

Speaker Biographies

SUS MID-CAREER ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

COURSE CHAIRS



Ravi Radhakrishnan, MD, MBA

Ravi S. Radhakrishnan, MD, MBA, is currently an Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. He serves as the Vice Chair of Education and the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at UTMB. In addition, he holds the John Sealy Distinguished Chair in Clinical Research and is currently funded by the Department of Defense to study sepsis after burn injury.



Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS

Valentine N. Nfonsam, MD, MS, FACS, is a Professor with the University of Arizona Department of Surgery Division of Surgical Oncology. He specializes in colon and rectal surgery, colorectal oncology, and complex pelvic floor disorders. Dr. Nfonsam performs surgeries for inflammatory bowel disease, anorectal disease, and benign and malignant colorectal diseases. He is an expert in the surgical management of pelvic floor disease, especially fecal incontinence. He also performs colonoscopies and endoscopic treatment of polyps. Dr. Nfonsam is one of just a few surgeons in the nation using minimally invasive techniques for colon and rectal surgery, such as advanced laparoscopy, single-incision surgery, and robot-assisted surgery, which have been shown to reduce the patient's wound infection rate, post-operative pain, length of stay in the hospital, and overall recovery time.

PLANNING FOR THE INTERVIEW PROCESS



Justin Dimick, MD, MPH

Justin B. Dimick, MD, MPH, is the Frederick A. Collier Distinguished Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan. Dr. Dimick is a graduate of Cornell University and Johns Hopkins Medical School. He completed his surgical training at the University of Michigan and a health services research fellowship at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice. Dr. Dimick has served in several national leadership positions, including President of the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS), Chair of the Health Services Organization and Delivery (HSOD) Study Section at the NIH, Associate Editor at *Annals of Surgery*, and the Surgical Innovation Editor at *JAMA Surgery*. He has served as an advisor on quality and health policy for several organizations, including the BlueCross BlueShield Association (BCBSA), the American College of Surgeons-National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS-NSQIP), US News and World Reports "Best Hospital" Rankings, and the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC).



OLUYINKA OLUTOYE, MD, PhD

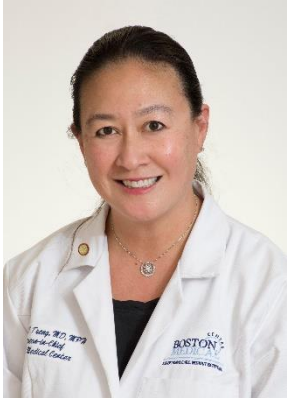
In his role as Surgeon-in-Chief, Dr. Olutoye leads one of the largest children's hospital surgery departments in the world. Through his leadership of 11 surgical departments, Dr. Olutoye works to advance Nationwide Children's common mission, philosophy and approach to excellence in patient care, dedication to outstanding clinical outcomes, commitment to academic excellence and education of the next generation of leaders in children's surgery. Dr. Olutoye has also been appointed professor and the E. Thomas BoISs Jr. Chair of Pediatric surgery at The Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine. Prior to joining Nationwide Children's, Dr. Olutoye served as Co-Director of the Fetal Center and the immediate Past President of the medical staff at Texas Children's Hospital. At Baylor College of Medicine, also in Houston, TX, he was a tenured Professor of Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Pediatrics, and Chair of the Faculty Senate. As a pediatric and fetal surgeon, he brings specialized clinical expertise in fetal and neonatal surgery. Fetal surgeons work closely with obstetricians and maternal-fetal medicine specialists to provide exceptional care for babies who need surgery in-utero and to improve outcomes for a range of conditions such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, spina bifida and other congenital anomalies. In addition to his clinical expertise, Dr. Olutoye also leads an established research program focused on the role of the inflammatory response in scarless fetal wound healing, in-utero correction of severe congenital malformations, and the early detection of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants. Dr. Olutoye received his medical degree from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and earned his PhD in anatomy from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. He completed his residency in general surgery at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Virginia Commonwealth University, and his fellowships in pediatric and fetal surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery in Surgery and Pediatric Surgery. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the West African College of Surgeons. Dr. Olutoye is a member of the American Surgical Association, the American Pediatric Surgical Association and Past President of the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society.



