

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## What's Inside

Stay up to date with KUMC's School of Medicine Plastic, Burn and Wound Department with our quarterly newsletter that features highlights from faculty, residents, research, and much more!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Faculty Feature**

Read about our Faculty Feature, Dr. James Butterworth

- **Welcome Jayhawks!**

Join us as we welcome our newest residents Michael Zheng and Rachel Jordan

- **Resident Spotlight**

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- **Departmental News**

Promotions, additions, and upcoming events

## Updates from the Departmental Chair

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

This poem has always struck a chord with me. I've at times followed a non-traditional course and from the time I first moved to Kansas City to today. Both I and our department have been constantly presented with choices as to how to move forward.

We have been fortunate to have been successful in choosing paths, often the less travelled, that have allowed us to recruit exceptional faculty and residents and grow the department.

This has led us to have had an extraordinarily eventful year for the Department of Plastic Burn and Wound Surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

[Read More...](#)

## Faculty Feature

### James Butterworth

For our summer edition Faculty Feature we will be getting to know Dr. James Butterworth, Professor and Program Director at KU Plastic Surgery.



#### Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Iowa in the Mississippi river town. I met my wife in college, and this is our 25th year together this year! We love to travel and hike, so our vacations are often spent exploring new and exciting locations. When in KC, we spend time devoted to our dog, Otto, and cat Schrödinger.

#### Tell us about the work and partnership we have in Guatemala.

Our partner location is in San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala. It is a wonderful place with great people, but a lot of need for plastic surgery procedures. We have done many surgeries related to burns, hand trauma, clefts, and congenital ear malformations. The patients are incredible and make the return trips something that we look forward to with great anticipation. It has been an incredible relationship that we

have with the physician who runs the hospital and the care and passion he has for his community is truly admirable.

#### How can friends and alumni support the University's efforts to continue the partnership in Guatemala?

We have established a fund in the KU Endowment that is dedicated to supporting the Department of Plastic Surgery's International Outreach, which primarily is devoted to Guatemala at this time. Our hope is to continue to build this fund and expand our outreach to multiple locations in the future. Anyone who has the means and desire is welcome to contribute to the [Plastic Surgery International Outreach Fund \(#11311\)](#). We appreciate all donations to help with these philanthropic opportunities.

#### What interested you in Plastic Surgery?

So many things, but I first fell in love with microsurgery and the long-standing and meaningful relationships that a surgeon can have with his/her patients.

#### How would you define good mentorship?

Great question! I always feel like it is best to try to meet people where they are instead of trying to force them to you. Identifying the particular needs of an individual, whether that is by the mentee or by the mentor makes for a great starting point and then adjusting as those change. One thing that may be often overlooked is the reward that the mentor receives from a meaningful mentor-mentee relationship. Some of the biggest professional enjoyments that I have experienced during my career have come from the successes of my mentees.

#### How has Plastic Surgery changed since you were a resident?

I would say that the field continues to expand at an alarming rate in terms of different techniques and information. The amount of resources and literature available in some of these areas have exploded and, as a result, the amount that trainees are expected to learn and master continues to expand.

#### What do you enjoy most about your work?

Helping patients and learning from residents. I feel like I learn something every day from them, and it is both humbling and exciting.

#### What is your favorite thing to do around Kansas City?

Spend time with my wife and animals and socializing with friends at one of our many fabulous breweries. There is a great brewery

and restaurant scene in KC. While I do enjoy a nice dinner out, I mostly prefer a dressed-down, casual environment over a well-crafted beer.

#### What makes Kansas City a great place as a plastic surgery resident?

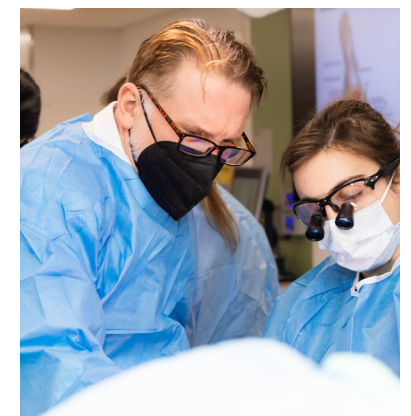
Our culture is quite exceptional. It is one that is very inclusive, where residents and faculty truly look out for each other. The residents have an incredible training and graduate with an extremely comprehensive and advance skill set, but it is done without sacrificing a well-balanced life that is devoted not only to success, but to happiness.

#### Do you have any advice you would give to incoming med students who want to specialize in plastic surgery?

Find a place that will optimize

training based on your best environment to learn. Hopefully this also coincides with enjoying this exciting period of your life and developing life-long friends and mentors.

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To give to the [Plastic Surgery International Outreach Fund](#) please click the link above, choose "other," and type in *Plastic Surgery International Outreach Fund (#11311)*





# Welcome

## Meet Our Newest Residents

Join us as we welcome and learn more about our newest PGY-1 residents: Michael Zheng and Rachel Jordan!



### Michael Zheng

Michael grew up in Las Vegas, NV and then moved to northern California for undergrad at Santa Clara University before returning home to attend medical school at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. He became interested in the breadth and creativity of plastic surgery as a third-year medical student, finding it highly rewarding to be a part of a patient's journey in improving or restoring quality of life, confidence, form, and function. His clinical interests include microsurgery, hand, and facial plastics but he hopes to become knowledgeable and skilled in all aspects of the field.

In his free time, Michael enjoys weightlifting, cooking, baking for others, golf, trying new restaurants, and spending time outdoors.

Why KU? Michael chose KU as his top choice for residency not only for the quality of surgical education and operating experience, but, more importantly, for the quality of people he would be training with. Michael rotated at KU as a sub-intern and was blown away by how close-knit, talented, and hard-working everyone in the program was from top to bottom. It's a special group and he is beyond excited to join the plastic surgery family.



