

Surgical Services Biographies

Kathryn E. Nichols, MS, SRS, *Intermediate Research Surgeon*

Kathryn received her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the College of Saint Scholastica. Following graduation, she worked at the Environmental Protection Agency Midcontinent Ecology Division in Duluth as a student contractor studying the toxicological effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in metamorphosing amphibians. Kathryn developed strong skills in animal husbandry, gland extraction and culture, and several microdissection techniques, and her work there contributed to the group receiving the 2014 Environmental and Technological Achievement Award Honorable Mention from the US EPA. During her two years at the EPA, she gained a deep appreciation for biomedical research and went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Integrated Biosciences from the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her graduate research at the UMD Medical School focused on identifying the roles of innate immune factors in gestational hypertension using a rat model of preeclampsia. She became the lab's primary surgeon and enjoyed training fellow lab members in the surgical procedures. Kathryn's project afforded her several opportunities to present her findings; she was the recipient of the American Physiological Society (APS) Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis (WEH) Section Predoctoral Travel and Research Recognition Awards at Experimental Biology in 2012 and the APS WEH Section Predoctoral Research with Distinction Award at Experimental Biology in 2013. In addition to conducting research, Kathryn spent two semesters as a graduate teaching assistant and taught dissection techniques in three upper-level undergraduate lab sections.

Kathryn was thrilled to combine her surgical skills, teaching experience, and passion for biomedical research when she joined the DSI Surgical Services team in October 2013. She is involved in training customers on and performing telemetry implantation techniques in small and large animals, and she contributes to internal studies and product development and refinement as well. Kathryn obtained her Surgical Research Specialist certification in October 2015 and she is excited to continue building her knowledge base and expand her surgical experience. She is also interested in optimizing animal welfare in all aspects of laboratory animal science. In 2018, Kathryn was awarded a grant from the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science to complete a project assessing the humaneness of different rat euthanasia techniques. One of Kathryn's favorite parts of her job is interacting with and supporting customers and learning about the breadth of studies that use DSI implants and their implications in advancing biomedical research.

Outside of work, Kathryn loves spending time with her husband, daughter, and yellow lab. She volunteers on the Academy of Surgical Research Certification Committee and her hobbies include almost any board sport, like surfing, paddleboarding, longboarding, and snowboarding. She also loves to figure skate and bake.

Kimberly Holliday-White, B.S., Senior Research Surgeon

Kimberly received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. After receiving her degree, she worked in a neurophysiology research lab at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA). Her duties included performing surgeries and conducting experiments. She was able to use her experience to develop novel surgical techniques, train students and staff on proper animal care and surgical techniques. She also became a DSI customer as was one of several Beta sites for DSI. She was a beta site several times once when they changed receivers and when Dataquest ART 1.0 was released which was the first Windows software platform for the company.

Since joining DSI in July 1998, Kimberly has had the opportunity to work in several areas of the company. She worked for 2.5 years in Technical Support during which time she strengthened her knowledge of products. She then moved into Customer Quality for 8 years where she was an advocate for DSI customers. She worked closely with a cross functional team to ensure DSI was producing a quality product. If a quality issue did arise, she led the CAPA team and engineering to determine a root cause and a solution. She moved on for a couple of years into the role of Senior Technical Support Engineer supporting customers with their questions and any issues that arose. For the last 11 years she has been a part of the Surgical Services team. In this role she works with engineering to develop new products and surgical techniques and performs internal studies. She has helped train new employees, individuals at user groups and AALAS, CAALAS and ASR workshops as well as customers in DSI surgical techniques since she started at DSI. Most recently with the development of the new mouse glucose sensor she has performed many surgeries here in house to develop the product as well as performed surgeries at the first Alpha sites and Beta sites. In 2016, Kimberly earned Surgical Research Specialist Certification from the Academy of Surgical Research. She continues to travel around the world performing surgical training as well as pre-implanted animals. She believes that seeing the spark of excitement in customer's eyes when they realize the research that they would like to do is possible is one of the best parts of her job.

Kimberly and her husband have two children, Bronwyn and Caerwyn and a black lab and a cat. In addition to her professional activities, Kimberly has volunteered for all her children's activities as they were growing up. Now she is looking for new volunteer opportunities now that her children are in college. She serves on the Academy of Surgical Research's Certification Committee and on the board of the MN AALAS branch. When she is not working on these activities, she and her family love to spend time outdoors biking and camping. She is an avid reader when she gets the chance to read.