



## Virginia Mason Medical Center

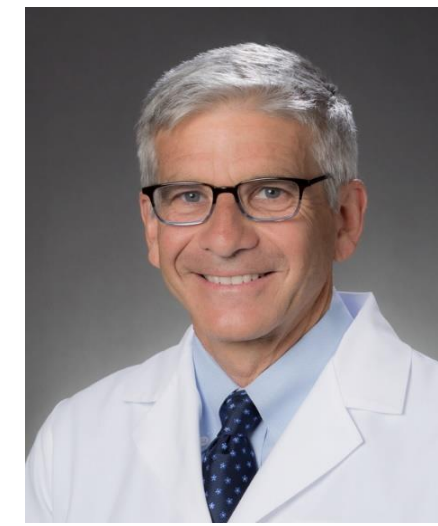
Virginia Mason Medical Center (VM) is a 300-bed teaching hospital in downtown Seattle that has been a leader in the care delivered to patients with complicated HPB disease for over 30 years. The volume of HPB cases is exceptionally high and is staffed by a three-surgeon team with varied training backgrounds. In addition to a strong HPB-surgery group, VM's Digestive Disease Institute hosts internationally recognized groups of advanced gastroenterologists and oncologists specializing in digestive disease, an ideal setting for a HPB fellowship and for comprehensive HPB clinical research. The fellow is sure to have a tremendous clinical experience, as well as the opportunity to participate in clinical and translational research.

**The program is 2-year.** The 1<sup>st</sup> year is designed as a professional development year that allows the fellow to develop competencies and obtain certification in **advanced laparoscopy and robotics**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year is a clinical year spent in the operating room and clinics. We transitioned to a two year program in response to the evolving landscape of the HPB positions available, as well as the increasing role of minimally invasive techniques in HPB. The fellow will be expected to assist and perform advanced laparoscopic HPB procedure in their clinical year, and the first year will be spent developing the cognitive and technical skills necessary to perform such procedures safely through organized training courses and modules. Intentional thought and educational theory has been applied to the structure of the training program. VM is a leader in health care quality, and central to our outcomes is the VMPS and Kaizen methodologies applied to healthcare. Exposure to such methodologies positions outgoing fellows to occupy leadership positions within their future organizations.

## Core Faculty



**\*Scott Helton, MD FACS** is a graduate of UC Irvine College of Medicine and completed his surgical residency at the University of Washington. He completed fellowships in gastrointestinal peptide physiology at the University of Washington, surgical nutrition and metabolism at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and HPB Surgery and Liver Transplantation at the University of Toronto. He is Past- President of the AHPBA, and AHPBA Foundation, and past Treasurer of the IHPBA. He is current Chair of the Senior Council of the AHPBA



**Thomas Biehl, MD FACS** is a graduate of UC San Diego School of Medicine and completed his surgical training at Virginia Mason Medical Center. He is the Director of of the Operating room and his areas of expertise are in laparoscopic, biliary, hepatic, pancreatic, endocrine and cancer surgery.



**Lauren Wancata, MD, FACS** is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed her surgical residency at the University of Michigan Health System. Additionally, she has completed fellowships in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System and HPB Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University.

## \*HPB Fellowship Director

## Virginia Mason HPB Fellows



Christine Chung, DO  
2022-2024

## Graduates of the VM Program:

- 2021-2022 Yasmin Essaji, MD, McMaster University, Ottawa Canada
- 2019-2021 Russel Kirs, MD, Private Practice Savannah, Georgia
- 2019-2020 Morgan Bonds, MD, University of Oklahoma
- 2018-2019 Janelle Rekman, MD, MAEd (Renfrew Victoria Hospital, Ontario, Canada)
- 2017-2018 Zaheer Kanji, MD (Royal Inland Hospital, UBC, Kamloops, Canada)
- 2016-2017 Jad Abou Khalil, MD, MSc (The University of Ottawa, Canada)
- 2015-2016 Kimberly Bertens MD, MPH (The University of Ottawa, Canada)
- 2014-2015 Jesse Clanton, MD (West Virginia University, Charleston, WV)
- 2013-2014 Farzad Alemi, MD (Verity/St. Vincent Med. Center, Los Angeles, CA)
- 2012-2013 Sameer Damle, MD (Kaiser Permanente, Washington, DC)

## HPB Fellowship Goals & Educational Philosophy

- Independent and detailed preoperative evaluation and decision making training
- Meticulous intra-operative skills training (open and laparoscopic)
- Independent and thorough postoperative HPB-patient care training
- AHPBA Educational curriculum

## Fellow Schedule and Activities

### Weekly Activities:

- 3 OR days
- 2 Clinic days
- Fellow-led Indications Conference
- M+M Conference
- GI Tumor board
- Liver Tumor Board

### Sponsorship to attend:

- AHPBA & SSO Fellows courses
- AHPBA robotics course
- Advanced Laparoscopic Liver Resection course
- Expected clinical research projects & national/international presentations

## Living in the Emerald City

Seattle is the largest city in Washington and the Pacific Northwest, located on the Puget Sound within sight of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains as well as Mount Rainier. With a population of 3.7 million in the metropolitan area and nestled between lakes, mountains and rainforests, Seattle has offerings for the urbanite or ruralist.

