

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
CLARA K. ZHU, MD**

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

General Surgeon  
Associated Surgeons of San Luis Obispo  
Private Practice  
Practice including abdominal wall, foregut, colon

**B. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

8/2010-6/2014 Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science  
University of Pennsylvania (*summa cum laude*)  
Philadelphia, PA

8/2014-5/2018 Doctor of Medicine  
Boston University School of Medicine  
Boston, MA

**C. PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT**

7/2018-6/2024 Resident  
Department of Surgery  
Cooper University Hospital  
Camden, NJ

7/2023-6/2024 Clinical Instructor of Surgery  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
Camden, NJ

8/2024-7/2025 Advanced GI/MIS and Bariatric Surgery Fellow  
University of Texas at Houston, McGovern Medical School  
Houston, TX

8/2024-7/2025 Clinical Instructor of Surgery  
 University of Texas at Houston, McGovern Medical School  
 Houston, TX

#### D. CERTIFICATIONS

2020 Advanced Trauma Life Support Instructor  
 2021 Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery  
 2021 Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery  
 2024 American Board of Surgery (#074960)  
 2025 ASMBS Bariatric Fellowship Certificate

#### E. LICENSURE

Issuing Authority	License #	Date of Issue	Date of Expiration
State of New Jersey	25MA11674700	3 Nov 2022	30 June 2025
State of Texas	V0911	19 April 2024	31 May 2027
US Dept of Justice	FZ4018645	15 April 2024	31 May 2027
State of California	A203277	6 June 2025	31 August 2027

#### F. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2018- American College of Surgeons  
 2018- American Medical Association  
 2018- Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
 2021- Association of Women Surgeons  
 2021- Society of Asian Academic Surgeons  
 2022- Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract

## CURRICULUM VITAE – Clara Zhu, MD

### **G. HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2011 Research Grant, Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 *Phi Beta Kappa* Academic Honor Society
- 2013 Dean's Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Dean's Scholar, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2015 New England Society of Vascular Surgery Student/Resident Initiative Scholarship
- 2015 Medical Student Summer Research Program Scholarship, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2015 Rheumatology Research Foundation Medical and Graduate Student Preceptorship Scholarship
- 2016 Dean's Scholar, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2017 Dean's Scholar, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2017 Eli Shapiro Award for Outstanding Performance in Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2018 Dean's Scholar, Boston University School of Medicine
- 2020 Exemplary Contribution in the Coronavirus Pandemic, Center for Critical Care Services, Cooper University Hospital
- 2021 Philadelphia Academy of Surgery Annual Surgical Trainee Paper Competition – 1st Place Winner, Chris Tzarnas Surgical Award
- 2021 Society of Thoracic Surgeons Looking to the Future Resident Scholarship
- 2021 Presentation Selection for Best of Society of Surgical Oncology Conference
- 2021 Camden Scholars Forum – 2nd Place in Basic Science Research
- 2021 Camden Scholars Forum – 3rd Place in Clinical Research
- 2021 Rudolph Camishion Surgical Society Annual Resident Research Day - 1st Place in Basic Science Research
- 2022 Rudolph Camishion Surgical Society Annual Resident Research Day - 1st Place in Clinical Research

### **H. SERVICE**

#### **Process Improvement Projects:**

- 2021 Program Preparation for Virtual Residency Interviews
- 2022 Electronic Patient Database Creation for a Rectal Cancer Center of Excellence

