



AUGUST 2022 | ISSUE 20



IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

01 Dr. Whitney Parker!

03 New to Maryland Neurosurgery!

04 Department Updates!

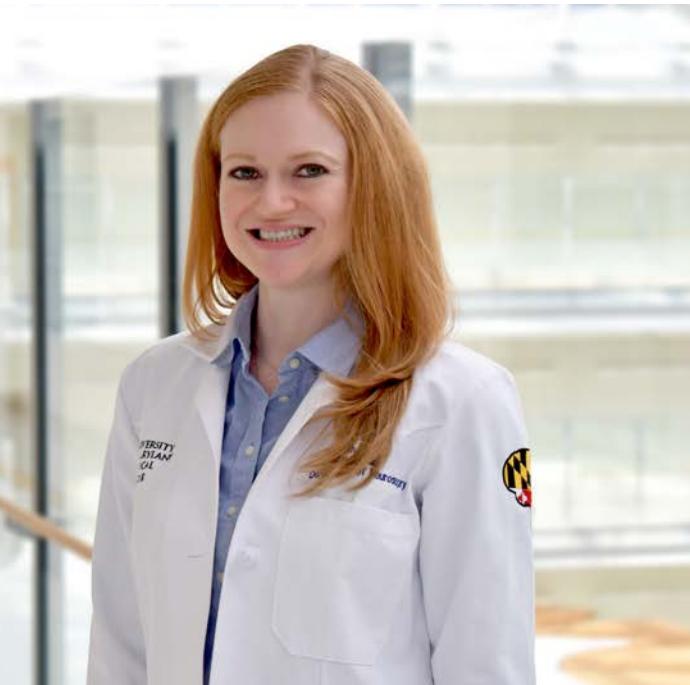
06 Faculty Highlights

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





WELCOME TO MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY, DR. PARKER!

Whitney Parker, MD, PhD was recruited to the department in March 2022, but as of August 29th, she is now an official faculty member of Maryland Neurosurgery! The department is incredibly excited that Dr. Parker is joining our team as our newest, full-time Pediatric Neurosurgeon, who will be contributing to the department's pediatric and adult cranial-focused programs. She will also be collaborating internally with the Department of Pediatrics and Neurology, respectively, with a clinical focus on pediatric epilepsy and adult/pediatric cranial neurosurgery.

Dr. Parker has come all the way from Toronto, Canada with her family to settle here in Federal Hill, Baltimore! "My family includes my husband Brad, who has been with me since I was a graduate student in the **Dr. Peter Crino** Lab at UPenn, who works in software development at Amazon, our 1.5 year-old daughter Addie, who is the most fun tornado of energy, and our large 16 year-old cat Munchkin. I have one "little" brother William, now a Cardiology fellow in his 30s, to whom I still affectionately refer as "the Dork," and two amazing parents who always pushed us to work hard." Dr. Parker grew up in Cullman, Alabama — a small town where her father worked as a Urologist. She moved to Philadelphia for college, medical school, and graduate school, then to New York for residency, and finally Toronto for her fellowship. When people ask her "where's home?", Dr. Parker can finally provide an answer!



Brad, Addie, and Whitney at the Toronto Zoo



William and Whitney, on an abandoned highway in Hokkaido Japan



Whitney enjoying Baltimore with Addie



Some fun facts about Dr. Parker is that she enjoys reading both classic fiction and non-fiction books (or as she puts it, "the modern equivalent: listening on Audible while in cell culture"). She also has interests in primate behavior, inspired by her professors-turned-friends from college, and nuclear arms policy. Dr. Parker loves to travel, find great places to eat ("way too much"), experience new cultures, and do outdoor activities! In the distant future, she'd like to be a short fiction author for *The New Yorker*.

As previously mentioned, Dr. Parker attended college, medical school, and graduate school (with her PhD work in Dr. Peter Crino's Lab) at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her neurosurgery residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and did a Pediatric Neurosurgery fellowship at the hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. She has held an interest in pediatric neurosurgery since her first year of medical school, when she began studying neurodevelopmental

disorders in lab. This was solidified by the first neurosurgical case she scrubbed in for — an anatomical hemispherectomy in a 9 year-old with unilateral polymicrogyria and epilepsy. "It was mind-blowing to me that children can undergo such extreme procedures and, not only survive, but often re-plasticize neural function to unaffected areas, as a result of their disease process occurring during development...Children make pretty great patients—they're unbelievably strong, resilient, and fun to talk to on rounds or in clinic." Throughout her residency, she has always found pediatric cases to be some of the most technically challenging and elegant procedures, and her fellowship year confirmed that, allowing her to do her favorite types of cases like functional hemispherotomies, temporal lobectomies, and electrode implantations for epilepsy; posterior fossa and intraventricular tumor resections; intramedullary spinal tumor resections; and AVM resections, all with the privilege of working with and learning from fantastic mentors.

