

# University of Louisville School of Medicine

## Division of Plastic Surgery

### WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

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#### Remembering a "Bigger than Life" Giant: Dr. Leonard J. Weiner 1935-2023



Dr. Leonard J. Weiner was the first Chief of Plastic Surgery at the University of Louisville, appointed in 1971 and continued in that position until 1996. In those 25 years, he would establish a plastic surgery legacy at the University of Louisville that will proudly stand the test of time.

Under Dr. Weiner's leadership, the UofL plastic surgery program achieved many advances and was trend-setting. These advances included the first microsurgical teaching lab, the first microsurgical fellowship, surgical anatomy lab, early tangential excision and grafting, making skin grafts with culture, myocutaneous and muscle flaps, and ultimately contributing to the composite tissue allotransplantation.

He built a strong plastic surgery research program that contributed to hundreds of peer-reviewed publications to the field of plastic surgery. He strategically recruited strong faculty to develop and direct a first-rate plastic surgery residency program at the University of Louisville.

Even in his retirement, Dr. Weiner continued to bestow his enthusiasm and knowledge of plastic surgery with his continued participation in journal clubs and visiting professor events. Together, Dr. Weiner and his wife Dr. Jane Schultz established the Leonard J. Weiner, MD Professorship of Plastic Surgery at the University of Louisville, which continues to promote plastic surgery excellence and support to the community and institution forever.

Dr. Weiner was a loving father, grandfather, brother, husband, and friend. He was a renaissance man with many interests and hobbies. He taught and mentored enthusiastically. He took his "bigger than life" charisma everywhere – to the game, the track, to France, and to his practice, and teaching. Dr. Weiner has left an indelible mark on us all, and his legacy of love, his zest for knowledge, and his compassion for the human spirit will continue to inspire us.

*The Weiner family requests gifts in honor of Dr. Weiner to be made to the Leonard J. Weiner Endowed Fund in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Louisville. This endowed professorship supports the educational and research activities in the Division of Plastic Surgery.*

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#### Division of Plastic Surgery

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**To make a donation in memory of Dr. Weiner,  
please visit <https://give.louisville.edu/weiner>**

## Our Academic Faculty

### **Bradon J. Wilhelmi, M.D.**

Leonard J. Weiner Endowed Professor  
Chief of Plastic Surgery  
Director of Plastic Surgery Residency Program

### **Joshua H. Choo, M.D.**

Associate Program Director of Plastic Surgery  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Director of Complex Wound & Lower  
Extremity Reconstruction

### **Gordon R. Tobin, M.D.**

Professor of Surgery  
Director of Thoracic/Pelvic Reconstruction

### **Terry M. McCurry, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Surgery

### **Michelle Palazzo, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery  
Director of Hand Fellowship

### **Ryan L. Shapiro, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery

## 2023-2024 Fellows

### **Chief Fellows**

Evan B. Westrick, M.D. Joshua  
C. MacDavid, M.D.

### **Second Year Fellows**

Anthony G. Azzolini, M.D.  
Jacob Y. Katsnelson, M.D.

### **First Year Fellows**

Joshua D. Spiegel, M.D.  
Wilson G. Huett, M.D.

## 2023-2024 Residents

### **Third Year Residents**

Candice L. Nguyen, M.D.  
Mitchell B. Peake, M.D.

### **Second Year Residents**

Brian J. Paul, M.D.  
Shelby M. Graham, M.D.

### **First Year Residents**

Arrin C. Brooks, M.D., Ph.D.  
Jon "Chris" Bruce, M.D.



**UofL Health** | UofL Hospital

UofL Hospital celebrates 200 years of quality patient care.  
Read our story [here](#).

## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2023



The Blocker-Lewis Society of UTMB, honors outstanding and inspirational leaders in Plastic Surgery. This years' recipient was our very own, Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi, for being an outstanding surgeon, teacher, and role model.

**Plastic & Reconstructive  
Fellow Graduate  
UTMB Class of 1999**



## KSPS Annual Conference



The Keynote speaker for this year's KSPS Annual Conference, Dr. Gayle Gordillo (AAPS) presented *Biofilm Infection: A Formidable Foe is Sabotaging Your Results.*



## 2023 KSPS Resident Research Presentations

- **UK Resident: Kaitlyn Samuels, MD**  
"Efficacy of Acellular Dermal Matrix Type in Treatment of Capsular Contracture: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis"
- **UL Fellow: Anthony Azzolini, MD**  
"Triple Antibiotic Saline Irrigation with Gentamicin, Cefazolin, and Vancomycin in Reconstructive Breast Surgery"
- **UK Resident: Tucker Kornegay, MD**
  1. "Post-Operative AIN Palsy: A Review of the Literature and Treatment with Surgical Decompression"
  2. "A Rare Case Report of Unilateral Nipple Leiomyoma"
- **UL Fellow: Evan Westrick, MD**  
"Double Drape Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction: An inferior pedicle flap option for grade 3 ptosis"
- **UL Fellow: Joshua MacDavid, MD**  
"Middle Lamella Contracture Syndrome Complicating Functional and Aesthetic Periorbital Surgery: A Case Series"
- **UL Fellow: Jacob Katsnelson, MD**  
"Nipple Areola Complex Reinnervation with Nerve Allograft in Delayed-Immediate Breast Reconstruction"



Dr. Evan Westrick won **1<sup>st</sup> place** at the KSPS Annual Conference with his presentation on "Double Drape Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction: An inferior pedicle flap option for grade 3 ptosis."



