

Key Note Speaker: Launching your surgical career

PROF BARBARA LEE BASS



Barbara Lee Bass, a widely respected academic medicine leader, surgeon and researcher who completed her residency and served on faculty at the George Washington University, has been named vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Bass will be the first woman to lead SMHS. She joins GW on Jan. 15, 2020.

Dr. Bass is currently chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital (HMH) in Houston, Texas, and holds academic, clinical and research leadership positions with its affiliated universities and institutes.

In her new role, Dr. Bass is responsible for leading SMHS' academic, clinical and research missions and providing strategic direction on all aspects of GW's medical enterprise, including the university's relationships with the Medical Faculty Associates and GW Hospital.

"Dr. Bass has shown a remarkable commitment to academic medicine and health care throughout her accomplished career. She is a devoted physician, educator and researcher with an inspiring vision for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the university's medical enterprise," GW President Thomas LeBlanc said. "We are fortunate to welcome her back to GW and to benefit from her venerable academic and clinical leadership."

Known for her pioneering innovation in academic surgery and her commitment to teaching the next generation of physicians, Dr. Bass has established a successful career defined by excellence in clinical care, education, research and scientific discovery. Dr. Bass has spent much of her medical leadership career at HMH, a top-tier integrated academic medical center.

Arriving at HMH in 2005, she was responsible for creating its Department of Surgery from the ground up, including recruiting internationally acclaimed faculty; building high-quality clinical, residency and fellowship programs; and creating robust interdisciplinary research teams in the basic sciences, translational and clinical research domains across multiple disciplines. This year, the hospital, which is the flagship of Houston Methodist, is among the country's U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll hospitals and has ranked No. 1 in Texas for the past eight years. The faculty in the surgical disciplines in Dr. Bass's department contributed substantially to these quality achievements.

In addition to her primary role at HMH, Dr. Bass also serves as chair of the surgery department in the Houston Methodist Specialty Physician Group and has contributed to the development of the organization's partnership with the hospital system it serves, helping align the entities' academic, clinical and research missions. She holds the John F. Jr. and Carolyn Bookout Distinguished Presidential Chair and is professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and the Houston Methodist Institute for Academic Medicine; adjunct professor of surgery at Texas A&M College of Medicine; and full member of the Houston Methodist Research Institute.

Completing her residency in general surgery at GW, Dr. Bass expanded her training with a research fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research while serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, which launched her research career. After graduating, she began her career on the GW faculty as a general surgeon and surgeon-scientist at the Washington, D.C., VA Hospital.

With that foundation, Dr. Bass further grew her leadership as a physician educator and researcher, holding leadership roles at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and University of Maryland Medical System, including professor of surgery, program director of the residency in general surgery and associate chair for research and academic affairs, before joining HMH.

Throughout her career Dr. Bass has been a mentor to medical students, surgical residents, research fellows and faculty, and she directly contributed to the training of more than 250 surgical residents. At HMH, she developed a highly rated clinical rotation for medical students and led the creation of Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited training programs in general surgery and numerous other surgical fellowship programs.

While she is most proud of the accomplishments and contributions of her faculty and residents at HMH, Dr. Bass said, she has been “very gratified” to have served as the founder and executive director of the Houston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education (MITIE), a state-of-the-art education and research center that has hosted more than 55,000 health care providers in practice for training courses. MITIE responds to evolving educational needs in health care for providers at all stages of career development, leveraging the tools of simulation to foster safe and effective dissemination of new technologies and to optimize interdisciplinary team performance—all critical elements for lifelong learning, Dr. Bass said.

As a researcher, Dr. Bass’s current interests include computational surgery, health services research and outcomes sciences and clinical trials in surgical oncology, following two decades of bench research in gastrointestinal biology. For more than 25 years, her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, VA Health Services Research and Development Service program, and the European Union, among others. She has published more than 170 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and numerous monographs, chapters, and books; served on NIH review boards and on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Surgery* and the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, and other previous roles.

“Dr. Bass impressed the search committee with her far-reaching contributions to medicine; her demonstrated commitment to supporting faculty in their practice, education and research endeavors; and her passion for training the next generation of health care professionals,” said Anton N. Sidawy, chair of the search committee and chair of the SMHS Department of Surgery. “She will be a strong leader for SMHS and the medical enterprise.”

Through her national service and leadership, Dr. Bass has advanced her field with advocacy for equity and diversity for women and underrepresented minorities in health care careers and in academic advancement. She is nationally recognized for bringing innovative pathways to surgical training and fostering career development of clinician-scientists and leaders in health care and academic medicine.

