



# Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery Summit

Friday, September 18, 2026  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

**UAB MEDICINE** | Surgery

**AJS** The  
American  
Journal of  
Surgery



# Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery Summit

## Friday, September 18, 2026

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The *American Journal of Surgery (AJS)* is hosting a summit called “Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery” on Friday, September 18, 2026, on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The summit will convene experts from around the world to debate and publish reviews in *AJS* on three emerging topics in endocrine surgery.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Practicing surgeons, APPs, and trainees are encouraged to attend to learn more about updates in the field of endocrine surgery, connect with peers, and collaborate on the best practices in endocrine surgery.

### LOCATION

The one-day symposium will take place at the new, state-of-the-art UAB Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center of the Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data (ALGEN) Building, which is located in the medical campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Nestled in the heart of downtown Birmingham, AL, UAB is near 5-star dining, Civil Rights museums, urban parks and plenty of breweries. Partner hotels include the **UAB Hilton** and the **Valley Hotel**, in nearby Homewood, AL.

**Summit Location Address: 701 19th Street South, Birmingham AL 35233**

Staff will be at the front doors, across the street from the UAB School of Dentistry, to let you in and guide you to the meeting location.



**REGISTER TODAY!**

## FEATURED SESSION TOPICS

- Preventing and Treating Hypoparathyroidism After Surgery
- Ablative Techniques for Thyroid Cancer
- Surgery for Mild Autonomous Cortisol Secretion
- Interesting Case Session
- ... And many more opportunities to network and learn!

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Registration includes:

- Embedded networking opportunities
- Lunch provided
- Opportunities for publication in *AJS*

### Registration Fee:

- APPs, Trainees, and Practicing Endocrine Surgeons: \$25 / Attendee

**Seats are limited - register today!**



**Register here:**



## INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN EXHIBITOR?

**Join the event of the year, as renowned faculty shape the future of the field of endocrine surgery.** There are several levels of investment for potential supporters of the Best Practices in Endocrine Surgery summit.

To learn more and become an exhibitor, please contact UAB Surgery Events Specialist Gabby Rice at [gr7502@uab.edu](mailto:gr7502@uab.edu).

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

*If a registrant is unable to attend, they may request a refund up to 30 days before the start of the course. Cancellation requests must be in writing and submitted to [surgcomm@uabmc.edu](mailto:surgcomm@uabmc.edu). No refunds will be issued after Saturday, Sep. 12, 2026.*

# COURSE AGENDA

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**  
**UAB Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center, ALGEN Building**

- 7-7:50 a.m.      Check In**
- 7:50-8 a.m.      Introductions by Summit Co-Leaders Drs. Herbert Chen and Tracy Wang**
- 8-9:45 a.m.      Session 1: Preventing and Treating Hypoparathyroidism After Surgery**  
**Co-Leaders:** Kopal Patel and Dave Schneider  
**Faculty:** Paul Gauger, Sarah Oltmann, Elizabeth Cottrill, Carmen Solorzano, Peter Abraham, Basma S. Abdulhadi, Susie Pitt, Adwoa S. Opoku-Boateng, Alex Papachristos
- Session 1a: Definition, Preoperative Preparation, Intraoperative Adjuncts**  
Preoperative Preparation (10 min) - Sarah Oltmann  
Autotransplantation (10 min) - Alex Papachristos  
Intraoperative Adjuncts (10 min) - Elizabeth Cottrill  
Panel Discussion (20 min) - Paul Gauger  
AJS Manuscript - Peter Abraham
- Session 1b: Diagnosis, Immediate and Long-Term Management**  
Definition & Diagnosis (10 min) - Susan Pitt  
Immediate Treatment (10 min) - Adwoa Opoku-Boateng  
Long Term Management (10 min) - Basma Abdulhadi  
Panel Discussion (25 min) - Carmen Solorzano  
AJS Manuscript - Peter Abraham
- 9:45-10:15 a.m.      Break**

# COURSE AGENDA

## 10:15 a.m.-noon **Session 2: Ablative Techniques for the Thyroid**

**Co-Leaders:** Sophie Dream and Jennifer Kuo

**Faculty:** Ralph Tufano, Claire Graves, Jesse Pasternak, Erivelto Volpi, Anne Weaver, Alexander S. Chiu, Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine

### **Session 2a: Ablative Techniques for Thyroid Cancer**

Thermal Ablation of Papillary Thyroid Microcancers (8 min.) - Erivelto Volpi

Thermal Ablation of Lymph Node Metastases (8 min.) - Claire Graves

Panel Discussion (14 min.) - Anne Weaver, Senior Author: Erivelto Volpi

AJS Manuscript - First Author(s): Claire Graves, Anne Weaver

### **Session 2b: Ablative Techniques for Indeterminate Nodules**

Updates in Molecular Testing (8 min) - Jesse Pasternak

Thermal Ablation of Indeterminate Nodules (8 min) - Alexander S. Chiu

Panel Discussion (14 min) - Jennifer Kuo, Senior Author: Jennifer Kuo

AJS Manuscript - First Authors: Jesse Pasternak, Alexander Chiu

### **Session 2c: Best Practice Recommendations**

Peri-procedural Considerations (8 min) - Ralph Tufano

Data Collection and Follow-up (8 min)

Panel Discussion (25 min) - Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine,  
Senior Author: Ralph Tufano

AJS Manuscript - First Authors: Jessica Fazendin, Salem Noureldine

## noon-1 p.m. **Lunch and Conversations with Sponsors**

# COURSE AGENDA

1-2:45 p.m.

## **Session 3: Surgery for Mild Autonomous Cortisol Secretion**

**Co-Leaders:** Brenessa Lindeman and Catherine McManus

**Faculty:** Heather Wachtel, James Lee, Corbin Frye, Jessica McMullin, Wen T. Shen, Danica M. Vodopivec, Lindsay Kuo, Kimberly M. Ramonell

### **Session 3a: Diagnosis & Surgical Indications**

Definition & Diagnosis (10 min) - Jessica McMullin

Surgical Indications (10 min) - Lindsay Kuo

Preoperative Considerations (medical alternatives, vein sampling) (10 min) - Corbin Frye

Panel Discussion (20 min) - James Lee

AJS Manuscript - Jessica McMullin, Senior Author: Catherine McManus

### **Session 3b: Surgical Approach, Perioperative Steroids, Long Term Outcomes**

Surgical approach to the adrenal (10 min) - Heather Wachtel

Management of perioperative steroids (10 min) - Kimberly Ramonell

Long Term Outcomes (10 min) - Danica M Vodopivec

Panel Discussion (25 min) - Wen T Shen

AJS Manuscript - Kimberly Ramonell, Senior Author: Brenessa Lindeman

2:45-3:15 p.m.

**Break**

3:15-4:30 p.m.

## **Session 4: Interesting Cases Highlighting Innovation**

**Co-Leaders:** Insoo Suh and Andrea Gillis

**Faculty Judges:** Kristin Long, Sareh Parangi, Jacob Moalem, Daniel Rocke

# COURSE FACULTY



## **Herbert Chen, MD, FACS, FRACS - Summit Co-Leader**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
Senior Associate Dean, Heersink School of Medicine  
Fay Fletcher Kerner Endowed Chair  
Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Biomedical Engineering  
Surgeon-in-Chief, UAB Hospital and Health System  
Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Surgery*  
President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons Foundation  
Past-President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Tracy Wang, MD, MPH, FACS - Summit Co-Leader**

Medical College of Wisconsin  
Professor of Surgery  
Vice-Chair of Strategic and Professional Development  
Associate Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*



## **Peter Abraham, MD, MSPH**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Endocrine Surgery Identify Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Basma Abdulhadi, MD, CCD**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism  
Director of Bone Densitometry  
Online Resource Workgroup Leader, Bone and Parathyroid Disease State Network, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE)



## **Alexander S. Chiu, MD, MPH, FACS**

University of Wisconsin  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency  
Associate Program Director, Endocrine Surgery Fellowship  
Patient Advocacy Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons

# COURSE FACULTY



## **Elizabeth E. Cottrill, MD, FACS**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Associate Professor, Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery  
Residency Program Director  
Surgical Director, Jefferson Thyroid & Parathyroid Center  
Past Program Chair, American Thyroid Association  
American Head & Neck Society, Endocrine Section



## **Sophie Dream, MD, MPH, FACS**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Chief, Section of Endocrine Surgery  
Associate Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*



