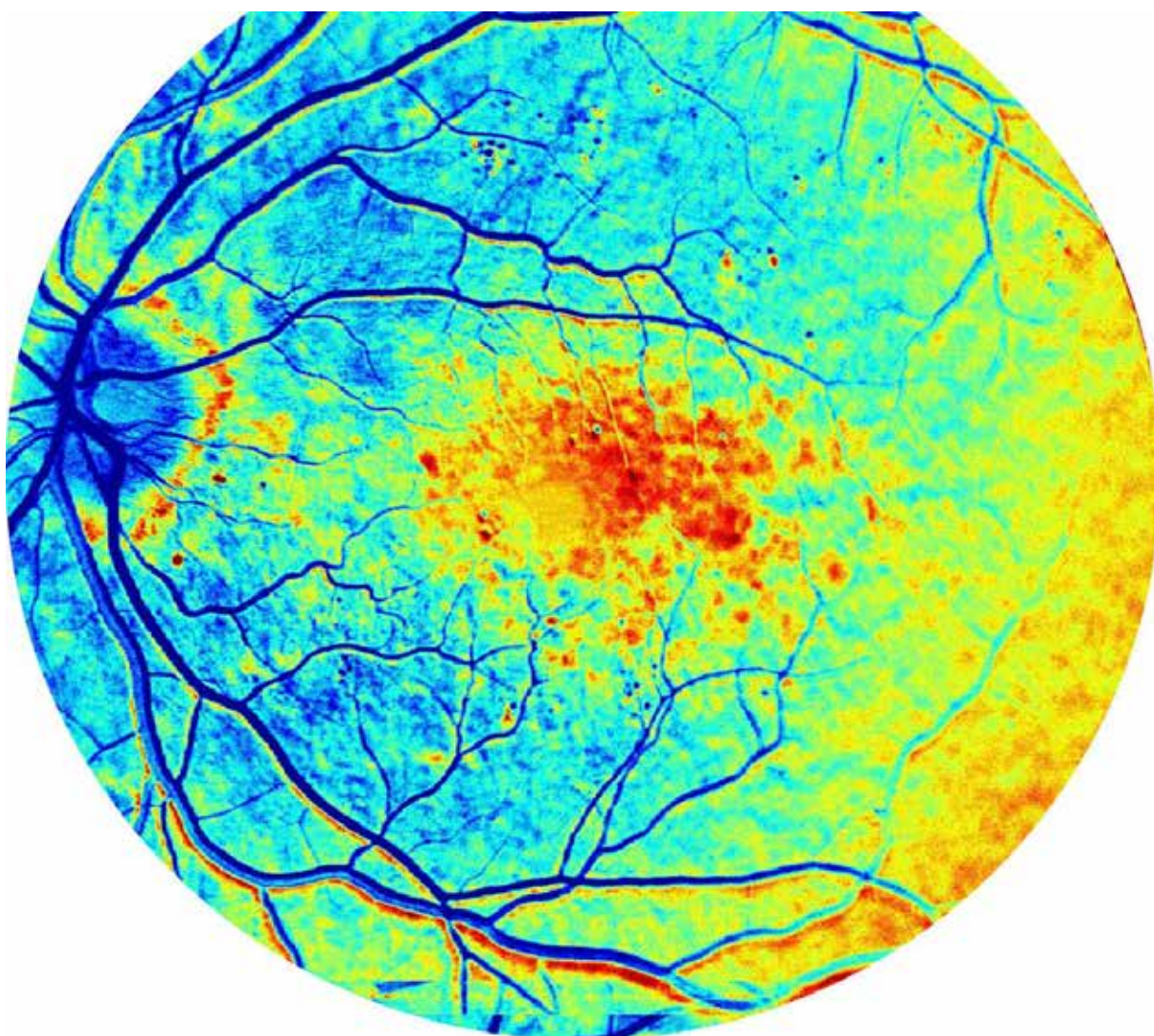


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VOXMeDAL



RETINAL IMAGING

Dr. Alon Friedman pursues a new vision for
preventing diseases of the brain

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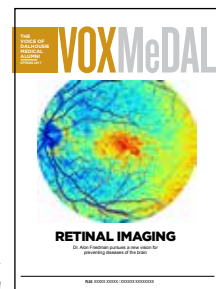
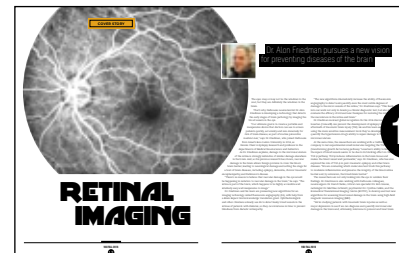
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VOXMeDAL

 DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

DMAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES AND MOVING FORWARD

By Dr. John Steeves MD
President, DMAA

Most of us enjoy celebrating anniversaries. Usually they serve to acknowledge personal life milestones such as birthdays and weddings, seasonal events such as New Year's and Thanksgiving or national events such as Canada's sesquicentennial this year. Such celebrations provide an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments and a sense of pride in one's role as part of a group in achieving milestones. Reflecting on past happy times brings us joy, reaffirming those relationships and ideas that have shaped our lives. Celebrating anniversaries energizes us for managing future challenges.

In the next few editions of the *VoxMeDal*, we will be highlighting special accomplishments of your medical school as it approaches its own sesquicentennial year in 2018. This event will also coincide with Dalhousie University's 200th anniversary and your Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association 60th year since its formation for three great milestone anniversaries.

At DMAA we are already finalizing arrangements for a lively celebration party in the newly constructed Nova Centre convention facility. We hope you will "Be there in 2018" in Halifax, to celebrate with some of the 6,000 Dal medical alumni as you come back home to where your medical career began.

What a great opportunity to get together with some of your alumni friends and classmates for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. It would also be a chance to reconnect with special groups that you were involved with socially in medical school across classes including areas such as music, art, entertainment, health advocacy, student

leadership, or even the fraternity groups that had major influence on your undergraduate and residency years. Through social media, connecting with geographically distributed friends and planning a get together has never been so possible. Go for it!

Anniversaries, in addition to providing opportunity to celebrate success and highlight things that have worked well in the past, provide an opportunity to focus our thoughts in preparing for our future. Resting on our laurels is not a recipe for future success. "Beware of the seated elephant," I was once advised. Collective inertia anchored in past accomplishments is difficult to address. So let's use our anniversary celebrations as an opportunity to wisely reflect on:

- what has worked well and needs to continue
- what improvements are needed to modify current practices to be more effective in future contexts
- what things should be discarded as no longer effective.

It's timely that this 2018 "trifecta of anniversaries" is following the implementation in 2017 of #DalMedForward, the Faculty of Medicine strategic plan.

This year we hope to complete a brief history of DMAA both its successes and challenges and begin developing a strategic direction for your Association to serve you well as we begin the next 60 years.

Just as this association was formed and evolved only after the input of large numbers of alumni over six decades, we are again seeking your advice in answering the above three questions in preparing for the future.



While change is uncomfortable, we all know that growth and improvement will not occur without change.

Some questions you might consider

1. With the changing tools of communication in the world today- what is the future role of *VoxMeDAL*?
2. Is the Gala the best way to engage alumni, fund raise for students and residents as well as recognize achievements of special alumni?
3. Are the activities and services of the DMAA meeting the current and future alumni needs and expectations?
4. What can we do to ensure that we are indeed functioning as the "voice of Dal Medical Alumni"?

Please contact us as per the information on the back page of *Vox* with your suggestions and advice. Be heard. Don't hesitate to drop into the DMAA office in the entrance area of the Tupper Building. We love to see alumni any time.

We hope you enjoy reading the rest of *Vox*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Steeves".

President Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association

DEAN'S MESSAGE

A FOCUS ON ACCREDITATION AND A LOOK AHEAD TO 150TH ANNIVERSARY

By Dr. David Anderson (MD'83)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Hello, colleagues and fellow alumni.

As you read this, we should be learning about our status regarding accreditation of our medical school program. Accreditation occurs every eight years and has been a big focus for us for the past 18 months.

At the end of February, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and the U.S.-based Liaison Committee on Medical Education toured our educational and clinical facilities in Halifax and Saint John, New Brunswick.

Planning for the accreditors' visit was an incredible amount of work, involving well more than 100 faculty, staff, and students. Because of this collaborative and exhaustive effort, I believe we're in a good position to have a successful accreditation. We'll certainly update you on our result.

