

Clinical Service Portfolio

I am known nationally and internationally as an abdominal transplant surgeon with unique areas of expertise in advanced laparoscopy (living donor nephrectomy), incompatible kidney transplantation, transplantation of HIV-infected patients, and transplant-related outcomes and quality, and, as a result, I was recently named the director of the UAB Comprehensive Transplant Institute and Chief, Division of Transplantation. I spend approximately 50% of my effort seeing patients and operating earning 8,951 wRVUs in 2018, and in so doing, have expanded the clinical services offered at UAB:

(1) Incompatible Kidney Transplant Program (Surgical Director): With my specialized knowledge and publication record in incompatible kidney transplantation, I have been given charge of the Incompatible Kidney Transplant Program (InKTP). The InKTP program at UAB now supports almost 50% of the living donor kidney transplant program, and employs one full-time nurse practitioner and one fulltime registered nurse. UAB is now home to the Southeast's most comprehensive InKTP program having:

- Performed the first blood group incompatible kidney transplant at UAB
- Performed the first 3-way paired exchange at UAB
- Performed first combined KPD-desensitization transplant at UAB
- Established the nation's largest single center living donor kidney chain
- Established a strong referral practice for highly sensitized patients
- Lead center in industry sponsored trials (ClinicalTrials.gov - NCT01399593; NCT01178216)
- Worked collaboratively with the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa to establish an incompatible kidney transplant program for South Africa – resulted in the first ABO incompatible kidney transplant and first transplant via kidney paired donation in sub-Saharan African history in 2017 and 2019, respectively

These accomplishments have brought local, regional, and national attention, and have been chronicled by news outlets such as ABC News Nightline, National Public Radio, and TEDx.

Evidence of Regional, National and International Reputation:

- Birmingham Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 2015 (peer nominated); Al.com's Women Who Shape the State 2015 (patient nominated); B-Metro Top Women in Medicine 2017 (peer nominated); American College of Surgeons Traveling Fellow Australia/New Zealand (peer nominated); Society of Clinical Surgery (peer elected); News coverage (see supplement section)
- Invited Lectures
 - Local – 18 lectures (e.g. UAB Nephrology Grand Rounds, UAB Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Alabama Kidney Foundation, Alabama Organ Center Seminar Series, Children's Hospital of Alabama Grand Rounds)
 - National – 21 lectures (e.g. National Kidney Foundation, UNOS Region 6, University of Chicago, UNC Chapel Hill, Medical University of South Carolina, University of Pennsylvania, University of Florida, Emory University, Oregon Health Sciences)
 - Societal – 10 lectures (e.g. American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation, American Society of Transplantation)
 - International – 11 lecture (e.g. British Transplantation Society, University of Cape Town (South Africa), University of Edinburgh (Scotland), Asan Medical Center (South Korea))
- National Committees
 - American Transplant Congress, Abstract Review Committee (Sensitized Patient), Chair
 - American Society of Transplantation – Kidney/Pancreas Community of Practice Executive Committee Member

- Education and Mentoring Subcommittee of the AST KPCOP (Chair)
- American Society of Transplant Surgeons – Diversity Affairs Committee, Chair
- Standardized Outcomes in Nephrology (SONG), Work Group Member
- United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Living Donor Committee Member

(2) HIV Kidney Transplant Program (Surgical Director): I developed and implemented the UAB HIV kidney transplant program, and under my leadership we have:

- Established protocols for waitlisting and peri/post-transplant patient management
- Lead center in NIH-funded multi-center trials (U01 AI118594; U01 AI138897)
- Performed the first kidney transplant in an HIV-infected patient in the state of Alabama
- Established a research protocol for HIV-to-HIV transplantation, affording UAB HIV+ waitlist candidates increased access to kidney transplantation through implementation of the HOPE Act

Evidence of Regional, National and International Reputation:

- James IV Traveling Fellowship 2016
- Association for Clinical & Translational Science (ACTS) Distinguished Investigator Award: Translation into Public Benefit and Policy 2018
- Invited Lectures
 - Local – 9 lectures (e.g. UAB Nephrology Grand Rounds, UAB Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, UAB Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds, UAB Center for Outcomes & Effectiveness Research, UAB CFAR))
 - National – 5 lectures (e.g. Pacific Northwest Tissue Bank, UNC Chapel Hill)
 - International – 2 lecture (University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; RACS, Bangkok, Thailand)
 - Societal – 3 lectures (American Transplant Congress; Ryan White; Society of Clinical Surgery)
- National Committees
 - American Society of Transplant Surgeons, Providing Better Access to Organs Task Force
 - CFAR Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) – Mentoring Subcommittee

(3) UAB Transplant Analytics, Informatics & Quality (TAIQ) (Director): My background includes a Master of Public Health degree with an emphasis in biostatistics and epidemiology. I have used this training to develop an academic focus that overlaps with my clinical pursuits, which involves complex statistical analyses and modeling of transplant outcomes. Given these strengths, I was named Director of the New Transplant Institute's TAIQ group. In this role, I lead 12 full-time staff and am responsible for: (1) Data acquisition, integrity, and analyses for all UAB solid organ transplant programs; (2) Reporting of outcomes to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, other payers, and University Hospital to ensure UABs regulatory compliance; (3) Development and maintenance of quality assessment and program improvement projects designed to improve the efficiency and quality of care our patients receive; and (4) Represent the Transplant Institute on the University Hospital Patient Safety Committee. Through my leadership, we have begun to automate data acquisition, established routine procedures for ensuring data integrity, and developed rolling survival reports as well as patient specific report projections. As a result, providers and institutional officials now have access to real-time data and outcomes ensuring UAB's solid organ transplant programs maintain the highest quality care.

(4) UAB Hospital Associate Chief Medical Officer for Inpatient Quality & Patient Safety: I also serve as the ACMO for Inpatient activities at UAB Hospital. In this roll, I lead 7 quality nurses and help direct process improvement for the hospital.