## **Jessica Fazendin, MD, FACS**

University of Oklahoma  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
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## **C. Corbin Frye, MD**

Indiana University  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Guidelines and Emerging Therapeutics Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Paul G. Gauger, MD, FACS**

University of Michigan  
Norman W. Thompson Professor of Surgery  
Professor of Learning Health Sciences  
President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Andrea Gillis, MD, MSPH, FACS**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
General Surgery Associate Clerkship Director  
Co-Director Pre-College Research Internship for Scholarship and Mentoring (PRISM)

# COURSE FACULTY



## **Claire Graves, MD, FACS**

University of California at Davis  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Director, UC Davis Center for Interventional Thyroidology  
Secretary, North American Society for Interventional Thyroidology  
Research Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Jennifer H. Kuo, MD, MS, FACS**

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Richard L. White Associate Professor  
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Fellowship Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons  
Awards Committee, American Thyroid Association  
Society Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*



## **Lindsay E. Y. Kuo, MD, MBA, FACS**

Temple University  
Chief, Division of Endocrine Surgery  
Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program  
Program Committee and Poster Chair, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons  
Editorial Board Member, *American Journal of Surgery*  
Treasurer, Society of Asian Academic Surgeons



## **Victoria Lai, MD, FACS**

Georgetown University  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Editorial Board Member, *American Journal of Surgery*



## **James Lee, MD, FACS**

Columbia University  
Edwin K. and Anne C. Weiskopf Professor of Surgery and Surgical Oncology  
Chief, Division of Endocrine Surgery  
Past-Secretary, American Association for Endocrine Surgeons



## **Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP, FACS**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Medical Education  
Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Director and Vice Chair of Education  
Past President, Association for Academic Surgery  
Education Task Force Co-Chair, American Association for Endocrine Surgeons  
Associate Editor, *American Journal of Surgery*

# COURSE FACULTY



**Kristin L. Long, MD, MPH, FACS, FCS (ECSA)**

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Associate Program Director, Endocrine Surgery Fellowship



**Catherine McManus, MD, MS, FACS**

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**Jessica McMullin, MD, MS**

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Assistant Professor of Surgery  
American Association of Endocrine Surgeons Foundation Board and Local Arrangements Chair



**Jacob Moalem, MD, FACS**

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Professor and Chief, Endocrine Surgery  
Director, Surgical Quality and Patient Safety for University of Rochester  
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**Salem I. Noureldine, MD, FACS**

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**Sarah C. Oltmann, MD, FACS**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Section Chief of Endocrine Surgery  
Dedman Family Scholar in Clinical Care  
Program Committee, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons  
Program Committee, American Thyroid Association

# COURSE FACULTY



**Adwoa Opoku-Boateng, MD, FACS**

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**Alex Papachristos, MD, FRACS**

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Senior Lecturer



**Sareh Parangi, MD, FACS**

Harvard University

Professor of Surgery

Mass General Brigham

Chair of Surgery, Newton Wellesley Hospital

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**Jesse D. Pasternak, MD, MPH, FACS, FRCS**

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Past Chair Research Committee, American Thyroid Association

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Program Committee, North American Society of Interventional Thyroidology

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**Kepal N. Patel, MD, FACS**

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Director, American Thyroid Association

Past Recorder, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons

Past Treasurer & Founding Member, North American Society for Interventional Thyroidology



**Susie Pitt, MD, MPHS**

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# COURSE FACULTY



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## **Kimberly M. Ramonell, MD, FACS**

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## **David F. Schneider, MD, MS, CPE, FACS, FAMIA**

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Analytics Lead, Section of Applied Clinical Informatics



## **Wen T. Shen, MD, MA**

New York University  
Professor of Surgery



## **Carmen C. Solorzano, MD, FACS, FSSO**

Vanderbilt University  
John L. Sawyers Chair in Surgical Sciences  
Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering  
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Past-President, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons



## **Insoo Suh, MD, FACS**

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# COURSE FACULTY



## **Ralph P. Tufano, MD, MBA, FACS**

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## **Danica M. Vodopivec, MD**

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## **Erivelto Volpi, MD, PhD**

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## **Heather Wachtel, MD, MS, FACS**

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## **Anne Weaver, MD, ECNU**

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