



**MICHIGAN MEDICINE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

YEAR IN REVIEW  
**2017**  
SECTION OF PLASTIC SURGERY

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The University of Michigan, Section of Plastic Surgery, has experienced another highly successful year clinically, academically, and educationally. Building on the tremendous success over the past few years, we have had another great year which included strategic faculty hires, programmatic development, creation and enhancement of multidisciplinary teams, and substantial maturation of our research programs for long term stability. I am excited to share with you the highlights of our clinical and educational accomplishments and also detail our extensive academic accomplishments which have allowed us to advance the field of plastic surgery through discovery, innovation, and creativity.

Our clinical enterprise has grown dramatically over the past few years offering the full breadth of clinical services. We continue to provide the highest level of care possible for all of our patients while at the same time developing and enhancing our programs to provide more options to our patients in need. To meet these increasing demands, we currently have 16 full time clinical faculty, four clinical adjunct faculty, four research faculty, one craniofacial fellow, two hand surgery fellows, and 26 house officers in plastic surgery, making us one of the largest plastic surgery programs in the US. We have seen over 24,000 patients in our outpatient clinics and performed nearly 4000 major operative procedures during the last year. This growth has been seen through the development of numerous new clinical programs and enhancement of existing clinical programs including: 1) Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Wound Care Program; 2) Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Hand Surgery Program; 3) Advanced Acute and Chronic Burn Care Program; 4) Peripheral Nerve Surgery Program; 5) Comprehensive Gender Services Program; and 6) Lymphedema Surgery Program. We are incredibly proud of the high quality and compassionate care we provide to all of our pediatric and adult patients.

Our research programs continue to flourish and grow with extensive research funding from the most prestigious granting agencies including the National Institute of Health, Department of Defense, DARPA, and of course, the Plastic Surgery Foundation. We had nearly \$4,000,000 in research expenditures last year alone making us one of the most academically successful and highly funded group of

plastic surgeons in the world. The University of Michigan, Section of Plastic Surgery, is recognized for these accomplishments worldwide and is omnipresent at the podium of every major plastic surgery meeting. In fact, at the recent American Association of Plastic Surgeons and Plastic Surgery Research Council combined meeting, the University of Michigan Section of Plastic Surgery had over 30 invited and scientific presentations.

Our plastic surgery residency program has seen substantial growth over the past few years and continues to draw the finest applicants in the country. Our residents achieve outstanding clinical skills during their residency, have highly productive research experiences, and are sought after for the best fellowships and academic positions in the country. Our recent graduates have taken academic positions at some of the most prestigious academic plastic surgery programs. This is a testimony to the quality of our program, the supportive role of our faculty, and the environment that we have created to nurture and support the next great leaders of our specialty. Our residents are the future of our specialty and I must say, our future is in great hands. We have trained the best and the brightest and for that we are thankful. They will become our future Dingman Society Members and make us proud.

Our faculty continue to help guide our specialty forward through their leadership of our most prestigious national societies including being President of the Plastic Surgery Foundation, American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Association of Plastic Surgeons, Plastic Surgery Research Council, American Society for Peripheral Nerve, and Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons. It is humbling to see all of the great things that our faculty accomplish every day!

It has truly been an honor serving as the Chief of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan over the past 5 years. We have an incredible group of highly successful individuals who have come together to create a tight knit family. We support each other, help each other, and encourage each other to make a difference in the lives of our patients and in the future of our specialty. Please enjoy reading about all of the successes of your program in the newsletter.

Go Blue!!

Paul Cederna, MD  
Section Chief, Plastic Surgery



Under the direction and leadership of our Clinic Manager, Scherlyna Comer, it has been another exemplary year for our adult outpatient clinic at Domino's Farms. A huge thank you goes to our entire staff for continuing to provide excellent care to our patients – we saw 25,975 separate patient visits this year. Our delivery of meticulous care and compassion were recognized by our patients and our Ambulatory Care administration through receipt of another Patient Satisfaction Award, with an overall score of 93.5. This was especially meaningful, as our staff worked hard to provide seamless care during a “face-lift” of new flooring, etc. that was installed. Further renovations are planned, including finishing out an additional clinical workroom to house our ever-growing complement of 31 staff members. We are proud to have several other groups working with us, including PM&R and OT, and will soon be incorporating the Comprehensive Gender Services Program into our team. Minimally Invasive Surgery recently left our facility, having obtained combined space for their team members in the Taubman Clinics. This allowed them to consolidate care that was spread across multiple sites.

Fortunately, staff turnover has been minimal, but we bid a sad farewell to a few wonderful employees this year:

- De-Hong Tang, Physician Assistant, retired after a long and illustrious career with Plastic Surgery. He will be greatly missed. He donated a beautiful self-painted artwork that will hang on the clinic wall to remember him by.
- Moné Wilson, Patient Services Assistant, is now a Residential Specialist for Keller Williams in Novi.
- Jan Doolittle, Nurse Manager, was promoted to Associate Director of Nursing, UMH.

We are thrilled to welcome several new members to our team:

- Amanda Berry: EMU Internship
- Sharyn Eby, RN: Nurse Manager
- Kristen Gittins, PA: Physician Assistant
- Reta Kazlauskas, RN: Nurse
- Caitlin Notario: Patient Services Assistant
- Cyrena Salomonson: Patient Services Assistant

Welcome to our plastic surgery family!



Scherlyna Comer, Ambulatory Care Manager Associate



## BREAST CANCER SUMMIT 2017

Every spring, the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Breast Oncology and Community Outreach Program hosts the Breast Cancer Summit, with support from the U-M Breast Cancer Advocate Advisory Committee, U-M School of Public Health. The summit aims to provide breast cancer survivors, caregivers, and members of the general public information on cancer screening, treatment, research, survivorship, advocacy, genetic risk, and prevention. Members of our plastic surgery team participating this year were, Melody Penrod, RN, Kimberly Campbell, RN, and panelist Theodore Kung, MD.

