



2025-2026

Annual Report

Department of Surgery
Atrium Health Navicent



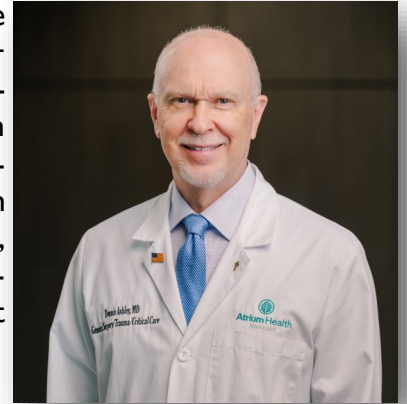
Barclay Burns 2025

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Message from the Chair

We have come a long way from 1895 when we were a 20-bed facility known as the Macon Hospital. In 1994, we became the Medical Center of Central Georgia (600+ beds), and in 2014, Navicent Health which included Floyd, Peach, and Baldwin facilities. In 2019, we joined Atrium Health which was composed of 36 hospitals in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In 2022, Atrium Health and Advocate Auroa Health combined forming the 3rd largest non-profit health system in the United States and is composed of 69 hospitals in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Alabama. Wake Forest University joined the system as our academic engine with all research activities flowing through one IRB at Wake Forest.



Dennis W. Ashley, MD, FACS
Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair
Professor of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
Director of Trauma
Atrium Health Navicent

As we continue to grow as a large healthcare organization, we are organizing our infrastructure to maximize opportunities in both the clinical and research arenas which will benefit our patients. One example of this is the Southeast Trauma System Collaboration Network. Although in its infancy, this collaboration has focused on strengthening relationships among member institutions and has identified challenges across the trauma system. The next step will be to develop a joint research agenda that will involve all trauma centers in the system.

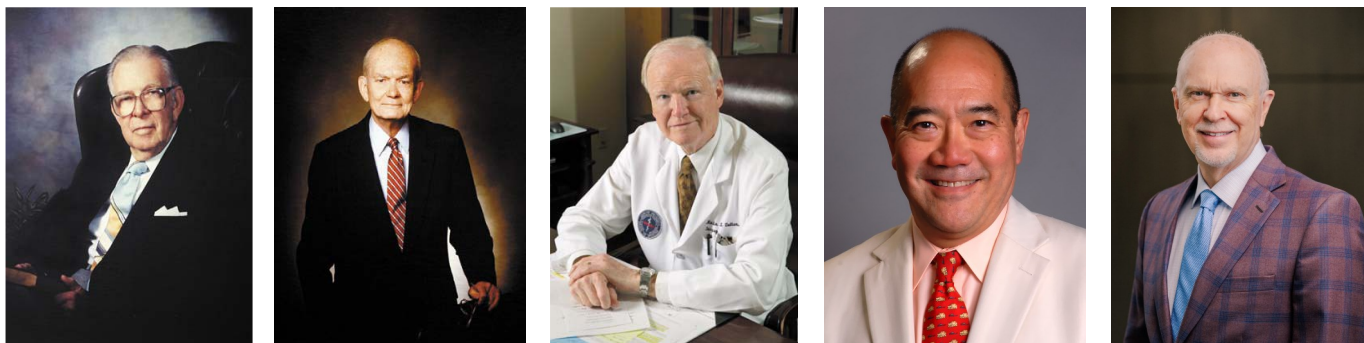
Our Atrium Health Navicent Surgery Department has also had another strong year and continues to grow. We continue to add faculty that support our mission for providing high quality healthcare to our community and education for our residents and medical students. Dr. Lindsey Bridges, fellowship trained colorectal surgeon, joined our colorectal team adding complex robotic surgery expertise. Dr. Salah Abdel Jalil has joined our team as a fellowship trained hepatobiliary surgeon and has already doubled the number of complex hepatobiliary and pancreatic cases performed over the last year. Dr. Loreski Collado was recruited as an endocrine fellowship trained surgeon to champion and develop endocrine surgery for the department. Dr. Magendran Danapal was recruited and has joined our team as the Chief of Vascular Surgery. He has recruited three new faculty members as our vascular surgery service line continues to expand. Finally, three acute care surgery surgeons have been hired in the past 3 years providing support for our newly expanded acute care surgery American Association for the Surgery of Trauma fellowship. These include Drs. William Wallace, Kristin Harmon, and Roslyn Alexander.

The Peyton Anderson Cancer Center has also seen tremendous growth over the last year. Dr. Paul Dale is the Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Lilenbaum joined the team as the Service Line Director in 2025. He is a medical oncologist with an extensive background in treating lung cancer and has been nationally recognized for his research efforts in the field of oncology. This will add additional clinical support for our patients well as exposure to first line clinical trials for complex cancer care.

Our Level I American College of Surgeons (ACS) verified trauma center continues to be extremely busy treating approximately 5,000 trauma patients per year. This trauma center not only serves the Macon area but is a safety net hospital for the entire region receiving transfer patients from 75 of the 159 counties in Georgia. In April of this year, the trauma center underwent its fourth ACS site visit and was approved with no deficiencies. Many thanks to all the teammates, service lines, and departments that made this tremendous success possible.

As you can see, the department continues to grow with addition of talented faculty and residents. We are well positioned for another great academic year. I look forward to working alongside these exceptional teammates in the coming year.

Department of Surgery



Left to right: Milford B. Hatcher, Will C. Sealy, Martin L. Dalton, Don K. Nakayama, Dennis W. Ashley

The Surgery Residency was started under its founding Chair, Milford B. Hatcher, M.D., in 1958. Internationally famous for arrhythmia surgery, Will C. Sealy, M.D., succeeded him in 1984. In 1991, Martin L. Dalton, M.D. followed Dr. Sealy as Professor and Chair. Under his tenure as chair, academic growth of the department continued with important clinical programs in trauma and critical care and surgical research. The Residency grew from two to four graduating chief resident positions. Don K. Nakayama, M.D., a pediatric surgeon, was named the Milford B. Hatcher Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery in 2007. He recruited pediatric surgery faculty and developed a robust pediatric surgery department. Dr. Dennis W. Ashley was named the Milford B. Hatcher Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery July 1, 2014. In 2017, a 5th graduating chief resident position was added. On September 30, 2019, Dr. Ashley was named as the first inaugural Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair of Surgery by the Mercer University School of Medicine. The program is fully accredited by the Residency Review Committee in Surgery of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Residents regularly finish with more than 1,200 operations during the five-year training program with extensive experience in all areas of general surgery. Residents enter fellowships in all major surgical specialties. The Surgery Department also supports a third-year medical student clerkship program with Mercer University School of Medicine providing a broad experience in trauma, vascular, general and pediatric surgery. The Department added a one-year Surgical Critical Care Fellowship program in 2009 which developed into a two-year American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Acute Care Surgery Fellowship in 2025.

Mercer University School of Medicine



The Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) was organized in 1982, part of a thirteen-year effort by city and community groups, the Bibb County Medical Society, and the Georgia State Legislature to educate physicians and other health professionals to meet the primary and ancillary healthcare needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia. The School opened additional four-year M.D. campuses in Savannah in 2008 and in Columbus in 2021, and a clinical campus in Valdosta in 2024. Atrium Health Navicent is a primary clinical site at which third and fourth year MUSM students in Macon complete their clinical training. Other degree programs offered at MUSM include the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences, Master of Science in Preclinical Sciences and a Master's of Family Practice. Currently, more

than 60 percent of MUSM graduates practice in the state of Georgia. Of those, more than 80 percent are practicing in rural or medically underserved areas of Georgia.

Mercer University will construct a new building for the School of Medicine overlooking the Ocmulgee River in downtown Macon, the first step in a major redevelopment of the area. The Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority approved selling 11 parcels at 815 Riverside Drive, between Spring and Second streets, to the University on February 27, 2025. The medical school has grown dramatically since it opened in 1982, more than doubling the number of M.D. students from 96 to 240 and adding Ph.D. and master's-level programs. "Developing a riverfront home for the Mercer University School of Medicine seizes a unique opportunity to construct a stunning new facility designed to meet the needs of a growing student population with 21st century technology at an important gateway into Macon," Mercer President William D. Underwood said.

Atrium Health Navicent

Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) has over a 100-year history of serving the central and South Georgia regions. Atrium Health Navicent, the leading provider of health care in central and South Georgia, is committed to its mission of elevating health and wellbeing through compassionate care. Providing more than 1,000 beds and offering care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region, Atrium Health Navicent provides care for health care consumers' through an academic medical center; community, pediatric and rehabilitation hospitals; urgent care centers; physician practices; diagnostic centers; home health; hospice and palliative care; and a life plan community.

Atrium Health Navicent is verified by the American College of Surgeons as a Level I Trauma Center, with more than 3,500 trauma admissions per year. AHN supports residency training programs in family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. Specialty fellowships in surgical critical care, orthopedic traumatology, infectious disease, palliative care, and geriatrics are also available. AHN's graduate medical education programs have more than 100 trainees.

Atrium Health Navicent (formerly known as The Medical Center of Central Georgia) was incorporated on November 17, 1994, as a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to coordinate AHN and other affiliated entities in their mission of providing a comprehensive continuum of high quality, reasonably priced healthcare services to the region. Atrium Health Navicent has 830 beds for medical, surgical, rehabilitation and hospice purposes. The health system includes Atrium Health Navicent, Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital, Baldwin and Peach, (both rural critical access hospitals), Rehabilitation Hospital, Pine Pointe (provides palliative and hospice care in homes and in its facility), Carlyle Place, (continuing care retirement community), and Navicent Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Atrium Health Navicent.

On February 8, 2018, it was announced that Atrium Health Navicent would merge with healthcare giant Atrium Health. This ensures a Macon-based institution will continue to be the leading driver of healthcare in central Georgia and beyond. In December 2018, Atrium Health and Atrium Health Navicent signed a definitive agreement to finalize their strategic combination, which became effective January 1, 2019.

In December of 2022, Advocate Aurora Health closed on their formal combination to create Advocate Health. Advocate Health is headquartered in Charlotte while maintaining a strong presence in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas. The Advocate Healthcare, Atrium Health and Aurora Healthcare brands will continue to be used in their respective local communities, with Wake Forest University School of Medicine serving as the academic core of the combined entity. Advocate Health serves nearly 6 million patients annually and is the 5th largest non-profit integrated health system in the nation.

Atrium Health Navicent will continue its role as a teaching hospital maintaining its partnerships with the Mercer University School of Medicine, Middle Georgia State University, Wesleyan College, Central Georgia Technical College, and Georgia College and State University.



Overview of AHN



AHN Main Campus



Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital
(part of Atrium Health Levine Children's)



Albert Luce, Jr. Heart Institute



Roslyn Alexander, D.O.

Assistant Professor

Residency: St. Luke's University Health Network

Fellowship: Acute Care Surgery, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center



Dennis W. Ashley, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair

Professor of Surgery

Director of Trauma

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowships: Trauma Surgery, Grady Hospital, Emory University, Atlanta;

Surgical Critical Care, University of Pittsburgh



David N. Armstrong, M.D.

Colorectal Surgery, Atrium Health Navicent

Residency: University of Manchester School of Medicine

Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, Bridgeport Hospital



Lindsey Bridges, D.O.

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowship: Advanced Colorectal Surgery, AdventHealth Orlando



Daniel S. Chan, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor

Chair, Georgia Orthopaedic Trauma Institute

Residency: University of Texas Southwestern

Fellowships: AO International Fellowship, Tubingen, Germany;

Orthopaedic Trauma, Florida Orthopaedic Institute



Amy B. Christie, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Associate Professor

Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent

Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent

Faculty

D. Benjamin Christie, III, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Associate Professor
Program Director, General Surgery Residency
Associate Director, Trauma
Chief of Surgery
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent



Loreski Collado, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Residency: Boston University School of Medicine
Fellowship: Endocrine Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine



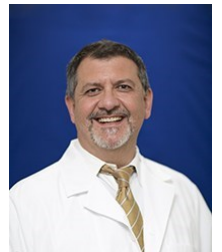
Arnold Conforti, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor
Residency: Nassau University Medical Center
Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, John Wayne Cancer Institute



Vincent Culpepper, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent



Paul S. Dale, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Professor
Chief of Surgical Oncology
Vice Dean of Translational Research
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent
Fellowship: Surgical Oncology, John Wayne Cancer Institute



Magendran Danapal, M.D.

Associate Professor
Chief of Vascular Surgery
Residency: University of Oklahoma
Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center



Faculty



Jarrod E. Dumpe, M.D.

Associate Professor

Residency: Medical College of Georgia

Fellowship: Orthopaedic Trauma, Carolinas Medical Center, North Carolina



Christopher Franklin, M.D.

Assistant Professor

Director, Adult Critical Care

Residency: University of Maryland Medical Center

Fellowship: Anesthesiology Critical Care, University of Maryland



Joshua Glenn, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor

Chief, Pediatric Surgery

Residency: Medical University of South Carolina

Fellowship: Pediatric Surgery, Vanderbilt University



Kristin E. Harmon D.O.

Assistant Professor

Residency: University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, University of South Carolina Prisma Health



Anthony Holden, M.D.

Professor

Residency: University of Arizona

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic, SUNY Upstate Medical University



Ashley J. Jones, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor

Director Medical Student Clerkship

Residency: Greenville Health System, South Carolina

Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Medical Center, Navicent Health

Faculty

Patrick D. Kohtz, M.D.

Associate Professor

Residency: University of Colorado

Fellowship: Thoracic and Cardiovascular, University of Florida College of Medicine



Salah Abdel Jalil, M.D.

Assistant Professor

Residency: Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, South Carolina

Fellowship: Complex GI Cancer Surgery and HPB Surgery, AdventHealth, Orlando, Florida



Matthew Martell, D.O.

Assistant Professor

Residency: Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra

Fellowship: Orthopaedic Trauma, Atrium Health Navicent The Medical Center



Robert J. Parel, II, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor

Lead Physician, Surgical Institute

Residency: Ochsner Clinic



Laura Reed, M.D.

Assistant Professor

Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery

Residency: University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center

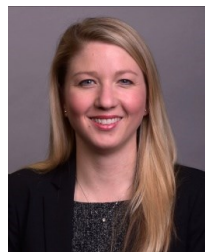
Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, University of Kentucky Hospital



Alicia Register, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor

Residency: Atrium Health Navicent





Joe Sam Robinson, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Professor

Chief, Neurosurgery

Residencies: Emory University and Northwestern University

Fellowship: Research, National Institute of Health, Neurosurgery; Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Memorial-Sloan Kettering



William B. Schroder, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Associate Professor

Residency: New York University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Vascular Surgery, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey



Issam J. Shaker, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.P.

Professor

Residency: Vanderbilt University Affiliated Hospitals

Fellowship: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vanderbilt University Affiliated Hospitals

Fellowship: Pediatric Surgery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital



Sara Strebe-Behrens, M.D.

Assistant Professor

Residency: University of Texas-Southwestern

Fellowship: Orthopaedic Trauma, The Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland



William (Kim) Thompson, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Associate Professor

Associate Chair, Clinical Education

Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



Joseph M. Van De Water, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Professor (Emeritus); Assistant Dean for Research, MUSM

Residency: UCLA

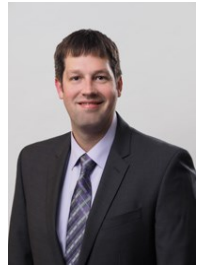
Fellowships: Critical Care/Surgical Research, Harvard Medical School;

Cardiac Surgery: Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Faculty

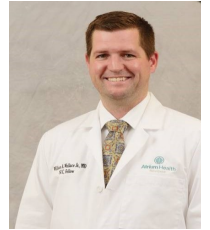
Danny M. Vaughn, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Associate Professor
Medical Director, Bariatric & Metabolic Institute
Medical Director, Robotic Surgery
Associate Director, General Surgery Residency
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent
Fellowship: Minimally Invasive Surgery, St Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri



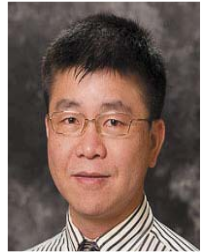
William Wallace, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Residency: Atrium Health Navicent
Fellowship: Surgical Critical Care, Atrium Health Navicent



Zhongbiao Wang, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Director Surgical Laboratories
Residency: Fujian Provincial People's Hospital, China
Fellowships: Huashan Hospital Shanghai Medical University, Cardiology



Alumni News

THE HAUN FAMILY



Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, Ghana

Pray for William, Heidi, Trey and KJ serving the Lord in Ghana

William, Heidi, Trey, and KJ, International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries, have been serving in Ghana in West Africa since 2014. Heidi, General Surgery Residency Alumni, is a board-certified general surgeon licensed to practice in both the US and Ghana. She is the only surgeon serving at the Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana. Not only does she perform life saving operations at the hospital, but she trains Ghanaian physicians-in-training.



