Important Dates

SBAS 2019 Annual Meeting
Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, NY April 25–27, 2019
- NIH in the house
- Dr. Michelassi State of the Art lecturer
- Dr. Barksdale L.D. Britt lecturer
- Scientific Symposium

Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT)
Dr. Steven Stain President
Annual Meeting May 18th–21st
Abstract Deadline December 1st

2nd SBAS President Dr. Onye Akwari Receives Duke University Prestigious Award

Dr. Akwari receives the Raymond Gavins Distinguished Faculty Award presented by the Samuel Dubois Cook Society at Duke University. The Cook Society was founded in the spring of 1997 to honor Dr. Cook, a retired Duke University professor who was the first African-American professor to hold a regular faculty appointment at a predominantly white college or university in the South.

Dr. Leah Backhus MD Receives Prestigious Thoracic Surgery Teaching Award

Dr. Backhus is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Stanford University and Chief of Thoracic Surgery at the Palo Alto VA. She is the recipient of the 2019 McGoon Teaching Award given annually to an outstanding young faculty member in cardiothoracic surgery in recognition of his or her commitment to resident education and mentorship. Dr. Backhus was nominated by her residents who state “… I would rank Dr. Backhus as in the top 1% of all the clinicians, surgical attendings, clinical teachers, that I have encountered during my surgical training.” Dr. Backhus is the first female and/or African-American recipient of this award.

Dr. Hassan Tetteh Delivers Inspiring Tedx Talk on Cardiothoracic Transplantation

Dr. Hassan Tetteh is an Associate Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Howard University School of Medicine, and Johns Hopkins Hospital delivered a Tedx talk titled: “When Death Becomes Life.” Hosted by Johns Hopkins Hospital. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPNUO17nznk
Dr. Velma Scantlebury MD Published her Journey on becoming the 1st Black Female Transplant Surgeon

This book gives you a remarkable glimpse into the life and culture of Barbados. She takes us into the operating room where a transplant is being performed, as well as into her life as she journeys from a teenager in Brooklyn to overcoming the doubts and negativity that she encountered in her quest to become a surgeon. The struggles of advancing a career in a male dominated field are coupled with her personal struggles with depression, marriage and motherhood. As a role model and mentor, her story highlights possibilities for young girls whose dreams can become realities. beyondeverywall.com.

Dr. Omar Danner featured in American Association for Surgery of Trauma Newsletter

Dr. Omar Danner, MD, FACS Chief of Surgery for Morehouse at Grady Memorial Hospital Professor of Surgery & Director of Trauma Morehouse School of Medicine was recently published an article titled "Reshaping the Discussion Surrounding Firearm-related Injury and Deaths: The Truth About Guns, Homicide and Suicide". Injury Prevention Quarter for the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma quarterly newsletter. [http://www.aast.org/injury-prevention-quarter-19jf](http://www.aast.org/injury-prevention-quarter-19jf). Dr. Danner states that “…This opportunity to contribute to the IPQ was extended to the AAST Prevention Committee members. It is an honor and privilege represent the AAST, MSM medical institution, Grady Acute Care Surgery program and trauma team, and Georgia Violence Prevention Task Force.” for IPRCE in this.

News from SBAS Women in Surgery Committee: Committee Chair, Cherisse Berry

Dineo Khabele, MD, FACOG, FACS was inducted into the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). Out of 176 submitted nominations, the Council recommended 80 nominees from 46 different institutions.

Ala Stanford, MD, FAAP, FACS was responsible for handling ATLS for the epic Will Smith: The Jump that occurred at the Grand Canyon. The event raised money for education for urban and underserved youth and commemorated his 50th birthday. Her medical team cleared all airborne participants in the production prior to their involvement in the event. Additionally, they provided medical oversight for local first responders at the Grand Canyon and provided acute care on site.

Ugwuji Maduekwe, MD, MMSc recently won a Junior Faculty Development award at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

SBAS Members Accept New Positions

Dr. Stephen Gray, MD, FACS Associate Professor of Surgery, accepts new position to become the Director of Hepatobiliary Surgery, in The Division of Transplantation at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Dr. Kinisaki, MD, FACS Associate of Professor Surgery, accepts new position to become the Associate Chief for Strategy at Johns Hopkins Children’s Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital.