

Personal Information

Full Name: Anthony Cassano, M.D. MSHA

Title: Chief Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, August 2015 to Present

Director, Thoracic Surgical Department, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, February 2008 to Present

Program Director, Thoracic Surgery Residency Program, Virginia University Health System, June 2014 to Present

Associate Program Director, Thoracic Surgery Residency Program, Virginia University Health System, January 2010 to May 2014

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Miami Valley Heart & Lung Surgeons, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio, August 2005 to July 2007

Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 1990 to July 1992

Business Name: Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center (Medical College of Virginia Hospital) August 1, 2007 to Present

Saint Mary's Medical Center – Bon Secours Health System
September 1, 2017

Business Address: VCU health

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Languages Spoken: English

Professional Summary

Primary Departmental Specialization Area/Field

General thoracic surgery

Areas of Expertise and Interest

Benign and malignant diseases of the chest

Education

Post Graduate

July 2004 to June 2005 - Administrative Chief Resident, Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine / Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

January 2004 to June 2004 - Thoracic Surgery Resident, Thoracic Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

July 2003 to December 2003 - Congenital Heart Surgery Resident, Congenital Cardiothoracic Surgery, Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

July 2002 to June 2003 Resident, - Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine / Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

July 2002 to June 2001 – Chief Resident in General Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

July 2001 to June 2000 - Senior Resident in General Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

July 2000 to June 1999 - Assistant Resident in General Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

July 1999 to June 1998 - Research Fellow in Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

July 1998 to June 1997 - Junior Assistant Resident in General Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

July 1997 to June 1996 - Intern in General Surgery, Department of Surgery, Medical College of Virginia / Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.
08/1985 - 1990

Graduate

July 2013 to May 2016 – Masters of Science in Health Administration, School of Allied

Health Professions, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

September 2012 to December 2012 – Teaching in Medical Education (TIME) Program, School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA.

August 1992 to May 1996 – Doctor of Medicine, University of Medicine of New Jersey – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Camden, New Jersey, USA. MD 1996.
07/2013 - 1996

Undergraduate

August 1985 to May 1990 – College of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA. Bachelors of Science 1990
1985 - 1990

Certification & Licensure

Licensure

Virginia, USA. Expires June 30, 2020
06/2020

Certification

American Board of Surgery – October 27, 2003, Re-certification December 6, 2013.

American Board of Thoracic Surgery – June 2, 2006. Re-certification December 2015.
10/2003

Academic Appointment History

Associate Professor (non-tenure), Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, Virginia, August 2015 to Present

Assistant Professor (non-tenure), Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, Virginia, August 2007 to August 2015

Clinical Instructor, Department of Surgery, Wright State University – Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, Ohio, August 2005 – July 2007
08/2015 - Present

Employment History

Chief Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, August 2015 to Present

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Associate Program Director, Thoracic Surgery Residency Program, Virginia University Health System, January 2010 to May 2014

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Miami Valley Heart & Lung Surgeons, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio, August 2005 to July 2007

Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 1990 to July 1992
08/2015 - Present

Special Awards & Honors

Alpha Omega Alpha, National Medical Honor Society, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, May 1995

A.D. Williams Award for Scholarship from Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Allied Health Professions, May 2016

Arnold M. Salzberg Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University, June 2013

Arnold M. Salzberg Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University, June 2010

Lazar J. Greenfield Surgical Research Award, Humera Surgical Society, Virginia Commonwealth University / Medical College of Virginia, April 1999

Rudolph C. Camishion Award for Academic Excellence in Surgery, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, May 1996

Alumni Scholarship Award, University of Medicine and Dentistry – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, September 1994

Trauma Surgery Summer Research Fellowship, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, May 1993
05/1995

Society Memberships

Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association

American College of Chest Physicians – Fellow

Humera Surgical Society – Medical College of Virginia Surgery Alumni

Scholarly Activities

Expert Services

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association – James W. Brooks Scholarship Committee
Humera Surgical Society – President 2011 to 2013
Humera Surgical Society – Secretary / Treasurer 2008 to 2011
Reviewer for Journal Thoracic Oncology
Reviewer for Journal of Thoracic Diseases
2011 - 2011

Grants and Contracts: Active

WFU-01414
Improving Resection Rates Among African Americans with NSCLC (Southern Lung Cancer Study)
Participant and enroll patients
Currently Open

