

15<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Abdominal Wall Reconstruction 2024

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital



**June 7 to 8, 2024**

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

# 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  
Associate Professor, Surgery  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Wilmington, NC



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

## **Vedra A. Augenstein, MD**

Associate Fellowship Director, Minimally Invasive and  
Gastrointestinal Surgery  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Professor, Surgery  
Carolinas Health Care System - Atrium Health  
Charlotte, NC

## **Sarah N. Bishop, MD**

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

## **John P. Fischer, MD, MPH**

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

2024 MEDSTAR GEORGETOWN DISTINGUISHED  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN ABDOMINAL WALL  
RECONSTRUCTION AWARDEE

## **Mary Hawn, MD, MPH**

Emile Holman Professor and Chair, Surgery  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, CA

## **B. Todd Heniford, MD**

Professor and Chief, Gastrointestinal and  
Minimally Invasive Surgery  
Director, Carolinas Hernia Center  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Past-President, American Hernia Society  
Charlotte, NC

## **Mike K. Liang, MD**

Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program  
HCA Healthcare Kingwood  
Professor, Surgery  
University of Houston  
Kingwood, TX

## **Mary Anne Obst, RN, BSN, CCRN, CWON**

Complex Abdomen Specialist  
Complex Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Service  
Department of Surgery  
Regions Hospital Level I Trauma Center  
St. Paul, MN

## **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

## **Clayton Petro, MD**

Assistant Professor, Surgery  
Center for Abdominal Core Health  
Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine  
Cleveland, OH

## **Archana Ramaswamy, MD, MBA**

Chief, Surgery  
Loma Linda VA Healthcare System  
Professor, Surgery  
Loma Linda University  
Loma Linda, CA

## **David 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



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



# Announcing the 2024 MedStar Georgetown Lifetime Achievement Award



MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and AWR 2024 are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2024 MedStar Georgetown Lifetime Achievement Award in abdominal wall reconstruction is **Dr. Mary Hawn** from Stanford University.

Dr. Mary Hawn is the Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Stanford University. Dr. Hawn, a native of Michigan, received her education and surgical training at the University of Michigan. Her clinical area of specialty is minimally invasive foregut surgery. Dr. Hawn is a funded health services researcher and her projects focus on quality measurement and policy in surgical populations. She is a Director for the American Board of Surgery and serves on the editorial board of *Annals of Surgery*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* and the *American Journal of Surgery*. Dr. Hawn has several additional leadership roles in American Surgery including Chair of the American College of Surgeons Scientific Forum Committee and as a Trustee and Treasurer for the Surgical Society of the Alimentary Tract. She is the co-Editor of a new surgical textbook *Operative Techniques in Surgery*.

## Past Award Recipients:

**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

*Please joins us in honoring Dr. Hawn on Friday, June 7 during Session IV with an introduction by J. Scott Roth, MD*



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

# Call for Abstracts

MedStar Health and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital are pleased to announce the call for abstracts for the 15th Annual Abdominal Wall Reconstruction (AWR) Conference on June 7 to 8, 2024 at The Ritz-Carlton Tyson's Corner in McLean, VA.

Abstracts will be reviewed and selected on the basis of their scientific merit and content quality. Submitted abstracts meeting the eligibility requirements will be considered for poster presentation from June 7 to 8, 2024. The top abstracts will also be awarded and presented orally in the conference general session on Saturday, June 8.

We invite you to participate by submitting a 250-word abstract, which should describe work with relevance to abdominal wall reconstruction.

Abstracts must be submitted by **April 21, 2024**, on our website: **[AWRConference.com](https://www.awrconference.com)**



## 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 17, 2024

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



## Reasons to Attend

- Full two-day (Friday- Saturday) education agenda with live lectures, presentations, panel discussions and interactive Q&A sessions.
- Learn from 18 nationally and internationally renowned faculty.
- Located near our hotel are Galleria and Tysons Corner Center malls, the museums and monuments of Washington DC, historical theaters and performing arts centers of Virginia, and the vineyards and natural parks of the DMV area.
- Stay close to both Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

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

# Continuing Education Credit Information

## Course Description

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's 15th Annual Abdominal Wall Reconstruction (AWR) Conference is a comprehensive two-day symposium that provides an in-depth understanding of the emerging specialty of AWR. 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 discussions to address the growing rate of complex hernia repairs and updates in technology and procedures.

