

MEDICINE MATTERS

DoM | DEPARTMENT
of MEDICINE
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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

No. 25, JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER

CARDIOLOGY • CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY & CUTANEOUS SCIENCE • DIGESTIVE CARE & ENDOSCOPY • ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM • GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE • GERIATRIC MEDICINE • HEMATOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASES • MEDICAL ONCOLOGY • NEPHROLOGY • NEUROLOGY • PALLIATIVE MEDICINE • PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION • RESPIROLOGY • RHEUMATOLOGY

DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

As always, the Spring is an extremely busy time for our Department. This issue of Medicine Matters will showcase much of that activity. I hope all my colleagues have an opportunity to enjoy some relaxation this summer.

I thoroughly enjoyed our Spring Party where we celebrated one another and acknowledged the great work and talent within our Department. Every day we work in an environment where we are in crisis management or striving to solve complex patient problems. For this reason, it is important we take the time to acknowledge our positive impact and areas of excellence – which are plentiful. Congratulations to this year's award recipients.



We are pleased to offer a Research Supplement in this issue of Medicine Matters to highlight the many accomplishments and milestones achieved by your colleagues who are advancing important research on our behalf. We are fortunate to have such a diverse and talented group of researchers amongst us. In addition, if you are reading the paper version, you will also see included the list of PGY1-3 Core Internal Medicine residents, with photos, to help put names to faces.



You will also see we are in a period of transition with nine people leaving our Department, either by retiring or for other reasons, while we welcome 11 more. To those leaving, I offer sincere best wishes and thank you for the service you have provided. And I welcome those joining our team, I look forward to witnessing what I know will be excellent contributions to our Department.

I am pleased to see the success we have experienced in hiring new talent, but also want to acknowledge the challenges many Divisions face today – and will continue to face as we see more retirements in the future. The Department's ability to deliver consistent, quality care is grounded on having sufficient human resources. I know the impact the lack of resources has on both your day-to-day efforts and personal health and well-being. The importance of recruiting to our Divisions that are most in need, cannot be understated.



We continue to move forward in our search for our new Department Head and hope to have news on that soon. Until then, I remain committed as your Interim Head and will support the transition to your new leadership. As my term nears an end, I want to thank our Executive team, fellow colleagues, support staff and many partners in health-care delivery for the support, expertise and guidance you have offered over my tenure as Department Head. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside you all.

Sincerely,

Simon

Simon Jackson, MD, FRCPC (C), MMedEd

Interim Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University

District Chief, Department of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health Authority

Professor of Medicine, Dalhousie University

simon.jackson@nshealth.ca



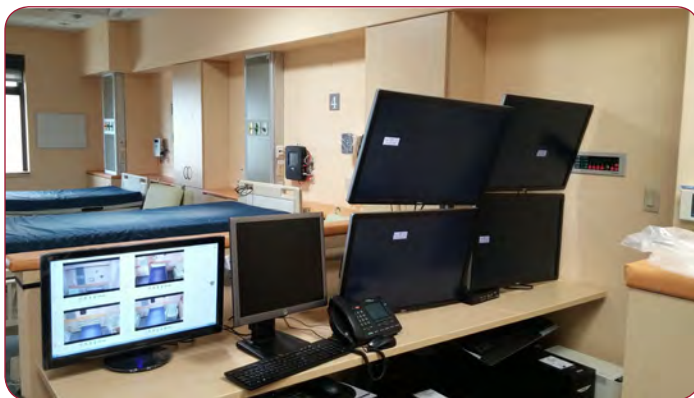
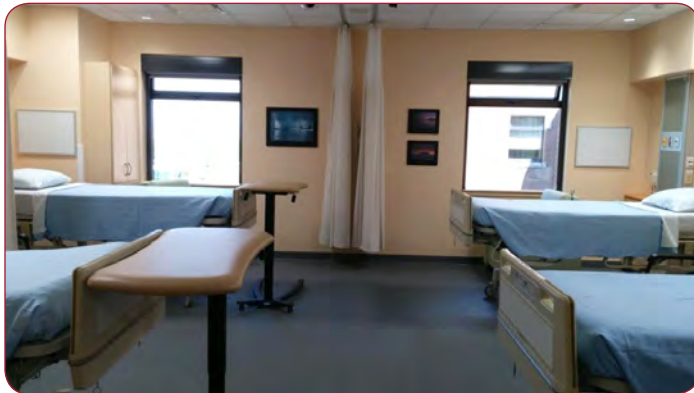
SAVE THE DATE

