

# The MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

## SURGICAL SOCIETY



Fall 2019

Newsletter

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### Reflections from the Chief

The summer seems to fly by faster every year. The new interns who started in July have already “survived” their first two rotations. I’m pleased to say this is an outstanding group and they are off to a fine start. All the other residents have moved up “in rank,” including an outstanding group of chief residents, many of whom have already secured their first choice for fellowship training next year. Finally, a large number of new faculty have joined us in the last few weeks.

The other highlight of the summer was the continuation of a new tradition: the annual MGH-BWH Department of Surgery resident’s softball game (see back cover). After a rough start in year one, I’m happy to report the “Trophy” has returned to the MGH. It was a close game, a lot of fun, and nowhere near as many injuries occurred as did in the game a few weeks earlier when our house staff put a beating on the surgical faculty.

Although there is a lot to be shared in this issue, a major focus is the very prominent role women now play in the Department. The MGH Department of Surgery is committed to advancing women and many examples will be highlighted in this issue. A few points of pride: women now constitute greater than 50% of the surgical residents and almost 30% of the surgical faculty. As you can see in the pictures and story, *Girls’ Night Out* has expanded tremendously since those early days when Susie Briggs would take the one or two surgical residents in the program out to Mama Maria’s for dinner. Our women in the faculty are undertaking more and more prominent leadership roles, including our first female division chief since Pat Donahoe, Yolonda Colson, who started as Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery in February. The addition of Dr. Colson brings us to six female full Harvard Professors including Pat Donahoe, Barbara Smith, Sareh Parangi, Colleen Ryan, and Laurence Rahme.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, October 28, for the annual alumni reception at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress.

Keith D. Lillemoe, MD, Chief of Surgery



American College of Surgeons  
Clinical Congress

Annual Alumni Reception

Monday, October 28, 2019

6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

The Hilton in San Francisco

Union Square Hotel

Grand Ballroom • Salon A

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## Message from the President

In 2008, a book entitled, "The Changing Face of Medicine: Women Doctors and the Evolution of Health Care in America," was published by Cornell University Press. It was written by Ann Boulis and Jerry Jacobs and examined many of the issues women in medicine, and in other fields, face on a daily basis. The authors felt the percentage of women in medicine would ultimately grow beyond the 50 percent mark, but they wondered whether the culture of medicine would change. Interestingly, they felt the passage of Title IX in 1972 was one of the major contributors to the emergence of women in medicine and multiple other fields.



After coming to the MGH in 1973, I was fortunate to work with Sharon Muenchow, the second such woman selected for an MGH surgery position (in 1972) and she ultimately went on to a Pediatric Surgery career in California. Les Ottinger was kind enough to inform me that the first female surgery resident was Ann Brace Barnes who came for an internship and one year of residency in the 1960s, and later went into Ob-Gyn. In my 1973 class of surgery interns, we had only one woman. She later dropped out of the program, but reentered into the Urology program. As you can see, the early 1970s was not a particularly welcoming time for women in surgery.

As Bob Dylan wrote, however, in 1964, "The Times They Are a Changin'." And they were. I was asked in 2018 to give a named Emory lecture about any topic I might choose, and I decided to talk about the role of women in surgery, with a particular eye toward the Emory General Surgery Residency Program. As it turns out, seven of the ten Emory Chief Residents in Surgery were women, and I asked two of them, Vivian Wang and Priya Rajdev, to help me with the presentation. I also asked them to come up with a "catchy" title for the talk, and they selected "The Vanishing Male Surgical Resident" since 54 percent of our residents were women. Priya is now in Oregon in a MIS fellowship and Vivian is at Ohio State, also in a MIS fellowship. I asked Priya to comment about this topic for the newsletter. Here's a bit of what she had to say:

"While there is plenty of work to do to address the challenges of "women in surgery," I think that broadening the scope to benefit all underrepresented people—people of color, people who are economically disadvantaged, queer people, men who feel like they can't take paternity leave—is a big part of how we, as young women in surgery, can use this incredible moment in history to shape the future of our field."

There is a lot of work to be done, but we are slowly making inroads toward more equality. Certainly, the fact that the 2019 Incoming Class of MGH General Surgery Residents has seven women and two men suggests that a lot of progress has been made in those hallowed (and formerly male-dominated) halls. I tell our women graduates their next problem to solve is the discrepancy in pay: women get 82 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. I feel sure that they are up to the challenge.

