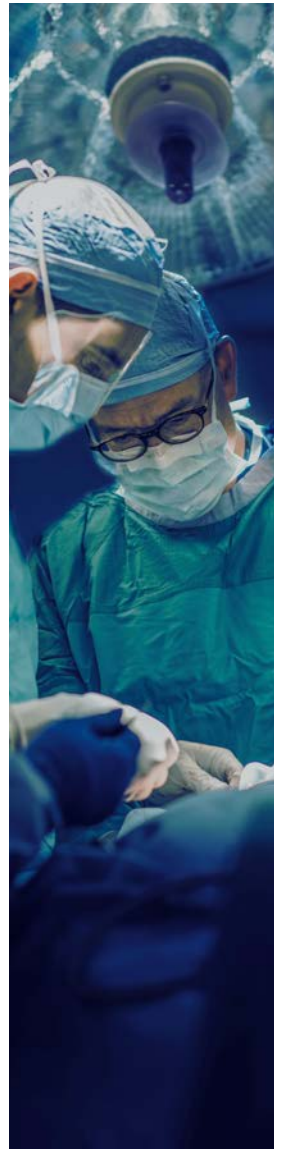
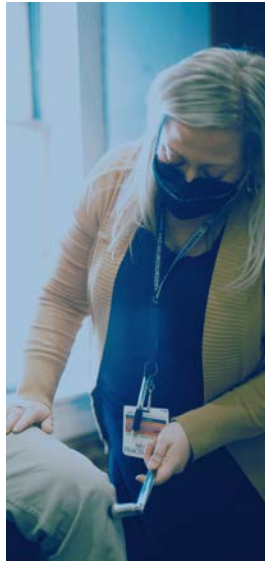




# IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND  
NEUROSURGERY  
NEWSLETTER



## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 01 Department Updates
- 02 Awards & Promotions
- 03 Research Updates
- 04 Faculty & Resident 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](mailto:Neurosurgery.Communications@som.umaryland.edu)





## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Chiquita** was very helpful & nice. **Dr. Ksendzovsky** was extremely helpful and showed me everything that happened in my head. Excellent.

My surgeon is the BEST SURGEON IN THE WORLD in my humble opinion. **Dr. Charles Sansur** and his staff are without question the very best there is!!

PERFECTION! Kindness, compassion, professional, understanding...I cannot say it enough, they are the BEST EVER! Always outstanding level of professionalism and wonderful customer service!! The facility is the best hospital that I have ever had the pleasure of being a patient of and in the care of the best in the business. From start to finish, everything was absolute perfection!

**Crystal Bond** is excellent!

The staff was friendly and helpful. I love the nurse/assistant. The nicest people that I had the pleasure of meeting. **Dr. Sansur** is the best doctor ever!

I always feel like I am respected during my office visits.

I respect **Dr. Ken Crandall!**

As a physician myself, I find **Dr. Sansur** a role model.

**Lyndsi Hiler** is the best!!

Nurses and doctors were excellent, very knowledgeable, polite, kind, and patient. Answered all my questions.

UMMC, every place, every department I went to, each and every person was warm, friendly, and exhibited great customer/patient service. The MRI/CT Scan, Lab, Vision, etc. Everyone was awesome!



GRATEFUL PATIENTS

## NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT



### LARS JOHNSON, OPERATIONS INTERN

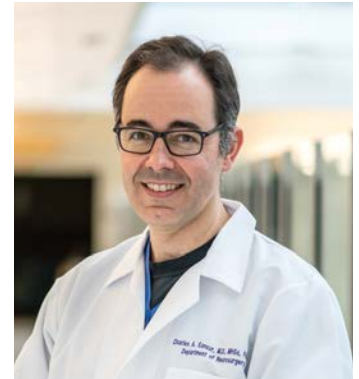
[lhjohnson@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:lhjohnson@som.umaryland.edu)

Lars joins the Department as a first year student in the Johns Hopkins University Masters of Health Administration program, having just moved from Madison, Wisconsin this year. Lars will be working with the operations employees and other department staff to assist in various departmental projects, helping to lead the department towards achieving its long-term goals. Lars is an active triathlete whose leadership of the UW-Madison triathlon team led the team to being recognized at a national level for the team's spirit and camaraderie. *Welcome aboard, Lars!*

# AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

## TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT AWARD

**Charley Sansur, MD, MHSc** received from the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) the *Technology Advancement Award* of \$30,000 for his project: "SI Fixation Screw" that he presented at the July 20th Medical Device Prototype Sprint pitch presentation. This Award is designed to support medical device prototype development as the initial stage of technology commercialization. *Congratulations, Dr. Sansur!*