I want to recognize the efforts of Dr. Darrell White, senior associate dean and Ms. Anne Weeden, assistant dean of operations, for leading our accreditation efforts. And I thank the many, many others who've worked tirelessly on our accreditation over the past few years.

Accreditation will be a constant theme for the medical school over the next several months. Our continuing professional development program, under the direction of Dr. Connie LeBlanc, associate dean, will undergo accreditation in April 2017, and our postgraduate medical education program, under the direction of Dr. Andrew Warren, associate dean, will undergo accreditation in fall 2018.

I'm pleased to say Dalhousie Medical School's five-year strategic plan (#DalMedForward) has entered the implementation phase. Strategic priority teams are outlining outcomes, targets, and work plans for each of the seven priorities identified under education, research, and serving and engaging society.

I look forward to updating the alumni community on #DalMedForward progress as

we move ahead in rolling out the multi-year strategy. For more information on the plan, please see our website: medicine.dal.ca/about/dalmedforward.html

With our strategic commitment to serving and engaging society, we've had some noteworthy developments over the past few months.

We recently learned Dalhousie's James Robinson Johnston Chair (JRJ) will be hosted in the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. This is the first time this prestigious Dalhousie University chair has been awarded to the medical school. Having the JRJ within our Faculty will strengthen our efforts on improving the health of African Canadians in the Maritimes.

To facilitate the recruitment and career development of diverse faculty into senior leadership positions within the medical school, we've formed a Diversity Leadership Task Force. Led by Dr. Jean Marshall of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, the group is comprised of representatives from clinical and basic sciences departments, Human Rights and Equity Services, the Social Accountability Committee, and the Dean's Office. The task force will outline ways to encourage diversity within our senior administration; I look forward to receiving the group's input.

Programming in the new Collaborative Health Education Building (CHEB) officially began in September. The CHEB's Centre for Collaborative Clinical Learning & Research offers fantastic opportunities for inter-professional education with our colleagues in Dentistry and Health Professions, and has already proven to be a great asset to our clinical skills training programs.

Also in the fall, the partnership between Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick, and the Government of New Brunswick was renewed. An important milestone in Dalhousie Medical New Brunswick's history,



I'm eager to see what the next five years will bring for our undergraduate medical education program at DMNB.

Our faculty continue to be honoured for their work. Most recently, Dr. Jean Marshall (Microbiology and Immunology) was named an inaugural Dalhousie University Arthur B. McDonald Chair in recognition of her world-class research. Dr. Roy Duncan (Microbiology and Immunology) received an Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chair; these chairs are awarded to academics of the highest distinction at Dalhousie. Dr. Francoise Baylis (Bioethics) was appointed to the Orders of Nova Scotia and Canada. Dr. Rudolph Uher (Psychiatry) was awarded the Canadian Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize for Mental Health Research. Dr. Pat McGrath (Psychology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry) is the first recipient of the national Legacy of Leadership Award, which recognizes "exceptional individuals who have made long-lasting and outstanding contributions to advancing Canada's health system." And Dr. Karen Mann was selected as the posthumous winner of the 2017 Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada Award for Outstanding Contribution to Faculty Development in Canada.

Finally, I enjoyed attending the 58th Annual Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association Recognition Dinner in October; it was nice to reconnect with classmates and colleagues who were in attendance from all over. And I look forward to having a number of alumni in town, hopefully the biggest turnout ever, during our 150th anniversary celebrations in 2018. Please mark your calendar for our gala dinner on November 3, 2018.

Until next time.

David R. Anderson

DALHOUSIE MEDICINE NEW BRUNSWICK UPDATE

PREPARING FOR ACCREDITATION

By Dr. Jennifer Hall
Associate Dean, DMNB

The past few months at DMNB have been busy preparing for the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) undergraduate medical program accreditation that culminated with an on-site visit at DMNB by members of the accreditation team on Feb 28, 2017. Certainly, the faculty of medicine has been through these processes before, but for DMNB, this is the first onsite visit by a CACMS accreditation team since the campus was developed.

CACMS is the organization that defines itself as "the reliable authority for the accreditation of programs of medical education leading to the MD degree in Canada." In collaboration with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) in the United States, CACMS is involved in the standard setting for undergraduate medical education programs across Canada.

One key area of focus of the accreditation standards is comparability between campuses in medical schools with distributed programs. The Dalhousie curriculum is one curriculum, irrespective of the campus in which it is delivered. It is recognized though that the delivery of the curriculum may differ because of the different environments

in which the two campuses are based. A concrete example of this is inter-professional education. The health professional education programs that occur in New Brunswick on the Tucker Park campus are different than those that occur in Halifax. The result is that the exact curriculum content in this area cannot be identical. This is where comparability comes into play. How do we meet the same educational objectives of the overall program as determined by the Undergraduate Medical education committee while ensuring contextual relevancy at DMNB?

This work is complex, and requires the continued nurturing of relationships with allied health-care professional education programs and the development of sound, innovative educational programs to meet the objectives. We are thrilled that Dr. Marc Nicholson has agreed to be the new Inter-professional Education Director for DMNB to advance this curriculum in our local context while liaising with our Halifax partners.

Another focus of the accreditation standards is to push us to ensure that the learning environments in which we train in New Brunswick are appropriate for learning



and are providing the students with high quality clinical teaching irrespective of the particular clinic or hospital in which they are working. The work done by the DMNB faculty and staff led in large part by Dr. Robert Boulay, Assistant Dean Clinical Education DMNB, and our Horizon Health partners in all our New Brunswick sites ensures these standards are met.

Through the dedication of faculty and staff in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, we are ready to welcome the accreditation visitors to our campus to highlight the DMNB's contribution to the Dalhousie Undergraduate medical program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Hall".



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CHEB UPDATE

Medical students benefit from collaborative learning

By Jocelyn Adams

In 2015, Dalhousie opened the doors of their new Collaborative Health Education Building (CHEB). The first of its kind on campus, the building is intended for collaborative learning opportunities amongst students from varying health professions. The CHEB is the only purpose-built facility of its kind in Atlantic Canada and is designed to facilitate the transformation of health education for students at Dalhousie and foster a cultural shift in health care toward greater inter-professional collaborative care.

This year, second-year medical students are learning first-hand the benefits of their new facility by using the third floor of the building for Collaborative Clinical Learning Research (CCLR).

"It's had a positive impact on student learning," says Doug Ferkol, clinical instructor. "Medical students are often able to attend sessions offered by other health professions to learn skills collaboratively."

Students from multiple health professions have been able to practice skills in a realistic clinical environment, including wardrooms with hospital beds.

"This adds a realness to the sessions and helps students identify obstacles they will encounter in real clinical and hospital settings," Ferkol says.

One of the biggest benefits of the building are the simulation suites. The suites mimic real clinic rooms and have wall-mounted blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, ophthalmoscopes, and otoscopes for students to use during their clinical experiences.

"These rooms are especially helpful for student learning and practice, as they will encounter these exact items in clinical



practice. So far, the medical students are enjoying their learning experience in the new space. There are many learning opportunities available in the CCLR for current and future health profession students," Ferkol says.

As part of their training, medical students must successfully complete a Skilled Clinician course, which involves learning how to take patient histories, conducting physical examinations, inter-professional workshops, and performing procedural skills such as IV insertion and wound care.

For medical student Bogdan Beca, the new facility has offered a positive experience, especially when working with other health profession students.

"The clinic rooms are well designed, with modern and up-to-date equipment," Beca says. "The most beneficial part of working with students from other professions is learning about, from, and with each other to enable effective communication and collaboration that will contribute towards improving health outcomes in the future. It's very useful to learn about the overlapping roles of health professions."

NEW GOWNS IN TOWN

Designing better patient clothing for everyone

By Sallie Lau

You're in a hospital: bright fluorescent lights, people poking and prodding you, your backside visible in a patient hospital gown.

"You feel vulnerable in the gown," Saif Syed, a Dalhousie medical student, says. "You feel vulnerable, you feel powerless."

Syed used to work in a hospital in Toronto, focusing on innovation and patient satisfaction. Through his many interactions with patients, he realized that they were much more forgiving towards the mistakes a clinician might make than they were about how the hospital experience made them feel.

Patients were not forgiving of the hospital gown, in particular, which made them feel as though their dignity had been taken away.

But the gowns are integral to patient recovery. Poorly designed gowns limit patient mobility, and if a patient is not moving around enough, they can decondition. Clothes also impact the way one feels. If one feels good, the recovery process speeds up.

