

# Dr. Zwi Steiger

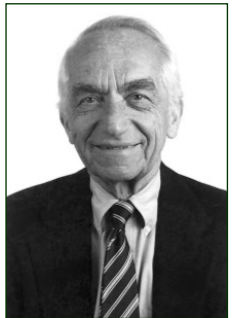
## The Convoluted Pathway To Success

### Part I



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Dr. Zwi Steiger

The surgical residents who trained in the WSU surgical program during the mid 1960s through the early 1990s had the opportunity to be influenced by a surgical giant, Dr. Zwi Steiger. During his career at WSU, he trained many surgeons in abdominal and thoracic surgery. He was a very skillful technical surgeon who had great wisdom about when and how to operate and was a masterful teacher in transferring his knowledge to his surgical residents. He supervised the general and thoracic surgical residents at the Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital primarily but also contributed significantly to their training at the Harper Hospital and provided in-house night call supervision once a month at the old Detroit Receiving Hospital. Technically difficult cases tended to flow in his direction. In the midst of all of his outstanding teaching and patient care, he had a tremendous sense of humor, and each time anyone encountered him, he would provide a new joke and somehow never had the need to repeat a joke twice. He must have had a repertoire of over a 1000 jokes with which he could entertain friends and colleagues.

Dr. Thomas Siegel (WSU/GS/VS 1977/82/83) had the opportunity to come across an interview that Dr. Steiger gave in the early 1980s. This interview highlights some of the difficulties that Dr. Steiger had to overcome during his early years prior to World War II, his survival through this awful conflict until Germany was conquered, and then his struggles to complete his education before coming to Detroit, where he completed his illustrious career. Like most memoirs, this interview provides insight into some of the national and international difficulties that threatened Dr. Steiger's homeland and teaches us how to try to avoid causing similar challenges and sufferings by our fellow international citizens.

**INTERVIEW:**

*Okay, Zwi, just to start with, could you state your name and what year you were born and where you were born.*

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June 2020

## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

*My name is Zwi, or as they call me at home, Hershie Steiger, and I was born in Veklý Berezny, which is a small town in the Carpathian Mountains. At that time, it belonged to Czechoslovakia. I was born on January 17<sup>th</sup> in 1922, and it's interesting, I was born across the street from your grandparents (the interviewer), in a small one- or two-bedroom house.*

*Veklý Berezny was a small town of about 3000 people. It was a center of commerce for the population around, and it was sitting right on the highway along the main railroad between Hungary and Czechoslovakia going towards Poland and Galicia. It was on the border between Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia.*

#### **Did your parents already have other children?**

*I had an older brother. After me, I had two younger sisters who died in childhood and one younger brother who didn't survive the Second World War. He died in the spring of 1945.*

#### **Could you tell me the names of your brothers and sisters?**

*My older brother was Dov, who lives in Israel, and my younger brother was Jacob, or Yakov, who was five years younger than me. The two sisters who died in childhood were Mendel and Rivka.*

#### **How many extended relatives did you have?**

*There were about 60 people that lived within 30 miles. None of my father's brother's family survived the Holocaust. None of my mother's younger brother's family survived. Likewise, my mother's two sister's families, their children and their husbands, none of them survived. Another sister of my mother had survivors. Most of my relatives on my father's side died, only about 15 survived.*

#### **What did your father do for a living?**

*My father was managing a local bank, where he was employed about 24 years after the First World War; he started there as a young clerk and became manager until he was taken away to Auschwitz. This was in 1944. They appointed a Gentile manager who was a former member of the Hungarian Parliament. He was a titular manager. He had no understanding of bank management. There were no Jews in managerial positions.*

#### **Now that was already after the Hungarians took control?**

*This was after the Hungarians took control. I think it was in 1940 when he was appointed there. The Hungarians took control over our areas, which is the northern part of Carpathian Ruthenia in March 1939.*



## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

#### **How did that come about? What was the reason for that?**

*They, as you know, the Czech Republic started falling in October of 1938, and when the northern part of Bohemia was annexed to Germany, that was the Munich Pact.*

#### **And that was the Sudetenland?**

*Yes, the Sudetenland, and that followed in March of 1939 by the complete takeover of Bohemia and Moravia by the Germans. Slovakia became an independent nation. The southern part of Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia was taken over by the Hungarians in 1938 in October. But Carpathian Ruthenia was still part of Czechoslovakia until March of 1939. Then, in March of 1939, the Hungarians marched in after the republic fell apart completely.*

#### **The Hungarian Government was already in alliance with Germany?**

*It was allied with Germany because Czechoslovakia yielded the southern part of Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia to Hungary in October 1938 when Czechoslovakia yielded the Sudetenland. In addition, Hungary was a fascist government from 1919 when the so-called communist Republic of Hungary fell apart. After the First World War, there was a communist takeover, and afterwards the regent of Hungary, Horthy, ruled Hungary until the end of the Second World War. Between the two world wars, Hungary was preoccupied with thousands of Jews in Hungary and had to block their participation in public life, to control their admittance to universities and so forth.*

