

16th Annual

Abdominal Wall Reconstruction 2025

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital



June 13 to 14, 2025

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner | McLean, VA

Conference Chair:

Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, D.C.

Course Directors:

Karen Kim Evans, MD

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, D.C.

Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Columbus, OH

William W. Hope, MD

New Hanover Regional Medical Center
Wilmington, NC

Endorsed by:



Conference Chair



Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

Executive Director
MedStar Georgetown Center for Abdominal Wall Reconstruction and Hernia Surgery
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Professor, Surgery and Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine
Washington, D.C.

Course Directors



Karen Kim Evans, MD

Plastic Surgeon
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Associate Program Director and Vice Chairman of Education
MedStar Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Professor, Plastic Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine
Washington, D.C.



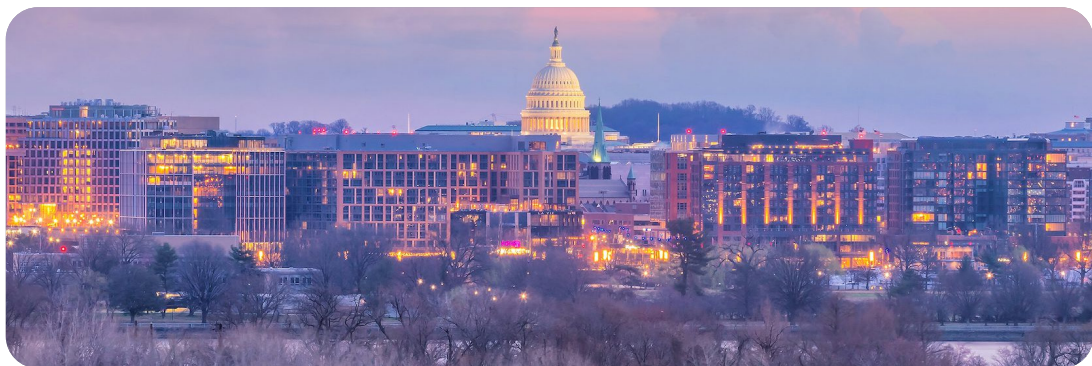
Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

Professor of Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Surgery
Chief of Plastic Surgery, University Hospital
Co-Director, Center for Abdominal Core Health
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Columbus, OH



William W. Hope, MD

Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program
New Hanover Regional Medical Center
Professor, Surgery
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Wilmington, NC



Take the next step in advancing patient care and improving outcomes in abdominal wall reconstruction

- **Expert-Led Education:** Immerse yourself in an educational agenda filled with cutting-edge lectures, panel discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions.
- **Multiple Symposia:** Attend specialized symposia designed to deepen your understanding and expand your expertise in this rapidly evolving specialty.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with leading experts, peers, and industry professionals during built-in breaks and reception.

For updated program information, please visit: **AWRConference.com**

Faculty

Yewande R. Alimi, MD, MHS

MIS/Bariatric Surgeon
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
MedStar Washington Hospital Center
Assistant Professor, Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine
Washington, D.C.

Sarah N. Bishop, MD

Assistant Professor, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
Cleveland, OH

Charles E. Butler, MD

Former Department Chairman and Tenured Professor,
Plastic Surgery and Charles B. Barker
Endowed Chair in Surgery
Department of Plastic Surgery
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

David C. Chen, MD

Director, Lichtenstein Amid Hernia Clinic
Professor, Clinical Surgery
David Geffen School of Medicine
University of California
Chief, Surgery
UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stephen R. T. Evans, MD

Executive Vice President, Medical Affairs and
Chief Medical Officer
MedStar Health
Columbia, MD
Professor, Surgery
Georgetown University School of Medicine
Washington, D.C.