Syed understands, which is why he's conducting a research project to design a new gown, one that works best for patients, physicians, and other stakeholders involved.

The first part of the project took place in November, at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD). Ten NSCAD students met up with five Dal medical students and two patients to explore ideas for a simple and economical gown that cut a balance between giving health-care providers access and protecting patients' dignity.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE THROUGH BETTER DESIGN

They came up with three prototypes. Each one is made with durable material that gives physicians easy access with front openings and easy fastenings. The designs also maintain patient dignity with more fastening locations and options, such as a belt around the waist.

The prototypes are not the end goal, though. They are tools for learning about patient gowns and how to improve them.

"We learn by doing," Syed says. "We all think, but until we do it and build it, we can't explore the nuances."

The prototyping session, which brought med students, designers, and patients into the same room, has been eye opening for Syed.

"It brought unique sets of expertise . . . to table," Syed says. "The NSCAD students had their unique niche, the med students knew what areas of patients to access, and the patients had their own stories to tell. When unique expertise comes together on an equal playing field, it breaks barriers between professions and gets people thinking about how design impacts health care."

The prototypes will act as starting points of discussion during focus groups with patients, physicians, and health-care administrators next spring, when Syed and his team will assess the needs of the different groups.

Syed is interested in seeing the partnership between Dal and NSCAD continue to grow. He says he was fortunate to have been able to

create his own research project and plan this collaboration.

"If we increase partnership," he says, "I think there's a bright future for where health-care design research can go at Dalhousie."



Photo credit: Dalhousie University

Trying out a prototype gown during a design session last November.

STUDENTS OFFER HOPES

New health centre provides team-based care to homeless and vulnerably housed

By Melanie Jollymore



Students in nine different professional programs have banded together to create HOPES, Halifax Outreach Prevention Education & Support, a multi-faceted health service for homeless and vulnerably housed people in Halifax.

“People who are homeless or insecurely housed face many barriers when it comes to accessing health care,” says Braydon Connell, a second-year medical school at Dalhousie and co-executive director of HOPES. “In an environmental scan we conducted while planning HOPES, the people we surveyed said that a lack of transportation to get to a clinic, the lack of a phone to arrange an appointment, the lack of money to pay for medications, and the sense that people in the system were looking down at them, were among many factors that made it hard for them to receive the care they needed.”

HOPES began in 2013 as the seed of an idea in the minds of a small number of medical and nursing students who were volunteering at the Walk in Our Shoes foot care clinic, held in conjunction with Sunday Suppers at the St. Andrew’s United Church on Robie Street in Halifax. It has since grown into a vibrant collaborative effort involving more than 100 volunteer students in Dalhousie’s medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and health administration programs, as well as Medavie’s paramedicine and Mount Saint Vincent University’s dietetics programs.

“The foot care was very important, of course, but the students couldn’t help seeing that their clients faced many other complex challenges, and wanted to find a way to look after some of these unmet needs,” says Braydon, who first got involved in HOPES in

2014, when he was a senior occupational therapy trainee in Dalhousie’s Faculty of Health Professions. “The idea for HOPES took off from there.”

In planning the HOPES intervention, the students at the helm (including Braydon Connell and co-executive director Heather Webster, a student in Dalhousie’s health administration and law program) did their homework. Apart from surveying stakeholders and clients, they reached out to MOSH, Mobile Outreach Street Health, a well known nurse-led initiative, to learn more about the health issues affecting homeless people in Halifax. MOSH had conducted its own study in 2012, so was able to inform the students that arthritis, migraines, mental health problems, addictions, asthma, COPD, pregnancy, diabetes, and injuries are among the main issues.

After several years of planning—including

developing the governance structures and models of care, recruiting and orienting volunteer students and preceptors, selecting locations, procuring supplies, and ensuring all the appropriate licences, permits, protocols and insurances were in place—HOPES launched two levels of service in two locations in February 2017.

Junior students are now providing education, health promotion and navigation services at St. Andrew's church (a familiar location for the target population) while more senior students are providing primary care at the HOPES Health Centre, located at Dal Health Services near the corner of LeMarchant and South streets. Volunteer preceptors are supervising the students, who work in interdisciplinary teams at the health centre.

"The response from students has been outstanding," says Jenna MacGregor, a first-year Dalhousie med student who is also the HOPES preceptor coordinator. "More than 200 across the various programs have expressed an interest in volunteering. We can only take 12 per program per semester, so we had to start a waiting list. I think faculty members and professionals in the community who get involved as preceptors will find it very rewarding to work with such motivated students."

Dr. Cindy Forbes (Class of 1985) was one of the first to sign up as a HOPES preceptor. A family physician in Fall River, N.S., a recent member of the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association board, and past president of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr. Forbes is thrilled by the opportunity to supervise students in looking after the needs of an underserved segment of the population.

"In my work across Canada with the CMA, I met many physicians who were involved in initiatives to serve homeless and otherwise vulnerable individuals in their communities," says Cindy. "I found this extremely inspiring and was more than happy to jump on board when I saw Dalhousie students were launching this program."

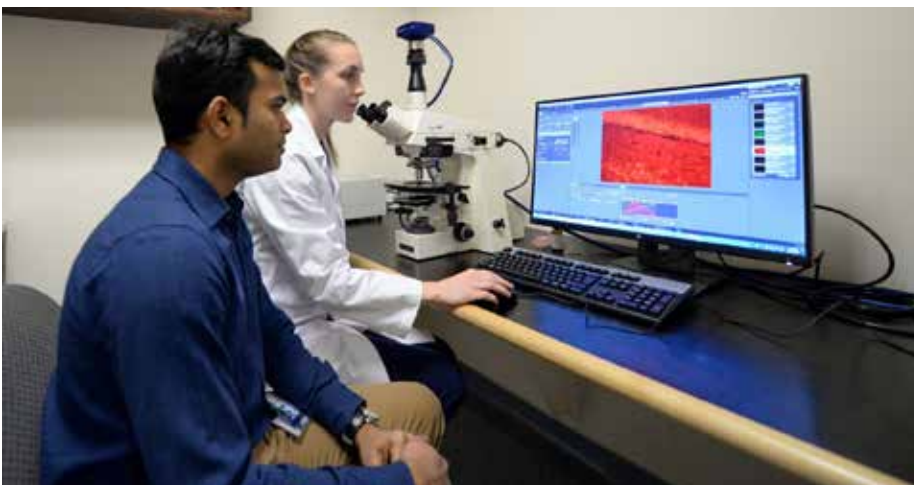
Forbes is particularly excited about the inter-professional aspect of HOPES. "It's exciting to see students learning in inter-professional teams that they've formed of their own volition," she says. "We didn't have the opportunity to learn this way, when I was a medical student...we learned to work with our colleagues in other professions 'on the job.' Getting this exposure to other professions and experience working in teams, so early in their training, bodes well for these students and for patient care in the future."