Grants and Contracts: Pending

None

Grants and Contracts: Past

NeoMend / NEO09-100: A Prospective Controlled Post-Approval Study of NeoMend ProGel™ Pleural Air Leak Sealant in the Treatment of Visible Pleural Air Leaks after Standard Pleural Closure – Principal Investigator

CALBG 140503: A Randomized Phase II Trial of Lobectomy versus Sub-lobar Resection for Small (<2cm) Peripheral Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer - Principal Investigator

The Effects of Diabetes Mellitus on Vascular Biology, Individual National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute HL 10059-01, National Institute of Health (NIH) , 1998
1998

Patents, Inventions, and Copyrights

Working with KLS Martin LLC to develop titanium mesh for chest wall reconstruction
Currently under FDA submission (in progress)

Advising and Mentoring

Andrew Maloney, MD, General Surgery Resident, mentored during residency
Thoracic Surgery Resident, University of Utah.

Navin Vigneshwar, MD, Medical Student, mentored during medical school, General

Surgery Resident, University of Colorado.

Merry Uchiyama, MD, General Surgery Resident, mentored through residency, Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, University of California San Francisco

Irene Calouet, MD, General Surgery resident, mentored through residency, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Charlotte Hawkins, Maggie L. Walker Governors School Student, mentored for senior year of high school and senior thesis project, now attending Georgia Institute of Technology studying Biomedical Engineering

Melissa Anastasia, MD, General Surgery resident, mentored through residency, Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Presentations

Invited

Internal/VCU

Cassano AD: Pneumothorax, Hemothorax and VATS, Advanced Respiratory Care Conference, Larrick Student Center Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia April 2, 2014

Cassano AD: Lung Cancer and Current Treatment VATS to XRT, 2013 Oncology Education Symposium, Community Memorial Hospital, South Hill, Virginia, September 28, 2013

Cassano AD: Lung Cancer: Everything you wanted to know and more. Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Anesthesia Ground Rounds, Richmond, Virginia, January 17, 2013

Cassano AD: Mediastinal Masses: The What and the Where, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Surgery Ground Rounds, Richmond, Virginia, June 17, 2012

Cassano AD: Chest tube drainage for Empyema, Interventional pulmonology techniques seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia June 20, 2012
06/2012

Local/Regional (Virginia but Non-VCU)

Cassano AD: Novel Techniques in chest wall reconstruction and trauma. Fifty Third Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, Irvington, VA April 20, 2017.

Cassano AD: Device Selection in Aortic Valve Replacement Surgery. Virginia Cardiac Services Quality Initiative, Charlottesville, Virginia December 1, 2016.

Cassano AD: Thoracic Surgery and Neurosurgical Combined Operations A Series of Interesting Cases Reviewed. Virginia Thoracic Club, Richmond, Virginia, November 11, 2015.

Cassano AD: Posterior Mediastinal Masses and a Unique Approach to Resection. Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, April 26 2014.

Cassano AD: Traumatic Pneumonectomy: A Novel Approach for Bronchial Stump Coverage, Forty Eighth Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, Hot Springs, Virginia, April 13, 2012

Cassano AD, Thoracoscopic Sympathectomy as a Treatment for Refractory Coronary Artery Vasospasm. Forty Seventh Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, April 16, 2011

Cassano AD: Interesting Case of Bilateral Pulmonary Artery Aneurysms, Forty Sixth Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, Irvington, Virginia, April 16 2010.

Cassano AD: Lung Cancer Causes and Treatment, Healthy Discoveries with the Docs VCU Massey Cancer Center, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Education and Library Complex, Richmond, Virginia, November 12, 2009

Cassano AD: Pulmonary Artery Aneurysm and Surgery, Virginia Thoracic Forum, Richmond, Virginia November 11, 2009

Cassano AD: Not a Dr. Brooks Thoracotomy Anymore, Forty Fifth Annual Meeting of the Humera Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, April 17, 2009

Cassano AD: Video Assisted Lung Surgery for Cancer, Southern Society for Clinical Surgeons Meeting, Richmond, Virginia April 15, 2008

Cassano AD: Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia – Everything a Surgeon Should Know, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Richmond, Virginia March 13 , 2008

Cassano AD: The cytoskeletal protein alpha actin is attenuated in human abdominal aortic aneurysm, Virginia Vascular Society 2000 Scientific Meeting, Charlottesville, Virginia September 9, 2000

Cassano AD: Alpha actin a cytoskeletal protein has an altered expression in human abdominal aortic aneurysms, Thirty Fifth Annual Meeting of the Humana Surgical Society of the Medical College of Virginia, Howey-In-the-Hills, Florida April 10, 1999 04/1999

