

Clinical Surgery NEWS

Visiting Professor Thomas Weiser

Professor Thomas Weiser is a general and trauma surgeon with a research interest in surgical care in resource-poor settings, particularly low and middle income countries.

Thomas Weiser, associate Professor at Stanford University Medical School came to the Department of Clinical Surgery at Edinburgh University as a visiting Professor in August 2017. Tom's



Visiting professor: Tom Weiser

research focuses on evaluating the delivery of safe surgical care in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

From 2006-2009 Tom was part of the World Health Organisation's *Safe Surgery Saves Lives* program and was instrumental in creating and implementing the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. Launched in 2009, the WHO checklist celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2019 and is now used globally to improve surgical safety across all income settings. Since then he has worked on numerous projects to advocate

for surgical care as part of a stronger health system, including work for the World Bank and the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery.

Tom is currently the Clinical Advisor (and formerly a trustee) of Lifebox, a charity working to saving lives through safer surgery, including distributing low cost pulse oximeters to hospitals and providers throughout the world. In fact, Lifebox donated oximeters to the Department of Clinical Surgery's online MSc Surgical Sciences programme, awarding a device to top graduates from Malawi for the past two



Recent surgical graduate and fellow of COCSECA, Palesa Chisala, uses a Lifebox pulse oximeter in Blantyre, Malawi. (Photo used with permission from P. Chisala)

Contd. Over

Highlighted Publications

Spitzer SA, Vail D, Tennakoon L, Rajasingh C, Spain DA, Weiser TG. **Readmission risk and costs of firearm injuries in the United States, 2010-2015.** *PLoS One.* 2019 Jan 24;14(1):e0209896

Weiser TG, Forrester JD, Forrester JA. **Tactics to Prevent Intra-Abdominal Infections in General Surgery.** *Surg Infect (Larchmt).* 2019 Feb/Mar;20(2):139-145

Weiser TG, Forrester JA, Negussie T. **Implementation science and innovation in global surgery.** *Br J Surg.* 2019 Jan;106(2):e20-e23

GlobalSurg Collaborative. **Pooled analysis of WHO Surgical Safety Checklist use and mortality after emergency laparotomy.** *Br J Surg.* 2019 Jan;106(2):e103-e112

Holmer H, Bekele A, Hagander L, Harrison EM, Kamali P, Ng-Kamstra JS, Khan MA, Knowlton L, Leather AJM, Marks IH, Meara JG, Shrimme MG, Smith M, Sørreide K, Weiser TG*, Davies J.* **Evaluating the collection, comparability and findings of six global surgery indicators.** *Br J Surg.* 2019 Jan;106(2):e138-e150

World Health Organization. **Preventing surgical site infections: implementation approaches for evidence-based recommendations.** Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2018. ISBN 978-92-4-151438-5

Welcome to the Spring 2019 Edition of the Department of Clinical Surgery Newsletter

In This Issue:

Professor Tom Weiser

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years during the annual meeting of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

Tom is now leading two new projects with charity:



Surgeons in Ethiopia complete an operation using the light from a mobile telephone. (Picture courtesy of Lifebox).

the first is a checklist-based infection prevention programme that seeks to improve compliance with standards of surgical care and asepsis, and the second is the development of a low-cost surgical

headlight for use in resource-poor settings. Lifebox anticipates that such a light will be ready for distribution by the late summer.

Since coming to Edinburgh Tom has been working closely with Ewen Harrison and the GlobalSurg network to develop surgical trials in LMICs. They hope to use the GlobalSurg collaborative to identify opportunities to improve the safety and quality of surgical care through simple, scalable interventions. He is also the year 1 director for the new MSc Patient Safety and Human Clinical Factors offered by Edinburgh Surgery Online.

Often referred to as the neglected stepchild of global public health, surgery is increasingly being recognized as an important aspect of global health. Building research capacity in this area is vital to improving surgical outcomes for patients all around the world.