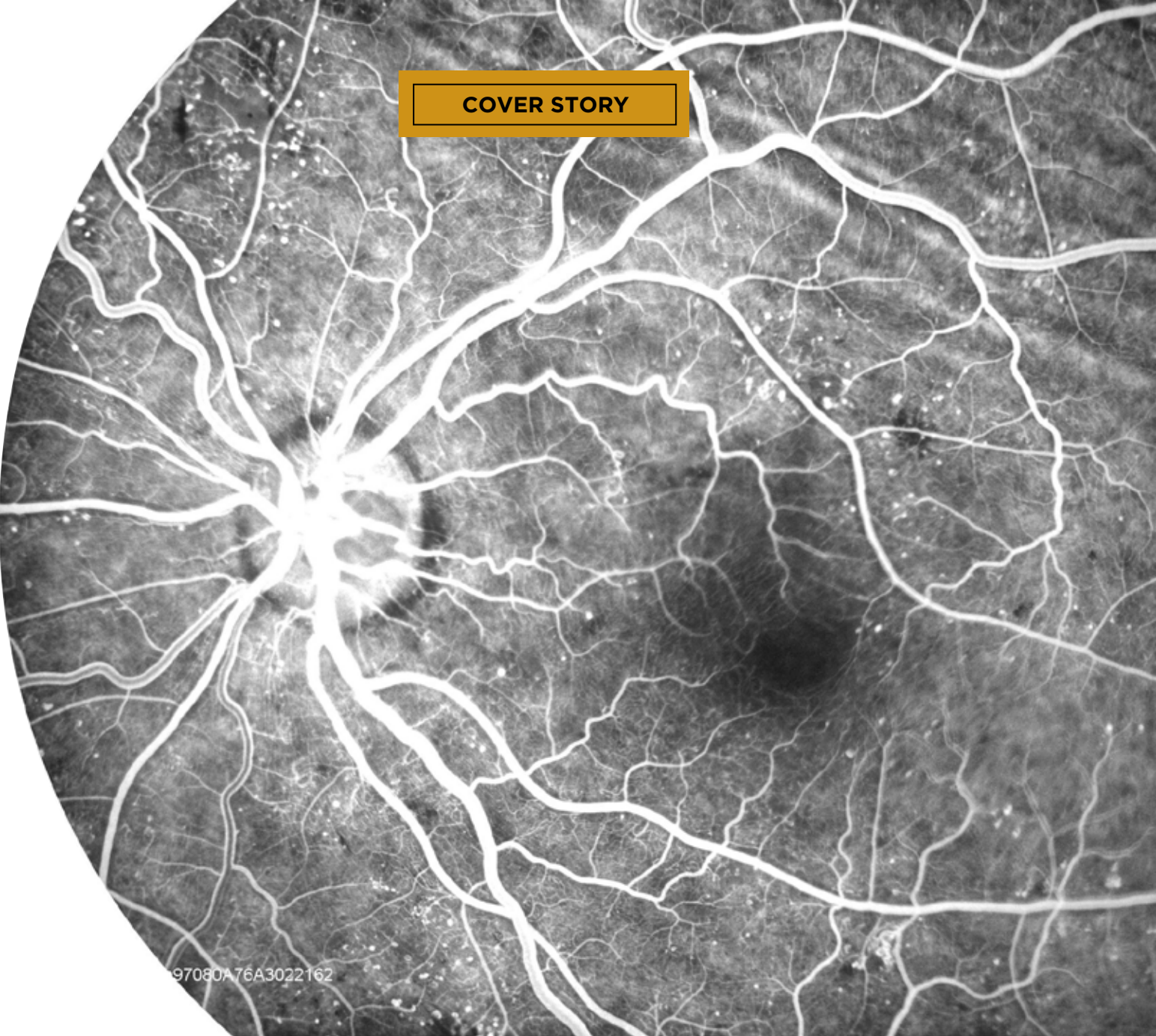
Join the HOPES team:

HOPES Health Centre operates its clinic on Sunday afternoons on a walk-in basis. After an initial assessment, clients are assigned to the group of students in the professions best qualified to address the issue. All clinical work is supervised by an appropriate preceptor.

HOPES is looking for a four-Sunday commitment from each preceptor.

To work with interdisciplinary teams of students as a HOPES Health Centre preceptor, contact Jenna MacGregor at preceptor.hopessrc@gmail.com





COVER STORY

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RETINAL IMAGING

By Melanie Jollymore

VOX SPRING 2017



Dr. Alon Friedman pursues a new vision for preventing diseases of the brain

The eyes may or may not be the windows to the soul, but they are definitely the windows to the brain.

That's why Dalhousie neuroscientist Dr. Alon Friedman is developing a technology that detects the early stages of brain pathology by imaging the blood vessels in the eye.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a portable and inexpensive device that doctors can use to screen patients quickly, accurately and non-invasively for risk of brain disease, as part of routine preventive medical care," says Dr. Friedman, who joined Dalhousie from Israel's Ben-Gurion University in 2014, as Dennis Chair in Epilepsy Research and professor in the departments of Medical Neuroscience and Pediatrics.

As Dr. Friedman explains, damage to the microvasculature of the retina is strongly indicative of similar damage elsewhere in the brain. And, as his previous research has shown, vascular damage in the brain allows foreign proteins to cross the blood-brain barrier, leading to neurological damage and setting the stage for a host of brain diseases, including epilepsy, dementia, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and Parkinson's disease.

"There's no reason to believe that vascular damage in the eye would be happening in isolation to vascular damage in the brain," he says. "The retina is part of the brain, which happens to be highly accessible and relatively easy and inexpensive to image."

Dr. Friedman and his team are pioneering new algorithms for an imaging technology called fluorescein angiography (FA), with help from a Brain Repair Centre knowledge translation grant. Ophthalmologists and other clinicians already use FA to detect leaky blood vessels in the retinas of patients with diabetes, so they can intervene in time to prevent blindness from diabetic retinopathy.

"The new algorithms dramatically increase the ability of fluorescein angiography to detect and quantify even the most subtle degrees of damage to the micro vessels of the retina," Dr. Friedman says. "This feeds into our work not only to develop a clinical diagnostic tool, but also to evaluate the efficacy of old and new therapies for restoring the integrity of the vasculature in the retina and brain."

Dr. Friedman received global recognition for his 2014 discovery that losartan (Cozaar®) can prevent the development of epilepsy in the aftermath of traumatic brain injury (TBI). He and his team are now using the more sensitive measurement tools they've developed for FA, to quantify the hypertension drug's ability to repair damage to the retinal microvasculature.

At the same time, the researchers are working with a California company to test experimental small molecules targeting the TGF- β (transforming growth factor-beta) pathway. "Losartan's ability to facilitate the repair of blood vessels seems to be due to its blocking effect on the TGF- β pathway. TGF- β induces inflammation in the brain tissue and makes the blood vessel wall permeable," says Dr. Friedman, who has also explored the role of TGF- β in post-traumatic epilepsy and other brain diseases. "We are evaluating which molecules best block this pathway to moderate inflammation and preserve the integrity of the blood-retina barrier and, by extension, the blood-brain barrier."

The researchers are not only looking into the eye to validate their findings. Dr. Friedman is also working with Dalhousie colleagues, neurosurgeon Dr. David Clarke, critical care specialist Dr. Rob Greene, radiologist Dr. Matthias Schmidt, psychiatrist Dr. Cynthia Calkin, and the Biomedical Translational Imaging Centre (BIOTIC), to develop and test new algorithms for assessing blood vessel damage in the brain using high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

"We're studying patients with traumatic brain injuries as well as major depression to see if we can diagnose and quantify microvascular damage in the brain and, ultimately, intervene to prevent and treat brain

“Patient care will be improved dramatically by early, accurate diagnosis and targeted treatments, delivered early enough in the disease process to prevent severe disability.”

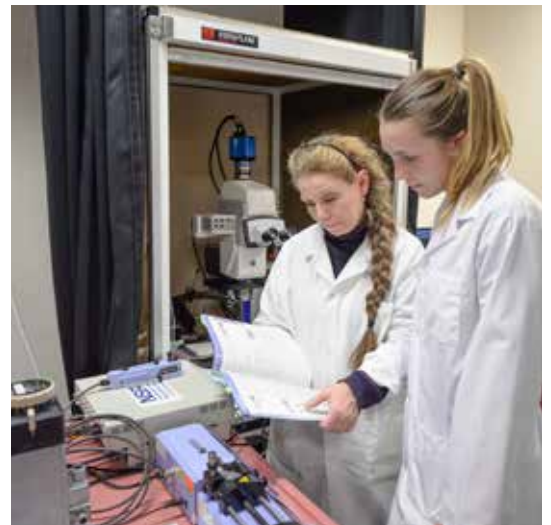
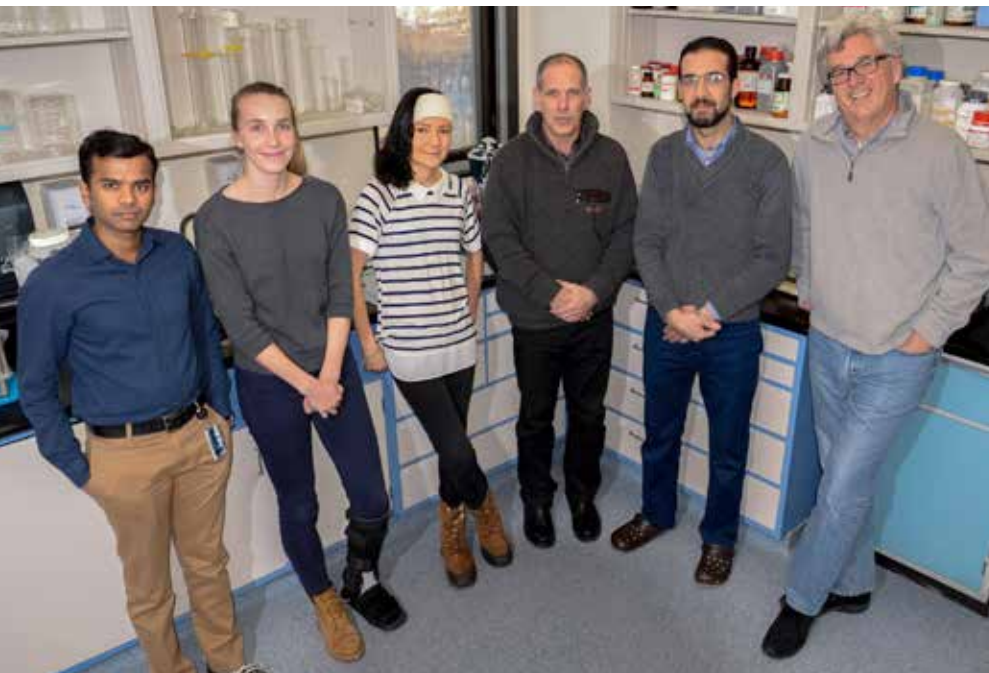
disorders,” Dr. Friedman explains. “At the same time, we’re using the MRI studies to confirm the use of retinal imaging as a proxy for measuring blood-brain barrier leakage—not just as a tool for early diagnosis and prevention, but for monitoring the progress of disease and response to treatment.”

