



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



ColumbiaDoctors | Surgery

*College of Physicians
and Surgeons*

Welcome,

In the spirit of fostering communication and collaboration across the department, we would like to introduce three talented researchers who joined CCTI and CIOR this summer. Please see their brief biosketches directly below this note.

As always, thank you for your continued participation in this monthly e-newsletter. Please be sure to email Paul Kurlansky (pk2245@columbia.edu) or myself (crs2@cumc.columbia.edu) with your confirmed publications, presentations, and grants for our upcoming issues.

As a reminder, the PubMed links below should work for everyone. The journal-specific links will only work if you have a subscription to that journal or you are connected into the Columbia University library e-journal system.

Best regards,
Craig Smith, MD

RESEARCH FACULTY

Kazuhiko Yamada, MD, PhD

Professor of Surgical Science and Director, Surgical
Research, Columbia Center for Translational Immunology
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Dr. Yamada's research focuses principally on finding new means to induce tolerance to allogeneic and xenogeneic organ transplants (interspecies transplantation) in preclinical large animal models, concentrating mainly on the thymus as an agent for tolerance induction. He has developed innovative procedures for the induction of tolerance by transplanting thymus or islets as a vascularized graft, so called the vascularized thymic lobe (VTL), thymokidney (TK), islet-kidney (IK) and thymo-islet-kidney (TIK) grafts in preclinical models of MHC inbred swine and non-human primate. Dr. Yamada's continuous efforts with the CCTI and Surgery/Medicine teams in the Columbia

University Medical Center could potentially resolve the two major obstacles to clinical transplantation: shortage of donor organs and lifelong post-transplant immunosuppression.

After qualifying as a Board-certified urologist in Japan, Dr. Kazuhiko Yamada joined the Transplantation Biology Research Center (TBRC), Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) as a research fellow in 1993. He was promoted to an Instructor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School (HMS) in 1998, to Assistant Professor of Surgery in 2000 and to Associate Professor of Surgery in 2004 at HMS and was appointed to Director, Surgical Research, TBRC, MGH. He has conducted both allogeneic and xenogeneic transplantation projects as a Head of Organ Transplantation Tolerance and Xenotransplantation Lab, TBRC, MGH, served as a Councilor of IXA and as an editorial board member of several major journals in the field of transplantation, and he has hosted four transplant congresses.

David H. Sachs, MD

Professor of Surgical Sciences

Columbia Center for Translational Immunology

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David H. Sachs' research program centers on the goal of developing a clinically applicable technology for xenotransplantation of porcine organs into primates. The projects within his program are directed toward tolerizing both the innate and the adaptive immune responses to xenografts and genetically engineering inbred miniature swine to minimize the primate anti-pig immune response.

Dr. Sachs received his A.B. in Chemistry, Summa cum Laude, from Harvard College in 1963, a D.E.S. from the University of Paris in 1964, and his M.D., Magna Cum Laude, from Harvard Medical School in 1968. He was a surgical resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston from 1968 to 1970. Subsequently, as an officer in the Public Health Service at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, he directed a program in transplantation research as Chief of the Immunology Branch, NCI. In 1991, he returned to the MGH as Director of the Transplantation Biology Research Center and the Paul S. Russell Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. Throughout his career, Dr. Sachs has worked at the interface between basic science and clinical applications in the field of transplantation. He has published over 700 research articles and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Onur Baser, MA, MS, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgical Sciences (in Surgery)

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Dr. Baser's research interests includes unwarranted variations in health care as well as comparative effectiveness research. He has consistently worked with government datasets (Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, etc.) and commercial datasets (United Health, IMS, Premier, Market Scan, etc.) to minimize selection bias issues related with outcomes research studies using real world datasets. He is currently editor-in-chief for Journal of Health Economics and Outcomes Research.

Dr. Baser earned his MA (in Economics), MS (in Statistics) and PhD (in Economics) at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. After briefly working as Senior Health Economics at Truven Health Analytics, he joined the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI as a faculty member in 2006.

CONGRATULATIONS

The COLUMBIA-COULTER Translational Research Partnership has awarded a \$113,387 grant entitled "Ultraviolet Laser Sleeve" to a Department of Surgery team led by Henry Spotnitz and including Roman Nowygrod, Yoshi Naka, and Hiroo Takayama. The team will work with David Brenner and Andreas Heilscher to explore clinical applications of ultra-short, single wavelength ultraviolet light. The award begins on September 1, 2015.

Congratulations as well to Dr. Jeffrey Ascherman on being named President Elect of the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons.

BARIATIC SURGERY

Publications

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CARDIAC SURGERY

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EDUCATION

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