National

Cassano AD: Giant Bullae with Air Fluid Level Causing Empyema, American College of Chest Physicians National Meeting, Chicago, Illinois October 26 2013

Cassano AD: Impact of IV Access Devices, Swab-Ganz Monitoring, Cardiac Bypass and ECMO on Medication Therapy, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition, Las Vegas, Nevada December 10, 2009

Cassano AD: The pediatric risk of mortality (PRISM) and injury severity score for predicting outcome in pediatric trauma patients, The Society for Critical Care Medicine, San Francisco, California February 12, 1994 02/1994

International

Cassano AD: Thoracic Interventions, Second International Congress of Interventional Radiology and Interventional Neuroradiology, Lima, Peru May 4, 2015

Cassano AD: Imaging and Surgical Approaches to the lung and mediastinum, Second International Congress of Interventional Radiology and Interventional Neuroradiology, Lima, Peru May 6, 2015

Cassano AD: Coronary Sympathectomy, Second International Congress of Interventional Radiology and Interventional Neuroradiology, Lima, Peru May 6, 2015

Cassano AD: Mediastinal Masses Diagnosis and Treatment, University of Messina

School of Medicine, Department of Hematology and Oncology Grand Rounds, Messina, Italy April 2, 2013

Cassano AD: Thoracic Anatomy and Interesting Cases in Thoracic Trauma, University of Messina School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Messina, Italy April 3, 2013

Cassano AD: Lung cancer the American Approach to Treatment and Screening, University of Messina School of Medicine, Department of Thoracic Surgery, Messina, Italy April 4, 2013

Cassano AD: Pain Management and Thoracic Surgery, University of Messina School of Medicine, Department of Anesthesia Grand Rounds, Messina, Italy April 4, 2013

Teaching Experience

Didactic and Clinical

General Surgery Interns Boot-camp – Chest tube insertion, thoracentesis and ultrasound of the chest cavity on hands simulation with cadavers

General Surgery Residents Basic Science Conference – Pulmonary Nodules, Lung Cancer and surgery of the chest

M3 Medical Students Lecture during Surgical Clerkship

M3 Students rotating on Cardiothoracic Surgery

M4 Medical Students rotating as Acting Interns in Cardiothoracic Surgery

M4 Medical Students Surgical Skills Elective – Chest tube Insertion

Education of nursing staff in the cardiothoracic surgery operating rooms, intensive care units, step down floor and ambulatory clinics

Teaching thoracic trauma management to Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCM), United States Special Forces

Educational Innovations

Developed a live tissue model for chest tube insertion using pig ribs for use with M4 and surgery interns

Service Activities

Clinical Service

Outpatient Activities

Outpatient Activities – Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

Monday morning in Ambulatory Care Center

Monday afternoon Chest Tumor Clinic Massey

Cancer Center

Wednesday Thoracic surgery clinic St. Mary's Medical Center

Thursday Thoracic surgery clinic at Stonypoint Clinic

Inpatient Activities

Inpatient Activities - Virginia Commonwealth University Health System perform daily rounds on the inpatients both on the floor and in the intensive care units, also inpatient consults

Miscellaneous Activities

Operating Room Activities - Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, OR days Tuesday and Friday

Bon Secours – St. Mary's Medical Center – OR days Wednesday

Service to the Profession

Southern Thoracic Surgical Association – James W. Brooks Scholarship Selection Committee, review and rank applications to award the scholarship

Thoracic Surgery Directors Association – Boot Camp at University of North Carolina
September 22-25, 2016. Instruct CT surgery residents from all over
the country on surgical techniques and simulation.
09/2025 - 2016

Service to the Community

Sycamore Presbyterian Church – Children's Sunday School Teacher

YMCA Indian Princesses – Shawnee Tribe Chief and Medicine Man

Mission to the World – Medical mission to Honduras

Service to the University

Promotion and Tenure Committee for the Department of Anesthesia

Director of M4 Acting Internship in Thoracic Surgery

Promotion and Tenure Committee for Keyur Shah, MD Department of Internal
Medicine, Division of Cardiology and Heart Failure.

Search Committee for Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine Division Head.

