

Columbia University Department of Surgery

Faculty Reception

October 18, 2011

The Riverview Lounge





Academic Appointments 2011

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery

Director, Columbia University Division of Vascular Surgery Vein Programs

Dr. Elias joins the Division of Vascular Surgery as Director of the Vein Programs from Englewood Hospital, NJ, where he developed and directed the Center for Vein Disease since 2002. An influential leader in the field, Dr. Elias has been instrumental in the development of minimally invasive vein therapies including ClariVein, TriVex, Laser (EVLT) Ablation, and others. In addition to his clinical and research activities, Dr. Elias educates physicians worldwide about the treatment of venous disease. Having developed the annual national Fellows Course in Venous Disease in 2005, Dr. Elias also serves as course director for several national teaching and hands-on training courses for surgeons.

As principal investigator of several major clinical trials, Dr. Elias has researched and written extensively about the treatment of vein disease. He was:

- The first surgeon to perform ClariVein, in a trial completed in 2009;
- The first surgeon in the U.S. to use EVRF in 2011;
- One of the first surgeons in the U.S. to use VeinGogh, in early 2010;
- Among the first four people in the U.S. to begin using TriVex, in 2000;
- Among the first to perform vein valve transplants.

A frequent invited lecturer to both national and international audiences, Dr. Elias was named editor of *VEIN Magazine* beginning in 2011. He is also on the Medical Advisory Board of Endovascular Today. He received his undergraduate degree from the Johns Hopkins University in 1975 and his medical degree from the State University of New York (Buffalo) School of Medicine in 1979, where he then completed his General Surgery residency training in 1984. He finished his Vascular Surgery Fellowship at the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in New Jersey in 1985.

Juan B. Grau, MD, FACS, FACC

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery

Juan B. Grau, MD, FACS, FACC comes to the Division of Cardiac Surgery from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he was Assistant Professor of Surgery and Attending Cardiac Surgeon since 2008. In addition to his Columbia appointment, Dr. Grau retains an Adjunct Assistant Professorship at The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Prior to 2008, Dr. Grau spent seven years as Attending Surgeon at NYU School of Medicine and NYU Medical Center. While at Columbia, his clinical practice will be based at the Valley Columbia Heart and Vascular Institute in Ridgewood, NJ.

A native of Spain, Dr. Grau completed his medical degree and research fellowship in Madrid in 1990 and 1992 respectively. Moving to New York in 1992, Dr. Grau completed his General Surgery Internship and Residency at NYU Medical Center (1997), where he also served as Executive Chief Resident in General Surgery in 1998; he then completed a Research Fellowship at NYU at the Laboratory of Developmental Biology and Repair in 1999, additional fellowships in Madrid in 1999-2000, and a cardiothoracic fellowship at NYU Medical Center, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery (2001-2003).



In 2008 Dr. Grau's translational research in aortic valve stenosis was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the NHLBI. Current research endeavors are focused on aortic valve degeneration, genetics of mitral valve prolapse, and proteomic identification of high risk patients with aortic aneurysms in the setting of bicuspid and tricuspid aortic valves. He has created one of the largest cardiovascular tissue and blood repositories in the world for the study of cardiovascular diseases, with more than 2,500 specimens to date.

Dr. Grau's surgical fields of expertise include minimally invasive and robotic complex mitral valve repair and hybrid coronary revascularization procedures as well as arterial coronary revascularization using off-pump techniques and left thoracotomy approaches. He also performs complex aortic reconstructions using standard approaches as well as endovascular techniques. Since joining Columbia, these programs are now active at Valley Heart and Vascular Institute with excellent clinical results.

Dr. Grau is the recipient of numerous honors and awards: he was named the 2006 National Spokesman for the American Heart Association, the 2007 National Spokesman for the American College of Cardiology, and he was awarded the 2000 White House Medical Unit Certificate of Commendation and the 1998 Medical Unit Certificate of Appreciation. He is a reviewer for numerous journals in cardiovascular surgery, cardiology, and basic sciences, and he is a member of surgical societies including Society of University Surgeons, Society of Thoracic Surgery, American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association.

