

27th Annual J.D. Ashmore Lectureship

Every year, the Department of Surgery hosts the Annual J.D. Ashmore Lectureship to showcase the year's academic research efforts. Dr. John Durant Ashmore Jr. was a prominent surgeon in Greenville, SC, whose surgical career was both distinguished and diverse. He was a National Heart Institute fellow during his training, a member of many surgical societies including the Southern Surgical Association and the Southeastern Surgical Congress, and served as an examiner for the American Board of Surgery from 1978 to 1991.

Of all this surgeon's professional accomplishments, perhaps Ashmore's greatest achievement was his dedication to the advancement of general surgery in the city of Greenville. He was instrumental in the recruitment and professional development of essentially every general surgeon in the community today. His influence is still quite important. He trained dozens of surgeons, and his legacy continues to impact the quality of surgical care in our region.

In 1993, the J.D. Ashmore Lectureship was established to honor Dr. Ashmore's distinguished career. The Ashmore Lectureship gives general surgery faculty and residents, University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville (USCSOMG) students, fellows in training and alumni of the General Surgery Residency program the opportunity to present their research to medical staff, students and guests. In addition, a prominent member of the surgical community is invited to share their research activities and insight into best practices or surgical innovations. The USCSOMG also provides attendees with the opportunity to earn Continuing Medical Education credits.

This year's event was held in the Lecture Hall at the USCSOMG and featured keynote speaker, executive director for the American Board of Surgery (ABS), Jo Buyske, MD. A past president of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, Dr. Buyske is also a former chief of surgery and director of minimally invasive surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia. Buyske remains clinically active and is on staff at the University of Pennsylvania as an adjunct professor of surgery. She is a well-known and respected member of the surgical community, focusing on applications of minimally invasive surgery to all areas of general and gastrointestinal surgery.

Dr. Buyske's presentation at Ashmore, "To Protect the Public and Enhance the Profession: Lifelong Learning in Surgery," was an insightful look at the process the ABS is in for updating surgical education practices. She outlined the branches that govern surgical medical education and provided a history of what that education has been in the past and where it is heading for the future. We were thrilled to have Dr. Buyske join us and share her experiences and perspectives with us at Ashmore.

Additionally, we had several medical students from USCSOMG, PGYs from our General Surgery Residency, our fellows from vascular and minimally invasive surgery, and numerous faculty present on various topics such as looking at air versus ground transport of trauma patients and discussions on robotic-assisted surgeries.

This year's Ashmore Lectureship was a success with more than 130 in attendance. We want to thank our planning committee, William S. Cobb IV, MD, Brian P. McKinley, MD, Jeremy A. Warren, MD, Ashley Hall, BA, and Darlene Norton, C-TAGME. Our gratitude also goes out to our sponsors, BD, Ethicon, Inc., KCI of Acelity, Shire, and Stryker, for their support this year. We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year and hope you make plans to join us.

GME Graduation Celebration and the Ashmore Cup

The 2019 GME Residency and Fellowship Ceremony was held at 3 p.m. at the Peace Center in downtown Greenville on June 7, 2019. Awards were given to several, including the Joseph C. McAlhany Jr, MD Academic Resident of the Year presented to Andrew M. Bonett, MD, the Spence Taylor, MD Outstanding Surgical Educator Award presented to Wesley B. Jones, MD, the GME Faculty Research Award presented to Aquilla S. Turk, DO, and the GME House Staff Research Award presented to Heather A. Peluso, DO. Prisma Health–Upstate's executive vice president of medical and academic affairs and Dean of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, Jerry R. Youkey, MD, was also recognized for his years of service to our medical and educational communities.

This year's graduates included general surgery residents, Thekla Bacharach, MD, Andrew M. Bonett, MD, Yamuna T. Krishna, MD, Michael W. Love, MD, Benjamin C. Powell, MD, and Geoffrey H. Yurcisin, MD, as well as fellows Neil Desai, DO (vascular), Marcia Alayon-Rosario, MD (MIS), Ibnalwalid Saad, MD (MIS), and Sarah Fox, MD (colon & rectal). In addition to celebrating our graduates at the ceremony, they were honored at the Chief's Banquet the same evening at the Poinsett Club in Greenville.

The 20th Annual Ashmore Cup was also held on Saturday, June 8 at Southern Oakes Golf Course in Easley, South Carolina. Established in 1999, this event has traditionally been held the Saturday after the J.D. Ashmore Lectureship. The golf tournament gives faculty, alumni, and residents an opportunity to gather and have fun in a casual setting. This year's winning team included Gautam Bhatia, MD, Pat Culumovic, MD, David Disbrow, MD, and Josh Simpson, MD.