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Teach the Teachers – POCUS Training	Sunday, October 15, 2017	Collaborative Health Education Building
Medicine Matters Conference	Friday, November 24, 2017	Lord Nelson Hotel
Research Evening	Thursday, November 30, 2017	Prince George Hotel
Holiday Reception	Tuesday, December 12, 2017	Waegwoltic Club
Teach the Teachers	Tuesday, January 23, 2018	Weather Watch Room
Research Day	Thursday, April 19, 2018	Pier 21
Resident Retreat	Fri - Sun, June 1-3, 2018	Digby Pines Resort
Spring Party	Thursday, June 14, 2018	Prince George Hotel



EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS BETTER PATIENT CARE

The Division of Neurology has recently experienced an upgrade with the expansion of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) – from two to four beds this spring. The unit is used to monitor epilepsy patients to help determine if surgery is an option.



The ICU and Medical Teaching Unit is anticipating the addition of its Point of Care ultrasound. The mobile ultrasound – used by our Saint John campus – is an effective tool that not only supports diagnostics and care management, but will also serve as an important teaching tool. It will help teach our learners how to read and interpret images and view the inside of a patient at the bedside during an acute illness – this provides an invaluable demonstration of human physiology in action. The ultrasound is expected to be ready-for-use by September.

Lastly, the planning continues to upgrade and replace the QEII facilities. This spring, the new location for Community Outpatient Centre was chosen to be at the Bayers Lake Business Park. To stay up-to-date on development visit:

<https://qe2redevelopment.novascotia.ca>

2017 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following Department members who received academic promotions as of July 1, 2017.



To Professor

Debra Morrison – Division of Respirology

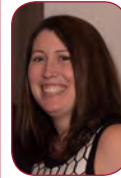
To Associate Professor

Lori Connors – Division of General Internal Medicine

Tony Lee – Division of Cardiology

Stephanie Snow – Division of Medical Oncology

Trudy Taylor – Division of Rheumatology



2016-17 DoM GRAND ROUNDS AWARDS

Congratulations to members who received Grand Rounds Awards on June 27, 2017 presented by Dr. Trudy Taylor, CPD Director.

OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Dr. John Sapp, Division of Cardiology (presenting for Research Rounds)
"Ventricular Tachycardia: From Research to Practice"

AWARD OF MERIT

Dr. Gord Gubitz, Division of Neurology

Special Rounds Presentation

"What You Should Know About Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)"

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Mark Sadler, Division of Neurology

"Looking for 'Spikes' in a Haystack: Advances in Management of Medically Refractory Epilepsy at the Halifax Infirmary"



Dr. Stephen Phillips, Division of Neurology

"Blood Pressure Management in Acute Stroke"



Dr. Ali Imran, Division of Endocrinology

"Steroid Withdrawal – The Price of Indecision"



Dr. Ciorsti MacIntyre, Division of Cardiology

"Long QT Syndrome"

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Andrea Cox – Presented by the Division of Infectious

Diseases (IJ Marrie Lecture) *"HCV: Next on the List for Eradication"*

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE SPRING PARTY ~ 2016-2017 AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS ~

On June 8, the Department hosted its Spring Party where we honoured our colleagues. (Note: The Research Awards are highlighted in the included Research Supplement.)