William's primary role with the IMB is to serve as a photographer/videographer. He travels the globe (51 countries and counting!) and documents the Kingdom work God is doing through the IMB missionaries as they reach the lost. When not traveling on media assignments, he coordinates medical volunteers the Baptist hospital and serves as a circuit preacher in the dozens of village churches.



AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL WITH SEVERE CHEST INFECTION

The first case involved an 11-year-old girl with a serious infection in her right chest. She had persistent high fevers and required oxygen support. When listening with stethoscope, the right side of the chest was very quiet, with no breath sounds. Ultrasound showed that the lung lobes were collapsed and fibrinous material was floating around in the fluid.

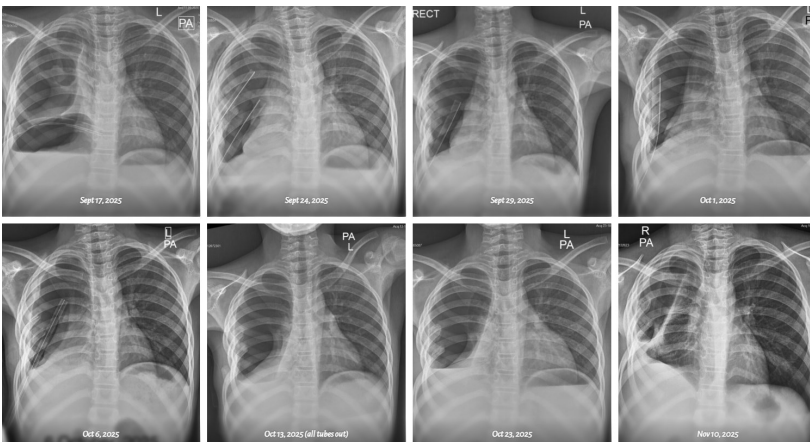
We inserted a chest tube and drained seropurulent fluid (a mix of watery and purulent material). A follow-up X-ray showed most of the fluid was gone, but air remained in the chest. With each subsequent X-ray, the lung continued to deflate instead of reinflating. Although she no longer needed oxygen, her recovery stalled. Some of the fibrinous material seen earlier had now adhered tightly to the lung and the inner chest wall, forming what is called a fibrothorax. The lung was trapped in a rigid “rind,” unable to expand.

Knowing the family could not afford a referral to the teaching hospital, I explored treatment options. I called a colleague from residency, who recommended a thoracotomy with decortication (removal of the “rind” to allow the lungs to expand again). It had been years since I opened a chest, but I believed I could do it. I asked questions, sought advice, anticipated complications, and prepared both myself and the patient for surgery.

Through a posterolateral incision between the 5th and 6th ribs—with controlled cuts of both ribs—we entered the chest. The lungs were deflated and encased in a thin rind covering both the lung tissue and the pleura (the lining of the chest wall). I carefully scraped off as much of the rind as possible. I noticed a small injury and air leak on the upper lobe but decided it was best to leave it alone. By the end of the case, the anesthetist gave big breaths through the breathing tube, and we watched the lung expand to the chest wall. We placed two chest tubes, closed her up, and sent her to recovery. The next day’s X-ray looked better, though not perfect. Over the next two weeks, despite adjusting the chest tubes—using suction and water seal bottles—the X-rays showed that the gains from surgery were gradually lost.

It was discouraging at first, until I realized the girl was clinically improving. Her fevers were gone, and her oxygen saturation stayed at 98–99%. I eventually removed the tubes and discharged her after six weeks in the hospital. Her X-rays didn’t show complete success, but her health had undeniably improved. I told her to go home, return to school, play with friends, and sleep in her own bed.

When she and her mother returned two weeks later, they looked like new people—rested, well-fed, and healthy. It took several follow-ups to see significant improvement on X-rays, but her overall recovery was clear.



General Surgery Residency

D. Benjamin Christie, III, MD

Program Director

Danny Vaughn, MD

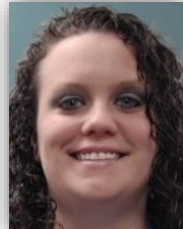
Associate Program Dir.

Jennifer Peebles Farris

GS Residency Coord.

Jessica “Brittany” Smith

Administrative Manager



Message from the General Surgery Residency Program Director



Dudley Benjamin Christie, III, MD, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
General Surgery Program Director
Associate Director of Trauma
Atrium Health Navicent

The graduating class for the academic year of 2025–2026 will hold a special place in GME history on a national scale. Our graduating chief residents will be remembered as the first recruiting class impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic era. Our chief residents adjusted to rapid, forced change and adapted new ways of scholarly accountability in their respective student environments in order to become surgery residents. Being faced with challenges, never before encountered by graduate medical education on a national scale, they succeeded.

In addition to the rigor that is inherent in surgery training, this class was challenged with establishing a new normal after the panic, integrating new technologies, satisfying new requirements for patient care delivery, overcoming staffing issues, call burdens and navigating difficulties with resource access. Staying steady, patient and committed to the department missions of high-quality patient care as well as professional and personal improvement, no challenge was left unconquered by this group. Despite all measures of difficulty encountered during their time in Macon, they succeeded.

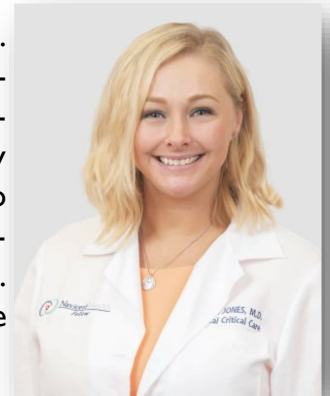
The graduating chiefs ability to constantly evolve and adjust during transformative times during their five-year experience speaks to the lessons of resiliency that they learned during their challenges in the Covid era and the strong make up of their individual characters. Additionally, this class represents one of the highest scoring classes on the in-training examination in program history. Their scholastic achievements and scholarly contributions resound loudly on their resumes, representing not just work, but hard work done in a new era of training. While not necessarily on their resume, the leadership by example methods that they have demonstrated within this program has been a key ingredient to our program success over the last five years. Their fair, thoughtful and demonstrative leadership has elevated the department of surgery's standards of performance and positions us to stronger in the years to come.

The PGY 5 residents have consistently demonstrated the ability to focus, improve, lead, and rise to new challenges. They have shown consistent leadership and high-quality character. For all that they have been through professionally and have been to us all personally, we congratulate, admire and will miss this years chiefs. They have succeeded.

General Surgery Residency

SURGERY SIMULATION

There have been significant advancements in simulation and surgical education this year. Dr. Ashley Jones serves as the physician champion for surgical education within the General Surgery Residency Program. Over the past two years, she has been an integral member of a multidisciplinary team focused on securing funding for the simulation laboratory and defining strategies to optimize its use not only for general surgery residents, but also for all Atrium Health residency programs and staff. These efforts have resulted in substantial financial support from both Atrium Health and the Navicent Health Foundation. This funding includes support for two full-time simulation staff positions, as well as the acquisition and ongoing maintenance of new equipment.



Ashley Jones, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor
Lead Surgery Clerkship Director
Surgical Simulation Director

While some purchases are still under evaluation, planned acquisitions include additional Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) trainers, ultrasound devices, and funding to support a cadaver laboratory. A key objective is to have the simulation staff hired, trained, and operational, with initial simulation labs running by the end of the current calendar year. An additional short-term goal is the implementation of team-based simulation experiences, with a long-term vision of expanding the simulation lab footprint. This expansion would better support evolving educational needs and include a fully equipped simulated operating room, a comprehensive robotics dry lab, and a cadaver wet lab.

This year, the simulation curriculum was revised to align with the ASE/ACS skills curriculum, emphasizing enhanced feedback and assessment through the Objective Structured Assessment of Technical Skills (OSATS). This approach has been implemented on a limited basis, with plans for significant expansion through the procurement of additional training equipment.

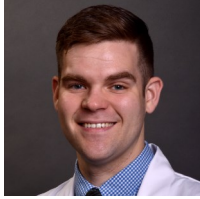
In addition to the Tissue and Hemostasis Lab conducted in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, several new industry sponsorships have been secured. These include upcoming laboratories with LeMaitre for open vascular procedures and Zimmer Biomet for rib plating. Furthermore, Dr. Jones completed training to become an ATLS and ASSET course director, with plans to introduce ASSET courses at this institution in the future.

Finally, this year marks the inaugural year of the Surgical Education Committee, established to advance and support the ongoing educational needs of the department. Under Dr. Jones's leadership, committee members Dr. Elijah Debroux, Dr. Kelly Hand, Dr. Stefan Stofberg, and Dr. Haley Williams have made meaningful contributions to resident and medical student education. Their efforts include restructuring the educational conference, implementing resident educational competitions, developing comprehensive guides for third- and fourth-year medical students, organizing simulation and didactic sessions, securing additional industry sponsorships, and planning the first Annual Surgical Olympics, scheduled to take place in June.

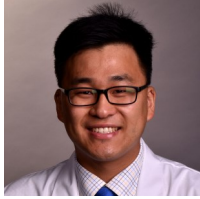
General Surgery Residency

Residents in Surgery 2025-2026

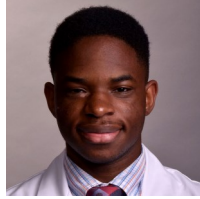
PGY 5's



Elijah Debroux



Paul Kim



Oluwaseun Olusanya



Alyse Ragauskas



Daniel Sircar

PGY 4's



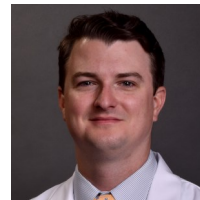
Kelly Hand



Ashton Kelly

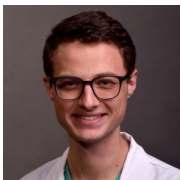


Sydney Pilinko



Robert Monfort

PGY 3's



Jeremy Burt



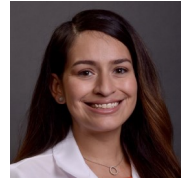
Samuel Goberdhan



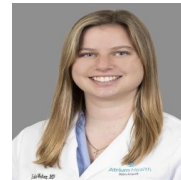
Thomas Harper



Lindsey Kangas



Maria Vazquez



Trisha Weber

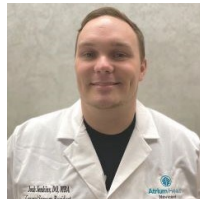
PGY 2's



Benjamin Carr



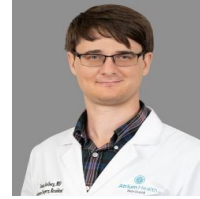
Ryan Chatman



Joshua Jenkins



Guivens Joseph

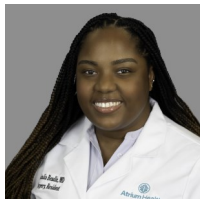


Stefan Stoberg

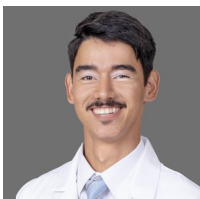


Haley Williams

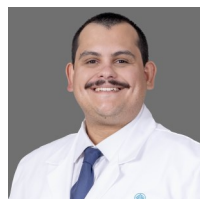
PGY 1's



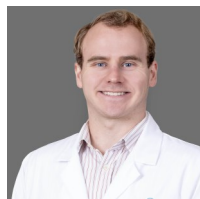
Natalia Beadle



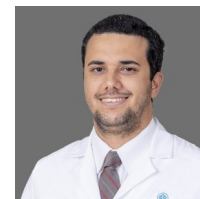
Samuel Boatright



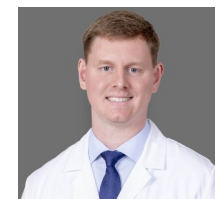
Jeremy Guedes



Robert Rella



Sammy Shihadeh



Camron Sohn

General Surgery Residency Match Day—March 20, 2025

Friday, March 20, United States (US) medical students learned where they matched. Once again breaking the previous year's record, 2026 saw an all-time high of 53,373 applicants registered in the 2026 main resident match. While US MD seniors remain the largest applicant group, the National Resident Matching Program reported a milestone year for US DO seniors. They achieved their highest PGY-1 match rate at 93.2%. The match included 6,809 certified program tracks which was an all-time high. Out of 44,344 training positions offered, there were 41,482 PGY-1 and PGY-2 training positions filled across certified programs.

Surgery Specialties Remain Highly Competitive

National match data showed that residencies in the surgical specialties remain highly desirable, with fill rates of 99.1%. Available general surgery positions continued their strong growth over time, increasing 11% from 2022.

Specialty	Fill Rate	Positions	Unfilled Positions	Total Applicants
Orthopedic Surgery	100%	963	0	1,652
Neurological Surgery	100%	280	0	491
Vascular Surgery	100%	110	0	190
Thoracic Surgery	99.9%	56	0	110
Obstetrics-Gynecology	99.8%	1,638	2	2,240
General Surgery	99.8%	1,807	3	3,478
Otolaryngology	99.8%	403	1	596
Plastic Surgery	99.1%	230	2	427

Atrium Health Navicent General Surgery Match

The general surgery residency match at Atrium Health Navicent (AHN) was a resounding success. We matched all six positions with five female applicants and one male applicant. We also matched with three Mercer University School of Medicine medical students! During this interview season, Atrium Health Navicent received a total of 688 applicants with a total of 59 interviews. AHN continues to use the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) as the mechanism for applicants and the program to enter their rank order list. NRMP uses a mathematical algorithm to match applicants and programs to their most preferred ranked choices to make the best possible match for all participants.

General Surgery Residency

WELCOMES NEW PGY 1 ' S

Alaina Joiner MD, received her medical degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine in May of 2026. She sought out multiple research opportunities both in under graduate and medical school. This has resulted in 4 publications and 12 presentations/posters. She has also excelled in leadership as she has served as the president of the Rural Health Interest Group, president of Women in Medical Science, vice-president of the OB/GYN Interest Group, and treasurer of the Surgery Interest Group at the Mercer University School of Medicine. Prior to medical school, Alaina worked as an advanced EMT. Her experiences there ultimately led her to pursue a career in medicine, particularly surgery.



Haleigh Isanhart, MD, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. She received her medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. She served in multiple leadership roles in student societies including Vice-President of Campus Engagement for the UTHSC chapter of the Association of Women Surgeons and Vice-President of Students for a Healthier Planet as well as the Lead Mentor for the MPOWER program. She cultivated a strong academic and research portfolio, engaging in projects across plastic surgery, otolaryngology, general surgery, and urology.

Lilly Anne Kamberov, MD, excelled at Louisiana State University Baton Rouge finishing Summa Cum Laude. She received her medical degree from Louisiana State University Health in Shreveport in May of 2026. Her leadership capability is evident in her being President of the Surgical Interest Group for LSU Health Shreveport. She was also inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in 2025. Her passion for the field of surgery was initiated by serving as a patient care assistant in the operating room. She spent 7 years working as a research assistant in the basic science research laboratory of Dr. Diana Cruz-Topete at LSUHSC. This work resulted in co-authorship on 6 peer-reviewed publications, as well as numerous local and national abstracts and oral presentations. Lilly is a first-generation American and dual citizen of the United States and Bulgaria.