## MAGNET RECOGNIZED

On February 17, 2017, Michigan Medicine earned Magnet recognition, the highest honor in nursing. Only 7 percent of U.S. hospitals earn the coveted honor given to organizations that meet rigorous standards for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practices. Magnet hospital report better nurse retention, safety and job satisfaction.



David Brown MD  
Clinical Director, ACU

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

This year, the Domino's clinic physician assistants had a busy year. We now have five full-time PA's to cover the total range of Plastics patients – supporting the patients both in the surgeon clinics and in PA clinics every week. In addition to our clinical duties, we precept physician assistant students who request a rotation with Plastics from five of the PA programs in Michigan. Tonyia Seeland, Amy Holland and Kristen Gittins have lectured to the Eastern Michigan PA program students as part of the student didactic year.

A little over a year ago, Tonyia Seeland applied to the Patient Safety and Quality Leadership (PASQUAL) Scholars Program in which she was selected to attend. This program is designed for medical faculty and staff who wish to become clinical leaders in quality and patient safety within Michigan Medicine.

The PASQUAL Scholars program offers:



- An academic and applied foundation in principles and methods for improving the quality and safety of patient care.
- Enhanced skills in quality and safety leadership, teaching and scholarship.
- The opportunity to develop a hands-on project to practice safety and quality techniques.

Tonyia has been interfacing these skills to benefit the plastic surgery clinic and staff while developing the LEAN program to improve patient safety and quality.

Karin McLeod and her husband, Ryan welcomed their first child, Nolan McLeod on January 2, 2017.

Lastly, we say goodbye to DeHong Tang as he retires after 23 years of service in the Section of Plastic Surgery. He began his career in medicine in China as a barefoot doctor before entering medical school. He specialized in general surgery and biliary surgery. In the 1980's, he came to the United States to study liver transplant and artificial liver technology. In 1989, he decided to remain in the United States, and eventually was able to have his wife and son join him here. He chose to attend the Physician Assistant program at University of Detroit Mercy and graduated in 1994. That is the year he joined our plastic surgery team. He worked in the operating room with many of our attending surgeons, and he finished his career in the clinic specializing in minor procedures. Outside of his surgical talents, he is an artist, a musician and dedicated grandpa! We wish you the best in your retirement DeHong!



The Pediatric Plastic Surgery Clinic occupies a clinic area of 8,104 sq. ft., which it shares with neurosurgery, oral surgery, and pediatric dentistry. We have fourteen staff members who work for pediatric plastic surgery in addition to two pediatric nurse practitioners. Between Dr. Buchman, Dr. Kasten, and Dr. Vercler, we had 3,503 visits last year and our NPs, Carolyn Walborn and Bethany Lechtanski, had another 901 visits independently. Our NPs play a vital role in the care we provide to our pediatric plastic surgery patients. Carolyn and Bethany, along with our orthodontist, started providing naso-alveolar-molding to our cleft lip patients, which should allow us to achieve better outcomes. They also continue to see newborns and provide ear-molding techniques. Dr. Vercler and Dr. Kasten also see patients with congenital melanocytic nevi, as well as the full spectrum of vascular anomalies. Bethany Lechtanski, NP is now the coordinator of our multi-disciplinary Vascular Anomalies Conference, which provides a comprehensive review of patients with challenging cases of venous malformations, arteriovenous malformations, lymphatic malformations, and hemangiomas.



Left to right; Steven J. Kasten, M.D., Steven R. Buchman, M.D., Christian J. Vercler, M.D., M.A.

## Craniofacial Anomalies Program

The Craniofacial Anomalies Program & Cleft Palate Program at the University of Michigan is one of the largest programs in the country. Our multidisciplinary program offers a team of specialists working together to ensure the physical health, growth and development of the children we serve.

The craniofacial team includes forty-seven members in twenty-two medical and dental specialties, all with renowned expertise and vast experience in the care of children with cleft lip, cleft palate and complex craniofacial anomalies. Many disciplines along with plastic surgery are involved in treating the children in our program. Such disciplines include Neurosurgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Psychology, Orthodontics, Otolaryngology, Speech/Language Pathology, Social Work, Genetics, Nutrition, and Pediatrics.

We serve patients of any age with cleft lip, cleft palate, jaw or craniofacial malformations including craniosynostosis. The patients are seen both as a team each week and individually according to the patient's needs. Three hundred and ten new patient visits and 1,334 total patient visits were attributed to the Craniofacial Program over the last year. The

Craniofacial Anomalies Program generates well over 250 surgical cases per year for our three pediatric plastic surgeons and many more are cared for at the children's hospital by our affiliated specialists.



Taken during Glamour Day 2017



Steven R. Buchman, MD  
Director, Craniofacial Anomalies Program

**Our Craniofacial Program is extremely active both within the medical center and with an extensive portfolio of community outreach. Some of the exciting special programs we have featured include:**

### Glamour Day

When the Craniofacial Anomalies Program at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital dreamed up Glamour Day, they knew the annual event could be about a lot more than hair and make-up. The thought was to allow some of the female children that we treat to get glammed up and pampered. Girls ranging from age 9 to 19 attend the event, and families drive from cities as far as Traverse City, Michigan. The girls are able to get a hairstyle, manicure, pedicure and makeup application, along with a glamour photo and lunch sponsored by generous donors and local businesses. The Aveda Salon and their students also charitably donate their time and efforts each year for this great event. Parents of the girls receive chair massages and hand and arm massages while the girls had their hair, makeup and nails done. Glamour Day allows these children to feel special and to feel good about themselves. The yearly occasion allows our "Little Victors" to have an awesome day.



### Craniofacial Acceptance Month & Awareness Picnic



Natalie Wombacher, our speech pathologist, with the help of Drs. Buchman, Kasten, and Vercler, was successful in securing September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month as signed by Gov. Snyder. The State of Michigan joined several other states in celebrating and recognizing patients and families with craniofacial differences. During the team evaluations in the month of September the patients posed for pictures with the surgeons, participated in a pizza party, and a craft. The Craniofacial Anomalies Program capped off the month of September by hosting a picnic for our families.