BRIAN M. CHANDLER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Deserving recipient **Dr. David Simpson** (Division of General Internal Medicine) was honoured for his more than two decades of commitment and dedication to medical education. Known for creating a secure, encouraging, yet challenging teaching environment, he is highly respected and admired by his students, residents and colleagues. Not only is he a stellar educator, but a role model for many. One student's assessment of Dr. Simpson offers insight into how well regarded he is:

“His commitment to teaching and feedback is truly outstanding and he makes the MTU a wonderful learning experience for all levels of learners. Not every staff person dedicates that amount of time to direct one-on-one teaching, Dr. Simpson would often stay late after work to ensure we all had time to work on clinical encounters. We should all be so lucky to learn from such an incredible internist and teacher.”



CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD • NEW IN 2017

Dr. Ata Quraishi (Division of Cardiology) was the recipient of the inaugural Clinical Excellence Award; an award created to honour a clinician who contributes to patient care, through excellence in their craft, compassion, availability, and the highest standards of the profession. This highly respected colleague, is described as the cardiologist you hope to see at your own bedside if ever in need. Known to take on the most complex and high risk cases, often redirecting a patient's path to a positive outcome. The busy clinician, holds himself to an extremely high standard of care and professionalism, while exercising a strong work ethic. He is a dependable colleague, volunteering for clinical service when there is a gap and makes himself available night and day, without a complaint or expectation.



DoM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Stephen Couban (Division of Hematology) was the recipient of the 2017 DoM Achievement Award. This award is presented to a person who makes a significant contribution to all aspects of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Couban's contributions to the Department are vast and meaningful. In addition to being an excellent clinician, he has led the large clinical Blood and Marrow Transplantation program through extensive growth. He is a respected leader serving as both Division Head for Hematology and acting as the Department's Interim Deputy Head. He continues to actively publish and teach, and serves on countless local and national committees. Dr. Couban's leadership provides a tremendous contribution to the Department's overall success.



FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Congratulations to those honoured for Faculty Excellence in Medical Education.

Dr. Nathan Lamond: Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology



“Education is of great significance to Dr. Lamond and being able to provide knowledge to others is of paramount importance. He has made significant contributions to local, regional and national oncology education.” - Nominator

Dr. Gordon Gubitz: Program Director, Neurology



“Dr. Gubitz is passionate about residency education and ensures a high quality in the training program. He is a gifted teacher who devotes considerable time and energy to medical education.” - Nominator

Dr. Erin Gorman Corsten: Program Director, Palliative Medicine



“Dr. Gorman-Corsten is highly involved in educational administrative work at the Faculty of Medicine and Department of Medicine. She exemplifies the motivation and accomplishment we seek to inspire and recognize.” - Nominator

Dr. Trudy Taylor: Program Director, Rheumatology



“Dr. Taylor continues to make exceptional contributions to undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing medical education not only here at Dalhousie, but also at the national level. She is a tremendous asset to the Division of Rheumatology and the Department of Medicine.” - Nominator

OUTSTANDING FACULTY – RESIDENTS’ CHOICE AWARD

Dr. Trudy Taylor: Program Director, Rheumatology

“Dr. Taylor is an outstanding medical educator. She is not only a wonderful role model for residents, she is an active contributor to the postgraduate medical education curriculum. She is a leader, an outstanding clinician and the kind of teacher we all aspire to be.” - Nominator

IYPE/WILFRED RESIDENT AWARD

The New Brunswick Medical Society celebrates excellence in medicine with the Iype/Wilfred Resident Award given to residents who have demonstrated outstanding achievements during their residency training in New Brunswick. This award recognizes achievements in research, professionalism, compassion and caring and is presented during the Celebration of Medicine Event. Five NB-based Dalhousie internal medicine residents have won this award in the past seven years, including this year’s winner, Jacquelyn LeBlanc.