Service to the School of Medicine

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY:

Surgical Education Oversight Committee
Chairmen of Fellowship Education Subcommittee
Finance Committee
Department of Surgery Executive Committee
Hemostatic Agent Utilization and Review – Chairmen
Managed Care and Contracts Committee
MCVP-Physician Compensation Advisory Committee
MCVP Finance Committee
Protocol Review Committee for Massey Cancer Center
Operating Room Committee
Cardiothoracic Surgery Quality Improvement Committee – Chairman
Cardiac Surgery Bundles Committee – Chairmen
ERAS for Cardiac Surgery Committee – Chairmen

Service to other Affiliated Institutions

St. Mary's Medical Center – Thoracic Tumor Board
Medical Director of Thoracic Surgical Services for the Richmond Bon Secours Health System

Service to the Military

Teaching thoracic trauma management to Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCM), United States Special Forces.

Publications

Papers Published in Peer Reviewed Journals

1. Butterworth JF, Cassano AD. The value and generalizability of cost-effectiveness research. J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2018 Apr 155(4):1684-1685.

Cardona-Guarache R, Pozen J, Jahangiri A, Koneru J, Shepard R, Roberts C, Abbate A, Cassano A. Thoracic Sympathectomy for Severe Refractory Multivessel Coronary Artery Spasm. Am J Cardiol. 2016 Jan 1;117(1) 159-161.

Shah RD, Cassano AD, Neifeld JP. Neoadjuvant therapy for esophageal cancer. World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology. 2014 Oct 6(10):403-406.

Rashid OM, Cassano AD, Takabe K. Thymic neoplasm: a rare disease with a complex clinical presentation. J Thorac Dis. 2013 Apr 5 (2):173-83.

Thanavaro KL, Shafi S, Roberts C, Cowley M, Arrowood J, Cassano A, Abbate A. An unusual presentation of chest pain; needle perforation of the right ventricle. Heart Lung 2013 May-Jun; 42(3):218-20.

Abbate A, Hamza M, Cassano AD, Melchoir R, Roberts C, Grizzard J, Shah K, Hastillo A, Kasirajan V, Crea F, Lanza GA, Vetroves GW. Sympathectomy as a treatment for refractory coronary artery spasm. *Int J Cardiol.* 2012 Nov1;161(1)e7-9.

Hirose H, Cassano AD, Youdelman BA, Hou JS, Strong MD. Inflammatory aneurysm of the descending aorta: a case report. *Heart Surgery Forum.* 2005;(8):E431-3.

Samuels LE, Cassano A. Videoscopic resection of a giant symptomatic pericardial cyst: case report. *Heart Surg Forum.* 2005;8(2):E83-4.

Danetz JS, Cassano A, Stoner MC, Ivatury RR, Levy MM. Feasibility of endovascular repair in penetrating axillosubclavian injuries: a retrospective review. *J Vasc Surg.* 2005 Feb;41(2):246-54.

Fields C, Cassano A, Makhoul RG, Allen C, Sims R, Bulgrin J, Meyer A, Bowlin GL, Rittgers SE. Evaluation of electrostatically endothelial cell seeded expanded polytetrafluoroethylene grafts in a canine femoral artery model. *J Biomater Appl.* 2002 Oct;17(2):135-52.

Fields C, Cassano A, Allen C, Meyer A, Pawlowski KJ, Bowling GL, Rittgers SE, Szycher M. Endothelial cell seeding of a 4-mm I.D. polyurethane vascular graft. *J Biomater Appl.* 2002 Jul;17(1):45-70.

Bowlin GL, Meyer A, Fields C, Cassano A, Makhoul RG. The persistence of electrostatically seeded endothelial cells lining a small diameter expanded polytetrafluoroethylene vascular graft. 2001 *J Biomater App*; Oct;16(2):157-73.

Makhoul RG, Fields CE, Cassano AD. Nitric Oxide and the vascular surgeon. *J Vasc Surg.* 1999 Sep 30;3:569-572.

Fields CE, Cassano AD, Dattilo JB, Ivatury RR, Yelon J, Broderick T. Carotid cavernous fistula after a shotgun injury. *J Trauma* 2000 Feb48(2):338-41.

Fields CE, Cassano AD, Dattilo JB, Yager DR, Makhoul RG. Interstitial collagenase (MMP-1) expression is augmented IL-1 Beta in human varicose veins. 1999 *Surgical Forum* 50:583-584.

Costello FV, Cassano AD, Gregory P, Hammond J. The pediatric risk of mortality (PRISM) and injury severity score for predicting resource utilization and outcome of intensive care in pediatric trauma. 1999 Crit Care Med 27:985-88.