According to Dr. Friedman, Halifax offers an ideal environment for his research. “It’s a small city, people get to know each other well,” he says. “People here make themselves available, they listen to your needs and ideas and they want to help. I’m really making progress.”

With help from commercialization experts at Innovacorp and BioNova, Dr. Friedman has launched a start-up company, EMAGIX Inc., to transform the algorithms he and his team have developed and patented for FA into a clinical diagnostic procedure for use around the world.

“Our approach will allow, for the first time, a minimally invasive and inexpensive means of assessing quantitatively subtle early damage to the microvasculature of the brain, right in the family medicine clinic,” Dr. Friedman says. “Patient care will be improved dramatically by early, accurate diagnosis and targeted treatments, delivered early enough in the disease process to prevent severe disability.”

In addition to his efforts with colleagues at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Health Authority, BIOTIC and the IWK, Dr. Friedman works with collaborators in Berkeley, Dublin (Ireland), Boston and Beer-Sheva. He holds grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Canada Foundation for Innovation, National Institutes of Health, Israeli Science Foundation, German Science Foundation, European Union, CURE Epilepsy Foundation, and others.





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Q&A

Q & A with Dr. Robert Boulay, assistant dean, DMNB clinical education

By Cory Burris

A family physician in Miramichi, New Brunswick for more than 25 years, Dr. Boulay has been involved in medical education since 1996 when he received his first faculty appointment with Dalhousie Medical School. As president of the College of Family Physicians in 2010, Dr. Boulay became intimately involved with family medication education at both the undergraduate and resident levels. In 2012, he took on the role of clerkship director in Miramichi, the pilot site for the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Dalhousie.

In October 2015, Dr. Boulay was appointed to the newly formed position of assistant dean, DMNB clinical education. Still based in Miramichi, where he maintains his position as the clerkship director, Dr. Boulay has been tasked with ensuring students are as prepared as possible to enter the clinical setting in their third year.

As the clerkship director in Miramichi, what did you find was the greatest need in preparing students to enter clerkship?

The students I see are well prepared. In truth, it's hard to be fully prepared for clerkship. With this position, I now get to see what's in the curriculum in years one and two, which is what goes into preparing the students. I now have a broad view across the clinical education spectrum and use that to identify and make any necessary changes.



You've been in this position for almost a year now. What have you found to be the most challenging part of your position? What do you see to be the greatest opportunity?

It's all been great fun. I've been meeting people and getting to know those who make things work. My main objective is to play a greater role supporting our great faculty and staff in their roles. The past year we saw many leadership changes within the medical school, and my goal has been to make sure that people continue to feel balanced, secure, and supported from both a faculty and staff retention point of view.

Having distributed education and drawing on the faculty from across all of our provincial sites is one of our greatest opportunities. Our number of faculty has already expanded and I would like to see it grow even more. Nothing would be possible without the great students and dedicated faculty we have across all sites in New Brunswick.

What are your goals for this position and clerkship at DMNB?

My goals are to continue to solidify the traditional clerkship and longitudinal integrated clerkship models in our sites and to continue to deliver a really strong, comparable product in New Brunswick.

What excites you most about this position?

The opportunity to interact with and meet new people. When I took on this position, I shifted gears into a more educational role. Even when I was practicing, the favourite part of my day was teaching students and residents. I appreciate the opportunity that has been provided to me to focus my time on medical education. This phase in the growth of DMNB really highlights its maturity as a program. We are now solidifying what we've already built. We're making sure that we have a sustainable, strong program that will serve the people of New Brunswick for years to come.

The highlight of the day was the announcement of more than \$20,000 raised for the purchase of sleeper chairs in the Pediatric Unit at the Saint John Regional Hospital thanks to the generous support of the many donors, participants and dedication of the Med II organizing committee.

Dr. Mahesh Raju

For more information on Dr. Raju's contributions visit redcross.ca/in-your-community/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-events--campaigns-and-fundraising/nb-humanitarian-awards/recipients--tickets-and-event-information/nb-humanitarian-of-the-year.

DMNB's Masters Defence success

A photograph of four graduates in regalia standing outdoors. From left to right: a man in a red and blue robe and a red mortarboard, a woman in a black robe and mortarboard, a woman in a black robe and mortarboard holding a diploma, and a man in a red and blue robe and a blue mortarboard. They are all smiling and standing in front of green foliage.

17

Student Wellness

By Meghan Plotnick, DMSS Sports & Wellness Rep,
Class of 2019

The new DMSS council has placed an emphasis on student mental health and wellness. Our annual Wellness Week has been very successful and well received. During this week, the DMSS offers several talks geared toward developing healthy habits and providing students with opportunities to attend low cost or free events like pottery making, massage therapy, or cooking class. This year, Dalhousie Medical School will also be participating in the Canadian Federation of Medical Students nation-wide Wellness Month initiative in which students participate in a series of challenges in groups of four. These challenges are centered around different themes each week such as nutrition and social-academic balance. New this year to encourage students to make use of Dalhousie's incredible intramural leagues, Learn-to-Play sessions have been offered in which students experienced in a particular sport host a session to teach other students how to play the sport. Anecdotally, this has been a positive experience and has helped a few students feel confident in playing new intramural sports. Finally, in order to encourage to seek help for mental health or illness, each class elects two medical students as Student Affairs and Wellness Liaisons representatives (SAWLs reps). Their role is to be a peer support that all students can come to for advice in seeking help for mental health in confidence. The SAWLs reps are well known to all students and their names and pictures are posted outside the medical student lounge. This program has greatly helped students access Student Affairs and mental health services. To conclude, the DMSS is committed to find ways to improve student wellness and looks forward to future initiatives in the works.

Med Ball 2016

By Leanne Delaney, DMSS VP Internal, Class of 2019

This year, the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society Annual Awards Gala was held on November 12, 2016 at Pier 21. Approximately 360 students and faculty attended this event to celebrate outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements and contributions made at Dalhousie Medical School. This year, a few additional awards were added to honour students specifically at the DMNB campus. The Rock Solid, Graham Creighton, and Wood-Stonehouse Memorial Award are meant to honour first, second, and third-year (respectively) medical students who are of sound character and have contributed much to the spirit of his/her class, whether it be in academic matters or extra-curricular activities. These are voted on by the students of each class.

Rock Solid Award	Fiona Warde (Halifax) Tess Robart (Saint John)
Graham Creighton Award	Chad Purcell
Wood-Stonehouse Memorial Award	Henry Annan Jon Gale
Outstanding Intramural Participation Awards	Jessica MacIntyre (Halifax) Douglas laboni (Halifax) Intekhab Hossain (Saint John) Denise Amirault (Saint John)
L.B. MacPherson Award	Katie Lines (Halifax)
The James Clarke Award	Russell Christie (Halifax)
Professor of the Year (vote from the Class of 2019)	Dr. Jaffar Akram (Saint John)
Professor of the Year (vote from the Class of 2018)	Dr. Volodko Bakowsky

Q&A

Students and residents of Dalhousie Medical School

By Cory Burris



Third-year Dalhousie medical student Allan Kember was recently named among the recipients of the 2016 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award. The award recognizes perseverance, collaboration, and entrepreneurialism in medical students, and is awarded to those who show promise as future leaders and innovators of health care. With an engineering background, Kember has already been involved in several research projects to address disparities in reproductive, maternal, and newborn health in low- to middle-income countries.

