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The Division of General Surgery

The Division of General Surgery continues on the forefront of advances in state-of-the-art endoscopic and minimally invasive surgical approaches to gastrointestinal and endocrine disorders, including a strong emphasis on robotic-assisted procedures for general surgery as well as obesity surgery and advanced laparoscopic care.

Patient Care

The Division of General Surgery has its patient offices at University Hospital, the UC Physicians Medical Arts Building, The Christ Hospital, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and University Pointe. Focus is on specialization in the surgical management of a wide variety of disorders including the broad discipline of general surgery; treatment of benign and malignant gastric abnormalities; swallowing disorders such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and achalasia; gallstones, abdominal wall hernias, diseases of the endocrine glands (thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands); inflammatory bowel diseases (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis); diverticulitis; and colon cancer.

Dr. Lisa Martin Hawver and Dr. Prakash Gatta have opened practices at the UC Physicians Medical Arts Building, The Christ Hospital Medical Office Building, and University Pointe. Dr. Martin Hawver specializes in minimally invasive gastrointestinal and endocrine surgery and also performs the LAP-BAND Adjustable Gastric Banding procedure and laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery as treatments for obesity. Dr. Gatta specializes in minimally invasive surgery of the gastrointestinal tract with a particular interest in anti-reflux procedures, treatment of dysphagia, gastric and esophageal cancer.

Dr. David Fischer continues to be one of the busiest general surgeons in the city, with special expertise in advanced laparoscopic, bariatric, and endocrine surgery. In collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Sussman of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Dr.

Fischer cares for a range of benign and malignant diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands and pancreas. Together, with support from the Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Endocrinology and the Department of Radiology's Division of Nuclear Medicine, Drs. Sussman and Fischer offer state-of-the-art treatment of endocrine tumors, including radio-guided parathyroid surgery, intra-operative parathyroid hormone testing, standard approaches to thyroid surgery, and minimally invasive procedures for adrenalectomy.

Dr. Timothy Broderick continues his practice of general, advanced laparoscopic and robotic-assisted laparoscopic surgery in addition to his extensive research in telemedicine, surgical simulation and other surgical innovations.

The Center for Surgical Weight Loss

UC Center for Surgical Weight Loss leads the region in both open and minimally invasive surgical weight loss procedures.

Bariatric procedures are performed at University Hospital and The Christ Hospital. The Christ Hospital has been designated as a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery. Outpatient offices are located at The University Pointe Medical Office Building and The Christ Hospital Medical Office Building.

Surgeons in the Division of General Surgery have performed hundreds of successful gastric bypass procedures since the Center for Surgical Weight Loss opened in 2002. These operations have been shown to significantly reduce a number of co-morbid conditions for severely obese people, including hypertension, sleep apnea, diabetes, atherosclerosis, and hyperlipidemia. The center offers every American Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery (ASMBS)-approved weight loss procedure, both open and laparoscopically, including the Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, biliopancreatic diversion, sleeve gastrectomy, banded sleeve gastrectomy, and laparoscopic gastric banding procedure for the surgical treatment of morbid obesity. Surgery on patients who have had operations on the stomach and intestines are also performed. The center also treats complex bariatric patients with cardiac and renal disease, and offers revisional surgery for previously failed weight loss surgery, laparoscopically whenever possible. Over 2,500 procedures have been done since 1999.

The LAP-BAND System is a silicone adjustable band that is placed around the upper portion of the stomach to restrict the amount of food that can be consumed and to create a longer feeling of satiety. The LAP-BAND is placed laparoscopically without cutting or stapling of the stomach or gastrointestinal re-routing to bypass normal digestion. The procedure is less invasive than other weight-loss surgeries and is the only adjustable and reversible option for patients. The Food and Drug Administration approved the LAP-BAND System in June 2001. This procedure is part of the UC Center for Surgical Weight Loss' multidisciplinary approach to the evaluation and management of bariatric patients.

New procedures are being developed at the Center for Surgical Weight Loss that are being associated with achievement of better maintenance of the weight loss than using the standard operation. This involves individualization of the limb lengths according to the patient's weight. Our surgeons have also designed a new operation for surgical weight loss that seems to have excellent results with reduced long-term complications. This procedure is called the banded sleeve gastrectomy and is a modification of the recently developed sleeve gastrectomy for super obese patients.

