

The 9th Annual

John A. Ryan Jr., MD Lecture in Surgery



“The Joy of Surgery and the Joy of Discovery”

Diana L. Farmer, MD

Distinguished Professor
and Pearl Stamps Stewart Chair
Chair, Department of Surgery,
UC Davis School of Medicine
Surgeon-in-Chief, Emeritus,
UC Davis Children’s Hospital
Founder and Co-Director,
Center for Surgical Bioengineering
Principal Investigator, the CuRe Trial



**Virginia Mason
Franciscan Health™**

Friday, September 22, 2023

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Presented via Livestream on Zoom

Virginia Mason Medical Center

Seattle, Washington



Diana L. Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS

Dr. Diana L. Farmer, an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon, is Distinguished Professor, Pearl Stamps Stewart Endowed Chair, and Chairperson of the Department of Surgery, University of California, Davis. She is also Chief of Pediatric Surgery at Shriner's Hospitals - Northern California, and Founder and Co-director of the Center for Surgical Bioengineering.

Dr. Farmer's lab focuses on regenerative medicine, specifically in utero stem cell therapy for myelomeningocele (MMC), the most severe form of spina bifida. In 2000, Dr. Farmer's team made the seminal discovery that hindbrain herniation could be ameliorated by prenatal surgical repair in fetal sheep. This breakthrough led to the \$22 million-dollar, multi-center Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS), a randomized human clinical trial of MMC closure before and after birth. The trial showed conclusively that fetal surgery resulted in better outcomes. Dr. Farmer is now developing an allogeneic placental mesenchymal stem cell product to further treat in utero spina bifida. Her lab received Investigational New Drug (IND) approval with the Food and Drug Administration in 2020. Patient enrollment in the CuRe (Cellular Therapy for in Utero Repair of MMC) clinical trial is currently underway.

Dr. Farmer has been honored with numerous awards throughout her career, including being a Luce Scholar, a recipient of Wellesley College's Alumnae Achievement Award, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, past President of the American Pediatric Surgical Association, and past Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Farmer has long been a leader in global surgery and in 2016 she founded the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery, subsequently receiving the 2020 Universitas 21 Award for Contribution to Internationalization in Surgical Education. She is a Regent of the American College of Surgeons and was the 2022 President of the American Surgical Association.

Thank you for joining us for
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GUEST SPEAKER

Diana L. Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS

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Sacramento, Calif.



Past John A. Ryan Jr., MD Lecture in Surgery Presentations

- 2022 Gary S. Kaplan, MD; Virginia Mason Franciscan Health — *“Reflections on the Journey”*
- 2019 Martin A. Schreiber, MD; Oregon Health & Science University — *“The History of Blood Transfusion: How Did We Get Where We Are and Where Are We Going?”*
- 2018 Frank C. Detterbeck, MD; Yale School of Medicine — *“The Changing Nature of Medicine: Patients, Doctors and Judgment to Evidence, Systems and Artificial Intelligence”*
- 2017 Wen T. Shen, MD; UCSF, Mt. Zion Medical Center — *“Trial By Fire: Caring for the Victims of The 1942 Cocoanut Grove Disaster at the Massachusetts General Hospital”*
- 2016 Richard C. Thirlby, MD; Virginia Mason — *“The Top 10 Reasons Why Medicine is a Great Career”*
- 2015 Michael R. Harrison, MD; UCSF Medical Center — *“Surgical Innovation is Fun: From Fetal Surgery to Magnets”*
- 2014 James H. Holmes IV, MD; Wake Forest School of Medicine — *“Modern Burn Care: Where Do We Go From Here”*
- 2013 Steven C. Stain MD, Albany Medical College — *“Is Informed Consent an Oxymoron?”*

John A. Ryan Jr., MD, FACS

Emeritus Surgeon, Virginia Mason

Dr. John A. Ryan, Jr., a renowned surgeon and a distinguished educator, is an Emeritus Surgeon at Virginia Mason. He was valedictorian of East Grand Rapids High School in Michigan, graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University, and graduated at the top of his class as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1969. In 1974 he completed his residency in general surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and entered the United States Air Force as a Major at Wilford Hall, Lackland AFB, San Antonio. In 1976 he returned to Massachusetts General Hospital as Chief of the West Surgical Service and Assistant in Surgery at Harvard Medical School.



Dr. Ryan joined Virginia Mason in 1977, attracted by two of his surgical heroes Joel Baker and Luke Hill. He served as program director of the general surgical residency program, section head of general surgery, and chief of the department of surgery. Highly regarded for his technical mastery and his tireless pursuit of excellence, Dr. Ryan was a seven-time recipient of the Joel W. Baker Award for Surgical Teacher of the Year and the first recipient in 1991 of the James Tate Mason Award. He has authored chapters and articles addressing many aspects of general surgery including minimization of blood loss in hepatic surgery, avoidance of infection in colorectal surgery, and efficiency and improved outcomes in parathyroid surgery.

In addition to being an outstanding clinician, Dr. Ryan provided leadership inside and outside of Virginia Mason. He is a member of several surgical societies and is a past president of both the Seattle Surgical Society and Washington State Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and Historian of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. He continues to serve on the Virginia Mason Foundation Board, Virginia Mason Board of Governors, and as Emeritus Adviser to the Virginia Mason Surgical Association. Dr. Ryan and his wife Jody Foster were awarded the Meurk Distinguished Award in 2015 from the Virginia Mason Foundation for contributions in philanthropy.



*The John A. Ryan Jr., MD Lecture in Surgery is made possible
by an endowment established by George and Lisa Lackermayer.*