

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Read about our Emeritus Professor Dr. Mani Mani
and the contributions he gave to our program
and the world.

Updates from the Departmental Chair

The Department of Plastic Surgery is defined by the individuals who make up the team. We have the wonderful good fortune to have a highly skilled and dedicated group of nursing and administrative staff to support our residents, APP's and surgeons. Recent additions to our clinical faculty over the past year include Drs. Rebecca Farmer, Duncan Nickerson and Chris Jehle.

It is with great sadness that we announce that Dr Mani Mani, Professor Emeritus of Plastic Surgery at the University of Kansas, passed away on August 6, 2022 at the age of 85. In honor of Dr. Mani's contributions to Plastic Surgery, we will be dedicating our first newsletter to his memory.

Faculty Feature

Julie Holding

For our first Faculty Feature we will be getting to know Dr. Julie Holding, Associate Professor at KU Plastic Surgery.



What do you enjoy most about your work?

The whole picture – my colleagues, the residents, my nurses, apps, the continuity of care with patients, collaborating with other specialties, being able to work with my hands and use my creativity to approach problems, while listening to music in the OR.

THE ART

of Plastic Surgery is a perfect fit for me.

What interested you in Plastic Surgery?

At one time, I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and become a pilot. He talked me out of it saying it was a sexist profession with very little women and he was always on call. So, I became a female surgeon – ha!

Surgery overall fit my interests with working with my hands. In medical school, I met my mentor, Dr. Linda Phillips. She was one of two female chairs of plastic surgery department and residency directors in the US. Dr. Phillips opened my eyes to the art, creativity, technicality, breadth, and compassion of plastic surgery. I learned the practice uses principles, extreme technical skills, and the human body to approach challenging issues, even in aesthetic surgery. The art of plastic surgery is a perfect fit for me.

How would you describe good mentorship?

Good question. I am still trying to figure that one out.

I think everyone's needs from a mentor are different. If you can figure that out, that's what makes a good mentor.

But overall – Even outside the scope of their own interest or comfort zone, someone that supports,

guides, and helps you become a better individual and reach another level of potential.

What are you currently researching?

I have an interest in outcomes and new techniques from breast reconstruction, fat grafting and cosmetic surgery. Also, I am looking into the effects of exercise and nicotine use/exposure on outcomes. Additionally, I am exploring methods of microsurgery education for residents.

How has Plastic Surgery changed since you were a resident?

More women are stepping up and becoming mentors. Patients are becoming more open to women physicians. I haven't been called "Lady Doctor" in years. It's now rarer that patients judge me based on my appearance and gender.

Residency training has evolved. My first year of residency was the first year they started having duty hour restrictions. Majority of doctors were up in arms thinking it would ruin training and education. The focus was on grit – being able to take abuse physically and mentally and have the fortitude to continue. Now there is more emphasis on wellness, identifying and dealing with unconscious bias, prevention of burn out, balancing life and education.

Tell us about yourself.

I have deep roots in Kansas City. My parents grew up in Gladstone where I was born. Back in the day, my dad was a drummer in a local KC band, "the Roaring Judy," and performed at One Block West, which is now where the Olathe patient parking garage is located. When I was 3, my dad, mom, older brother and I moved to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. My dad was corporate pilot for McDonald Douglas. I loved exploring far out into the desert, looking for lizards and snakes, and sledding down the dunes.

We moved back to the US when I was 8 and ended up in a small town north of Dallas. It was quite the culture shock and I didn't fit in well. I spent most of my time trying to hang out with my brother and his friends, exploring the fields around the lake looking for snakes, fishing, water skiing, helping my

dad work on cars and listening to music. As a teen, I discovered my own niche of music – The Cure! I wanted to become a rock star – a lead singer and lead guitarist. I set up my dad's drumset in my room and his friend let me borrow their bass guitar. I wrote songs lyrics, poetry, short stories and taught myself how to play Cure songs on the bass. I have been (casually) playing the bass and guitar ever since. Believe it or not, I am too shy to play in a band. I have only played a few times in front of people as a guest in my husband Patrick's local Cover band.