The bariatric team consists of surgeons, physician assistants, nurses, dietitians, administrative assistants, and precertification/insurance specialists. This team works in close collaboration with internists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, orthopedic surgeons, gynecologists, neurosurgeons, gastroenterologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, pharmacologists and psychiatrists to provide broad-based medical support systems for individuals having complications from obesity. A large number of complications are associated with morbid obesity. The most important of these include diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, debilitating arthritis and sleep apnea, among many others. Over 90% of these co-morbid conditions are cured or significantly benefited from surgical weight loss. The average excess weight loss for a gastric bypass is approximately 70-80% one to two years after the procedure.

Three surgeons perform the bariatric procedures. Dr. J. Wesley Alexander, Professor of Surgery, devotes his full-time effort to bariatric surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. He has served on numerous study sections for the National Institutes of Health regarding obesity, and has been listed in several important references such as Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Best Doctors in America and Top Surgeons in America. His focus in bariatric surgery emphasizes complex revisional surgery, treatment of high risk patients with cardiovascular and renal disease and treatment of super obese individuals with multiple co-morbid conditions. His research activities include studies on gastric bypass surgery in renal failure

and renal transplant patients and those with established cardiac disease. He also has written about his initial experience with the banded sleeve gastrectomy procedure. Dr. Alexander also provides body contouring procedures after massive weight loss, including abdominoplasty and excision of excess skin from the arms and thighs.

Dr. David Fischer, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Director of the Division of General Surgery, provides a broad spectrum of surgical services, including laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, laparoscopic and open gastric bypass. Dr. Fischer continues to be one of the busiest general surgeons in the city.

Dr. Lisa Martin Hawver joined the Center for Surgical Weight Loss in 2007. She offers multiple laparoscopic weight loss procedures. Dr. Martin Hawver practices at University Pointe and at The Christ Hospital. She is fellowship trained in advanced laparoscopic surgery including bariatric surgery, and specializes in the complete care of the patient undergoing weight loss surgery. Her research activities include innovative weight loss surgery techniques and long term conditions of weight loss success after surgery.

Further information on the Center for Surgical Weight can be found at **http://www.ucsurgeons.com/bariatric.**

Education

The Division of General Surgery leads the instruction and demonstration of laparoscopic and robotic surgery, as well as surgical simulation training. The Department of Surgery recently adopted the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) course to train and evaluate surgical residents, fellows and attending surgeons in the basic skills of minimally invasive surgery. The course is conducted in the Center for Surgical Innovation (CSI) facility. The FLS course is an education and skills training module developed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and the American College of Surgeons Division of Education, and is rapidly becoming the standard of evaluating basic skills and knowledge for laparoscopy. The UC Department of Surgery is one of a handful of programs that offer the FLS Course, which is CME accredited. As part of the program requirements, successful completion of FLS testing is required before residents begin their senior residency in the UC Department of Surgery.

Surgical simulation provides consistent training experiences in a safe environment outside of the time and economic pressures of the operating room. The surgical simulation labs can mimic individual skills, difficult techniques, and very complex procedures. Over the past academic year, the residency programs of the Department of Surgery have worked to implement an extensive surgical simulation curriculum. Twenty-five separate simulation events occurred in a variety of settings including the CSI. These events were targeted to develop various skill sets and ranged from simple inanimate labs to complex high-fidelity experiences.

Dr. David Fischer was awarded the 2008 Golden Apple Award for best faculty teacher as elected by the University of Cincinnati (UC) medical students.

Research

The Division of General Surgery continues data collection and analysis of outcomes and satisfaction in patients undergoing ileoanal pull-through procedures, small and large bowel procedures, and surgery for disorders of the gastroesophageal junction.