Barbara Bass, MD

Barbara Lee Bass, MD, Professor of Surgery, serves as the George Washington University Vice President for Health Affairs, Dean of the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Chief Executive Officer of The GW Medical Faculty Associates. In these roles, she leads the academic, clinical, and research missions and has strategic direction on all aspects of GW's academic medical enterprise. Dr. Bass' scholarship has included research in biological basic science, education and simulation, surgical quality measurement and system development, and most recently application of computational sciences to surgical technology design, processes and disease modeling. Her professional service has included many leadership positions, including as the 98th President of the American College of Surgeons and Chair of the American Board of Surgery. Over the last 5 years, she has had leadership responsibilities in the global surgery work of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Bass is an advocate for equity and diversity for underrepresented minorities and women in surgery and health care careers, and known for fostering careers of clinician-scientists and diverse leaders in academic medicine. Dr. Bass earned her BS from Tufts University and MD from the University of Virginia. She completed training in general surgery at George Washington University and a research fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Prior to joining GW, Dr. Bass served as Professor and Chair of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine.

NEGOTIATING



**Jennifer Tseng, MD,
MPH**

Dr. Tseng currently serves as the Utley Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), and Surgeon-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center (BMC) in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Tseng was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, received her undergraduate degrees in English and Biology from Stanford University, and her medical degree from University of California San Francisco. She moved to Boston for general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she also served as Staff Surgeon. Dr. Tseng also completed a research fellowship in molecular medicine at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, followed by a clinical fellowship in surgical oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She obtained her MPH degree in clinical effectiveness from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Tseng's clinical specialty is surgical oncology and gastrointestinal surgery, with a focus on the upper gastrointestinal tract. Dr. Tseng founded Surgical Outcomes Analysis & Research (SOAR), a clinical and outcomes research institute initiated at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, transitioned to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, and is now based in Boston at BUSM / BMC. Her research interests include developing models for cancer treatment sequencing strategies, cancer biomarkers, and healthcare disparities and outcomes research and she has published >130 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Dr. Tseng serves on the editorial board of several journals and is Deputy Editor for *JAMA Surgery*. She has mentored numerous surgical residents and research fellows and derives her greatest professional satisfaction from their successes. Dr. Tseng is a member of numerous surgical societies including the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, and the Society of Surgical Oncology. She is the immediate past Secretary of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) and is President of the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS). In July 2019, Dr. Tseng was appointed a Director of the American Board of Surgery. Dr. Tseng is an avid cook, an aspirational reader, and an occasional skier, but spends most of her free time shuttling her 13 and 11 year old children to and from their activities of daily life.



Kenneth Azarow, MD

In 2013, Dr. Kenneth Scott Azarow was recruited to OHSU to become the Helen B Tracy Professorship in Pediatric Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief of Doernbecher Children's Hospital. On October 1, 2016 he was appointed as the interim Chairman of the Department of Surgery and after a national search he became the University's 7th individual to be named as the Mackenzie Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at OHSU. He joined the pediatric surgery practice at Oregon Health & Science University after a 25-year career in the United States Army and then a 5-year term at the University of Nebraska, School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Omaha. He is a graduate of Uniformed Services University (class of '87). He performed his residency in general surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Upon graduation, he was appointed as a staff general surgeon at Darnell Army Community Hospital, Ft Hood Texas. He went from there to the University of Toronto for his pediatric surgery training. Upon completion of his fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children, he was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center where within a year he was appointed as the Director of the surgical research program and Chief of Pediatric Surgery. His progression at Madigan took him to the positions of Director of the General Surgery Residency Training Program and Chief of the Department of Surgery. While in Omaha, he was named the Alton Wong Professor of Surgery and established the pediatric surgery fellowship. He has served as a Director of the American Board of Surgery and as Chair of the Pediatric Surgery Board. In 2020, he joined the RRC in Surgery as a member. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and is the immediate past Chair of the Pediatric Surgery Advisory Council. He belongs to multiple professional societies including the American Pediatric Surgical Association and the American Surgical Association.

His military career is highlighted by his promotion to the rank of Colonel in May of 2003. He has completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq, he served as the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at the 86th Combat Support Hospital (Ibn Sina Hospital), Baghdad, Iraq. While in Afghanistan, he was the senior surgeon in theater and operated as part of the 541st Forward Surgical Team. In 2005, he was honored as the Lewis Aspey Malogne recipient as the outstanding physician in the Army. He is a recipient of the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (silver oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, and The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal as well as several service medals. He retired at the rank of Colonel in 2008.