## I. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Peer-reviewed Manuscripts

1. Eslami MH, **Zhu C**, Rybin D, Doros G, Siracuse J, Farber A. Simple Predictive Model of Early Failure Among Patients Undergoing First Time Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF) Creation. *Ann Vasc Surg*. 2016 Aug;35:46-52.
2. **Zhu C**, Eslami P, Eslami MH. Medicare Facility Diagnosis Related Groups Have Outpaced Individual Physician Payment. *Ann Vasc Surg*. 2017 Apr;40:57-62.
3. Lieber S, Fowler M, **Zhu C**, Moore A, Shmerling RH, Paz Z. Clinical characteristics and outcomes of septic bursitis. *Infection*. 2017 Dec;45(6):781-786.
4. Inagaki E, Farber A, Kalish J, Siracuse J, **Zhu C**, Rybin D, Doros G, Eslami MH. Role of language discordance in complication and readmission rate after infrainguinal bypass. *J Vasc Surg*. 2017 Nov;66(5):1473-1478.
5. Fowler M, **Zhu C**, Byrne K, Lieber S, Moore A, Shmerling R, Paz Z. Pathogen or contaminant? Distinguishing true infection from synovial fluid culture contamination in patients with suspected septic arthritis. *Infection*. 2017 Dec;45(6):825-830.
6. Lieber S, Fowler M, **Zhu C**, Moore A, Shmerling RH, Paz Z. Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes in Polyarticular Septic Arthritis. *Joint Bone Spine*. 2018 Jul;85(4):469-473.
7. Paz Z, Fowler ML, **Zhu C**, Lieber SB, Moore A, Shmerling RH. Patients with surgically treated culture-negative native joint septic arthritis have less severe disease and better outcomes. *Infectious Dis (Lond)*. 2020 Oct;52(10):713-720.
8. **Zhu C**, Williamson J, Lin A, Bush K, Hakim A, Upudhaya K, Hunter K, Sensenig R, Spitz F, Atabek U, Hong YK. Implications for Telemedicine for Surgery Patients after COVID-19 – Survey of Patient and Provider Experiences. *Am Surg*. 2020 Aug;86(8):907-915.
9. **Zhu C**, Badach J, Lin A, Mathur N, McHugh S, Saracco B, Adams A, Gaughan J, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Omental patch versus gastric resection for perforated gastric ulcer: systematic review and meta-analysis for an unresolved debate. *Am J Surg*. 2020 Sep 7:S0002-9610(20)30566-3.
10. **Zhu C**, Moront M, Katz D, English J, Gould D, Boelig M. Sutureless Abdominal Closure in Twin Gastroschisis. *J Pediatr Surg Case Rep*. 2021 Jan 1;64(101714).
11. Paz Z, **Zhu C**, Lieber SB, Fowler ML, Shmerling RH. Presentation and Outcomes of Peri-Prosthetic Joint Infection: A Comparison of Culture-Positive and Culture-Negative Disease. *Surg Infect (Larchmt)*. 2021 Oct;22(8):828-835.

## CURRICULUM VITAE – Clara Zhu, MD

12. **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Ghobrial G, Saddemi J, Evangelisti T, Bucher E, Saracco B, Adams A, Kripalani S, Atabek U, Spitz FR, Hong Y. ASO Visual Abstract: What To Do When Decompressive Gastrostomies and Jejunostomies Are Not Options? A Scoping Review of Transesophageal Gastrostomy Tubes for Advanced Malignancies. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2021 Sep 3.
13. **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Ghobrial G, Saddemi J, Evangelisti T, Bucher E, Saracco B, Adams A, Kripalani S, Atabek U, Spitz FR, Hong Y. What To Do When Decompressive Gastrostomies and Jejunostomies Are Not Options? A Scoping Review of Transesophageal Gastrostomy Tubes for Advanced Malignancies. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2021 Sep 21.
14. **Zhu C**, Hong Y. ASO Author Reflections: Improving Quality of Life for Patients With Malignant Bowel Obstructions: A Role for Transesophageal Gastrostomy Tubes. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2021 Sep 22.
15. Sandilos G, **Zhu C**, Giugliano DN, Kwiatt M, Wang YR, Hunter K, McClane SJ. Risk Factors Associated with the Development of Colorectal Anastomotic Strictures Prior to Diverting Loop Ileostomy Reversal. *Am Surg*. 2023 May;89(5):1654-1660
16. **Zhu C**, Sandilos G, Henry O, Sensenig R, Gaughan J, Spitz F, Atabek U, Hong Y. Medicaid expansion is associated with earlier diagnosis of gastric cancer. *Am J Surg*. 2022 Jul;224(1 Pt B):539-545.
17. **Zhu C**, McCloskey D, Sandilos G, Zilberman B, Crudeli C, Hunter K, Mitchell T, Burg JM, Shersher DD. The State of Racial and Gender Diversity in Cardiothoracic Surgery Training. *Ann Thorac Surg*. 2022 Oct;114(4):1492-1499.
18. Zilberman B, Kooragayala K, Lou J, Ghobrial G, De Leo N, Emery R, Ostrovsky O, Zhang P, Platoff R, **Zhu C**, Hunter K, Delong D, Hong Y, Brown SA, Carpenter JP. Treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Utilizing Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells in a Porcine Model. *J Surg Res*. 2022 Oct;278:247-256.
19. Quene TM, **Zhu C (co-first authorship)**, Owolabi EO, Bougard H, Duvenage R, Chu KM. Referral of District Level Operations to Regional Hospitals in South Africa. *J Surg Res*. 2022 Oct;278:149-154.
20. Platoff RM, Lou J, Bush K, **Zhu C**, Spitz E, Gaughan JP, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Gastric Neuroendocrine Tumor Treatment and Survival Outcome Depends on Facility Type. *Am Surg*. 2022 Jun 19:31348221109460.
21. **Zhu C**, Sandilos G, Williamson J, Emery R, Platoff R, Joneja U, Acharya N, Lin A, Badach J, Zilberman B, Madzo J, Jelinek J, Zhang P, Hong YK. Novel Treatment Strategy of Targeting Epigenetic Dysregulation in Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors. *Surgery*. 2023 Apr;173(4):1045-1051.

