

# University of Louisville School of Medicine

## Division of Plastic Surgery

Summer 2023

NEWSLETTER

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From left to right: Drs. O'Daniel, Mays, APRN Clinkenbeard, Drs. McCurry, Palazzo, Wilhelmi, Kachare, Sparks, Graham, Prescott, Salzman, Paul, Nguyen, Brooks, Shapiro, Nixon, Huett, Katsnelson, MacDavid, Azzolini

This year we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year of plastic surgery at the University of Louisville. Our theme was **PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE** with our two excellent graduates pursuing further excellence in additional fellowship training. *"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."*

We experienced another tremendous and productive year, both clinically and academically. Our faculty is growing to meet the demands of our growing training programs. Our integrated plastic surgery residency is thriving and in its third year. Our photo above from the Hunting Creek CC Hearth room, demonstrates our growth. Our University of Louisville Plastic Surgery program continues to achieve excellence through a coordinated effort of several parts including committed academic faculty, strong private practice faculty, our excellent coordinators, Amory Alvey and Helen Anderkin, as well as our fantastic fellows and residents. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding team and resources to support and foster our growth and excellence of plastic surgery at the University of Louisville. Thank you.

-Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi

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### Division of Plastic Surgery

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Kasdan Award

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Wilhelmi Award

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## Our Academic Faculty

### **Bradon J. Wilhelmi, M.D.**

Leonard J. Weiner Endowed Professor  
Chief of Plastic Surgery  
Director of Plastic Surgery Residency Program

### **Joshua H. Choo, M.D.**

Associate Program Director of Plastic Surgery  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Director of Complex Wound & Lower  
Extremity Reconstruction

### **Gordon R. Tobin, M.D.**

Professor of Surgery  
Director of Thoracic/Pelvic Reconstruction

### **Terry M. McCurry, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Surgery

### **Ryan L. Shapiro, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery

## 2023-2024 Fellows

### Chief Fellows

Evan B. Westrick, M.D.  
Joshua C. MacDavid, M.D.

### Second Year Fellows

Anthony G. Azzolini, M.D.  
Jacob Y. Katsnelson, M.D.

### First Year Fellows

Joshua D. Spiegel, M.D.  
Wilson G. Huett, M.D.

## 2023-2024 Residents

### Third Year Residents

Candice L. Nguyen, M.D.  
Mitchell B. Peake, M.D.

### Second Year Residents

Brian J. Paul, M.D.  
Shelby M. Graham, M.D.

### First Year Residents

Arrin C. Brooks, M.D., Ph.D.  
Jon "Chris" Bruce, M.D.

# The Pursuit of Excellence: Celebrating our 2023 Graduates



*Alexander T. Nixon, MD*



*Milind D. Kachare, MD*

Two Fellows started a new chapter in the midst of the COVID Pandemic. They not only survived, but they thrived with *excellence* as we learned a new way of living – a time of uncertainty, and a time of unpredictable shutdowns. By the end of their training, they set new clinical records by logging over 4,000 cases each, and successfully presented and published several research projects. Both, Drs. Nixon & Kachare, have decided to pursue additional fellowships. Dr. Nixon will do a Craniofacial Fellowship at Vanderbilt followed by another fellowship in Aesthetics with Dr. Sean Kelishadi in California. Dr. Kachare will complete an Aesthetic & Cosmetic Fellowship in El Paso, Texas. We wish them all the success and continued *excellence* in this next chapter of their careers!



*Drs. Nixon & Kachare enjoying a UofL basketball game and the Chiefs traditional round of golf with Dr. Wilhelmi.*





Dr. Alexander Nixon with Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi

This year we had not one, but TWO **Academic Achievement Awards**. This award is given to those who score the highest on the InService Exam. Congratulations to both Dr. Alexander Nixon AND Dr. Jacob Katsnelson!

Donate now to the Janet Wilhelmi Academic Achievement Award  
<http://give.louisville.edu/psaaf>



Dr. Jacob Katsnelson with Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi

## Speaking of Excellence...

Dr. Milind Kachare won **THREE** excellence awards this year! First off, Dr. Kachare received the **Mentor Excellence Award** for being an exemplary mentor and advocate to the fellows, residents, and medical students. He also took home the **Research Excellence Award** for his dedication and commitment to completing over 20 publications and several presentations. And lastly, he worked hard to receive the **Clinical Excellence Award** by logging over 5000 cases!



