

We are pleased to share that the Board of Regents has approved the appointments of Gorav Ailawadi, M.D., MBA, as chair of the Department of Cardiac Surgery and the Helen F. and Marvin M. Kirsh Professor of Cardiac Surgery in the Medical School, effective September 1. He also will hold an appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Ailawadi, a former surgery resident at Michigan Medicine, returns to the U-M after serving as a professor of surgery and chief of cardiac and thoracic surgery at the University of Virginia. He held a joint appointment in biomedical engineering, and was director of minimally invasive cardiac surgery, surgical director of the UVA Advanced Cardiac Valve Center, and director of the Medical Device Innovation Center. He has expertise in minimally invasive cardiac surgery and percutaneous/transcatheter valve therapy, complex and redo heart surgery and surgery of the thoracic aorta.

He attended an accelerated honors program in medical education at Northwestern University, receiving his undergraduate degree in three years, followed by his medical degree in 1998. At NU, he received awards for best overall student and top surgical student. Additionally, he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society.

While completing a surgery residency at Michigan, Dr. Ailawadi spent two research years investigating and understanding the development of aortic aneurysms. His work was recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Lifeline Association and was chosen as the top research project in 2003. While at Michigan, he received the Top Resident and Young Investigator awards. He then completed his training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery as chief resident at the University of Virginia. He joined the faculty there in 2007.

He was the first surgeon in the U.S. to perform hybrid AF ablation and the MitraClip procedure and the world's first trans caval TEVAR procedure. He has performed more than 600 minimally invasive valve operations and roughly 4,000 heart operations. He is one of five principal investigators leading the Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network-linked research consortium (NIH), developing new trials in cardiac surgery. In addition, he is the surgical principal investigator for the Summit Trial investigating TENDYNE, a transcatheter mitral valve replacement without stopping the heart.

Dr. Ailawadi's NIH-funded research laboratory studies new treatments for aortic aneurysms. He has been the principal investigator for a novel clip on the left atrium of the heart to try to prevent strokes associated with open-heart surgery. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts in journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Circulation*, and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

He is a fellow in the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgeons, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the American Heart Association and the Cardiac Surgery Biology Club.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ailawadi back to Michigan Medicine, and also in thanking Richard L. Prager, M.D., for his outstanding service as interim chair since February 2018.

Sincerely,

Marschall S. Runge, M.D., Ph.D.  
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