

Ritha Mary Belizaire MD FACS FASCRS
Owner, Houston Community Surgical
General Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Robotic Surgery

Contact:

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Professional Experience:

CEO, Houston Community Surgical – July 2023 – present

- Solo private general and colorectal surgery practice
- Clinical Duties:
 - Office based clinical evaluation and treatment of colorectal surgical disease processes
 - Perform ambulatory surgical procedures and colonoscopies
 - Perform minimally invasive major abdominopelvic operations for both malignant and benign colorectal disease processes
- Operations:
 - Oversee daily operations of the practice including workflow of office patients, collecting co-pays and deductibles, patient check-in/check-out and triage, scheduling new and follow up visits, ensuring receipt of educational material by patients
 - Ensuring efficiency, quality of care and compliance with all regulations and standards
 - Implement and educate staff on the electronic health record system
 - Developing standard operating procedures for new hires
 - Create and re-evaluate strategic plans for growth and market share
 - Manage financial operations, overhead cost control, revenue cycle management and effective collection of revenue from patients and insurance companies
 - Establish, maintain and nurture relationships with community physicians, practices, hospitals and health care institutions to allow for practice visibility and provide excellent health care to the community
- Human Resources:
 - Recruit, interview, hire and retain in person and virtual staff members, physicians and other clinical staff.
 - Create a psychologically and physically safe environment for all members of the Houston Community Surgical team to promote workplace wellness and staff retention.
 - Create onboarding materials for new staff members
 - Perform quarterly performance reviews and tie performance to practice and personal goals
 - Establish policies for compliance with federal and state regulations
 - Offboard staff when necessary

- Marketing:
 - Developed and implemented a comprehensive digital marketing strategy, including creation of social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube and LinkedIn) with regular scheduled posts containing general health and colorectal related content
 - Regular guest appearances on public podcasts geared toward healthcare, professional development and women empowerment topics
 - Deliver educational content for patients and other medical professionals including appearances on webinars and live online events.
 - Search Engine Optimization for my business website as well as Google profile optimization
 - Spearheaded the creation and leadership of *Women Physician Entrepreneurs of Houston*, a group of Houston Women Physicians who are independent medical practice owners. With over 100 members in less than 1 year, we foster professional connections, support each other's practices, provide education, CME and opportunities for collaboration.

Assistant Professor of Surgery – September 2019 – present

Department of Surgery

McGovern Medical School at UT Health Houston

- Clinical Duties
 - Office based clinical evaluation and treatment of colorectal surgical disease processes
 - Perform ambulatory surgical procedures and colonoscopies
 - Perform minimally invasive major abdominopelvic operations for both malignant and benign colorectal disease processes
- Administrative Duties:
 - Resident and medical student education
 - Monthly lectures on colorectal and general surgery related topics
 - Intraoperative education on anatomy and technical skills
 - Pre-operative work up and post operative care

Undergraduate Education:

1998 – 2002 Yale University, BS Biomedical Engineering

Graduate Education:

2004-2008 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Doctorate in Medicine

Postgraduate Education:

2008-2009 Internship, General Surgery, University of Cincinnati Medical Center
 2009-2015 Residency, General Surgery, University of Cincinnati Medical Center
 2010-2012 Research Fellowship, T32 Grant, University of Cincinnati Medical Center
 2015-2016 American College of Surgeons, Transition to Practice Program, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY
 2016-2017 Colorectal Surgery Fellowship, Mount Sinai West/St. Luke's Hospital, NY, NY

Academic & Administrative Appointments:

2015-2016 Clinical Instructor, Department of Surgery, Albert Einstein School of
 Medicine 2019-present Assistant Professor of Surgery, McGovern Medical School at UT
 Health 2020-2023 Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Surgery, UT Health

Hospital Appointments:

