

UISURGERYNEWS

THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



Comments from Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD, Professor and Head, UI Department of Surgery

Fall 2011 brings with it many new and exciting developments within the Department of Surgery. Highlighted below are items of interest you will find in this issue of UISURGERY NEWS.

Featured additions to our faculty are Dr. Suemoy Wallace, Dr. Carlos Pelaez, Dr. Bradley Coots, and Dr. Joss Fernandez. Read about their contributions to our teams later in this issue.

Former Department Head Dr. Carol Scott-Conner adds to her list of noteworthy publications by releasing a collection of fictional short stories. Her latest chapter as an accomplished writer follows.

Please read further to learn about the prominent local and national events the Department of Surgery is hosting here at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics this year.

Hundreds of donors express their loyalty to the Department of Surgery, and we greatly appreciate those who have done so. These are the gifts that make new chairs, professorships, student scholarships and research funds possible. Please read further to learn more about Shelly Mott and the UI Foundation's role in helping us develop these vital partnerships.

We are very proud to share with you the accomplishments throughout the Department of Surgery, including the naming of Dr. John Cromwell as new Director of the Division of Gastrointestinal, Minimally-Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, Dr. W. Thomas Lawrence's receipt of the Distinguished Service Award from The Plastic Surgery Foundation, and the partnership of the UI Burn Treatment Center and Casey's General Stores, among others, to provide smoke detectors to Iowa households.

Please remember that you may always contact me with your comments and suggestions, and I invite you to visit our Department of Surgery website as a continuing source of new information about the Department of Surgery:
www.medicine.uiowa.edu/surgery.

With warm regards,

Ronald J. Weigel, MD, PhD
EA Crowell, Jr Professor and Head

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UIHC surgeon, Carol Scott-Conner, MD, PhD, pens first fictional novel

The second woman to ever be appointed the head of a Department of Surgery in America plans to retire.

But not before she branches out into the world of fiction.

Carol Scott-Conner entered the field of medicine almost 45 years ago. Then, it was a male-dominated field. The 64-year-old was one of 35 women in her 900-person class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1974.

But Scott-Conner simply learned to be "one of the boys," she said. "Being in a male-dominated environment makes you numb to the point where you don't think about [being a woman]," she said.

Carol Scott-Conner's new fictional book *A Few Small Moments*, a collection of short stories about women in the surgical field, was prompted by the lack of inspiring stories about women in medicine.

She said colleagues at medical conferences would ask her for recommendations of books to give to daughters or granddaughters with medical aspirations. But the only books she knew of focused on women's struggles to move up the medical ladder. She set out to write fiction that normalized the roles of women in hospitals. Rather than focusing on the fact a character is female, Scott-Conner focused on glimpses into the lives of surgeons who just happened to be women.

"There really is a difference between what she had to go through to be where she is," said Marilyn Marx, the president of the Association of Women Surgeons. "[*A Few Small Moments*] lays a great foundation for all those who come after her."

It has gradually gotten better, Scott-Conner said. In 1970, 25,507 female physicians practiced in the United States. By 2001, that number had grown to 205,903. And Marx said it's not uncommon now to find more than half the doctors in medical school or a residency program are women.

"For the most part, when I was going into surgery, there were very few women role models around," said Sonia Sugg, a UI associate professor of oncology. "They were considered the exception, not the norm."

Scott-Conner has been a pioneer, Sugg said. "She is someone who really started breaking down the barriers in terms of women in surgery," Sugg said. "Not only did she do that, but she did it in a very accomplished way."

Scott-Conner achieved the pinnacle of a surgeon — the head of the Department of Surgery — when she came to the UI in 1995.

"To be the head of a surgical department, you pretty much have to change jobs a couple times," she said.

Originally from the East Coast, she has earned four degrees and graduated from the University of New York College of Medicine in 1976.