### 2017 Craniofacial Anomalies Program Boys' Baseball Event

The Craniofacial Anomalies Program partnered with the University of Michigan baseball team in order to host an outing for patients and their families. The day was made all the more special when the patients and their families were able to watch Jackson Lamb strike out three Ohio State players. Jackson is a former patient of Dr. Buchman's who was recruited to the University of Michigan as a pitcher. Jackson was a pivotal component to the event this year as he helped to insure that the boys had an opportunity to run the bases and get the autographs of the players. This event is hosted in order to allow our patients to have interactions with each other as well as their surgeons away from the clinical setting. Additionally, Jackson serves as positive role model in that having a cleft lip and palate does not prevent you from dreaming big and achieving your goals!





Drs. Kelley and Brown with the Ukrainian staff.

For a second year, Dr. David Brown and a chief resident – this year, Brian Kelley - traveled to Lviv, Ukraine to perform pediatric burn reconstruction. Lviv is a vibrant city on the Western edge of Ukraine, 40 miles from Poland. The medical infrastructure of the country is such that many burns get rudimentary acute treatment, but the long-term effects of the burns on physical limitations and appearance go untreated. The mission group is led by an anesthesiologist from Shriners' Hospital in Boston, and includes two other plastic surgeons, a nurse, and a CRNA from Boston, and an anesthesiologist from Washington University in St. Louis. Three residents, from U of M, Harvard, and Lahey Clinic complete the group. We travelled to the western part of this war-torn country to treat children with burn injuries. Assisted by local surgeons, nurses and staff, the group performed over 50 operations in the week-long trip. Burn scars were the primary focus, with improvements made in scar contractures of the neck, arms, legs and hands resulting in better functional abilities. Facial scar revisions improved mouth openings and the appearance of facial features, including ears. Burned scalps were treated to remove the portion of hairless skin to improve appearances. Approximately fifteen Ukrainian surgeons travelled to Lviv from all over the country, to work together with the American team, and to learn new techniques. The next trip is scheduled for September of this year.

David Brown, MD

Although a relatively new area of interest within academia, the study of global surgery represents a critical extension of research that consistently garners attention from students, residents, and faculty alike. For many years, surgery was known as the “neglected step child of global health,” and global surgery the “neglected stepchild of academic surgery.” Although there were many reasons for this designation in the past, we are now transitioning into an era in which surgical disease processes are now one of the most common, preventable, and growing contributors to the global burden of disease. As such, the adoption of global surgery research initiatives into academic institutions not only represents a novel, futuristic approach to research, but also functions as mandatory investment into the globalized world in which we live today.

In recognition of the University of Michigan's commitment to global health, multiple collaborations have been established by Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. One of the newest relationships that has been established is the AIIMS-Michigan Collaborative. As part of this collaboration, there has been a continuous, bidirectional exchange of information in the form of residents, faculty, and research in plastic surgery over the past year. With strong support from our section, I had the opportunity to go to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) through a collaboration begun by Dr. Krishnan Raghavendran. As part of this experience, I was exposed to an environment so similar yet also incredibly different from that which we experience at the University of Michigan every day. On one hand, technology at AIIMS in the form of advanced CT scanners, Da Vinci robots, and microscopes is as readily and instantaneously available as it is in Michigan. On the other hand, however, thousands of patients stand in line every day to receive free treatment, a cleft lip surgery costs one-tenth of what it does at our institution, and emergency plastic surgery cases in the form of extremity trauma are the overwhelming focus of plastic surgery in this setting. While we rarely get the opportunity to perform full extremity replants in the US because of effective regulations instituted to prevent motor vehicle accidents, such operations are performed at AIIMS on a weekly basis. Patients with brachial plexus injuries overflow into the hallways, congenital anomalies are anything but rare, and breast cancer occurs ten years younger in Indian women compared to what we see in the US. The bidirectional nature of information sharing cannot be underestimated in such settings; while we oftentimes perceive global health as altruistic and philanthropic- a practice dedicated to the enlightenment of those “less fortunate” than us, we must curb such reflexes, and instead recognize that global surgery is actually the study of sustainability, a concept that is important in both the East and West alike.

For residents, the opportunity to visit AIIMS increases exposure and training in various surgical disease processes that are rare in the US, but that require complex operative interventions. Additionally, the challenge of operating in resource rich and poor environments to stimulate resourceful thinking and enhance exposure to a diverse range of cultural experiences are important facets of a comprehensive residency education. For faculty, this collaboration has already resulted in the development of multiple research projects. Dr. Wilkins and Dr. Momoh currently serve as faculty mentors in a prospective cohort study designed to evaluate the utility of using breast reconstruction as a method of reducing stigma among patients with breast masses to encourage earlier presentation, and ideally decrease mortality from breast cancer.

It is imperative to understand that international collaboratives across the world require time, patience, personal friendships and mutual trust. At the University of Michigan, however, we have embraced this challenge by recognizing that the maintenance and development of such unique, diverse collaborations allows both faculty and trainees to mold such experiences into life long career achievements. While the discomfort of landing in a foreign country can be unnerving and seemingly impossible at times, we must not forget that ultimately, those who stay will be champions.