John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

Director, Clinical Research
Professor, Surgery
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Philadelphia, PA

Hobart W. Harris, MD, MPH

Professor & J. Englebert Dunphy Endowed Chair in Surgery
Director, UCSF Center for Hernia Repair & Abdominal Wall
Reconstruction
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

B. Todd Heniford, MD

Professor and Chief
Endeavor Abdominal Health and Hernia Center
Charlotte, NC

Howard Levinson, MD

Professor and Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences
Old Dominion University/Eastern Virginia Medical School
Clinical Chief Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Sentara Medical Group
Norfolk, VA

Robert G. Martindale, MD, PhD

Professor, Surgery
Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery
Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, OR

Eric M. Pauli, MD

Director, Abdominal Wall Surgery
Chief, Division of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery
David L. Nahrwold Professor, Surgery
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, PA

Michael J. Rosen, MD

Chief, GI Surgery
Professor, Surgery
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL

David A. Ross, MD

Consultant Plastic Surgeon
The London Clinic
London, United Kingdom

J. Scott Roth, MD

Division Chief; General, Endocrine and Metabolic Surgery
Vice-Chair, Clinical Affairs
Department of Surgery
Professor, Surgery & Commonwealth Professor of Minimally
Invasive Surgery
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Jenny M. Shao, MD

Director, Comprehensive Abdominal Hernia Program
Clinical Assistant Professor, Surgery
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Dana A. Telem, MD, MPH

Chief, Section of General Surgery
Director, Core Optimization Hernia Registry (MSQC-COHR)
Department of Surgery
Lazar J. Greenfield Professor of Surgery
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Announcing the 2025 MedStar Georgetown Lifetime Achievement Award



MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and AWR 2025 are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2025 MedStar Georgetown Lifetime Achievement Award in abdominal wall reconstruction is **Dr. William W. Hope**.

Dr. William W. Hope is a highly experienced general surgeon with over 17 years of practice in Wilmington, North Carolina. He is currently affiliated with Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where he serves as the Academic Chair of Surgery and the General Surgery Residency Program Director. Dr. Hope serves as the Surgical Institute lead for Novant Health Coastal region, as well as the Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Hope obtained his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine and did his Surgical Residency at Prisma Health in Greenville, South Carolina. He completed a two-year Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship at Atrium Health/Carolinas Medical Center where he received expert training in minimally invasive and hernia surgery. His specialties include advanced laparoscopic procedures, with a focus on anti-reflux, stomach, intestine/colon, gallbladder, spleen, and adrenal surgeries. Additionally, he has a keen interest in both open and minimally invasive hernia surgery.

In addition, he is the past President of the Americas Hernia Society and is a Board Member of the Americas Hernia Society Quality Collaborative Foundation. His research interest includes hernia surgery, minimally invasive surgery, and surgical education publishing over 100 peer review articles and 15 book chapters related to these topics. He has a special interest in techniques to minimize the risk of incisional hernia formation and other hernia prevention strategies.

Dr. Hope is committed to providing top-tier surgical care and advancing the field of general surgery through education and mentorship.

Past Award Recipients:

2024: Mary Hawn, MD, MPH

2023: J. Scott Roth, MD

2022: John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

2021: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

2019: Michael J. Rosen, MD

2018: J. Jeekel, MD, PhD

2017: Oscar M. Ramirez, MD

2016: Charles E. Butler, MD

2015: Brent D. Matthews, MD

2014: B. Todd Heniford, MD

2013: Adrian E. Park, MD

2012: Guy R. Voeller, MD

2011: Jean Bernard Flament, MD

Venue Information

The Ritz-Carlton, Tyson's Corner

1700 Tysons Blvd
McLean, VA 22102

Reservation line: 703-744-3947

Room Block Rate: \$239 + applicable tax

Hotel Room Block Cutoff Date: May 12, 2025

Be sure to mention "Abdominal Wall Reconstruction" when making your room reservations.



For updated program information, please visit: [AWRConference.com](https://www.AWRConference.com)

Continuing Education Credit Information

Course Description

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's 16th Annual Abdominal Wall Reconstruction (AWR) Conference is a comprehensive two-day symposium that provides an in-depth understanding of the emerging specialty of AWR and hernia surgery. The purpose of this highly interactive meeting is to offer an evidence-based discussion on clinical aspects of AWR through didactic lectures with video education, case presentations, and panel discussions to address the complexities of hernia surgery.