Dr. Kaitlyn Samuels, win's **2<sup>nd</sup> place** at the KSPS Conference



## Visiting Professor Program



Dr. Gordillo receives the honorary Mint Julep Cup from Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi at our Journal Club Dinner.

**Dr. Gayle Gordillo, MD** is a plastic & reconstructive surgery specialist in Indianapolis, IN and has over 32 years of experience in the medical field. She is Medical Director of Wound Services for IU Health and Medical Director of the Wound Care Center at IU Health Methodist Hospital. Her clinical focus in wound healing specializes in reconstructive surgery for complex burn and wound defects. She is currently a senior examiner and member of the Advisory Council for the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Gordillo presented her work and wisdom on *Hemangiomas and Biofilm Infections* at our Journal Club dinner at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.

### August 2023 Journal Club Articles

- **Jacob Katsnelson, MD**  
*"Capsular Biofilm Formation at the Interface of Textured Expanders and Human Acellular Dermal Matrix: A Comparative Scanning Electron Microscopy Study"*
- **Joshua MacDavid, MD**  
*"Microscopy Visualization confirms multi-species biofilms are ubiquitous in diabetic foot ulcers"*
- **Anthony Azzolini, MD**  
*"Propranolol Therapy in Infantile Hemangioma: It Is Not Just About the Beta"*
- **Wilson Huett, MD**  
*"Urinary Excretion of MicroRNA-126 Is a Biomarker for Hemangioma Proliferation"*



**Dr. Gabriele Miotto, MEd** is an internationally recognized plastic surgeon specializing in aesthetic surgery, especially of the face, eyes, nose, and breast. Dr. Miotto is a plastic surgery educator and author, she is currently an Adjunct Faculty at the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Emory University School of Medicine, former Assistant Professor and Associate Program Director of the Emory Aesthetic Center Fellowship Program. Dr. Miotto moderated our Journal Club Dinner on topics related to *Periocular Rejuvenation*.

### November 2023 Journal Club Articles

- **Anthony Azzolini, MD**  
*"Lower Eyelid Blepharoplasty with Volume Preservation Using the Skin Flap"*
- **Jacob Katsnelson, MD**  
*"Surgical Anatomy of the Ligamentous Attachments in the Temple and Periorbital Regions"*
- **Joshua MacDavid, MD**  
*"Anatomic Study of the Lateral Palpebral Raphe and Lateral Palpebral Ligament"*
- **Evan Westrick, MD**  
*"Blepharoplasty: Anatomy, Planning, Techniques, and Safety"*



## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Craniofacial Conference

### Clinton Morrison, MD

Norton Children's Hospital Foundation hosted keynote speaker, Dr. Clinton Morrison. Dr. Morrison is a Pediatric Plastic Surgeon at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is a Kentucky native, graduating from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 2007. He completed his plastic surgery residency at Brown followed by a craniofacial Fellowship in Seattle, Washington. He is on faculty at the University of Rochester where he now serves as the Director of the Cleft and Craniofacial program, Division Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, and Program Director of the integrated plastic surgery residency.

See full lineup of events & speakers [here](#)

Dr. Morrison moderated our Journal Club at Ciao Ristorante. Reviewed articles:

- *Facial and Cranial Symmetry after One-Piece Fronto-Orbital Advancement with Distraction for Isolated Unilateral Coronal Synostosis*
- *Long-Term Outcome of Primary Rhinoplasty with Overcorrection in Patients with Unilateral Cleft Lip: Avoiding Intermediate Rhinoplasty*
- *Morphometric Outcomes of Nonsyndromic Sagittal Synostosis following Open Middle and Posterior Cranial Vault Expansion*
- *Unilateral Cleft Lip Nasal Deformity: Foundation-Based Approach to Primary Rhinoplasty*



## Resident Spotlight



Chief Fellows, MacDavid and Westrick working together as always on a plastic surgery operation, set to graduate this June 2024.

Dr. Joshua MacDavid (Chief Fellow) and Dr. Jacob Katsnelson (PGY 7) are set to present their work at the upcoming Mountain West Society of Plastic Surgeons.

