

SUTURELINE

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

WINTER 2021

Department of Surgery Mourns the Loss of a Legend



J. David Richardson, MD, passed away on Sept. 7, 2021 at the age of 76. Dr. Richardson was a compassionate physician, a master surgeon, an award-winning educator, a prolific researcher and scholar, a leader in academic surgery, an accomplished horseman, and a devoted family man.

Dr. Richardson attended Morehead State University and graduated

from the University of Kentucky School of Medicine in 1970. He began general surgery residency at the University of Kentucky and transferred to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to complete residencies in general surgery and thoracic surgery. His accomplishments included becoming one of the nation's few quadruple board-certified surgeons: in general surgery, thoracic, vascular, and surgical critical care. Dr. Richardson joined the University of Louisville Department of Surgery in 1976 as assistant professor, and by 1982 reached the rank of professor. He served for many years as the Berel L. Abrams, MD Endowed Chair in Surgery, Chief of the Division of General Surgery, and Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgery. He received multiple University of Louisville Distinguished Faculty Awards and was named the Ephraim McDowell Physician of the Year. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, the Distinguished Service Award from the Southeastern Surgical Congress, an honorary doctorate degree from Morehead State University, and was named an honorary fellow of the Southern Surgical Association, among many other honors and awards.

Dr. Richardson was a prolific scholar, publishing over 375 articles, 58 book chapters, and 1 book. A gifted and popular speaker, he delivered no less than 50 named lectureships and served as visiting professor at 98 additional institutions. He served on many editorial boards and was the long-time Editor-in-Chief of *The American Surgeon*.



A leader in many surgical organizations, Dr. Richardson served as president of the American Association for Surgery of Trauma, the Southern Surgical Association, the Western Surgical Association, and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He served on the Residency Review Committee for Surgery and became vice-chair. He was a

long-time Director of the American Board of Surgery and served as chair. Dr. Richardson served in numerous capacities at the American College of Surgeons, eventually becoming chair of the Board of Regents. In 2015, he became the 96th President of the American College of Surgeons.

“As a surgeon, Dr. Richardson was the person to whom everyone turned for his sage advice regarding obscure diagnostic dilemmas and impossible patient management decisions. He was one of the most brilliant men I have ever known,” says [Kelly McMasters, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Surgery](#). “He approached complex problems with his penetrating intellect, impeccable logic, and an equal measure of good old-fashioned Eastern Kentucky common sense. His wisdom was legendary.”

Dr. Richardson was also well known for his passion and success in thoroughbred racing, horse ownership, and breeding. Dr. Richardson served as chairman of Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders of America and as chair of its American Graded Stakes Committee. He also served as a long-standing member of the Breeders' Cup and was a past director of the board. While he was at home rubbing elbows with horseracing's elite, he was even more at home with those who worked in the stables. He spent a lifetime trying to provide better medical care for those on both the frontside and the backside of the track. “Dr. Richardson was charismatic and thrived on social interaction. He knew everyone by name, whether at the hospital or the racetrack. Yet he knew much more than their names. He knew their families, their stories and their lives,” says Dr. McMasters.

The Department of Surgery held a [celebration of the life and career of Dr. Richardson](#) on Nov. 19. More than 200 people joined in person and virtually to pay tribute to the man who left an indelible impression on the lives of our staff, faculty, residents, students, alumni and community. Several honors were announced: The annual Arnold Griswold, MD Lectureship will become the Griswold-Richardson Lectureship. The Hagan Library in the Department of Surgery will now be known as the J. David Richardson, MD Memorial Library so that all future generations of students and residents will receive education in the shadow of Dr. Richardson.



Dr. Richardson was posthumously awarded the Department's highest honor: the Samuel Gross, MD Distinguished Service Award. Furthermore, UofL Health announced the naming of the J. David Richardson, MD Trauma Center.

Welcome from Dr. McMasters



Welcome to the 2021 issue of *Sutureline*, a newsletter about the Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville.

While 2020 was a year like no other in our lifetime, 2021 was equally unprecedented. COVID-19 continued to ravage our world even as the promise of vaccines brought hope. Our frontline healthcare workers were pushed to the brink at the beginning of the year and again during the summer surge. Our heartfelt

thanks go to all our healthcare workers for continuing to provide the best possible care to our patients while facing often unsurmountable challenges. As 2021 comes to a close, we are cautiously optimistic about the year ahead.

Despite all the challenges the pandemic presented, our faculty and staff adapted and overcame obstacles, and we were still able to have a productive year.