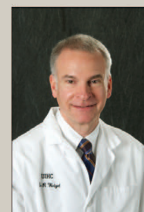
Though she's been acclaimed in the medical field, she's no stranger to writing. Scott-Conner's first published work, the medical textbook *Operative Anatomy* is in its fourth edition. In fact, her subsequent textbooks have made her esteemed in the field.

"When I came in, I didn't know her personally, but I knew of her," Sugg said. "One of my favorite surgery textbooks is actually written by her."

Scott-Conner has started the first year of "phased retirement," a five-year program, and said she hopes to continue writing.

"I think this is the first time I've had time to write and think without having to be a page away," she said.

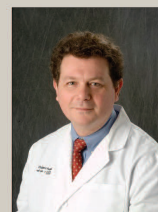
Dept. of Surgery physicians featured in January edition of Health at Iowa



Ronald Weigel, MD, PhD



John Byrn, MD



Joel Shilyansky, MD

Dept. of Surgery physicians Dr. Ronald Weigel, Dr. John Byrn, and Dr. Joel Shilyansky are featured in separate articles in the January, 2011, edition of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine newsletter *Health at Iowa*.

Dr. Ronald Weigel is featured in the article entitled "Pregnant with breast cancer: one mom's story" which describes the case of a young mother who is pregnant with her second child and diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. In the article, Dr. Weigel describes the special care required for the treatment of the cancer so as not to jeopardize the young woman's pregnancy. In the online edition of the newsletter, Dr. Weigel is seen in a video discussing the case.

Dr. Weigel is the EA Crowell Jr. Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery. He is also a surgeon in the Division of Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery, and part of the surgical team in the Breast Cancer Care Program.

Dr. John Byrn is featured in the article entitled "Single incision colon surgery: 'Absolutely amazing'", which describes a case where colon surgery requiring a single small incision was used instead of traditional "open" surgery with a single long incision or standard laparoscopic surgery which usually requires four or five small incisions. In the article, Dr. Byrn describes the technique, and in the online version, he is seen discussing the case.

Dr. Byrn is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally-Invasive and Bariatric Surgery.

Dr. Joel Shilyansky is featured in the article entitled "Pediatric surgeons save ATV accident victim" as one of the surgeons on a physician team charged with treating a six-year-old child who was the victim of a head-on ATV accident.

Dr. Shilyansky is the Robert and Hélène Soper Chair of Pediatric Surgery, and Surgeon-in-Chief of the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

For more information, please see the News and Events section on our homepage: www.medicine.uiowa.edu/surgery.

New director named for the Division of Gastrointestinal, Minimally-Invasive and Bariatric Surgery



John W. Cromwell, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, has been appointed Director, Division of Gastrointestinal, Minimally-Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, Department of Surgery.

Dr. Cromwell obtained his medical degree and completed his general surgery residency at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He completed a fellowship in surgical infectious disease at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Texas Affiliated Hospitals in Houston. Dr. Cromwell is board certified by both the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Before joining the Department of Surgery in November 2009, he was a faculty member at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

We also thank G. Patrick Kealey, MD, Professor of Surgery, for his service as interim Director of the GI Surgery Division. Dr. Kealey began his leadership of the GI Surgery Division in 2004 while serving as Director of the Acute Care Surgery Division and for a portion of time as interim Head of the Department of Surgery.

Patient appointment requests for Dr. Cromwell and members of the Division should be directed to the Digestive Diseases Center, 356-4061. For a full list of services, please visit the Department of Surgery website or search "digestive health" on: www.uihealthcare.org/

Upcoming Events

The UI Department of Surgery is pleased to be hosting a variety of prominent local and national conferences this year. A short listing of these events appears below. Please visit the Department of Surgery's website for additional information.

September 27, 2011 Dr. Murray Brennan will present the inaugural Carol Scott-Conner Lectureship Grand Rounds, titled "Lessons Learned in Surgical Oncology." Details about the Carol Scott-Conner Lectureship are located elsewhere in this newsletter.