#### **So, there were already Nuremberg type laws in Hungary?**

*Yes, similar. You couldn't get into a university, but Jews were still serving in the army, but in 1939 and 1940 they established the so-called labor camps for Jews who were of military age.*

#### **You are from a religious family?**

*We were observant and strictly observant with the Kosher laws. We went to prayers on holidays and Shabbat, and it was Hebrew tradition in our home to read and write Hebrew. My father was getting Hebrew periodicals of Hebrew literature, and my grandfather was probably a Talmudic scholar of the Tenach. I'm sure you know the name of Raphael Patai. His father published a magazine in Budapest, "The Past and the Future", and my father was involved on the board of the Hebrew Secondary School in Munkacs, which is about 60 miles away from Berezný.*



## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

#### **And what were the relations like between the Goyim and the Jews in Veklý Berezny?**

*Between the Gentiles and the Jews it was always good. There were frictions, as there always are between people who live together with your neighbors. If I remember correctly, there was one attempt at a so-called blood libel suit, and I remember I was probably 5 or 6 years old, when my father went to Ungvar to testify. I remember one murder in a smaller hamlet not far from us; there was a Jewish storekeeper who was killed. We had some run-ins with some of the kids in school, but nothing serious.*

#### **What about your schooling at this time?**

*We went to public school. At 6 o'clock you were usually in cheder (Hebrew day school) doing some reading and some prayers. By 7 o'clock, you went home and you had breakfast and then back to regular school. Then you went to cheder until 7 o'clock in the evening. We went to cheder starting at age 3 and regular school at age 6.*

#### **How far along did your education progress?**

*I was 13 when I left home and went to Ungvar to study for a year. I went to the Hebrew Secondary School in Ungvar. This would be 1935. I graduated in 1941. The education would extend beyond what is obtained in an American high school.*

*We had more advanced courses in math, history, and geography. I was 19 years old when I finished. So it was probably somewhat better than most American high schools. You can even see it now when American kids, after high school, want to go to a university in Israel and they have to take a remedial year of extra studies.*

*By this time, Czechoslovakia started falling apart and, as you know, Hitler annexed Austria in 1938, and there was a mobilization in Czechoslovakia because there were some rumors that Hitler may try to invade Czechoslovakia. Hungarian infiltrators tried to sabotage and cause explosions in certain areas, and they asked us to join the local militia. This was when I first got a gun. We received training on just how to shoot and on establishing a post to guard the waterworks.*

*At this time, my brother had a hard time getting into any school because the Czechs were oppressing the Jews. In October 1938, the Sudeten were already taken by the Germans when my brother was in Prague to study engineering. The Czech Republic fell apart completely, and Hitler invaded Prague, and he made his way*



## Dr. Zwi Steiger

### The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..

*back to our hometown through Czechoslovakia and Hungary, so my brother stayed at home until the spring of 1940 when he left for Israel.*

#### **So what did you do in 1941?**

*After 1941, I was trying to get out of that area, but it was practically impossible because there was an obligation when you reached a certain age to serve in the Hungarian military. They didn't accept you as a Jew, but they didn't give you a passport. You had to bribe people to get a passport. But it was extremely difficult to get a passport, and there was no place to go since Jews were not welcomed anywhere after 1941.*

#### **How did you try to get out?**

*I tried to get out and not be subjected to discrimination. I was trying to go to Switzerland, to a university or to a technical school. Just trying to get an application for a passport was impossible. Getting a visa was impossible, and I was considering going to study medicine in Budapest. That request was rejected immediately.*

#### **Because you were Jewish?**

*Yes, because I was Jewish. I was considering going to study rabbinical studies. I would study philosophy and probably some literature and theology, but then I gave that up because I felt I should be back home and be useful for my parents and younger brother. So, I went back home and worked in a pharmacy as a technician in the laboratory.*

#### **Was this in Vekly Berezny?**

*Yes, for two years until I was obliged, according to the law, to register and was eventually drafted into a labor camp. Some labor camps were in Hungary, and others were sent to the eastern front with the Hungarian army, which was building roads and clearing minefields.*

#### **Were things normal at that time?**

*Yes. That was 1941 to 1943, and my father was still managing the local bank. There were some incidents on the street. I was beaten up once or twice, and my uncle was assaulted by those who hated Jews. By this time, they were closing Jewish stores, and the biggest stores had to hire some so-called managers who were Gentiles. Most Jewish stores were closing. Men were in labor camps, but they were still coming home for a few days once or twice a year, if they were not on the Eastern Front. So it was still manageable. But you could feel that doom was coming.*

Continue





## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

#### **Did people generally have the feeling that doom was coming?**

*Nobody knew exactly but, as you know, in 1941, immediately after the breakout of war between Germany and the Soviet Union, the Hungarians joined Germany. The Russian border was about 30 miles from our community. In the fall of 1941, there were several thousand Jews from Carpathian Ruthenia who were transported to Galicia and Kamenets-Podolski, where they were killed. They were shot. One of your (interrogator) aunts was killed there, and her sister managed to escape and eventually walked her way back here.*