Thomas F. Dodson, MD

# Articles

## Women in Surgical Leadership Positions: The New Norm

By Sareh Parangi MD

Although evidence of women in surgery dates back to ancient surgical practice,<sup>1</sup> it wasn't until the 1970s that women began to apply to medical school in large numbers. Between 1970 and 2001 the percentage of women physicians in the United States rose from 5% to 24%, yet in 1980, only 2% of all surgical residents were women.<sup>2</sup> The past 5 years, however, have been witness to a marked and persistent tide of women rising into positions of surgical leadership among major surgical societies.<sup>3</sup>

In this context, 2017 was a watershed year with an unprecedented 21 women serving as chairs of surgery in the U.S. (Table 1); and with top leadership roles being filled by women at the American College of Surgeons, Association of Academic Surgery, the Society of University Surgeons, and the American Board of Surgery. This was also the year in which, for the first time, the number of women enrolling in U.S. medical schools exceeded that of men. According to the Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), 50.7% of 21,338 enrollees in 2017 were women, compared with 49.8% in 2016.<sup>4</sup>

Some of the reasons women cite for their decision to pursue surgery as a career include access to successful female and male role models, the desire to meet the technical challenges of surgery, and the perception of having a surgical personality.<sup>5</sup> The fundamental reason many women avoid surgery as a career, however, boils down to not enough time and/or the work-family conflict. These conflicts are at least partially responsible for the underrepresentation of women in leadership positions. A recent study published by *JAMA Internal Medicine* reports that female physicians are more likely to cut back professionally to accommodate household responsibilities, are less likely to advance to full professorships, and account for fewer than one-sixth of medical school deans and department chairs.<sup>6</sup>

The agents of change in this evolving process are collaboration, mentorship, and sponsorship. Without male colleagues stepping up as crucial sponsors, collaborators, and mentors, academic advancement in medicine and



**Sareh Parangi MD, Professor of Surgery HMS,  
President, Association of Women Surgeons**

surgical societies would not have been possible. Women have stepped up to form organizations dedicated to advancing women in surgery, such as the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), which was founded in 1981. In 1998, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) established a Committee on Women's Issues. Later named the Women in Surgery Committee (WiSC), this committee was created at the suggestion of Dr. Olga Jonasson — the first woman to chair a surgery department in the U.S., the first to be selected for membership in the American Surgical Association, the first to hold an executive position within the American College of Surgeons, and the first to serve as director of the American Board of Surgery. As more women have entered the field and have successfully served in leadership roles, the number of role models available to mentor and encourage women has also grown.



Women from underrepresented minorities (URM) face even greater challenges. It is widely known that the percentage of faculty positions held by URMs in this country, including African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans, is critically low.<sup>7</sup> Women URMs are doubly underrepresented. Despite an increasingly diverse population, the AAMC data for 2017 show that of 173,166 medical school faculty members (including all specialties) only 1.7% (3,306) are African-American women, and data specific to the surgical specialty indicate that only 15,667 women (fewer than 10%) hold surgical faculty positions in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> Of these, only 12.8% are tenured. More specifically, of 550 Asian women, 34 are tenured; of 124 African-American women, 11 are tenured; of 82 Hispanic women, 5 are tenured; and of 7 Native American women, none are tenured. Clearly, we need to do better in terms of providing mentorship, collaboration opportunities, and sponsorship for all URMs.

As a result of policies established by senior leaders of the MGH Department of Surgery, the number of women in surgical leadership positions in our department today strongly reflects this new norm, so much so that surgeon-in-chief, Dr. Keith D. Lillemoe, was awarded the 2018 Joseph B. Martin Dean's Leadership Award for the Advancement of Women Faculty at Harvard Medical School.

In his presidential speech at the 137th annual meeting of the American Surgical Association in 2017, Dr. Lillemoe urged members to "lubricate the process and improve the ascent onto pathways that lead to leadership positions ensuring that women leaders get a fair shake." He backed this up with his personal pledge in the coming year to "nominate a woman surgeon for every new surgical leadership position that becomes available within the department."