Books, Book Chapters and Monographs

1. Cassano AD, Pulmonary Contusion and Flail Chest, Current Therapy and Cardiovascular Surgery, Second Edition. Yang and Cameron ed. – Due to be published 2014

Cassano Ad, Fields CE, Makhoul RG. Carotid Endarterectomy Based on Duplex or Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) Alone. Textbook of Carotid Surgery. Loftus ed. Thieme 1999.

Personal Statement

My relationship with Virginia Commonwealth University / Medical College of Virginia started in 1996 when I was a General Surgery Resident. I even met my wife on the ninth floor of Main Hospital. Upon completing my fellowship in 2002 in Philadelphia, I entered private practice in Dayton, Ohio where I also had a clinical appointment at Wright State Medical School. It was here that I realized that I wanted to return to academics and train the future doctors and surgeons. My desire was to return to VCU as faculty and my dream was achieved when Dr. Kasirajan hired me as a thoracic surgeon in 2007.

On the thoracic surgery service we have a fourth year general surgery resident that spends two to three months as the chief of the service as well as a thoracic surgery resident. We also have third year medical students rotate during their surgical clerkship. In addition to the daily teaching with the residents and medical students in the operating room, on the wards and in the clinic I also give formal lectures and instructions. I give the cardiothoracic surgery lecture to the M3 students during their clerkship. Every year I teach the M4's, Surgical Skills Course, that was offered as an elective to better prepare the M4's that are interested in a surgical residency.

As the program director for the thoracic surgery residency it is my responsibility to develop the curriculum for the fellows. We have a weekly didactic teaching conference and then administer a quiz on the material. We also hold several simulation sessions on valve replacement, coronary anastomosis and pulmonary resection using animals of cadavers.

At the beginning of every academic year the department of surgery holds an intern "boot camp" to instruct the residents on all the procedures that they will be asked to perform during the upcoming year. It has been my role to instruct on the insertion of a chest tube, perform a thoracentesis and how to ultrasound the chest to assess for a pleural effusion. The department of surgery uses a plastic manikin to simulate the tasks. During the sessions I realized that the manikin really did not give the true experience of what it takes to perform the procedures on a human. So I designed a simulation box which uses real pork ribs to simulate the human rib cage. The residents

who have practiced on both the plastic manikin and the rib box have said that my newly designed simulation tool is very life like and realistic. My goal this year is to validate the "Ram Box", as a chest simulation tool by having the residents compare the two simulation tools and rate which one more closely resembles the task as performed on a human.

My teaching skill and dedication to the education of the residents has been validated by my being the recipient of the Arnold M. Salzberg, MD Award; which is present to a faculty member for clinical and teaching excellence every year by the graduating general surgery chief residents. It has been my pleasure to have received this honor twice in 2010 and 2013.

In April 2013 I was invited to be a visiting professor at the University of Messina in Sicily, Italy. Spending four days with the thoracic surgery service making rounds, seeing consults and observing procedures and surgeries. I also had the privilege I giving four different lectures to various departments in the medical school. It was a great opportunity to see how medicine is practiced in another country and share with them how we practice in the United States.

In addition to residents and medical students I also have the responsibility of teaching and training our physician assistances and nurse practitioners. We hold a Thursday morning conference where we discuss a clinical topic and treatment plans. I also was a guest speaker at the annual respiratory therapy meeting to discuss thoracic surgery and VATS.

In my opinion my biggest scholarly achievement was having the Thoracic Surgery Fellowship reinstated at VCU. The program was voluntarily closed over ten years ago and when I returned back to VCU Dr. Kasirajan made getting the fellowship back my top priority. This entailed coordinating with the Residency Review Committee (RRC) and completing the Program Information Forms (PIF). The writing the PIF required me to define the goals and objectives for all of the rotations that the thoracic fellows would rotate on. In addition milestones needed to be written for all three years of the program. I also designed a basic science curriculum for the fellows with a goal of passing the thoracic boards at the end of their three years. After completing the PIF and submitting it the RRC, I then had to be prepare for the site visit by ACMGE. The fellowship has flourished since it has been reinstated and two past fellows both have taken positions in academics one with Northwestern and the other with University of Oklahoma.