Syed Tasnim Raza, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery

A seasoned cardiothoracic surgeon, Syed Tasmin Raza, MD, brings three decades of experience to the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He comes to Columbia most recently from Lenox Hill Hospital, where he directed the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit since 2008. Dr. Raza was one of the busiest surgeons in Buffalo, NY for over 25 years, with expertise in a wide range of cardiac surgical procedures. He moved to New York City in 2007, and has reinvented himself as a Cardiothoracic Surgical Intensivist. Dr. Raza's primary role at Columbia will be to direct the post-CTICU Telemetry Unit, 5 Hudson North, and oversee and implement quality control measures to strengthen the division's cardiac surgery clinical outcomes.

Prior to directing the program at Lenox Hill, Dr. Raza helped to establish the cardiac transplant program at Buffalo General Hospital. He organized many scientific conferences and CME courses to bring current knowledge to the Western New York area, he co-directed the heart valve clinic, and he established the first pacemaker clinic at the Buffalo General Hospital, which grew to over 1800 patient visits a year. His interest in bioethics led him to study and teach bioethics courses to medical students at the SUNY at Buffalo Medical School. Dr. Raza left Buffalo after 33 years in January 2005 to establish and direct a new cardiac surgery program in Parkersburg, West Virginia, a small town bordering Ohio.

Having grown up in Karachi, Pakistan as a refugee from India at the time of India's independence, Dr. Raza gained the perspective that the greatest happiness is gained from helping others – a tenet that has inspired his numerous medical missions in Bosnia during the Bosnian war, as well as continued missions to Pakistan, where he both operates frequently at four medical centers and where he remains an active examiner at two universities. Dr. Raza's pre-medical training began in Pakistan and continued in the



United States, where he completed his internship (Jewish Hospital, Cincinnati, 1971-1972) and general and cardiothoracic surgical residencies (Buffalo, NY, 1972 and 1979). Additional experience included laboratory research (Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston) and several surgical apprenticeships, including one in lung transplantation with Dr. Craig Smith at Columbia in 1993. He holds two patents, and a third is pending, for devices he invented to anastomose blood vessels during aortic valve repair.

Yanghee Woo, MD

Instructor in Clinical Surgery, Division of GI Endocrine Surgery and Division of Acute Care Surgery

Yanghee Woo, MD offers open, laparoscopic and robotic surgery for diseases of the stomach, pancreas, and thyroid. She was recruited at the completion of a unique, international MIS/Robotic Surgery Fellowship in gastric cancer at Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea, and has been chosen to lead the endocrine division's care of patients with gastric cancer.

Dr. Woo completed her undergraduate education at Princeton University (1995) and her medical degree at Harvard University Extension Program (1999) and Drexel College of Medicine (2003). Following this, she completed an internship and residency at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia.

After completing her surgical residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia in June 2010, Dr. Woo trained in robotic surgical treatment of gastric cancer with Woo Jin Hyung MD, PhD, the innovator of minimally invasive surgery and robotic gastric cancer surgery, and Sung Hoon Noh MD, PhD, the president of the International Gastric Cancer Association. Dr. Woo collaborates with gastric cancer experts in the U.S., Japan, Korea, China, and Italy to facilitate exchange of medicine and technology and bring global expertise to NYP/Columbia.

Along with the division's medical oncologists and GI oncologists, Dr. Woo will develop a Center of Excellence in Gastric Cancer as part of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University Medical Center. Her research efforts currently focus on the application of advanced minimally invasive surgical approaches to provide improved quality of life and long term survival for gastric cancer patients requiring surgery. Her recent publication in Archives of Surgery is the largest published series of robotic gastrectomies for gastric cancer. In this seminal work, she and her co-authors identified this technique's unique advantages of less blood loss and decreased hospital length of stay while maintaining operative and oncologic safety profiles comparable to those achieved by traditional approaches.