## Alumni Award

A special award for a special guest! Dr. Swapnil Kachare, brother to Dr. Milind Kachare, graduated from our program in 2020 in a small, COVID-kind-of Graduation. He has since gone on to complete two additional Fellowships at Harvard (Hand and Craniofacial) and has recently joined the world of academic practice at ECU in North Carolina. For his continued *excellence*, we were honored to present to him the **Alumni Excellence Award**.







This year's **Teaching Award** goes to Dr. Ryan Shapiro! Thank you for your dedication to education.

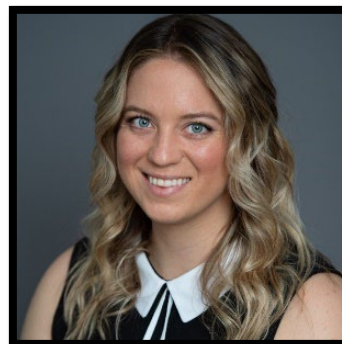
For his dedication to our Resident & Fellows education, Dr. Jerry O'Daniel was presented the **Gratis Faculty Award!**

## Welcome To Our Newest Trainees!



**Fellow**

**Joshua D. Spiegel, MD**  
Residency: University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Med School: University of Tennessee



**Resident**

**Arrin C. Brooks, MD, PhD**  
Med School: Marshall University – JC Edwards School of Medicine



**Fellow**

**Wilson G. Huett, MD**  
Residency: University of South Alabama  
Med School: University of Arkansas College of Medicine



**Resident**

**Jon "Chris" Bruce, MD**  
Med School: Texas Tech University



In May 2023, we were honored to host Dr. James Bradley for our ASPS Visiting Professorship and Journal Club. Dr. Bradley is a New York City, double board-certified, plastic surgeon who is one of the World's experts in craniofacial and plastic surgery. He spent much of his career in Los Angeles as the UCLA Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery; he was recruited to Northwell Health as Vice Chairman of Surgery; he is a skilled surgeon, educator, and Author of scientific papers and textbooks. He has devoted himself to surgical innovation and to personalized care of each patient.

Dr. Bradley presented two presentations at the ASPS Conference:

- I. *Man's Right to Look Human: Craniofacial Outcomes*
- II. *Facial Feminization: Alternative use of Craniofacial and Cosmetic Techniques*

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## Journal Club – Craniofacial & Facial Aesthetic Surgery

- I. *Facial Recognition Neural Networks Confirm Success of Facial Feminization Surgery; **Evan Westrick, MD***
- II. *Hypertelorbitism Corrected by Facial Bipartition Improves Exotropia; **Anthony Azzolini, MD***
- III. *Syndrome of the Trepined: Quantitative Functional Improvement after Large Cranial Vault Reconstruction; **Jacob Katsnelson, MD***
- IV. *Turning Back the Clock: Artificial Intelligence Recognition of Age Reduction after Face-Lift Surgery Correlates with Patient Satisfaction, **Joshua MacDavid, MD***



### Journal Club at Mesh

Back left to right: Drs. Grant, Calobrace, Shapiro, MacDavid, Westrick, Paul.  
Front left to right: Drs. Azzolini, Katsnelson, Nguyen, Bradley, Wilhelmi, Graham, Digenis, Palazzo



Dr. Bradley & Dr. Wilhelmi





From left to right: Drs. Fang, Rutenberg, Justino, Tobin, Peake, Nguyen, Leonard, Wilhelmi, Choo, MacDavid, Paul

In February of 2023, we had a special guest visit with our Plastic Surgery team all the way from the United Kingdom! Dr. David Leonard, BSc (MedSci, MBChB, MRCS, PhD, FRCS (Plast) is from the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust in Leeds, UK. He gave his presentation on *Perspectives on Brachial Plexus Reconstruction and Upper Limb Transplant*



Dr. Saeed Chowdry (c/o 2015) married his lovely wife in February 2023 surrounded by close friends and family. They celebrated their honeymoon in Rome, Italy.