Leadership positions recently filled by women in our department include Liliana Bordeianou MD, Director of Colorectal Surgery; Cristina Ferrone MD, Director of Liver Surgery; and Genevieve Boland MD PhD, Director of the Melanoma Surgery Program and the Surgical Oncology Research Laboratories, respectively. In February 2019, Yolonda L. Colson MD, formerly of Brigham and Women's Hospital, was named Chief of Thoracic Surgery. Moreover, the Department recently created a new diversity and inclusion program. Each of the women who hold leadership positions in the department is active in local and national programs and associations that support mentorship, collaboration, and sponsorship.

**Table 1: Current and Former Women Department Chairs of Surgery**

Nita Ahuja MD MBA	Yale School of Medicine	2018-
Nancy L. Ascher MD PhD	UC San Francisco	1993-16
Barbara L. Bass MD	Houston Methodist	2005-
Sharmila Dissanaik MD	Texas Tech University	2016-
Diana L. Farmer MD	UC Davis	2011-
Julie A. Freischlag MD	Johns Hopkins	2003-15
Amy J. Goldberg MD	Temple University	2015-
Mary T. Hawn MD MPH	Stanford	2015-
Olga Jonasson MD*	Ohio State University	1987-93
Melina Kibbe MD	Univ. of North Carolina	2016-
Mary T. Killackey MD	Tulane University	2016-
Mary C. McCarthy MD	Wright State	2010-
Rebecca M. Minter MD	University of Wisconsin	2018-
Anne C. Mosenthal MD	Rutgers New Jersey	2014-
Heidi Nelson MD	Mayo Clinic	2013-
Leigh A. Neumayer MD	University of Arizona	2014-
Susan E. Reid MD	McMaster University	2012-
Patricia L. Roberts MD	Lahey	2013-
Carol Scott-Conner MD	University of Iowa	1995-04
Julie Ann Sosa MD	UC San Francisco	2018-
Jennifer F. Tseng MD MPH	Boston University	2017-
J.E. Tuttle-Newhall MD	East Carolina University	2015-
Omaida C. Velazquez MD	University of Miami	2015-
Sandra L. Wong MD MS	Dartmouth-Hitchcock	2015-
Martha A. Zeiger MD	University of Virginia	2017-

\*deceased

It took nearly a half century to reach this watershed moment. One wonders how long it will take for all women surgeons, including those from underrepresented minorities, to attain a level of representation that is equivalent to men. With this level of acceptance and encouragement, hopefully, not very long.

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## Editor Emeritus note:

*Sareh Parangi graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University, the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Surgical Residency Program at the University of California in San Francisco. She practices endocrine surgery with a concentration on malignant diseases of the thyroid. Her extensive investigative effort is also concentrated on that disease. Teaching and mentoring have been important components of her career. At the MGH, she is a Visiting Surgeon, a Professor of Surgery, and the Department Director of Diversity and Inclusion.*

## Where Are They Now?

By Antonia E. Stephen MD '03

The MGH Surgery Department has an impressive track record of supporting women, and this is well reflected in the selected success stories of MGH women surgical alumni published in this issue. In planning this article, we decided to include women from a range of graduating classes rather than focus on a single class. To that end, I circulated an email requesting brief updates, hoping to gather a representative sample, and in this respect, I believe we succeeded.

I was first introduced to the MGH Surgery Department in 1994 as a 3rd year medical student. Dr. Charles McCabe, the clerkship director, was my first surgical teacher and mentor. From day one, it was clear he expected the same level of performance from both his male and female students and held us equally accountable for our work ethic and dedication to learning surgery. His support for women in surgery set the stage for many future women surgical residents. As many of you know, Dr. McCabe passed away in 2008. His legacy of support and commitment to teaching and inspiring all surgeons lives on.

In preparing this article, I was moved to contact his wife, Rose, and daughter, Krista, for their insights on his devotion to teaching. His daughter, who is the Managing Director of Development at MGH, offered the following comments.

“Dad believed that becoming a physician, especially a surgeon, was a calling, a gift to not be ignored. When he saw someone with the drive and passion to be successful, he helped them fine-tune their craft and actualize their potential, regardless of gender or race. He felt you either had the calling or you didn't. He equated it with being an athlete. He used to say ‘You can go to every basketball camp for your entire life but it doesn't mean you can hit a three-point shot.’ Finally, he taught me there isn't a challenge in life you can't educate yourself out of. All libraries have the same books. It's what you choose to do with knowledge that gives you power.”

As I reflect on my medical clerkship here at MGH, I marvel how Dr. McCabe's enduring love of surgery and teaching inspired all of his students, male and female alike. I imagine he would derive great pleasure from knowing how successful our women surgeons have been and continue to be.

## JESSICA K. KANDEL '93

I finished my residency in 1993. I am Surgeon-in-Chief at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago, as well as Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Mary Campau Ryerson Professor of Surgery.

The MGH surgery residency was really the defining experience in my education as a physician. The ethos of focused dedication to the patient—the expectation that one would own the entire spectrum of issues until these were solved—set the compass by which I have steered since.

I've been married to my best friend, Alex Dill, for 22 years. We get to jointly marvel at our children (Anthea, 15, and James, 20).

I have included a recent family photo (my family, my brother's family, and my parents - ages 92 and 88!)

Cheers!

Jessica

## ELLEN REYNOLDS '96

I finished general surgery residency at MGH in 1996 and then completed a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship in 1998 at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Since then, I have been at St. Luke's Children's Hospital in Boise, Idaho, where I have had the pleasure of serving as Medical Director for the past decade. We have navigated through multiple practice changes over the years—from private practice to employee—and have experienced salary-based, productivity-based, and now shift-based employment. Leading our practice through so many changes has been such an engaging challenge, one I'm sure many of you can appreciate.

I currently practice general pediatric surgery in southern Idaho and the surrounding rural areas, and I specialize in minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum. Over the years, I have performed over 400 repairs (currently about 2-3 per week) and have also worked with Rultract (a manufacturer of surgical retraction systems) to develop a specialized sternal elevation hook specifically for pectus repairs.

My children, Bryn (25) and Rees (21), are both doing quite well. Bryn is a third-year medical student at the University of Colorado and is currently on her two-month surgery rotation. (Despite my protestations that she must forge her own path, I have not been able to

dissuade her from surgery.) She has become quite enamored with the Da Vinci robot as of late, and I enjoy reminding her that when I was in residency, laparoscopic procedures were just settling in as the standard of care. My son Rees has just moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he has pursued his dream of becoming a professional ballet dancer. He recently obtained his first contract as a company member of the Charlotte Ballet.

My favorite hobby is swimming. It provides me with mental and physical strength. For the last 15 years, I have swum competitively for Masters Swimming and have had the great fortune of having my mom as my coach. One of our best times together was 5 years ago at the World Masters' Swimming Championship (see photo), where I won 5 gold medals and set 4 world records for my age group. I have moved up to the next age group this year (55-59) and so far have broken 5 world records—the best part of getting older is being the fastest in one's age group!

I remember quite vividly July 1, our first day as interns and I specifically remember being sat down by our chief resident and told how to swim with the sharks—a phrase I have often used in my own practice. Another fond memory from MGH was when I was asked to check the lipase in a postpancreatic JP and then pull the drain as an intern on Dr. Warshaw's private service. SO, I checked the lipase, which was about 30,000, and promptly pulled the drain. Upon reminiscing with Dr. Warshaw several years later, he remarked (with a completely straight face) that because of the too early drain pull, the patient had a stormy postoperative course! It took me several minutes to realize he was joking, and I was sweating the whole time. I've attached a few photos.

Ellen

## AMY LIGHTNER DAY '06

Great to hear from you!! Hope all is well in Boston. I've attached a family photo from November, 2018.

In terms of the items for the update: I finished residency in 2004. Currently, I am the Division Head of General Surgery of the Scripps Clinic Medical Group, where I have been employed since 2006. My practice consists mostly of hernia, gallbladder, and melanoma surgery. In March 2019, I finished a 2-year term as Chief of Staff at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla, CA. After fellowship, my career took a turn largely towards administration and teaching.





**1st row left:** Jessica Kandel with her arm around her mother and daughter (front center) at a family celebration.

**2nd row left:** Ellen Reynolds at the World Masters Swimming Championship in 2014.

**1st row right:** Ellen with her daughter Bryn in the OR.

**2nd row right:** Ellen's son Reese flying high!

**3rd row right:** Amy Lightner Day "with my son Robert (age 11), husband Jamison (you know him!), son Anthony (age 10), daughter Kathleen (age 13), and me (still 39)."