Kavitha Ranganathan, MD

This year marks my 19th medical mission to South America and my 18th to Cartagena, Colombia. On all but one mission I have hosted a University of Michigan plastic surgery resident. This past February 8-18, I had the pleasure of hosting Dr Ian Sando, our current administrative chief resident. Our mission is sponsored by Healing the Children, Northeast, a non-profit NGO that provides logistical support for about 12 missions a year. All missions serve a pediatric population. As is our custom, we arrived in Cartagena on a Wednesday afternoon and after another unusually easy (knock on wood) interaction with Colombian Customs our hosts, the Rotary Club of Cartagena, provided bus transportation to our hotel. The next day we screened approximately 130 children, all pre-screened by our plastic surgery and pediatric colleagues in Colombia. We are able to accommodate about 60 surgical cases and choose these patients very carefully. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to deny any of these children the opportunity for a better life. I have learned over the years, however, that accepting an impossible case load ends up being detrimental to successful mission outcome. Our case load centers around the treatment of cleft lip and palate, however we also see children with congenital hand anomalies, burn deformities and other congenital, traumatic and disease related deformities. We operate at the Napoléon Franco Hospital for Children where we are given the use of a single operating room in which we place two operating tables. This year's team consisted of 20 members including two senior surgeons, two resident plastic surgeons, two pediatric fellowship trained anesthesiologists, a pediatric anesthesia fellow, a chief anesthesia fellow, a pediatric CRNA, three OR scrub techs, two OR nurses, one critical care pediatrician and one senior critical care pediatric fellow, one PICU NP, one pediatric recovery room nurse and an administrator from Healing The Children. The team members are split between the University of Michigan and Harvard University. My fellow “senior surgeon” is Dr. Jay Austen, the Chief of Plastic Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital. I had hosted Dr Austen on my second mission as Team Leader when he was a resident. We operate for six days leaving the hotel at 7 am and usually returning around 7-8 pm. I have arranged the schedule so that we operate for three days, take one day off and then operate for another three days. This allows the team to rejuvenate on the day off and helps to avoid team “burn out”. In this manner we were able to complete 61 surgeries this year. This year brought us to a landmark as our total of treated patients is now over 1000. I am committed to continue this experience for our residents in the years to come. As a section, we are committed to provide a global medical experience for all our residents. I am actively working with our hosts in Colombia to solidify the dates for our next mission in February of 2018.

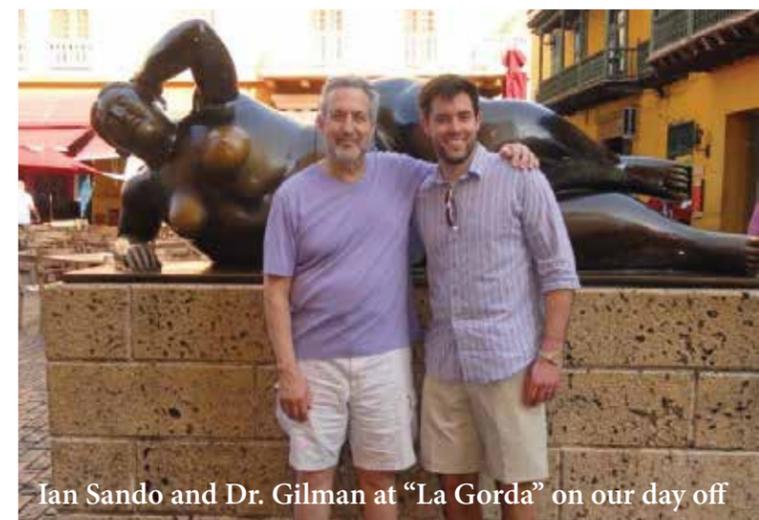
Robert H Gilman, MD, DMD



Lviv, Ukraine



Ian Sando and chief resident from Harvard, Harry Salinas.



Ian Sando and Dr. Gilman at “La Gorda” on our day off



Dr. Gilman's team in Cartagena, Colombia



**Medical Student Activity Fair**  
Left to right: Taylor Novice, Jeffery Kozlow, MD, Jeannie Kochkodan.

It has been another exciting and successful year for our medical student related activities. To start off, Shawn Loder was our lone M4 applicant into plastic surgery this year. Shawn has been a hardworking member in Ben Levi's lab for the past two years where he had over 30 publications from his work. Combined with his excellent clinical work on our service, we are all extremely excited about his potential to become an outstanding plastic surgeon. Shawn ended up matching at his top choice, the University of Pittsburgh, where we know he will continue to develop as a future academic superstar. We have now successfully matched all eleven University of Michigan medical students applying in plastic surgery over the past four years. Looking forward, we are excited to have at least five more M4 students applying in plastic surgery this fall. Despite the competitiveness of the match, we anticipate all

of them being extremely competitive in the match based on their clinical and academic records.

Our visiting student Sub-I rotation continues to be filled on a competitive basis. Again this year, we have approximately double the number of applicants as we do available spots. These are all great applicants allowing us to have some the brightest and best students rotate with us at the University of Michigan. All four of our interns next year were visiting student Sub-I rotators last fall. This increased exposure between us and the applicants continues to allow for long-term "matches" that work out well.

For the more junior medical students, plastic surgery has now become an official rotation as part of the surgery clerkship. With surgery clerkship reduced to only six weeks in length (due to a transition in the curriculum), M3 students were no longer going to be able to spend one week "exploring" plastic surgery. However, due to the high quality educational experience of previous students on our service combined with the relevance that our

specialty as to "surgery-in-general", we then became an official three-week rotation for some of the students. Starting with two students per session, this has already been expanded to three students per session based on feedback to the clerkship leadership. It is awesome to see the response of these M3 students when they make their first incision or grasp the concept of the reconstructive ladder. Our clerkship continues to be highly regarded and one of the highest rated rotations among the students. The success of this rotation is due in large part to our amazing resident educators. We had six of our residents, (Ian Sando, Tiffany Ballard, Jessica Billig, Nick Berlin, Russell Ettinger, Shailesh Agarwal) were all nominated for the Coran Teaching Award given within the general surgery clerkship. Paul Cederna was also nominated for this award as a faculty member. Finally, Jeff Kozlow was awarded the Silver Scalpel teaching award for the best Surgery Clerkship Facilitator as voted on by the medical students.

We also continue to have a significant role with the more junior medical student. Our Plastic Surgery Interest Group continues to thrive while exposing M1 and M2 students to our specialty. We estimate over 100 papers over the last couple of years have been co-authored with medical students by faculty and residents in our section and we are often seen as a "go to" place for students who are interested in getting involved in academic surgery. Every plastic surgery meeting now has our students on the podium presenting all of their hard work and winning multiple awards. Overall, we continue to expand our role in medical student education and solidifying a pipeline for future academic leaders.



**Jeffrey H. Kozlow, MD, MS**  
Medical Student Program Director



**Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons Meeting**  
Left to right: Nicholas Berlin, MD, Kate Polyatskaya, MD, Daniel Lyons, MD, Russell Ettinger, MD, Linze and Ryder Ettinger, Katelyn Bennett, MD.