### Rachel Jordan

Rachel Jordan attended the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine before joining KU Plastic Surgery. She has a pet golden retriever and enjoys hiking, skiing, running, traveling, and painting. Rachel has an older brother who is an engineer and she is the only person in her family in the medical field. Rachel did her sub-internship at KU and was immediately drawn to the leadership of the program and the tight-knit culture between residents. Rachel experienced the current residents at KU Plastic Surgery create an environment that was fun to be around while also dedicated to teaching exceptional surgical skills and patient care. Rachel chose KU Plastic Surgery because the case volume and variety is fantastic and all of the residents are both excellent surgeons and people.

She could not be more excited to join the KU family!







Missy's boutique is a valuable resource for patients, stocking items that can be used along their cancer journey.

## Q & A With Rachel Guest

## Resident Spotlight

### Pgy 5, Rachel Guest

#### Tell us about yourself.

I'm a current PGY5 resident in the department of plastic surgery. I spent my childhood in upstate New York, where I had a very early exposure to plastic surgery when my sister underwent serial tissue expansion for removal of a large congenital nevus. I subsequently went to college and medical school with a plan to pursue plastic surgery as a career. I entered the match in 2017 and loved the case volume and variety and department camaraderie at KU!

Outside of work, I love long-distance running, board games, planning and hosting events, and going to breweries. Kansas City is the perfect city for all of these things, and the Brewery to Brewery Run really brings together all of these things (some of the breweries even have

board games).

#### Can you talk about your connection through the plastic surgery program and Missy's Boutique?

Missy's Boutique is located in the Westwood Cancer Center and functions as both a gift shop and as a store for surgical garments, breast prostheses, and wigs for patients undergoing chemotherapy. For qualifying cancer patients, the patients-in-need fund can provide these items free of charge.

Breast reconstruction for patients with breast cancer is an important component of plastic surgery, but surgery is just one aspect of their cancer care. Many patients require chemotherapy and/or radiation as well. Missy's boutique is a valuable resource for patients, stocking items

that can be used along their cancer journey.

#### Tell us about the event.

The Brewery to Brewery Relay for breast reconstruction awareness was first created in 2020 and was born out of the Covid-19 pandemic. After months of restrictions, it seemed like an event that would enhance our department's camaraderie was long due. Additionally, I felt that it was important that our department come together to support our community in some way – many organizations were still recovering slowly from the impact of the pandemic. The run was slated for September 2020, which was breast cancer awareness month, and the pairing of the run with Missy's Boutique as our charity was natural.

#### How has the event grown since its inception?

In the first iteration of the event, our department collectively ran 40 miles, making stops at 10 breweries. We raised more than \$1000 for Missy's boutique through donations from the breweries, friends, and family. The following year, the relay grew in size to include 13 breweries and to cover more than 60 miles. We raised more than \$3000 for Missy's boutique through raffle ticket sales and donations from the breweries, family and friends.

#### What are your goals for this year's event?

This year, the relay is around 50 miles and includes 13 breweries. We decided to organize a new course, making stops at breweries who had historically contributed to our cause – either through donations of a portion of their proceeds or deals for our group.

Additionally, our fundraising goal has further increased to \$5000. One of the ways that we plan to accomplish this goal are through sale of raffle tickets for curated gift baskets – these baskets are filled with donated items from all of our favorite local KC businesses and will be supplemented with items purchased by our department, friends, and family.

Lastly, we have had requests from a few participating breweries that we open the race to running groups at the breweries. We anticipate creating a separate leg of the race to accommodate for this request.

#### Where can you buy raffle tickets for the curated gift baskets? Are there other ways to participate in the event besides donating?

Raffle tickets can be purchased through our event website: [giving.kansashealthsystem.com/kuprs](https://giving.kansashealthsystem.com/kuprs)

Tickets are \$5 for 1, \$20 for 5, and \$50 for 15. When purchasing tickets, please be sure to specify the basket for which you are purchasing the tickets and include your contact information so that you may be contacted if you win.

Other ways to participate include the following: monetary donations via donation website, donations of raffle basket items, and joining us at the breweries! All our welcome and many of the breweries are donating a portion of their proceeds to our fundraiser for that day!

Lastly, all donations are tax deductible! You will be emailed a receipt if you donate and should keep that for your records.

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The Brewery to Brewery Relay occurred on April 8th and donations once again exceeded expectations by fundraising over \$5300 for Missy's Boutique Patients in Need Fund.



## Departmental News

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



On April 3rd, our Program Director, Dr. James Butterworth, was awarded the remarkable Ted Lockwood Professorship in Plastic Surgery! The Professorship is named after a Kansas City native and KU School of Medicine alumni. Dr. Lockwood would go on to change the standards of practice in the field of Plastic Surgery.

The award was established to assist with recruiting an outstanding innovator in academic medicine devoted to research, education, and care in plastic surgery.

## Congrats, Grads!

Congrats to the class of 2023 graduating class!

**Sterling Braun** - PGY6

**David Sterling** - PGY6

**Candice Leach** - Microsurgery Fellow



## Well-Being Task Force

In June of 2022, our Chair of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Richard Korentager, was additionally named Chairman of the KU Medical Center's Well-Being Task Force. The goals for this committee include developing and implementing organizational strategies recommended by the National Academy of Medicine and other national agencies. The Well-Being Task Force held their first annual conference earlier this spring with guest speakers such as Ed O'Malley from the Kansas Health Foundation and Kansas Leadership Center, and Scott Ward, director of peak performance and leadership with KU Athletics.



## Departmental Chair Updates Continued

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### Follow Us



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DEPARTMENT OF PLASTIC, BURN AND WOUND SURGERY