#### **Did people in Vekly Berezny know about the killings?**

*There were rumors but no confirmation. Information gathering wasn't simple. There were no telephone communications, just rumors. There is no official policy to exterminate people. My mother had a brother who was married in Slovakia, and those people were deported and eventually disappeared. The rumors were that they were in eastern Poland or in the Ukraine working as forced labor, but they never survived the war.*

#### **You mentioned that you were assaulted?**

*They were walking in our neighborhood where they were taking over businesses, and they were living off the Jews. They usually took whatever they felt like taking. I remember two brothers and a friend walking down the street when they saw me, so they thought that they would take me on. They hit me a few times and they beat me. I tried to give them the same. In the beginning, I remember two of the local population who later came to our house and expressed their sympathy. They were sorry that such an instance happened, and so forth. You never knew what's going to happen when they were passing on the street. That was before I was drafted into the labor camp. You went once a week to do some public work. They were usually unpleasant, always threatening, and always demeaning and degrading to the Jews.*

#### **When did this so-called interim period come to an end?**

*In the beginning of September of 1943, that was when I had to leave home and go into a labor camp with several other people. They were older than me, and they had to go into labor camps. Some of them were on the Eastern Front, some were in Hungary. Occasionally, there was a letter from them. The letters all passed censorship and said little about what they were doing. I remember getting some letters from my brother through the Red Cross. He was in Egypt with the British Army, but the war was censored, and you could see a letter coming through with black, erased, or scratched out words to eliminate any significant news. There were many labor camps in southern Hungary and Yugoslavia and on the Eastern Front, in Transylvania.*



## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

#### **Only Jews were assigned to these camps?**

*Most of them were Jews. There were some so-called unreliable minorities, like Ukrainians or local Ruthenians. There were some that had to join the so-called labor camps. They were drafted or forced to go into labor camps.*

#### **And you were shipped out somewhere?**

*Everyone had to go to a certain town. That was where you were put into a battalion or into a regiment, and then you were shipped again to someplace else. My unit went to the Austrian border at first, where we were building an airport. In six months, the area became impossible to work because of the American airplanes that were flying over. There were continuous air raids. They were now bombing the whole area, so they gave up the idea of building that airport, and they shipped us to Transylvania where, in the summer, we prefabricated houses. Our unit was saved from going to the Eastern Front for some odd reason, probably because the commander of the unit, a Hungarian, was a major and, being from Poland, he didn't want to go. He was reluctant to go to the Eastern Front so he tried to do everything possible to keep us in Hungary. Our unit had just over 100 men.*

#### **Was this forced labor?**

*Yes. The conditions were tolerable at first. You were living underground and in places that were dug out in the ground and in bunks put there for protection. There were bunk beds with no separation and three to four levels high.*

#### **How often were you fed?**

*At first, we were fed three times a day because we were producing and working hard on the airport. You were always hungry, and there was no way to buy any food. At the beginning, you still could get some packages from home, but again the food from home was sometimes spoiled since there were no methods of preserving food. There were no cans at that time. The main thing that I remember, besides the hard labor, was the viciousness of most of the Hungarian soldiers who were guarding us. This included most of the officers.*

*When you were getting something from home, the soldiers gathered the mail and burned it or destroyed it. Especially in the last months they did this. They would hang people by their wrists for minor infractions. The Hungarians have done this for their own army men who were tied to a pole with their arms behind them and*

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## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

*their toes barely touching the ground. This might last for half an hour, or an hour; most people fainted from this. They doused them with water; it was cruelty by the Hungarian soldiers, and there was no German watching over these things. I am always cautious not to condemn all the Hungarians because they had some outstanding individuals, especially in higher positions, that were reading the papers of members of the parliament who were continuously speaking out against the persecution of the Jews and the treatment of the Jews. This lasted until about 1944, in September, when Romania suddenly switched sides and became an ally of the Russians as that front collapsed. The Germans retreated fast. Our camp was not in that area, as we were in Transylvania at that time, and we were trying to retreat from our working area. We went back to Hungary itself, towards Germany, on the first night. When we left camp, me and two other guys escaped from the unit. We spent some three weeks in the forest and the mountains until the Russians took over that area. I never made it back home, but I got some notes from my mother and from my father saying they left home and they were in a ghetto in Ungvar, whereas my younger brother sent me a postcard from Auschwitz. That was the last communication from him. From the forest, we could see some civilians being transported in cattle cars going west towards Germany. We had a feeling, because we had some contact with the people in that small town in Transylvania, that suddenly the Jews are being transported out of Germany.*