We recruited three new outstanding faculty members including one who will lead our department's wellness efforts. Also included

in this issue we remember our venerated colleague and friend Dr. J. David Richardson who passed away in September, recognize Dr. Polk's 50-year anniversary and pay tribute to our resident "Mom" Molly Poole who retired in March.

We also celebrate the faculty and staff who have garnered well-deserved recognition for their dedication to their jobs, our Department and UofL.

We would like to thank all of you who have donated to the Department of Surgery this year. We truly appreciate your loyalty. We need your support more than ever this year to continue our missions in surgical education, patient care, and research so the tradition of excellence of the Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville, which dates back to 1837, can continue.

If you have not already given or have the capacity to do more, please consider [making a gift](#) to the Department of Surgery this holiday season.

Warmest wishes for the holidays and the year ahead,

Kelly M. McMasters, MD, PhD
Ben A. Reid, Sr., MD, Professor and Chair
Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Department of Surgery
University of Louisville School of Medicine

A Lifetime of Achievement: Dr. Polk Celebrates 50 Years at UofL



August 21, 2021 marked the 50-year anniversary of Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr.'s career at the University of Louisville Department of Surgery.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi and alumnus of Millsaps College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Polk began his illustrious career at UofL as Chair of the Department of Surgery beginning in 1971. He served in this role for 34 years.

Dr. Polk is one of the longest-serving chairs of surgery in the country and one of the world's best-known and respected surgeons. During his 34-year tenure, more than 230 surgical residents trained with him. He is widely regarded for building one of the leading departments of surgery in the country, with national recognition in many specialty areas.

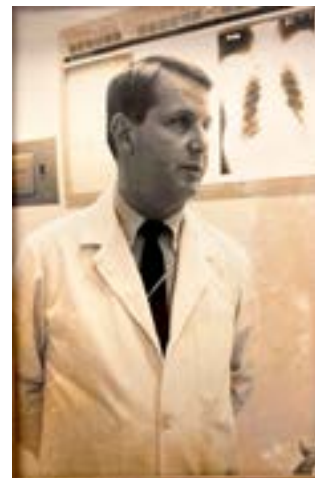
Dr. Polk served as President or Chair of more than a dozen national and international surgical organizations, including the American Surgical Association, the Southern Surgical Association, and the International Surgical Group. He is recognized for many years of leadership in the American College of Surgeons and the American Board of Surgery. He has authored or co-authored more than 400 papers and journal articles, 152 textbook chapters and 11 books.

In 2008, Polk was named chair of the Board of Governors of the Foundation for Biomedical Research. In 2011, he was named an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, standing alongside his prior election to the world's oldest surgical College in Edinburgh, Scotland (founded 1505).

In 2012, the University of Louisville honored Dr. Polk's lasting legacy by formally naming the Department of Surgery in his honor.

Today, Dr. Polk continues to contribute to the fields of surgery, education and research as the Ben A. Reid Sr., MD, Emeritus Professor of Surgery and is actively engaged in the Price Institute of Surgical Research.

Dr. Polk's contributions to UoL, the Department of Surgery, and to the field of surgery, nationally and internationally, cannot be overstated. We continue to benefit from his mentorship and wisdom and are deeply grateful for his lifetime commitment to The Hiram C. Polk, Jr., MD, Department of Surgery.



Resident ‘Mom’ Molly Poole Retires

‘Resident Mom’ Molly Burke-Poole retired March 19, 2021. Graduate Medical Education Administrator for the Department of Surgery, Molly coordinated the Department of Surgery Residency Program for more than two decades. Molly worked closely with each resident to ensure they were successful during their training.

“She was every resident’s best friend, confidant, life coach, counselor, cheerleader and chaplain,” says Kelly McMasters, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Surgery. “She laughed with them, cried with them, and shared their joys and sorrows.”

Molly joined the Department in February 1990, after five years in the Department of Psychiatry, as an Administrative Assistant to William Cheadle, M.D. When he became Program Director of the residency program in 1995, Molly worked behind the scenes with Angela Jones, former Residency Coordinator.

For decades, Molly gave her heart and soul to the Department of Surgery.

“Never has there been anyone who has been more loyal, dedicated, devoted, and committed to the Department of Surgery,” Dr. McMasters says. “We will always be grateful for a lifetime of selfless service.”



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Department Hires New Vice Chair of Wellness

The statistics are staggering. Physicians have a high rate of suicide, with roughly [one doctor dying every day](#). That is nearly double the rate of the general population. The [rates of burnout and depression among surgeons](#)—particularly trauma surgeons is also alarming.