## THE 2022 FERENC JOLESZ MEMORIAL AWARD

**Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS** received the 2022 Ferenc Jolesz Memorial Award! The Jolesz Award was established in 2016 to honor the life of Ferenc Jolesz, a true pioneer in focused ultrasound. It is intended to recognize and encourage Dr. Jolesz's innovative spirit in mid-career researchers and clinicians who continue to advance focused ultrasound. The award, which includes a \$5,000 cash prize, is supported by Insightec. To read the full article, please click [here](#). *Amazing work, Dr. Woodworth!*

## NEW ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**Khalid Kurtom, MD, FAANS, FACS** has recently been promoted to Adjunct Associate Professor! This is an entirely volunteer promotion, meaning Dr. Kurtom is willing to continue to support the University by participating in its teaching and/or research activities without compensation. He has since started this position in July. *Congrats, Dr. Kurtom!*



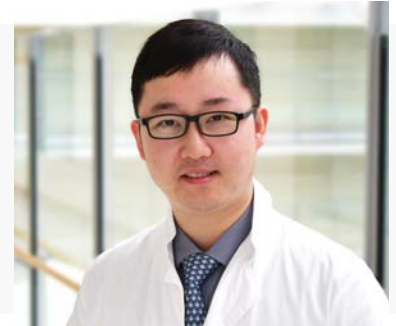




## RESEARCH UPDATES

### Chixiang Chen, PhD

**Chixiang Chen, PhD** is the first and corresponding author to the latest publication in *Biometrical Journal*, titled: "Synthesizing secondary data into survival analysis to improve estimation efficiency". The topic is about integrating information from secondary outcomes to boost the performance in survival analysis, and can be accessed [here](#) for further reading.



### Nikhil Pandey, PhD

**Nikhil Pandey, PhD**, a postdoctoral fellow working in TTRG, was recently selected as a Center for Advanced Research Training & Innovation (CARTI) 2022 Scholar! The Clinical/Translational Research Training Track Pilot is the first track to be launched and will provide foundational training to fellows and early-stage faculty in developing and executing a mentored clinical research project. This 6-month training program will include didactic instruction, scientific writing instruction, experiential learning, and a capstone project. Upon completion of the training track, CARTI scholars will have a research protocol for a clinical project that they are executing under the guidance of a mentor. *Congratulations, Dr. Pandey!*



### Chrissy Carney, PhD

**Chrissy Carney, PhD**, who joined the TTRG as a GPILS Molecular Medicine Program graduate student in 2018, presented her PhD Thesis Defense seminar entitled "Investigating Fn14 as a cell surface portal for targeted nanotherapeutic delivery to triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells" on September 20 in the HSF III first floor auditorium. Her three co-mentors (Drs. Winkles, Kim and Woodworth), other TTRG team members, as well as many friends and family members were in attendance. After the public seminar, her PhD Thesis committee members met and asked Chrissy numerous questions about her research, which mainly focused on the use of DART nanoparticles for treating brain metastases.



Chrissy passed this section of the defense and then was congratulated by all during a pizza lunch. The TTRG wishes Chrissy all the best as she moves on to a Postdoctoral Fellow position in the Wakefield lab at the NIH where she will study breast cancer metastasis.

### Research Committee News, by Jeffrey Winkles, PhD (TTRG)

Applications are now being accepted for Pilot Grants to provide funding for (1) high risk-high impact exploratory research projects, (2) intra- or interdepartmental collaborative research projects, and (3) innovative translational projects on their way toward commercialization. The application deadline for this first round of funding is November 1. For more information, please see the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#).



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

### *Graeme F. Woodworth, MD, FACS*



**Dr. Graeme Woodworth** and fellow medical staff were featured in *The Baltimore Sun's* news article, written by Meredith Cohn, on Sunday, September 4th! The article highlights glioblastoma patient, Rick Miller, and how his treatment using focused ultrasound resulted in a safe and miraculous recovery, effectively eradicating his cancer for good! Read the entire article [here!](#)

On another note, Dr. Woodworth has also been selected to be a part of the "Dream Team" NICO Oncology Tissue Advisory Board, along with other distinguished chairs and neurosurgeons from around the nation! Read the full article [here](#).

## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### **ABDUL-KAREEM AHMED, MD, SM, PGY-5**

**Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD, SM, PGY-5** has been designated as the upcoming Resident Member on the ACGME Review Committee for Neurological Surgery! This is quite an honor, having been chosen from a competitive selection of nominations from across the country.

When residency programs report to the ACGME, they correspond directly with the Review Committee (RC). Each specialty has an RC comprised of members with expertise in their specialty area. Neurosurgery's RC has nine members total, including seven practicing neurosurgeons, one non-clinical public member, and one neurosurgery resident. Currently, the RC includes: Robert E. Harbaugh, MD, FAANS, FACS, FAHA; RC Chair; Christopher I. Shaffrey, MD, FACS; RC Vice Chair; Sepideh Amin-Hanjani, MD; Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS; Douglas Kondziolka, MD; Francesco D. Mangano, DO; and many others.

The committee oversees all ACGME-accredited neurosurgery residencies in the country, totaling around 160 programs. The RC is responsible for setting accreditation standards, providing peer evaluation of programs to assess compliance with requirements, and conferring accreditation status based on that assessment. On the RC, Abdul will have an active role in reviewing program proposals related to program changes, curriculum structure, rotation sites, complement sizes, core faculty, and so on. He will participate in reviewing programs, providing feedback, and deciding accreditation.

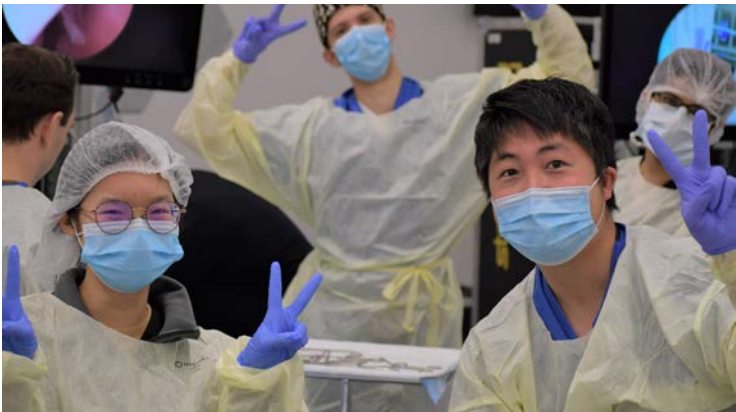
Abdul will begin his appointment as the RC's Resident Member on July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025, serving for two years. He will succeed the current Resident Member, Lucas Carlstrom, MD, PhD, a PGY-7 resident at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN).

This is an exceptional opportunity for Abdul. He will gain rich insight into graduate medical education, network with leaders in the specialty, and contribute to neurosurgical education standards for all programs. We are thrilled to support Abdul in this endeavor! *Congrats, Abdul!*



## THE ENDOSCOPIC AND ENDONASAL SKULL BASE WORKSHOP!

The Endoscopic Endonasal Skull Base Course, which was held on Friday and Saturday, September 23rd and September 24th, hosted by Axis Labs in Columbia, was a huge success! The faculty instructors who led the event were **Graeme Woodworth, MD, FACS** and **Mohamed Labib, MD**, and **Andrea Hebert, MD, MPH**, as well as Johns Hopkins faculty: **Garry Gallia, MD, PhD** and **Nick Rowan, MD**. Many residents, ENTs, and medical students attended, and participated in the dissection with much gusto. Check out some of the amazing photos from the course!





# SEPTEMBER 2022

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

### SEPTEMBER GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, September 1 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD; Wendy Chang, MD; Deb Stein, MD, MPH; Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD <i>"Boost Trial"</i>
Thu, September 8 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Rosemary Kozar, MD, PhD <i>"State of the Clinical Research in Trauma in US and UMD"</i>
Thu, September 15 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Kenneth Crandall, MD <i>"OR Best Practices"</i>
Thu, September 22 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Bizhan Aarabi, MD <i>M&amp;M</i>
Thu, September 29 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-3 <i>"Traumatic Intracranial Aneurysms: An Update on Diagnosis and Treatment"</i>

### September

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		

### OCTOBER GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, October 6 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Jacob Cherian, MD
Thu, October 13 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Tim Chryssikos, MD, PhD
Thu, October 20 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Charles Matouk, MD
Thu, October 27 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD

### Holidays

**Labor Day**  
Monday, September 5, 2022

**National Grateful Patient Day**  
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

**Mid-Autumn Festival**  
Saturday, September 10, 2022

**Patriot Day**  
Sunday, September 11, 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!](#)



## FALL IS HERE!