She was a founding member of the research program that led to the development of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program in the VA health care system and in the private sector program of the

American College of Surgeons. Through leadership roles as chair of the American Board of Surgery, president of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and the Society of Surgical Chairs and most recently as the 98th president of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Bass has had significant impact on professional initiatives in surgical education, quality and outcomes measurement systems, professional advocacy and surgeon career development.

Dr. Bass has received numerous honors including election to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society as a medical student at the University of Virginia, the Olga Jonasson and Nina Starr Braunwald award of the Association of Women Surgeons, the Founder's Medal of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Surgeons. She has been awarded honorary fellowship from numerous international surgical colleges. This past May, Dr. Bass was the keynote speaker at the GW M.D. Program Diploma Ceremony.

Dr. Bass received a B.S. from Tufts University and an M.D. from the University of Virginia. Her current general surgery practice focuses on endocrine and breast surgery. She is married to Richard S. Marshall, who received his J.D. and L.L.M. degrees from GW. They have two sons, Wes and Wyatt.

PANEL SPEAKERS: Barriers in surgery: How to navigate and overcome them

PROF. VALERIE W. RUSCH



Valerie W. Rusch, MD, FACS, an esteemed thoracic surgeon who practices in New York, NY, has been elected to serve as the 2018–2019 President-Elect of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Dr. Rusch is vice-chair, clinical research, department of surgery; Miner Family Chair in Intrathoracic Cancers; attending surgeon, thoracic service, department of surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and professor of surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Rusch and the First and Second Vice-Presidents-Elect were elected at Wednesday's Annual Business Meeting of Members. An ACS Fellow since 1986 and this year's recipient of the ACS Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Rusch has led several prominent ACS bodies, including serving as Chair of the Board of Governors (2006–2008) and Board of Regents (B/R) (2015–2016). A Regent from 2008 to 2017, she chaired the Central Judiciary Committee (2009–2013), the Program Committee (2011–2017), the B/R Nominating Committee (2011–2012), and the Committee on Global Engagement (2016–2017). She served on the B/R Honors Committee (2012–2016), Executive Committee (2013–2016), and Finance Committee (2014–2016). In addition, she has been a member of the College's Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery (2002–2017), International Relations Committee (2007–2013), Executive Committee, (2009–2012), Commission on Cancer (CoC) Executive Committee (2012–2017), Scholarships Committee (2008–2012), and Research and Optimal Patient Care Committee (2008–2015).

As a young faculty member at the University of Washington, Seattle, she served as Field Liaison Fellow to the CoC for the Seattle Veterans Affairs and University Hospitals and as a Councilor for the ACS Washington State Chapter. For more than 15 years, Dr. Rusch has been closely involved in the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and has served as Chair of the Lung and Esophagus Task Force for the sixth and seventh Editions of the staging manual and as Chair of the Thoracic Expert Panel for the recently published eighth Edition of the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, personally authoring several of the thoracic

chapters. In addition to speaking at various ACS Postgraduate Courses and Clinical Congress Scientific Sessions, Dr. Rusch delivered the John H. Gibbon, Jr., Lecture at Clinical Congress 2014.

Dr. Rusch specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cancers of the lung, airways (trachea, bronchi), esophagus, mediastinum, chest wall, and pleura (malignant pleural mesothelioma). She was among the first women in the U.S. to be board certified in thoracic surgery.

For more than 30 years, she has emphasized a multidisciplinary approach to treating patients with thoracic malignancy. Her research has focused on the molecular behaviors of asbestos cancers and the genetic tendencies of lung cancer as a means to identify certain cancers in the earlier stages.

Dr. Rusch has been a leader in national and international clinical trials for the treatment of thoracic malignancies and played a pivotal role in establishing the ACS Oncology Group—now the ACS Clinical Research Program.

Among her many honors, in 2007, Dr. Rusch received the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education Socrates Award, and in 2012, the Association of Women Surgeons awarded her The Nina Starr Braunwald Award for lifetime contributions to the advancement of women in surgery. She received the Henry N. Harkins Award from the Washington State Chapter, as well as the Outstanding Teacher Award, department of surgery, and the Willet F. Whitmore Award for Clinical Excellence, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation has honored Dr. Rusch with the Pioneer Award for clinical research in malignant mesothelioma.

