

## Faculty

Pedro Abdala, MD  
Gundersen Health System

Noelle L. Bertelson, MD  
Intermountain Health, Peaks Region

Samuel J. Bloomsburg, MD  
University of North Dakota

Anthony J. Duncan, MD  
University of North Dakota

Mary Fallat, MD  
University of Louisville

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Tyler Goettl, MD  
Wilmar, MN

Anna Harris, BA  
Oregon Health & Science University

Joseph A. Harter, MD  
University of Vermont

Maria Koenen, MD  
University of South Dakota

Jonathan Kohler, MD  
UC Davis

Rebecca Luh, BA  
Oregon Health & Science University

Randy Lehman, MD  
Liberty Clinic, Rensselaer, IN

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University of Minnesota

Megan McClain, BS  
Creighton University

Mitchell Mead, BSA  
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Michael Person, MD  
University of South Dakota

Scott Reetz, MD, MPH  
Creighton University

Katherine Slack, MEd  
Washington State University

Gary Timmerman, MD  
University of South Dakota

Brian Watkins, MD, MS  
Rochester Regional Health

# North American Rural Surgical Society Annual Meeting

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The Brown Palace  
Denver, Colorado  
Friday & Saturday  
January 17-18, 2025

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## Program Committee

Tyler Goettl, MD . Mel Johnson, MD . Melissa Najarian, MD . Estin Yang, MD



**North American Rural Surgical Society**  
420 Delaware St. SE MMC 195  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
[northamericanrss.org](http://northamericanrss.org)



**North American**  
Rural Surgical Society

## Executive Committee

Jeffrey Chipman, MD, President  
Daniel Margo, MD, Past President  
Roy Tinguely, MD, Secretary/Treasurer  
Melissa Najarian, MD  
Jesse Van Maanen, MD  
Cristina Masten, MD

Melissa Johnson, MD, Vice President  
Robert Sticca, MD, Past President  
Tyler Hughes, MD  
Tyler Goettl, MD  
Estin Yang, MD  
Brittany Ernst, Administrator

### **Friday, January 17, 2025**

**3:00 p.m.** NARSS Executive Committee Meeting

Maggiano's Little Italy, 500 16th St:

**5:00 p.m.** Resident/Student Reception

**6:00 p.m.** Reception and Dinner (Attendees & Guests)

**7:30 p.m.** ACS-COT FireArm Strategy Team (FAST) Recommendations: On To FAST 2.0!  
Gary Timmerman, MD  
Professor & Chair of Surgery, University of South Dakota  
Medical Director, South Dakota State Trauma System  
Regent, American College of Surgeons

### **Saturday, January 18, 2025 –The Brown Palace**

**7:15 a.m.** Registration and Breakfast

Scientific Program – Morning Session – Moderator – Estin Yang, MD

**8:00 a.m.** Welcome and Overview - Jeffrey Chipman, MD, NARSS President

**8:15 a.m.** Robotic surgery curriculum during residency and utilization of robotic surgery in practice - Samuel J. Bloomsburg, MD

**8:30 a.m.** Debate: Robotic vs lap cholecystectomy - Anna Harris, BA & Scott Reetz, MD, MPH

**9:00 a.m.** Adenoma detection rates for rural surgeons - Rebecca Luh, BA  
Comparing Timeliness of Follow-Up Colonoscopy after Positive Stool-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural vs. Non-Rural Populations -  
Anthony J. Duncan, MD  
UGI Endoscopy Findings in Patients with positive cologuard testing -  
Megan McClain, BS

**9:30 a.m.** Single Center Retrospective Review of BKA to AKA Conversion and Associated Risk Factors - Pedro Abdala, MD

**10:00 a.m.** Break

**10:10 a.m.** Transitioning Complex Pediatric Surgical Patients to Adult Care: Practical Considerations for the Rural Surgeon - Maria Koenen, MD

**10:20 a.m.** Pediatric Updates for Rural Surgeons: Trauma verification and new national guidelines - Jonathan Kohler, MD, Mary Fallat, MD, & Michael Person, MD

**11:00 a.m.** Anal intraepithelial neoplasia: evidence based management in the rural setting- Noelle L. Bertelson, MD

**11:30 a.m.** Difficult Case Discussions (*Bring your cases*) – Melissa Najarian, MD

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch – NARSS meeting

Scientific Program – Afternoon Session – Moderator – Jesse Van Maanen, MD

**1:00 p.m.** Educational Initiatives to Address Surgery Workforce Shortages in Rural Washington State - Katherine Slack, MEd

**1:15 p.m.** Update on Rural Surgery training programs - Tyler Goettl, MD

**1:30 p.m.** Bariatric Emergencies – Daniel Leslie, MD

**2:00 p.m.** Debate: MAC vs. conscious sedation for colonoscopy - Pedro Abdala, MD & Rachel Gallimore, MD

**2:30 p.m.** Break

**2:45 p.m.** Surgeon Peer Support—Essential to Surgical Quality - Brian Watkins, MD, MS

**3:15 p.m.** How to lose \$350,000 over 1.5 years in private rural surgery practice, then pivot successfully to an independent contractor model in a corporate-owned critical access hospital - Randy Lehman, MD

**3:40 p.m.** A Strategic Approach to Improving Informed Consent Practices for Newborn Circumcision - Joseph A. Harter, MD  
Trends in Surgical Quality at Critical Access Hospitals Among Medicare Beneficiaries; 2010-2020 - Cody Mullens, MD, MPH

**4:00 p.m.** Geographic Location on Outcomes in Emergency General Surgery: A Comparative Analysis of Rural, Micropolitan, and Metropolitan Populations - Anthony J. Duncan MD

**4:20 p.m.** Changes After Private Equity Acquisitions of Rural Hospitals – Mitchell Mead, BSA

**4:35 p.m.** How do I do it? – NARSS leadership

**5:00 p.m.** Adjourn

**6:00 p.m.** Cocktail & hors d'oeuvres hour (Attendees & Guests)

*No conflicts of interest have been disclosed by the faculty, program committee, or moderators.*