

General Surgery Residency Program



Sydne Muratore, MD, FACS

Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Medical Director, Downtown Surgery Specialists

Dr. Sydne Muratore was born and raised in Hulett, Wyoming. She grew up on a cattle ranch, which she acknowledges instilled an early work ethic and a dedication to "something greater than oneself." She circuitously developed an interest in surgery, due in part to the collective traits she acquired from her formative years: "Working with my hands, fixing things on the ranch, thinking about the bigger picture—all came from my father. Curiosity, creativity, and the fluidity of the arts came from my mother." She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Leadership from Dickinson State University in North Dakota. She then earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, Colorado. Subsequently, Dr. Muratore moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to complete her general surgery residency at the University of Minnesota, where she also engaged in two years of clinical research. Her research there spanned perioperative infection and sepsis identification and reduction, total pancreatectomy islet autotransplantation for chronic pancreatitis, medical student surgical education, and clinical outcomes in trauma/critical care.

Colorado was a natural choice for Dr. Muratore. She and her husband met while in medical training here in Colorado, and it has always felt like home to them. She says the St. Joe's General Surgery Program drew her in "because of the juxtaposition of being able to help both medically complex patients as well as the opportunity to care for the underserved." Growing up in a rural area, she brought with her an early interest in access to care issues. Throughout her training, she has developed a passion for caring for patients from all walks of life. As a result, she has been on numerous surgical brigades in Latin America. These collective experiences have taught her profound respect for the art and science of surgery and its impact on her patients' lives. "Each day, I realize what privilege we have as physicians that patients choose to put their trust in us in their most vulnerable moments. I believe in empowering my patients through education about their condition, offering choices, and then guiding them through the surgery process."

While Dr. Muratore is trained in all areas of general surgery, her areas of clinical interest include:

- Breast Surgery
- Robotic Surgery
- Acute care surgery
- Hernia and abdominal wall reconstruction
- Alimentary tract (small bowel and colon)
- Surgical education

When she is not at work, Dr. Muratore enjoys hiking, skiing, photography, and travel. Her husband is also a surgeon, and they have two small children. They spend their free time adventuring and exploring everything the beautiful Colorado outdoors has to offer.



Noelle Bertelson, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCRS

Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Dr. Bertelson grew up in North Pole, Alaska and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with high honors in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. After attending medical school at the University of Washington, one of the top ranked medical schools in the U.S., Dr. Bertelson completed her general surgery residency at Rush University Medical Center/Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

Dr. Bertelson now has over 10 years of experience as an attending surgeon. She joined Saint Joseph Hospital in 2021 with a desire to focus on patient centered care, surgical education, and public health equality. Dr. Bertelson has practiced in the Denver metro area since 2016 and, prior to that, practiced in Omaha, Nebraska and Phoenix, AZ. She has trained residents, fellows, and medical students from Creighton University, the University of Nebraska, Phoenix Integrated Surgical Residency, and Saint Joseph Hospital. Previously, Dr. Bertelson served Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and veterans as a general surgeon with the Indian Health Service and Veterans Administration in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Bertelson is board certified in general surgery and fellowship trained in MIS and Colorectal Surgery. Her areas of clinical interest include:

- Colorectal Surgery
- Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery
- Gastrointestinal Surgery
- Endoscopy
- Acute Care Surgery
- Surgical Education

In her free time, Dr. Bertelson enjoys spending time with her husband, a community plastic surgeon, as well as their very active boys.



Aaron Lynn, MD, PhD

Associate Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program Medical Student Clerkship Director

Dr. Aaron Lynn grew up in Kansas but has spent much of his adult life in Denver, Colorado. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. His medical training started at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in a dual degree, MD/PhD program. He received his PhD in Chemical and Biological Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder, studying the foreign body response to tissue engineering biomaterials. His residency training was in general surgery at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, where he completed his residency in 2017.

Since completion of his residency, Dr. Lynn has practiced as a Trauma and Acute Care Surgeon in Colorado. He finds acute care surgery to be a fulfilling career choice due to the variety and complexity of surgical problems presenting in the emergency setting. In 2022, he joined the faculty at Saint Joseph Hospital full-time. He has participated in various hospital and state-level groups focused on patient safety and physician political advocacy. He is passionate about passing along his experience in the business of medicine to residents in both formal and informal settings.