Congratulations on receiving the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame award. What was your reaction to the news?

I was reminded of my acceptance to Dalhousie Medical School; I felt surprise, excitement, and gratefulness all at the same time. I was accepted to Dalhousie on my third time applying. This was something that I worked hard for. Studying medicine at Dalhousie has been a privilege.

I feel the same about this award. I'm very thankful, especially when so many of my peers are exemplary candidates for this award themselves. I'm honored to have been nominated by Dal, to be selected by the CMHF Board of Directors, and grateful to the donors who sponsor this award.

How has third year been going so far?

Since the term started, I had two opportunities to address the Class of 2020. I'm shocked at how fast the years fly by; it feels like I was in Med 1 just yesterday.

Third year is going well. My class has finished three weeks of PIERs 1 and we're now into rotations. I started out in family medicine in rural Nova Scotia. My preceptor and resident were excited for me to come on board. It was a great experience! Now, I am in PEI on my psychiatry rotation, and it is going well.

What's the best advice you can give a student preparing for clerkship?

Transitioning from principles to practice has its challenges. But there's no better way to learn the practice than immersing yourself in it and embracing it. I give the same advice that was delivered to me by senior clerks, residents, and staff:

- Show up on time and treat it like a real job
- Fulfill your role with eagerness. Show a cheerful readiness to help out in any way you can
- Always tell the truth; don't lie. Admit you don't know, that you didn't ask, or that you made a mistake. Humility will always do you good at this stage, and perhaps beyond.

What projects have you been working on in med school?

My main project is called *The PrenaBelt Project*. It's an international, multidisciplinary collaboration investigating the effect of maternal sleep position during the third trimester of pregnancy on pregnancy outcomes. Ultimately, we're trying to prevent low birth weight and stillbirth. During Med 1 and Med 2, my team completed a trial in Australia and another in Ghana. We have a trial ongoing in Halifax that's scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. The project is sponsored by Grand Challenges Canada, which is funded by the Government of Canada.

I'm also collaborating with classmates and colleagues around the world on various projects related to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health. The projects include persistent urinary incontinence following surgical repair of obstetric fistula; preeclampsia sub-typing, prediction, and prevention; early detection of HPV-related cervical and oropharyngeal cancer; and electronic hospital information systems.

Do you have any thoughts on residency yet?

I've been leaning toward obstetrics and gynecology for a long time, but I also have an interest in family medicine, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. I don't want to forget my roots and training as an engineer, so I hope to find a career path where I can continue being a real-world problem solver through collaboration and innovation. I expect my third year of medical school will give me insight into which specialty will allow me to follow my passion.

50 Years Ago

1967



Name: Edwin Luther

Hometown: Halifax, NS

Area of specialty: OB/GYN

Favourite medical school class and why? Physiology. How and why living things function has always interested and amazed me.

Least favourite medical school class and why? Biochemistry. I just couldn't seem to get the hang of it. Probably a hangover from my dislike of organic chemistry as an undergraduate.

Favourite teacher? Pre-Clinical: Dr. Saunders. Human Anatomy/Clinical: Dr. Bernie Badley, senior resident in Internal Medicine

Favourite social activities during medical school? Weekly parties at the fraternity house (Phi Rho)

Something about medical education that you think probably hasn't changed much? The discipline and hard work required of med students

Any favourite stories from medical school? I plead the fifth! Undoubtedly, some colleagues would be incriminated! Medical school years were the most exciting, rewarding, and fun years one could possibly imagine.

2017



Name: Catherine Cox

Area of interest? Family Medicine

Favourite medical school class and why? It's difficult to answer this question since our curriculum is delivered as an integrated block program, rather than specific classes, per se. I really loved all of

it. Looking back that's probably the sign of a generalist. If I had to choose one block I think I would choose Metabolism 1 because the gastroenterologists were so hilariously entertaining when they lectured. I also appreciated the histology pictures on the database; they were interesting to look at!

Least favourite medical school class and why? This is another though one. I generally found something I liked about every block. I'd have to say neurology. Mostly because I was unable to pronounce most of the structures, let alone locate them on a slide. I also found it difficult to comprehend that areas of the brain that appear so similar anatomically, like mushy grey tissue mounds, can be responsible for such diverse and complex function. Pretty incredible to think about and pretty difficult to study.

Favourite teacher? This is hard. I've been so lucky to have many, including invaluable mentorship from my husband Luke Richardson. Dr. Katrina Hurley. She taught me more than she knows and chose to find humour in my colossal medical-student mistakes, which made learning from them less intimidating, more memorable, and even fun.

Also, Dr. Nick Sowers for a) his ability to simplify, organize and, communicate complex topics in a practical way that sticks b) for helping give me the confidence to make decisions, even though he was already 20 steps ahead.

Favourite social activities during medical school? Euphoria: loved seeing the talent exhibited by all of my classmates. And celebrating milestones at Boomers.

Something about medical education that you think would be very different from 50 years ago? Professional competencies a.k.a. pro. comp. Also, the concept of formative assessments a.k.a. everyone passes.

Any favourite stories from medical school? A tonne! What I will remember most from my medical school experience, however, is the resilience and togetherness demonstrated by many of my classmates throughout our education. In addition to the challenge of learning medicine, many of us experienced loss, illness, failures, security threats, and lockdowns. Despite this, we remained a supportive network for one another and on many occasions showed each other the same compassion and understanding that we channel every day for patients. Those times are my most cherished and inspiring memories that I believe will continue to grow as we support one another during this next phase, across many provinces and many disciplines.

PROFILE

New Associate Dean of Dal Med Research

By Jocelyn Adams



As we embark on the Dalhousie Medical School's 150th Anniversary, it's essential to recognize the growth of our Medical Research and its impact on our communities. The future of Dalhousie's Medical Research team looks bright thanks to Associate Dean of Research, Dr. Roger McLeod.

Originally from British Columbia, McLeod brings a wealth of clinical research experience into his role as Associate Dean. His studies began at the University of British Columbia, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Microbiology. His interests in science began at a lipid research clinic and by the 1980s he and his research team were on the forefront of developing a correlation between cholesterol, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. He later

pursued a PhD in Pathology (UBC), followed by two post-doctoral fellowships from the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute.

In 1998 McLeod moved across the country and joined Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine.

In 2012, he started to work in an administrative capacity as Assistant Dean for the Graduate and Post-Doctoral fellows. This experience developed a strong foundation in administration and in 2015 he took on his current role as Associate Dean of Research within the Faculty of Medicine.

Today, McLeod is working on putting the Medical School's strategic plan into action. On the research scene, we're preparing our faculty for large scale research opportunities (opportunities that are in the 10 to hundreds of millions of dollars in research funding. It will mean that researchers learn and enhance their ability to collaborate with others, this includes people in other research areas, people in other faculties).

Looking to the future, the Faculty's new strategic plan will have positive impact on research. McLeod expects the new plan will further develop the core research facilities. To date, the core facilities include: Animal Care, Cellular & Molecular Digital Imaging, Enhanced Gene Analysis and Discovery, Flow Cytometry, Maritime Brain Tissue Bank and Proteomics, Mass Spectrometry and the Zebra fish Core Facility. As new Associate Dean, "It's to take Dean Anderson's new strategic plan and put it into action," McLeod says.

On the research scene, there are several major research initiatives with the Medical School's new strategic plan:

- Preparing faculty to take advantage of large scale research funding opportunities
- Enhance the opportunity to collaborate with others (faculty, health professions and hospitals)
- To improve the overall health of Maritimers
- Increase the international stature of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine

The Dalhousie Medical Research's current focus is to support researchers. "A lot of the ground work we're laying is around support for researchers," McLeod says. "A large part of this ground work is in the core research facilities."

In addition, McLeod's office is also providing mentorship programs for new recruits. "We set up mentorship programs between senior investigators and young investigators to help build their careers. We want to ensure the infrastructure, the support systems and guidance is there for them in place for them," he says. The office also supports graduate students and post-doctoral fellows by providing extra-curricular programs to learn about ethics, how to advance their careers in research and grant writing.

"We hope through the new strategic plan and building on these large teams, that these new investigators who are newly inquiring independence will see the value of working with others," McLeod says.