22. Sandilos G, Menger A, Kooragayala K, **Zhu C**, Daneshpooy S, Gefen R, Kovacs J, Giugliano D, Kwiatt M, McClane S. Diagnostic Accuracy of Endoscopy in Determining Rectal Tumor Proximity to the Peritoneal Reflection. *Int J Colorectal Dis.* 2023 Apr 25;38(1):109.
23. Ghneim M, Kufera J, Zhang A, Penalzoza-Villalobos L, Swentek L, Watras J, Smith A, Hahn A, Rodriguez Mederos D, Dickhudt TJ, Laverick P, Cunningham K, Norwood S, Fernandez L, Jacobson LE, Williams JM, Lottenberg L, Azar F, Shillinglaw W, Slivinski A, Nahmias J, Donnelly M, Bala M, Egodage T, **Zhu C**, et al, Brain vs. Bone Study Group. Does lower extremity fracture fixation technique influence neurologic outcomes in patients with traumatic brain injury? The EAST Brain vs. Bone multicenter trial. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2023 Oct 1;95(4):516-523.

### Peer-Reviewed Oral Presentations

1. **Zhu C**. Pseudoaneurysm Repair of the Transverse Arch. Professor's Round Table, New England Society of Vascular Surgery Conference, Newport, RI, 2015.
2. **Zhu C**, Rybin D, Doros G, Siracuse J, Farber A, Eslami MH. Simple Predictive Model of Early Failure Among Patients Undergoing First Time Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF) Creation. New England Society of Vascular Surgery Conference, Newport, RI, 2015.
3. **Zhu C**, Sandillos G, Sensenig R, Gaughan J, Spitz F, Atabek U, Hong YK. Medicaid Expansion Is Associated with Earlier Diagnosis of Gastric Cancer. Society of Surgical Oncology Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
4. **Zhu C**, Lin A, Williamson J, Joneja U, Acharya N, Platoff R, Emery R, Badach J, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Novel Treatment Strategy of Targeting Epigenetic Dysregulation in Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors. Society of Surgical Oncology Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
5. Ghobrial G, Zilberman Z, Emery R, De Leo N, **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Ostrovsky O, Zhang P, Hunter K, Krishnados V, Noshadi I, Brown S, Carpenter J. Stem Cell Therapy for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms In Swine. Philadelphia Academy of Surgery – Surgical Trainee Paper Competition, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
6. **Zhu C**, Lin A, Williamson J, Joneja U, Acharya N, Platoff R, Emery R, Badach J, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Novel Treatment Strategy of Targeting Epigenetic Dysregulation in Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors. Philadelphia Academy of Surgery – Surgical Trainee Paper Competition, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
7. Knapp K, **Zhu C**, Hunter K, Reid L, Moore M. Treatment For Octogenarian Patients With Adrenocortical Carcinoma: A National Cancer Database Analysis. American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Boston, 2023.
8. **Zhu C**, Carnabatu C, Olavarria O, Wilson W. Management of Weight Gain after Transoral Gastroplasty (TOGA) Procedure by Conversion to Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass. SAGES Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, 2025.