While Dr. Lynn is board certified and trained in all areas of general surgery, his areas of clinical interest include:

- Acute care surgery
- Surgical Education

When not at work, Dr. Lynn spends time outdoors and with his family. His wife is an anesthesiologist practicing Pain Medicine and they have three small children. He enjoys hiking, skiing, biking, cooking and introducing his children to (what he claims are “necessary”) films for their social and emotional development.



Stephanie Davis, MD, FACS

Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program

Dr. Stephanie Davis is a fellowship-trained Endocrine surgeon with board certification in General Surgery. She holds a **Focused Practice Designation in Adult Complex Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery** through the American Board of Surgery, reflecting her advanced expertise in this subspecialty. In 2024, she was inducted as a **Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS)**. Dr. Davis earned her bachelor's degree in Physiological Sciences from UCLA and received her medical degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine. She completed her General Surgery residency at the University of Colorado, where she also conducted a two-year research fellowship studying mouse models of thyroid cancer. She went on to complete her Endocrine Surgery fellowship at UCSF.

Her clinical interests include thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal diseases. She is proficient in neck ultrasound, FNA biopsy, radiofrequency ablation (RFA) of thyroid nodules, thyroid surgery, lymph node dissection, parathyroid surgery with intraoperative PTH monitoring, cervical block techniques to reduce postoperative pain and opioid use, and minimally invasive transabdominal and retroperitoneal adrenalectomy.

Outside of work, Dr. Davis enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, playing tennis and volleyball, and scuba diving.



Benjamin Foreman, DO
Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program
Trauma Medical Director

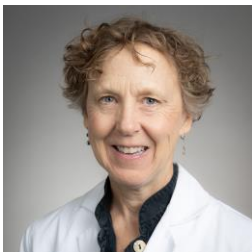
Dr. Benjamin Foreman is a board-certified general surgeon. He was born in Cincinnati, OH where he and his 3 sisters were raised. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Master of Science degree in Anatomy from The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. He then moved to Denver, Colorado for a research position at the University of Colorado Medical Center, studying novel pathways and agents that could be used to expedite rapid acclimation to high altitude.

“My interest in medicine blossomed during my time in research. I had a variety of roles on the team including planning and performing animal studies, bench top work, and assisting with grant preparation. However, I found my time with the clinicians to be the most rewarding. It was incredible to apply the complex concepts I had learned to human pathophysiology. I knew medicine was going to be my career.”

After applying to medical school, he elected to stay in Colorado and attended Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, CO. He knew he wanted to become a surgeon during his third year of school, “I always liked anatomy, working with my hands, and solving problems, so surgery was a natural fit for my background and interests. I didn’t look back after my medical school rotations in surgery.” He completed his general surgery residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire.

Dr. Foreman returned to Colorado with his wife after finishing training in 2018. He worked in private practice in Denver for 5 years before joining Intermountain Health in 2023. His main clinical focus is full spectrum acute care surgery.

Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, and son. Dr. Foreman can also be found running the front range trails and roads, skiing, cheering for the Buckeyes (as well as all the Cincinnati sports teams), and enjoying the outdoors.

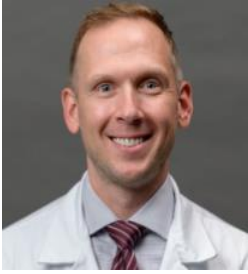


Peggy Schrieber, MD
Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program
Faculty Advisor for Quality, Research, and Global Health

Dr. Peggy Schrieber is a talented surgeon with a long history in international surgery. She grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, however, her medical school and surgical training took her away from her Midwestern beginnings and out to the east coast. After her undergraduate years at Yale, she spent 2 years in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa, teaching high school science and math and helping create a lab in an eye hospital. Stateside once again, she completed medical school at Tufts University in Pennsylvania, where she obtained both her MD and MPH, with a focus on international health. In 2002, she joined the CPMG surgical group in Denver and generously shares her mentorship and vast experience with our residents and students alike. We then had the great fortune of adding her directly as faculty to the General Surgery Residency in 2023, where her practice consists of Acute Care Surgery. She also oversees the General Surgery Research and QI Section, where she nurtures the inquisitive minds of our residents and assists with project identification and completion along with hospital quality and safety projects.