Allan Tsung, MD

Allan Tsung, MD, is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) and the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Tsung’s clinical interests center on evaluating and managing patients with liver, bile duct and pancreas cancers, with expertise in laparoscopic and robotic surgery. He has a research laboratory focused on the hypothesis that inflammatory responses can alter the local microenvironment, leading to cancer progression via tumor cell survival, expansion and metastases. His research also evaluates the contribution of molecular markers in the diagnosis and clinical management of patients with hepatobiliary and pancreas cancers and projects focusing on improving the access, delivery and quality of surgical oncology care. Dr. Tsung’s work has generated 200+ published peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading scientific journals and culminated in multiple principal investigator NIH R01 grants and many society and institutional grants. His long-term goal is to continue bringing bench side research breakthroughs to bedside clinical therapies. As an advocate for medical students, general surgery residents and surgical oncology fellows, Dr. Tsung is the proPram Director for the complex general surgical oncology fellowship at Ohio State and previously served as Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Surgery at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is Past President of the Society of University Surgeons and participates in leadership roles in several other important academic surgical organizations, such as the Society of Surgical Oncology, the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons, the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.



Julie Ann Freischlag, MD

Julie A. Freischlag, MD, joined Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in April 2017 as Chief Executive Officer. Consistently ranked among the nation’s top 50 medical centers, Wake Forest Baptist includes Wake Forest Baptist Health, a growing, multi-hospital health system and physician network, the state-of-the-art and highly competitive Wake Forest School of Medicine, and Wake Forest Innovations, its technology transfer, commercialization enterprise. As CEO, she has the overall responsibility for the Medical Center’s clinical, academic and innovation enterprises and its annual operating budget of \$3.0B. On July 1, 2017, Dr. Freischlag became the Interim Dean of Wake Forest School of Medicine and was formally appointed as Dean on February 1, 2018. She has published more than 250 manuscripts, abstracts and book chapters. Dr. Freischlag has received numerous teaching awards, an achievement award from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2015. She was selected to the 2019-2020 Best Doctors in America. She was named a *Triad Power Player* and Most Admired CEO in 2018 by the Triad Business Journal. In addition to serving in various national and international leadership roles, she has mentored students, residents and young faculty and is a frequent speaker on topics ranging from her expertise in vascular diseases,

teamwork and patient safety, leadership and work-life balance to women succeeding in health professions. Dr. Freischlag has dedicated her career to serving as a role model for her students, a respected colleague across health professions, a strong community leader and a national voice for improving health and health care. In addition to her responsibilities as CEO and Dean, she continues to see patients in the department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and serves on the boards the Aga Khan University Board of Trustees, University of Illinois Health Advisory Council, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Board of Visitors, the American Association of Academic Health Centers Board of Directors, the Association of American Medical Colleges Board of Directors, the American Hospital Association's The changing Workforce Task Force, the *Vascular Cures* Scientific Advisory Board, the National Institute of Health's Clinical Center Research Hospital Board, and the JAMA Editorial Board. Dr. Freischlag serves on the board of Piedmont Triad Partnership, Winston-Salem Business, Inc., Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and the Winston-Salem Alliance.

LEADERSHIP



Rebecca Minter, MD

Rebecca M. Minter, MD, is the A.R. Curreri Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Previously, Dr. Minter held successive leadership roles at the University of Texas Southwestern and the University of Michigan, serving as Chief of the Hepatopancreatobiliary Section/Division at both institutions. Dr. Minter's clinical practice is in the areas of pancreatobiliary and gastrointestinal surgery. She has a particular interest in the management and treatment of benign and neoplastic diseases of the pancreas. Dr. Minter is recognized as a clinical leader in her field and is a past President of the Americas Hepatopancreatobiliary Association and is the current Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the International Hepatopancreatobiliary Association Education and Training Committee. Dr. Minter's research efforts focus on surgical education, specifically the development of training frameworks which explicitly define progressive entrustment and the development of autonomy. Dr. Minter holds national leadership positions in multiple societies in recognition of her work in the field of surgical education and academic surgery. She is a past President of the Society of University Surgeons and the Fellowship Council, and currently serves as a Board Director of the American Board of Surgery.