Persia Suarez, MD, received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Berry College graduating Magna Cum Laude. She earned her medical degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine in May 2026. She has excelled in leadership as she served as the secretary of the Class of 2026 Student council, treasurer for the Latin American Student Association Interest Group, and treasurer at Livingston Church as well as serving on their Board of Directors. She has devoted her time to mentoring middle and high school students, peer tutor for first-year medical students, and served as an Amboss Ambassador. One of her most notable contributions during her time as a medical student was her assistance in updating and revitalizing medical student resources to include a “Dummy Guide to Surgery Clerkship” ebook. She contributed substantially to the design and execution of the project.

General Surgery Residency

WELCOMES NEW PGY 1 ' S

Savanna Banks, MD, received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia in Psychology and Biology before receiving her medical degree from the Mercer University of School of Medicine (MUSM) in May of 2026. Savanna built a solid record of research, with multiple publications and presentations, including a first-place History of Surgery award at the 2024 American College of Surgeons Clinical History poster session expounding on the tragic 1956 murder of Thomas Brewer, a physician and civil rights leader, in Columbus, Georgia. She received the BEAR Distinction in Research award in September of 2025. Savanna has served as a MUSM Ambassador beginning in her M2 year. She and a classmate also started a MUSM Columbus Branch of Women in Medicine where she advocated for the involvement of women in the surgical field.



Sidharth Misra, MD, completed a Bachelor in Medicine and a Bachelor in Surgery (MBBS) at the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in Pune, India, and is ECFMG certified. The MBBS is a professional undergraduate medical degree that typically spans 5.5 to 6 years depending on the country. He completed a preliminary General Surgery year at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He participated in the United States Clinical Experience (USCE) as an acting intern-Gastrointestinal & Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and acting intern-Trauma & Burns ICU at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also participated in a clinical rotation in Cardiac Electrophysiology at the University of Florida Health Heart & Vascular Hospital. He has a robust research showcase with multiple publications and presentations. He speaks English, Bengali, and Hindi.

General Surgery Residency

2026 GRADUATING CHIEFS



Elijah DeBroux, M.D., earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and completed his Intern year at University of Tennessee -Chattanooga. After residency, he will pursue a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care/Trauma Surgery at Atrium Health Navicent. Following his training, he will resume his duties as a Captain in the Air Force serving in surgical and intensivists roles. He has an interest in education and leadership development. He is supported by his wife Daniella and their 4 children, Layla, Kalliope, Eleanor and Emilio.

Paul Kim, D.O., earned his medical degree from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, South Carolina. After residency, he will pursue a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery at Duke University Medical Center. Following fellowship training, he plans to continue serving in both surgical and critical care roles, with a long-term goal of incorporating medical mission work into his career. He is supported by his wife and their son, Jonathan, and they are excited to welcome a new baby this September.



Oluwaseun Olusanya, D.O., earned his medical degree from DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. After residency, he will begin a fellowship in Bariatric Surgery in Buffalo, New York. His clinical interests include evidence based practice and competency based surgical education. Outside of work, he enjoys fitness, traveling, and spending time with his family. Notably, with the elimination of percentile scoring from the ABSITE, he is the last resident in program history to achieve a 99th percentile score on the exam. He hopes to build a practice that combines elective general surgery with a multidisciplinary approach to weight loss and wound care. He is excited to begin the next chapter of his career.

Alyse Ragauskas, M.D., earned her medical degree from the Mercer University School of Medicine and will continue her surgical training with a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery in Kansas City, Missouri following residency. Throughout her time in the program, Dr. Ragauskas remained actively engaged in academic surgery, presenting multiple research projects at regional and national meetings including GSACS, SAGES and the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. Her residency years were marked not only by professional growth but also meaningful personal milestones. During her second year, she met her husband, Aston Davis, and the two celebrated their marriage during her fourth year of residency in her favorite city, Athens, Georgia. In honor of her mother, Catherine Ragauskas, she completed the 2025 Chicago Marathon in support of the Parkinson's Foundation, encouraged along the way by fellow residents and faculty who shared in the journey. As she prepares to begin fellowship, Dr. Ragauskas and her husband look forward to welcoming their first child, Madeline Catherine, due in May 2026, marking an exciting new chapter both personally and professionally.



Daniel Sircar, M.D., earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. After residency, he will begin a fellowship in Vascular Surgery in Greenville, South Carolina. Daniel is excited to start the next part of his career where he hopes to merge the robotic experience he has obtained here at Navicent with vascular surgery. None of the above would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Vahna, and their 3 children, Braylen, Vaida, and Judah.

General Surgery Residency

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF RESIDENTS

Five years ago, we began our journey as surgical residents at Navicent Health under circumstances none of us could have predicted. What started as virtual interviews quickly became our reality, marking the beginning of a residency shaped by uncertainty, adaptation, and growth.

Entering as interns, we were somewhat playfully labeled the “diversity class,” but what truly defined us was the individuality each of us brought — our unique strengths, perspectives, and challenges. Those differences became our greatest asset, allowing us to grow together into the surgeons we are today.

Our training evolved alongside the program itself. From long nights on call and frequent service changes to the transition toward an acute care surgery model, our schedules — and expectations — shifted more than we ever imagined. Adaptability became one of our earliest and most important lessons.

The impact of COVID-19 defined much of our early residency experience. During our second year, the ICU became a unit for the sickest of the sick. Early mornings and late nights caring for critically ill patients tested us in ways no textbook could prepare us for. It was here that we learned not only surgical critical thinking but also the compassion, humility, and humanity required to care for patients and families during their most vulnerable moments, including the final hours of life.

By our third year, we grew into true mid-level residents. Our responsibilities expanded beyond our own learning as we began mentoring and guiding junior residents, recognizing that teaching is one of surgery’s greatest privileges and responsibilities.

During our fourth year, each of us began to find our professional homes within surgery, discovering the specialties that inspired us and shaped our future paths. That journey culminates in our chief year, where we are proud to celebrate all five of us matching into fellowships:

- **Elijah DeBroux** — Acute Care Surgery and Surgical Critical Care
- **Paul Kim** — Surgical Critical Care
- **Oluwaseun Olusanya** — Bariatric Surgery
- **Alyse Ragauskas** — Minimally Invasive, Bariatric, Foregut and Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Surgery
- **Daniel Sircar** — Vascular Surgery

While we now move forward into different fields, we remain united by the foundation built here. Navicent Health — now Atrium Health Navicent — will always be home. The lessons learned within these walls extend far beyond operative technique; they include resilience, teamwork, leadership, and lifelong friendship.

We are deeply grateful to every attending who invested time, patience, and trust in our development. Your mentorship shaped not only our surgical skills but also the physicians and people we have become. We hope that along the way we have passed forward some measure of knowledge, skill, and perhaps a bit of our personality to the residents who follow behind us.

These past five years have been challenging, transformative, and profoundly meaningful. It has truly been an honor to train here, and we leave with immense gratitude for the experiences, relationships, and memories that will stay with us throughout our careers.

With sincere appreciation,
The Chief Residents

General Surgery Residency

2025 GRADUATION



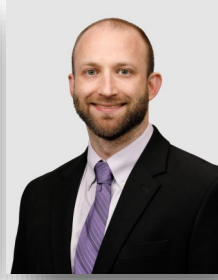
Andrew Barnes, MD



Paul Cartwright, MD



Nicholas Koullas, DO



Jacob Lowry, MD



Brewton McCluskey, MD



Nehal Ninad, MD

GRADUATION SPEAKER

“SURGERY 2025: BACK TO BASICS”



Arnold Conforti, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Mercer University School of Medicine and surgical faculty at Atrium Health Navicent where he specializes in minimally invasive surgery. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School and completed his fellowship in Surgical Oncology at John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, California.

2025 AWARDS CEREMONY

- ◇ Resident of the Year: Brewton McCluskey, MD
- ◇ Intern of the Year: Joshua Jenkins, DO
- ◇ Trauma Resident of the Year: Elijah DeBroux, MD
- ◇ Sealy-Dalton Award for the Most Improved In-Training Exam Score 2025: Kelly Hand, MD
- ◇ Dr. Macram M. Ayoub Resident Teaching Award Faculty of the Year: Danny Vaughn, MD
- ◇ Scholastic Achievement Award for Highest In-Training Exam Score: Andrew Barnes, MD
- ◇ Robotic & MIS Award: Nicholas Koullas, MD
- ◇ Physician Warrior Poet Award:
- ◇ 2025 Chairman's Award: Tracy Johns, RN, and Laurie Faircloth, RN
- ◇ Intern Certificates: Benjamin Carr, MD, Ryan Chatman, MD, Joshua Jenkins, DO, Guivens Joseph, MD, Stofberg, MD, Haley Williams, DO

General Surgery Residency—Graduation



General Surgery Residency

Macram M. AYOUB, M.D.

2026 ANNUAL DAY OF SURGERY

MAY 7, 2025



June 26, 1938-December 3, 2020

Hot Topics in Surgery



Andrew M. Nunn, MD, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
Wake Forest School of Medicine

“Reclaiming the Duct: Making Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration Common” and
“Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection: Antibiotic Role in a Surgical Disease”



Mark Soliman, MD, MBA, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Florida State University
Chair of Colorectal Surgery
Advent Health Medical Center

“When Crohn’s Disease Becomes a Surgical Disease: Timing, Strategy, and Pitfalls” and “The
Endless Pursuit of Mastery”



Cory J. Nonnemacher, M.D.
Pediatric Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Children’s Mercy Hospital
Kansas City, Missouri
“Currency of Time in Surgery”



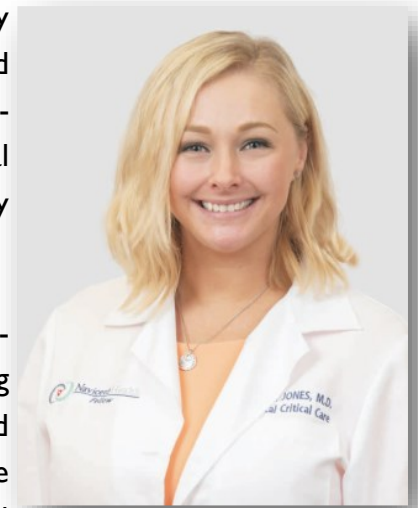
Patrick D. Kohtz, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
Vascular Surgery
Atrium Health Navicent

“Esophageal Emergencies: Perforation and Conduit Necrosis-Recognition & Management”



During the previous academic year, the surgery clerkship for Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) at South Georgia Medical Center in Valdosta expanded from an optional two-week experience to a full seven-week required clerkship rotation. In addition, the clerkship program was extended to include Tanner Medical Center in Carrollton. As a result, MUSM students may now complete their surgery clerkship at one of five sites: Macon, Savannah, Columbus, Valdosta, and Carrollton.

In August, MUSM hosted its annual Honors and Awards Ceremony recognizing outstanding students, faculty, and residents across the clerkship programs, including internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry, pediatrics, family medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology. The Will C. Sealy Award for the most outstanding performance in the surgical clerkship was presented to Gabriella Newsome. The Outstanding Surgical Faculty Award was awarded to Dr. Ashley Jones, and Dr. Ryan Chatman was selected by the medical students as the Outstanding Surgical Resident. [Congratulations](#) to all of this year's award recipients.



Ashley Jones, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor
Lead Surgery Clerkship Director
Surgical Simulation Director

This year, three of the six incoming general surgery interns at Atrium Health Navicent are graduating MUSM students: Alaina Joiner, Persia Suarez, and Savanna Banks. In addition, three graduates from the Macon campus are pursuing surgical subspecialty training. Gabriella Newsome will begin her general surgery residency at Wellstar in Marietta, Georgia; Andrew Register will pursue general surgery residency training at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida; and Gia Jackson will begin an orthopedic surgery residency at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Additionally, 22 students from MUSM's other campuses are pursuing training in a variety of surgical subspecialties. We extend our best wishes to all of these graduates for continued success in their medical training.

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Robert J. Parel II, M.D. FACS Joshua Glenn, M.D. FACS

Danny Vaughn, M.D. , FACS



Message from the Director



Danny Vaughn, MD, FACS
Associate Professor
Associate Director, GS Residency
Medical Director, Bariatrics
Medical Director, Robotic Surgery

The past academic year has been full of success within our robotics and minimally invasive surgery program. Our bariatric program had a successful site survey this past June with no citations. Our robotic case volumes have been stable at 1082 cases for 2025, roughly equivalent to our 2024 numbers. I fully expect case numbers to continue to grow as our new hepatobiliary, colorectal, and endocrine surgeons continue to ramp up their robotic surgery volumes.

Several of our residents presented at state, regional, and national meetings this year. Robert Monfort presented our data on deep venous thrombosis prophylaxis after bariatric surgery at Southeastern Surgical Congress this past March as a Gold Medal Finalist. Alyse Ragauskas presented on robotic stapling in sleeve gastrectomy at the Georgia ACS meeting this year. She also had a video reel at SAGES this year of a robotic trans gastric removal of an eroded gastric band as well as a video reel at the national ACS meeting on the use of ICG to detect an aberrant right hepatic duct during cholecystectomy.

Several of our residents will be pursuing fellowships in minimally invasive surgery. Oluwaseun Olusanya will be starting his MIS fellowship this coming August at Buffalo General Medical Center in Buffalo, NY. Alyse Ragauskas will be starting her fellowship as well this year at Saint Lukes Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Rob Monfort has accepted a fellowship position to start in August of 2027 at Florida State – Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. It is notable to mention that the Florida State program is a new program started by two of our program alumni, Joey Jarrard and James Parker. Dr. Monfort will be their inaugural fellow. We wish Drs. Olusanya and Ragauskas the best of luck in their fellowships and with their career plans after fellowship.

Pediatric Surgery

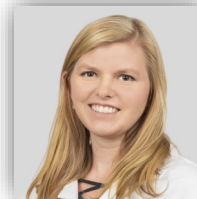
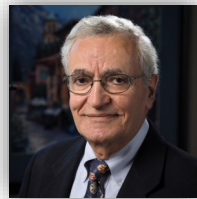
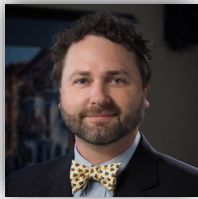
Josh Glenn, M.D.

Paul Parker, M.D.

Issam Shaker, M.D.

Aubrey Bishop, NP

Kaci Robinson, NP



Message from the Chief

The year of 2025 has been a year of stable growth for Pediatric Surgery. We have continued to see an increase in visits and excellent patient/parent satisfaction scores. We offer our pediatric surgical patients the highest level of care day in and day out. When a child is faced with having to undergo a surgical procedure, we give parents peace of mind. With an entire children's hospital dedicated to meeting their needs, they know their child is in the best of hands. We have Dr. Josh Glenn as our Medical Director of Pediatric Surgery. We also have Dr. Sam Shaker, and Dr. Parker in part-time roles. With over 100 years of combined experience, our surgeons offer parents absolute confidence that their child is in the best hands. Our team also consists of surgery residents and two wonderful Advanced Practice Providers, Kaci Robinson, NP, and Aubrey Bishop, NP.



Joshua Glenn, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor
Chief, Pediatric Surgery

Given that we are the only pediatric surgeons with an associated children's hospital from Atlanta to the Florida line, there is often difficulty for parents getting time off work, taking kids out of school and affording gas for the trips. We continue to strive to make it convenient for parents to get their children the care they need. In that effort, we are continuing our physical presence in South Georgia with our satellite clinic in Albany, Georgia, in affiliation with Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. This clinic is offered monthly, and we schedule an average of 25 patients per clinic and generally schedule approximately 5 surgeries from a clinic day. Our affiliation with Phoebe Putney has been very successful in taking our Pediatric subspecialties, of which Pediatric Surgery was the first, closer to our patients. Parents are truly grateful for the ability to have their children cared for closer to home. Virtual care is a tool we have continued to use offering pre-operative and post-operative appointments without travel complications. This is another aspect of our practice that parents greatly appreciate. In 2024, we entered a relationship with Colquitt Regional Hospital in Colquitt, Georgia. We will be providing virtual consults to their inpatients and emergency room patients. Through the use of a Caregility cart, our providers will be able to visualize the patient and offer care plans that can be executed at Colquitt. If the patient needs immediate surgery, they will be transferred to Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital to receive that care.

