

Vascular Surgery Alumni

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Friends,

Despite the pandemic, the University of Rochester Division of Vascular Surgery is thriving. Emboldened by a service reorganization which has allowed us to improve patient access to critical vascular service, while decreasing resource utilization, our team continues to grow and adapt to these unprecedented challenges. Our year-on-year volume growth has continued, and we are recognized as a premier referral center for complex vascular care. A dedicated regional team has allowed us to provide at risk populations with access to high-level care. A few highlights since the last communication:

- Initiation of a dedicated acute care vascular surgery service at Strong Memorial Hospital, staffed with surgical faculty and residents. This has allowed for more efficient use of surgical resources and has been a major driving force for improving our clinical learning environment.
- We have successfully opened a new hybrid operating room at Strong Memorial Hospital, and moved into a modernized vascular interventional suite at F.F. Thompson Hospital. All of our patients now have access to modern vascular imaging suites and minimal-access procedures.
- Again, the program has been recognized as a three-star [Vascular Quality Initiative \(VQI\) program](#). Our faculty hold regional and national service and leadership positions within VQI, and are recognized as experts in quality data analytics and process improvement.
- Our [cardiovascular engineering lab](#) has been successful in the development of an *in vitro* aortic dissection model and continues to pioneer the development of ultrasound and magnetic resonance-based aortic elastography.
- [Doran Mix '13M \(MD\), '19M \(Res\)](#), assistant professor of vascular surgery and director of the cardiovascular engineering lab, was awarded the Eastern Vascular Society research scholarship to continue his work on aortic wall biomechanics.
- The integrated vascular residents and students have carried the Rochester flag well at regional and national meetings. Highlights include winning best basic science poster at the Vascular Annual Meeting and best poster at the Eastern Vascular Society Annual Meeting.
- We are excited to introduce two new faculty to the practice: [Karina A. Newhall, MD, MS](#), from University of Washington and [Grayson S. Pitcher, MD](#), from the Mayo Clinic. Their addition will further our clinical, teaching, and training mission.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Division. I am proud of the work our team accomplishes on a daily basis, and look forward to meeting future challenges. I am grateful for the interest and support of the Rochester alumni. Feel free to contact me directly with news and accomplishments at michael_stoner@urmc.rochester.edu.



Best regards,
[Michael C. Stoner, MD, FACS, DFSVS](#)

Chief and professor, Division of Vascular Surgery



Vascular quality initiatives improving patient outcomes

[Jennifer Ellis, MD](#), associate professor of vascular surgery, is director of the [Vein Care Center](#), an IAC-accredited vein center and diagnostic vascular laboratory, and the only one in the region offering comprehensive vein care. There, Ellis leads URMC's participation in the VQI as part of the national patient safety organization, collecting 5% of the national data. The Center looks at outlier data, compares outcomes across the region and nation, and determines possible causes for poor outcomes including gaps in systems, procedures, or education.

At the VQI annual meeting this August, Ellis presented on "[Varicose Vein Procedures and EHIT](#)," examining why patients developed blood clots after minimally invasive procedures. Ellis instituted process improvements including education on pre- and post-procedure documenting, standardized ultrasound reports and treatment protocol standards, and pre-procedure blood thinner treatments for high-risk patients. Numbers have started dropping, but the patient care team continues to work to bring down the blood clot rate to the national level within the next four years. Read more about Ellis' research on hemodialysis access in women in chapter 4A of [Vascular Disease in Women 1st Edition: An Overview of the Literature and Treatment Recommendations](#).



Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship Fund update

In 2019, former resident Adam Doyle '08M (MD), '14M (Res), assistant professor of vascular surgery, and his wife, Marcy Mason '11, '15 (MS), nurse practitioner at URMC, established the [Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship Fund](#) to ensure that resources always exist to support trainee research. We are pleased to report that the market value of the fund is over \$41,000. [Please consider supporting this effort](#) and help us reach our goal to award a vascular surgery research fellowship to one of our outstanding fellows within a year. For more information, contact Jennifer Koehnlein at jennifer.koehnlein@rochester.edu.

"The mission of the Hsu Medical Education Foundation is to support medical students and residents who improve their communities through the art and science of medicine. The University of Rochester has distinguished itself as a leader in medical education and is the ideal recipient for our support."

I am forever grateful to my mentors, colleagues, and patients at the University of Rochester. Those were formative years where, as a young resident, I was given the rare chance to learn from masters and giants in the field. It was the vascular surgeons at Rochester who guided and mentored me into the field. With each passing year, I appreciate my time in Rochester even more because I believe that the excellent training I received has carried me well throughout my career."

I'm honored to give back through the Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship Fund and the Dr. James DeWeese Endowment to support this special place for surgical education, mentorship, research, and patient care."