Treating Dr. James Bradley to lunch at Jack Fry's.  
From left to right: Drs. Westrick, Bradley, Nguyen, Katsnelson, MacDavid, Azzolini, Schalet



Our awesome Medical Staff and Coordinators celebrating our graduates and award recipients at Hunting Creek Country Club.  
From left to right: Rochele, Angel, Stephanie, Sydney, Amory, Jasmine, Helen, Carole.



Dr. Jacob Katsnelson traveled to Montreal, Canada for the American Head & Neck Society Meeting. Here he is presenting his work on Prelaminated Paramedian Forehead Flap with Tubularized Frontalis Muscle for Reconstruction of Subtotal Nasal Defect: A Case Report

## 50 Years of Plastic Surgery

2023 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UofL Plastic Surgery Program. Over these 50 years, four directors and twenty faculty have graduated over 100 residents and fellows, while providing enormous clinical service, and creating medical breakthroughs adopted internationally.

The founding Director, Leonard J. Weiner, M.D. (Fig. 1) was a pioneer in liposuction, and laid ground for our stellar research programs. His first faculty appointment was Dr. Robert Acland (Fig. 2), who pioneered microsurgery by designing of essential instruments, establishing a world-renowned teaching laboratory, and creating of a respected fellowship. Fifteen years later, Dr. Weiner appointed Dr. John Barker (Fig. 3), who established a productive research laboratory that became the world's largest in Plastic Surgery and produced much valuable research, especially in microcirculation. Dr. Gordon Tobin (Fig. 4) was Dr. Weiner's second faculty appointment and brought to Louisville the technique of early tangential excision and grafting of burns, plus the newly emerging field of myocutaneous and muscle flaps. The distally based rectus abdominus flap pelvic reconstruction he developed, has eliminated the chronic pelvic wound after APR and pelvic exenteration infections, and the pectoralis flap sternal reconstruction he developed, has dramatically lessened mortality and morbidity after sternotomy for cardiac procedures. Later, Dr. Tobin joined Dr. Warren Breidenbach of Kleinert-Kutz, and Dr. Jon Jones, of Transplant Surgery, in the world's first successful skin-bearing transplant, a hand (Fig. 5), which remains a success at 25 years, and has launched the new surgical field of Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation. Dr. Larry Florman (Fig. 6) became Director in 2005, and brought a focus in aesthetic surgery, especially cosmetic rhinoplasty. Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi (Fig. 7) became Director in 2007, and brought expertise in hand, breast, and microsurgery, which maintains our leadership in that field. He also established an integrated residency program, which is developing smoothly. Our current faculty includes Dr. Wilhelmi, Director; Dr. Gordon Tobin; Dr. Terry McCurry; Dr. Josh Choo; and Dr. Ryan Shapiro (Fig. 8, 9, 10, 11). The UofL Plastic Surgery Program has had a most productive 50 years and looks forward to further great contributions to our field.

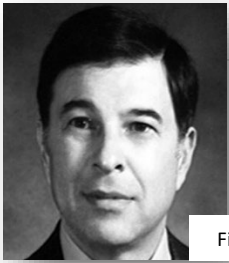


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

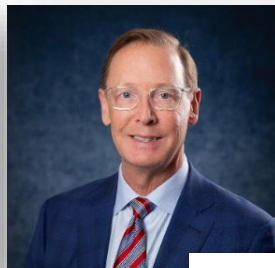


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

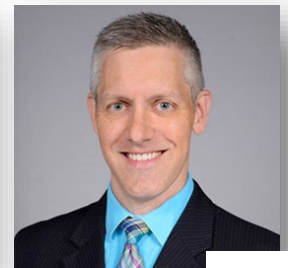


Fig. 11



## Fellow Academic Award

### We Need a Helping Hand to Reach Our Goal!

In 2017 we renamed our Academic Achievement Award for the late Janet Wilhelmi, in recognition of her commitment to education and her own efforts in academics. Undaunted by any obstacle, Mrs. Wilhelmi went back to college at the age of 40 and achieved a 4.0 GPA while completing her bachelor's degree in education. She then went on to devote her life to teaching others, and always stressed academic excellence for both her students and her family!

