



Dear Pitt Plastic Surgery Alumni,

It is always a pleasure having the opportunity to connect. As you can imagine, this time of year is bittersweet for us because we say goodbye to our chief residents and welcome the next generation of Pitt Plastic Surgeons. The graduating ceremonies were amazing as usual, ending in saying goodbye at the Fox Chapel Golf Club. With that, please join me in welcoming the newest members of the *Futrell Society*:

- Erin Anstadt/Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship, Seattle Children's Hospital
- Liliana Camison/Craniofacial Fellowship, NYU Langone Health
- Charlie Karcutskie/Private practice (Connecticut)
- Justine Kim/UPMC Orthopaedic Surgery Hand Fellowship
- Brenton Robinson/Private practice (Utah)

Jignesh "Jigs" Unadkat joined the University of Chicago Medicine & Biological Sciences faculty as Associate Professor, Director of Brachial Plexus and Peripheral Nerve Disorder Center, Department of Surgery. Congratulations. You are missed!

Fortunately, we have not skipped a beat with Teun Teunis admirably taking over the hand duties. He is doing a super job. We are fortunate to have him and extremely excited for his future.

Alex Davit, who has taken responsibility for the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) Hand Service for many years has been appointed as an Advisory Dean to the Pitt med students and has taken over as Director of our Hand Fellowship Program. We look forward to his continued leadership.

Vu Nguyen has been appointed Vice Chair of Education in the Department. This is an incredible responsibility in that he oversees the Plastic Surgery curriculum for our residents and keeps the educational demands fresh and current, constantly striving to keep us as one of the best of the best!!!

With more exciting news, Joe Losee, who continues to be the Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery has been appointed Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. This is an extremely important position and well deserved. With that, Joe has relinquished the responsibility of the chief of plastic surgery position at CHP, and has passed the baton to Jesse Goldstein, who took over the role Chief of Plastic Surgery at CHP, effective July 1, 2023. Jesse is an incredible talent, an outstanding teacher, and will continue the legacy of greatness that has been established by Joe to see to it that CHP remains one of the top children's hospitals in the country.

We will soon be welcoming Gayle Gordillo, former Chief of Plastic Surgery at the University of Indiana. She will join the faculty as a Professor of Plastic Surgery, Senior Medical Director for Pressure Injury and Prevention Outcomes. She will oversee the wound healing service line for the entire UPMC system that entails over 20 wound centers. This is an amazing opportunity for Pitt Plastic Surgery to continue to be world innovators in wound healing and prevention. We are excited to have her as a faculty member.

Spotlight on Alumni! In this quarter we feature William A. Wooden, Graduating Class of 1992.

1. What are you doing now?

Currently, I am co-Chair of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Indiana. I am a Program Director and Director of Surgical Quality at the system level for the entire university.

2. What are you doing during your free time?

We have a farm, seven chickens, four dogs! That will keep you busy. I have a new RV, a kayak, and a promise to my wife Juanita, that I will give her one long weekend per month, undisturbed for time together. I have a patent pending for our pre-surgical wellness program, optimizing patients for surgery, using modalities, such as immunonutrition. This takes up a considerable amount of time.

3. Can you share with us a Bill Futrell story?

We were at the Association meeting and all the big shots, the “*Who’s Who*” in Plastic Surgery, were all in attendance. Ross Musgrave was at the meeting and Dr. Futrell had this water gun apparatus and he kept shooting into Dr Musgrave's head. It made me feel uncomfortable because I was not sure how to respond. Neither did Dr. Musgrave because he did not know where the water was coming from. He kept looking at the ceiling, thinking there was a leak! I got a kick out of that. I also remember Dr. Futrell never tied his shoes. I could not figure out why he never tripped on his laces; then it dawned on me that he used shorter laces, every shoe he owned became essentially a slip-on loafer! He was ahead of his time!

4. Can you tell us about a resident story that may bring out a chuckle?

Howard Edington was a young attending. He would always tell me that if you have a problem, do not bring a shovel, bring a “Wooden!” I had a tangle with a young new general surgeon on the staff over management of a tracheoesophageal fistula. The patient had radiation therapy to the neck, and they asked me to form an opinion. I had just completed a head and neck reconstructive fellowship and felt pretty comfortable in this arena. He gave me some unfavorable feedback, and I was not pleased on how it went down. Being 6’3 and 250 pounds I found a way to get my message across. Dr Edington called me the “bulldogger” thereafter!

5. What did the Pitt Plastic Surgery education mean to you?

The incredible gathering of wisdom that was present in our program. The entire city was involved in our education, our grand rounds. Dr. Futrell encouraged their presence and embraced all the surgeons. It was a great teaching model. Dr. Futrell brought people together. He made them think, inspired innovation. This was the hallmark of the Pitt Plastic Surgery environment. Dr. Futrell took “great people and made them greater”! This is what I try to recreate at Indiana.

6. If you can have dinner with anyone now, past, or present, who would it be and why?

It would have to be a tossup between Dr. Ross Musgrave, and my grandfather. Both were critical in my early development. Both were consummate gentleman. They gave me gifts of words of wisdom that I still live by. I miss them both.



Wooden Family

The CME program being offered to alumni to participate in our weekly Grand Rounds, and selected lectures has been remarkably successful. We are always looking for new members. It is an opportunity to bring you back "home." It is not too late to join, the membership will be pro-rated for the time remaining.

Reminder, the fleece campaign is ongoing; for a donation of \$1200 or more you will receive a personalized fleece jacket.

As always, we want to hear from you. Let us know about milestones, accomplishments, or anything else that you would like to share with your alumni brothers and sisters.

Be well and please stay in touch! H2P!!!

Fondly,



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Class of '91

Attachment: *Residents Corner*