Academic Appointments 2011, Recognized Last Year

Preya Ananthakrishnan, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Associate Director, Breast Surgery Fellowship
Division of Breast Surgery

Danielle Bajakian, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Director, Critical Limb Ischemia Program
Division of Vascular Surgery

Donna Farber, PhD

Professor of Surgical Science (in Surgery)
Transplant Initiative

Aaron Roth, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Division of Minimal Access/Bariatric Surgery
Attending Surgeon, Lawrence Hospital Center

Gautam V. Shrikhande, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Division of Vascular Surgery



Academic Appointments 2012

Charles V. Coren, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Charles V. Coren, MD, joins the Division of Pediatric Surgery as Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery. Dr. Coren's appointment resulted from his leadership of the division of pediatric surgery at New York Hospital Medical Center (Queens), a NYP/Columbia affiliate, since 2004. He will continue to direct the clinical activities of the Children's Surgical Group in Westbury, NY, which he established in 1994. A New York resident since 1978, Dr. Coren has directed the Pediatric Surgical Service at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola since 2003; the Nassau University Medical Center Division of Pediatric Surgery since 1989; and has been an Attending Surgeon at Long Island Jewish Medical Center since 1988. He has previously held appointments at SUNY Downstate since 1985, at Yeshiva University Albert Einstein College of Medicine since 1990, and SUNY Stony Brook since 1989.

Dr. Coren is a versatile and experienced pediatric surgeon who offers specialized expertise in esophageal reconstruction. He was recently appointed by the American College of Surgeons to its Policy Advisory Committee, where he will represent New Jersey and New York (region 2) in a three-year appointment. He is the recent past-president of the Brooklyn and Long Island chapters of the ACS, and continues as a consultant to the Pediatric Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Coren received his undergraduate (1974) and medical (1978) degrees from the University of Cincinnati. He has contributed to the New York State 911 Emergency Department Standards, New York State Trauma Center Standards, as well as those in New York City. He helped to develop the New York City EMS Pediatric ALS Protocols. Dr. Coren has also been directly involved in surgical advocacy in Albany and Washington, DC, and surgical safety with the Greater New York Hospital Association.

Anthony C. Watkins, MD

Assistant Professor in Surgery, Division of Transplantation

Anthony C. Watkins, MD, has become Assistant Professor in Surgery after completing his fellowship in abdominal organ transplantation at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia in 2011. Prior to his two-year fellowship, Dr. Watkins served as Administrative Chief Resident at University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Department of Surgery, where he also completed his surgical research fellowship, surgical internship, and residency (2002-2008). He completed his undergraduate education at Fisk University, Nashville (1998), and his medical degree at University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis (2002).

Dr. Watkins' practice currently focuses on kidney and pancreas transplantation, vascular access, and hepatobiliary and general surgery. His research interests include access to transplantation and infectious disease issues in transplantation.

Recent awards and honors have included the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence in 2009, and nomination for the same in 2008; the 29th Annual Shock Society New Investigators Award in Shock Research, 2006; the Surgical Intensive Care Unit Resident of the Year, UMDNJ, Division of Trauma/Critical Care, 2004; and the Arnold P. Gold Resident Award for Teaching and Humanism in Medicine, 2004.



Department of Medicine Colleagues

Elizabeth Verna, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation

Julia Wattacheril, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation

Honors and Awards

Matthew Bacchetta, MD, MBA, MA

- Two Army Commendation Medals
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star
- NATO Afghanistan Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal

James V. Guarrera, MD, FACS

American Society of Transplant Surgeons Vanguard Award, in recognition of the most important published research by a young investigator in 2010

Christine Rohde, MD

Junior Faculty Scholarship Award from Irving Institute and School of Public Health

Joshua R. Sonett, MD

The Barbara Neibauer Celebration of Life Award from the Foundation for Thymic Cancer Research at the 6th Annual Stinky Ball Fundraiser Event



*U.S. News & World Report, New York
Magazine Best Doctors, and Castle Connolly Top
Doctors in 2011*

- Spencer E. Amory, MD
- Michael Argenziano, MD
- Tracey D. Arnell, MD
- Jeffrey A. Ascherman, MD
- Emile Bacha, MD
- Marc Bessler, MD
- Lawrence Bodenstein, MD, PhD
- Robert S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH
- John A. Chabot, MD
- Jonathan M. Chen, MD
- Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh
- Jean C. Emond, MD
- Sheldon M. Feldman, MD
- Peter L. Geller, MD
- Mark E. Ginsburg, MD
- Lyall A. Gorenstein, MD, FRCS (C), FACS
- Robert T. Grant, MD
- Tomoaki Kato, MD
- James A. Lee, MD
- William Middlesworth, MD
- Yoshifumi Naka, MD
- Mehmet C. Oz, MD
- Jan M. Quaegebeur, MD
- Lloyd E. Ratner, MD
- Craig R. Smith, MD
- Joshua R. Sonett, MD
- Henry M. Spotnitz, MD
- Allan S. Stewart, MD
- Charles J.H. Stolar, MD
- Mathew R. Williams, MD
- Jeffrey L. Zitsman, MD