She has held 25 visiting professorships and lectureships and given more than 300 major lectures on thoracic cancers at medical conferences around the world. Her curriculum vita boasts more than 400 peer-reviewed publications.

In addition to the ACS, Dr. Rusch has been a leader of other surgical organizations. She served as chair of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, chair of the Lung and Esophagus Task Force of the AJCC, and chair of the Mesothelioma Subcommittee of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Staging Committee. She is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, Association for Thoracic Surgery, American College of Chest Physicians, American Radium Society, American Surgical Association, American Thoracic Society, Association for Academic Surgery, Society of Surgical Oncology, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons. She is an honorary member of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland.

Dr. Rusch is fluent in both French and English, having graduated from the Lycée Français de New York. She graduated with honors from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, with a degree in biochemistry and Alpha Omega Alpha with her medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and completed surgical residency training in general surgery and thoracic surgery at the University of Washington, followed by a fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston.

PROF. PATRICIA J. NUMANN



Patricia J. Numann, MD, FACS, Past-President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and a general surgeon from Syracuse, NY. Dr. Numann is the Lloyd S. Rogers Professor of Surgery Emeritus, State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University, Syracuse; SUNY Upstate Distinguished Service Professor; and SUNY Upstate Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus. She is the fourth surgeon to be accorded the ACS Lifetime Achievement Award. Previous recipients are: C. Rollins Hanlon, MD, FACS, Past-Director of the ACS; George F. Sheldon, MD, FACS, ACS Past-President; and Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, Past-Executive Director of the ACS.

Dr. Numann became a Fellow of the College in 1974 and has actively contributed to the work of the ACS for many years. She has attended every Clinical Congress since 1969. Most recently, she served on the ACS Foundation Board of Directors (2011–2018), starting as an ex officio member during her College presidency. Among her other leadership positions in the ACS, she served as ACS Second Vice-President (1999–2000) and as Director, ACS Fundamentals of Surgery Curriculum (FSC), and led the ACS FSC Steering Committee. She continues to serve as ACS FSC Co-Chair and on the ACS Entering Resident Readiness Assessment Committee.

Previously, Dr. Numann was a member of the Board of Regents Communications Committee (1999–2000), Advisory Council for General Surgery (1999–2002), Graduate Medical Education Committee (1992–1994), and member (1992–1994) and Chair (1994–1995) of the Nominating Committee of Fellows and Committee on Surgical Education in Medical Schools (1986–1996). She joined the ACS Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (*SESAP*[®]) Committee in 1976 for *SESAP* 3 and served as Co-Chair from (1983–1999), through eight successful releases—*SESAP*[™] 3 through *SESAP*[™] 10. In 2006, the ACS recognized Dr. Numann for her invaluable service contributions by naming her the recipient of its Distinguished Service Award, the College’s highest honor. In 2018, she was selected as an inaugural Member of the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators.

In addition to the ACS, Dr. Numann has been an active leader and member of several other national surgical and medical organizations. In 1987, she was elected to the American Medical Association’s Council on Scientific Affairs. She was the first woman to serve as chair of the esteemed American Board of Surgery (1994–2002) and was vice-president of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (1992). Dr. Numann was one of the founding members and president of the Association for Surgical Education (1985–1986) and founded the Association for Women Surgeons (AWS) in 1982 and later served as its president (1986–1987).

Throughout her remarkable career, Dr. Numann has received numerous honors and awards at the local, state, and national level, including the New York State Woman of Distinction in Medicine Award (1994), the AWS Nina Starr Braunwald Award (1998), and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Distinguished Service Award (2001). The Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund of Central New York named her Humanitarian of the Year in 2003. Dr. Numann next was inducted into the International Women Physicians’ Hall of Fame and named a “Local Legend” to the National Library of Medicine’s “Changing Faces of Medicine” exhibit (2004). In 2011, she was awarded the Danis Prize of the International Society of Surgery/Société Internationale de Chirurgie—its highest honor. She received the American Medical Women’s Association Elizabeth Blackwell Award in 2006 and the Lila M. Wallis Women’s Health Award in 2007.

Dr. Numann's clinical and scientific interests have focused on breast disease, and thyroid and parathyroid disease, a commitment reflected in the establishment of the Breast & Endocrine Surgery Center at SUNY Upstate in 1986. Moreover, she received grants and served as principal investigator or co-investigator of several studies researching various aspects of breast and endocrine disease. When Dr. Numann retired from active clinical practice and as the Lloyd S. Rogers Professor of Surgery in 2007, she was awarded emeritus status by SUNY Upstate, and the Breast and Endocrine Center was renamed in her honor. In 2009, it was announced that "in honor of her life's work and outstanding dedication," SUNY Upstate was creating its first endowed chair for a woman: the Patricia J. Numann, MD, Chair of Surgery.