September 28-30, 2011 The Carver College of Medicine and the UI Burn Treatment Center are sponsoring this year's annual Midwest Regional Burn Conference at the Riverside Convention Center and Golf Resort in Riverside, Iowa.

September 30 – October 1, 2011 The 2011 Surgery Postgraduate Conference, Innovations in Surgery, will be held at the Carver College of Medicine Sahai Medical Education Center. Additional information can be found at: www.medicine.uiowa.edu/cme.

November 3-5, 2011 The 168th annual meeting of The Society of Clinical Surgery will be held at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and will be hosted by Dr. Ronald Weigel and the UI Department of Surgery.

April 29 – May 1, 2012 UI Department of Surgery will host the 33rd Annual Meeting of The American Association of Endocrine Surgeons in Iowa City, IA. Dr. Ronald Weigel is serving as the Local Arrangements Chair for this event. Additional information can be found at the AAES website: www.endocrinesurgery.org.



W. Thomas Lawrence, MD to receive Distinguished Service Award from The Plastic Surgery Foundation

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons and The Plastic Surgery Foundation have announced that W. Thomas Lawrence, MD is the recipient of the 2011 Plastic Surgery Foundation Distinguished Service Award.

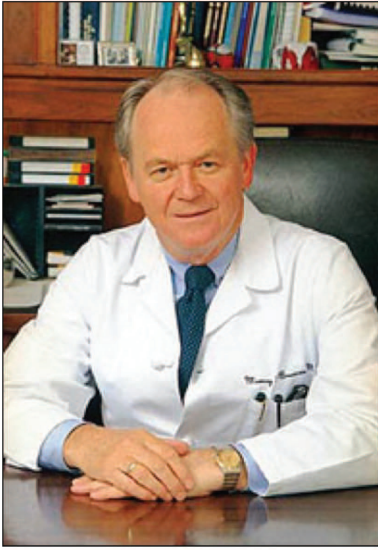
Dr. Lawrence will be presented the award at the annual ASPS/PSF Board Dinner on September 22nd, 2011 in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Lawrence is a professor in the Dept. of Surgery and Director of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

According to its website, the Plastic Surgery Foundation is the research and philanthropic arm of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and has as its mission "to improve the quality of life of patients through research and development." More information can be found at the website for the Plastic Surgery Foundation at www.plasticsurgery.org

UI Burn Treatment Center partners with Casey's General Stores and others to provide smoke detectors to Iowa households

Casey's General Stores and others have donated \$100,000 of smoke detectors for Iowa firefighters to distribute to Iowa homes with school-age children that do not have smoke detectors.

The UI Burn Treatment Center directed by Dr. Barbara A. Latenser of the Dept. of Surgery is a member of a partnership that includes the State Fire Marshall, the Injury Prevention Research Center and the Iowa Fire Safety Task Force, among others, that have worked together with Casey's General Stores on the project to distribute the smoke alarms. Other major partners on this project were United Services of Des Moines, the American Red Cross, and Mutual Insurance Association. The donation was for a total of 4363 smoke detectors and included a number of smoke detectors designed for homes with the hearing-impaired.



Dr. Murray Brennan to give inaugural Scott-Conner Lecture

Dr. Murray F. Brennan, the Vice President for International Programs and the Benno C. Schmidt Chair in Clinical Oncology at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY, will be the inaugural Carol Scott-Conner Lecturer on September 27, 2011, in Iowa City, Iowa. Dr. Brennan's lecture will be "Lessons learned in Surgical Oncology."