DMRF Profile Brian Thompson, CEO DMRF

By Jocelyn Adams



In September, the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) welcomed their new CEO, Brian Thompson. He joined the Foundation with an extensive background in philanthropy and a passion for medical research. As CEO, he's excited to open the next chapter for the DMRF and to establish the Maritimes as a medical research hub for Canada and beyond.

Born and raised in Montreal, Thompson brings over a decade of philanthropic experience, serving in senior development positions at McGill University and the University of Ottawa. In addition, he's served in senior consulting roles with KCI Ketchum Canada and the Gairdner Foundation. His work in the public and private sector has built a strong foundation to lead the DMRF into the future.

For Thompson, his passion for medical research comes from what it offers people. "Medicine has always been something near and dear to me, in the sense of what it does for the community and how it elevates health and wellness."

"Halifax has an appetite for collaboration at the university, within the city and the province," Thompson says. "It's representative within the Health Authorities and within the Faculty of Medicine. There is a health enterprise that's happening on this campus."

World-class research is taking place right here in Nova Scotia. Among many research initiatives, the DMRF is tackling research projects for Multiple Sclerosis, mental health and pediatric oncology. Thompson highlights several projects currently taking place at DMRF:

1. A partnership with Atlantic Division of the MS Society

The project is designed to increase funding to advance research for Multiple Sclerosis. The partnership also includes hiring a MSologist, the first in Atlantic Canada.

2. The FORBOW Study

The FORBOW Study, known as 'Families Overcoming Risks and Building Opportunities for Well-Being (FORBOW)', is a study designed to find ways to predict and prevent mental illnesses for anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia in young people.

3. Molecular Lab and Zebrafish Core Facility

The facility provides access to state-of-the-art equipment for the study of vertebrate development biology, where zebrafish act as

models of childhood cancers and rare genetic diseases. The facility is a partnership with *Dalhousie University, the IWK Health Centre, Centre for Drug Research and Development and Irving Shipbuilding.*

"We're conducting international calibre research that's impacting the community and your neighbours, specifically in Atlantic Canada," says Thompson.

At the DMRF, an investment in research can help to advance medical discoveries. "It's where breakthroughs happen."

UPDATES

Class Notes – Vox Spring 2017

1970s

Alfred Bent (MD'73) received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Urogynecologic Society at their annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, on September 28, 2016. This Society has about 1,900 members and was founded in 1979. Its members are those interested in or who have done fellowships in Urogynecology, now called Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS). Dr. Bent was President of the Society in 1994–95 and was Editor-in-Chief of the Society journal from the time it was the official journal of the society, 2010 to 2015. The website for the Society is aug.org. Dr. Bent had fellowship training programs in FPMRS in Long Beach, CA [UCI,Irvine] and Baltimore [University of Maryland and GBMC] from 1986 to 2005 when he returned to the IWK.

Dana Hanson (MD'74) is the 2016 recipient of the CMA Medal of Service. This award is awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to the advancement of health care in Canada.

R. Allan Purdy (MD'74) is Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Dalhousie University. He was Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, and Chief of the Medicine Service of the Department of Medicine at Dalhousie and Capital Health from 2005 to June of 2011. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, and was elected a fellow of the American College of Physicians in 2008. He previously was the Professor and Head of Neurology at Dalhousie from 1994 to 2006. He is a fellow of the American Headache Society in and is the president of the American Headache Society.

Dr. Purdy is Past-President of the Canadian Headache Society. He is the current chair of the education committees of the American and International Headache Societies and is on the board of directors of the both societies.

He directs headache educational courses worldwide, and has received excellence in teaching awards on many occasions. He has been involved in guideline develop for the treatment of migraine and is involved in clinical research in migraine and has several publications.

He is co-editor of *Advanced Therapy of Headache* and co-author of *Headache Pocket Clinician 2010* from Cambridge University Press. In 2005 he received the *Arnold P. Friedman Distinguished Clinician Research Award* from the American Headache Society for outstanding contribution to the field of headache, and the 2007 *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Headache Cooperative of New England. He has been on the editorial board of *Cephalalgia* and is currently a supplement editor for *Headache*. He has been named one of the Best Doctors in Canada since 2008.

Robert Silver (MD'78) is the 2017 recipient of the AMFC Clinical Teacher Award. The award aims to emphasize the importance of excellence in clinical teaching and to recognize and individual in Canada who has provided exceptional clinical teaching contribution. The award will be presented at the 2017 CCME in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1980s

Andrew Lynk (MD'82) has been appointed as the department head for the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, and Chief of Pediatrics at the IWK Health Centre.

1990s

Sanjay Sharma (MD'91) is the 2017 recipient of the AMFC John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education. The award is given to an individual or group who has developed innovative print materials, electronic learning aids, or other teaching aids. The award will be presented at the 2017 CCME in Winnipeg.

2000s

Andre Bernard (MD'06) received the 2016 CMA Award for Young Leaders (Early Career). This award celebrates the efforts of young physician leaders of tomorrow for their efforts today. Dr. Bernard is currently the CMA's representative at the World Medical Association, sitting as a member of Council.

Hameed Khan (PhD'08) was selected by *Avenue Magazine* as a Top 40 under 40 for his work in advancing the quality of Alberta healthcare by ushering in new technologies to help patients and doctors. Visit avenueedmonton.com/City-Life/Top-40-Under-40/2016 for the complete article.

2010s

Shane Journeay (MD'11) has been chosen to move onto the next round of the Canadian Space Agency's astronaut recruitment process. The final selection and announcement of the new Canadian astronauts will take place in the summer of 2017.

Faculty

Dr. Karen V. Mann (Professor Emerita in the Division of Medical Education, Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine) is the 2017 recipient (posthumous) of the AFMC Award for Outstanding Contribution To Faculty Development in Canada. The award emphasizes the importance of faculty development and recognizes and individual or a group in Canada who has made an exceptional contribution in the area of faculty development.

Dr. Richard B. Goldbloom will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in May 2017 in Quebec City. Dr. Goldbloom served as Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics at Dalhousie University, Physician-in-Chief and Director of Research at the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children in Halifax, and Chancellor of Dalhousie University.

Upcoming Reunions

1962

55th reunion, October 12 to 14, 2017
Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, N.S.
Class Contact Mike McKinnon,
epohos@sympatico.N.S.

The class will be attending the DMAA Alumni Awards Gala on Friday, October 13. Please contact the DMAA office to purchase tickets for this event.

1965

52nd reunion, September 23 to 27, 2017
Cruise from Kingston to Quebec City.
Class contact: Tony and Carol Measham
ameasham003@gmail.com

The class is also looking to plan the 55th reunion in 2020.

1972

45th reunion, June 30 to July 1, 2017
Algonguin Resort, N.B.
Class contact: Ian MacDonald, 506-457-0056 or
macian@nb.sympatico.ca or
Dr. King (other contact)

1974(.5)

45th reunion, Hong Kong, 2019
Class contact: Arthur Zilbert and Paul Murphy
pmurphy1@mac.com

All classmates are asked to contact the DMAA at medical.alumni@dal.ca to update their current contact information. Save the dates of September 13–15, 2019 for an Atlantic Canada reunion.

1978

40th reunion, November 2018
Class contact: Shawn Jennings
shawnj4@nbnet.nb.ca

The class of 1978 is currently planning their reunion in conjunction with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine in November 2018.

1982

35th reunion, September 15 to 17, 2017
Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, N.S.
Class contact: Joan MacVicar and Rob Tremaine
rob.tremaine@ns.sympatico.ca or
rob.tremaine@icloud.com

Class members can also contact Bruce Palmer, brucewpalmer@yahoo.com, for information regarding the class project.

1987

30th Reunion, August 25 to 27, 2017
Fox Harb'r, N.S.
Class Contact: DR Wilcox,
Wilcox.david52@gmail.com.
Cell: 902-240-4812.
Home: 902-832-5996.

A block of rooms have been held under the class name, locator number 15980. Our class legacy project was chosen to be The Laing House. Donations can be made to the Laing House (<https://53036.thankyou4caring.org/>) using the drop down "How Did You Hear About Our Site" and selecting "Medical School Class of 1987."

1992

25th reunion, August 11 to 13, 2017
Fox Harb'r Resort, N.S.
Class contact: Martha Arab
marthaarab@yahoo.ca

Dalhousie University Medical Class of 1992 will hold a 25th year reunion August 11 to 13, 2017 at the beautiful Fox Harb'r Resort in Wallace, N.S. Any classmate who is interested in attending can contact class VP Dr. Martha Arab at marthaarab@yahoo.ca.