Known as an outstanding and motivating educator, Dr. Numann received the Distinguished Teacher Award (1983) and President's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1990) from SUNY Upstate, where the graduating medical students have regularly asked her to serve as faculty marshal or to deliver the Oath of Hippocrates during commencement.

A native of Denver, NY, Dr. Numann has ardently devoted her entire professional life to SUNY Upstate Medical University. After earning a medical degree there in 1965, she completed a combined internship in medicine and surgery (1965–1966), and then trained as a general surgery resident (1966–1970). After residency, Dr. Numann was appointed assistant professor of surgery (1970–1975), and then rose through the academic ranks at SUNY Upstate serving as associate professor of surgery (1975–1989), associate dean of the College of Medicine (1978–1984), associate dean of the College of Medicine Clinical Affairs (1989–1994), professor of surgery (1989–2007), medical director of the University Hospital (1997–2007), and Lloyd S. Rogers Professor of Surgery (2000–2007).

Dr. Numann also served as attending surgeon at SUNY Upstate Medical University (1989–2007); staff surgeon at Veteran's Affairs Hospital (1970–2007); and as consulting surgeon at Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital (1970–2006), all located in Syracuse. Dr. Numann is board certified by the American Board of Surgery (1971, recertified 1994).

Dr. Numann has authored or co-authored several chapters in surgical textbooks, as well as numerous journal articles and abstracts, many of which focus on breast and parathyroid disease. She has served on the editorial boards of several prestigious medical and surgical journals, including the *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, and *World Journal of Surgery*.

Dr. Numann resides in Syracuse, where she continues to devote herself to many teaching and community service organizations, including the boards of the Everson Museum of Art, The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, and Vera House. She chairs the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Funds Grant committee and remains an active advocate for women surgeons. She is regularly invited to national and international meetings to speak about topics related to career success and empowerment for women surgeons. She supports Women in Surgery Africa by attending their annual meetings at the College of Surgeons of Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA), participating in the COSECSA fellowship exams and mentoring women surgeons in Africa. She is an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Glasgow, Academy of Medicine and Surgery of Malaysia, Association of Surgeons of India, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand.

DR. VIOLET LUPONDO



Dr. Violet Lupondo is a senior Orthopaedic & Trauma Surgeon who graduated 1 years ago. She is the second Female Orthopaedics & Trauma Surgeon in Tanzania and the first locally trained Female Orthopaedic & Trauma Surgeon from University of Dar es Salama Faculty of Medicine. She majors in Joint Replacement Surgery & Orthopaedic Oncology, also being the first female joint replacement surgeon in the country. She is Honorary Lecturer at Muhimbili University college of health science & at St Joseph University. He is also the current WiSA country chapter leader. She believes in professionalism being honest and ethical. She is a wife and a mother to five kids, loves sport such as basketball and spinning, likes traveling and enjoys music. Knowing that somebody is in pain and unable to move and that her hands can't make a difference in their suffering, this is what gets her up in the morning. As Life is movement and movement is Life

DR. WAIRIMU NDEGWA



Dr. Wairimu Ndegwa graduated from the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACs) and COSECSA in General surgery in 2018. She is also a certified ATLS instructor and currently serve as General Surgery faculty in JKUAT – College of Health Sciences. A passionate, God-fearing surgeon with a hunger to help those most in need in the community. Strongly driven by a need to impact future generations of surgeons, she enjoys mentoring in and out of the operating theatre in skills pertaining compassionate patient care as well as skills to survive the changing tides of the surgical field. Future interests are in trauma and critical care with a keen eye on curriculum development for surgical training. Wairimu Ndegwa, MD, FCS (ECSA) - General Surgery General Surgery faculty - JKUAT - College of Health Sciences

DR BUSI MLAMBO



Dr Busi Mlambo is a Registrar in General Surgery at the University of Zimbabwe. She

holds a Bachelor in Molecular Biology, Bioinformatics and Biochemistry from the University of Maryland in the United States and a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from The University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is currently sits on the WiSA board as the Education and Conference Officer.

Dr Busi Mlambo's interests are in Surgical Oncology and Minimally Invasive Surgery. She is a proud member of WISA and passionate about playing her part in empowering Women in Surgery."