Edinburgh Surgery Online offers a number of scholarships for students in low and middle countries to enroll in an online distance learning degree programme at Edinburgh University. For full details, including how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.edinburghsurgeryonline.com/scholarships>

Congratulations & Recent Grant Awards

Skipworth R

MICA. A phase II trial examining MABp1 (anti-IL1) effects on muscle, physical function and quality of life, in lung, pancreatic or ovarian cancer
MRC Biomedical Catalyst Grant: £700,000

Dhaliwal K, Haslett C, Walsh T, Bradley M, Bruce, A, Garden O. J, Henderson R, Mair J, Moore A, Newby D & Tait J

Interventional Biophotonics: A UK Healthcare Technology Accelerator Facility
MRC: £708,000; 2018-2020

Dhaliwal K, Walsh T, Bradley M, Harrison E, Megia-Fernandez A, Mills B & Williams G.

IRC Next Steps Plus: Photonic Pathogen Theranostics - Point-of-care image guided photonic therapy of bacterial and fungal infection?
EPSRC: £1,393,912; 2019-2022

Mole D, Horne A, Saunders P, Greaves E & Serrels A.

KMO-PET: A radiotracer against kynurenine-3-monooxygenase for positron emission tomography imaging in cancer and endometriosis
MRC: £62,500; 2019

Chris Johnston has been awarded a Sir James Fraser Travelling Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to go to Monash University Melbourne to study advanced endoscopic techniques in HPB Surgery.

EUSA Teaching Awards 2019

Congratulations to members of the Edinburgh Surgery Online team for their nominations in this year's Edinburgh University Students Association Teaching Awards.



Best Overall Teacher

Paula Smith

Best Personal Tutor Nominees

Paula Smith
Heather Ellis
Uzma Tufail-Hanif
Chantelle Aftab

Best Support Staff Nominees

Sarah Jones

Royal Society of Edinburgh

Professor Stephen Wigmore has been elected to the RSE, Scotland's National Academy, for his expertise into organ transplantation, liver, pancreas and biliary cancer surgery.

Personal Promotions

Congratulations to **Miss Sarah Jones** and **Mr Christopher Hooper**, on their recent promotions within the role of Edinburgh Surgery Online Programme Administrators.

Congratulations to **Dr Riinu Ots** who is promoted to the role of Senior Data Manager in the Department of Clinical Surgery.

Congratulations to **Ben Stutchfield** who has been appointed a Consultant Surgeon in organ retrieval and liver transplantation in the Scottish Liver Transplant Unit, and to **Sorina Cornateanu** who was appointed to a substantive position in kidney and pancreas transplantation having held a locum post in this speciality for two years.

Departmental Visitors

Dr Steven Yule

Dr Yule, academic psychologist and human factors scientist, is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard medical school and Director of Education and Research of STRATUS centre for medical simulation. His research lab studies surgical, medical and astronaut teams in simulated and real clinical environments to understand the impact of non-technical skills on performance and patient safety outcomes. Dr Yule's group developed the Non Technical Skills for Surgeons (NOTSS) behaviour maker system which has become the gold standard tool for surgical education and research around the world.

Dr Yule visited the Department of Surgery Clinical at Edinburgh University earlier this month, spending time with researchers in the department and members of the Edinburgh Surgery Online team.

Dr Catherine Teh

We were delighted to welcome Dr Catherine Teh who dropped in to visit the department for two days prior to the start of the ICOSET meeting in Edinburgh. Catherine is an experienced HPB Surgeon based in Manila, Philippines and a strong advocate for women in surgery.