## CURRICULUM VITAE – Clara Zhu, MD

### Peer-Reviewed Abstracts

1. **Zhu C**, Cranstoun S, Siegel SJ, Carlson GC. NR1-hypomorph mice display decreased response to oxytocin in central and lateral amygdala. National Society for Neuroscience Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2012.
2. Paz Z, Fowler ML, Lieber SB, Moore A, **Zhu C**, Shmerling RH. The Presentations and Outcomes of Prosthetic Joint Septic Arthritis: a Comparison of Culture-Positive and Culture-Negative Disease. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
3. Paz Z, Lieber SB, Moore A, **Zhu C**, Fowler ML, Shmerling RH. The Impact of Prior Antibiotic Treatment on Culture Results of Patients with Septic Arthritis. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
4. Lieber SB, Moore A, **Zhu C**, Shmerling RH, Fowler ML, Paz Z. Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Patients with Septic Arthritis Treated without Surgery. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
5. Lieber SB, **Zhu C**, Moore A, Fowler ML, Shmerling RH, Paz Z. Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Polyarticular Septic Arthritis. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
6. Lieber SB, **Zhu C**, Fowler ML, Moore A, Shmerling RH, Paz Z. Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Septic Bursitis. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
7. Paz Z\*, **Zhu C\***, Fowler ML, Lieber SB, Moore A, Shmerling RH. The Presentation and Outcomes of Surgically Treated Septic Arthritis: the Impact of Culture Results. American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015. (\*: Authors contributed equally to this project)
8. **Zhu C**, Fowler ML, Lieber SB, Moore A, Shmerling RH, Paz Z. The Positive Synovial Fluid Culture: Septic Arthritis or Contamination? American College of Rheumatology Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
9. Eslami MH, **Zhu C**, Rybin DV, Doros G, Siracuse JJ, Farber A. The Association of CREST and CMS Carotid Guideline Publication on Utilization and Outcome of Carotid Stenting Among High-Risk Patients. Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2016.
10. Inagaki E, **Zhu C**, Farber A, Rybin DV, Doros G, Siracuse JJ, Eslami MH. Role of Language Discordance in Readmission Rate and Complications after Infrainguinal Bypass. Society for Vascular Surgery Conference, Washington D.C, 2016.
11. Talutis SD, Hall JF, Pearlman K, **Zhu C**, Kuhnen AH. Is it the Stoma or the Day of the Week? Evaluation of Perioperative Factors on Length of Stay in Colorectal

- Surgery Patients. Abstract/Poster presented at 2018 American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, 2018.
12. Talutis SD, Kuhnen AH, **Zhu C**, Pearlman K, Hall JF. Effect of Primary Language on Readmission after Colorectal Surgery. American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, 2018.
  13. McCloskey D, **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Gaughan J, Spitz F. June 2020. Identifying Patients at Highest Risk for Postoperative Pulmonary Complications Following Pancreaticoduodenectomy. American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference, Virtual Conference, 2020.
  14. **Zhu C**, Badach J, Lin A, Mathew N, McHugh S, Saracco B, Adams A, Gaughan J, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Omental patch versus gastric resection for perforated gastric ulcer: systematic review and meta-analysis for an unresolved date. American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Virtual Conference, 2020.
  15. Lin A, Platoff R, McCloskey D, Badach J, DeLeo N, Miller M, Williamson J, **Zhu C**, Hunter K, Shersher D, Zhang P, Hong YJ. Epigenetic Modulation Enhances Immunotherapy For Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. American Association for Thoracic Surgery Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  16. Emery RJ, Hakim A, **Zhu C**, Giugliano D, Morgan A, Kwiatt ME, McClane S. Stepwise Approach to Ileostomy Reversal. American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  17. **Zhu C**, Ghobrial G, Zilberman B, McCloskey D, Platoff R, Emery R, Crudeli C, Lin A, Ross S, Sensenig R, Hong YK, Burg J, Shersher DD. Industry Funding in Academic Cardiothoracic Surgery has Grown, but Unequally. Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  18. **Zhu C**, McCloskey D, Zilberman B, Lin A, Crudeli C, Ross S, Sensenig R, Hong YK, Burg J, Shersher DD. How Has Cardiothoracic Surgery Integrated Residency Impacted the Gender Disparity in Cardiothoracic Surgery Training? Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  19. **Zhu C**, McCloskey D, Zilberman B, Lin A, Crudeli C, Ross S, Sensenig R, Hong YK, Burg J, Shersher DD. How Do Cardiothoracic Surgery Training Programs Compare to Other Specialties in Racial Diversity? Society of Thoracic Surgeons Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  20. **Zhu C**, Ghobrial G, Platoff R, Saddemi J, Evangelisti T, Bucher E, Saracco B, Adams A, Hong YK. What To Do When Decompressive Gastrostomy Is Not An Option? A Scoping Review of Percutaneous Transesophageal Gastrostomy Tubes for Advanced Malignancies. Society of Surgical Oncology Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  21. Platoff R, **Zhu C**, Adams A, Saracco B, Atabek U, Spitz F, Hong YK. Does Microwave Ablation Provide Comparable Clinical Outcomes to Surgical Resection for Colorectal Liver Metastasis? A Systematic Review and Meta-

