

Friends,

I am pleased to update you on the state of the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Rochester. We've had a great year and continue to be indebted to the alumni and friends of the Division. A few highlights I'd like to share:

- We had a banner year of academic contributions with 4 podium presentations at the 2024 Vascular Annual Meeting and 24 peer-reviewed publications from the Division. Much of this work comes from the residents and students, under the expert mentorship of our faculty. I am grateful for the support of the DeWeese Endowment and Vascular Research Fellowship fund to support this mission.
- Our clinical footprint continues to grow, as we work to establish a surgical practice at the new UR Medicine affiliate Geneva General Hospital. The practice there will provide much needed care to the region, integrating with our already robust practice at FF Thompson Hospital.
- I am pleased to announce that Rachad Wehbe, MD, '25M (Res) will be joining our practice next month, with a comprehensive clinical practice at Highland Hospital and in the Finger Lakes region.
- Under the leadership of Adam Doyle, MD, '14 (Res), our integrated vascular surgery residency program has been granted a complement increase, and we will move to 10 positions for this five-year training program.
- The UR Vascular VQI program again earned three stars, demonstrating our commitment to improving care of the patients we serve.

We have formed an alumni work group and are building momentum towards a celebration here in Rochester to mark the 30th anniversary of UR Vascular Surgery. Rochester has always been one of the most important innovators in our specialty, and the faculty are proud to represent our past as we look towards an impactful future.

Best regards,

Mike



Michael C. Stoner, MD, FACS, DFSVS
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
University of Rochester Medical Center



You're invited to Vino and Vascular

Join us for the 4th annual Vino and Vascular virtual alumni happy hour to hear updates about the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Rochester and enjoy a special guided wine tasting with Laura Winter Falk, Certified Sommelier.

Thursday, March 6, 2025
8-9:15 p.m. (ET)
ZOOM

Please register by January 31.

[Register now]



Back row (L to R): Grayson Pitcher, MD, Adam J. Doyle, MD, Roan Glocker, MD, MPH, Doran S. Mix, MD, Rachad W. Wehbe, MD, Karina A. Newhall, MD, MS. Front row (L to R): Alaska Pendleton, MD, Jennifer L. Ellis, MD, Michael C. Stoner, MD

Save the date

Please also mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Alumni reception at the Vascular Annual Meeting
June 2025 in New Orleans, LA

30th Anniversary Celebration in Rochester

Coming up in 2027, our division will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Stay tuned for more communication as this exciting milestone approaches.

More details to follow.

In advance of the anniversary celebration, please submit photos from your training days to reminisce with fellow alumni.

[Share photos here]

Surgeon-scientist Ryan Fields to chair URMC Department of Surgery



A surgical oncologist and translational scientist, Ryan C. Fields, MD, will join URMC on July 1, 2025 as the Seymour L. Schwartz Professor in Surgery and chair of the Department of Surgery, surgeon-in-chief of Strong Memorial Hospital, and director of Translational Research at the Wilmot Cancer Institute.

[Learn more]

Faculty research spotlight



Karina Newhall, MD, MS, focuses her research on addressing social determinants of health and improving vascular care for underserved populations, particularly in rural areas with limited access to specialized services. Her work examines how these factors influence vascular outcomes and aims to enhance access to high-level care for high-risk patients.

Newhall has contributed significantly to understanding health care disparities, including in her recent study "Health Care Disparities and the Impact on Aortic Reintervention," which explores the barriers to diagnosis and surveillance, the impact of disparities on aortic reintervention, and potential solutions. Newhall has been at the forefront of addressing healthcare disparities, having examined the effects of regional factors on amputation rates and outcomes for patients with diabetes and peripheral arterial disease. Newhall's work emphasizes the importance of inclusive mentorship, addressing disparities in care, and exploring the intersection of surgical practice with socioeconomic factors.

As the director of the regional surgery program at the University of Rochester, Newhall builds upon the institution's long history of providing exceptional vascular surgery care to rural communities in the Finger Lakes. Her efforts focus on expanding access to cutting-edge technologies while combining her clinical and academic work to improve care and raise awareness of disparities within this population. Her leadership continues to drive advancements in both the quality of care and the reduction of healthcare inequities in underserved areas.

[Learn more]

Recent presentations

Our residents have been actively attending and presenting at conferences. Learn more about their research topics and presentations during the 2023-24 academic year.

[Learn more]

Grand rounds event



From left to right: Nicholas Morrissey '88, '92M (MD), '99M (Res), Joseph A. Johnson, MD, '93 (Res), Karl Illig, MD, '95M (Res), '97M (Fw), William O'Malley, MD, '85, '96M (Res), Kenneth Ouriel, MD, '77, '86M (Res), '87M (Fw)

Thanks to all those who joined us for a special Division of Vascular Surgery grand rounds event on November 14. Karl A. Illig, MD, presented on "The Future of Dialysis Access."

Your impact and support

Dr. James Arville DeWeese Endowment Fund

With the support of the DeWeese fund, the division was able to have an unprecedented year of presentations and research presented locally and nationally. Our program was the most represented at the 2024 VAM, and the work is being celebrated across the nation as we continue to magnify our efforts and distinguish ourselves as a leader in name, programming, and research. We're honored to continue to utilize these funds to further our endeavors in innovation and exceptional patient care.

Gifts to the Dr. James Arville DeWeese Endowment Fund currently total \$319,635 as of January 7, 2025. Our goal is to raise an additional \$1.2 million, or more, to elevate the fund to an endowed professorship. Securing professorships in the name of vascular surgeons, like James DeWeese, is essential to the division's ability to recruit and retain national leaders.

Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship

The Vascular Surgery Research Fellowship was established in 2019, as a major priority of the program, to provide support for surgical trainees to complete a vascular surgery research fellowship in the University of Rochester Medical Center. Protected time for research is critical for advancing careers of trainees who have heavy clinical workloads. Many faculty members in the Division of Vascular Surgery choose to support this fund personally because they know the value that it holds for young researchers.

Consider making a gift to support the Division of Vascular Surgery. For additional information about giving, please contact Jennifer Koehnlein, executive director of development, URMC Clinical Programs at jennifer.koehnlein@rochester.edu.

[Make a gift]

Contact updates & class notes

Have you had a change in address? Do you have good news to share with your fellow alumni? You can submit your updates below.

[Submit your contact updates]

[Share a story or photo]



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