

**St. Luke's
Roosevelt**

UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL OF
COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS &
SURGEONS



SURGICAL QUARTERLY

VOLUME II ISSUE II / OCTOBER 2002



NEWS & EVENTS



SLR IN JAPAN



LAB UPDATE



DR. BURKS



**PROGRAM
UPDATES**

Continuum
Health Partners

NEWS & EVENTS



DR. JONATHAN GEFEN IS SHOWN PRESIDING OVER OUR GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB.

CHIEF GRADUATION CLASS OF 2002

BURRITT HAAG, M.D.
HACKENSACK HOSPITAL - LAPAROSCOPY

BRIAN HARLIN, M.D.
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NJ
- COLORECTAL SURGERY

MONICA HUM, M.D.
CLEVELAND CLINIC MIAMI - COLORECTAL
SURGERY

DAVID SYN, M.D.
CHIEF OF BARIATRIC SURGERY - TEXAS

YONG YOON, M.D.
GENERAL SURGERY PRIVATE PRACTICE



THE CHARLES MCBURNEY, M.D. PRIZE IN SURGERY

This new award recognizes truly outstanding performance as a surgical resident. Recipients exemplify the highest standards with regards to their clinical acumen, their devotion to research, and their contributions both to the residency program and to the Department of Surgery. In addition to the certificates pictured, the Department of Surgery presented the honorees with custom designed, gold cufflinks on which the emblems of both St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals were engraved. A plaque on permanent display in the offices of the Department of Surgery will bear their names and that of future recipients. All members of the Department of Surgery salute the recipients of this exceptional award.

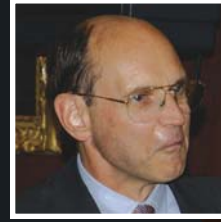
2000-2001 **SCOTT J. BELSLEY, M.D.**
2001-2002 **RON G. LANDMANN, M.D.**



CHARLES RO, M.D.
 INTERN OF THE YEAR
 2001-2002



BURRITT HAAG, M.D.
 CHIEF OF THE YEAR
 2001-2002
 ADVANCED LAPAROSCOPY
 AWARD 2001-2002



ERIC MOORE, M.D.
 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
 2001-2002

MEET THE NEW INTERNS

CLASS OF 2007



Royd Fukumoto, M.D.
 Yale University - 1998
BA Biology
 New York University School of Medicine - 2002



Peter Kaye, M.D.
 Boston University - 1998
BS Human Physiology
 Chicago Medical School - 2002



Daniel Rosen, M.D.
 Cornell University - 1998
BA Near Eastern Studies
 Albert Einstein College of Medicine - 2002



David Shin, M.D.
 UC Irvine - 1996
BS Biology
 New York Medical College - 2002



Laura Withers, M.D.
 Williams College - 1995
BS English
 New York Medical College - 2001



Please visit the St. Luke's Library to see a photo presentation by Dr. James Norris, Attending Emeritus Surgeon, titled, *Peregrinations of a Peripatetic Plastic Surgeon.*

St. Luke's in Japan



DR. TEUSLER'S ORIGINAL HOUSE SITS IN THE FOREGROUND. THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THE TOWER IN THE DISTANCE, ARE ALL PART OF ST. LUKE'S INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL.



DR. THANOS PETROTOS (LEFT) IS SHOWN WITH DR. MITSURU SASAKO, DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DIVISION FOR GASTRIC CANCER AND CHIEF OF GASTRIC SURGERY AT JAPAN'S NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE.

A warm relationship started this past June when Dr. Thanos Petrotos traveled to Japan to visit St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo. The founding of our sister institution was largely the work of the late Dr. Rudolf Bolling Teusler, a medical missionary from Virginia who established the hospital with the assistance of the American Episcopal Church in the early 1900's. The Institution began as a church-affiliated hospital rendering good care to all people and grew into an innovative, technological powerhouse.

Dr. Sakurai, Chairman of the Department of Surgery and President of St. Luke's International Hospital, invited members of our department to observe both their program of resident education and Japanese advances in surgical technique. As our department's representative, Dr. Petrotos spoke about resident training in the United States and the particulars of our system.



"TSUKIJI" IS A TOKYO DISTRICT THAT WAS THE SITE OF THE FIRST FOREIGN SETTLEMENT IN THE CITY. ALWAYS A CENTER OF FOREIGN LEARNING AND CULTURE IN POST-RESTORATION JAPAN, IT COUNTS ST. LUKE'S INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL AS ONE OF ITS MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS.

He observed the training of their residents and participated in the operating room, learning about their procedures and techniques. The Japanese system's efficiency and the volume and variety of gastrointestinal surgery impressed Dr. Petrotos greatly. He referenced the higher incidence of gastric cancer in Japan, a fact which allows greater opportunity to develop techniques in advanced gastric surgery

than one might typically see in the United States.

While in Tokyo, Dr. Petrotos also visited Japan's National Cancer Institute. He spent time with Dr. Mitsuru Sasako, Director of the World Health Organization Division for Gastric Cancer and Chief of Gastric Surgery at the National Cancer Institute, and watched him perform a resection on a patient previously thought to have inoperable gastric cancer.

This past summer, Dr. Kaori Kumakura, a surgical resident at St. Luke's International Hospital, visited St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital for two weeks. She spent time at both sites, witnessing operations quite rare in her home country. Dr. Sakurai and Dr. George Todd, Chairman of the St. Luke's - Roosevelt Department of Surgery, are planning an exchange program between our two institutions in hopes of enriching resident training and broadening the depth of their experience and their knowledge base. Although there is no doubt that such a program would expand the residents' understanding of surgical disease, the cultural exchange is one of the most exciting components that it offers.

LABORATORY UPDATE

One floor up from Dr. Tilson's world-renowned aneurysm laboratory and in a room that once housed Dr. Hugh Fitzpatrick's groundbreaking experiments in cardiopulmonary bypass, surgeons of St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital are working at the new frontier of cardiothoracic technology. Dr. Joseph DeRose and Dr. Robert Ashton have established the Center For Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery Laboratories on the eleventh floor of the S&R Building.

This lab is dedicated to exploring and expanding the potential of the developing field of robotics and minimally invasive surgery. Clinical studies at the Center follow patients who have undergone robotic-assisted thymectomy, lobectomy, and epicardial pacemaker implantation, to name just a few procedures. By following the progress of these patients, the Center contributes to the knowledge and understanding of long-term effects and success rates of these newest techniques. Integrated basic science research will examine the cellular and molecular responses to such procedures.

Among the most exciting new technologies being pioneered at the center is the work on Total Endoscopic Beating Heart Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting. Our Cardiothoracic Division recently received an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) from the FDA to perform beating heart endoscopic single vessel CABG with the robot. This makes St. Luke's-Roosevelt only the second institution in the country to be able to perform this procedure under a physician-sponsored IDE. The potential to expand upon this work and use this technology in other procedures represents an exciting area of growth being explored by the Center.

From the new interns, who are excited to catch a glimpse of the elegant machinery, to attending surgeons from other departments and institutions hoping to develop robotic skills and

programs of their own, everyone wants to get involved. Such enthusiasm is welcomed. This past September, the Center sponsored a course on robotic placement of biventricular pacemakers which was attended by surgeons from as far west as California and included teams from the University of Michigan and the Arizona Heart Institute. Other Courses designed to provide basic robotic experience for newcomers to the field, including residents and fellows, are being developed. A new audio-visual suite with integrated media links to conference areas facilitates observation and learning both within the hospital and across the country.

From their cutting-edge research to their dedication to educating students and colleagues, the surgeons at St. Luke's - Roosevelt Center for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery are enjoying this busy and exciting time.



DR. ERIC MARTIN INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGIST IS COLLABORATING WITH MEMBERS OF THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT EXAMINING NEW CORONARY REVASCULARIZATION TECHNIQUES.



THE ARMS OF THE DA VINCI ROBOT ARE SHOWN BEING CONTROLLED BY ONE OF THE RESIDENTS PRACTICING A CORONARY ANASTOMOSIS.

Dr. Burks



TOP LEFT: AN ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM IS SHOWN WITH A MARKER CATHETER.

ABOVE: DR. BURKS IS SHOWN TEACHING RESIDENTS AT FRIDAY MORNING VASCULAR CONFERENCE.

In July 2002, Dr. James A. Burks joined the Vascular and Endovascular Service after completing his fellowship in vascular and endovascular surgery at Mount Sinai Medical Center. Within six weeks of joining the staff, he had

established himself as an important member of the vascular team. On September 12, 2002, Dr. Burks performed SLR's first endovascular stent-graft repair of a ruptured aortic aneurysm in an elderly gentleman with significant heart disease. Dr. Burks performed the emergency aneurysm repair under local anesthesia. Although ruptured aortic aneurysm is fatal within a few hours in about 75% of patients, Dr. Burks' patient was home from the hospital in three days.

Dr. Burks began his medical training at the New York University School of Medicine where he graduated *AOA* and received the Spencer Award for Outstanding Student in Surgery. He completed his general surgery training at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital where he distinguished himself by receiving the Hardy Award for Excellence in Surgical Science.

Dr. Burks pursued his interest in vascular surgery at the Mount Sinai Medical Center where he focused his training not only on general vascular surgery but also on vascular interventional radiology, specifically endovascular aortic aneurysm repair. He published mul-

multiple articles and abstracts discussing this new technology. His initial research endeavors examined the risks and benefits of endovascular aortic repair as well as the practical



DR. BURKS ESCORTS A HAPPY OCTOGENARIAN TO A CAB ON HIS SECOND POST-OPERATIVE DAY. THE PATIENT WAS SLR'S FIRST RECIPIENT OF AN ENDOGRAFT REPAIR FOR A RUPTURED ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM.

application of new graft constructions. Here at our institution, Dr. Burks' research interests include robotic applications in vascular and endovascular surgery.

