



## ENDOWMENT IMPACT SUMMARY

# Surgery Department Endowments

MetroHealth's Surgery Department endowments provide support to strengthen the system's scientific and clinical research, medical education, faculty recruitment and, of course, patient care. Here are just a few highlights of the profound impact of these funds – made possible by the generosity of donors like you.

## LECTURESHIPS

Surgery-related endowment funds support three lectureships honoring Brown M. Dobyms, MD, PhD (Endocrinology); William E. Cappaert, MD (Ophthalmology); and Arthur S. Earle, MD and Roderick Jordan, MD (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery). These annual events host distinguished professors and premier specialists from across the country. Activities include lectures/presentations on timely topics, dinners and informal meetings with staff and residents, allowing for invaluable personal interaction, learning and mentorship. They are also a vital recruiting tool for the department and system.

## PROFESSORSHIPS AND RESEARCH



The Richard B. Fratianne, MD Professorship in Surgery and Colonel Thomas C. McNeal Professorship in Trauma, Critical Care, Burns and Acute Care Surgery support medical education, recruitment and clinical/scientific research, including the Fratianne Research Scholar in Trauma.

This two-year program supports a resident to focus on trauma and critical care research and was held by Andrew H. Tran, MD, LT, MC, USNR. Dr. Tran's interests centered on prehospital evaluation and stabilization of trauma patients, where he worked closely with Metro LifeFlight and tactical EMS teams. In addition to coordinating multiple research projects, Dr. Tran was a sub-investigator on a national multicenter study on transfusions for unstable trauma patients.

## BURN CAMP

The purpose of MetroHealth's Burn Camp Endowment is to support Camp Phoenix, a free four-day summer and winter camp for pediatric and adolescent burn patients. The camp helps young burn survivors restore confidence and self-esteem and builds emotional strength and independence as well as life-long friendships. Chrissy Aitken was seriously burned in a house fire in 1994 when she was five years old, leaving her a quadruple amputee. Shy and withdrawn, she attended burn camp as a teen where she won a contest for free horseback riding lessons. Thirteen years later, Chrissy is a member of the U.S. Equestrian Para Driving Team, which finished second in the 2023 FEI Para Driving World Championships in Exloo, Netherlands. Chrissy credits burn camp for helping her thrive.



## RESIDENCY PROGRAM

2023 celebrated the first graduating class from MetroHealth's new surgical residency program. Endowment funds were critical in establishing an independent residency program that showcases the system's commitment to improving the health of diverse communities through service, research and innovation as well as its public health mission. The Lown Institute recognizes MetroHealth as one of the nation's most socially responsible hospitals because of its dedication to social justice and community service. The new residency program advances those commitments and instills them in new providers. Our five graduates are now sharing these values with new colleagues both locally and across the country:

- Sigfredo Villarin Ayala, MD – Critical Care, Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Fellowship, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- Kelly Zhang, MD – Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- Adel Hanandeh, MD – Vascular Surgery Fellowship, University of Central Florida/HCA Florida Healthcare, Orlando, FL
- Peter Kanuika, MD – Vascular Surgery Fellowship, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI
- Clara Kit Nam Lai, MBBS – Surgery Practice, Southwest General, Cleveland, OH

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

- After 12 years of leadership, Christopher Brandt, MD, transitioned from his administrative role as Chair of the Department of Surgery. Dr. Brandt has spent his entire 34-year career at MetroHealth where he will continue his clinical practice in general surgery. Christopher McHenry, MD, served as Interim Chair while the search for the permanent successor was completed.
- MetroHealth's Comprehensive Burn Care Center was reverified as an adult and pediatric burn center by the American Burn Association, one of only two in Ohio.
- MetroHealth surgeon Kevin El-Hayek, MD, performed the world's first abdominal laparoscopic surgery using the wireless device, ArthroFree, reducing the equipment required for the procedure and streamlining the operating field. The device was developed for orthopaedic surgeons during arthroscopic surgery.
- MetroHealth acquired a da Vinci SP single port robot system, becoming one of five health systems in Ohio with this technology. Aside from needing to make only one incision, surgeons can access and navigate tight spaces more easily, benefiting patients needing bariatric, colorectal, head and neck, OB-GYN and urologic surgeries.



In March 2024, I joined the staff as the new Chair of the Department of Surgery and Richard B. Fratianne, MD, Professor of Surgery at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. I previously served as Chief of the Division of Acute Care Surgery and Associate Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery at University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville, FL. In addition, I held roles as the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency; Professor of Surgery; and served as the Medical Director, Injury Prevention at University of Florida Health TraumaOne Trauma Center, a Level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center. I look forward to continuing to grow and enhance the diversity of the department with an eye toward being community-focused and strengthening partnerships across the region.

I thank you for your role in making these activities possible through your vital support. The impact of your generosity will be felt for years to come, and for that, we are infinitely grateful.

With gratitude,

**Marie L. Crandall, MD, MPH, FACS**  
*Chair, Surgery*  
*Richard B. Fratianne, MD Professor of Surgery*