



5/12/09

Dear doctors,
Thank you for letting us venture to Columbia for an AWESOME Field trip. You talked to us making us aware of medical mysteries, nutrition, medical discoveries, inventions, germs and much more. I also want to thank you for providing us with lunch, surgical protective gear and a surgical practice game where we picked up plastic triangles and drop them onto the pegs. I am also thankful



FAMIS

The Foundation for the Advancement
of Minimally Invasive Surgery

2009-2010 Annual Report



Update from the President



Dr. Jaime Landman
President, FAMIS

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, I am proud to present FAMIS's fourth annual summary report. In just five years, we have already had a global impact, supporting an astonishing range of research programs and educational efforts. We are grateful for your help and proud to continue this mission.

Over the past year, we have also clarified the focus of the foundation's efforts. FAMIS is, and always will be, dedicated to minimally invasive surgery; however, most of our programs have targeted the treatment of kidney cancer and kidney stones. These programs reflect the priorities of our supporters, many of whose lives have been touched by these challenging problems.

We hope that you will continue to support our efforts, which are summarized here for your review. It is only because of your generosity that we are able to continue studying and advancing the field of minimally invasive surgery. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit famissurgery.org.

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Education: FAMIS Fellows

Domestic and international training for minimally invasive surgery remains one of our major goals. Our current fellows are trained surgeons developing their clinical and research skills in minimally invasive surgery to deliver a higher level of care. Here are some of the exciting projects our fellows are performing.

 <p>Dr. Adam Mues (USA) - "I am assessing ablative and extirpative procedures, as well as active surveillance, as treatments for kidney cancer. I am creating new treatment algorithms that provide the greatest chance of a successful outcome with the least invasive approach possible." </p>	 <p>Dr. Philippa Cheetham (UK) - "The use of robotics during operations is a recent innovation that is becoming increasingly popular. I am working to optimize the use of the robot for cancer procedures and evaluating related peri- and post-operative outcomes." </p>
 <p>Dr. Hiroshi Katsumi (USA) "Up to nine percent of the population is affected by kidney stones. If body composition can predict the nature of kidney stones and their response to treatment, it will allow patients to receive the least invasive treatment possible while still obtaining optimum results." </p>	 <p>Dr. Zhamshid Okhunov (Russia) - "Recent studies have established obesity as a risk factor for several malignancies. I am using brand new technologies, such as spectroscopy, to assess body composition and its relation to cancer with an unprecedented level of precision." </p>
 <p>Cristin Cassaza (USA) "I'm very excited to work in an environment where ground-breaking data is collected on a daily basis. Biostatistics, my specialty, can only be as substantive as the raw numbers, so I'm thrilled to work with this team as we study kidney cancer together." </p>	 <p>Dr. Georgios Haramis (Greece) - "This fellowship has allowed me to work with outstanding researchers and physicians, as well as obtain first-hand experience with the surgical techniques performed in the United States. After completing this program I will return to Greece to share this knowledge." </p>

Visiting Professors

FAMIS sponsored guest lectures from two visiting professors during the past year. We would like to thank them for sharing the most up-to-date information in minimally invasive surgery with our physicians:



Dr. Peter Humphrey, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief of the Division of
Pathology and Immunology
Washington University in St. Louis



Dr. Elspeth McDougall, MD
Professor of Urology
University of California - Irvine
Director
Amer. Urological Assoc. Office of Education

Research Projects

Currently, FAMIS is supporting over 30 clinical and laboratory research studies. These projects range from the development of new techniques and technologies, applications of molecular biology to improve the diagnosis of cancer, evaluation of novel technologies, and improved understanding of the physiology and anatomy of the human body. While diverse in their nature, all of these projects have the same central core goal; to make surgery less invasive and more tolerable for patients.

Can “disposable” surgical equipment be safely refurbished and re-used?



Very few physicians have ever heard of “reprocessing;” however, it is very likely that reprocessed equipment has already affected your health or the health of your family members, as it is used in over half of hospitals.

Minimally invasive surgery depends on state-of-the-art surgical equipment that is considered “disposable.” Disposable items are manufactured for a single procedure, and while they often yield excellent outcomes, their cost has grown dramatically over the past decade.

In the past few years, however, several companies have started to refurbish and re-sterilize that equipment after it has been used. The reprocessed equipment is then resold to the hospital at approximately half the price. Reprocessing companies are completely independent of the original manufacturer and contend their equipment is safe and effective. They argue they will significantly reduce costs for healthcare providers while also decreasing

medical waste. The original device manufacturers, however, contend their equipment was never designed for multiple uses, and that the lack of safety trials using reprocessed materials poses a risk to patients.

FAMIS is currently sponsoring a study to compare the functional characteristics of new and reprocessed trocars (access devices for minimally invasive surgery). In an unbiased manner, FAMIS researchers will determine if reprocessing is a “green” or a “mean” practice.

Rethinking the urinary stent: A new design for an old technology

Stents are simple tubes that hold open body structures. In recent years, coronary stents have helped patients avoid open heart surgery. Since 1977, however, stents have also helped surgeons perform minimally invasive surgery on the kidney and urinary tract. An ongoing problem, however, has been the pain that stents continue to cause patients in the months after the procedure. FAMIS researchers have recently redesigned the traditional urinary tract stent to minimize the contact surface area between patient and stent, which should increase patient comfort.



Does fat around the kidney increase cancer risk?

We all know body fat can plug up the arteries to the heart. But new research has found that fat around organs can also cause cancer. Preliminary data from FAMIS-sponsored researchers has correlated the amount of fat around the kidney (as measured on imaging studies) with the risk of having aggressive kidney cancer. If those data are supported, measuring the fat around a patient’s kidney could become a new, non-invasive way to establish which patients need more aggressive interventions.