He represents the new generation of vascular and endovascular surgery at St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital. He has expertise in traditional open approaches to vascular pathology, endovascular techniques, and is exploring the future of robotics. St. Luke's - Roosevelt Department of Surgery is proud to extend him a warm welcome.

ROBOTIC VASCULAR SURGERY IS ANOTHER AREA OF DR. BURKS' INTEREST. HE IS SHOWN AT THE CONSOLE IN SLR'S NEWLY REKINDLED ANIMAL LABORATORY.

AUTHOR FRANK CIMINELLO HAS AN INTEREST IN TECHNIQUES IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE REVASCLARIZATION.



CHIEF RESIDENT DR. WAEL SOLH ASSISTS DR. GEORGE TODD (RIGHT) IN PREPARING THE FEMORAL ARTERY AS AN ENTRY POINT FOR THE AORTIC ENDOGRAFT.

PROGRAM UPDATES

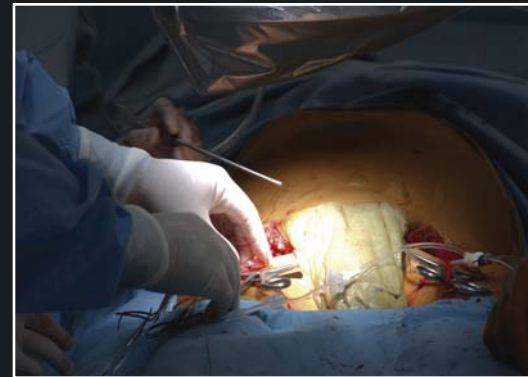
SLR's Aortic Endograft Program began in 2001 as a collaborative effort between the Department of Surgery's Dr. George J. Todd and the Department of Interventional Radiology's Dr. Eric C. Martin. Since that time, more than 75 patients have undergone this minimally invasive life saving procedure for repair of aortic aneurysms using stent-graft technology.

In its first year, the SLR program achieved a position among the most active in the tri-state region. Successful aortic aneurysm repair has been achieved in 100% of the patients.

The quality of the program is recognized regionally and nationally. The Medtronic Corporation, manufacturer of the stent graft, chose Dr. Eric C. Martin to serve as a proctor to other programs throughout the country. In May 2002, Dr. George Todd was invited to address 5,000 physicians and industry representatives at the annual meeting of the Society of Interventional Radiology on the "Current Status of Endovascular Aortic Surgery."



DR. TODD IS SHOWN ADDRESSING THE SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING IN BALTIMORE.



DR. ERIC MARTIN USES A GUIDEWIRE TO POSITION THE ENDOGRAFT TO ITS EXACT LOCATION.



DR. SWISTEL IS SHOWN MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS TO WEAN A PATIENT OFF OF CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS.

Cardiothoracic surgery at SLR is rapidly developing. With Dr. Swistel as Chief of Cardiac Surgery and Dr. Joseph DeRose as Chief of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery, SLR is proud of the department's dedication to technological advancement and ability to accommodate patients' changing needs.

Volume has increased this year by 30%. This increase is attributed to the continued success of microscopic and "bloodless" surgery programs as well as new programs and advances in surgical techniques. Approximately one-third of all CABG bypass procedures are now done at SLR without the need for cardiopulmonary bypass.

Dr. DeRose is quickly developing a minimally invasive valve surgery program. He has also started performing intraoperative radiofrequency ablation for the treatment of atrial fibrillation. This provides another alternative to reduce the life-long need for blood thinners in patients with chronic atrial fibrillation.

Clinical and laboratory work continues towards the perfection of totally endoscopic robotic beating heart CABG. The Cardiothoracic Division in collaboration with the Department of Cardiology recently sponsored a two day course on robotic surgery for heart surgeons from across the country.

St. Luke's Roosevelt

**St. Luke's - Roosevelt
Hospital Center**
*University Hospital of
Columbia University College
of Physicians and Surgeons*

1000 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10019
(212) 523 - 7780
newsletter@slrsurgery.org

**George J. Todd, M.D.,
F.A.C.S.**
*Chairman, Department of
Surgery
Faculty Sponsor*

Scott Belsley, M.D.
*Publisher / Editor-in-
Chief*

Frank Ciminello, M.D.
Editor

Ksenija Gagic, M.D.
Copy Editor

Authors:
Frank Ciminello, M.D.
Royd Fukomoto, M.D.
Laura Withers, M.D.

Pictures:
Scott Belsley, M.D.
Thanos Petrotos, M.D.

*Special Thanks to SLR
Archivist:
Ms. Nancy Panella*

Continuum
Health Partners