Our residency program is stronger than ever and continues to evolve as our section grows. To supplement increases in clinical volume, we have expanded the residency program by increasing the number of residents in each graduating class from three to four. Currently, there are twelve clinically active residents, but by July of 2017 we will have the full complement of twenty-four clinical residents. Our training program continues to attract the best and brightest applicants through the Plastic Surgery Residency Match. This year, we are excited to welcome our new interns, Drs. Sarah Hart, Nishant Kumar, Geoffrey Hespe, and Amy Strong and our PGY-4 independent resident Dr. Calvin Young to the Michigan Plastic Surgery family.

Despite high clinical demands, residents remain active in research. Residents not only perform high quality research during their clinical rotations, but they also have the opportunity to spend dedicated time after their fourth post-graduate year for academic

development. This time is protected from clinical activity and allows residents to focus on basic science or clinical outcomes research to learn how to become productive academic surgeons. Historically, our residents have excelled in the laboratory, with multiple publications and national presentations. Just this past year, our residents have authored fifty-three peer-reviewed publications, given twenty-three national or international presentations, and written twenty-eight book chapters. In addition, residents are routinely successful when competing for grants. As an example, they were awarded over \$322,000 in extramural funding for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The academic success of our residents has culminated in multiple awards, which is a testament to the quality of research that our section performs.



**Adeyiza O. Momoh, MD**  
Program Director, Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program



A good measure of a program's success is its graduates. Graduates from the University of Michigan have been successful in obtaining their first choices in fellowships at leading institutions, academic positions and private practice positions. Our graduates practice from coast to coast and are seen presenting at national meetings and sitting in prominent positions within our national organizations. Not surprisingly, a certificate in plastic surgery from the University of Michigan is recognized as a significant achievement that can open many doors. The faculty at the University of Michigan is committed to placing our graduates in positions of leadership and opportunity. On the right is a list of our most recent graduates and their positions since graduating from residency.

At the University of Michigan, residents are exposed to the full breadth of plastic surgery, including complex reconstructive surgery, cosmetic surgery, gender affirmation surgery, hand surgery, and craniofacial surgery. Our microsurgical experience continues to expand thanks to efforts by Dr. Tiffany Ballard and Dr. David Stepien, who helped established our new microsurgical laboratory and microsurgery curriculum with funding from the Plastic Surgery Foundation/American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons. In addition, our section has hosted visiting professors and distinguished alumni whose time in Ann Arbor provides an invaluable educational experience and networking opportunity for residents. Just this past year, residents have had the opportunity to spend time with such leaders as Drs. Gordon Lee, Alison Snyder-Warwick, Brent Graham, and Dr. Julian Pribaz. Although residents remain clinically busy, they find time for family, friends, and life outside the hospital. There has been much to celebrate this past year, including new additions to the growing number of Plastic Surgery babies (Dr. Ian Sando: Eli, and Dr. Tiffany Ballard: Sri Lakshmi Grace). We look forward to what next year will bring!



## Congratulations Graduating Residents



Tiffany Ballard, MD



Brian Kelley, MD



Ian Sando, MD

## Resident Awards

### Dr. Ian Sando

*Top Paper Presentation Award, American Society for Plastic Surgery 2016 Annual Meeting*

### Dr. Dhivya Srinivasa

*Best Clinical Presentation & Overall Presentation Award*

*Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons 2016 Meeting*

### Dr. Russell E. Ettinger

*Best Scientific Presentation Award, Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons 2016 Meeting*

### Dr. Kavitha Ranganathan

*Young Investigator Award, Moses Gunn Research Conference 2017 Annual Meeting*

*Top Abstract, American Society of Bone and Mineral Research, Osteoblast, Matrix Proteins, and Function Category*

*Young Investigator Award, American Society of Bone and Mineral Research*



## Positions Since Graduating

### 2016 Graduates

#### *Katherine Gast, MD*

Microsurgery/Gender Fellowship University Ziekenhuis Ghent, Belgium  
Starting on faculty at University of Wisconsin

#### *Aviram Giladi, MD*

Hand Surgery Fellowship, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Starting on faculty at Curtis Hand Center, Baltimore

#### *Shoshana Woo, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
On Faculty, Henry Ford Allegiance Health, Jackson

### 2015 Graduates

#### *Seyi Aliu, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, Albany Medical Center  
On faculty at Johns Hopkins University

#### *Matthew Chetta, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, Stanford University  
On faculty at Beaumont Health System

#### *Theodore Kung, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, University of Washington  
On faculty at the University of Michigan

### 2014 Graduates

#### *Frank Fang, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, Chang-Gung Memorial, Taiwan  
On faculty at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, NY

#### *Erika Davis Sears, MD, MS*

Hand/Wrist Surgery Fellowship, University of Michigan  
On faculty at the University of Michigan

### 2013 Graduates

#### *Rafael Diaz-Garcia, MD*

Hand/Wrist Surgery Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh  
On faculty at Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA

#### *Benjamin Levi, MD*

Burn and Critical Care Fellowship, Harvard University  
On faculty at the University of Michigan

#### *Christopher Pannucci, MD*

Microsurgery Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania  
On faculty at the University of Utah



## Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship

The Craniofacial Fellowship in the Section of Plastic Surgery is one of only ten ACGME accredited programs in the country. It is a highly sought after program because of the significant depth and breadth of the training. The fellows receive one-on-one instruction of some of the most complex cases in craniofacial surgery such as monobloc advancements, frontal orbital advancements and total cranial vault reshaping, distraction osteogenesis, and facial trauma. The program is also one of only a handful in the nation to have a significant opportunity to learn orthognathic surgery. We are now training our sixth fellow since the fellowship was established.

### Current And Prior Fellows



**John Mesa, MD**

Is in a busy practice in New Jersey and New York and is the Editor in Chief of a comprehensive operative atlas of craniofacial surgery jointly being produced by the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons (ASMS) and the American Society of Craniofacial Surgery (ASCFS).