We are also continuing to advance our surgeries in specialized areas such as adolescent bariatrics in partnership with Dr. Danny Vaughn in the Bariatric Surgical Institute and Dr. Ryan Davies in the Children's Care Healthy Me Clinic. We have performed many adolescent bariatric surgeries that have been extremely successful and truly improved the lives of those patients. We've also performed one of the first magnetic esophageal atresia surgeries in the United States. Dr. Glenn also has expertise in certain urologic and gastric procedures. By providing these procedures it keeps our families from traveling another 3 to 4 hours. This also helps our other subspecialists and their patients. Dr. Glenn, Dr. Shaker, Dr. Parker and the team are always looking for innovative ways to care for our patients.

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE & ACUTE CARE SURGERY FELLOWSHIP



Amy B. Christie, MD, FACS
Director, SCC Fellowship
Atrium Health Navicent

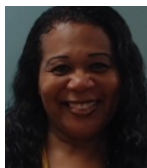
For the academic year of 2025-2026, the Surgical Critical Care (SCC) Fellowship transitioned to a 2-year training program. Fellows complete 1-year of Surgical Critical Care training followed by a second year in Acute Care Surgery (ACS). Our Acute Care Surgery year received the esteemed American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) endorsement. The goal of this 2-year fellowship program is to train well round surgeons in the disciplines of critical care, trauma, and emergency general surgery. The 2025-2026 fellowship class will be the first to complete this training platform. Drs. Bill Wallace and Kristin Harmon are the Assistant Program Directors of the SCC year and ACS year, respectively. Additionally, our department welcomed a new SCC/ACS faculty member in Dr. Roslyn Alexander as well as a new Fellowship Coordinator in Brittany Smith. Dr. Alexander's passion for teaching and Brittany's interest in program development will be much appreciated.

The Surgical Institute

R. Alexander, DO D. Ashley, MD DB Christie, MD K Harmon, MD A. Jones, MD R. Parel, MD W. Thompson, MD D. Vaughn, MD W. Wallace, MD



Kimberlyn Moore
Practice Manager III



Message from the Lead Physician

The 2025-2026 academic year for the Surgical Institute at Atrium Health Navicent is highlighted by the addition of a new surgeon. The practice expanded with the addition of Dr. Roslyn Alexander, DO, who joined us in September of 2025. Dr Alexander received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in 2019 from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine before doing her General Surgery Residency at St Luke’s University Health Network in Pennsylvania. She went on to complete a Trauma/Surgical Critical Fellowship at LSU in New Orleans, Louisiana, before joining our group in 2025. Her clinical interests include Trauma/Critical Care and Surgical Education. With the addition of Dr. Alexander, we now have nine surgeons and three mid-level providers. This has allowed us to continue to run offices in Macon, Warner Robins, Forsyth, Milledgeville, and Perry. Our tireless support staff of over 20 employees has allowed us to see patients in all these locations providing cutting edge patient surgical care. According to the administration, our practice had over 37,000 patient encounters, and our surgeons performed over 2500 operations.



Robert Parel, II, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor
Lead Physician
Surgical Institute

The Surgical Institute (SI) will continue to expand our patient volume to provide quality surgical care in the markets mentioned above in the upcoming academic year. We are also making plans to enlarge our physical space at the SI office in Macon to accommodate our growing patient population and enlarging cadre of surgeons.

SURGICAL INSTITUTE OFFICE LOCATIONS

Forsyth
120 N Lee St

Macon
840 Pine St

Milledgeville
1201 Columbia Dr

Perry
2370 Houston Lake Road
Kathleen, Georgia

Warner Robins
320 Margie Dr

Surgical Oncology & Colorectal Surgery

P. Dale, MD



D. Armstrong, MD



A. Conforti, MD



L. Bridges, DO



S. Jalil, MD



L. Collado, MD



R. Lilenbaum, MD



C. Han, MD



J. Gibbs, NP-C



J. Durbin, APRN, FNP-C



S. Scott, APRN, FNP-BC



Message from the Chief



Paul Dale, MD, FACS
Chief, Surgical Oncology

2025 was a year of changes and growth for the Peyton Anderson Cancer Center and the Division of Surgical Oncology. The cancer center continues to grow with record numbers of patients from middle Georgia coming to us for world class cancer care in their own backyard! We have seen growth in most areas of cancer, especially in breast, colo-rectal and hepatobiliary cancers. This can be attributed to the introduction of our new specialty surgeons. Dr Salah Jalil joined us in late 2024 and, as the regions only fellowship trained hepatobiliary surgeon, has been able to help many patients in our region with hepatobiliary cancers which include pancreas, liver and other foregut cancers. He also introduced a new type of therapy for liver tumors which gives chemotherapy directly into the liver through an implantable pump. These new services allow patients to have complex surgical cases closer to home. Similarly, our colo-rectal service has seen an increase in colon and rectal cancers with the addition of fellowship trained colo-rectal surgeon, Lindsay Bridges. We are proud to have Dr. Bridges join us after her fellowship in Orlando, Florida. She did her general surgery training here with us and her expertise in the robotic treatment of complex colo-rectal disease again reduces the need for patients to travel to Atlanta or beyond. Most recently Dr. Loreski Collado joined us after her fellowship training in Endocrine Surgery at Emory University. Dr. Collado is Macon's first fellowship trained Endocrine surgeon specializing in surgical treatment of the thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands amongst others. Lastly, our cancer center welcomed Dr. Chahnee Han a fellowship trained gynecologic oncologist specializing in the treatment of ovarian, uterine and other female related gynecologic cancers. While Dr. Han is not in

Surgical Oncology & Colorectal Surgery

Message from the Chief—Continued

the Department of Surgery, she is a vital addition to the cancer center bringing additional expertise to our Middle Georgia area.

The Peyton Anderson Cancer Center has also seen tremendous growth starting with a new Service Line Director, Dr. Rogerio Lilenbaum. Dr. Lilenbaum, a Medical Oncologist with a clinical focus in lung cancer, recently joined us from Jupiter Florida. He has an extensive background in treating lung cancer. In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Lilenbaum has an extensive history of clinical research and has held leadership positions at nationally recognized cancer centers. He, along with all the other exceptional clinicians at PACC, will be leading our cancer center into the future while strengthening our research program and our bond with Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, NC. We continue to strengthen our affiliation with Atrium/Advocate/Arora healthcare system, which is one of the largest health care systems in the US. More specifically, system wide, we take care of more than 33,000 cancer patients in the Southeast and Chicago areas. Dr. Lilenbaum will be expanding our Medical Oncology service line with additional focus on cancer research allowing us to offer our patients state of the art opportunities for new and exciting treatments here in central Georgia.

As you can see, these are exciting times of growth for the Division of Surgical Oncology and the Peyton Anderson Cancer Center. I congratulate our medical staff and the full spectrum of support personnel at the cancer center for making all these significant advances possible. With the strong support of our administrators both locally, regionally and nationally we will continue to provide middle Georgians world class care in their own backyard!

Surgical Oncology & Colorectal Surgery



Led by colorectal surgeon Dr. Lindsey Bridges, the Atrium Health multidisciplinary team successfully performed central Georgia's first robotic TAMIS. Through advanced robotic assistance, TAMIS enables effective pathology removal with no abdominal incisions. Transanal minimally invasive surgery (TAMIS) is a specialized minimally invasive approach to removing benign polyps and some cancerous tumors within the rectum and lower sigmoid colon. The benefit of TAMIS is that it is considered an organ-sparing procedure, and is performed entirely through the body's natural opening, requiring no skin incisions to gain access to a polyp or tumor. This scar-free recovery provides a quick return to normal bowel function.

Unlike traditional surgery where a major portion of the large intestine is removed, with TAMIS a surgeon will precisely remove the diseased tissue, leaving the rest of your natural bowel lumen intact to function normally. Traditional surgery often requires a large incision and a hospital stay ranging from a few days to more than a week. A TAMIS procedure may only require an overnight stay in the hospital or can be performed as an outpatient procedure, often permitting patients an immediate return to an active lifestyle.

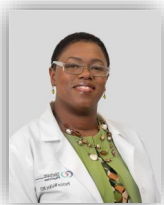
Trauma Services

TRAUMA LEADERSHIP

D. Ashley, MD
Trauma Medical Director

P. Walker, MD
Chief Medical Officer

J. Fabico-Dulin, RN-BC, CEN, TCRN
Trauma Program Director



TRAUMA ATTENDINGS

R. Alexander, DO

DB Christie, MD

K. Harmon, DO

A. Jones, MD

R. Parel, MD

W. Thompson, MD

D. Vaughn, MD

W. Wallace, MD



TRAUMA LIASONS

D. Chan, MD
Orthopedics

A. Christie, MD
Critical Care

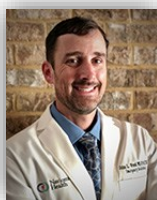
J. Wood, MD
Emergency Med

W. Lane, MD
Anesthesia

R. Rowe, MD
Neurosurgery

M Evans, MD
Radiology

S Tuck, MD
IM Geriatrics



TRAUMA APPs

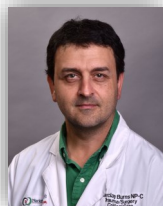
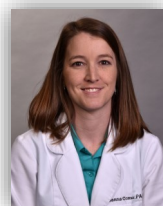
J. Bates, PA

L. Caraway, NP

B. Burns, NP

Alicia Hall, NP

B. Sheppard, NP



Trauma Services

TRAUMA RESEARCH

T. Johns, MSN, RN
Research Manager

K. Patel, MBA-HS, BA
Research Coordinator



TRAUMA MANAGER, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM and DATA MANAGER

Anna Cesario, RN, BSN
Trauma Program Manager

F. Johnson, RN
Program Specialist

K. Najera, RN
Program Specialist

H. Logue, MSN, RN
Program Specialist

P. Judd,
Data Manager



TRAUMA REGISTRY

N. Abasova
Registrar

M. Bell
Registrar

J. Lyttle
Registrar

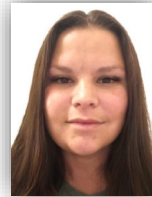
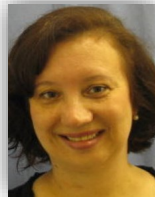
B. McClure
Registrar

M. McClure
Registrar

S. Murphy
Registrar

G. Ong
Registrar

A. Marshall-Stephens
Registrar



TRAUMA SOCIAL WORKER

Joanna Goss, MSW
Trauma Social Worker



INJURY PREVENTION & OUTREACH

Kristal Smith, BA, NRP
Injury Prevention & Outreach Coordinator



TRAUMA ADMINISTRATION

Virginia Land, BA
Administrative Assistant



Trauma Services

Message from the Trauma Program Director

A Year of Growth, Structure, and Progress

The past year was a period of significant growth and transformation for the Trauma Department. Trauma patient volume increased by 12%, placing increased demand on clinical operations, performance improvement processes, and workforce capacity. This growth required deliberate restructuring to ensure continued delivery of safe, high-quality trauma care.



Josephine Fabico-Dulin, RN-BC, CEN, TCRN
Trauma Program Director

Program Growth and Organizational Strength

In response to sustained volume growth and increasing patient acuity, the Trauma Program underwent a formal reorganization, establishing three defined operational pillars:

- Clinical / Performance Improvement
- Trauma Registry / Data management
- Research

Each pillar is led by a dedicated manager reporting through Trauma Services leadership, strengthening accountability, communication, and program oversight. This reorganization and expansion were supported financially and operationally by executive leadership.

The department successfully hired 6 new staff members, supporting registry operations, performance improvement activities, and program sustainability during a period of rapid growth.

Building Structure to Support a Growing Population

In response to increasing patient complexity and evolving demographic needs, the Trauma Program implemented Geriatric Trauma Guidelines and Emergent Vascular Guidelines to improve standardization of care, interdisciplinary communication, and outcomes for high-risk and time-sensitive patient populations. These initiatives align with ACS-COT best practices for integrating clinical guidelines into trauma performance improvement processes.

The department also launched a Family Therapist Intern Program, expanding psychosocial support for trauma patients and families while contributing to workforce development and holistic trauma care.

2025 Snapshot

- Total trauma volume: 5,039
- 12% year-over-year volume growth
- 6 new staff members hired to support clinical operations, PI, registry, and program sustainability
- Strengthened endovascular program with the vascular team
- Identified a vascular liaison: Dr. M. Danapal
- Identified a geriatric program liaison: Dr. S. Tuck
- Data Accuracy: Registry inter-rater reliability: 98%
- Dedicated trauma social work + family therapy intern coverage

Trauma Services

Message from the Trauma Program Director-Continued

Finance and Budget Performance

During the reporting year, Trauma Services placed strong strategic emphasis on improving the accurate capture of trauma-related charges across the health system. Multiple initiatives were developed and implemented to address gaps in charge capture, with close collaboration among Trauma Services, Finance, Revenue Integrity, and other key operational departments.

This work was prioritized as a critical organizational initiative, recognizing both the complexity of trauma billing and its impact on financial sustainability. Through consistent interdisciplinary collaboration and process refinement, the program demonstrated measurable success. As a result, Trauma Services was recognized by the Value Compass Waster Workout Program as these changes in the financial process resulted in 4769K in additional revenue generation for the department.

Work in this area remains ongoing as trauma charge capture is a complex and evolving process. Continued collaboration with finance leadership has been instrumental, and these partnerships are highly valued as we sustain improvements and pursue additional opportunities for optimization.

Research Productivity & Metrics

2025 performance shows steady growth:

- New IRB-approved projects increased early in 2025, with a strong base of ongoing surgery and trauma research
- Multi-institutional projects expanded from 1 to 3 by late 2025
- Scholarly output included posters and podium presentations (GSACS, G-COT)
- Resident research participation is high:
 - 94% of PGY3-5 residents engaged in research or scholarly activity
 - Research surveillance meeting attendance reached 81%
- Research staff met or exceeded annual continuing education goals by end of 2025

Resident Research Readiness:

- 100% readiness across all PGY levels (1–5):
 - CITI training complete
 - Current CVs on file
 - Active Wake eIRB accounts
- Program goal achieved early: strong infrastructure supporting resident research involvement by PGY2-5

The 2025 year-end assessment reflects a program with a strong collaborative foundations and clear strategic direction while also identifying focused priorities to strengthen research capacity.

Trauma Services

Message from the Trauma Program Director-Continued

Southeast Trauma System Collaboration

Throughout the year, Trauma Services actively participated in the Southeast Trauma System collaboration, reinforcing regional partnerships and shared commitment to high-quality trauma care. This collaboration focused on strengthening relationships among member institutions while identifying common challenges across the trauma system. Through ongoing dialogue and shared initiatives, partners worked toward harmonized solutions that promote consistency, efficiency, and improved outcomes across the region. This collective approach has enhanced communication, fostered alignment on best practices, and reinforced the value of regional collaboration in addressing complex trauma system issues.

Looking Ahead

Balancing departmental reorganization, staff onboarding, new clinical initiatives, and the rigor of ACS-COT reporting data year required adaptability, collaboration, and resilience. It was, in many ways, enough to make a new director smile—and pray A LOT.

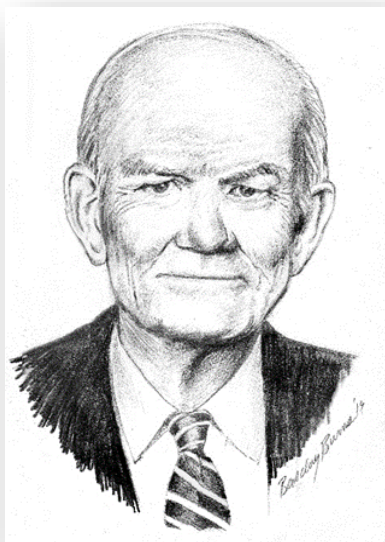
Through these efforts, the Trauma Department strengthened its operational foundation, improved data reliability, and demonstrated a mature, well-structured performance improvement program. The dedication and professionalism of the Trauma Services team were instrumental in navigating this year of growth and preparing the program for continued success.

