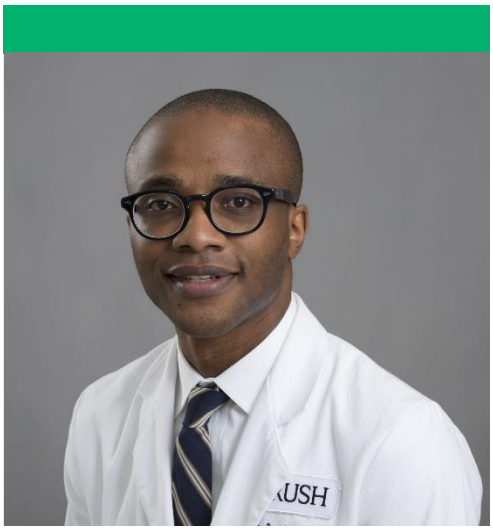
RUSH

Philip Omotosho, MD

The Jack Fraser Smith Professor of Surgery



Advancement of Medicine

In 2024, my clinical work continued to center on the surgical treatment of severe obesity and related major health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer and diminished quality of life. My research studies the mechanisms by which bariatric (weight loss) surgery works to address these problems, as well as patient outcomes following surgery.

This past year, we studied the impact of bariatric surgery on obstetric outcomes in women of childbearing age and how outcomes might vary depending on which type of bariatric surgery is performed. We presented this work at a major national surgical conference in the summer of 2024 and recently published the work in a peer-reviewed journal.

We grew the clinical practice at the Division of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery by adding two new surgeons, a development aligned with Rush University System for Health growth initiatives and community partnerships. One surgeon supports growth in our bariatric surgery clinic at Rush Copley Medical Center, and the other is focused on expanding our complex hernia care at Rush University Medical Center.

Research

I am pleased to report that we were able to leverage the income from this endowment to allow one of our junior surgeon-scientists to launch a randomized controlled trial that seeks to contribute valuable insight into the effectiveness of post-operative GLP-1 receptor agonist use after surgery. These medications are now commonly used to treat diabetes and obesity. We anticipate that the findings of this study will inform clinical practice and guide future research in the field. We have also been able to train a general surgery resident in metabolic and bariatric surgery research, leading to professional presentations and publications that enhance clinician and scholarly knowledge in this critical area of patient care. We do this work by utilizing our translational research lab, Rush patient data, large data sets and the clinical research studies we design. Additionally, thanks to your support,

we are training another Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery Fellow this year, enabling the fellow's participation in our research endeavors and educational conferences, travel for presentations, and an advanced flexible endoscopy course offered by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

Speaking Engagements and Presentations

- Session Moderator: Scientific Forum, Bariatric/Foregut Session I. American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2024, San Francisco, CA.
- Session Chair: Posters. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons Annual Meeting 2024. Cleveland, OH.
- "Pregnancy and birth complications among women undergoing bariatric surgery: sleeve gastrectomy versus Roux-en-Y gastric bypass:" Poster. American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Annual Meeting 2024. San Diego, CA.

Publication Highlights – Abbreviated

- "Pregnancy and birth complications among women undergoing bariatric surgery: sleeve gastrectomy versus Roux-en-Y gastric bypass," *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases,* 2025.

The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

We will continue to use the endowment income to support various clinical and quality improvement projects. Supported research initiatives will include an ongoing community-focused project investigating psychosocial, socioeconomic and cultural factors that influence success after bariatric surgery among Latino patients.

With Gratitude

It is with deep gratitude that I present this update to you. Your generosity continues to make a profound impact on the mission of Rush University Medical Center and the Department of Surgery. The Jack Fraser Smith Endowment is a cornerstone of our organization's current and future success, and I look forward to sharing our progress with you again next year.