Timothy Pawlik, MD

Dr. Pawlik received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Pawlik completed surgical training at the University of Michigan Hospital and spent two years at the Massachusetts General Hospital as a surgical oncology research fellow. He then went on for advanced training in surgical oncology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Dr. Pawlik's main clinical interests include alimentary tract surgery, with a special interest in hepatic, pancreatic and biliary diseases. In addition, Dr. Pawlik was the recipient of a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) KL2 Research Scholar Award and received a PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Clinical Investigations. Dr. Pawlik is currently enrolled in the Executive MBA Program at The Ohio State University Fisher Business School. Dr. Pawlik took his first faculty appointment at Johns Hopkins in 2005, where he was Professor of Surgery and Oncology, as well as the John L. Cameron Chair of Alimentary Tract Diseases and the Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology until 2016. Dr. Pawlik currently is the Chair of Surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center where he holds The Urban Meyer III and Shelley Meyer Chair for Cancer Research. Under his leadership, the Department at Surgery has recruited over 60 new

faculty members, is ranked #5 for NIH funding, and has a top 25 ranked surgical residency program. Dr. Pawlik also serves as the Treasurer / Secretary of The Ohio State University Practice Plan. Dr. Pawlik has given over 500 invited talks both nationally and internationally in 30 different countries. Dr. Pawlik has published over 1,250 articles and over 100 book chapters, in addition to editing twelve surgical textbooks. His research has been cited over 52,000 times with an H-index of 113. Dr. Pawlik serves on multiple editorial boards and is Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, Deputy Editor of *JAMA Surgery*, as well as an Associate Editor for *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. Dr. Pawlik has served on the executive council of several of the premier surgical associations in the United States.



Prabhakar K. Baliga, MD

Prabhakar Baliga, MD, FACS, is a transplant surgeon and chair of the MUSC Department of Surgery, where he leads a diverse range of programs and services spanning nine clinical divisions, in addition to the Department's research and education divisions. Dr. Baliga's philosophy is to treat his patients with a primary focus on excellence and compassionate care. His clinical focus is in abdominal organ transplant with a special interest in kidney, liver and pancreas transplantation. He treats patients who are experiencing kidney failure, particularly with polycystic kidney disease; liver failure, liver cancer and patients who have issues with their bile duct, a series of thin tubes that go from the liver to the small intestine. He has served many leadership positions that have positively impacted the growth and expertise of the MUSC Health transplant program, the only solid organ transplant center in South Carolina. Prior to assuming the role of Department Chair, Dr. Baliga was named MUSC's ICCE Leader for Transplant, Nephrology & Hepatology and served on the Board of Life Point, an organ procurement agency. He has also served on the Board for the United Network for Organ Sharing and the Board of Directors for the South Carolina chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. He is on the leadership of the state-wide SC surgical quality collaborative that is focused on improving care of surgical patients across SC. He currently serves on the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors as the Surgical Specialty Society Governor from the Southern Surgical Association. Dr. Baliga was awarded his medical degree by Madras Medical College in India. He completed his surgical residency at Tulane University and his transplant fellowship at the University of Michigan.



Kamal Itani, MD

Kamal M. F. Itani, MD, is the Chief of Surgical Services at the VA Boston Health Care System, a Professor of Surgery at Boston University and faculty member at Harvard Medical School and The Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr Itani attended medical school at the American University of Beirut, residency in surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and a research fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Duke University. Prior to his move to Boston, Dr. Itani was on the faculty at the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery and The Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at Baylor College of Medicine. He was also Chief of General Surgery at the Houston VA Medical Center and a staff surgeon at The Ben Taub General Hospital and the Methodist Hospital. Dr. Itani is a member of various surgical organizations and has served in various leadership positions in these organizations. Dr. Itani is also the immediate past President of the New England chapter of the World Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut. Dr. Itani's primary clinical research interest is in surgical infections, abdominal wall reconstruction and health services research including surgical outcomes and clinical trials. He is the author/co-author of more than 300 peer-reviewed publications in addition to editorials, and book chapters and is the lead investigator on several clinical trials. His book on "clinical trials in operative and non-operative invasive procedures" published in 2017 is considered a key reference in surgical clinical trials.



Dr. Merchant investigates how alterations in RAS and STAT3 signaling pathways affect the tumor stroma and immune microenvironment in pancreatic cancer. Using genetically engineered mouse models and 3-dimensional in vitro models, Dr. Merchant's lab studies how cross-talk between these pathways in the tumor and stroma affect epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition, changes in the tumor microenvironment and alterations in immune response to enhance therapeutic efficacy in pancreatic cancer.

Nipun Merchant, MD