**MacDavid:** *"Middle Lamella Contracture Syndrome Complicating Functional and Aesthetic Periorbital Surgery: A Case Series"*

**Katsnelson:** *"Addition of Antibiotic-Impregnated Bone Cement Discs for Reduction of Periprosthetic Infection in Implant-Based Breast Reconstruction"*



## Alumni Updates



Dr. Milind Kachare (c/o 2023) won 2 awards for his presentations at the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in Athens, Greece in August 2023. Also in attendance was our very own Gratis Faculty, Dr. Gerald O'Daniel.



Dr. Tutela (c/o 2014) & Dr. Cooperman (c/o 2010) – Jersey Boy Connection



Drs. Kachare & Nixon (c/o 2023) passed their written boards!



Drs. Hazani (c/o 2011) & Engineer (c/o 2019) reunited in Las Vegas meeting.



Dr. Kachare (c/o 2020), Drs. Vavra & Ablavsky (c/o 2021), Drs. Keyes & Corey (c/o 2022) celebrating after passing their written boards.



We ended the year with our annual Christmas Party at Hunting Creek Country Club. The White Elephant gift exchange is always a hit! You never know what you might end up with – an expensive bottle of bourbon? Nice UofL gear? Or maybe a goldfish or inflatable yard decoration? But it's not the gift that matters – it's the laughs and memories that are shared that we value most. Hoping everyone had a warm and enjoyable Holiday Season!



## Who's Got Jokes?



Dr. Azzolini with his wife Rachel and daughter

What's a party without the laughs? Dr. Azzolini took 1<sup>st</sup> place for the funniest joke of the night!

## Fellow Academic Award

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### *We Need a Helping Hand to Reach Our Goal!*

In 2017 we renamed our Academic Achievement Award for the late Janet Wilhelmi, in recognition of her commitment to education and her own efforts in academics. Undaunted by any obstacle, Mrs. Wilhelmi went back to college at the age of 40 and achieved a 4.0 GPA while completing her bachelor's degree in education. She then went on to devote her life to teaching others, and always stressed academic excellence for both her students and her family!

To recognize the similar hard work and commitment from our Fellows & Residents, we would like to provide a monetary award in addition to the plaque given annually for the best in-service exam score.

*Please consider donating a tax-deductible gift so that we can not only recognize, but also reward a deserving Resident for their commitment to excellence.*



### Contributors to the Janet Wilhelmi Award

Leonard & Jane (Schultz) Weiner, MD  
Jared Davis, MD  
Claudiu Muresan, MD  
Nitin Engineer, MD  
Yaron Hazani, MD  
Michelle Palazzo, MD  
Bradon Wilhelmi, MD



This years' recipients, Dr. Alexander Nixon (left) and Dr. Jacob Katsnelson (right) being presented the Academic Achievement Award by Dr. Bradon Wilhelmi.

### **Donate now to the Janet Wilhelmi Academic Award**

<http://give.louisville.edu/psaaf>

#### Recipients of the Academic Award

2023: Alexander Nixon, M.D.  
2023: Jacob Katsnelson, M.D.  
2022: Samuel Corey, M.D.  
2021: Samuel Corey, M.D.  
2020: Michael Ablavsky, M.D.  
2019: Adam O'Toole, M.D.  
2018: Jared Davis, M.D.  
2017: Jared Davis, M.D.  
2016: Joshua Choo, M.D.  
2015: Joshua Choo, M.D.  
2014: Joshua Choo, M.D.  
2013: Ron Brooks, M.D.

### Kasdan Award: Medical Student



Dr. Kasdan is known for his lifelong service as a plastic surgeon to the community, at the VAMC, and his enduring commitment to teaching medical students and residents. His "Suture Sundays" remain legendary at the School of Medicine, in which Dr. Kasdan warmly welcomes students into his home to learn and practice valuable skills. Suture Sunday's have provided a teaching and learning forum for UofL Plastic Surgery residents for over 20 years. In that spirit, this scholarship recognizes the best UofL School of Medicine student who matches into a plastic surgery program with a farewell gift as they leave the nest. This award was initiated by UofL Plastic Surgery residents in his honor.

### **Donate now to the Kasdan Award**

<http://give.louisville.edu/kasdan>

## 2023 Publications

[Does Size Really Matter? A Review on How to Determine the Optimal Umbilical Size During an Abdominoplasty.](#)

Fell C, Kachare MD, Moore A, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2023 Jun 20;23:e38. eCollection 2023.PMID: 37465474 **Free PMC article.** Review.