**Bottom right:** Benny!





*(Amy Lightner Day continued)*

We teach both general surgery residents and minimally invasive fellows in our division/hospital. In addition to the chief of staff and division head jobs, I have held a number of other administrative and committee posts.

My years at MGH were phenomenal and I am so grateful for them. I have so many funny and heartfelt memories from those years, I can't possibly do them justice by picking one or two. But like most people, I suspect, I cherish the friendships and education from MGH equally.

In terms of my personal life, I'm still happily married to Jamison Day (a Massachusetts native), whom I married when I was a PGY-5. Our 3 kids (Kathleen, Robert, and Anthony) continue to grow at breakneck pace and are loyal Boston sports fans, proudly wearing their Patriots jerseys to school during football season (this is due to Jamison, not me). Our other fun family detail is that we finally gave in to kid pressure and got our first family dog last November. And what breed is he? A Boston Terrier, of course! Our kids named him Benny, after Red Sox outfielder Andrew Benintendi. (We got him shortly after last year's Red Sox World Series victory.)

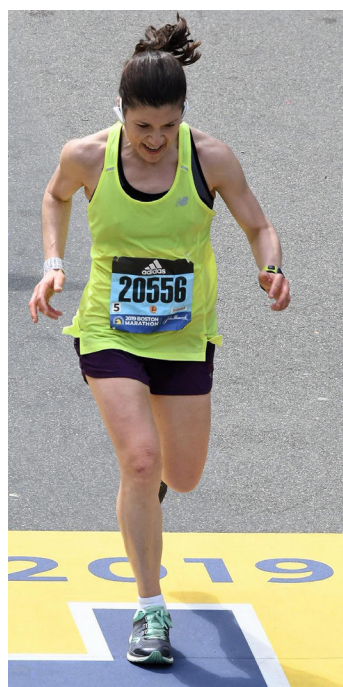
Amy

**GRETCHEN SCHWARZE '02**

I finished my residency in 2002. Currently, I am the Morgridge Professor of Vascular Surgery and Associate Professor with tenure, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Call me demented but I still remember residency as one of the happiest times of my life. It was a lot of hard work, but somehow it was still really fun. Perhaps I was happy because it was the only thing in my life back then and I had no other demands on my time (e.g., kids, family, grants, administrative hassles). Or maybe it was because of the deep team-spirited approach of the residency, which never left me feeling alone.

I live in Madison, Wisconsin with my husband (a transplant surgeon/author/comedian) and two girls: Sam, age 14, and Kate, age 12. Other MGHers I see regularly because they work at UW are John Siebert and Amy Fiedler. Much of my work is spent writing grants and papers and doing health services research on decision-making and end-of-life care for older adults. My vascular practice is pretty tiny but it's still fun to get up for a ruptured AAA (even though these days we usually just stent it).

Gretchen



**Top:** Gretchen Schwarze with daughters Sam, age 14, and Kate, age 12, and her husband Dr. Josh Mezrich.

**Middle:** Andrea Wolf with her son Georgie.

**Bottom:** Andrea crossing the finishing line at the 2019 Boston Marathon.



## ANDREA WOLF '08

Hello from the land of Springsteen!

Andrea Wolf here (MGH Surgery 2008).

Georgie and I now live in Jersey and I work in NYC as an Associate Professor and Director of the New York Mesothelioma Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

It's hard not to mention that I'm the one who took home an Ellison 17 patient as a fourth-year resident. Attached is a recent photo of the two of us as well as a finish line shot from this year's Boston Marathon. I take no credit/blame for the Yankees hat—I hate the Yankees! This year's marathon weekend was especially meaningful as it was the last time Georgie received TPN.

Making progress slowly!

## Announcements

### Honors and Awards

#### —Faculty—

**Henning A. Gaissert MD** (Thoracic Surgery/NWH), **Christopher J. Kwolek MD** (Vascular Surgery/NWH), and **Charudutt (Charu) N. Paranjape MD** (General and GI Surgery/MGH) received special recognition and appreciation by the medical students and administration of **Tufts University School of Medicine** for excellence in teaching.

The following faculty were recognized with MGH **PCE Teaching Awards** for their extraordinary contributions to medical student education: **Noelle Saillant MD** (Trauma/Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery), **Hiroko Kunitake MD** (General and GI Surgery), and **Rocco Ricciardi MD** (General and GI Surgery).

