UPDATE

The Department of Surgery Update is sent to department faculty, fellows, residents, and staff. To submit an item for publication in Update, send the information to surgupdt@umn.edu.

HONORS & AWARDS

Staff Award – Jonathan Berger, PA-C

Nominated for Mission - Clinical Excellence and Compassionate Patient Care

Patients first, professionalism and excellent patient care – just a few of the affirmations his colleagues used to describe why Jon Berger should receive the September employee recognition award.

“I cannot recall a single week, Jon did not have a new innovative idea on how we could improve our protocols and ways we take care of patients – he is constantly looking to improve things,” says Dr. Eitan Podgaetz who nominated Jon for this award.

With a focus on postoperative care Jon Berger, has been a member of the thoracic and foregut surgery division since November 2010. His position began as a pilot position for physician assistants in surgical specialties, a program which has since been replicated in other programs including, colorectal and ENT.

Jon plays a critical role in resident education by sharing his knowledge and expertise. Dr. Jennifer Witt, a PGY-4 resident in the department of surgery also nominated Jon and emphasizes that the residents and thoracic team look to him for guidance and his expertise. “He is thorough, kind, thoughtful and astute in all his patient interactions, as well as his interactions with residents rotating through the service and providers on other services,” says Dr. Witt.

Jon’s publications include as first author – “Measuring what we value: quantifying the impact of the physician extender in surgical care” and second author “Transdiaphragmatic therapeutic pneumoperitonueum – 7 years’ experience.”

At home Jon is busy with his three daughters two 5-year old twins Anabelle and Lilah and 1-year old Clara. He and his wife enjoy frequent trips to their cabin in central MN where they enjoy boating, tubing, fishing and playing on the beach with their family. He also enjoys woodworking and building furniture for their cabin on the lake.

Dr. Podgaetz expresses why Jon is such an asset to the Thoracic Surgery team:
“Jon is an outstanding PA. He has become an essential part of our service, where I am convinced the patients are the ones who benefit the most. It’s time for him to get some official recognition for the devotion, commitment and just plain exceptional everyday job he does.”

PRESENTATIONS

SuSUPERFICIAL FEMORAL ARTERY USE FOR PERCUTANEOUS ENDOVASCULAR AORTIC ANEURYSM REPAIR. Rumi Faizer, MD, Ashley Aaron, MD, Huy Trieu, MD, Steve Levin, MD, Andrew Messelt, MD, Michael Rosenberg, MD and Steve Santilli, MD. Oral Presentation. Midwestern Vascular Society, Coralville, IA. September 4, 2014.


RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Do you see someone working hard in your area and contributing to the department’s success by fulfilling our mission, vision and values? If so, take a moment to nominate this person for an Employee Recognition Award.

Two Employee Recognition Awards will be given out each month—one for staff and one for faculty, fellows, and residents. All Department of Surgery employees can nominate another employee in the department, including the Surgical Administrative Center.

Completed nomination forms should be sent to Michelle Lunden.

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