The Scott-Conner Lectureship was established this year to honor Dr. Carol Scott-Conner, Professor of Surgery and emeritus Chair of the Department. Dr. Carol Scott-Conner received her BS in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her MD from New York University College of Medicine. She completed her surgical residency at New York University College of Medicine, and went on to obtain a PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology from the University of Kentucky and an MBA from the Elsie School of Management at Millsaps College in 1995. Dr. Scott-Conner was only the second female head of a Department of Surgery in the nation when she came to Iowa in 1995. Among her many accomplishments during the nine years that she led the department was helping UI Hospitals and Clinics earn certification as a Level 1 Trauma Center, the highest level offered by the American College of Surgeons. The designation has helped transform trauma care at the hospital and surrounding region. She is the author of ten books and has published numerous papers and book chapters, has lectured widely, and served on countless

committees institutionally, regionally, and nationally, including currently serving on NASA's Committee on Aerospace Medicine and the Medicine of Extreme Environments. Of equal if not greater importance, a very long line of Iowa surgery residents received, and continue to receive, superb training under Dr. Scott-Conner's tutelage.

The lectureship will honor Dr. Scott-Conner's extraordinary career and ensure that her specialized knowledge and skills will be passed on to future generations of University of Iowa surgeons by way of an annual lecture by a prominent surgeon.

Dr. Brennan, the former Chair of the Department of Surgery at Memorial-Sloan Kettering from 1985-2006, is a surgeon with special expertise in the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas, endocrine tumors and pancreatic and stomach cancers. He has served as Director of the American Board of Surgery, Chairman of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, President of the Society of Surgical Oncology, Vice President of the American College of Surgeons, and President of the American Surgical Association. He has lectured throughout the world and authored or co-authored more than 1,000 scientific papers.

Individuals wishing to donate to the Carol Scott-Conner Lectureship may do so through the UI Foundation by following the Advancing UI Surgery link on the Department of Surgery homepage at www.medicine.uiowa.edu/surgery.



Aimen Shaaban, MD



Zoe Stewart, MD, PhD



James Mezhir, MD

Research Milestones

Aimen Shaaban, MD, Associate Professor in the Division of Pediatric Surgery, was recently awarded a five year, \$1.25 million National Institutes of Health R01 Research Project Grant for his proposal, "The NK cell response to prenatal allotransplantation."

Zoe Stewart MD, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Division of Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery, was recently awarded a five year National Institutes of Health K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award for her proposal, "Pathobiology of Cystic Fibrosis-Related Diabetes in a Ferret Model," which will enable her to devote 75% effort toward her research. Dr. Stewart was also awarded a one year, renewable pilot grant of \$50,000 in direct costs from the UI Center for Gene Therapy of Cystic Fibrosis and Other Genetic Diseases. Additionally, Dr. Stewart has received a two year, \$30,000 Carver Medical Research Initiative grant.

James Mezhir, MD, Assistant Professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery, has received a \$30,000 American Cancer Society seed grant from the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center for his proposal, "Preventing hepatic metastasis after pancreatectomy: a study of the contributing roles of extracellular superoxide dismutase (EcSOD) and heparanase in pancreatic cancer biology."

The Department of Surgery welcomes new faculty members



Carlos A. Pelaez, MD joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from Universidad de Iberoamerica in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2003. He completed his general surgery residency at New York Medical College / Montefiore Medical Center, North Division in Bronx, New York in 2011. He also completed a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center also in Bronx, New York in 2009. Dr. Pelaez is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in Surgical Critical Care and Board Eligible by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery.



Suemoy Wallace, MD joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor. She received her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada in 2004 and went on to complete her general surgery residency at St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan in 2009. She completed a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at the University of Connecticut in Hartford, Connecticut in 2010 and a fellowship in Acute Care Surgery at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2011. Dr. Wallace is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Board Eligible in Surgical Critical Care by the American Board of Surgery.



Bradley K. Coots, MD joined the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Coots received his medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois in 2001. He completed his general surgery residency in 2004 and plastic surgery residency in 2006, both at Michigan State University-GRMERC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He went on to complete a Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship in Buncke Clinic in San Francisco, California in 2007, followed by a period of time in private practice. He completed a Craniofacial Surgery fellowship at the University of Tennessee-Memphis in 2011. Dr. Coots is Board Certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery.