Dr. Parker has a lot to look forward to as she begins her Maryland Neurosurgery journey as a new faculty member. "The vision for the department and the group of faculty, staff, and residents I get to work with is absolutely inspiring." She has been able to start forming great collaborative relationships with the Pediatric Neurology team, and is anticipating on working to establish a cross-institutional Pediatric Epilepsy network across the University of Maryland Hospital system and Johns Hopkins hospitals. She's also really looking forward to having the opportunity to build the Parker Lab, with the help of her lab manager and long-time friend, **Marianna Baybis**. They both will be working in the Neurosciences group, focusing on neurodevelopmental epileptic disorders and collaborating with **Drs. Peter Crino, Alex Ksendzovsky, and Peter Iffland**.



At the Parker Lab, Dr. Parker and her team will use mouse and human models of brain development and perform neural recordings *in vivo* and *in vitro* to define mechanisms of disease pathology and efficacy of targeted treatment options. The ultimate goal of her combined lab and clinical work will be to initiate a translational effort to identify patients with epileptic disorders through early genetic testing and work to prevent the development of epilepsy, rather than treat its consequences, through neonatal or even fetal targeted interventions. Dr. Parker is currently recruiting new lab members—so spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in applying for a position! *Welcome to Maryland Neurosurgery, Dr. Parker!*



NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT



KELLY ACHORN, SURGICAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

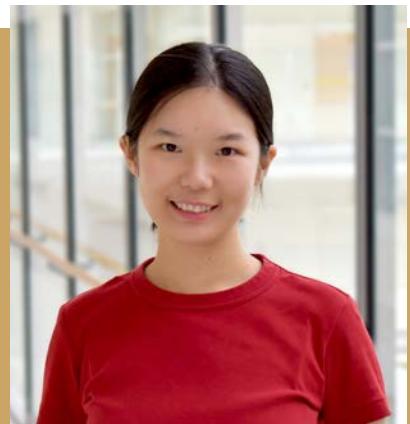
KAchorn@som.umaryland.edu

Kelly is our newest Surgical Operations Specialist, who is joining us from the Department of Neurosurgery at Georgetown University Hospital where she was a Surgical Coordinator for four years. She's worked a number of medical specialties over the course of her medical career, but Neurosurgery has been her favorite practice! Kelly's hobbies include movies, concerts, sporting events, and exploring new places and restaurants in the area. *Welcome, Kelly!*

TINA WANG, MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR

tiwang@som.umaryland.edu

Tina hails from Vancouver, Canada, where she graduated from University of British Columbia with a degree in Microbiology and Immunology. Having drawn her entire life, science and art came together when she discovered medical visualization and communications. Having recently graduated from JHU with an MA in Medical Illustration, Tina is excited to join the Neurosurgery Department as UMB's first ever full-time medical illustrator! She will first be working closely with **Mohamed Labib, MD** at the Skull Base 360° Lab, creating visual content for various research and educational purposes. She looks forward to collaborating with other clinicians and researchers down the road, and exploring new media and methodologies to better communicate science. In her spare time, Tina likes to go hiking, and wishes to explore more of the outdoors on the east coast. *Welcome aboard, Tina!*



DOENEYSE BELL, PRACTICE COORDINATOR

doneyse.bell@som.umaryland.edu

Doneyse joins our team to assist and coordinate with **Drs. Mohamed Labib** and **Jacob Cherian**. She is no stranger to UMB, coming from the Department of Ophthalmology where she was a Practice Representative for four years. Now, she has officially joined Maryland Neurosurgery to expand her knowledge and skills in this field, and is incredibly excited to get to know everyone! Doneyse loves to bake, cook, and spend time with her family. *Welcome to the team!*



HEAR WHAT OUR PATIENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MARYLAND NEUROSURGERY!