In addition to the working on the fellowship I have written several case reports with the department of cardiology and a literature review with one of the general surgery residents about thymic cancer. I have also been working with KLS Martin LLC on the titanium plates and mesh for chest wall reconstructions after trauma or tumor resections. We are in the process of writing on IRB to review our data on the patients that we have already placed the mesh in. The company and I have also submitted a new design for the mesh which is in FDA approval process. I hope to present this information at the STS Tech/Con this year. The abstract has already been submitted and awaiting to hear back from the STS.

In order to increase my own education skills I enrolled in the Teaching in Medical Education (TiME) program because despite all the education we have as physicians we are never instructed on how to properly educate and teach students. After taking the TiME course I felt the need to further increase the attributes and knowledge that a

physician will need as we enter into the next era of medicine. So I enrolled in the Masters of Science in Health Administration (MSHA) program at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Allied Health. After completing I have a better understanding of how a health system runs and the changes needed in order to better treat patients and educate our staff and students. One of the areas that we are currently working on is the creation of postop thoracic surgical patient's clinical guidelines for electronic medical to stream line the postop patient care. We have also instituted team rounds to increase throughput and discharges by noon. Because of my MSHA background I have chaired several committees looking at reimbursement the recent being the Cardiac Bundles for CMS. We also completed the ERAS for cardiac surgery and will soon be embarking on the thoracic patients.

In the past years I have been very busy clinically. After coming on staff in August of 2007 the other thoracic surgeon left VCU and I was left solo. For the next five years I was the sole thoracic surgeon; taking call three to four weeks a month and being available 24/7. To better serve my patients I started a clinic at Stonypoint for thoracic surgical patients. We finally hired Dr. Rachit Shah in 2011 and the two of us have worked together to develop an esophageal surgery program with an emphasis on minimally invasive surgery. This past September VCU entered into a clinical partnership with Bon Secours Health System, Inc. to provide thoracic surgery coverage to regional hospitals. This was a novel concept and the program was actually featured in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. I was able to recruit Dr. Robert Ferguson, one of my former mentees as thoracic surgeon to cover St. Mary's Medical Center. My role as Medical director is to not only clinical but to also coordinate the joint practice between VCU and Bon Secours and develop thoracic oncology program and a lung cancer screening program.

With the release of National Lung Cancer Screening Trial (NLCST) data which showed the reduction of mortality with the use of low dose CT scans. We at VCU decided that the institution needed to have a lung cancer screening program to help diagnose our patients with lung cancer. Myself along with pulmonary and chest radiology developed a program and guidelines to follow for an effective lung cancer screening program. Our program has been very successful and the American College of Chest Radiology uses our program as a model for new screening centers that are opening.

Another program that I developed with the help of Dr. Berry Fowler from pulmonary was the solitary pulmonary nodule clinic. This was a unique concept. We both saw the patients at the same time. We reviewed the x rays together and performed the history and physical together. The patients get the opinion of both a surgeon and a pulmonologist in one visit. This saves the patient time and gives them a complete evaluation. The patients whom we have seen together really like the concept and feel that they have a very complete visit and appreciate the extra time that we take in evaluating them. In order to promote the clinic we both went out and met with the primary care practices in the area to explain to the other physicians our concept and also the lung cancer screening program. In our clinic we have seen patients that have travelled over a hundred miles to see us.

Besides my clinical activities I have served on the Physician Compensation Advisory Committee (PCAG) since the compensation plan was started over 5 years ago. During that time PCAG met bi-weekly to formulate a compensation plan to incentivize the physicians. I have also served on the Protocol Review for Massey Cancer (PRMC) since

2007 my role has been to evaluate all the clinical trials that Massey Cancer Center offers and to report on them at a bi-weekly meeting.

The Humera Surgical Society is the Medical College of Virginia's General Surgery Alumni Association and I served as the Secretary/Treasurer for three years and was responsible for the workings and correspondences of the organization. I also served as the presidents with my main responsibility to organize and plan a CME weekend for the alumni.

For the department of surgery and the division of CT surgery I have served on the surgical education committee to evaluate the general surgery residents.

Since becoming a member of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Society I have served on the James W. Brooks Scholarship Committee. My function included raising funds for the foundation and then reviewing the applications for the scholarship.

For non-medical service I have been a member of Sycamore Presbyterian Church where my wife and I teach children's Sunday school once a month. I have also served as my daughters YMCA – Indian Princesses tribe as Chief and Medicine Man. The role is to organize bi-annual campouts and also the meetings and service projects for the girls.

As can be seen from all the information that I have provided that in the past eleven years I have performed excellently in the all the areas, teaching, scholarly activity and service, to be promoted to professor.

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