Currently, there are approximately 350,000 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 minimally invasive surgery, and management of complications. The conference is designed to give attendees much of the knowledge 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.
- 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.

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



# Continuing Education Credit Information

## 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 general, plastic and trauma surgeons, endocrinologists, infectious disease specialists, wound care specialists, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, nurses, dietitians, and other allied health professionals interested in abdominal wall reconstruction.

## 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 14.50 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

**Physicians:** MedStar Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 14.50 *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 14.50 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 14.50 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 14.50 CPEUs. RDs and DTRs are to select activity type 102 on Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) activity logs.

# Agenda

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

7:00 a.m. Registration Open and Breakfast

## SESSION I: INTRODUCTION TO AWR

Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

8:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks  
Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

8:15 a.m. "State of Union": What is New Since 2023?  
B. Todd Heniford, MD

8:30 a.m. Surgical Decision Making: Real World Practice  
Jeffrey E. Janis, MD,

8:45 a.m. Prehabilitation of the Abdominal Wall: When and How  
Archana Ramaswamy, MD, MBA

9:00 a.m. Hernia Prevention: Time for "Closing" Teams?  
William W. Hope, MD

9:15 a.m. The Abdominal Wall: The Importance of Aesthetics  
David Ross, MD

9:30 a.m. Questions and Discussion  
Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS  
Panelists: W. Hope, T. Heniford, J. Janis, A. Ramaswamy, D. Ross

10:00 a.m. Break and Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations

## SESSION II: UPDATES ON IMAGING AND MESH

Moderator: William W. Hope, MD

10:30 a.m. Predictive Power of Imaging  
Eric M. Pauli, MD

10:45 a.m. Synthetic Mesh: Any Barriers in Complex Cases?  
Mike K. Liang, MD

11:00 a.m. Biological Matrices: Updates with Long-term Data  
Vedra A. Augenstein, MD

11:15 a.m. Absorbable Mesh: Expanding Indications  
J. Scott Roth, MD

11:30 a.m. Mesh Strips & Mesh Sutures  
Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

11:45 a.m. Mesh Location: PROVE-IT & REVEAL Trials  
Clayton Petro, MD

12:00 p.m. Questions and Discussion  
Moderator: William W. Hope, MD  
Panelists: V. Augenstein, J. Janis, M. Liang, E. Pauli, C. Petro, J. Roth

12:45 p.m. Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations

1:15 p.m. Lunch Symposium

2:00 p.m. Dessert, Coffee Break and Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations

## SESSION III: CONCEPTS OF THE COMPONENT SEPARATION TECHNIQUE

Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

2:30 p.m. The External Oblique Release: Perforator Sparing Technique  
John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

2:45 p.m. The Transversus Abdominis Release (TAR) : The Data Behind the Posterior Release  
Clayton Petro, MD

3:00 p.m. The Pauli Procedure: TAR for Parastomal Hernia  
Eric M. Pauli, MD

3:15 p.m. Open Pre-peritoneal Approach to Complex Hernia  
B. Todd Heniford, MD

3:30 p.m. Questions and Discussion  
Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD  
Panelists: J. Fischer, T. Heniford, E. Pauli, C. Petro

4:15 p.m. Break and Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations

## SESSION IV: ADVANCED CONCEPTS

Moderator: William W. Hope, MD

4:30 p.m. 2024 MedStar Georgetown Distinguished Achievement Award in Abdominal Wall Reconstruction  
Introduction by J. Scott Roth, MD  
Award Recipient Mary Hawn, MD, MPH

5:00 p.m. Extended Totally Extraperitoneal Repair (eTEP) Access: Understanding the Advantages  
Jenny M. Shao, MD

5:15 p.m. The Robotic Approach to Non-midline Hernias  
Mike K. Liang, MD

5:30 p.m. Abdominal Wall Management with Enterocutaneous (EC) Fistula: Single vs Staged Reconstruction  
Yewande R. Alimi, MD, MHS

5:45 p.m. The Difficult EC Fistula/Stoma: Expertise with Surgical Wound Care  
Mary Anne Obst, RN, BSN, CCRN, CWON