Currently, there are approximately 600,000 ventral hernia repairs performed annually in the United States and the patient population continues to be increasingly complex with significant co-morbidities. Thus, there is a significant complication rate including surgical site morbidity, readmission, and recurrence.

The course is comprised of internationally renowned faculty that are a diverse group of experts chosen from the disciplines of general and plastic surgery, based upon their ongoing contributions to the field of abdominal wall reconstruction. The individual sessions will focus on patient selection and optimization, selection of surgical approach and reinforcement material, technical aspects of open and robotic surgery, and management of complications. The conference is designed to give attendees a broad knowledge of abdominal core health required to have a successful AWR practice.

Learning Objectives

- Identify why preoperative preparation is necessary for optimizing patient outcomes.
- Recognize how to interpret peer reviewed literature.
- Identify the indications for biologic, synthetic, bioabsorbable mesh.
- Utilize patient optimization to reduce the incidence of surgical site occurrences.
- Recognize the value of botulinum toxin A in large hernia defects.
- Utilize advanced minimally invasive techniques for optimal patient outcomes.
- Recognize the value of plastic surgery techniques for advanced abdominal wall reconstruction.
- Manage entero-cutaneous fistulas in the setting of a hernia.
- Recognize the nuisances of AWR in specific patient cohorts (e.g. women of childbearing age)
- Implement appropriate treatment options for infected abdominal wall mesh.
- Recognize the optimal management of skin and soft tissue during hernia repair.
- Utilize advanced abdominal wall reconstruction techniques to improve patient outcomes.
- Evaluate and manage the common complications after component separation procedure.
- Recognize how to interpret relevant radiology studies when evaluating hernia patients.
- Recognize the importance of quality-of-life metrics when defining metrics of success for hernia patient.
- Recognize abdominal wall anatomy.
- Summarize the importance of sub-specialty training to be a successful hernia surgeon.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of members of the healthcare team involved in the collaborative care of patients with hernias.
- Integrate a team-based approach in the care of patients with hernias.
- Summarize the importance of sub-specialty training to be a successful hernia surgeon.

Target Audience

This conference is designed to be a multidisciplinary program and is intended for a wide range of medical practitioners who are interested in the latest information regarding the treatment of abdominal wall reconstruction. The program is purposely targeted towards colorectal, bariatric general, plastic, transplant and trauma surgeons, infectious disease specialists, wound care specialists, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dietitians, medical assistants, nurses, and other allied health professionals interested in abdominal wall reconstruction.

Continuing Education Credit Information

Accreditation



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, MedStar Health is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Credit Designation



IPCE CREDIT™

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 13.50 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

Physicians: MedStar Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



American Board of Internal Medicine MOC Credit: Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 13.50 MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.



American Board of Surgery CC Credit: Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME and Self-Assessment requirements of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABS credit.

MOC/CC Participation Threshold: Learner participates by writing a reflective statement and makes a commitment to change or maintain an element of practice.

Nurses: This activity is approved for 13.50 ANCC contact hours. Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Registered Dietitians (RDs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs): Completion of this IPCE activity awards 13.50 CPEUs. RDs and DTRs are to select activity type 102 on Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) activity logs.

Additional Course Information

Attention Physician Learners: To ensure accurate reporting of your CME credit data, to ACCME and relevant licensing boards, please verify that your CloudCME profile contains the details listed below. To access your CloudCME profile, once signed in, click My CE > Profile.

- Full name
- State of licensure
- State license number
- Birth month and day (year not required)

In addition, please remember to check the box at the bottom of the CloudCME Profile page, granting the CPE department permission to report your credit data to ACCME and relevant licensing boards.