Wanting to move out of Texas, I only applied to out of state medical schools and didn't get accepted the first time. The year after college was spent living out of my Honda CRX, traveling around the US with my cat, Naboo and Hedgehog, Tribble. During that year, I lived in Dallas, Kansas City, Campbell NY,

New York City, Pagosa Springs CO, Milwaukee and finally Galveston, TX for medical school.

Fast forward 4 years... Back stage at a Nine Inch Nails concert in Boston, I met my husband, Patrick. I was instantly drawn to him. We ended up talking in a window seat late into the night. Unfortunately, we went our separate ways – him touring with his band and me training in Plastic Surgery residency and it was years before we saw one another again. We started dating 7 years later, which coincided with me finishing residency and his band breaking up. He proposed to me 8 years to the day in that same window seat in Boston, and we now have a 2-year-old son, Maddox. I love being a mom to him and introducing him to nature, art, music.

Resident News

Meet Our Newest Residents

Join us as we welcome and learn more about our newest PGY-1 residents: Anne Meyer and Cameron Etebari!



Tell us a little about yourself.

AM: I was born and raised in St. Louis with three siblings. I went to Rockhurst University in Kansas City for college and then moved back for medical school at SLU. I am an active person so I enjoy exercising and being outside as much as possible!

CE: I am originally from Scottsdale, Arizona but I have spent the past eight years in Rhode Island where I attended Brown University for both undergrad and medical school. In my free time I enjoy swimming, tennis, skiing, and playing my violin.

What made you choose KU?

AM: I did my sub-I at KU and loved the people – residents, faculty, clinic team, and OR staff. Everyone

was great! KU also has a high volume and great representation of all areas within plastic surgery making for a great education with support from the attendings for the next step in your career.

CE: I rotated at KU as a medical student and I was drawn to the program by the excellent operative experience provided and the wonderful group of residents and faculty. I found everyone to be extremely supportive, and I knew KU would be a place where I could reach my goals and enjoy doing so!

What are you most excited about coming to KU?

AM: I am looking forward to getting to know the Plastic Surgery department even better and to continue developing the skill set with the diverse experiences KU

has to offer!

CE: I can't wait to train with amazing co-residents and faculty!

What was your first impression of Kansas City.

AM: I went to college at Rockhurst University so I know the city pretty well. I love all the unique areas within Kansas City, great restaurants, and fun breweries! I can't wait to move back!

CE: I loved that Kansas City had a small town feel with all the benefits of living in a larger city. Everything is very accessible in KC, and I got a sense of the midwestern hospitality that I was missing in the northeast! I'm looking forward to further exploring KC and as a sports fan I'm excited to have the Chiefs, Sporting, and Royals to root for.

Why Plastic Surgery?

AM: I knew I loved being in the OR but beyond that I enjoyed the diversity, not only in the types of cases, but also in patient populations that plastic surgery works with. It also didn't hurt that the attendings and residents seemed to love what they do!

CE: I enjoy the breadth of plastic surgery—it is such an expansive field that requires knowledge of just about everything. There is also so much room for creativity in the field in terms of finding solutions for very complex problems. On top of all that, plastic surgery affords the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with patients and positively impact their lives.

Is there a particular sub-specialty or area of plastic surgery that you are most interested in?

AM: Microsurgery

CE: I am interested in microsurgery, hand surgery, and maxillofacial trauma.

Do you have any advice for medical students experiencing the anxieties that come from Match Day?

AM: It is a hard time, but work hard on the things you can control and the rest is out of your hands. Everything happens for a reason.

CE: It is a unique time in your medical school experience—try to relax and enjoy the process. You will end up where you are meant to be!

We love BBQ in KC and everyone has a different opinion on which is the best. Which restaurant will you try first (or if you are from KC, what is your favorite)?

AM: Q39 is my favorite, hands down!

CE: I tried as many restaurants as I could during my month in KC and Slap's BBQ was one of my favorites.





I would go back and get to know them as human beings, not as patients.