*The rumor was that they are being resettled. Those whole families were being resettled for labor purposes. This seemed to be understandable because manpower was short. Everybody was sure that they were being cared for, in factories and on the fields. That was the last time that I received anything from my parents. The last time I saw them was in February of 1944. At that time, it was pleasant. The Allies were already in Italy, and it was after Stalingrad repelled Hitler. The Eastern Front was moving towards Germany. The Russians were in the western part of the Ukraine, and you could feel that the tide was turning. The question was, will they remain alive or what will happen to the Jewish population in that area? I think there was hope that they would survive, that the Germans would not have time to do anything about the local population. There was always a feeling that if the front moves and people can go for a few days to the forest and manage, they would survive the retreat of the German Army. This changed, of course, as the Germans increased the extermination of Jews.*

*During 1944, there was a complete takeover when the Hungarians were considering switching or getting out of the war when the Germans completely occupied Hungary.*

**With German troops you mean?**





## **Dr. Zwi Steiger**

### **The Convoluted Pathway To Success, cont..**

*With German troops, and there was a switch of the government. I think there was an installation of a new government. Mr. Horthy remained as the caretaker for the so-called Kingdom of Hungary. In March, the Germans completely took over Hungary but still had a Hungarian caretaker government. That is when the deportations started, and that was when Eichmann came to Hungary and started cleaning out Jews, especially the periphery of Hungary, the Carpathian areas, Transylvania, and the southern part that was previously Yugoslavia. This exportation lasted for about two months, from April to June, when there was a halt because the war was coming closer and there was pressure from the Allies to stop the exportations. This lasted until October of 1944, when a completely fascist government took over. There are degrees in hell, and this was the worst. Szalasi took over completely, and he was completely pro-fascist, like the German fascists. That's when the killings in Budapest started; the shootings, executions, and transportation of Jews from Budapest itself.*

**Part II - July 2020**

## **Mrs. Amelia Steiger**

Dr. Zwi Steiger's bride, Mrs. Amelia Steiger, was a native Detroit who attended Wayne State University, earning advanced degrees in mathematics and linguistics. She worked at Wayne State, under a Department of Defense project, programming (then primitive) computers to translate Russian into English. She and Zwi met at a party of the University's Slavic Languages Department when Zwi was doing a portion of his thoracic surgery fellowship at the Herman Keifer Hospital. Zwi followed Amelia around at the party, not giving up until she gave him her phone number. It was their love that led Zwi to decide to stay in the United States and settle in Detroit and to undertake two years of a general surgery residency in Kingston, Ontario, so that he would become eligible to sit for surgery boards in the United States.



Zwi and Amelia Steiger

When Zwi completed his time in Kingston, Ontario, he and Amelia married. In the early 1970s, Amelia retired from Wayne State University to take on the more arduous and complicated challenge of keeping their two sons out of trouble. Amelia engaged in lifelong learning pursuits including Judaic studies, history, art history, classics, literature, and language.

Mrs. Amelia Steiger passed away in 2014.



## A Great Warrior and Surgeon Moves On

### Dr. Paul Rizzo

#### 1923-2020

Dr. Paul Rizzo was a native Detroiter who was born in 1923 and received his education within the Detroit school system, finally receiving his medical degree from Wayne University in 1944 at the age of 21. Wayne University was still part of the Detroit education system at that time and had not yet become Wayne State University, as part of the State system. Shortly after his graduation, he served in the military after World War II in Japan. Subsequent to his tour of duty, he returned home and taught anatomy at Wayne University and completed his surgical training at the Detroit Receiving Hospital. Following his surgical training, he was again called into military service during the Korean conflict, when he was assigned to one of the hospital ships off of Korea. Finally, after having had his warrior days behind him, he was able to enter into private practice in 1955 at both the St. Johns Hospital and the Bon Secours Hospital. During these years, he was a strong supporter of the surgical program at Wayne University and what would become Wayne State University and participated in all of the regional and university activities. He was active in all of the Southeast Michigan surgical societies and became a highly respected surgeon in the east part of Detroit because of his great knowledge, teaching skills, and technical facility. He served as the chief of surgery at St. Johns Hospital for many years before retirement. Following retirement, he more actively pursued his lifelong hobby of photography and was the recipient of many awards for these efforts. Paul made the last trip across the channel on April 2, 2020. Much of his information was obtained from Dr. Joseph Rizzo (WSU/GS 1965/69) who followed his cousins' career and became a highly respected surgeon in the eastern part of Detroit prior to his retirement.



Dr. Paul Rizzo  
1923-2020



Dr. Joseph Rizzo



## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### Anna M. Ledgerwood, MD

Dr. Carlos Carrasquilla (WSUGS 1970) was the chief resident on the Emergency Surgery Service 50 years ago. He was involved with the following cases.

5/14/70—Staff—Dr. F. Jackson

1. BS—esophageal stricture after lye injection six weeks previously. Twelve hours post-op dilatation, admitted with epigastric pain and fever and leukocytosis. Chest x-ray normal, gastrografen showed perforation of the distal esophagus. Operative procedure included gastrostomy, thoracotomy, insertion of a chest tube, placement of a string from the mouth to the gastrostomy for further dilatations. (Case done by cardiopulmonary. Dr. R.F. Wilson, staff, and Dr. Norman Thoms, surgeon).