FAMIS-sponsored researchers are also assessing whether overall body fat is an accurate measure of cancer risk. Although previous studies have studied this relationship using the body-mass index as a representative for body fat, our researchers are obtaining more precise body-fat measurements using advanced tools, such as bioelectrical impedance analysis. This work may provide physicians with an accurate, non-invasive technique to screen for cancer risk.



ity Partnership Charter School (CPCS) participated in the program.

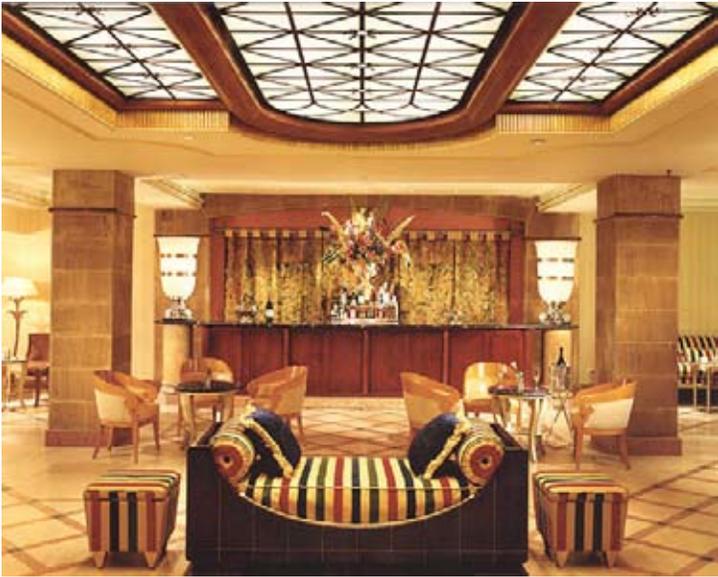
The CPCS was founded in 1989 by the Beginning with Children Foundation to ensure low-income, underserved children could have access to high-quality education. Carol and Joseph Reich, founders of the Beginning with Children Foundation, attended the event.

FAMIS recently sponsored its third annual “Doctors for a Day” program at Columbia University, continuing its efforts to educate America’s next generation of potential physicians. 20 third-grade students from Brooklyn’s Commu-

The students heard lectures about health and minimally invasive surgery from world-class experts in the Departments of Surgery, Urology, Radiology, Nutrition and more. The children then headed to the FAMIS-sponsored minimally invasive training laboratory to get first-hand experience with real surgical technologies.



Annual Gala



On June 23rd 2009, over 100 guests gathered in midtown New York to support FAMIS and its vision for the future of surgery. This year, on April 12th, the FAMIS committee will host a grand gala at the historic Barbizon on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The event will feature the food of star chef Jehangir Mehta (pictured below left), a contestant on this year's "Next Iron Chef" series and owner of the renowned Graffiti Restaurant in New York. Chef Mehta will be assisted by sous-chef Thomas Lo (pictured below middle), a physician at Columbia/Presbyterian who has also been highlighted on the Iron Chef series.

In the 1920's the Barbizon was one of the city's finest residences for women who left the traditional home and moved to New York City for its professional opportunities. Since that time, the Barbizon hosted many social, intellectual and athletic events, attracting a variety of famous tenants such as Grace Kelly, Candice Bergen and Liza Minnelli.

Diane Gutentag (pictured below right), chair of the gala committee, said, "This year we are organizing a very special event. All proceeds will go to FAMIS's newly established Leonard Berman Fund to support research on kidney cancer. It is by combining a worthy cause, a historic space, and the brilliant talents of Chef Mehta that we hope to bring tremendous attention to a needy cause while providing our guests with a very memorable experience."



SPOTLIGHT

Person of the Year: Martin Emerson



Each year the FAMIS Board of Directors elects a person of the year, someone who has made significant contributions to the advancement of minimally invasive surgery. This year we are pleased to honor Mr. Martin Emerson.

Mr. Emerson is currently the President / Chief Executive Officer and a director of Galil Medical. He has over 22 years of experience in the medical device industry and has held senior leadership positions at American Medical Systems Holdings, Boston Scientific, MasterCard International, and Baxter International Inc.

Mr. Emerson is also a director of Wright Medical, a public company, and Incisive Surgical, a private company. Previously, Mr. Emerson served on the board of directors of Lifecore Biomedical as well AdvaMed, the trade association for the medical device industry.

Mr. Emerson has been an important force in the development of many important biotechnologies used in the treatment of kidney and prostate disease.

Mr. Emerson was recently honored by the World Congress of Endourology for his leadership within the medical device industry. We are proud to feature him as the 2010 FAMIS person of the year.

Highlighted Professor: Dr. Kim-Schulze



Each year FAMIS highlights a distinguished medical researcher whose work holds great promise of advancing minimally invasive surgery. This year FAMIS recognizes Dr. Seunghee Kim-Schulze, an assistant professor of Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Dr. Kim-Schulze received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center. She completed post-doctoral training at the Imperial College in London and was then recruited to Columbia University in New York.

She is active in the area of tumor immunity, and her current research interests focus on creating vaccines to stimulate the immune system to attack remaining cancer cells. This research may ultimately lead to novel, highly-effective and minimally invasive treatments for kidney and prostate cancer. FAMIS is proud to sponsor Dr. Kim-Schulze's research and looks forward to her continued success.

For more information, or to make a donation,
Please contact Dr. Jaime Landman at 212-305-5630 / landman.jaime@gmail.com, or visit www.FAMISSurgery.org