To recognize the similar hard work and commitment from our Fellows & Residents, we would like to provide a monetary award in addition to the plaque given annually for the best in-service exam score.

*Please consider donating a tax-deductible gift so that we can not only recognize, but also reward a deserving Fellow for their commitment to excellence.*



### Contributors to the Janet Wilhelmi Award

Leonard & Jane (Schultz) Weiner, M.D.

Jared Davis, M.D.

Claudiu Muresan, M.D.

Nitin Engineer, M.D.

Yaron Hazani, M.D.

Michelle Palazzo, M.D.

Bradon Wilhelmi, M.D.



This years' recipients, Dr. Alexander Nixon (left) and Dr. Jacob Katsnelson being presented the Academic Achievement Award by Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi.

**Donate now to the Janet Wilhelmi Award**

<http://give.louisville.edu/psaaf>

### Recipients of the Academic Award

2023: Alexander Nixon, M.D.

2023: Jacob Katsnelson, M.D.

2022: Samuel Corey, M.D.

2021: Samuel Corey, M.D.

2020: Michael Ablavsky, M.D.

2019: Adam O'Toole, M.D.

2018: Jared Davis, M.D.

2017: Jared Davis, M.D.

2016: Joshua Choo, M.D.

2015: Joshua Choo, M.D.

2014: Joshua Choo, M.D.

2013: Ron Brooks, M.D.



### **Kasdan Award: Medical Student Award**

Dr. Kasdan is known for his lifelong service as a plastic surgeon at the VAMC, as well as his enduring commitment to medical student training. His "Suture Sundays" remain legendary at the School of Medicine, both for the skills the students practiced and the warmth of their welcome each week. In that spirit, this scholarship recognizes the best UofL School of Medicine student who matches into a plastic surgery program with a farewell gift as they leave the nest.

[Click here to donate](#)



[Obesity and the Latissimus Dorsi Flap: A Radiologic Study.](#)

Choo JH, Vivace BJ, Meredith LT, Kachare S, Lee TJ, Kachare M, **Wilhelmi BJ**. *Plast Surg (Oakv)*. 2023 May;31(2):132-137. doi: 10.1177/22925503211031927. Epub 2021 Jul 14. PMID: 37188129

[Breast Implants Save Lives: Gunshot Wound to a Silicone Gel Implant.](#)

Barrow BE, Kachare MD, Simpson AM, West NJ, Corey SL, **Wilhelmi BJ**. *Eplasty*. 2023 Jan 30;23:QA4. eCollection 2023. PMID: 36846083

[Centralizing the Umbilicus in Abdominoplasty: Eccentric versus Concentric Fascial Plication in Addition to Medializing at the Skin.](#)

Vavra JM, Kachare SD, Vivace BJ, Choo JH, **Wilhelmi BJ**. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2023 Mar 1;151(3):526-531. doi: 10.1097/PRS.00000000000009910. Epub 2022 Nov 21. PMID: 36730529

[The 5 D's to Dunk the Dog: A Retrospective Clinical Review to Prevent Dog-Ear Contour Abnormalities in Vertical Breast Reductions and Breast Lifts.](#)

Kachare SD, Kachare MD, Vivace BJ, Barrow BE, Ablavsky M, Abell S, Choo JH, **Wilhelmi BJ**. *Eplasty*. 2023 Feb 27;23:e13. eCollection 2023. PMID: 36919153

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[Response to: Discussion of Details in the Application of Laser-assisted Fluorescence Angiography with SPY-Q Software Analysis.](#)

**Kachare MD**, Moore AC, Little J, O'Daniel TG. *Aesthet Surg J*. 2023 Mar 31:sjad084. doi: 10.1093/asj/sjad084. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36996438 No abstract available.

[Establishment of Safety of Hemostatic Net Application Utilizing Laser-Assisted Fluorescence Angiography With SPY-Q Software Analysis.](#)

**Kachare MD**, Moore AC, Little J, O'Daniel TG. *Aesthet Surg J*. 2023 May 15;43(6):623-630. doi: 10.1093/asj/sjad007. PMID: 36636947

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