Dr. Anna Ledgerwood

5/15/70—Staff—Dr. J. Bassett

1. GSW abdomen, perforation, jejunum, transverse colon, and left kidney. Had repair jejunum and colon.
2. Acute abdomen, hemoglobin 5. Perforated cancer transverse colon. Resection with end-colostomy.
3. GSW neck, avulsion thyrocervical trunk, resection and end-to-end anastomosis subclavian artery. Ligation thyrocervical trunk.
4. Pedestrian MVC with ruptured spleen, right kidney, liver. Avulsion right kidney from IVC and aorta. Avulsion of inferior hepatic vein from IVC. Tear of mesentery and tear of mesocolon. Underwent splenectomy, nephrectomy, right partial hepatectomy, repair of IVC, ligation right renal pedicle. (Patient had dilated and fixed pupils in OR, expired later in recovery room.)

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## DOWN MEMORY LANE, cont...

Anna M. Ledgerwood, MD

5/16/70—Staff—Dr. G. Hill

1. Stab left neck. Exploration showed wound of thyroid, performed tracheostomy.
2. 21 year old, gunshot wound to abdomen. Transected left iliac artery repaired. Left thoracotomy for clamping descending aorta. Found to avulsed aortic intercostal branches. Died in OR.
3. 46 year old, stab left neck. Transected upper trunk brachial plexus, repaired primarily.
4. 23 year old, stab right upper quadrant. Laparotomy with ligated and resected inferior epigastric artery and repair lacerated ilium.
5. 1 year old, gunshot wound to abdomen. Exploratory lap. Repair laceration abdominal aorta, vena cava and fourth portion duodenum.

5/17/70—Staff—Dr. A. Arbulu

1. 63 year old, embolus left femoral artery. Treated with embolectomy.

(Note to Dr. Walt. Friday, 5/15, and Saturday, 5/16, day and night crews did 16 cases.)

5/18/70—Staff—Dr. R. Lucas

1. GSW chest and abdomen involving stomach, pancreas, and splenic vessels, and left renal pedicle. Required splenectomy, distal pancreatectomy, left nephrectomy, repair of stomach, placement of chest tube.

5/19/70—Staff—Dr. S. Woods

1. GSW of mid-upper chest without pulse and BP. Median sternotomy, 2 holes atrium heart, GSW of diaphragm and lung. Laparotomy found GSW liver, treated with a gallbladder cholecystostomy tube. GSW right colon repaired and right ileum.

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**DOWN MEMORY LANE, cont...**  
**Anna M. Ledgerwood, MD**

- 2. GSW right chest involving liver and right colon. Colon repaired, common bile duct drained. (Liver study)

5/20/70—Staff—Dr. Eisenstein

- 1. Upper GI bleed. Gastritis, subtotal gastrectomy and vagotomy with gastrojejunostomy.

5/21/70—Staff—Dr. A. Silbergleit—in-house

- 1. GSW right arm, right chest, right abdominal wall. Developed fever five days after arrival and peritoneal signs. Exploratory lap was negative.
- 2. Lady jumped from a fourth floor. Multiple fractures, flail chest, tracheostomy done.



Chief Resident, Dr. Anna Ledgerwood (standing second from right) and the graduating class of 1972, with Dr. Alexander Walt (sitting second from right)

**EXTRACURRICULAR PRODUCTIVITY**

*Dr. Selwan Barbat (WSUGS 2018) and his bride, Mrs. Vallen Barbat are very pleased and happy to announce the birth of beautiful baby boy, Malik Harry Barbat, a future surgeon, who entered the world on Sunday, March 22, 2020.*



*Malik Harry Barbat  
born, March 22, 2020*



*Selwan and his family are now residing in Charlotte, NC. He decided to make his home there after completing his Bariatric Surgery Fellowship and being offered an academic bariatric and acute care surgery position at the Carolinas Medical Center, now known at the Atrium Health System. Vallen works as an adult ICU nurse there as well.*

*The WSU clan extends their warm congratulations to Selwan and Vallen and welcome their newest member to the WSU surgical family.*

*The Barbat Family: Selwan, Vallen, and baby Malik*





## *Dr. Mark Horness*

### *The Midland Flood*

Recently, Dr. Donald Weaver (WSUGS 1978) sent the following email to Dr. Mark Horness (WSUGS 1988) who lives in Midland, Michigan.