2015-2016 Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY
 2017-2019 The Brooklyn Hospital Medical Center, Brooklyn,
 NY 2019-present Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Houston, TX
 2019-present Memorial Hermann Hospital – Texas Medical Center, Houston,
 TX 2019-present Memorial Hermann Hospital - Southwest, Houston, TX
 2023-present Memorial Hermann Hospital - Greater Heights, Houston,
 TX 2023-present Memorial Hermann Hospital - Memorial City, Houston, TX
 2023-present The Women’s Hospital of Texas, Houston, TX

Licensure: Ohio State Medical Board (#35.121377) – Inactive
 New York State Medical Board (#280265) – Inactive
 Texas Medical Board (#S1563) – Active

Certification: American Board of Surgery (#060870), 2015
 American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, 2021

Citizenship: United States

Professional Organizations:

Local/Regional:

2017-2019 New York Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
 2022-present Harris County Medical Society
 2022-present South Texas Chapter of American College of Surgeons

State:

2023-present Texas Medical Association

National:

2014-2015 American College of Surgeons, Resident
 Member 2017-2020 American College of Surgeons, Member
 2017-2022 American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons,
 Member 2020-present American College of Surgeons, Fellow
 2020-present Society of Black Academic Surgeons,
 Member 2021-present National Medical Association, Member
 2021-2023 Association of Academic Surgeons, Member
 2022-present American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Fellow
 2022-present American Medical Association

Honors and Awards:

2010-2012 NIH Training Grant 5T32GM847819, Dept of Surgery, University of Cincinnati, PI: Alex Lentsch, PhD; Mentor: Timothy Pritts, MD, PhD

Oct 2010 Winner, Ohio Committee on Trauma Resident Research Paper Competition

Nov 2010 Finalist, Region 5 Committee on Trauma Resident Research Paper Competition

Aug 2011 Top poster, Advanced Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care

April 2012 Finalist, University of Cincinnati Dept of Surgery Resident Research Competition

April 2014 Scholarship to National Pancreas Foundation Fellows Symposium

May 2022 Benjy F. Books MD Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award, UT Health Houston

June 2022 Moody Excellence Award, UT Health Department of Surgery

September 2024 Houstonia Magazine Top Doctor Award, Colon and Rectal Surgery

September 2024 Houstonia Magazine Top Doctor Award, General Surgery

Service to the Community:

2001-2012 HOPE Community Project, volunteer, child advocacy, Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti

2010-2015 Association Haitienne de Developpement Humain (AHDH Haiti), basic medical care, surgical care, St. Joseph's Hospital in La Vallee de Jacmel, Haiti

2011 Project Medishare, Bernard Mevs Hospital, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

2011-2019 Respire Haiti, volunteer, child advocacy and education, community building, basic medical care, Gressier, Haiti

2012 HOPE Medical Project, basic medical care and education, Gonaives, Haiti

2015-2019 Respire Haiti Medical Board, advisor

April 2022 Student Pathway Program, 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Tampa, Florida

June 2022 Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, NE Houston Farmer's Market, Hurricane Preparedness Fair

August 2022 Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, NE Houston Farmer's Market, Outpatient Specialty Services

Current Teaching Responsibilities:**Medical Students:**

2019-present Lecturer, 5-10 junior and senior medical and PA students at LBJ, monthly lectures on surgical topics

2021-2023 Moderator, Social Justice and Advocacy Module, create learning module and moderate discussion every 6 weeks on social determinants of health for each cohort of medical students rotation through surgical clerkship

January 2022 Lecturer and moderator, Implicit Bias Workshop for sophomore medical students

Residents:

2019-present Lecturer, 10-20 surgical residents at LBJ, monthly lectures on surgical topics, oral board review

July 2022 Resident education lecture, "DEI and Implicit Bias"

Mentoring Activities:

2019-2020 Mentor, freshman and sophomore medical student “Doctoring” course
2019-present Mentor, general surgery residents

Current Employed Clinical Service Responsibilities:

2019-present Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital daily resident and student education in operating room, general surgery clinic and colorectal surgery clinic

2019-2023 Memorial Hermann Hospital TMC, emergency general surgery service coverage, education and supervision of residents and medical student

