

## Alumni Spotlight: Allan Tsung, MD



**Q: During which years did you complete your residency?**

**A:** 2000-2008 (with 3 years of research from 2003-2006)

**Q: Tell us a little bit about your current position.**

**A:** I am Professor and Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Ohio State University College of Medicine. In addition, I am the director of our surgical oncology fellowship and gastrointestinal disease site research group.

**Q: How did your residency prepare you for working in your field and/or your current role?**

**A:** Pitt's general surgery residency program is where I truly learned how to become a surgeon-scientist. With the history of liver transplantation and the current liver surgery giants and innovators at the hospital, there was no better place to train to be a hepatobiliary surgeon. As a scientist in training, the extensive research program for surgical residents purposefully developed by Drs. Simmons and Billiar was crucial to my development into a surgeon-scientist.

**Q: Who were your mentors? What was the most important thing they taught you?**

**A:** There are too many mentors to name, as so many have played important roles in shaping who I am as a surgeon today. The most important thing that I learned as a resident was that a fulfilling career is facilitated by having a positive impact on the people, environment, and field that you are in. Whether through research, clinical programs, or training the next generation of surgeons, pursuing a greater impact, beyond the patients we operate on, is the most important for career satisfaction and advancing our area of expertise.

**Q: What is your favorite memory of residency?**

**A:** My favorite memories always revolve around time spent with my co-residents. They were the ones that got me through all the ups and downs of training. They became life-long friends because we all went through the same experiences. One memory I can never erase from my mind was when Dr. Billiar invited all of the interns for a gathering at the beginning of residency. My co-intern Greg Watson showed up to Dr. Billiar's beautiful house in cut off jean shorts while everyone else was in business casual attire... sorry Greg!

**Q: Do you have any advice for current residents?**

**A:** Surgical residency is hard. Choosing an academic surgery career path is even harder. You must love what you do and never lose sight of your end goal. Despite the challenges and long road, I cannot recommend a more fulfilling career than what I have now as a surgeon-scientist.

**Q: Could you tell us one fun fact about yourself not related to your work or residency?**

**A:** My left foot is legitimately 1 inch shorter than my right foot. Buying shoes is never easy.