Trauma Services

WILL C. SEALY, M.D.

29TH ANNUAL TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 6, 2025



Will C. Sealy, M.D.
1912-2001



Amy B. Christie, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Director
Atrium Health Navicent

“Integrative Medicine approaches to Trauma Care Delivery”



Dudley B. Christie, III, MD, FACS
Associate Professor of Surgery
Mercer University School of Medicine
Program Director General Surgery—Residency
Associate Director of Trauma Services
Atrium Health Navicent

“A State of Readiness— Lessons from the Pandemic and Ukrainian Frontlines”



Peter E. Fischer, MD, FACS
Clinical Adjunct Professor of Surgery
University of Arkansas Medical Sciences
Trauma Medical Director
Washington Regional
Medical Director
Hospital Wing Air Ambulance Service

“Preparing for the Mass Surge Event” and “Updates in Pre-Hospital Trauma Care”



J. Jason Hoth, MD, PhD
Professor of Surgery
Interim Chair, Department of Surgery
Section Head, Acute Care Surgery
Trauma Medical Director
Atrium Health Wake Forest

“TBI: The Current State of Therapy” and “Trauma Resuscitation: MTP and Beyond”

Will Camp Sealy, born in Roberta, Georgia, and grew up in Reynolds, Georgia. His fascination with medicine began at an early age. He spent time with his family physician as a teenager making house calls. He was educated at Emory University and completed his surgical training at Duke University. Near the end of his surgical training, he was drafted into the Army. He was allowed to complete his surgical training and left for England soon after to serve in World War II. He achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel and was awarded the Bronze Star. In 1946, he returned to Duke University and proceeded with an illustrious career both in surgical research and cardio-thoracic surgery.

The pinnacle of his career came on May 2, 1968, when he performed the first successful surgery for severe cardiac arrhythmias. His success sparked extensive studies on heart anatomy, which eventually led to the development of other arrhythmia surgical procedures. For his pioneering research, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Medicine. He served as President of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the North Carolina Surgical Society. After gaining emeritus status at Duke in 1982, Dr. Sealy helped to establish arrhythmia surgery in other institutions.

Upon completing his tenure at Duke University, he returned to his home state of Georgia, where he joined the Mercer University School of Medicine serving as Chair of Surgery, Professor of Surgery and Program Director of the general surgery residency program during his tenure. Among his contributions at Mercer, is the research laboratory he established and integrated into the surgical residency.

On June 21, 1991, a tribute to Dr. Sealy was held in conjunction with resident graduation. During this event, the Will C. Sealy Surgical Society was founded. Dr. Randy Brown, incoming Chief Resident, presented the goals and by-laws of the Will Sealy Surgical Society and a special proclamation honoring Dr. Sealy was presented by Macon Mayor Lee Robinson. In 1991, he relinquished the chair but continued to provide invaluable service as Professor of Surgery and Chair Emeritus until his death on January 27, 2001.

Trauma Services



FEBRUARY 24, 2026
 TRAUMA AWARENESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL



The Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol in Georgia is an important event for the trauma care community. Hosted by the Georgia Trauma Foundation it serves as an advocacy and recognition event, providing a platform for trauma professionals to meet legislators, share stories, and emphasize the critical role of trauma care in protecting communities. Legislative support is formally acknowledged through resolutions such as Georgia Senate Resolution 692, which commends trauma professionals and officially recognizes the day at the state level. During the event, participants often honor legislators and advocates who have contributed significantly to trauma care improvements. These recognitions, including titles like Trauma Champions and Trauma Heroes, highlight the efforts of lawmakers and community leaders in advancing trauma legislation and funding initiatives. Trauma Awareness Day also includes programs such as breakfast meetings, floor presentations in the Georgia House and Senate, and opportunities for attendees to engage in discussions about trauma system advancements and policy priorities. This event underscores the ongoing commitment to ensuring timely, high-quality trauma care for all Georgians.



As part of the day's breakfast program, the Georgia Trauma Foundation honored outstanding legislators whose leadership has helped shape the future of trauma care in Georgia. Dr. Dennis Ashley presented two key awards at this year's event. Recognized as a Trauma Champion for her unwavering support of trauma-related legislation, **State Representative Sharon Cooper**(left) played a pivotal role in



raising awareness of trauma care at the state level. Honored as a Trauma Hero, **Senator Nan Orrock** (right), demonstrated steadfast dedication to improving trauma systems in Georgia. Her efforts supported vital legislation and funding initiatives that strengthen trauma care statewide, helping ensure patients receive timely, high-quality care when it matters most.



Trauma - Injury Prevention & Outreach

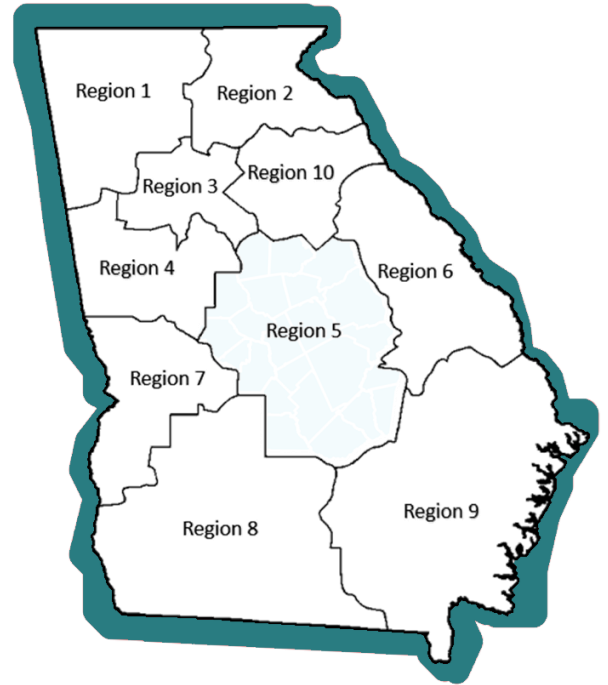
Leveraging Partnerships to Save Lives

Advancing Trauma System Impact Through Performance Improvement, Prevention, and Education

Atrium Health Navicent The Medical Center serves as a leader in the prevention and treatment of traumatic injury. As the Regional Coordinating Trauma Center for EMS Region 5, our role within the state and regional trauma system is essential to improving outcomes and reducing injury-related morbidity and mortality through coordinated care and targeted prevention efforts.

The Georgia Trauma System is comprised of ten integrated regional systems that are supported by statewide EMS infrastructure. Since 2011, Atrium Health Navicent has served as the coordinating center for the EMS Region 5 Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC), bringing together EMS agencies, hospitals, emergency management agencies, public health, and other trauma system partners.

Together, we work to deliver a comprehensive, system-based approach to trauma care—from prevention through rehabilitation—guided by data, strengthened through collaboration, and focused on improving outcomes for the communities we serve.



Georgia's EMS and Trauma Regions



Comprised of regional EMS agencies, trauma centers, participating non-designated hospitals, and community stakeholders, the Region 5 RTAC serves twenty-three Central Georgia counties.

Region 5 Counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox, and Wilkinson.



RIGHT PATIENT



RIGHT PLACE



RIGHT TIME



RIGHT MEANS

Trauma - Injury Prevention and Outreach



Advancing Surge Readiness in Central Georgia and Beyond: Kristal Smith, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, and the R5TRAUMA Education Team lead a series of multi-table tabletop exercises for partners in Northwest Georgia. The event was hosted by the Region I EMS Advisory Council, RTAC, and the Region C Healthcare Preparedness Coalition.



Maximizing Impact: Kristal Smith discusses the Trauma System and opportunities for collaboration with Emergency Managers from Butts, Peach, and Spalding counties.



Optimizing Outcomes: New Trauma Program Manager Anna Claire Cesario joins the instructional team for a



Francis Johnson, Trauma Program Specialist, works to ensure younger volunteers feel confident and supported before engaging in simulations at Central Georgia Technical College.

Trauma - Injury Prevention and Outreach

Leveraging Partnerships to Save Lives: Regional Performance Improvement

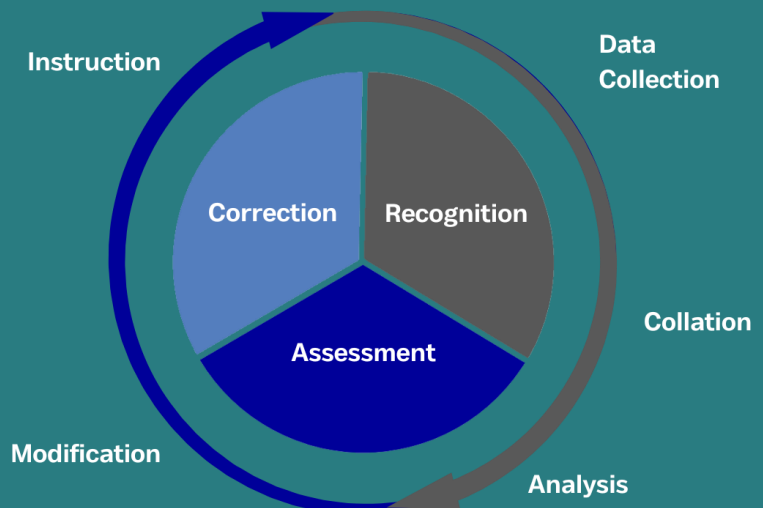
A data-driven Performance Improvement program is critical to our efforts to achieve optimal patient outcomes. Atrium Health Navicent Trauma Services and our Regional Trauma System partners utilize prehospital patient care reporting and trauma registry data to monitor system performance, identify opportunities for improvement, and drive regional programming efforts. Trends in care and outcomes are identified, and the appropriate system response is initiated to improve the quality and timeliness of trauma patient care.

The Regional Performance Improvement Subcommittee is a multidisciplinary team comprised of trauma surgeons, emergency department physicians, trauma nurses, and prehospital personnel, tasked with identifying opportunities and then implementing action plans to drive regional system improvement. This team collaborates closely with the Regional EMS Education Committee and the Emergency Medical Services for Children program to ensure that trauma education offerings are responsive to identified needs and advance the overall improvement of the trauma system.

2025-2026 Performance Improvement Initiatives:

- Time to Definitive Care**
- Trauma Resuscitation**
- Surge Readiness**
- Pediatric Readiness**
- Pelvic Binder Utilization**
- Tourniquet Assessment & De-escalation**

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PROCESS:



Source: *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2014, Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons.*

Trauma - Injury Prevention and Outreach



Engaging with Partners Across the Care Continuum: Kristal Smith, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, and R5TRAUMA teammates lead a tabletop exercise for Washington County Regional Medical Center and Jasper Memorial Hospital during a Surge Readiness Course hosted by Jasper Memorial Hospital and the Region H Healthcare Preparedness Coalition.



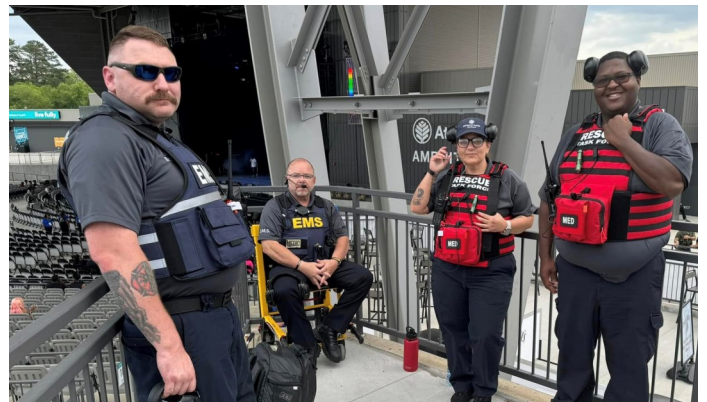
Stop the Dying: Chief of Police J. Tripp Mitchell leads Georgia State University participants in a simulated active threat scenario during Rescue Task Force training.



Shared Vigilance: Law enforcement, EMS, fire, and hospital teams train together during a High-Risk Unified Command course hosted by R5TRAUMA and Heartland EMS.



On the Road: The R5TRAUMA Education Team leads a tabletop exercises for Metro Area trauma centers and response partners in collaboration with the Region 3 RTAC.



Standing Ready: The Atrium Navicent EMS Events Team deploys the regional trauma cache equipment for a packed event at the Atrium Health Amphitheater.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach

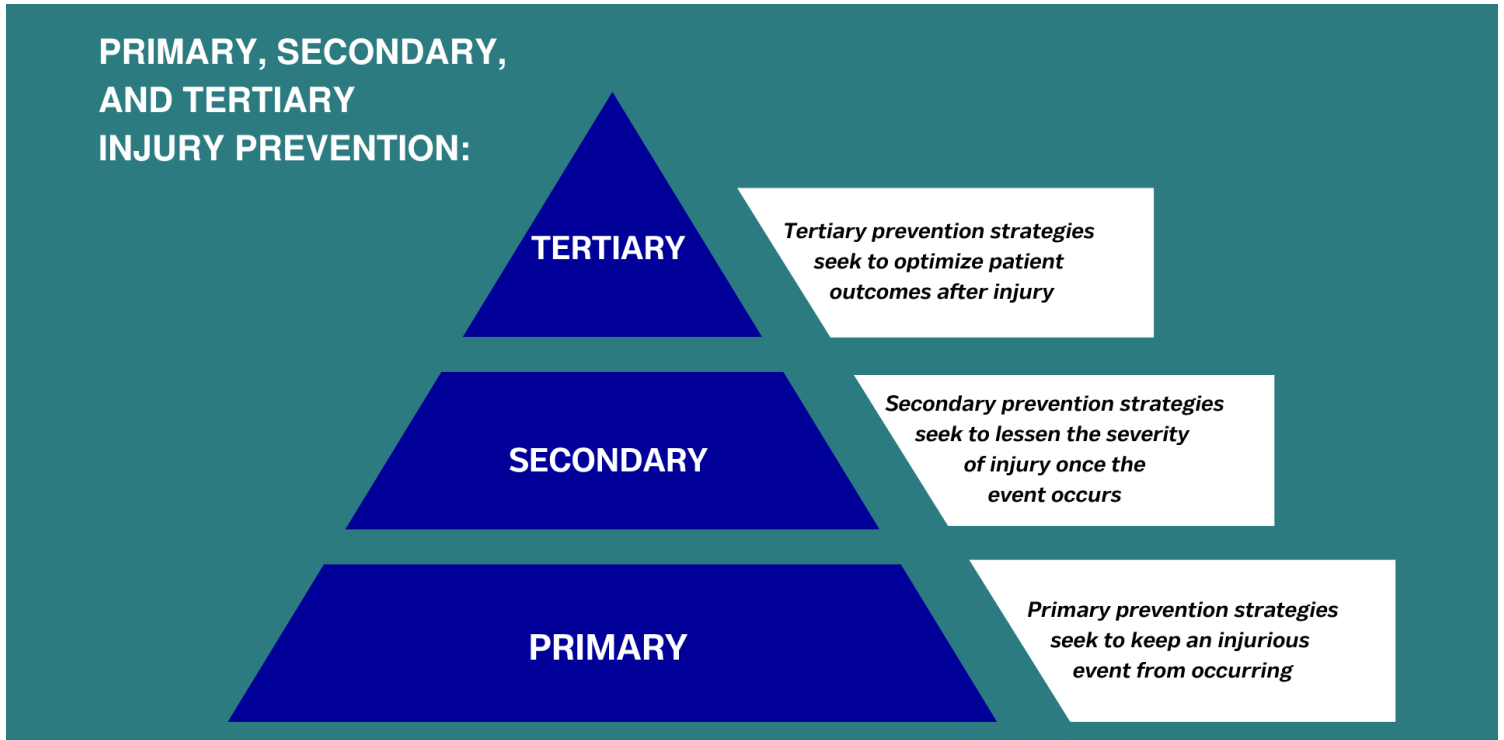
Leveraging Partnerships to Save Lives: Regional Injury Prevention



Preventing injury and death is a foundational goal of any trauma system. Our prevention and outreach programs aim to reduce risks by engaging targeted communities through public engagement, education, and strengthened partnerships. These efforts are designed to increase awareness, influence behavioral change, and empower individuals to recognize risks and protect themselves from harm.