**Duke E. Cameron MD** was named Co-Director of the newly launched Marfan Syndrome and Related Disorders Clinic at the Corrigan Minehan Heart Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Patricia Donahoe MD**, Bartlett Distinguished Professor and Director of the Pediatric Surgical Research Labs, was awarded the **Denis Browne Gold Medal** at the British Pediatric Surgical Association meeting in Nottingham, England. The award is made annually to mark outstanding contributions to paediatric surgery worldwide.

**James F. Markmann MD PhD**, Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery was recently elected **President of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association**. He will serve a 2-year term.

**Serguei Melnitchouk MD MPH**, co-director of the Heart Valve Program and quality director for the Division of Cardiac Surgery, is the inaugural incumbent of the recently announced **Willard M. Daggett MD Endowed Chair in Cardiac Surgery**.

**David M. Shahian MD**, vice president of the Center for Quality and Safety and associate director of the Codman Center, accepted the **John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award** on behalf of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS).

**Michelle C. Specht MD** and **Richard A. Hodin MD** received the **Frigoletto Wellness Award**.

**Joseph P. Vacanti MD**, MassGeneral Hospital for Children, Surgeon-in-Chief and Chief of Pediatric Surgery Emeritus, was elected **President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association**.

#### —Residents and Fellows—

Surgical residents, **Derek Erstad** (PGY5) and **Daniel Hashimoto** (PGY4) received special recognition and appreciation by the medical students and administration of **Tufts University School of Medicine** for their excellence in teaching.

**Maggie Connolly MD** (research resident), **Jordan Secor MD MS** (research resident), and **Robert (Trey) Sinyard MD MBA** (PGY3) each received a Resident Teaching Award in Surgery.

**Alex Cuenca MD PhD** (2nd-year MGH Transplant Surgery Fellow) received the **Jay Grosfeld MD Scholar Grant** for his research investigation of the role of the innate immune system in transplantation tolerance.

**Daniel Hashimoto MD** (PGY4) received a **Young Alumni Service Award** from the **University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine** for his work in Artificial Intelligence as well as for his national leadership role in the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

**Charles Rickert MD PhD** (PGY4) received the **Dean's Community Service Award** from Harvard Medical School (HMS) for his leadership of the Department of Surgery Community Health Collaborative (CHC).

## In Memoriam

**Graeme Hammond** died at the age of 86 on March 23, 2019. Graeme was born and grew up in Scarsdale, NY. After two years at Denison University he dropped out, was drafted, and spent two years in the U.S. Army. He then returned to complete a degree in Geology. Following that, he graduated from McGill University Medical School. There he met his wife of 55 years, Janet, who predeceased him. His surgery residency, begun at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, was completed at the MGH in 1968. After further training at the South Hampton Chest Hospital in England, he joined the surgery faculty at Yale. There he spent the remainder of a productive career in cardiothoracic surgery. Greatly respected for his productive research, excellence in teaching, and many academic contributions, he retired after 40 years as a distinguished Professor Emeritus of Surgery.

([https://medicine.yale.edu/people/search/graeme\\_hammond.profile](https://medicine.yale.edu/people/search/graeme_hammond.profile)) and

(<https://patch.com/connecticut/northhaven/obituary-dr-graeme-l-hammond-86-north-haven>)

### Special note:

It is with great sadness that I report that Suzanne “Suki” Wilkins passed away August 6 after a brief illness. Suki, the wife of E. Wayne “Wilk” Wilkins, Jr., would have been 96 years old August 20th and would have celebrated 75 years of marriage with Wilk at that time. A family gathering was held August 17 in Williamstown, MA, to remember Suki and celebrate Wilk’s 100th birthday. Wilk retired from Thoracic Surgery at MGH in 1986 after a distinguished career. Wilk and Suki were a true team and a part of the MGH Thoracic Family. They routinely attended our annual Wilkins Visiting Professor event (20 years) until the past year. Their presence was the highlight of the Visiting Professorship. She will be missed by all.