**Christian Vercler, MD, MA**

Joined us at the University of Michigan as faculty upon completion of his fellowship. Christian is an important part of our pediatric and craniofacial program at CS Mott Hospital actively publishing and teaching. His particular area of academic interest is medical ethics. Currently co-chair of both the pediatric and adult ethics committees and is the co-director of the Clinical Ethics Program as a part of the medical schools Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine.



**Antonio Rampazzo, MD, PhD**

Joined the faculty at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic upon the completion of his fellowship as an Assistant Professor. He serves currently as the Co-Director of the Cleft Lip-Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies Program. He has a busy practice with an active interest in pediatric plastic surgery as well as adult craniomaxillofacial and orthognathic surgery.



**Yuan Liu, MD**

Joined the Southern Plastic Surgery consortium of the Kaiser Permanente group upon completing his fellowship. He is a member of the craniofacial service and participates as part of the Kaiser Southern California cleft lip and palate team.



**Todd Thurston, MS, MD**

Is now the Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at the Chattanooga Children's Hospital after joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. He is busy building out and expanding both the programs in cleft lip and palate as well as craniofacial surgery in the regions only children's hospital. With all that on his plate he is also active in writing up the many projects he embarked on as a craniofacial fellow last year at the University of Michigan



**Fan Liang, MD**

Our current fellow who came to us after completing her Plastic Surgery residency at the University of Southern California and medical school in the Health Sciences and Technology (HST) program at Harvard Medical School. Fan has been the national fellow/resident representative for the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgery (ASMS) for the past two years, and has numerous active research interests. This past year, she mentored six participants from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities program and had her work presented at the ASCFS meeting in Maui, Hawaii. She is enthusiastic to begin her academic career pursuing a mix of pediatric and adult craniofacial surgery.



**Samer Haber, MD** is next year's Fellow. He trained on Paris Swith Eric Arnaud and plans on expanding some of what he learns at Michigan on a global scale. We are looking forward to welcoming him to Ann Arbor!

**Steven R. Buchman, MD**  
Chief, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, CS Mott Children's Hospital

## Hand Surgery Fellowship

### Current And Prior Fellows



**Nathan S. Taylor, MD**  
Advanced Center for Orthopedics



**Jennifer F. Waljee, MD, MPH, MS**  
University of Michigan, Section of Plastic Surgery



**Kate W. Nellans, MD, MPH**  
Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery



**Joshua M. Adkinson, MD**  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



**Erika Davis Sears, MD, MS**  
University of Michigan, Section of Plastic Surgery



**Matthew S. Brown, MD**  
Midland Plastic Surgery Center Midland, TX



**Brett Michelotti, MD**  
University of Wisconsin



**Kate Elzinga, MD, FRCSC**  
University of Manitoba



**Paymon Rahgozar, MD**  
University of California, San Francisco

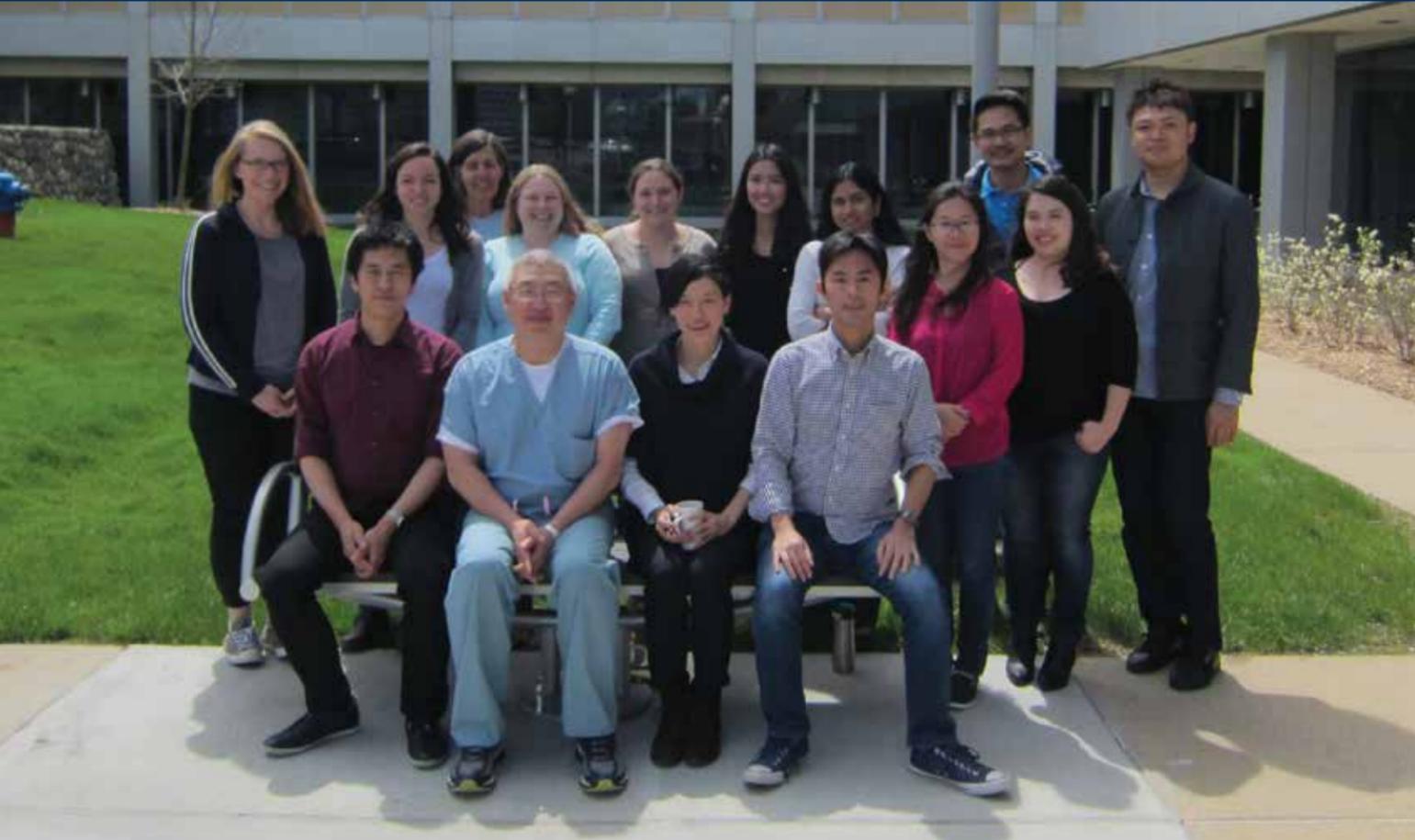
Next year's Fellows are Brian Kelley and Xuan (Elizabeth) Qiu. Brian joins us from the University of Michigan and Elizabeth joins us from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