Joss D. Fernandez, MD joined the Division of Vascular Surgery in the Department of Surgery as an Associate. He will also have an appointment in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Fernandez received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia. He completed his general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He completed a fellowship in Vascular Surgery at the University of Tennessee-Memphis in 2006 as well as a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Iowa this June.

In with the new, out with the seasoned, as we bid farewell to our Chief Residents.



Left to Right: Susan Hagen, MD; Joshua French, MD; Sandy Fang, MD; Ronald Weigel, MD, PhD, Department Head; W. John Sharp, MD, Residency Program Director; Eanas Yassa, MD; Elizabeth Marshall, MD; Vanessa Humphreville, MD

Sandy Fang, MD – Colorectal fellowship
 Joshua French, MD – Private Practice - Indiana
 Susan Hagen, MD, MSPH, MME – Private Practice - Colorado
 Vanessa Humphreville, MD – Transplant Fellowship
 Eanas Yassa, MD – Vascular Fellowship
 Elizabeth Marshall, MD, MS – Cardiothoracic Fellowship

We would like to welcome our new interns:
 John Armstrong, MD – University of Iowa
 John A Cieslak, III, MD – Northwestern University
 Ryan Conway, MD – University of Iowa
 Fadi Dahdaleh, MD – University of Beirut – Lebanon
 James De Andrade, MD – University of Alabama
 Jessica Maxwell, MD – University of Iowa
 Courtney Olmstead, MD – East Carolina University

As we work to build our research fellowship, we have been fortunate to recruit three new PGY3 residents and would like to welcome:

Anurahda Bhama, MD – Ohio State University
 Kevin Helling, MD – University of Washington
 Farooq Mirza, MD – Rosalind Franklin University

Acute Care Surgery Division Update

The Division of Acute Care Surgery encompasses the services of Trauma, Burns, Surgical Critical Care, and Emergency General Surgery. Led by Kent Choi MD, the Division provides a broad spectrum of specialized care to Iowans through our clinics, Burn Center, and our Level 1 Trauma Center.

This summer, the Division welcomes two new faculty members, Dr. Carlos Pelaez and Dr. Suemoy Wallace, who are profiled elsewhere in this newsletter. Stacey Loen, a Physician's Assistant, joined the Burn Center in January 2011 and Rose Milano, a Nurse Practitioner, joined the Trauma team in May 2011. On July 1, the Surgical Critical Care fellowship welcomed two new fellows, Dr. Laura Adam and Dr. Christine Waller, both of whom previously trained with the Surgery Residency Program here at Iowa.

In furtherance of our educational mission, the Division is pleased to announce that they have recently expanded the ACGME-accredited Surgical Critical Care fellowship from one to two fellows. Dr. Choi, Program Director, is pleased to announce that the Fellowship graduates have achieved a 100% pass rate on the American Board of Surgery Surgical Critical Care board examination.

The Division is also proud to offer an Advanced Trauma Operative (ATOM) Course; this course is accredited by the ACGME through the American College of Surgeons as continuing education for physicians. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics has been designated an ATOM Course Training Center—directed by Dr. G. Patrick Kealey—and it offers five or more courses throughout the year. In addition, the UIHC has been designated as a training center that can provide instructor certification for ATOM. The ATOM Course targets 4th and 5th year surgical residents, Trauma fellows, general surgeons and others who wish to obtain a better knowledge of identifying and managing advanced operative trauma cases. Anyone interested in the ATOM Course may contact Tara Maurer, Program Coordinator at (319) 356-7892 or tara-maurer@uiowa.edu.

In furtherance of our clinical mission, the Emergency General Surgery team now sees patients in clinic five days a week, and plays a major role in providing 24/7 Emergency General Surgery coverage to the people of Iowa and surrounding region. The Division has seen a significant decrease in wait times for clinic appointments, and a demonstrable increase in patient satisfaction due to its service excellence initiatives.