Dr Catherine Teh meets Professor Stephen Wigmore

Catherine took part in the HPB surgery activities of the unit including watching a pancreaticoduodenectomy performed by Ben Stutchfield and Mr Ravindran



Dr Catherine Teh with members of the Department of Clinical Surgery

Recent Publications

Søreide K, Guest RV, Harrison EM, Kendall TJ, Garden OJ, Wigmore SJ. **Systematic review of management of incidental gallbladder cancer after cholecystectomy.**

Bellini MI, Graham Y, Hayes C, Zakeri R, Parks R, Papalois V. **A woman's place is in theatre: women's perceptions and experiences of working in surgery from the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland women in surgery working group.** *BMJ Open*. 2019 Jan 7;9(1):e024349

Srinivasa S, Wigmore SJ. **Editorial: shining a light on cholangiocarcinoma—a new dawn for photodynamic therapy?** *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2019 Apr;49(7):952

Stutchfield BM, Bodingbauer MW, Adair A, Wakelin S, Schindl M, Forbes SJ, Wigmore SJ. **Quantifying changes in innate immune function following liver transplantation for chronic liver disease.** *HPB (Oxford)*. 2019 Mar 5. pii: S1365-182X(19)30079-6

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HJ; European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA). **Trends in liver transplantation for primary biliary cholangitis in Europe over the past three decades.** *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2019 Feb;49(3):285-295

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Forsythe RO, Newby DE. **Imaging Biomarkers for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms.** *Circ Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2019 Mar;12(3):e008917

Syed MBJ, Fletcher AJ, Dweck MR, Forsythe R, Newby DE. **Imaging aortic wall inflammation.** *Trends Cardiovasc Med*. 2018 Dec 27 [Epub ahead of print]

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candidates—time to reconsider waiting times. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2019 [Epub ahead of publication]

Oniscu GC. **'5-5-500' - yet another extended criteria for HCC or a truly innovative development?** *Transpl Int*. 2019 Apr;32(4):353-355

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de Beaux AC. **Abdominal wall closure.** *Br J Surg*. 2019 Feb;106(3):163-164

Baggaley A, Robb L, Paterson-Brown S, McGregor RJ. **Improving the working environment for the delivery of safe surgical care in the UK: a qualitative cross-sectional analysis.** *BMJ Open*. 2019 Jan 24;9(1):e023476

Paterson-Brown S, Youngson G, McIlhenny C, Maran N, Flin R, Yule S. **Raising awareness of non-technical skills in operating theatres.** *BMJ*. 2019 Jan 8;364:l61

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Clinical Trials Update

Newly Open for Recruitment

The **HOT-2** Trial

HOT-2 is a blinded randomized controlled investigation into the efficacy of heme arginate in improving primary graft function in deceased donor kidney transplantation. Professor Lorna Marson is the Chief Investigator and Edinburgh will be the lead centre for this multicentre trial

It is anticipated that Edinburgh will open as the first trial site and begin recruitment late in 2018.

For more information about HOT-2 please contact Chief

Investigator, **Professor Lorna Marson**.

Currently Recruiting

The **OPTIMISE II** Trial

A large-scale, pragmatic, international, multi-centre study aiming to recruit >2500 patients globally, and seeking to provide definitive evidence on the value of a cardiac-output guided fluid and inotrope protocol in preventing infectious complications for patients >65 years of age.

This NIHR Portfolio study is sponsored by Queen Mary University of London, and the local PI is Dr Mort Kelleher (Consultant Anaesthetist). We are particularly targeting patients undergoing Whipple's procedure and gastrectomy at RIE, although patients undergoing other procedures involving the luminal GI tract may also be eligible.

For more information, please contact Dr Kelleher (mortimer.kelleher@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) or Rachael Campbell, Perioperative Research coordinator (rachael.campbell@nhslothian).

The **ROMIO** Trial

A multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing minimally invasive versus open esophagectomy for esophageal cancer.

This trial is being run by the University of Bristol. NHS Lothian is open as a trial site and recruitment has begun.

For more information please contact **Mr Peter Lamb** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

OCCAMS—Oesophageal Cancer Clinical and Molecular Stratification.

A Multicentre Study to Determine Predictive and Prognostic Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets for Oesophageal and Junctional Adenocarcinoma including Whole Genome Sequencing

This study, part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC2), has been refunded by CRUK for 5 years and recruitment is ongoing

For more information please contact **Mr Rob O'Neil** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

The **NeoAegis** Trial

A phase III, open-labelled RCT comparing the MAGIC neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy regimen with the CROSS neoadjuvant chemoradiation protocol in patients with cT2-3 N0-3 M0 adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus or junction. The primary objective is to evaluate 1, 2 and 3-year survival.

