for Trauma Sciences (C4TS), Blizard Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London. The C4TS is a world-leading center of excellence in translational research on immediate post-injury pathophysiology, and offers post-graduate training and degrees in the management of both civilian and military trauma patients. Lectures and mentorship are provided by global leaders in trauma patients. Dr. Schwartzbauer is proud to have served as a mentor to nascent Traumatologists in projects ranging from systematic reviews to prospective clinical trials. Trauma continues to be the leading cause of death in those younger than 44 years old worldwide, and always great to strengthen international collaboration! *What a tremendous accomplishment!*





## MORE FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS!



### *Xiaofeng Jia, MB, PhD*

Dr. Jia was recently appointed as the Associate Editor of the Translational Neuroscience section of *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, a leading journal in its field which has published rigorously peer-reviewed research across a wide spectrum of specialties and disciplines. *Congrats, Dr. Jia!*

In addition, Dr. Jia was the corresponding author, along with coauthors: Xiang Xu, Xijie Zhou, Xiao Liu, Liming Qing, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Jian Du, PhD, Research Associate, published: "Macrophage activation in the dorsal root ganglion in rats developing autotomy after peripheral nerve injury," featured in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, on November 26, 2021.

### *Howard Eisenberg, MD*

Dr. Eisenberg made it in *The Top 100 Registry Inc's* Top Doctors! *The Top 100 Registry* is the leading publisher of professional biographies in the world. This magazine highlights professionals who display an exemplary career, educational attainment, or admiration within the community, recognizing hard working individuals who deserve acknowledgement for their dedication and sacrifice.



### *Charles Sansur, MD*

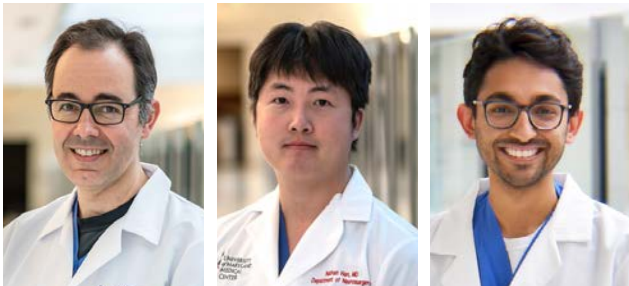
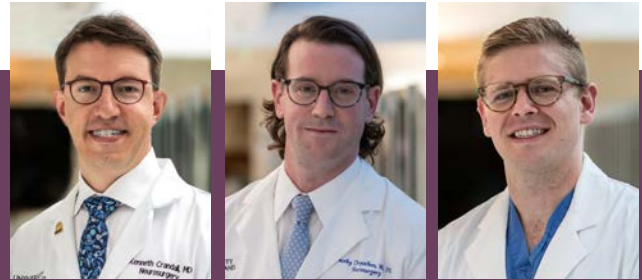
Dr. Sansur's received a patent for his new device titled "Cloward-Style Cervical Mesh Cage with Lateral Stabilizers," which was issued on February 1st. The patent is valid until June 6, 2038, and you can view a copy of the issued patent [here](#). A game-changer in spine neurosurgery, this device substantially reduces the risk of subsidence compared to typical Cloward-style and other devices. *Amazing work, Dr. Sansur! This accomplishment is well-deserved!*



## FACULTY COLLABS WITH SSF!

### INTERESTING SPINE CASE DISCUSSION SERIES

Dr. Kenneth Crandall, along with residents Joshua Olexa, MD, PGY-4, and Tim Chryssikos, MD, PGY-7 partnered with the Seattle Science Foundation on February 8th to talk about Thoracic Kyphosis Due to Pathologic Fractures. You can view the presentation on SSF's YouTube channel [here](#).



### VIRTUAL SPINE JOURNAL CLUB

Dr. Charles Sansur, and residents Nathan Han, MD, PGY-5, and Parantap Patel, MD, PGY-1, also collaborated with SSF, but for the Virtual Spine Journal Club that occurred on February 4th. The presentation was titled: Anterior Release From the Posterior Approach, and can be accessed on SSF's YouTube channel [here](#).



*A big thank you to all the faculty, residents, and staff for assisting with resident interviews!*



### Match Day is March 18th!

We had some amazing and talented candidates interview for our residency program this season, and our department is looking forward to welcoming two new residents very soon. With that being said, watch out for the next edition of *In The Loupes* as we reveal who our future PGY-1's will be...



**Sophie White, MPH,**  
**Academic Specialist**

# FEBRUARY 2022

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

### EVENTS

Fri, February 4 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	SSF Spine Club w/ Dr. Sansur <i>Virtual</i>
Tue, February 8 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	SSF Spine Discussion w/ Dr. Crandall <i>Virtual</i>
Fri, March 18	Match Day!
Fri, June 10	Graduation!

### GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, February 3 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Nicole Wenger, MD, MBA, PGY-2 <i>12th Floor &amp; Zoom</i>
Thu, February 10 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Guest Speaker: Dr. Greg Hawryluk <i>12th Floor &amp; Zoom</i>
Thu, February 17 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Guest Speaker: Dr. Eric Singman <i>12th Floor &amp; Zoom</i>
Thu, February 24 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	M&M w/ Dr. Gary Schwartzbauer <i>12th Floor &amp; Zoom</i>

### February

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						

### Holidays

#### Black History Month

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

#### Chinese New Year

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

#### Groundhog Day

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

#### Happy Valentine's Day!

Monday, February 14, 2022

#### President's Day

Monday, February 21, 2022

#### Resident Appreciation Week

Monday, February 21, 2022 -  
Friday, February 25, 2022



## 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, scan the QR code or copy and paste the link below into your browser.



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



TWO RED BLOOD CELLS FELL IN LOVE. BUT IT WAS ALL IN VEIN...