In an effort to combat this alarming trend, the Department of Surgery has hired a new Vice Chair of Wellness - [Jamie Coleman, MD](#) - whose research focuses on sleep deprivation and stress physiology.

“Physician suicide happens at a rate much higher than the general American population. In fact, we lose an approximate or

equivalent of an entire medical school class of year to physician suicide,” Dr. Coleman says. “I wanted to explore why is that and what do we need to do this better?”

Dr. Coleman has conducted physiological tracking of more than 200 surgeons across the country over six months and now is in the process of analyzing the data. She also will spend a few months conducting validated surveys of Department of Surgery faculty to assess stress points for our faculty.

She then will take what she learns from both the national study and the surveys with the Department faculty to formulate and execute a plan for improving the overall wellness of our faculty.

“The data is an objective measurement just like your weight is an objective measurement,” Dr. Coleman says. “Once we do this, we will be able to hone in on how we can do this better.”

In addition to serving as the new Vice Chair of Wellness, Dr. Coleman is a trauma surgeon and associate professor of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery.

Trauma Team Partners with Community to Create Future Healer Award

In partnership with the University of Louisville Hospital Trauma Team and the UofL Student National Medical Association, Community activist Christopher 2X and Gamechangers created a local award showcasing individuals with a commitment to education, compassion, and excellence.

The award is named after a nursing student, Kelsie Small, who lost her life to gun violence. Small, a Central High School graduate, was shot the day before Mother’s Day in 2020 after offering a ride home to her friends. Small was sent to University Hospital where she later died because of her injuries.

The Kelsie Small Future Healer Award will be presented annually by the Christopher 2X Game Changers non-profit and highlights individuals who are on the path to becoming successful health care workers.

The award honors Small by recognizing those with the same kindness and compassion that she had shown others.

Kelsie’s mother, Delisa Love, accepted the first Future Healer Award in honor of her daughter.

[Watch UofL Hospital and partners present the first Kelsie Small Future Healer Award.](#)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

New Faculty

The Department of Surgery welcomed new faculty members [Nancy S. Clark, MD, JD](#), and [Ryan Shapiro, M.D.](#)



Dr. Clark joined the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapeutics in the Department of Surgery on Jan. 4. Dr. Clark attended medical school at University of Kentucky College of Medicine, completed her residency in General Surgery at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, MD and a fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, NJ. She also holds a Juris Doctor from University

of Maryland. Dr. Clark's expertise includes limb salvage and wound care, abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) and endovascular interventions for treatment of peripheral vascular disease.

Dr. Shapiro joined our Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in July. Dr. Shapiro attended medical school at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, OH, where he also completed a residency in Plastic & Reconstruction Surgery. Dr. Shapiro's clinical and research interests include breast aesthetic and reconstructive surgery, autologous breast reconstruction, lower extremity reconstruction and nerve surgery, and aesthetic plastic surgery. Dr. Shapiro strives to partner with patients to improve their quality of life through a collaborative care approach. His goal is to provide individually focused care for each patient throughout their personal reconstructive or cosmetic surgery journey.



Two Faculty Recieve Distinguished Faculty Awards

[Mary Fallat, MD](#), received a University of Louisville Presidential Distinguished Faculty award and [Jason Smith, MD, PhD](#), received a University of Louisville's Distinguished Faculty Award in the category of Distinguished Service to UofL.



Earlier this year, Dr. Fallat received the School of Medicine's 2020 Distinguished Service to the National and/or International Community Award and Dr. Smith received the 2020 Distinguished Service to UofL Award from the UofL School of Medicine.

Dr. Fallat's protean interests and service that she has provided across disciplines for so many years (surgery, trauma, emergency medicine, pediatrics, emergency medical services), has allowed her to make multidisciplinary contributions to education, research, administration, and patient care.

Dr. Smith dedicated countless hours to adeptly leading our COVID-19 response, leading from the front lines as a trauma surgeon during the pandemic, all the while going above and beyond the call of duty to keep us all safe.



DEPARTMENT & ALUMNI

News and Notes



[Christopher Jones, MD](#), received the UofL School of Medicine's 2020 Distinguished Service to the Community, the Commonwealth, and/or the Region Award. Dr. Jones has enormous responsibility for the lives and well-being of patients who undergo solid organ transplantation, as well as those with organ failure who aspire

to undergo transplantation, across the entire region. He has shouldered this responsibility with unwavering dedication, compassion, and equanimity during the most difficult of times.