This trial is currently recruiting. For more information contact **Mr Richard Skipworth**.

TWIST—Tracking Wound Infection with Smart Phone Technology

A randomised controlled trial to investigate if a smartphone tool can shorten time to diagnosis of surgical site infections.

All patients (>16) undergoing abdominal surgery who own a smartphone are eligible to enter the study. Visually impaired patients are excluded.

Patients will be randomised to receive either standard post-operative care or standard post-operative care plus use of the smartphone tool.

Those in the smartphone group will receive a series of questions via text message and have the facility to upload a photograph of their surgical wound.

Primary outcome measure is time to diagnosis of an SSI and secondary outcome measures will consider use of A&E and GP services

RIE and WGH sites are both recruiting patients to this study.

For more information please contact Principle Investigator, **Mr Ewen Harrison**

Future Conference Submission Deadlines

| Conference | Date | Location | Abstract Submission & Registration |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| American Surgical Association (ASA) http://meeting.americansurgical.org | 11 - 13th April 2019 | Fairmont, Dallas, USA | Registration open |
| Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress https://asc.surgeons.org | 6 - 10th May 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand | Registration open |
| Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) http://www.asgbi.org.uk | 7- 9th May 2019 | Telford, UK | Advanced registration until March 31st 2019 |
| International Association of Medical Science Educators http://www.iamse.org/ | 8 -11th June 2019 | Virginia, USA | Registration open |
| European Surgical Association (ESA) https://www.europeansurgicalassociation.org | 17 - 18th May 2019 | Madrid, Spain | Registration open |
| Association for Medical Education (AMEE) https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2019 | 24 - 28th Aug 2019 | Vienna, Austria | Registration open |
| European Hernia Society (EHS) https://ehs2019hamburg.com | 11-14th Sept 2019 | Hamburg, Germany | 30th April 2019 |
| The International Surgical Group (ISG) https://www.internationalsurgicalgroup.org | 22nd -25th Oct 2019 | Los Angeles, California | Save the Date |
| Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS) http://www.augis.org | 25 - 27th Sept 2019 | Liverpool, UK | Save the Date |
| American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress (ACS) https://www.facs.org/education/clincon/future-clinical-congresses | 27th - 31st Oct 2019 | San Francisco, USA | Save the Date |
| Society on Sarcopenia, Cachexia & wasting disorders http://society-scwd.org | 6 - 8th Dec 2019 | Berlin, Germany | Save the Date |
| 14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference https://academicsurgicalcongress.org | 4th - 6th Feb 2020 | Orlando, USA | Opens summer 2019 |

PURE Reminder

Have you had a manuscript accepted for publication recently?

In order to increase the accessibility of Edinburgh University research, call manuscripts must now be deposited in PURE within **3 months of acceptance**.

Any publications not deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance will not be eligible for the next ref.

What do you need to do?

The Clinical Surgery Research Manager, Dr Katie Shaw, will deposit manuscripts in PURE on your behalf.

More information about PURE can be viewed at: www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/research/pure



HealthyR: R for healthcare data analysis

The next HealthyR quick start course suitable for beginners will be May 15 - 17th 2019. Bookings now open

HealthyR+: Practical Logistic regression

A 1-day training course teaching use of R to perform logistic regression analyses and present the results. Suitable for those with some previous experience of R

September 13th 2019, Chancellor's Building

For further information about both courses, including booking links, please see the course website

www.healthyr.surgicalinformatics.org

Items of News to Share?

If you have any items of news you would like to feature in this newsletter or events you'd like to promote please contact the Clinical Surgery Research Manager, **Dr Katie Shaw** (catherine.shaw@ed.ac.uk). The next edition will be published in Summer 2019.