For those of you interested in contacting Wilk, I’m sure he’d be happy to hear from you:

—Douglas Mathisen

**Sweetwood Retirement Home**  
**1611 Cold Spring Road**  
**Williamstown, MA 02167**  
**Phone number: 413-458-9104**  
**email: [ewaynewilk@gmail.com](mailto:ewaynewilk@gmail.com)**

## Girls' Night Out

**By Antonia E. Stephen MD**

Girls' Night Out is an annual spring gathering of staff, fellows, and residents with one thing in common—we're all female! The infamous gathering is held at Mamma Maria's restaurant in the North End. The evening is replete with good food, great wine, and lively conversation. It's an opportunity for women surgeons at MGH to share stories and swap anecdotes about life in and out of the operating room. A night of laughter and revelry, it brings back many fond memories of the support and friendship we experienced during our training years and beyond.

The tradition started in 1986, when Dr. Susan Briggs, the first female chief resident in surgery at MGH, organized a gathering to allow female surgical residents and attendings to interact in an informal environment. At that time, there were few female staff and trainees in the MGH surgical department. A beloved and familiar mentor and friend to many MGH surgical residency graduates, Dr. Briggs likely never imagined the event would take on such a life of its own.

Over the years, the number of women attending Girls' Night Out has increased exponentially. Last year, 48 attendings, fellows, and residents joined in the celebration, which is funded entirely by the female MGH surgical attendings. This year marks our 33rd year!

In more recent years, Dr. Cristina Ferrone has helped organize the gathering, particularly when Susan, our fearless leader, is traversing the globe, overseeing relief efforts in areas hard hit by disaster. No doubt Cristina will continue this tradition as the years go by and the number of talented females joining the staff and residency program continues to grow.

*Note: Antonia Stephen is one of the new editors of the newsletter. She is an endocrine surgeon, an Assistant Professor of Surgery at HMS, and an Associate Surgeon at the MGH. She graduated from Brown University with a BA in Biology and from the HMS. She completed the MGH surgery residency in 2003. This was followed by a fellowship in endocrine surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Although her major activity is clinical surgery, she has an active involvement in teaching and a productive interest in investigation in her specialty field.*





### Scenes from Girls' Night Out

**Top:** Pictured in this photo are: Kat Albutt, Genevieve Boland, Susan Briggs, Liliana Bordeianou, Danielle Cameron, Taylor Coe, Sonia Cohen, Suzie Coopey, Christine Costantino, Shannon Cramm, Claire de Crescenzo, Sarah Deery, Amy Fiedler, Cristina Ferrone, Rajshri Gartland, Cornelia Griggs, Morgan Hennessy, Jasmine Khubchandani, Eleni Konstantinou, Antonia Kreso, Carrie Lubitz, Imani McElroy, Sophia McKinley, Cindy Miller, Andrea Merrill, Melissa Mullen, Salewa Oseni, Sareh Parangi, Janey Pratt, Noelle Saillant, Smita Sihag, Dana Schwartz, Sunita Srivastava, Maggie Westfal.

**Right:** Pictured in this photo are: Front row (left to right): Uma Sachdeva, Rupal Parikh; Back row (left to right): Melissa Mullen, Philicia Moonsamy, Taylor Coe, Maggie Connolly.





## The Second Annual MGH/BWH Resident Softball Game

On Saturday evening, August 10, the 2nd Annual Massachusetts General Hospital (top photo) versus Brigham and Women's Hospital (bottom photo) Surgery Resident Softball Game was played at the Teddy Ebersol Fields along Storrow Drive.

Under the managerial excellence of Doug Cassidy, we triumphed over BWH by a score of 19-16.

It was a seesaw affair, and all of our residents contributed offensively, including Doug (SS), Sahael Stapleton (1B), Tom O'Donnell (3B), Jordan Secor (OF), Naomi Sell (2B), Mark Rowan (OF), Kat Albutt (C), Phil Moonsamy (OF), Numa Perez (P), Chris Latz (OF), Avi Geller (1B), Dan Hashimoto (OF), Nik Panda (OF),

Maggie Westfal (OF), and Casey Luckhurst (OF).

With the win, the MGH evened up the series at one game apiece, although Brigham's win last year in the inaugural game bears an asterisk owing to some gross irregularities in their batting order.

All enjoyed a post-game BBQ, and it was a great opportunity for the residents in both programs to get to know each other.

The hardware has come home to its rightful location in the West End, and we look forward to keeping it here with another victory next year!

*Keith and John*