Atrium Health Navicent Trauma Services, the Region 5 RTAC, and our trauma system partners deliver data-driven programming aligned with trauma registry trends and Performance Improvement findings. Initiatives focus on leading causes of injury, including falls, motor vehicle collisions, firearms, all-terrain vehicles, burns, and other high-risk mechanisms. Together, we work to expand our regional capacity for community-based injury prevention through shared resources, multidisciplinary collaboration, and scalable program delivery.

Our approach is multifaceted, incorporating primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies that support injury reduction across the continuum of care. By aligning prevention, education, and system-level initiatives, the trauma system is better positioned to reduce injury incidence, morbidity, and mortality while improving outcomes for the communities we serve.



Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Strengthening the Trauma Prevention Ecosystem: Wellness—Aging RN Nicole Gaither leads Georgia Trauma System Partners, and Injury Prevention Professionals from across the state in an *A Matter of Balance* Coaches Training Workshop at the Macon Mall, hosted by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Atrium Health Navicent, and the Region 5 RTAC.



Fall Prevention in Motion: Anna Claire Cesario joins The Dazzling Dancers for a Music and Movement Break at the Regional Falls Free Friday Celebration in Monroe County.



Maximizing Impact: Captain Christina Bramlett with Monroe County Emergency Services discussed home safety and fire prevention with Falls Free Friday participants.



Collaboration in Action: Connie Holland of Vision Savers and Dr. Dana Peterman of Monroe Physical Therapy provide vision and fall-risk screenings for Falls Free Friday.



Celebrating New Partners in Prevention: Kristal Smith joins The Dazzling Dancers from Upson County—an incredible group who brought energy and joy to Falls Free Friday.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Empowering the Next Generation of Safe Drivers: Drive the Message Ambassador Austin Cook engages with participants at the Macon Kiwanis' Teen Driving Rodeo, helping reinforce safe-driving habits through peer-to-peer connection. Drive the Message ambassadors are teens and young adults who champion safe-driving behaviors among their peers in communities across Central Georgia.



A Winning Messenger: Cordele Motor Speedway's Charger Legend Drivers Champion, Austin Cook, champions safe-driving habits across Central Georgia and beyond.



Messaging in Motion: Drive the Message bracelets are more than fan favorites — they're wearable reminders that safe-driving starts with everyday choices.



Hard Charger: Champion Austin Cook celebrates with his dad, Atrium Navicent EMS Paramedic Tim Cook, proudly holding the hardware that reflects their successful season.

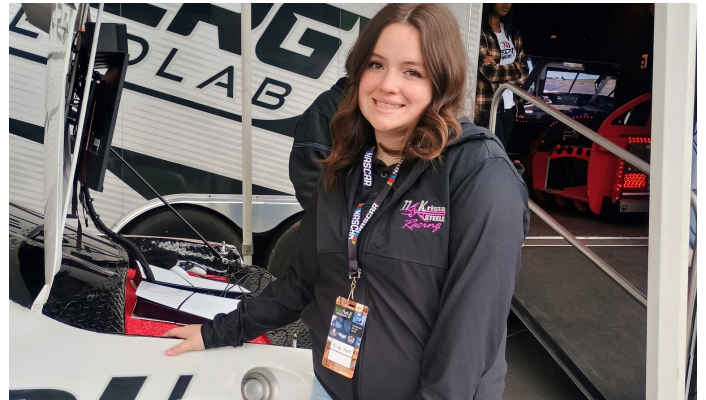
Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



A Messenger with Momentum: Trauma survivor and Drive the Message Ambassador Krista Steele dedicates her time to educating peers about motorsports and safe-driving habits. Using her experience, voice, and leadership to spark meaningful conversations, Krista reminds drivers that prevention begins with the choices they make before getting behind the wheel.



Turning Experience Into Impact: Krista Steele uses her story to help young drivers understand how they can advocate for themselves and others to prevent trauma and save lives.



Leading the Conversation: Drive the Message Ambassador Krista Steele connects with students through honest, peer-to-peer conversations about safe and responsible driving.



Purpose in Every Message: Krista Steele shares her lived experience with participants of the Monroe County Safe Driving Camp at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.



Champion With a Cause: Krista Steele pairs her passion for motorsports with a mission to keep young drivers safe — proving that leadership can shine on and off the track.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Tragedy to Advocacy: Mike Lutzenkirchen, founder of the Lutzie 43 Foundation, delivered a powerful and deeply personal talk during the Safe Driving Summit, sharing the circumstances that led to his son Phillip's passing. While addressing students at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, he highlighted the simple steps everyone can take to become ambassadors for safe driving.



Glimpse of the Trauma Bay: Atrium Navicent EMS teammates deliver a mock trauma patient to the simulated Trauma Bay at the Lutzie 43 Safe Driving Summit.



Trauma Teams Unite: Drs. Kristin Harmon and Natalia Beadle are joined by trauma professionals from Fairview Park and the Wellstar Trauma System for the Trauma Bay Simulation.



Exploring the Aftermath: Following the Trauma Bay Simulation, Drs. Kristin Harmon and Natalia Beadle participate in a question-and-answer session with students.



Thoughtful Discussions: After the session, students connect with Drs. Kristin Harmon and Natalia Beadle to discuss careers, challenges, and the realities of trauma care.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Empowering Young Leaders: What began as a fun day of fishing turned into something bigger for Matthew and Abby. After winning new ATVs and helmets at a Crawford County Fishing Rodeo, they joined the ranks of our Ride Safe Ambassadors — youth leaders who promote safe riding and helmet use across Region 5. The duo also inspired a new social media messaging campaign.



Promoting Safe ATV Use: Abby educates her peers by encouraging helmet use and responsible riding, she helps others understand that safety starts before the ride begins.



Serious About Riding Safety: Matthew takes his role as a Ride Safe Ambassador seriously — modeling safe riding and sharing off-road safety rules with kids in his neighborhood.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach

Leveraging Partnerships to Save Lives: Regional Outreach Education

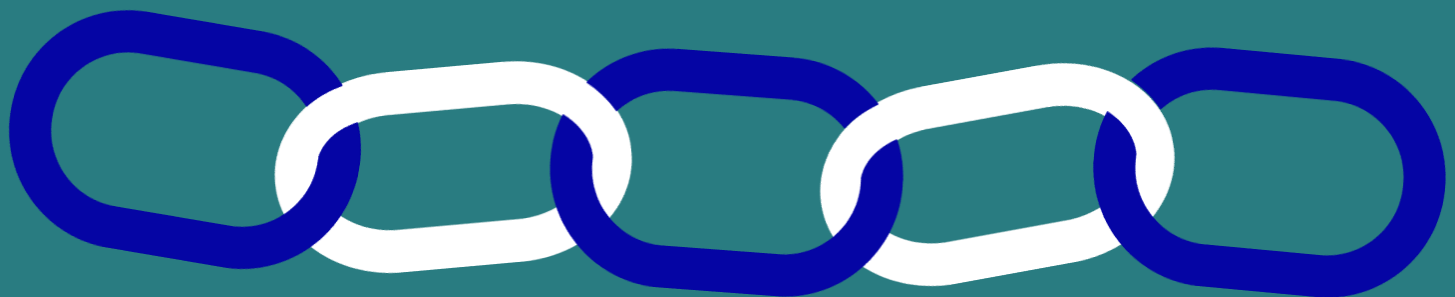
Trauma care knowledge and skills must be continuously updated, refined, and reinforced through targeted educational offerings such as Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®), Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), and regionally developed programs. Atrium Health Navicent works in close collaboration with trauma system partners to assess educational needs across the region, using trauma registry data and Performance Improvement (PI) findings to identify gaps and guide programming.

As an American College of Surgeons–verified Level I Trauma Center, Atrium Health Navicent supports regional education through interdisciplinary training opportunities that emphasize real-world application, system coordination, and scalable delivery models. These efforts are designed not only to enhance provider knowledge, but also to strengthen trauma system performance and improve patient outcomes.

All Central Georgia acute care hospitals, EMS agencies, and system stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in the regional trauma system and contribute to the development, implementation, and evaluation of educational initiatives. This collaborative approach ensures that programming remains responsive to identified needs and aligned with system priorities.

Trauma education and outreach initiatives represent the combined efforts of regional stakeholders and system partners. The Region 5 Trauma Education and Outreach Team (R5TRAUMA) delivers high-quality, accessible educational opportunities by leveraging shared expertise, resources, and partnerships. The team also supports department-based educators and train-the-trainer efforts to expand access, build capacity, and sustain trauma education across the region.

TRAUMA CHAIN OF SURVIVAL:



Immediate
Responders

Non-Medical
First Responders

Medical First
Responders

Emergency
Medicine

Trauma Surgery
& Critical Care

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



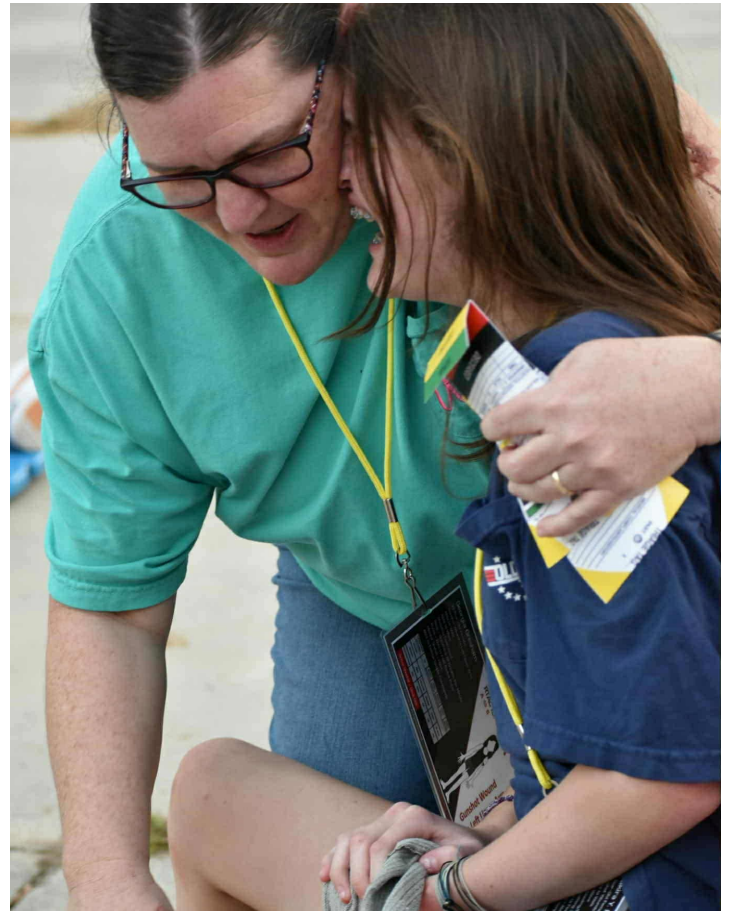
Elevating Rural Trauma Care: Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator Kristal leads a Georgia Trauma Commission–funded Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course in partnership with the R5TRAUMA Education Team, the Georgia EMS Association, and Telfair County EMS, strengthening prehospital readiness across the region.



High-Risk Response Tactics: The R5TRAUMA Education Team delivers a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Course at Spalding County EMA, sponsored by the Region F Healthcare Coalition.



Full-Scale Prep: The R5TRAUMA Education Team provides a Rescue Task Force Operations Course to Peach County response agencies ahead of their annual full scale exercise.

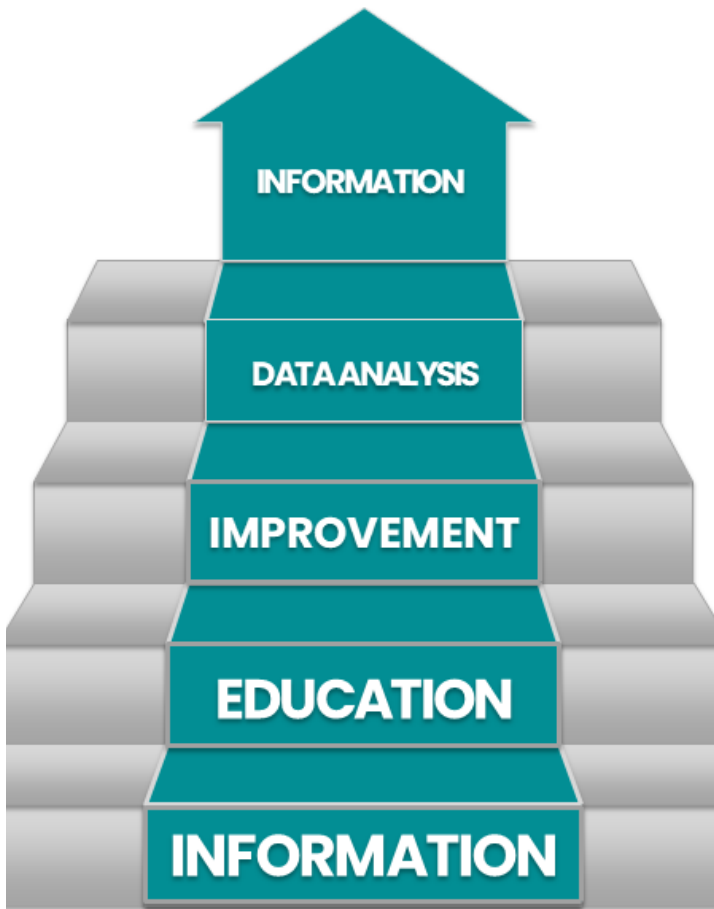


Keeping it Real: Role players elevate the realism of an MCI Multi-verse exercise supporting the Emergency Medical Technician program at Ogeechee Technical College.

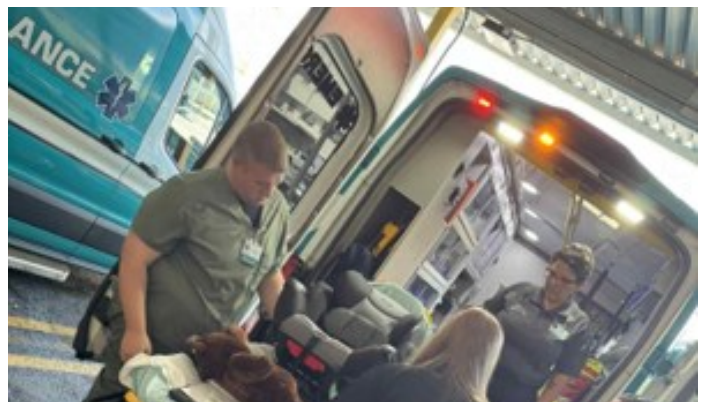
Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Champions for Children: Atrium Health Navicent Trauma Services and Emergency Medical Services host a “Teddy Bear Clinic” at Atrium EMS Headquarters alongside regional trauma system partners and Child Passenger Safety Technicians from Safe Kids Central Georgia. The pop-up skills event provided EMS teams with hands-on training using their pediatric transport devices.



The Problem: A Safe Transport Review of 189 pediatric transport cases conducted in April 2025 revealed a 57.19% rate of improper or unsafe restraint system selection.



The Challenge: After a series of train-the-trainer sessions, EMS agencies were challenged to update pediatric transport policies and ensure that all staff receive hands-on training.

In 2025, Central Georgia EMS for Children, in partnership with the Region 5 RTAC initiated the Safe Ride Pediatric Transport Challenge as a regional performance improvement project.