Tanisha Hackett, financial coordinator with the Department of Surgery, received the R. Wayne Pace Award - Human Resource Education at the 2021 College of Education and Human Development Honors and Awards Ceremony. This award is named after the founder of the Academy of Human Resource Development and recognizes an outstanding graduate student in Human Resource Education for leading the field through research-based practice. Tanisha received a master's degree in Human Resources and Organizational Development this year. Congratulations, Tanisha!

Grand Rounds Now Available on YouTube

The Department of Surgery's Grand Rounds are [now available](#) on YouTube. Visit our YouTube channel to view Surgery Grand Rounds presentations from May 2020 to present.

Faculty In The News



This summer, WAVE-TV featured a story about Department of Surgery's [Jarrod Little, MD](#), who put his own life at risk to help his patient.

Without any protection for himself, Dr. Little carefully removed the explosive. "He needed to have it taken out," Little said. "It was a life-threatening situation. So, you do what you have to do." That night was the beginning of a series of surgeries, skin and bone grafts, and long and painful recovery.

Dr. Little is an assistant professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Otolaryngology.

Watch [here](#).

Owen's Wish Fund Update

The [Owen's Wish Fund](#) for Cancer Immunotherapy Research at the Brown Cancer Center was established in honor of Owen McMasters in October 2016. Friends of [Kelly McMasters, MD, PhD](#), created this fund to allow the cancer center to develop a world-class group of scientists and physicians dedicated to advancing the field of cancer immunotherapy and providing state-of-the-art immunotherapy care for patients in our region.

To date, supporters have generously donated \$189,936 to Owen's Wish. This fund has grown into a center-wide movement to light the way for our immunotherapy efforts that led to an additional \$1,669,480.47 in recent philanthropy to support a CAR T-Cell clinical trial. Building on our success with immunotherapy

In addition, Department of Surgery's [Christopher Jones, MD](#), division director, Division of Transplantation, appeared on local TV and radio to encourage blood donations since they are so vital to organ transplantation.



WAVE 3-TV: <https://www.wave3.com/.../severe-blood-shortage-could.../>

WFPL-Radio: <https://wfpl.org/blood-shortage-felt-at-local-blood-banks/>

WLKY-TV: <https://www.wlky.com/.../louisville-surgeon.../36792251>

WDRB-TV: https://www.wdrb.com/.../article_bea94964-d2c5-11eb-9b25...

WHAS-TV: <https://www.whas11.com/.../417-03cc2978-3308-4804-864c...>

iHeart Radio: <https://www.iheart.com/.../2021-06-22-life-saving.../>

WYMT-TV: <https://www.wymt.com/.../severe-blood-shortage-could.../>

research, we are poised to further advance Owen's Wish with a grant of \$11.5 million from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to establish the Center for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy (CCII).

The new center will develop and improve strategies that use the immune response to fight cancer. The five-year grant will allow UofL to establish the CCII as a National Institutes of Health-designated Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (CoBRE) to support young investigators and develop additional basic, translational and clinical research at the UofL Health - Brown Cancer Center. This would not be possible without the recent philanthropy to our immunotherapy efforts. [Click here to donate](#), or reach out to Katy O'Toole at 502.852.3523.

2021 Where Are They Now

Neal Bhutiani, MD, Surgical Oncology Fellowship, MD Anderson

Nathan Bodily, MD, Private Practice, Mesa, AZ

Gerald Cheadle, MD, Vascular Fellowship, University of Louisville

Brian Clarke, MD, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Hawaii

Timothy Dawson, MD, Private Practice, Louisville, KY

Mickey Ising, MD, Thoracic Fellowship, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

William Marshall, MD, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, University of California—San Diego, CA

Justin Webb, MD, Plastic Surgery Fellowship, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Seth Welborn, MD, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC



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Send us your updated address so we can stay in touch!
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Find us on Twitter @uoflDeptofSurg

Stay In Touch

Please keep in touch and let us know what is happening with you, your practice and your family. We apologize in advance for any errors of omission. Please send your news items and updated addresses to radhika.bombard@louisville.edu.

Make A Gift to the Department of Surgery

As you plan your year-end giving, please consider supporting to the Department of Surgery.

To make a gift by credit card, please visit give.louisville.edu. If you would like to send in a donation via mail, all gifts can be mailed to: University of Louisville Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 772050, Chicago, IL 60677-2050. Please make checks payable to the University of Louisville Foundation. Gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2021.

For gifts of securities or information on estate planning, please contact Denise Nuehring, Senior Director of Development: denise.nuehring@louisville.edu or 502.415.8279.