Jeffrey H. Hsu, MD, FACS, '03M (Res), '05M (Flw)
Regional chief of vascular surgery, Kaiser Permanente, Southern California Permanente Medical Group
Clinical assistant professor of surgery, Loma Linda University School of Medicine

Meet our new faculty

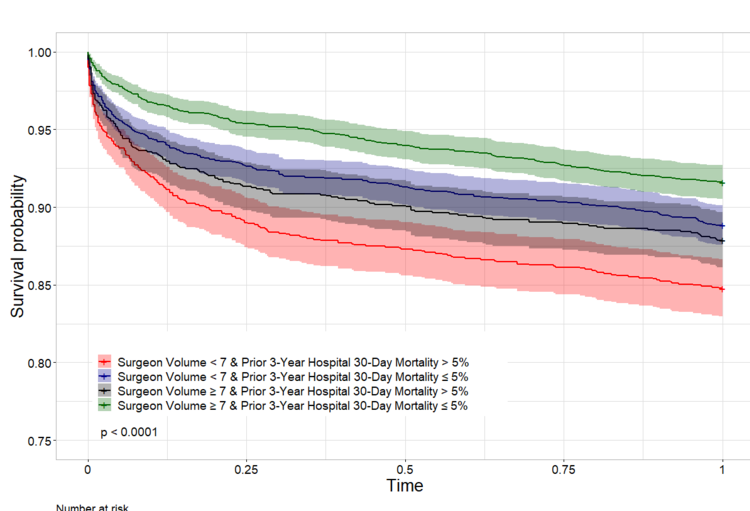
This September, we welcomed two new assistant professors to our team: [Karina A. Newhall, MD, MS](#), and [Grayson S. Pitcher, MD](#). Newhall will focus on outcome research and variations of care and Pitcher is interested in endovascular treatment of complex aneurysms. [Read more about their training, research interests, and why they chose to pursue careers in vascular surgery.](#)

Spotlight on research

[Joshua T. Geiger '13 \(BA\), '13 \(BS\), '21M \(MD\)](#), a PGY1 resident mentored by Dr.

Doyle, is honing statistical methodology to improve outcomes for open aortic procedures. His goal is to create a decision-support tool that makes healthcare decisions more individualized based on the provider, the hospital, and the patient, and direct certain cases to specific

hospitals, resulting in more efficient health systems and better outcomes. This approach could eventually be applied to any type of surgery. The figure shows a Kaplan-Meier curve for average yearly surgeon volume ≥ 7 or < 7 for any open aortic procedure and 3-year prior hospital 30-day mortality $\leq 5\%$ or $> 5\%$. These variables assess a surgeon's experience in performing the operation and the hospital's ability to provide high quality care for these procedures.

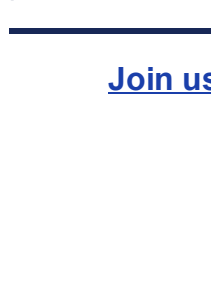


Join us for this year's Charles Rob, MD, Visiting Professor Lecture

Thursday, November 4

7-8 a.m.

Zoom



Case studies in vascular innovation: a framework for bench to bedside product delivery

[Todd E. Rasmussen, MD](#)

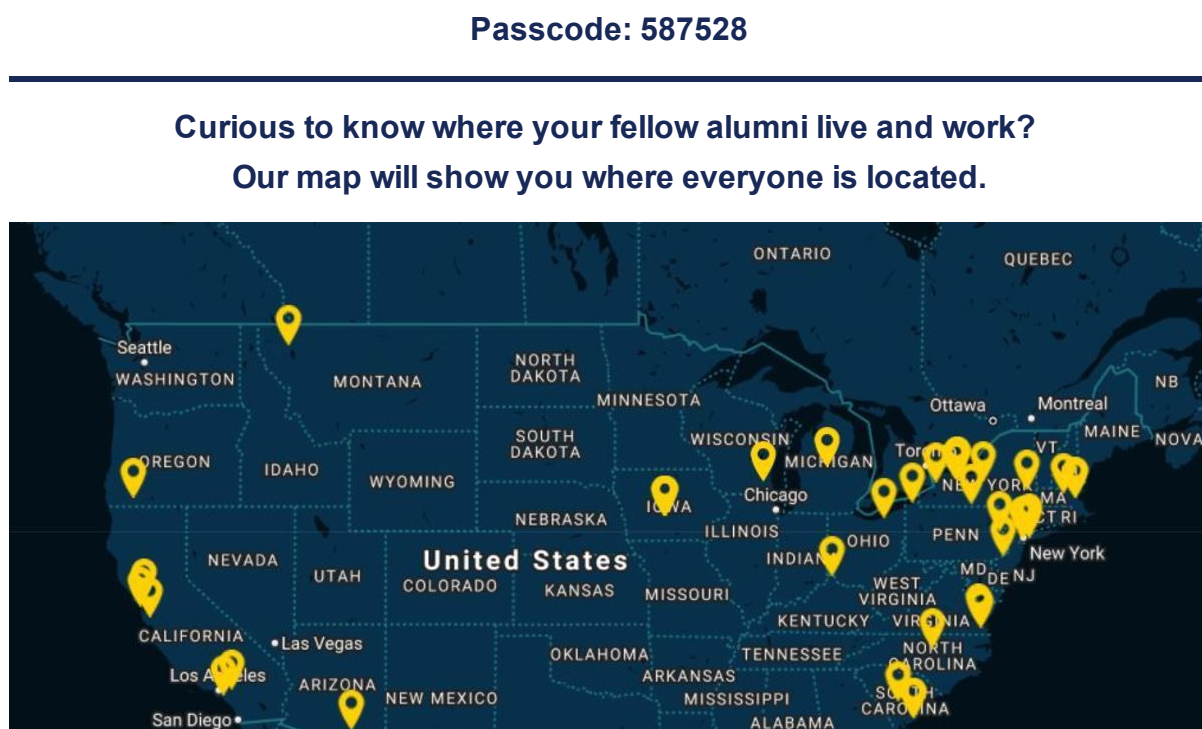
Professor of vascular and endovascular surgery, Mayo Clinic

Join on November 4.

Passcode: 587528

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