Mark: Just thinking of you as I see all the travail in Midland—I hope you're safe. I can't imagine the unspeakable distress to the community especially on top of the COVID crisis; I've lot touch, a bit, with you recently but I think of you often—I wish you all the best and to your family too—keep in touch. DWeaver

Dr. Horness sent the following email in response:

Dear Dr. Weaver: Thanks for thinking of us up here in soggy bottom Midland. Although we were in the evacuation zone, Sarah and I feel blessed to have good friends and good fortune. The actual evacuation from our area was actually very smooth and orderly. We were able to lodge for 2 nights with very kind friends. We had to stay the second night because the roads from all directions to our home were not safely passable as water was up over curbs and over sidewalks. Our home is at the far end of a court on relatively higher ground. We are fortunate that our power stayed on as our sump pump normally runs frequently in the spring to keep water out of the basement. We appear to have had some minimal drain backup into a shower stall in the basement that spilled over a few feet and under a wall to the sump well. Our nearby neighbors were not as fortunate. They had considerable water in basements. The city had to shut down some pump stations for sanitary sewers in the area as well. We were once again very fortunate as we are in a small zone that extends into the affected area that drains to a different station and we could still use all facilities. On Wednesday, the roadways looked like bayous and on Thursday the water was gone in our area with just a few puddles and returned home, essentially back to normal. Sadly, many others may be months from normalcy, or may have lost their homes. COVID has not been nearly the issue here as what you have had to



Dr. Mark D. Horness

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*Dr. Mark Horness*  
*The Midland Flood, cont..*

deal with in the Detroit area. We are hopeful that this situation does not result in a local outbreak.

Once again, thanks for thinking of us. We are safe and feel blessed to have only been at the fringe of this disaster. I think the risks that you face daily with COVID are greater and more stressful than what we have to deal with here. Hope you and yours are well, Mark.



*S. Amjad Hussain, MD*  
*WSU Surgery Alumnus Honored*  
*By The University of Toledo*

The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences held its virtual commencement on Friday, May 15, 2020. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Sayed Amjad Hussain (WSUGS 1970).

The University of Toledo also conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) on Dr. Hussain. In his citation, Dr. Christopher Cooper, Dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, recounted Dr. Hussain's myriad accomplishments as a surgeon-researcher, teacher, writer, journalist, explorer, and photographer. He also credited Dr. Hussain with introducing the study of humanities to the medical students.

Dr. Hussain was born and raised in Peshawar, Pakistan. He studied at Islamia College, Peshawar, and graduated with distinction from Khyber Medical College in the same city in 1962. He was trained in general surgery at the Medical College of Ohio and thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at Wayne State University, Detroit (1968-70).

Currently he holds emeritus professorships in cardiovascular surgery and humanities. He is the first person to have received dual appointment in science and the humanities.

The WSU Surgical Clan would like to congratulate Dr. Hussain for receiving this special honor.



Dr. S. Amjad Hussain



## WSU MONTLY CONFERENCES

### 2020

Death & Complications Conference  
Every Wednesday from 7-8



Didactic Lectures — 8 am  
Kresge Auditorium

## \*\*\*GRAND ROUNDS WEBINAR\*\*\*

The WSU Alumni is invited to be part of our Grand Rounds Webinar each month. The WebEx application that is used for Grand Rounds allows 100 users to sign in at a time.

This is a great way to stay connected with the WSU family and friends and, perhaps, eventually be part of the Grand Rounds by presenting remotely.

Details on connecting are as follows:

### 1. **WebEx app**—Recommended

Download the WebEx app ([iOS, Android, MacOS, or PC](#)) and join meeting number **626 407 145** or follow this link once you have the app: <https://meetingsamer5.webex.com/join/neildpatl>.

### 2. **Phone in**

Dial [+1 \(408\) 418-9288](tel:+14084189288) and enter access code **626 407 145**.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Dr. David Edelman at [dedelman@med.wayne.edu](mailto:dedelman@med.wayne.edu).



## **WSU MONTLY CONFERENCES**

### **2020**

**Death & Complications Conference**  
Every Wednesday from 7-8



**Didactic Lectures — 8 am**  
**Kresge Auditorium**

**\*\*\*ALL CONFERENCES DONE VIA WEBEX, 7:30 A.M.\*\*\***

#### **Wednesday, June 3**

Death & Complications Conference

#### **“Annual Program Evaluation/Review”**

**David Edelman, MD, Program Director, WSU Surgical Residency**

Wayne State University Michael & Marian Ilitch Department of Surgery

#### **Wednesday, June 10**

Death & Complications Conference

#### **“My Most Memorable Case”**

**by Graduating DMC/ESU General Surgery Residents**

**L. Laddaran MD, J. Martin MD, M. Miller MD, A. Nielsen MD, M. Perry MD, J. Pochedly MD,  
R. Policherla MD, A. Stevens-Chase MD, M. Tobon MD**

Wayne State University Michael & Marian Ilitch Department of Surgery

#### **Wednesday, June 17**

Death & Complications Conference

#### **“Non-Surgical Emergencies in the Operating Room”**

**Shakir Hussein, MD**

Division of Transplant Surgery, Harper University Hospital

#### **Wednesday, June 24**

Death & Complications Conference

#### **“Myths in Surgical Care—A Personal perspective”**

**Anna M. Ledgerwood, MD**

Wayne State University Michael & Marian Ilitch Department of Surgery



Wayne State Surgical Society  
2020 Dues Notice

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Description	Amount
2019 Dues Payment _____ \$200	_____
My contribution for "An Operation A Year for WSU"	_____
*Charter Life Member _____ \$1000	_____
Total Paid _____	_____

Payment by Credit Card

Include your credit card information below and mail it or fax it to 313-993-7729.

