Johnson-Marbut Luncheon
With all of the ongoing developments in the JCSI, our first thought was to recognize and thank the person responsible for making all of this happen – Mrs. Jan Johnson-Marbut. The External Affairs office of the Health Science Center and the JCSI collaborated to host a luncheon for Jan and celebrate her vision. The luncheon was held on March 23, 2009 and provided Jan with a review of all that had occurred since the opening of the JCSI in 2007 and a preview of the future she has helped create for the Department of Surgery.

JCSI Skills Development Rotation
New for this year, the Department of Surgery has added a dedicated skills rotation. During this rotation, interns will have the ability to learn many technical skills and declarative knowledge components that they will need to provide the highest quality patient care in a safe, low-stakes, simulated environment. During the 2009-2010 academic year, interns will rotate through the JCSI twice, with each rotation lasting two weeks. During the first rotation, interns will learn names, uses, and proper handling of surgical instruments, knot-tying, suturing, central lines and intraosseous lines placement, and the fundamentals and proper usage of ultrasound. The second rotation includes vascular and bowel anastomotic techniques, laparoscopic skills, and airway management. The JCSI Rotation was made possible by a Veterans Administration Educational Innovation grant which was awarded to Drs. Van Sickle and Willis. The grant funds two resident salary lines for the academic year and beyond.

TASSL Flexible Endoscopy Curriculum
In March and April of 2009, 16 general surgery interns participated in a prospective, multicenter flexible endoscopy training curriculum established through the JCSI and our affiliation with the Texas Association of Surgical Skills Laboratories (TASSL). Through collaborative efforts of TASSL members and Simbionix (Cleveland, OH), the JCSI was provided the GI Mentor II™ Flexible Endoscopy simulator – a virtual reality-based endoscopy training device – for two months, allowing our interns to complete flexible endoscopy training. All 16 residents showed significant improvements in their flexible endoscopy skills over the 2 month training course.

Johnson Center One of Only 3 SAGES-certified FLS Testing and Training Centers in Texas
In February 2009, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) awarded the designation of ‘certified Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) exam proctors’ to Ross Willis, PhD, Director of Surgery Education; Sara Olivarri, RN; and JCSI Administrator Dona Modrzynski. The JCSI is now one of only three certified FLS training and testing centers in Texas. FLS is the definitive laparoscopic skills enhancement and assessment training program, sponsored and endorsed by both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES).

Open Skills Training Program
In December 2008, all 24 of the General Surgery interns completed the Open Skills Training Program, consisting of 11 suturing and knot-tying exercises. Residents were ranked based on time to complete each exercise and absence of errors. Ashwini Kumar, MD (pictured left), earned 1st place with 14 points; Johanna Bayer, MD, (pictured right) took 2nd with 13 points.
Research Residents
It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Lauren Buck, MD, a third-year General Surgery resident who spent her research year with us in the JCSI. During this time, Dr. Buck helped develop central lines and OR instrument identification courses which are now used by the interns on the JCSI Rotation. Dr. Buck resumed her clinical rotations on July 1st.

Joga Ivatury, MD — Dr. Ivatury is in his second year of research and will continue to provide research support in the JCSI. Last year, Dr. Ivatury led the Open Skills Training Program, provided suturing and knot-tying guidance to the interns, and produced a manuscript reporting the data collected from the Open Skills Training Program. Dr. Ivatury's paper was awarded first place for clinical research at the 2009 annual meeting of the Aust Surgical Society.

Richard Oppeltz, MD — Dr. Oppeltz entered his first year of research in July 2009 and has proven to be an invaluable asset in the JCSI. Dr. Oppeltz is leading the JCSI Rotation, providing guidance and instruction on open skills, central lines, and laparoscopic skills to the interns. He will also be working in the Trauma Immunopatology Lab with Martin Schwa-cha, PhD, Professor of Surgery, Division of Trauma and Emergency Surgery.

FLS Competition
On June 22, 2009, the JCSI hosted the FLS Competition. Several residents participated and Jason Kempenich, MD (l), proved to have the best laparoscopic skills. Dr. Kempenich was awarded a $300 gift card to the Apple Store, a Surgical Atlas, and bragging rights for the year. Second place went to Kshitij Kakar, MD (r), who was awarded a $100 gift card to the Apple Store. Past winners include Gustavo Guajardo, MD (2008) and Danny Kim, MD (2007).

FLS Course 100% Pass Rate
Congratulations to 16 of our General Surgery residents and fellows who have passed both the cognitive and manual skills portions of the FLS test: Drs. Joey Bluhm, Beth Bohnenblust, Lauren Buck, Clarence Clark, Gustavo Guajardo, Heather Hancock, Fawn Hogan, Jason Kempenich, Alicia Logue, Joseph Love, Matthew McHale, Oscar Ochoa, Jason Pfluke, Elizabeth Thomas, Bianca Vazquez, and Fia Yi.

A Look Ahead at the JCSI for 2009-2010
JCSI Endowed Visiting Professor, September 28, 2009: Neal Seymour, MD, Associate Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Springfield, Mass., will come to San Antonio to give a lecture on the current status of surgical education and training. While here, he will also tour the JCSI. We look forward to Neal's visit.

Human Factors and Ergonomic Society will visit the JCSI in October 2009 during their annual international conference here in San Antonio to learn about high-tech simulation in the medical/surgical field.

3rd Year medical students in surgery clerkships (a total of 220 students throughout the year) will get instruction on suturing, knot-tying, central line installation, and airway management in the JCSI.

4th year medical students Surgery Boot Camp will be held in February 2010. This program gives students who have matched into surgical internships an opportunity to learn basic surgical skills in the JCSI — a much less stressful environment than those first days as a surgical intern.