Trauma Service - Prevention & Outreach



Protecting Our Smallest Patients: Jasper County Fire Rescue Chief Christopher Finch provides hands-on Safe Transport training to every firefighter and EMS provider on his roster, ensuring his teams are confident and prepared to care for children in emergency transport. Through this commitment, Jasper County Fire Rescue became the first regional agency to achieve Safe Ride Ambassador status.



Accepting the Challenge: Hancock County EMS works to strengthen pediatric safety by ensuring every provider receives hands-on Safe Transport training.



Every Trip, Every Time: Our Region 8 partners at South Georgia Medical Center EMS are the first agency to receive the Safe Transport Champion designation.



On the Road Again: The Regional Education Team hit the road to showcase Safe Pediatric Transport and EMS SimBox at the Georgia EMS Providers and Educators Conference.



The Celebration: EMS agencies completing the Safe Transport Challenge receive awards recognizing their Safe Ride Champion designations.

Trauma Global Outreach

Ukraine: Education Misson

Ukraine is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of sunflower oil and seeds. Making the flower an integral part of its economy and a representation of its rich, fertile "Black Earth" agricultural lands.

Since war broke out in 2022, the sunflower has taken on new layers of meaning and serves as a global symbol of Ukrainian resistance, unity, and hope. Sunflowers are "hyperaccumulators" used to extract toxins and heavy metals from the soil, notably after the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986 cementing their association with renewal and hope.



In May 2025, a small group from the Department of Surgery embarked on an education mission in Ukraine. A Ukraine surgeon and global humanitarian, Dr Anastasia Furtak, recognized a training gap in front line military surgeons related to damage control surgery experience. Efforts were made to work through the American College of Surgeons for grant funding but unfortunately was unsuccessful. The Department of Surgery answered the call and organized a team to visit Ukraine and teach fundamentals of damage control surgery. In conjunction with their Ukraine partners, the group coordinated two days of didactics as well as two days of pig lab training for surgical technique demonstration and practice. The group was able to train 53 Ukraine surgeons and additional medical personnel, many of whom were frontline providers. The Department of Surgery members who participated in this endeavor included Dr. Benjie Christie, Dr. Paul Cartwright, Dr. Nehal Ninad, Dr. Brewton McCluskey, department alumni Dr. Heidi Haun, and Dr. Bruce Ong. The department group learned many lessons and has had continued collaboration efforts with their Ukraine partners, learning from their experience with wartime wound management, combat casualty evacuation, and care delivery strategies, during conflict.

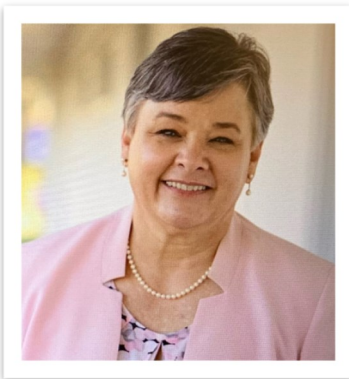


Trauma Global Outreach—cont.



Research News

Message from the Trauma Research Manager



Tracy J. Johns, MSN, RN
Surgery/Trauma Research Manager

In 2025, the Surgery Research program made significant progress in strengthening research infrastructure, increasing investigator readiness, and expanding collaborative activity. Key accomplishments reflect sustained growth in engagement, compliance, and multi-institutional participation.

1. Research Governance & Infrastructure

- Five Surgery Research Surveillance meetings were conducted in 2025, supporting oversight, accountability, and alignment of research initiatives.
- A formal Surgery Research process was developed and implemented, establishing standardized workflows and expectations for investigators.

2. Investigator Readiness & Compliance

- Resident Research Readiness (CITI training, NIH biosketch, IRB access) increased from 68% in Q1 2025 to 100% by Q1 2026, demonstrating complete compliance and engagement across residents.
- Attending Research Readiness improved from 75% (8 surgeons) in Q1 2025 to 89% (9 surgeons) by Q1 2026, including Wake Forest research credentialing, with continued progress toward full participation.

3. Research Portfolio Growth

- **Multi-institutional projects expanded from 1 active study in early 2025 (Environmental Copper) to 3 projects by Q1 2026**, demonstrating increased collaboration and elevated research complexity. These project include:
 - Environmental Copper (AHN PI: Vaughn, Lead institution: Tulane)
 - Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) (AHN PI: A Christie, Lead institution: AH Carolinas Medical Center)
 - Cholecystectomy outcomes (AHN PI: B Christie, Lead institution: Baylor Scott White)

4. Best Practices & Research Excellence

- Developed and disseminated **Best Practice Guidelines for Research**, including:
 - Reducing Bias in Retrospective Studies
 - Designing Retrospective Research
 - Research Authorship standards
 - These resources support methodological rigor and transparent, collaborative authorship across the department.

5. Centralized Resources & Accessibility

- Launched and maintained a **Surgery Research SharePoint site** providing:
 - Real-time visibility into current projects
 - Up-to-date CITI and credentialing tracking
 - Direct access to Research, Clinical Trials, and Sponsored Programs staff resources

Current Surgical Academic Research Portfolio as of Q1 2026

1. Five IRB-approved active studies reflect engagement across trauma, bariatrics, critical care, and surgical innovation including:

- A prospective, consented study on **Extended Cryoablation**
- Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (**PICS**) in critically ill adults
- **Environmental copper levels** in bariatric patients
- Evaluation of **40 mg Lovenox** dosing
- **NeuRx Diaphragm Pacing** under a Humanitarian Use Device designation

2. Study Development & Pipeline Growth

- **One active study start-up** advanced to protocol completion: *Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter Insertion technique*.
- **Three new study inquiries** entered the development pipeline, addressing thoracic irrigation, trauma transfer outcomes, modified Brain Injury Guideline (mBIG) patient outcomes, and DVTs associated with PICC lines—demonstrating continued investigation for-driven research expansion.

3. Dissemination & Scholarly Output

- **Nine studies are in the analysis and dissemination phase**, reflecting sustained productivity and emphasis on knowledge translation. Topics included:
 - Anticoagulation monitoring and VTE prophylaxis
 - Cholecystectomy patient outcomes
 - Oncology patient diagnosis and treatment (ctDNA and Intraoperative Radiation Treatment – [IORT])
 - Trauma systems evaluation, including geriatric activation criteria and time-to-care metrics
 - Surgical and intraoperative innovation (vagotomy)

Trauma Research Manager—Continued

Overall Impact

The 2025 accomplishments demonstrate a maturing research program with improved structure, higher compliance, increased collaboration, and stronger support resources. The current Surgical Study Portfolio also reflects a balanced and maturing research program through:

- Active clinical and device-based investigations
- A growing pipeline of new study concepts
- A strong focus on dissemination and academic contribution

Collectively, our accomplishments and portfolio position the department for continued growth in research productivity, funding competitiveness, and multi-institutional impact in **2026** and beyond.



The mission of the Southeastern Surgical Congress (SESC) is to serve as the premier regional surgical organization for general surgeons and sub-specialists. The SESC is dedicated to the presentation, evaluation, and dissemination of current knowledge and research in all phases of general surgery through an annual meeting and “The American Surgeon” Journal. Atrium Health Navicent General Surgery Department had another great showing at this year’s annual meeting.

DB Christie. Scientific Session. Moderator. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 23, 2026.

S. Pilinko. A Classic Song of Chronic Right Upper Quadrant Pain with Special Edit of an Accessory Liver Lobe. Quickshot Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 21, 2026.

E DeBroux. Frozen Fallout: Duodenal Injury from Cryoablation. Quickshot Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 21, 2026.

S. Pilinko. A Typical Small Bowel Obstruction Secondary to an Untypical Retroperitoneal Hernia. Quickshot Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 21, 2026.

J Burt. Robotic Partial Hepatectomy for Liver Metastasis with Remote History of Rectal Neuroendocrine Tumor. Quickshot Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 20, 2026.

M Vazquez de Santos. The Psychosocial and Cosmetic Benefits of IORT in Breast Cancer. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 20, 2026.

R Monfort. Apixaban for Extended Thromboprophylaxis after Bariatric Surgery: A Retrospective Review. Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 20, 2026.

Research News

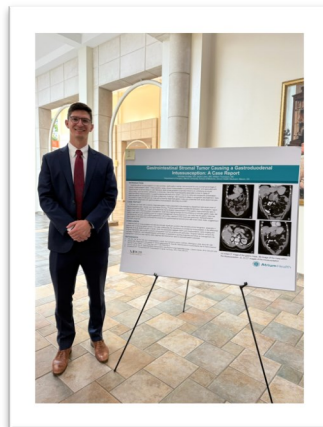
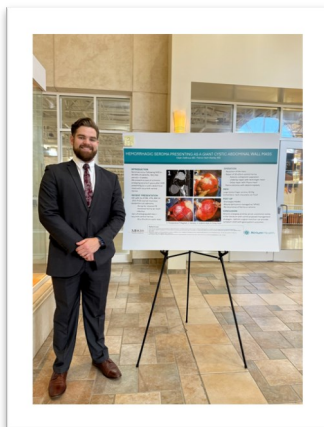
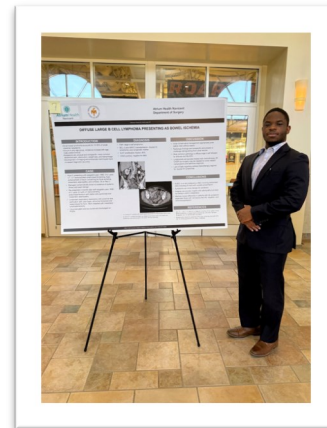
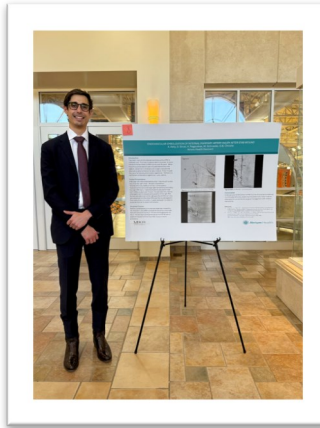
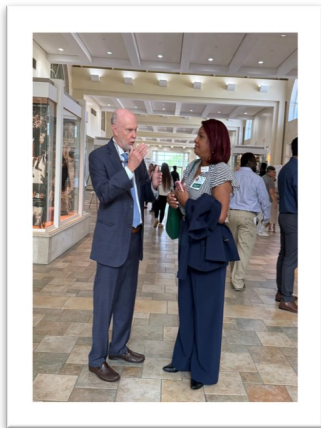
2ND ANNUAL JOINT RESEARCH DAY

MAY 21, 2025



Congratulations to Dr. Elijah Debroux for winning 1st runner up in the poster competition (out of 28 posters) presented.

Debroux, PGY-4	PODIUM	SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH COLON CANCER IN RURAL GEORGIA IN THE PRE AND POST COVID ERA
Debroux, PGY-4	POSTER	HEMORRHAGIC SEROMA PRESENTING AS A GIANT CYSTIC ABDOMINAL WALL MASS
Olusanya, PGY-4	POSTER	DIFFUSE LARGE B CELL LYMPHOMA PRESENTING AS BOWEL ISCHEMIA
Sircar, PGY-4	POSTER	ENDOVASCULAR EMBOLIZATION OF INTERNAL MAMMARY ARTERY INJURY AFTER STAB WOUND
Koullas, PGY5	POSTER	GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMOR CAUSING A GASTRODUODENAL INTUSSUSCEPTION



Research News - Publications

J Lane JE, Tin D, **Ashley D**. Active Shooter Incidents in the Healthcare Setting – Implications for the Surgeon. *Am Surg*. Dec 2025;91(12):2145-2150. doi: 10.1177/00031348251323705. Epub 2025 Jun 9. PMID: 40490967

S Fakry, N Wilson, **DW Ashley, GAC Study Group**. Multicenter Study of Trauma Activation Criteria and Time-Sensitive Care in Older vs. Younger Adults. Geriatric Activation Criteria (GAC) study. *Trauma Surg Acute Care Open*. 2025:e001770. DOI:10.1136. PMID: 41262856

HE Groce, JS Robinson, Jr., **DW Ashley**. The Economic Impact of Decreasing State Trauma Mortality on Lifetime Personal Income and State Tax Revenue. *Trauma Surg Acute Care Open*. 2025;10:e001698. DOI:10.1177/tsaco-2024-001698. PMID: 40673040

CJ Nonnemacher, EL Long, A Montgomery, TJ Johns, R Adiga, DW Ashley, E Ryan, N Creel, J Mantooth, J Gibson, DB Christie. Can Thromboelastography be Predictive of Venous Thromboembolism After Trauma: A Longitudinal, Prospective, Multi-Institution Study. *Am Surg*. 2025 Nov 13;1348251397049. DOI: 10.1177/00031348251397049. PMID: 41231439

Forrester JD, Chaar MA, **Barnes AT**, Bauman ZM, Bendjemil S, Betts NN, **Christie B**, Dasari R, Wb D, Earley MJ, Faliks B, **Johns TJ**, Johnson C, Junker MS, Kim BD, King JM, Knight AW, Schweibinz AA, Stephens D, Stuever M, Wang S. Lost Fractures: Prevalence and Risk Factors for Missed Costosternal and Costal Cartilage Fractures Among Patients with Radiologic Chest Wall Injury. *Trauma Surg Acute Care Open*. 2026 Jan;11(1):e002020. Doi: 10.1136/tsaco-2025-002020. eCollection 2026. PMID: 41561394

Wilson NY, Mazumder H, Berg GM, Slivinski A, Cofran JM, **Johns TJ**, Nahia J, Kaafarani H, Dunn JA, Moreau S, Krause M, Durst G, Cotner-Pouncy T, Mitchell S, Kennedy S, Gennusa J, Heard AK, Garland JM, Harbour LF, Shen Y, Orlando A, Fakhry SM, **The Geriatric Trauma Activation Criteria Research Study Group**. Impact of Increasing Numbers of Trauma Activation Criteria on Outcomes and Resource utilization: A Multicenter Study. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*. 2026 Feb;00(0):1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JTN.0000000000000906>.

AB Newcomb, **KJ Cheeley**, J Ford, KL Lang, DM Marvel, RD Applebaum, AN Moreno, MA Price. Injury Research Engagement Project (I-REP) Panel of Patients and Caregivers: Results of the Inaugural First Year. *Trauma Surg Acute Care Open* 2026;11:e002129. doi:10.1136/tsaco-2025-002129.

A Orlando, H Mazumder, S Leichtle, MA West, B Joseph, H Kaafarani, JP Hunt, Y Shen, SM Fakhry, and the **Geriatric Activation Criteria Research Study Group**. Interhospital Variation in Full Trauma Activation with Mortality: A 27-center Cohort Study of Level 1 and 2 Trauma Centers in the US. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. ACCEPTED

Research News - Presentations

K Cheeley. Poster Presentation. The Injury Research Engagement Project Panel of Patients and Caregivers: A Trauma Researcher-Survivor Partnership. Society of Trauma Nurses Conference. Austin, Texas. April 15, 2026.

O Olusanya. Robotic Paraoesophageal Hernia Repair, Takedown of Nissen, Vagotomy, Gastric Bypass. Video Reel. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida. March 26, 2026.

DB Christie. Scientific Session. Moderator. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 23, 2026.

S Pilinko. A Classic Song of Chronic Right Upper Upper Quadrant Pain with Special Edit of an Accessory Liver Lobe. Quickshot Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 21, 2026.

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M Vazquez de Santos. The Psychosocial and Cosmetic Benefits of IORT in Breast Cancer. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 20, 2026.

R Monfort. Apixaban for Extended Thromboprophylaxis after Bariatric Surgery: A Retrospective Review. Oral Presentation. Southeastern Surgical Congress 2026. Amelia Island, Georgia. February 20, 2026.

DW Ashley. The OIG Trauma Audit Report and Findings and CMS' Response. Panelist. Virtual TCAA Webinar. November 12, 2025.

DW Ashley. Lessons Learned: Building the Georgia Trauma System. Rozycki/Feliciano Trauma Symposium. Marcus Grady Trauma Center. Atlanta, Georgia. November 5, 2025.