The University of Michigan Hand Surgery Fellowship was established in 2010 as the only Hand Fellowship in the State of Michigan, and it remains the sole program in our state today. This one-year fellowship provides comprehensive clinical and research training in hand surgery for two trainees per year. Our fellowship has rapidly become recognized as a very competitive program, and the candidates coming to interview are increasingly accomplished. After filling outside the match for the first couple years, we have recruited excellent candidates through the match for the past three cycles. In general, hand surgery training is also becoming more competitive, as the number of applicants exceeds the spaces available for training every year. (In 2013, 25% of hand surgery fellowship applicants went unmatched.)

In 2010, our teaching faculty was comprised of three plastic surgeons, only two of which were fellowship-trained hand surgeons. In the past three years, there have been drastic changes to the hand surgery faculty at Michigan, such that we now have five fellowship-trained hand surgeons participating as core faculty for our program. The new faculty is composed of one plastic surgeon, as well as three orthopaedic surgeons. Despite our different training backgrounds, and our situation in two different departments, we have joined together as a cohesive faculty in hand surgery, making this fellowship truly a unique training experience for the participants. Importantly, recruitment of an additional hand surgeons is planned for 2017.



**Kevin C. Chung, MD, MS**  
Chief of Hand Surgery, University of Michigan Health System



## M-CHOIR STAFF

Back: Helen Huettelman, Meghan Lark, Pat Burns, Melissa Shauver, Rena Steiger, Catherine Lu, Sunitha Malay, Kate Chang, Sirichai Kamnerdnakta, Jen Sterbenz, Hidemasa Yoneda Front: Yuki Fujihara, Dr. Chung, Nasa Fujihara, Taichi Saito.

## M-CHOIR

### Michigan Center for Hand Outcomes & Innovation Research

This year, as always, you will see changes to the MCHOIR team. We will be bidding farewell to Dr. Peir Johnson who has been a research fellow with us the last two years. Dr. Johnson will be a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Dr. Michael Nolte worked with our team throughout his UMMS tenure. He matched with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Meghan Lark has been a research assistant with us for two years. This fall she will be an M1 at the University of Toledo College of Medicine. International Fellows Drs. Nasa Fujihara, Yuki Fujihara, and Michiro Yamamoto will be returning to Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine in Nagoya, Japan. Nasa and Yuki will be bringing back a special souvenir from Ann Arbor – they are expecting their second baby – a girl named Yui – in June. Dr. Taichi Saito will also be finishing his fellowship this spring and returning to Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

At MCHOIR goodbye means new team members to welcome. Jacob Nasser, who has been volunteering in our lab for the last year will be joining as a research assistant this summer. We will also welcome Dr. Hidemasa Yoneda from Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine and Drs. Brian Kelley and Xuan (Elizabeth) Qiu as our hand fellows.

As a group we published forty-one articles in eleven different journals. Dr. Erika Sears was presented with J. Leonard Goldner Pioneer Research Award at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. The award is presented to the highest ranking research grant application submitted in the previous year. Projects must be highly innovative and present far-reaching impact.



Dr. Kevin Chung and then hand fellow Dr. Matt Brown traveled to Vietnam in July 2016 to demonstrate advanced hand surgery operative techniques and forge new research collaborative bonds. Matt described the experience as “amazing” and now plans to add international aid work to his new practice in Midland, TX. Fellowship alum Dr. Brett Michelotti traveled to New Delhi as part of the new hand surgery collaboration between UM and Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy of Ganga Hospital to perform complex upper extremity reconstructive procedures in urban India.

Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network (M-OPEN)



October 1st marked the beginning of a multi-specialty collaboration at UM to address the overwhelming opioid crisis in our country and in southeast Michigan specifically. Led by Drs. Jennifer Waljee, Chad Brummett, and Michael Englesbe and based at the University of Michigan Medical School and Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, this initiative is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. M-OPEN will collect data toward the goal of implementing evidence-based strategies to ensure safe opioid use. In addition to research, M-OPEN sponsors community projects, such as safe medication disposal events. Visit the IHPI website for more information and numerous take back locations and events. [www.ihpi.umich.edu](http://www.ihpi.umich.edu)

## Faculty

Kevin Chung, MD, MS; Charles B.G. de Nancrede Professor of Surgery  
Erika Davis Sears, MD, MS; Assistant Professor  
Jennifer Waljee, MD, MPH, MS; Assistant Professor

## Hand Fellows

Kate Elzinga, MD; Paymon Ranhgozar, MD

## Research Fellows

Peir Johnson, MBBS (St. Joseph Mercy Hospital; Ann Arbor, MI)  
Chelsea A. Harris, MD (University of Maryland Medical Center; Baltimore, MD)

## International Research Fellows

Nasa Fujihara, MD (Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine; Nagoya, Japan); Yuki Fujihara, MD, PhD (Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine; Nagoya, Japan); Sirichai Kamnerdnakta, MD, FRCST (Mahidol University; Bangkok, Thailand); Taichi Saito, MD, PhD (Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Okayama, Japan)

## Research Analysts

Kate Chang, MS; Ting-Ting Chung, MS; Lin Zhong, MD, MS

## Research Coordinators

Pat Burns, MPH; Sandra Kotsis, MPH; Catherine Lu, MPH;  
Sunitha Malay, MPH; Melissa Shauver, MPH; Rena Steiger, MPH

## Research Assistants

Michaela Baker, BA; Helen Huettelman, BS; Meghan Lark, BS;  
Caitlyn Priest, BS; Jennifer Sterbenz, BS

## UMMS Students

Michael Nolte, BS (M4); Shaina Sekhri, BS (M2); Peter Swiatek, BA (M3)

## UM Students

Sharon Kim; Jacob Nasser; Anne Patterson; Kylie Schafer; Alexander Schwartz; Shannon Wood; Vivian Yim



**MOSES GUNN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**  
Craniofacial Research Laboratory Staff

## Basic Science & Outcomes Laboratories

This past year was another tremendous year for the basic science and outcomes research laboratories in the Section of Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan. The basic science laboratories continue to grow both in personnel and in funding due to the success of the hard working residents, students and staff.