Questions? Email medstarceapplications@email.sitel.org

CloudCME Link: <https://medstar.cloud-cme.com>

For updated program information, please visit: **[AWRConference.com](https://www.awrconference.com)**

7:00 a.m. Registration, Breakfast, and Visit the Exhibits

SESSION I: INTRODUCTION TO AWR

Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

7:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks
Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

7:45 a.m. AWR as a Specialty: Future Direction
B. Todd Heniford, MD

8:00 a.m. Advocacy for The Hernia Surgeon: At a National Level
J. Scott Roth, MD

8:15 a.m. Better Together: Multi-disciplinary Collaboration
Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

8:30 a.m. Hernia Registries and Guidelines
William W. Hope, MD

8:45 a.m. Prehabilitation: Data vs Dogma
Dana A. Telem, MD, MPH

9:00 a.m. Role of Weight Loss Medications in AWR
David A. Ross, MD

9:15 a.m. Panel Discussion
Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS
Panelists: B. Heniford, MD W. Hope, J. Janis, D. Ross, J. Roth, D. Telem

9:45 a.m. Break and Visit the Exhibits

SESSION II: CONCEPTS OF THE COMPONENT SEPARATION TECHNIQUE

Moderator: Karen Kim Evans, MD

10:15 a.m. Open Pre-peritoneal Approach
B. Todd Heniford, MD

10:30 a.m. Minimally Invasive Component Separation: Beyond the Robot
Charles E. Butler, MD

10:45 a.m. Open Transversus Abdominis Release (TAR) Procedure
Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

11:00 a.m. Robotic TAR
Jenny M. Shao, MD

11:15 a.m. The Pauli Procedure: Using the TAR to Repair Parastomal Hernia
Eric M. Pauli, MD

11:30 a.m. Are We Overusing the TAR Procedure?
Michael J. Rosen, MD

11:45 a.m. Panel Discussion
Moderator: Karen Kim Evans, MD
Panelists: C. Butler, B. Heniford, J. Janis, E. Pauli, M. Rosen, J. Shao

12:15 p.m. Break and Visit the Exhibits

12:45 p.m. Lunch Symposium I

1:30 p.m. Break and Visit the Exhibits

2:00 p.m. Founding Chairman Lecture
Stephen R. T. Evans, MD
Introduction by: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

SESSION III: PLASTIC SURGERY CONSIDERATIONS: ADVANCED CONCEPTS

Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

2:30 p.m. The Mesh Footprint: Long-term Impact of Mesh on Future Surgery
John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

2:45 p.m. Management of the Postpartum Abdominal Wall and Rectus Diastasis
David A. Ross, MD

3:00 p.m. Panniculectomy: Quality of Life (QOL) vs Surgical Site Occurrences (SSO)
Karen Kim Evans, MD

3:15 p.m. Soft Tissue Reconstruction of the Abdominal Wall
Howard Levinson, MD

3:30 p.m. Repair of the Perineal Hernia After Abdominoperineal Resection (APR)
Sarah N. Bishop, MD

3:45 p.m. Panel Discussion
Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD
Panelists: S. Bishop, K. Evans, J. Fischer, H. Levinson, D. Ross

4:15 p.m. Break and Visit the Exhibits

SESSION IV: CHALLENGING SCENARIOS: ADVANCED CONCEPTS

Moderator: William W. Hope, MD

4:45 p.m. Management of the Failed Component Separation: What to do Next
Michael J. Rosen, MD

5:00 p.m. Thoraco-abdominal Hernia
Eric M. Pauli, MD

5:15 p.m. The Non-Midline and Parastomal Hernia: Robotics to the Rescue
Jenny M. Shao, MD

5:30 p.m. Emergent Hernia Repair: Tips for the Acute Care Surgeon
Dana A. Telem, MD, MPH

5:45 p.m. Hernia Surgery in Women: Special Considerations?
Yewande R. Alimi, MD, MHS

6:00 p.m. AWR in the Setting of Contamination / Enterocutaneous Fistula (ECF)
Robert G. Martindale, MD, PhD

6:15 p.m. Management of Infected Mesh
Hobart W. Harris, MD, MPH

6:30 p.m. Panel Discussion
Moderator: William W. Hope, MD
Panelists: Y. Alimi, H. Harris, R. Martindale, E. Pauli, M. Rosen, J. Shao, D. Telem

6:55 p.m. Closing Remarks Day One
William W. Hope, MD

7:00 p.m. Adjourn to Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

Agenda

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

7:00 a.m. **OPERATE WITH THE MASTERS:
HANDS-ON CADAVER LAB**

*Separate registration required.
Location: Offsite, TBD.
This lab is not certified for continuing
education credits.*