DMAA Party In A Box

Is your class holding a reunion? Are you hosting a party where a lot of the attendees will be Dalhousie Medicine graduates? Are you going to a wedding between two alums?

Make your event more fun with a DMAA Party in a Box! Let us know what type of event you're having, and approximately how many people will be there. We'll send you a box with lots of fun DMAA-branded items to enjoy, such as photo props, cups, napkins, golf t-shirts, and more.

All we ask in return is that you let us know how much fun you had. Tweet at us, tag us on Facebook, or email a photo of your group at the event. We can't physically be at everything you do, but we can send presents!

1997

20th reunion, July 14 to 16, 2017
Fox Harb'r, N.S.
Class contact: Jane Brooks
jane.brooks@eastlink.ca

The Class of 1997 will be hosting their 20-year reunion at Fox Harb'r Resort in Nova Scotia July 14 to 16, 2017. Events are in the planning stages. Organizers have reached out to individuals by email. If you would like more information, please contact Jane Brooks at jane.brooks@eastlink.ca or Annette (Davidson) Bell at docabell@bellsouth.net.

Don't miss out on important information about your class reunions! Visit the DMAA website (medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/alumni/about/keep-in-touch.html) or email (medical.alumni@dal.ca) to update your current contact information.

REUNION

Class of 1973

The class met to celebrate their 43rd reunion in Baddeck, N.S. from October 13 to 16, 2016 at the Inverary Inn. There were 27 classmates in attendance and they interspersed talks on astrology, underwater photography, and status of classmates, with daytime activities, evening dining, and enjoyment of Cape Breton music.





The Legacy Effect Jock and Janet Murray

“Universities are incredibly important. They are agents of social change and need to be supported. It’s up to us to do something, and there are so many ways to contribute. We have a vision for how we want to make a difference. Our bequest to Dal will see it fulfilled.”

Thinking of including Dal Medical School in your estate plan? We can help. Explore the possibilities at dal.ca/plannedgiving or get in touch with Ann Vessey at **902-494-6565** ann.vessey@dal.ca

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Visit dal.ca/alumni/murray to get the Murray's story.

GALA

2016 GALA

An annual tradition since 1958, the DMAA Awards Gala Dinner was held on October 22, 2017, at Pier 21 in Halifax. Honoured at the Gala were Dr. David Kirkpatrick, MD'79, Alumnus of the Year; Dr. Dr. Margaret Casey, MD'68, Honorary President, Dr. Carlyle Chow, MD'68, Family Physician of the Year; and Dr. Raghu Venugopal, MD'01, Young Alumnus of the Year. The evening started with a reception, followed by dinner and award presentations. Award winner Dr. Raghu Venugopal presented the keynote address titled, Improving Medical Care for the Worst Off. It was a great evening and we hope to see you at Gala 2017!

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Photo credit: Dave Rhyno

DMAA Alumni Awards Gala 2017

**Friday, October 13th
Pier 21, Halifax, NS**

Buy your tickets
online now at
alumni.dal.ca/dmaagala
or call 902-494-8800



PROFILE

Dr. Sanjay Sharma (MD'91)

By Jocelyn Adams



Dalhousie alumnus Sanjay Sharma (MD'91), an ophthalmologist and retina specialist, recently launched an innovative learning platform for Canadian medical students. The platform, called medskl.com, launched in September 2016 and is designed for online learning. The website is a place where medical school students and practicing physicians can learn and review the fundamentals of clinical medicine.

The idea to develop the platform began from lecturing to medical students. "Within minutes medical students became distracted and were surfing through social media accounts," Sharma says. "Something was fundamentally wrong."

In the hunt to find a solution to his problem, Sharma was inspired by his son who taught himself how to paint from watching YouTube

tutorials. For Sharma, the idea of individuals teaching themselves fundamental skills from watching audio-visually sparked the idea for medskl.com.

"I needed to speak to the next generation of learners," says Sharma.

Fast-forward four years, and Sharma's site is now a vital resource among Canadian medical schools.

Each module consists of a two-minute whiteboard animation, 1,000-word summary, and a 15-minute lecture.

Its mission is to make medical education more effective and accessible for studying for medical exams or earning CME credits. To date, nearly 200 top medical school professors from across North America, including faculty members from Dalhousie University, are collaborating to develop the website's content.

What are the next steps for medskl.com?

Over the coming months, Sharma says the site will strengthen its content, implement an editorial board, and involve more of the community. He hopes to expand distribution to all health professions.

"Ultimately, it's best for overall patient care if all health professionals were on board," Sharma says. "We're now seeing high school students registering to learn more about the medical profession and get a jump start on things. There is a lot of interest from a lot of constituencies."

To learn more, visit medskl.com.

What are the benefits to using medskl.com?

1. Content is developed by medical experts
2. Provides engaging audio-visually
3. Accessible for everyone

Each learning module consists of a two-minute white board animation, 1000 word summary and a 15-minute lecture.

At first glance, medskl.com is simple and inviting. It's easy to navigate and has a modern feel. To access material, all you have to do is register. After signing up, learners can easily scroll through a variety of courses from A to Z, anything from cardiology to urology.

To date, users from nearly 60 universities across North America are now involved. Canadian schools are now incorporating it into their curriculum.

The best part is that there is no cost to use the learning website.

"We believe in free and open access to medical educational materials," Sharma says.

In what year did the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association (DMAA) form?

If you think you know the answer, send us an email at medical.alumni@dal.ca. All correct entries will be entered into a draw to win a free ticket to the DMAA Alumni Awards Gala on October 13, 2017. Good luck!





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Paging All Alumni!

Dalhousie Medical School was the place you learned, worked, and played. The Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association wants to help keep you connected to your medical school community. Connecting with the DMAA is a great way to keep in touch with former classmates and see what's happening now at Dalhousie.

Visit our website at medicine.dal.ca/alumni to learn more.

Have you recently moved or changed your email address?

Make sure that the DMAA has your most recent information so you don't miss out on important information, reunion invitations, or event announcements in your area.

Visit medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/alumni/about/keep-in-touch.html to update your information online or contact medical.alumni@dal.ca or 902.494.8800.

Upcoming Events

Saint John

Alumni and Friends Reception

May 5, 2017
4 to 6 p.m.
Union Club
RSVP to medical.alumni@dal.ca

Halifax

Phi Rho Sigma Alumni Dinner

May 12, 2015
6 p.m., dinner served at 6:30 p.m.
Café Chianti
RSVP to Dr. Robert Lea at rlea@eastlink.ca or
Dr. Ed Rafuse at erafuse@eastlink.ca

Halifax

Faculty of Medicine Convocation

May 26, 2017
Rebecca Cohn Auditorium,
Dalhousie Arts Centre

Halifax

DMAA Alumni Awards Gala

October 13, 2017
Pier 21

Halifax

DalMed 150th Gala

November 3, 2017
Nova Centre

Celebration 20/50 Symposium

October 11 to 13, 2017
A symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary of the paramedic system (EHS) in Nova Scotia, and the 50th anniversary of mobile coronary care units. This event is eligible for CPD credits for family and emergency medicine. Attendees are encouraged to attend the DMAA gala on the evening of October 13 to conclude their time at the symposium.

IN MEMORIAM

The DMAA acknowledges the passing of our alumni with sincere sympathy and gratitude for their contributions to medicine. If you know of anyone to note in this section, please contact medical.alumni@dal.ca.

Dr. Roy A. Morrow MD'45
Passed away May 28, 2015

Dr. John James McKiggan MD'60
Passed away August 6, 2016

Dr. W G Carlyle Phillips
Passed away August 6, 2016

Dr. James F. Ross MD'51
Passed away August 31, 2016

Dr. Leslie B. Slipp MD'60
Passed away September 1, 2016

Dr. Jean M Cameron MD'85
Passed away September 11, 2016

Dr. Thurston Eugene Dickinson MD'57
Passed away September 14, 2016

Lt. Colonel GRJ Power MD'53
Passed away September 14, 2016

Dr. H. Ross Myers MD'69
Passed away September 26, 2016

Dr. Dennis Pitt MD'52
Passed away September 27, 2016

Dr. Gerald R. Berry MD'59
Passed away October 17, 2016

Dr. John Frank Shears Crocker MD'66
Passed away October 26, 2016

Dr. Dawn Ross MD'82
Passed away January 13, 2017

Dr. David Abriel MD'81
Passed away February 2, 2017

Sir Cuthbert Sebastien (MD'58)
Passed away March 25, 2017





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