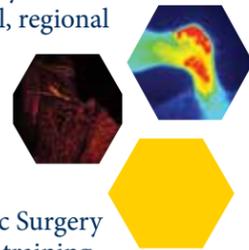
Kavitha Ranganathan has worked across both the Craniofacial Research Laboratory and the Burn Wound Regeneration Medicine Laboratories continuing her wonderful efforts under the auspices of her prestigious NIH-F32 Award, which is the highest

award given by the NIH to trainees at her level. Her work has now been presented at the American Association of Plastic Surgery, The American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association and the Plastic Surgery Research Council. She is finishing up her research training with a number of high impact papers being prepared for prestigious journals. Finally, she was awarded the University of Michigan Moses Gunn Young Investigator Award as the best research trainee this year. She has done an outstanding job and the future for her as an academic surgeon is extremely bright.

The Craniofacial Research Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Steven Buchman, has been very productive working on understanding bone healing and regeneration in the context of craniofacial surgery. The lab currently has one part time high school student, 19 part time undergraduates, one full time plastic surgery resident lab fellow, one full time general surgery lab fellow, four part time medical students, a full

time master's student and one of our long time surgical resident fellows that recently became a research investigator on faculty. The lab has been successful at winning grants from the NIH as well as outside philanthropies which help immensely to underwrite some of the creative research being performed. The lab currently has an NIH R01, faculty status on two NIH P30's, an NIH Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research and recently Dr. Buchman was awarded salary support on an NIH U24 Consortium grant consisting of the "Michigan-Pittsburgh-Harvard Wyss Resource Center: Supporting Regenerative Technologies in Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Technologies". In addition the lab has won a PSF National Endowment for Plastic Surgery Grant and two Research Grants from the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons. Some exciting new technological advances have been developed in the lab resulting in the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent as well as a grant from the U-M Michigan Translation and Commercialization for Life Sciences Program (U-M MTRAC) & Fast Forward Medical Innovation Program. Work from the laboratory resulted in a young investigator award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (Kavitha Ranganathan), an Excellence in Research Award from the Owen H Wangesteen Scientific forum at the American college of Surgeons (Alicia Snider) and the Young Investigator Award from the University of Michigan Department of Surgery (Kavitha Ranganathan). Finally, the work in the laboratory resulted in 46 presentations at local, regional and national meetings and 21 peer reviewed publications in scientific journals over the last year.

The Section of Plastic Surgery was Awarded a T-32 training grant under the direction of Steven



Buchman (PI) and Kevin Chung (Co-PI) entitled: "Surgical Scientist Training Grant in Health Services and Translational Research" It is the only such grant awarded to a plastic surgery academic program in the country. The grant trains both a surgical basic scientist and an outcomes scientist to become physician scientist in Translational Research and Health Services respectively. The former emphasizes translating scientific discoveries from the research bench to the patient's bedside, whereas the latter centers on determining the efficacy of therapeutic interventions to improve clinical outcomes. Alicia Snider MD, a general surgeon from the University of South Carolina, will be completing her basic/translational outcomes training June 30th. She has been working in Dr. Buchman's laboratory and recently won an Excellence in Research Award from the Owen H Wangesteen Scientific forum at the American college of Surgeons. Carrie Kubiak MD, Plastic Surgery resident in the University of Michigan program was awarded the training grant position for the next two years and will be working in Dr. Cederna's lab. Chelsea Harris MD, a general surgeon from the University of Maryland, is finishing her first year of the outcomes side of the training grant: in Dr. Chung's research group.

The Neuromuscular Laboratory under the direction of Stephen Kemp, Ph.D and Paul Cederna, MD had a highly successful and productive year. The core program of the NML continues to revolve around the use of regenerative peripheral nerve interfaces (RPNIs) for both enhancing functional control of prosthetic devices, and for relief of painful neuromas. Secondary research interests of the lab include utilizing fat grafting to enhance regeneration following nerve injury, using biological nerve cuffs to power exoskeletons, and the effect of GABAergic drugs on depression following chronic nerve injury. In January, two out of the three



awarded joint outstanding papers for the annual ASPN/ASRM/AAHS conference in Hawaii were won by Dr. Kemp and Ali VanBelkum (SBRP student in the lab). These awards are highly prestigious within the three respective societies. Several high quality papers were published by the lab in both top rated plastic surgery and neural engineering journals. Both an IDE and several patents were filed during the past year based on the innovative work performed by the NML research team and collaborators from Biomedical Engineering Mechanical Engineering, Material Science, Neurosurgery, and Physiology. The NML team was part of a successful application to the Taubman Scholars program investigating the use of RPNIs on prosthetic control. In addition to this, work from the NML has been made possible by the generous funding provided by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), National Institute of Health (NIH), Walter Coulter Translational Foundation, and the Plastic Surgery Foundation. The lab this year has had two postdoctoral fellows, two visiting professor, one HHMI scholar, three SBRP students, and seven undergraduate students. The lab is looking forward to continuing its high degree of research excellence and collaboration in the upcoming year.





If you would like to **MAKE A DONATION** to our wonderful program, please contact Matt Douponce at [mdoupo@umich.edu](mailto:mdoupo@umich.edu) or **734-763-5392**