## CURRICULUM VITAE – Clara Zhu, MD

- Analysis. Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, 2021.
22. Zilberman B, Ghobrial G, Emery R, DeLeo N, **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Zhang P, Ostrovsky O, Hunter K, Krishnadoss V, Iman N, Brown S, Carpenter JP. Stem-Cell Therapy for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms in Swine. American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  23. Platoff R, Lou J, Bush K, **Zhu C**, Gaughan J, Hong YK. Gastric Neuroendocrine Tumor Treatment and Survival Outcomes Is Determined by Facility Type. American College of Surgeons, Virtual Conference, 2021.
  24. Zilberman B, Lin A, Emery R, Ghobrial G, **Zhu C**, Platoff R, Crudeli C, Burg JM, Shersher DD. A Large Animal Esophagectomy Resident Training Model. American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, Virtual Meeting, 2021.
  25. Sandilos G, **Zhu C**, Menger A, Gefen R, Kovacs J, Giugliano D, Kwiatt M, McClane S. Diagnostic Accuracy of Endoscopy in Determining Rectal Tumor Proximity to the Peritoneal Reflection. American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL, 2022.
  26. Moccia M, **Zhu C**, McClane S, Giugliano D. A Novel Database for the Organization and Analysis of NAPRC-associated Patient Data. American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, 2023.
  27. Beauchemin N, **Zhu C**, Hunter K, Rosenthal A, Carter T, Lopez A, Gruner R, Flannery K, Fantazzio M, Loveland-Jones C. Contrast-Enhanced Digital Mammography in the Evaluation of Breast Cancer. American Society of Breast Surgeons Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2023.
  28. **Zhu C**, Carnabatu C, Perez Viso C, Shah S. Management of Reflux after Partial Vertical Banded Gastroplasty Reversal though Conversion to Roux-En-Y Gastric Bypass. SAGES Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, 2025.
  29. Carnabatu C, **Zhu C**, Crawford LS, Wilson EB. Conversion of Sleeve Gastrectomy to Duodenal Switch with Hiatal Hernia Repair and Gastric Plication. SAGES Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, 2025.
  30. Carnabatu C, **Zhu C**, Zhao M, Shah SK. Recurrent Petersen's Hernia in a One Anastomosis Gastric Bypass Patient. SAGES Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, 2025.
  31. **Zhu C**, Carnabatu C, Wilson T. Management of Esophagopleural Fistula after Sleeve Gastrectomy with Roux-En-Y Esophagojejunostomy. American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 2025.
  32. **Zhu C**, Carnabatu C, Wilson T. Management of Reflux after Multiple Nissen Fundoplication Revisions by Conversion to Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass. American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Annual Meeting, Washington DC,

2025.

33. Carnabatu C, **Zhu C**, Primomo J. Perforation with a Malignant Twist: Unexpected Diagnosis of Gastric Adenocarcinoma. American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 2025.

NOT YET RETAINED