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: MasterCard Visa Expiration Date: (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address of card (if different from above):

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\*I want to commit to becoming a charter life member with payment of \$1000 per year for the next ten (10) years.

Send check made payable to **Wayne State Surgical Society** to:

Charles Lucas, MD  
Department of Surgery  
Detroit Receiving Hospital, Room 2V  
4201 St. Antoine Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48201

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



*Please Update Your  
Information*

The WSUSOM Department of Surgery wants to stay in touch. Please email Charles Lucas at [clucas@med.wayne.edu](mailto:clucas@med.wayne.edu) to update your contact information.





## Missing Emails

Over the years the WSU Department of Surgery has lost touch with many of its alumni. If you know the email, address, or phone number of the following WSU Department of Surgery Residency Program graduates please email us at [clucas@med.wayne.edu](mailto:clucas@med.wayne.edu) with their information so that we can get them on the distribution list for the WSU Department of Surgery Alumni Monthly Email Report.

Mohammad Ali (1973)

David B. Allen (1992)

Tayful R. Ayalp (1979)

Juan C. Calzetta (1982)

Kuan-Cheng Chen (1976)

Elizabeth Colaiuta (2001)

Fernando I. Colon (1991)

David Davis (1984)

Teoman Demir (1996)

Judy A. Emanuele (1997)

Lawrence J. Goldstein (1993)

David M. Gordon (1993)

Raghuram Gorti (2002)

Karin Haji (1973)

Morteza Hariri (1970)

Harrison, Vincent L. (2009)

Abdul A. Hassan (1971)

Rose L. Jumah (2006)

R. Kambhampati (2003)

Aftab Khan (1973)

Samuel D. Lyons (1988)

Dean R. Marson (1997)

Syed A. Mehmood (2007)

Toby Meltzer (1987)

Roberto Mendez (1997)

Mark D. Morasch (1998)

Daniel J. Olson (1993)

David Packer (1998)

Y. Park (1972)

Bhavik G. Patel (2004)

Ami Raafat (1998)

Kevin Radecki (2001)

Sudarshan R. Reddy (1984)

Renato G. Ruggiero (1994)

Parvid Sadjadi (1971)

Samson P. Samuel (1996)

Knavery D. Scaff (2003)

Steven C. Schueller (1974)

Anand G. Shah (2005)

Anil Shetty (2008)

Chanderdeep Singh (2002)

D. Sukumaran (1972)

David G. Tse (1997)

Christopher N. Vashi (2007)

Larry A. Wolk (1984)

Peter Y. Wong (2002)

Shane Yamane (2005)

Chungie Yang (2005)

Hossein A. Yazdy (1970)

Lawrence S. Zachary (1985)



## Wayne State Surgical Society


*The Wayne State Surgical Society (WSSS) was established during the tenure of Dr. Alexander Walt as the Chairman of the Department of Surgery. WSSS was designed to create closer contact between the current faculty and residents with the former resident members in order to create a living family of all of the WSU Department of Surgery. The WSSS also supports department activities. Charter/Life Membership in the WSSS is attained by a donation of \$1,000 per year for ten years or \$10,000 prior to ten years. Annual membership is attained by a donation of \$200 per year. WSSS supports a visiting lecturer each fall and co-sponsors the annual reception of the department at the annual meeting of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Brian Shapiro (WSU/GS 1988/93) passed the baton of presidency to Dr. Jeffrey Johnson (WSUGS 1984) at the WSSS Gathering during the American College of Surgeons meeting in October 2018. Members of the WSSS are listed on the next page. Dr. Johnson continues in the hope that all former residents will become lifetime members of the WSSS and participate in the annual sponsored lectureship and the annual reunion at the American College of Surgeons meeting.*



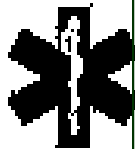
*Members of the Wayne State Surgical Society  
Charter Life Members*