Administrative Responsibilities:

Feb 2022 - 2023 Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion for Dept of Surgery, schedule and lead DEI committee meetings consisting of residents and faculty

May 2022 – 2023 Schedule and lead DEI sub-committee meetings

June 2022 – 2023 Create Dept of Surgery DEI website and associated resources

Aug 2022 – 2023 Direct DEI related content for UT Surgery social media outlets

Aug 2022 Implement Food Farmacy referral in LBJ Colorectal clinic for patients screening positive for food insecurity

July 2022 – 2022 Direct ASCRS DEI committee initiative, “Coffee and Conversations” to educate members and general public on DEI related issues affecting professional and health care equity

Industry Relationships:

July 2024 - present Axonics Therapy, Community Lecturer
Oct 2024 - present Fanny™ Product Line, Medical Advisor

Publications:**Abstracts**

Belizaire RM, Makley AT, Johannigman JA, Dorlac WC, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Resuscitation With Washed Aged Red Blood Cell Units Decreases MDC in Mice After Hemorrhagic Shock*. J Surg Res, Vol 172, Issue 2, Page 323.

Sutton JM, Richter JR, Belizaire RM, Friend LA, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. A Novel Role for Macrophage-Derived Chemokine in Mediating Lung Injury Following Hemorrhagic Shock and Resuscitation. *Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Shock Society, San Diego, CA.*

Refereed Original Articles in Journals

Richter JR, Sutton JM, Belizaire RM, Miller SG, Schuster RM, Friend LA, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Macrophage-Derived Chemokine (MDC/CCL22) is a Novel Mediator of Lung Injury following Hemorrhage and Resuscitation*. Shock, 2014 Aug 18 [Epub ahead of print]

Sakai N, Van Sweringen HL, Belizaire RM, Quillin RC, Schuster R, Blanchard J, Burns JM, Tevar AD, Edwards MJ, Lentsch AB. *Interleukin-37 reduces liver inflammatory injury via effects on hepatocytes and non-parenchymal cells*. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2012 Oct; 27(10): 1609-16.

Belizaire RM, Makley AT, Champion EM, Sonnier DI, Goodman MD, Dorlac WC, Friend LA, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Resuscitation With Washed Aged Packed Red Blood Cell Units Decreases the Pro-Inflammatory Response in Mice Following Hemorrhage*. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2012 Aug; 73(2 Suppl 1): S128-33.

Makley AT, Belizaire RB, Champion EM, Sonnier DI, Friend LA, Schuster RM, Bailey SR, Johannigman JA, Dorlac WC, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Simulated Aeromedical Evacuation Does Not Affect Systemic Inflammation Or Organ Injury In A Murine Model Of Hemorrhagic Shock*. Military Medicine, 2012. Aug;177(8):911-6.

Makley AT, Goodman MD, Belizaire RM, Friend LA, Johannigman JA, Dorlac WC, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Damage Control Resuscitation Decreases Systemic Inflammation After Hemorrhage*. J Surg Res. 2012 Jun 15; 175(2):e75-82. Epub 2011 Dec 15.

Belizaire RM, Prakash PS, Richter JR, Robinson BR, Edwards MJ, Caldwell CC, Lentsch AB, Pritts TA. *Microparticles from Stored Red Blood Cells Activate Neutrophils and Cause Lung Injury After Hemorrhage and Resuscitation*. J Am Coll Surg, 2012 Apr;214(4):648-55. Epub 2012 Feb 17.

Other Professional Presentations:

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| Feb 2021 | Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, <i>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: An Academic Strategic Approach</i> |
| Oct 2021 | Department of Surgery Grand Rounds, Moderator, <i>The Urgent Public Health Crisis of Gun Violence</i> |
| Jan 2022 | American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, DEI Committee Social Media outreach and awareness post on disparities in the treatment of diverticulitis |
| May 2023 | Harris Health System Circle of Survival Conference, <i>Community Based Solutions to the Urgent Public Health Crisis of Gun Violence</i> |