A Jones. Future of Fluoroscopy. Georgia Surgical Annual Meeting. Jekyll Island, Georgia. October 17, 2025.

A Ragauskas. Use of Indocyanine Green Cholangiography to Detect Aberrant Right Hepatic Duct. Video Presentation. American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2025. Chicago, IL. October 5, 2025.

GAC Research Study Group. Measuring What Matters: Redefining Undertriage Using Trauma Team Actions. Poster Presentation. AAST Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. September 11, 2025.

NW Medrano, E Atkins, EM Bulger, J Dunne, **D Ashley**, C Terwilliger, M Price, Coalition for National trauma Research, Georgia Trauma Commission. University of Washington Harborview Medical Center. Poster Presentation. AAST Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. September 11, 2025.

Research News - Presentations

N Medrano, E Atkins, EM Bulger, J Dunne, **D Ashley**, C Terwilliger, M Price. Access to Trauma Care: An Analysis of a State Trauma System. Poster Presentation. AAST Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. September 11, 2025.

D Sircar, H Tammaddon. Distal Peroneal Artery to Plantar Artery Vein Bypass with Osteotomy for Foot Salvage after Open Tibial/Fibular Fracture Causing Loss of Perfusion Distal to the Ankle. Georgia Vascular. Lake Oconee, Georgia. September 12, 2025.

N Koullas. Access to Trauma Care: An Analysis of a State Trauma System. Poster Presentation. AAST Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. September 11, 2025.

DB Christie, III. Presidential Address: The Readiness of a Chapter. Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Florida. September 6, 2025.

A Ragauskas. Robotic Stapling in Sleeve Gastrectomy: Analysis of Surgeon Technique and Staple Line Reinforcement Use. Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Florida. September 6, 2025.

R Monfort, T Weber, M Patel, D Vaughn, R Parel. Apixaban for Extended Thromboprophylaxis After Bariatric Surgery: A Retrospective Review. Georgia Chapter American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Georgia. September 6, 2025.

M Vazquez de Santos, P Daul. The Psychosocial and Cosmetic Benefits of LORT in Breast Cancer. Georgia Chapter American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Georgia. September 6, 2025.

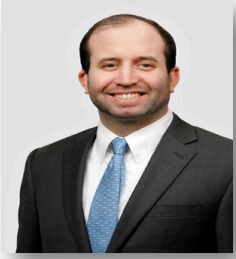
E. Debroux. External Approach for Intercostal Cryoablation for Traumatic Rib Fractures: A Case Series. Georgia Chapter American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Georgia. September 6, 2025.

E. Debroux. Frozen Fallout: Duodenal Injury from Cryoablation. Georgia Chapter American College of Surgeons. Amelia Island, Georgia. September 6, 2025.

DB Christie, III. Regional Medical Organization Coordination Centers: Readiness Planning. Georgia Day of Trauma. Amelia Island, Florida. September 5, 2025.

DB Christie, III. Regional Medical Organization Coordination Centers: Readiness Planning. Georgia Day of Trauma. Amelia Island, Florida. September 5, 2025.

Grand Rounds



Andrew Barnes, M.D., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Traumatic Coastal Cartilage Injury” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.



Paul Cartwright, M.D., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Thoracic Damage Control Surgery (TDCS): A Ukrainian Experience” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.



Nicholas Koullas, D.O., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Evolution of Wound Care” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.



Jacob Lowry, M.D., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Do You Have What It Takes to be a Surgeon” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.



Brewton McCluskey, M.D., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury—The Recent Experience at Atrium Health Navicent” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.



Nehal Ninad, M.D., Chief Resident, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Abdominal Damage Control Surgery (ADCS): A Ukrainian Experience” at the Thursday Grand Rounds June 5, 2025.

Grand Rounds

Dennis W. Ashley, M.D., FACS, Will C. Sealy Endowed Chair, Professor of Surgery, Mercer University School of Medicine and Director of Trauma, Atrium Health Navicent presented “Development of a Statewide Trauma System: Lessons Learned From the Georgia Journey at the Thursday Grand Rounds August 7, 2025.



Paul Dale, M.D., Chief, Surgical Oncology, Atrium Health Navicent presented “Atrium Health Navicent Breast Service Line: The State of the Union” at the Thursday Grand Rounds October 2, 2025.



Joe Sam Robinson, M.D., FACS, Professor of Neurosurgery, Mercer University School of Medicine and Chief of Neurosurgery, Atrium Health Navicent presented “Out of the Silo: Stroke and Trauma Intervention Systems Can Work Efficiently together” at the Thursday Grand Rounds December 11,



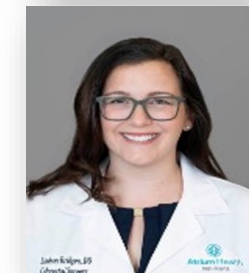
Sourabh Lahoti, M.D., Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Mercer University School of Medicine, Medical Director, Neurointerventional Surgery, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “The Future Flows Through the Arteries: Scope and Breath of Neurointerventional Surgery in 2026” at the Thursday Grand Rounds January 8, 2026.



Bounthavy Homsombath, M.D., Joseph M. Still Burn Centers, Inc., presented “Multimodal Approach to Successful Coverage of Large Total Body Surface Area Burns in a Regional Burn Center” at the Thursday Grand Rounds February 5, 2026.



Lindsey Bridges, D.O., Assistant Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “The Latest in Rectal Cancer Care and A Glimpse Into NAPRC” at the Thursday Grand Rounds March 5, 2026.



Grand Rounds



Loreski Collado, M.D. Assistant Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine, Surgical Oncology and Colorectal Surgery, Atrium Health Navicent, presented “Navigating Nodules, Hypercalcemia, and Incidentalomas: Contemporary Endocrine Surgery in Middle Georgia” at the Thursday Grand Rounds April 2, 2026.

Honors and Awards



Kimiko Cheeley, LMFT, is a trauma survivor whose journey began with unimaginable uncertainty after a tractor tire fell on her on December 26, 2017, causing a traumatic brain injury and an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. In the days and months that followed, she faced the difficult reality of not knowing what life would look like in the future. Many people who heard her story found it encouraging and suggested she write a book, but Cheeley felt called to do something that could help even more people in a more direct way.

That purpose opened the door to advocacy, research, and service. Today, Cheeley serves as an Injury Research Engagement Project (I-REP) Panelist for the Coalition for National Trauma Research (CNTR), where she shares her lived experience to help shape patient-centered trauma research. She is a member of the manuscript writing team for *Injury Research Engagement Project (I-REP) Panel of Patients and Caregivers; Results of the Inaugural First Year*, a paper selected for poster presentation at the Society of Trauma Nurses 2026 Annual Conference, and she is also a contributing author on a BMJ Journals publication describing the panel’s first year and its partnership model between trauma researchers and injured patients. She additionally serves as a Merit Reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). At Atrium Health Navicent, Cheeley oversees the Palliative Care, department helping patients and families across the spectrum of illness, bringing both clinical leadership and the perspective of a survivor to the work of healing, hope, and advocacy.

Honors and Awards

Honoring the Teams & Survivors Who Inspire Us



Centerville Fire Chief Jason Jones and Firefighter Larry Lightning receive Trauma Save Awards for an infant resuscitation after a motor-vehicle crash.



Atrium Health EMS responders receive Trauma Save Awards. Paramedic Heather Abbate and AEMT Chelsea Mercer provided lifesaving care to a GSV victim during a multi-patient shooting, and Paramedic Jenna Hodson and AEMT Kevin Harper delivered decisive care to a critical patient following an MVC.



Atrium EMS teammates receive Trauma Save Awards during the Regional Trauma Advisory Committee meeting at Central Georgia Technical College in recognition of their management of more than a dozen critical trauma patients across four separate scenes spanning three Central Georgia communities.



Bentlei Sellers (pink dress) and James Griffin receive Save Awards for actions following a critical UTV rollover involving the Sellers family.



Community Ambulance Paramedic Jacob DiPaolo receives a Trauma Save Award for his response to a critical pediatric patient.



Peach County EMS and Fire Department responders are awarded Trauma Save Awards for their lifesaving response to Jake Wingo (center), who was critically injured in a motor-vehicle collision. Their coordinated care and decisive actions played an instrumental role in his survival and ongoing recovery.

Honors and Awards

Honoring the Teams & Survivors Who Inspire Us



Central Georgia Region 5 Emergency Medical Services Awards Celebration Medal of Valor & Trauma Save Awards—Trauma Survivor Chad Wombles

Jay Hood of the Wrightsville Police Department and Chad Wombles of the Johnson County Fire Department acted with exceptional bravery in the face of imminent danger. Both men were honored with Medals of Valor by the Central Georgia Region 5 EMS Advisory Council for their extraordinary courage and lifesaving teamwork during a catastrophic attack. Despite sustaining a devastating injury that resulted in the traumatic amputation of his right hand, Chad fought to survive while Jay acted decisively to stop the attack and protect others.

Multidisciplinary teams across the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Johnson County EMS, Fairview Park Hospital, Excelsior Ambulance, and Atrium Health Navicent were awarded Trauma Save Awards for their rapid, coordinated care that controlled life-threatening bleeding, preserved critical anatomy, and ensured timely transport to definitive treatment. Through rapid surgical intervention, Chad's hand was successfully reattached — a testament to both his resilience and the skill of the teams who cared for him.

Their collective actions exemplify courage, resilience, and exceptional collaboration under extraordinary circumstances.

Honors and Awards

Honoring the Teams & Survivors Who Inspire Us



Central Georgia Region 5 Emergency Medical Services Awards Celebration Medal of Valor & Trauma Save Awards—Trauma Survivor Mickey Liles

Mickey Liles' survival is a testament to the lifesaving interventions and coordinated trauma response that enabled his recovery following a near-fatal, catastrophic injury. After a severe lawn-mower incident, immediate prehospital care and rapid activation of the trauma system stabilized Mickey and ensured continuity of care through definitive treatment.

Care teams from the Macon-Bibb Fire Department, Community Ambulance, Atrium Health Navicent The Medical Center, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta were recognized with Trauma Save Awards for their rapid, coordinated response. Mickey was also presented with the Medal of Courage, honoring his extraordinary bravery, strength, and resilience throughout the emergency response and healing process.

He was joined at the celebration by his parents, Greg and Katie Liles, and siblings Kenneth, William, Izzie, Levi, Adyanna, Daisy, and Kyle, whose support has been central to his journey. As his family shared, "These are the souls that God placed in our lives in the moment we needed them most." Mickey didn't just survive — he thrives, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved in his care.

Honors and Awards

Honoring the Teams & Survivors Who Inspire Us



Inaugural Trauma Survivor Network Night Out with the Macon Bacon: Atrium Health Navicent Trauma Services and Emergency Medical Services join a special group of survivors and supporters for an evening of connection, celebration, and community at Luther Williams Field.



Atrium Health Navicent teammate and trauma survivor Kimiko Cheeley connects with fellow survivors and supporters.



Pint-size d All-Star Survivor Zachary Vance grabs a selfie with his All-Star Supporter and biggest fan, Shelly Forsee.



All-Star Survivors Chloe Fowler and Kimiko Cheeley enjoys the VIP treatment during their Night Out with the Macon Bacon,



Survivor Zachary Vance shares a special moment with his All-Star Supporters, Mom Cassie and brother David.



Our special All-Star Survivor shirt proudly features Kimiko's personal mantra — *Every Setback is a Setup for a Comeback.*



We Love Our Trauma Survivors! We were honored to celebrate the resilience and recovery of our All-Star Survivors Kimiko Cheeley, Rick Compton, Chloe Fowler, Eric John, Cassie Vance, and Zachary Vance during a very special Night Out with the Macon Bacon.

Teammate News



After almost 30 years of dedicated service to the general surgery residency program serving as the general surgery residency coordinator, Irma Miranda celebrated her retirement at the 2025 resident graduation. She is looking forward to spending time with her precious grandson and family. Thank you, Irma, for your countless hours of service to the many young physicians who entered the program.



Jessica “Brittany” Smith, MAS, graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Global Health Minor, Business Administration Minor, and Nonprofit Management Certification from GCSU in 2014. She interned in the Quality Department at Atrium Health Navicent in 2019 and upon graduating she joined the staff of Macon Volunteer Clinic as the Administrative Assistant and was promoted to Clinic Resource Specialist shortly thereafter. During this time, she began pursuing her Masters of Applied Science in Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and graduated in 2024 all while continuing to work full time. In 2021, she joined Central Georgia Health Network as a Population Health Specialist. In 2022, she joined the Quality Department at Atrium Health Navicent as a Patient Safety Coordinator. In September of 2025, she joined Med Ed Surgery initially as the General Surgery Residency Coordinator. Due to her exemplary performance, she was promoted to Administrative Manager in February of 2026.



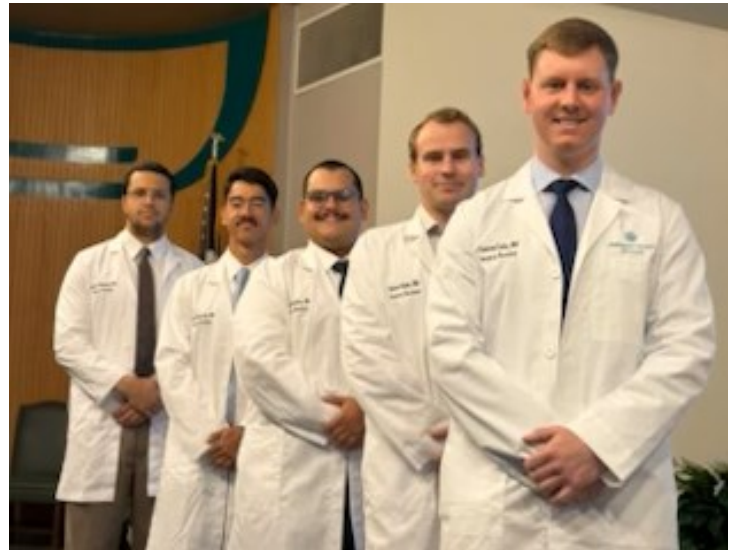
We would like to welcome **Hunter Logue, MSN, RN, CCRN, NI-BC**, to the Department of Trauma Services as the new Trauma Program Specialist. Hunter joined us April 20, 2026. Hunter is a registered nurse with Level I trauma center ICU experience and graduate preparation in nursing informatics. He is experienced in trauma patient care, clinical documentation review, and data-driven quality improvement. Welcome to the team!



Jennifer Peebles, joined the Med Ed Surgery team April 5th as our new general surgery residency coordinator. She transferred from the Georgia Surgical Institute where she was the surgery scheduler/coordinator for Dr. Vaughn and Dr. Parel. She also handled consults for the bariatric patients.



Work, Fun and Family



Work, Fun and Family



Acknowledgements

Virginia “Ginny” Land, Editor for the Annual Report and Administrative Assistant, **Jennifer Peebles Farris**, Residency Coordinator, and **Brittany Smith**, Administrative Manager, provide invaluable administrative support.

Atrium Health Navicent Executive Team:

Delvecchio Finley, MPP, FACHE, President, Georgia Area
 Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, Market Chief Nurse Executive and Chief Nursing Officer
 Cynthia “Cyndey” Busbee, MBA, Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President, Macon Market
 Sanford Duke, MD, Executive Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer
 Patrice Walker, MD, Chief Medical Officer
 Sandra Moore, MD, Vice President and Designated Institutional Official
 Phillip Wheeler, Chief Financial Officer
 Heather Walker, Vice President, Market Chief Information Officer
 Lori Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer AHN Medical Group
 Trein Blanchard, MD, MBA, CHCQM, Vice President, Senior Medical Director, AHN Medical Group

Mercer University School of Medicine:

Jean R. Sumner, MD, Dean
 Edwin W. Grimsley, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Macon Campus
 Don Nakayama, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Columbus Campus
 J. David Baxter, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Savannah Campus



2025-2026 General Surgery Residency Program