*Sponsored by Allergan Aesthetics,
an AbbVie Company*

8:45 a.m. **Breakfast Symposium**

9:15 a.m. **Break and Visit the Exhibits**

9:45 a.m. **2025 MedStar Georgetown
Distinguished Achievement Award
in Abdominal Wall Reconstruction**
Awardee: William W. Hope, MD

**SESSION V: INGUINAL HERNIA - DIAGNOSIS,
APPROACH, POSTOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT**
Moderator: William W. Hope, MD

10:15 a.m. **The Shouldice Repair: Avoiding
Mesh Altogether**
Michael J. Rosen, MD

10:30 a.m. **Modern Lichtenstein Repair**
David C. Chen, MD

10:45 a.m. **Laparoscopic Inguinal Hernia
Repair: Totally Extraperitoneal
(TEP) Approach**
J. Scott Roth, MD

11:00 a.m. **Robotic Inguinal Hernia Repair:
Transabdominal Preperitoneal
(TAPP) Approach**
Yewande R. Alimi, MD

11:15 a.m. **Chronic Pain: Diagnosis and
Treatment Algorithm**
David C. Chen, MD

11:30 a.m. **Panel Discussion**
Moderator: William W. Hope, MD
Panelists: Y. Alimi, D. Chen, M. Rosen,
J. Roth

12:00 p.m. **Break and Visit the Exhibits**

12:30 p.m. **Lunch Symposium II**

1:15 p.m. **Break and Visit the Exhibits**

1:45 p.m. **Controversies in Hernia Surgery:
A Multi-Specialty Panel Discussion**
Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD
Panelists: J. Fischer, B. Heniford, M. Rosen,
D. Ross, J. Roth

**SESSION VI: MAXIMIZING SUCCESS BY
MINIMIZING COMPLICATIONS**
Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

3:00 p.m. **Five Take-aways to Change Your
Practice Tomorrow**
B. Todd Heniford, MD

3:15 p.m. **Lessons Learned: What I Know Now
I Wish I Knew Two Decades Ago**
Charles E. Butler, MD

3:30 p.m. **Rehabilitation of the AWR Patient:
Postoperative Program**
Howard Levinson, MD

3:45 p.m. **Quality of Life: Measuring to be
Better**
John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

4:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion**
Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS
Panelists: C. Butler, J. Fischer, B. Heniford,
H. Levinson

4:25 p.m. **Day Two Closing Remarks**
Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**



For updated program information, please visit: [AWRConference.com](https://www.AWRConference.com)

Registration Information

Registration Fees	ADVANCE RATE FEBRUARY 2 TO JUNE 12	ON-SITE JUNE 13 TO 14
Physician	\$675	\$750
Resident or Fellow	\$425	\$500
Physician Assistant	\$525	\$600
Nurse Practitioner	\$525	\$600
Nurse	\$525	\$600
Pharmacist	\$525	\$600
Dietitians	\$525	\$600
Allied Health Professional	\$525	\$600
Medical Student	\$425	\$500
Industry Professional	\$950	\$1000
REGISTRATION ADD-ON		
Cadaver Lab with the Masters	\$95	\$95
Reception Guest	\$50	\$50

Online Registration Preferred

Please visit **www.AWRConference.com** for updated program and registration information. We are unable to accept registrations or cancellations by telephone.

All registrations will be confirmed by email only. If you have questions or do not receive a confirmation within 1-2 business days, please contact us at MedStarCPE@MedStar.net or (833) 731-1273.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made in writing by April 25, 2025 will be subject to a 50% penalty. No refunds will be given after April 25, 2025. Cancellations will not be accepted by telephone. In the unlikely event that the course is canceled, MedStar Health will refund the registration fee, but is not responsible for any travel costs.

Special Assistance

MedStar Health wishes to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently from other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids or services identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact (833) 731-1273 to notify us of your needs.

For grant information, please contact Ada Guo at ada.guo@medstar.net
For exhibit support information, please contact Elizabeth Romano at elizabeth.s.romano@medstar.net