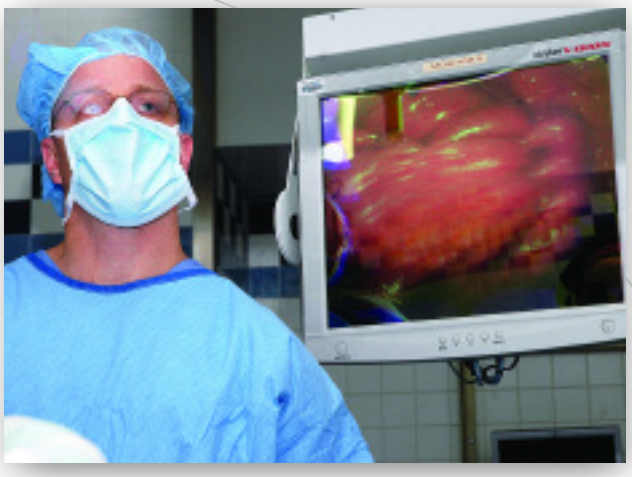
Dr. Broderick continues his research on advanced surgical technology and innovation, with the recent emphasis on telesurgery and surgery in extreme environments. He participated as an aquanaut in the US Army's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC)-funded NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operation (NEEMO)-12. This year Dr. Broderick was named to the External Advisory Council for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, funded by NASA. This council, which is a consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration space flight, is composed of leaders in research fields central to the Institute's mission and advises management on strategic issues and programmatic effectiveness. He also serves on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Trauma Pod project to help develop far-forward autonomous, telesurgical robotic casualty care.

Dr. Broderick was successful in obtaining Federal funding for the Advanced Center for Telemedicine and Surgical Innovation (ACTSI), in which he serves as Director and Principal Investigator. ACTSI is funded by the United States Congress to develop telesurgery and innovative surgical technology for use on the battlefield. As ACTSI grows in stature and capability, the concept of "benchtop to battlefield to bedside" will be fully integrated across UC's campus through mutually beneficial collaborations between basic sciences, engineering and medical practices. ACTSI will utilize numerous assets including the CSI. For more information, see page 28.

Community Connections

Drs. Timothy Broderick and David Fischer received recognition from their peers in the community as two of **"Cincinnati's Best Doctors"** as published in *Cincy: The Magazine for Business Professionals* in August 2008.

The fourth annual "Walk from Obesity" took place on September 29, 2007. This is a national Walk organized by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS) to improve awareness, public and professional education, reduce discrimination and raise funds for research for the obese person.



Faculty

David R. Fischer, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Chief, Division of General Surgery
Associate Director, Residency Program in General Surgery

Dr. Fischer specializes in minimally invasive gastrointestinal and endocrine surgery, treating gallbladders, hernias, small bowel and colon disease, gastrointestinal and colon cancer, acid reflux disease and diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, spleen and adrenal glands. He also performs the LAP-BAND Adjustable Gastric Banding procedure and laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery as treatments for obesity. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Timothy J. Broderick, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery
Director, Center for Surgical Innovation

Dr. Broderick specializes in advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Prakash Gatta, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Gatta specializes in minimally invasive surgery of the gastrointestinal tract with a particular interest in antireflux procedures, treatment of dysphagia, gastric and esophageal cancer. He also has interest in laparoscopic hernia repairs, gallbladder surgeries, kidney, adrenal gland and incisionless surgeries. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Lisa R. Martin Hawver, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Dr. Martin Hawver specializes in minimally invasive gastrointestinal and endocrine surgery treating gallbladders, hernias, small bowel and colon disease, gastrointestinal and colon cancer, acid reflux disease and diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, spleen and adrenal glands. She also performs the LAP-BAND Adjustable Gastric Banding procedure and laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery as treatments for obesity. She is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Mark Molloy, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Director, Ambulatory Services, Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Dr. Molloy specializes in surgical oncology and advanced laparoscopy. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Arthur B. Williams, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Director, SICU, Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Dr. Williams specializes in critical care and advanced laparoscopy. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery.

Active Volunteer Faculty

Holzer Medical Center
Michael R. Canady, MD, FACS (Chief of Surgery)
David V. Blevins, MD, FACS
Ronn A. Grandia, MD
Alice Ann Dachowski, MD, FACS
Charles A. Stone, MD

The Christ Hospital
Martin Popp, MD, FACS (Chief of Surgery)
W. Boyd Crafton, MD, FACS
Victor Van Gilse, MD, FACS
Carl Gilbert, MD

The Jewish Hospital
Elliott Fegelman, MD, FACS (Chief of Surgery)

Further information on the Division of General Surgery can be viewed on our website **http://surgery.uc.edu.**