Ahn, Dean	Bradley, Jennifer	Galpin, Peter A.	Kovalik, Simon G.	Nicholas, Jeffrey M.	Stassinopoulos, Jerry	Wood, Michael H.
Albaran, Renato G	Cirocco, William C.	Gayer, Christopher P.	Lange, William (Deceased)	Novakovic, Rachel L.	Sullivan, Daniel M.	Zahriya, Karim
Allaben, Robert D. (Deceased)	Clink, Douglas	Gerrick Stanley	(Deceased)	Perrone, Erin	Sugawa, Choichi	
Ames, Elliot L.	Colon, Fernando I.	Grifka Thomas J. (Deceased)	Lau, David	Ramnauth, Subhash	vonBerg, Vollrad J. (Deceased)	
Amirikia, Kathryn C.	Conway, W. Charles	Gutowski, Tomasz D.	Ledgerwood, Anna M.	Rector, Frederick	Washington, Bruce C.	
Anslow, Richard D.	Davidson, Scott B.	Herman, Mark A.	Lim, John J.	Rose, Alexander	Walt, Alexander (Deceased)	
Auer, George	Dujon, Jay	Hinshaw, Keith A.	Lucas, Charles E.	Rosenberg, Jerry C.	Weaver, Donald	
Babel, James B.	Edelman, David A.	Holmes, Robert J.	Malian, Michael S.	Sarin, Susan	Whittle, Thomas J.	
Bassett, Joseph	Francis, Wesley	Huebl, Herbert C.	McIntosh, Bruce	Shapiro, Brian	Williams, Mallory	
Baylor, Alfred	Flynn, Lisa M.	Johnson, Jeffrey R.	Missavage, Anne	Silbergleit, Allen	Wilson, Robert F.	
Bouwman, David	Fromm, Stefan H.	Johnson, Pamela D.	Montenegro, Carlos E.	Smith, Daniel		
	Fromm, David G		Narkiewicz, Lawrence	Smith, Randall W.		

*Members of the Wayne State Surgical Society—2019 Dues*

Alpandre, Cristiano	Cirocco, William C.	Herman, Mark A.	Lloyd, Larry	Novakovic, Rachel L.	Tarras, Samantha	Ziegler, Daniel W.
Asfaw, Ingida	Dawood, Moiz	Horness, Mark D.	Lopez, Peter	Phillips, Linda G.	Taylor, Michael G.	Zoellner, Steven M.
Bailey, Colin E.	Dawson, Konrad L.	Joseph, Anthony	Mansour, Roozbeh	Prendergast, Michael	Tennenberg, Steven	
Bambach, Gregory A.	Dente, Christopher J.	Kaderabek, Douglas J.	Marquette, Lauren	Reilly, Lindsay	Thomas, Gregory A.	
Baute, Peter B.	Dolman, Heather	Klein, Michael D.	Marquez, Jofrances	Resto, Andy	Thoms, Norman W.	
Baylor, Alfred E. III	Field, Erin	Knight, Anna	Masood, M. Faraz	Shanti, Christina	Truong, William	
Bucci, Lorenzo A.	Golden, Roy	Kosir, Mary A.	Mayuiers, Matthew	Siegel, Thomas S.	Vaszuez, Julio	
Busuito, Michael J.	Goltz, Christopher J.	Larson, Sarah	McAlpin, Glenn M.	Spotts-Resto, Josette	Zahriya, Osama	
Carlin, Arthur M.	Gutowski, Tomasz D.	Liebold, Walter C.	Noorily, Michael J.	Sundaresan, Naresh	Zerfas, Dorene	

*Operation-A-Year  
January 1—December 31, 2020*



The WSU department of Surgery has instituted a new group of alumni who are remembering their training by donating the proceeds of one operation a year to the department. Those who join this new effort will be recognized herein as annual contributors. We hope that all of you will remember the department by donating one operation, regardless of difficulty or reimbursement, to the department to help train your replacements. Please send you donation to the Wayne State Surgical Society in care of Dr. Charles E. Lucas at Detroit Receiving Hospital, 4201 St. Antoine Street (Room 2V), Detroit, MI, 48201.

Albaran, Renato G.	Davidson, Scott	Gayer, Christopher P.	Huebel, Hubert C.	Lopez, Peter	Siegel, Thomas S.	Wood, Michael H.
Anslow, Richard D.	Dujon, Jay	Gutowski, Tomasz D.	Johnson, Jeffrey R.	McIntosh, Bruce	Silbergleit, Allen	
Bambach, Gregory A.	Edelman, David A.	Herman, Mark A.	Johnson, Pamela D.	Missavage, Anne	Sugawa, Choichi	
Bradley, Jennifer	Francis, Wesley	Hinshaw, Keith A.	Ledgerwood Anna M.	Nicholas, Jeffrey	Sullivan, Daniel M.	
Conway, W. Charles	Gallick, Harold	Holmes, Robert J.	Lim, John J.	Perrone, Erin	Whittle, Thomas J.	

**WSU SOM ENDOWMENT**

The Wayne State University School of Medicine provides an opportunity for alumni to create endowments in support of their institution and also support the WSSS. For example, if Dr. John Smith wished to create the “Dr. John Smith Endowment Fund”, he could donate \$25,000 to the WSU SOM and those funds would be left untouched but, by their present, help with attracting other donations. The interest at the rate of 4% per year (\$1000) could be directed to the WSSS on an annual basis to help the WSSS continue its commitment to improving the education of surgical residents. Anyone who desires to have this type of named endowment established with the interest of that endowment supporting the WSSS should contact Ms. Lori Robitaille at the WSU SOM-> She can be reached by email at [lrobitai@med.wayne.edu](mailto:lrobitai@med.wayne.edu).