Promotions and Appointments

Leaque Ahmed, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, General Surgery

Michael Argenziano, MD

Chief, Adult Cardiac Surgery Section

Jeffrey A. Ascherman, MD

Professor of Clinical Surgery

Emile Bacha, MD

- Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Director, Congenital and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

- Director, Columbia University Division of Vascular Surgery Vein Programs
- Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery

Daniel L. Feingold, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery

Dennis L. Fowler, MD

- Director, Reemtsma Center for Innovation and Outcomes Research (RCIOR)
- Medical Director, Simulation Center

James A. Lee, MD

Associate Medical Director, Simulation Center

Nicholas J. Morrissey, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery

Oliver J. Muensterer, MD, PhD

Adjunct Associate Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Hiroo Takayama, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Section of Cardiac Surgery



Professional Organization Inductions

Matthew Bacchetta, MD, MBA, MA

- Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians
- Fellow of the American College of Surgeons
- Member of the Program Planning Committee of the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIIO) 2012
- Member at Large of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO)

Emile Bacha, MD

Elected Board Member of the Surgeons of Hope Foundation

Marc Bessler, MD

Executive Committee of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

John A. Chabot, MD

Vice President of ColumbiaDoctors

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

New York Society for Vascular Surgery

Lyall A. Gorenstein, MD, FRCS (C), FACS

Elected Board member of the New York General Thoracic Surgery Club

Tomoaki Kato, MD

American Surgical Association

Jeffrey L. Zitsman, MD

Consultant, Gastroenterology and Devices Panel, Medical Devices Advisory Committee; Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration



Teaching and Service Abroad

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

Invited speaker at Annual Israeli Vein Meeting, European ClariVein Course, and International Vein Congress

Mark A. Hardy, MD

Medical missions to establish surgical residency programs in Liberia and Sierra Leone, with Surgeons OverSeas

June Wu, MD

Medical mission to Nanchang, China, funded by the Children of China Pediatrics Foundation

Jeffrey L. Zitsman, MD

Invited lecturer at Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Book Publications

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

Chapter on Endovascular Radiofrequency Treatment of Varicose Veins in "Current Therapy in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, 5th edition." (in press)

Lyall A. Gorenstein, MD, FRCS (C), FACS

- Chapter on management of Perforated Esophageal Cancer in "Esophageal Cancer: Principles and Practice" by Blair A. Jobe, Charles R. Thomas, John G. Hunter.
- Chapter on surgical management of early stage lung cancer in "Surgical Oncology Clinics of North America 2011, Lung Cancer."

Nicholas J. Morrissey, MD, FACS

Guest Editor, March 2011 *Edition of Seminars in Vascular Surgery*

Christine Rohde, MD

Chapter on the German health care system in "The Health Care Dilemma: A Comparison of Health Care Systems in Three European Countries and the U.S." by Elizabeth Armstrong

Joshua R. Sonett, MD

Chapter on management of Perforated Esophageal Cancer in "Esophageal Cancer: Principles and Practice" by Blair A. Jobe, Charles R. Thomas, John G. Hunter.



Faculty News

Matthew Bacchetta, MD, MBA, MA

Deployment to Afghanistan, 344th Combat Support Hospital and 352nd Combat Support Hospital

Steve Elias, MD, FACS, FACPh

Editor, *VEIN Magazine*, 2011

Daniel L. Feingold, MD

- Compassionate Doctor Recognition by www.vitals.com
- Patients' Choice Award by www.vitals.com
- New York Super Doctors, 2011

Lyall A. Gorenstein, MD, FRCS (C), FACS

Hudson Valley Magazine Top Doctors, Thoracic Surgery (11th consecutive year)

Lloyd E. Ratner, MD, MPH

Received Masters in Public Health with focus on Health Care Policy and Management

Wasif M. Saif, MD, MBBS

Selected to Advisory Board of WebMed Central

Jeffrey L. Zitsman, MD

Editorial Board, *Childhood Obesity*