[Obesity and the Latissimus Dorsi Flap: A Radiologic Study.](#)

Choo JH, Vivace BJ, Meredith LT, Kachare S, Lee TJ, Kachare M, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Plast Surg (Oakv). 2023 May;31(2):132-137. doi: 10.1177/22925503211031927. Epub 2021 Jul 14.PMID: 37188129

[Accurate Plane Fat Grafting in Gluteal Augmentation: An Anatomic Study.](#)

Kelishadi SS, Chiemi JA, Chowdhry S, Colorado A, Herring NR, Kinney B, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Aesthet Surg J. 2023 Sep 14:sjad298. doi: 10.1093/asj/sjad298. Online ahead of print.PMID: 37707558

[Wine, Honey, and Boiling Oil: A Modern Understanding of Ancient Wound Care Practices.](#)

Barrow BE, Alur AA, Kasdan ML, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Am Surg. 2023 May;89(5):2150-2153. doi: 10.1177/00031348221078981. Epub 2022 Mar 1.PMID: 35232246

[Breast Implants Save Lives: Gunshot Wound to a Silicone Gel Implant.](#)

Barrow BE, Kachare MD, Simpson AM, West NJ, Corey SL, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2023 Jan 30;23:QA4. eCollection 2023.PMID: 36846083 **Free PMC article.**

[The Double Donut: A Safe and Simple Option for Immediate Nipple Areolar Complex Reconstruction in Skin-Sparing Mastectomy Patients With Contraindications to Nipple-Sparing Mastectomy.](#)

Westrick E, Mostovych A, MacDavid J, Simpson A, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2023 Jun 20;23:e37. eCollection 2023.PMID: 37465479 **Free PMC article.**

[Centralizing the Umbilicus in Abdominoplasty: Eccentric versus Concentric Fascial Plication in Addition to Medializing at the Skin.](#)

Vavra JM, Kachare SD, Vivace BJ, Choo JH, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Plast Reconstr Surg. 2023 Mar 1;151(3):526-531. doi: 10.1097/PRS.00000000000009910. Epub 2022 Nov 21.PMID: 36730529

[Functional Disability Associated With Proximal Clavicle Resection and Pectoralis Flap Transposition for Sternoclavicular Joint Infections.](#)

Safeek RH, Vavra J, Kachare MD, **Wilhelmi BJ**, Choo J.Eplasty. 2022 Aug 18;22:e34. eCollection 2022.PMID: 36160665 **Free PMC article.**

[The 5 D's to Dunk the Dog: A Retrospective Clinical Review to Prevent Dog-Ear Contour Abnormalities in Vertical Breast Reductions and Breast Lifts.](#)

Kachare SD, Kachare MD, Vivace BJ, Barrow BE, Ablavsky M, Abell S, Choo JH, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2023 Feb 27;23:e13. eCollection 2023.PMID: 36919153 **Free PMC article.**

[Complete Penile Amputation: An Anatomical Reference and Surgical Pearls to Ensure a Successful Replantation.](#)

Kachare MD, Elfanagely O, Safeek RH, Barrow B, Simpson AM, O'Toole A, Hsiao EC, Kachare SD, Engineer N, Quintero J, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2022 Aug 16;22:ic12. eCollection 2022.PMID: 36160661 **Free PMC article.**

[Restoring Breast Volume in High BMI Patients: A Single-Center Review of Breast Reconstruction Using Hyperinflated Saline Implants.](#)

Kachare MD, Kachare SD, Vivace BJ, Elfanagely O, Barrow B, O'Toole A, Simpson AM, Safeek R, Choo JH, McCurry TM, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2022 Jul 21;22:e30. eCollection 2022.PMID: 36000008 **Free PMC article.**

[Red Breast Syndrome: Complete Resolution Following Replacement of Acellular Dermal Matrices With Acellular Collagen Matrices.](#)

Simpson AM, Barrow BE, Corey SL, Kachare MD, Choo JH, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2022 Sep 6;22:QA1. eCollection 2022.PMID: 36330504 **Free PMC article.**

[Prevention of Implant Malposition in Latissimus Dorsi Myocutaneous Flap Breast Reconstruction Using an Acellular Dermal Matrix With Pectoralis Muscle Following Mastectomy for Breast Cancer: A Clinical Review.](#)

Kachare MD, Barrow BE, Corey S, Elfanagely O, Rossi AJ, Simpson AM, Kachare SD, Choo J, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Eplasty. 2022 Sep 6;22:e39. eCollection 2022.PMID: 36160664 **Free PMC article.**

[Posterior Interosseous Nerve Graft: Utilizing External Landmarks and Anthropometric Ratios to Predict Available Length for Digital Nerve Reconstruction in a Cadaveric Study.](#)

Vivace BJ, Kachare SD, Meredith LT, Kachare MD, Kapsalis CN, Muresan C, Choo JH, Kasdan ML, **Wilhelmi BJ**.Plast Surg (Oakv). 2022 May;30(2):130-135. doi: 10.1177/2292550321995731. Epub 2021 May 12.PMID: 35572081 **Free PMC article.**