Finally, the Division is extremely proud to note that Michele Lilienthal, Registered Nurse and Trauma Program manager, was recently selected as one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses, a prestigious award that recognized her compassion and extensive knowledge, enabling her to assure the best possible outcomes for patients.



Letter from Shelly Mott, Associate Director of Development at The University of Iowa Foundation

Although I am new to the role I play at the UI Foundation, I am certainly not new to the University of Iowa! I grew up in Tipton, IA and met my husband while we were attending the University of Iowa back in the late 80's. We moved away, started a family and after a 15 year career in Law, and a professional football stint by my husband, we were thrilled for the opportunity to return to Iowa City!

Since I started last year, I have had the privilege of visiting a few of our Surgery alumni and look forward to meeting many more of you. Private support has always been important but it is nothing short of critical in today's funding environment. Hundreds of donors express their loyalty to the Department of Surgery through an annual gift. We appreciate those who have done so, and welcome new givers to begin! Other donors make larger contributions establishing an endowed fund through an outright gift or estate planning. These are the gifts that make new chairs, professorships, scholarship and research funds available. The Foundation has several endowment opportunities available that you can arrange now, with cash and securities, or later through a will or trust. Estate gifts allow us to look ahead and plan with confidence providing financial light for future generations. The paper work is minimal compared to the satisfaction you will receive.

As the Department's representative for the UI Foundation, I would love to hear your Iowa story and be a resource to you as you shape your philanthropic legacy. I encourage you to support the Department of Surgery by following the Advancing UI Surgery link on the Department of Surgery homepage at www.medicine.uiowa.edu/surgery. If you have any questions, regarding giving opportunities or Department's needs, feel free to contact me by sending an email to shelly-mott@uiowa.edu or calling (800) 648-6973. Thank you again for your interests in and support of the Department of Surgery.

Shelly J. Mott
Associate Director of Development
Carver College of Medicine/University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
The University of Iowa Foundation

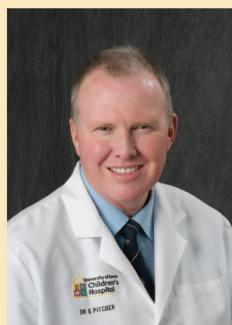
Recognition



Isaac Samuel, MD



Mohammad Jamal, MD



Graham Pitcher, MB, BCH

Bariatric surgery research recognized

Dr. Isaac Samuel, associate professor in the department of surgery, and Dr. Mohammad Jamal, clinical assistant professor in the department of surgery, have both been recognized by the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery for their novel research studies on the effects of bariatric surgery on migraine headaches and infertility. Their findings have been featured in the news both nationally and internationally.

Pediatric surgeon was recently highlighted in a UI Publication

Dr. Graeme Pitcher, pediatric surgeon at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital, performs surgery to repair a fistula between the esophagus and trachea in a one-day old boy. Read more at www.uihealthcare.org/2column.aspx?id=23514.

University of Iowa Department of Surgery

Contact Information for Appointments and Questions

Acute Care Surgery	
General Questions	(319) 356-2902
Burn Treatment Center	(319) 356-2496
Gastrointestinal Surgery, Minimally-Invasive and Bariatric Surgery	(319) 356-4061
Pediatric Surgery	(319) 356-2229
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	(319) 356-2902 (319) 356-7941
Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery	(319) 356-4200
Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery	
Kidney pre-transplant	(319) 356-4778
Pancreas pre-transplant	(319) 356-4778
Kidney/Pancreas pre-transplant	(319) 356-4778
Liver pre-transplant	(319) 356-1137
Vascular Surgery	
Appointments	(319) 356-2902
General Questions	(319) 356-8242
Urgent Questions and after-hours care	(319) 356-1616
UI Department of Surgery website:	
www.medicine.uiowa.edu/surgery	

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SUMMER/FALL 2011

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The University of Iowa

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