

**The David B. Skinner, M.D.
Visiting Professor in Thoracic Surgery**

“The Evolution of Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy”

The David B. Skinner Visiting Professorship in Thoracic Surgery was established in 2016 through the generous support of the Margo and Yoram Cohen Family in honor of Dr. Nasser Altorki, Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery. The Division of Thoracic Surgery is grateful to the Cohen family for its philanthropy, which allows the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery to invite a national leader in thoracic surgery to lecture at Weill Cornell Medicine annually.



James D. Luketich, M.D.

***Henry T. Bahnson Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
Chief, Division of Thoracic and Foregut Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center***

**November 7, 2016
8:00AM - 9:00AM
Uris Auditorium**



James D. Luketich, MD
David B. Skinner Visiting Professorship in
Thoracic Surgery

Dr. James D. Luketich is the Henry T. Bahnson Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He earned his MD degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania and trained in general surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He then went on to complete fellowships in thoracic and cardiothoracic surgery at the New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Over the past 20 years, under Dr. Luketich's oversight, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery has developed into one of the largest groups of academic Cardiothoracic surgeons in North America. In 2010, Dr. Luketich was appointed the inaugural Chairman of the newly formed Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery by the University of Pittsburgh. During this time, Dr. Luketich has risen through the academic ranks to become an Endowed Professor of Surgery and holds the prestigious Henry T. Bahnson Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Luketich is also Chief, Division of Thoracic and Foregut Surgery, Director, Thoracic Surgical Oncology, Director, UPMC Esophageal and Lung Surgery Institute, Director, Mark Ravitch/Leon C. Hirsch Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery and, Co-Director, Surgical Oncology Services, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and UPMC CancerCenter. Dr. Luketich's areas of research interest include the molecular staging of lung and esophageal cancer. He is the Principal Investigator on an RO1 NIH/NCI grant to study micrometastases in esophageal cancer and is the Co-PI on two additional RO1 grants in related areas.

Dr. Luketich has become world renowned for minimally invasive surgery for esophageal cancer, and has performed over 1,500 minimally invasive esophagectomies (MIE) and also has organized and completed a multicenter trial to prospectively study clinical outcomes of MIE with 16 participating centers. He serves on the editorial boards of the Annals of Surgery and the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Additionally, he is an Associate Editor for Diseases of the Esophagus. He has published 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 175 invited reviews, textbook chapters and editorials, and 400 abstracts.

Dr. Luketich is Director of the Cardiothoracic Surgical Residency Program at the University of Pittsburgh, which is one of the largest programs of its kind in the United States.



David B. Skinner, MD

Dr. David B. Skinner, born in 1935, was a renowned thoracic surgeon and innovator in his field, who had a meteoric career as a young faculty member, rising from the rank of Assistant to full Professor at Johns Hopkins in only four years. In 1972, he was recruited to Chicago as the Dallas B. Phe-mister Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago. In 1987, Dr. Skinner arrived at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center as President and CEO, where during his tenure, he guided the hospital to financial stability and oversaw the merger of New York Hospital with the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital to form the largest academic medical center in the country. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Skinner maintained an active practice as a thoracic surgeon, serving also as a devoted teacher and mentor to residents and medical students. His wife May Elinor (Ellie) Tischer, to whom he was married for 46 years, was his closest friend and advisor throughout his career, and together they were the parents of four daughters, Linda, Kristin, Carise, and Margaret. Dr. Skinner passed away in January of 2003.