Outside of our hospital walls, Dr. Schrieber has over 20 years of experience traveling to Mwandia Mission Hospital in Mwandia, Zambia, where she provides invaluable care to local citizens. Residents and other hospital physicians and staff accompany her on her biannual trips.

In her free time, she is a world traveler, avid reader, cycling adventurer, and makes a mean charcuterie plate.



Jordan Wlodarczyk, MD, MS

Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program

Dr. Jordan Wlodarczyk was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, where his love of the outdoors and adventuring in the Pacific Northwest inspired him to pursue his premedical undergraduate studies at Lewis & Clark College. He went on to complete a dual MD/MS degree at Tulane University School of Medicine, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Wlodarczyk completed his general surgery residency at LAC+USC, where he trained at one of the nation's highest-volume public hospitals. During residency, he was recognized as the Los Angeles County Hospital Physician of the Year and served as Educational Chief Resident, all while contributing to multiple quality improvement initiatives, medical education programs, and surgical research efforts. Advancing his interests in Colon and Rectal Surgery he went on to complete a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he honed his expertise in cutting-edge cancer research and advanced treatment protocols.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wlodarczyk has cultivated a deep commitment to equitable surgical care and innovation in medical education. His research spans a wide range of topics—from rectal cancer and surgical technique development to general surgery education and health systems improvement—and has resulted in over 50 peer-reviewed publications and numerous national presentations. His clinical interests include rectal and colon cancer management, minimally invasive and robotic colorectal surgery, surgical education, and health equity. He has led several community outreach programs such as “Surgeon for a Day,” which mentors students from underrepresented backgrounds and introduces them to careers in medicine.

When he is not in the operating room, Dr. Wlodarczyk enjoys hiking, running, skiing, and traveling with his wife and young son. He is always on the lookout for a new half marathon to run or a mountain biking trail to explore. After years of training across the country, he looks forward to returning to the Mountain West, where he can combine his love of surgery and medical education with his passion for community and the outdoors.



Maria –Elise P. Sanchez, MD
Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program

Dr. Maria-Elise Sanchez, MD, is a highly skilled and compassionate bariatric and general surgeon who is passionate about helping patients achieve lasting health and wellness through surgical intervention. She is board-certified in general surgery and offers comprehensive care tailored to each patient's needs.

Dr. Sanchez earned her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and completed her residency in General Surgery and fellowship in Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery at Oregon Health and Science University, where she developed expertise in a broad range of surgical techniques, including minimally invasive procedures.

“I am passionate about patient-centered care, which involves meeting people where they are. I am deeply dedicated to serving underserved populations.”

When not working, Dr. Sanchez enjoys traveling and cooking with her husband.



Kyle Thompson, MD

Faculty, General Surgery Residency Program

Director of Simulation and Surgical Skills

Dr. Kyle Thompson was born and raised in Wisconsin. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin and completed his general surgery residency at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, CO, followed by his Fellowship in Advanced Gastrointestinal Minimally Invasive Surgery/Bariatric Surgery/Flexible Endoscopy from the Minnesota Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery in Crosby, Minnesota. With his father being a physician and his mother being a registered nurse, Dr. Thompson was inspired to go into the medical profession. "I feel fortunate to have such wonderful role models in the field of medicine. The field of general surgery attracted me because of the technical skills involved as well as the opportunity to have an immediate impact on a patient's quality of life. Dr. Thompson's philosophy of care is centered on providing high quality care with compassion. "Each patient encounter serves as an opportunity for me to listen and appreciate each individual's medical and emotional needs, and with this understanding, I strive to empathize with and educate each patient about his or her disease process and the available treatment options."

Dr. Thompson's clinical interests include:

- Bariatric and weight loss surgery
- Advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgery
- Surgical education
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and anti-reflux surgery
- Flexible endoscopy

When not working, Dr. Thompson enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and children.



Sherry Morgan

Program Manager

Sherry is a dedicated program administrator who came to SCL now Intermountain Health in September of 2018. Originally from Southern Illinois, she's carried her Midwest work ethic throughout her career. Outside of work, you'll usually find her recharging in the mountains or planning her next getaway to the beach. She is also a passionate advocate for mental health wellness and strives to create supportive spaces wherever she goes.