6:00 p.m. Emergent Hernia Patient: How to Prevent Early Failure  
William W. Hope, MD

6:15 p.m. Questions and Discussion  
Moderator: William W. Hope, MD  
Panelists: Y. Alimi, M. Liang, M. Obst, J. Shao

6:45 p.m. Adjourn

6:45 p.m. Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

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



# Agenda

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

7:00 a.m. **Top Abstract: Oral Presentations**

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Symposium**  
*Sponsored by BD*  
*This symposium is not certified for continuing education credit.*

9:15 a.m. **Refreshment Break and Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Posters**

## **SESSION V: ADVANCED CONCEPTS**

Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD

9:45 a.m. **Rectus Diastasis: Management of the Post-Partum Abdomen**  
David Ross, MD

10:00 a.m. **Botulinum Toxin: Adjunct to OR Replace Component Separation?**  
Vedra A. Augenstein, MD

10:15 a.m. **Optimization of Complex Skin & Soft Tissue Defects**  
Sarah N. Bishop, MD

10:30 a.m. **Loss of Domain: Strategies for Success**  
Archana Ramaswamy, MD, MBA

10:45 a.m. **Hernia Surgery in Women of Childbearing Age: Special Considerations**  
Yewande R. Alimi, MD, MHS

11:00 a.m. **Question and Discussion**  
Moderator: Jeffrey E. Janis, MD  
Panelists: Y. Alimi, V. Augenstein, S. Bishop, A. Ramaswamy, D. Ross

11:45 a.m. **Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations**

12:15 p.m. **Lunch Symposium**

1:00 p.m. **Dessert, Coffee Break and Visit the Exhibitors and Abstract Poster Presentations**

## **SESSION VI: ENSURING THE SUCCESS AWR & HERNIA SURGERY**

Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

1:30 p.m. **Management of Complications: Preventing the 30 Day Readmission**  
Eric M. Pauli, MD

1:45 p.m. **Predictors of Hernia Formation**  
John P. Fischer, MD, MPH

2:00 p.m. **AWR Fellowships: Hear it From Someone Who has Done It**  
Jenny M. Shao, MD

2:15 p.m. **Hernia Coding & Reimbursement: Advocacy at a National Level**  
J. Scott Roth, MD

2:30 p.m. **Regulation of the Mesh Industry: Role of FDA**  
Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

2:45 p.m. **Question and Discussion**  
Moderator: Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS  
Panelists: J. Fischer, E. Pauli, J. Roth, J. Shao

3:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**  
Parag Bhanot, MD, FACS

3:05 p.m. **Adjourn**



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

# Registration Information

## Registration Fees

|                                   | EARLY BIRD<br>NOW TO MARCH 1 | ADVANCE RATE<br>MARCH 2<br>TO JUNE 6 | ON-SITE<br>JUNE 7 TO 8 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Physician</b>                  | <b>\$595</b>                 | <b>\$675</b>                         | <b>\$750</b>           |
| <b>Resident or Fellow</b>         | <b>\$350</b>                 | <b>\$425</b>                         | <b>\$500</b>           |
| <b>Physician Assistant</b>        | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Nurse Practitioner</b>         | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Nurse</b>                      | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Pharmacist</b>                 | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Dietitians</b>                 | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Allied Health Professional</b> | <b>\$450</b>                 | <b>\$525</b>                         | <b>\$600</b>           |
| <b>Medical Student</b>            | <b>\$350</b>                 | <b>\$425</b>                         | <b>\$500</b>           |
| <b>Industry Professional</b>      | <b>\$950</b>                 | <b>\$950</b>                         | <b>\$1000</b>          |
| <b>REGISTRATION ADD-ON</b>        |                              |                                      |                        |
| <b>Reception Guest</b>            | <b>\$50</b>                  | <b>\$50</b>                          | <b>\$50</b>            |

## Online Registration Preferred

Please visit [www.AWRConference.com](http://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](mailto:MedStarCPE@MedStar.net) or (833) 731-1273.

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made in writing by April 26, 2024 will be subject to a 50% penalty. No refunds will be given after April 26, 2024. 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](mailto:ada.guo@medstar.net)  
For exhibit support information, please contact Elizabeth Romano at [elizabeth.s.romano@medstar.net](mailto:elizabeth.s.romano@medstar.net)**