The nurses were very helpful and the whole staff was great!



Everyone was wonderful!



Dr. Eisenman and Dr. Woodworth - I am so impressed at every level. My experience at UMMS far outweighs my experience at JHH. I feel blessed to have this team helping me.



Professional staff!



Dr. Sansur is the absolute best. His staff is very professional and courteous!



Excellent staff! Very welcoming.



No delays.



Excellent and efficient staff!



Dr. Labib was the bright spot of the visit. He did an excellent job. And **Dr. Miller** was also excellent.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

TAGME CERTIFICATION!



Sophie White, MPH recently passed the Training Administrators for Graduate Medical Education (TAGME) Certification program! This certification was established to advance the profession of those who manage residency and fellowship programs. *Congratulations, Sophie!*



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



(from left to right) Marilyn Robbins, Shanell Watson, Alex Palleschi, Kim Kearney, Taylor Miese, Liz Cahill, Lyndsi Hiler, Amanda Platt, Tammy Lipka, Olga Dranov, Doneyse Bell, and David Newton.

Maryland Neurosurgery achieved the patient experience goal for the months of April, May, and June of this year! We appreciate all of our team members and care providers, who work incredibly hard everyday to give our patients the BEST service and care possible! Congratulations!!

RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD, SM, PGY-5 was selected to receive the Young Investigator Award for the 8th International Symposium on Focused Ultrasound for his abstract titled: "Bilateral MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound Central Lateral Thalamotomy for Refractory Trigeminal Neuralgia: Preliminary Results." This award was established to recognize outstanding research by scientists-in-training in the field of Focused Ultrasound. This event will be held virtually and in person from October 23rd to the 28th.

In addition to this, another of Dr. Ahmed's abstracts titled: "Direct visualization of Planned Resection Volumes with Microbubble-Enhanced MR-guided Focused Ultrasound Blood-Brain Barrier Opening and Sodium Flurescein in Infiltrating Gliomas," was accepted as an Oral Poster at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) Annual Meeting. The event will be held on October 8th to the 12th in San Francisco, California. *Amazing work, Dr. Ahmed!*



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT!

Pavlos Paul Anastasiadis, PhD was recently promoted to Assistant Professor! Dr. Anastasiadis works at the Translational Therapeutics Research Group (TTRG) for the Department of Neurosurgery, and has been with the department since 2016. *Congratulations Dr. Anastasiadis!*



THE THOMAS M. SCALEA AWARD IN HUMANISM!

The University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Surgical Critical Care Fellowship class of 2022 awarded **Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD** the Thomas M Scalea Award in Humanism for being a "leader dedicated to education, mentorship, and humanism." *Congrats Dr. Schwartzbauer!*



NEW R01 AWARDED TO DR. JIA!

On August 2nd, **Xiaofeng Jia, MD, PhD, FCCM** was awarded a new R01 grant of \$508,243 for the study: "Improving Brain Recovery Through Glycoengineering". Dr. Jia is the director of the Neurosurgical Stem Cell Research and the director of the Translational Neuroengineering and Neuroscience Lab! *Outstanding work, Dr. Jia!*

AUGUST 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

AUGUST GRAND ROUNDS

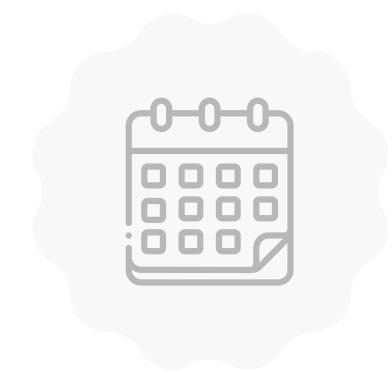
Thu, August 4 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Charley Sansur, MD, MHSc
Thu, August 11 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Josh Olexa, MD, PGY-5 & Ashish Sharma, MD, PGY-6
Thu, August 18 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Steven Ludwig, MD
Thu, August 25 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD

August

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				

SEPTEMBER GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, September 1 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Drs. Bizhan Aarabi, Wendy Chang, Deb Stein, and Gary Schwartzbauer
Thu, September 8 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Rosemary Kozar, MD, PhD
Thu, September 15 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Kenneth Crandall, MD
Thu, September 22 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-3
Thu, September 29 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD



No August Holidays



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!](#)**



STAY COOL OUT THERE ☺