Q & A With Dr. Mani Mani

Interview with Dr. Mani Mani Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Feature

The impact that Dr. Mani has had on Plastic Surgery, and specifically Burn Care at KUMC, and around the world, cannot be overstated. After his first round of training in Plastic Surgery in India, Dr. Mani was recognized by Dr. Masters and Dr. Robinson as having tremendous potential and was convinced to come to KUMC for additional Plastic Surgery training. Dr. Mani was recruited to join the KUMC Department of Plastic Surgery faculty with the specific charge of developing a state-wide program to care for patients suffering from burn injuries. In typical Dr. Mani fashion he not only completed that task but took

on an ambitious plan to help transform burn care around the world. That led to many international trips to export and set up his KUMC Burn Program in Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan and Australia. The foundational burn programs he started are still in place today.

Dr. Mani's passion for education has been a constant throughout his career and retirement from clinical medicine did not slow him down. It is in this spirit that the **Dr. Mani M Mani Opportunity Fund** was created. The fund is to provide assistance for plastic surgery residents to explore educational opportunities at home and abroad.

What was your favorite part about practicing burn care in Kansas City?

I would say it's people. Individuals. I still get messages and calls from people that we treated 30, 40, 50 years ago. So it's the human beings attached to the injury that was the best part of it. The skin may be scarred but not the heart or the mind. That was the best part of working with these people, bringing the potential that they have in spite of their scars.

How has the burn and wound sub-specialty changed since you started your training?

In the last 30, 40 years, we have made progress in every medical field and burn is one of them.

I would say that the major difference is the time frame. If you look back to the 1960's to 1970's, the thinking was you're hurt, you

have an injury and it will take you six months or a year or more for the wounds to heal. At that time, we would fix the scars after you completely healed. Today, we know you're going to have scars but intervene now, while you're still healing. So the whole process has changed from "let's wait and see," to, "we'll fix it right now."

What were your goals for the department and as a faculty member mentoring new surgeons?

We need to change the perception of a young person coming into this field. They think of this as their profession or vocation. You're dealing with another human being. And if you can't treat that human being like another child of God, then you're in the wrong field. They have their feelings, their pain, their concern.

Do you have a professional philosophy that guides you and your work and your surgical practices?

I would say, treat them how you want to be treated. If I am the patient, how would I like to be treated? When I was in practice we would have what we call evening rounds where we would go as a group, as a team, and see all the patients that are admitted to the hospital. We would see them, talk to them, make sure that they're all okay for the night, and then the residents and the staff would disperse. I would go back and get to know them as human beings, not as patients.

To give to the **Dr. Mani Mani Opportunity fund** please click the link above, choose "other," and type in *Mani Opportunity Fund (12275)*

Departmental News

Join us in celebrating our current faculty, residents, and newest additions to the team!



James Butterworth, MBBCh, FACS
Promoted to *Professor*

Michelle De Souza, MD FACS
Promoted to *Associate Professor*

Eric Lai, MD
Promoted to *Associate Professor*

Rebecca Farmer, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Joined KUMC Faculty in October 2021

Duncan A. Nickerson, MD, FRCS, FACS
Associate Professor
Joined KUMC Faculty in July 2022

Chris Jehle, MD
Assistant Professor
Joined KUMC Faculty in October 2022

Hemli Vin, DDS
Dentist
Joined KUMC Faculty in November 2022



Welcome Baby Braun!

Introducing the newest member of the KU Medical Center's Plastic Surgery Department, Langston Sterling Kofi Braun! Congratulations to the new parents Co-Chief Resident Sterling Braun and Sarafina Kankam!

Happy Birthday

- Julie Holding - 10/16
- Sterling Braun - 10/17
- David McGee - 11/5
- Rebecca Farmer - 11/6
- Matt Miller - 11/8
- Rachel Guest - 11/17
- Eric Lai - 12/18
- Grey Fortenbery - 12/17



About the Department

The Department of Plastic, Burn and Wound Surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center is one of the oldest plastic surgery training programs in the country. Since our founding in 1943, we have continued to provide high-quality, unmatched patient care, educate residents and students in the art and science of plastic surgery, and perform novel clinical and basic science research.

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