You can see her video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmuxqUGLOHU>

- 2011 - Joe Rigley
- 2012 - John Paul Harmon
- 2013 - Brent McGrath
- 2016 - Aaron Leblanc
- 2017 - Jacquelyn LeBlanc

25 YEARS’ SERVICE AWARDS

Our long-standing members provide a unique and valued contribution to our Department with their wealth of experience and knowledge. Congratulations to three of our colleagues who are celebrating 25 years with the Department:

- Dr. Colm McParland – Division of Respiriology
- Dr. David Anderson – Dean, Dalhousie Medical School (Division of Hematology)
- Dr. Vernon Paddock – Division of Cardiology



l-r: Dr. Colm McParland, Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Simon Jackson, Missing: Dr. Vernon Paddock

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Dr. Chris Green (PGY2)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUMMER GRAND ROUNDS

Dr. Andrew Caddell (PGY3)

OUTSTANDING RESIDENT AWARDS

- Dr. Eric Pond (PGY1)
- Dr. Jean-Gregoire Leduc (PGY2)
- Dr. Alison Dixon (PGY3)

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AWARDS

- Dr. Kyle Murnaghan (PGY1)
- Dr. Mark Robbins (PGY2)
- Dr. Alexandra Legge (PGY3)

OUTGOING CHIEF RESIDENTS – THANK YOU

Thanks to our outgoing Chief Residents (& Associate Chief) for their leadership in 2016/17: Dr. Keigan More, Dr. Kate MacEachen, Dr. Aimee Noel and Dr. Andrew Caddell (Associate Chief).



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING RESIDENTS – JUNE 30, 2017

Congratulations to our residents who graduated from their programs. Thank you for demonstrating such commitment, drive and curiosity during your residency! We wish you all the best as your journey in medicine continues.



Core Internal Medicine Residents (PGY3)

- Dr. Ahmad Alkharaza
- Dr. Andrew Caddell
- Dr. Paul Cameron
- Dr. Alison Dixon
- Dr. Pascale Dupuis
- Dr. Chinyere Iwuala
- Dr. Lucy Liu
- Dr. Jacquelyn LeBlanc
- Dr. Heather Mackenzie
- Dr. Kate MacEachen
- Dr. Matthew Miles
- Dr. Sanju Mishra
- Dr. Keigan More
- Dr. Aimee Noel
- Dr. Myuran Thana
- Dr. Steve Walsh



Subspecialty Graduating Residents

Resident	Postgraduate Year (PGY)	Subspecialty Residency Training Program (Dalhousie University)
Dr. Adam Howes	PGY6	Cardiology
Dr. Andrew Moeller	PGY6	Cardiology
Dr. Paul Morrison	PGY6	Cardiology
Dr. Jordan Webber	PGY6	Cardiology
Dr. Natalie Cunningham	PGY5	Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Science
Dr. Nadine Vaninetti	PGY5	Endocrinology & Metabolism
Dr. Adel Al Ghamdi	PGY5	Digestive Care & Endoscopy
Dr. Alastair Dorreen	PGY5	Digestive Care & Endoscopy
Dr. Chinmoy Chowdhury	PGY5	General Internal Medicine
Dr. Allen Tran	PGY5	General Internal Medicine
Dr. Samuel Searle	PGY5	Geriatric Medicine
Dr. Nicholas Forward	PGY5	Hematology
Dr. Hilal Al Sidairi	PGY5	Infectious Diseases
Dr. Jessica Corbett	PGY5	Medical Oncology
Dr. David Clark	PGY5	Nephrology
Dr. Stephen Douglas	PGY5	Neurology
Dr. Audrey Chen	PGY5	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation



WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome many new physicians to our Department, some of whom are residents who just completed their residencies with us.

Dr. Paul Bonnar is joining the Infections Diseases Division as an infectious diseases physician and Medical Director of the NSHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. Dr. Paul Bonnar completed his Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases training at Dalhousie University. He recently completed a clinical fellowship in Antimicrobial Stewardship at the Sinai Health System – University Health Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. Dr. Bonnar will use his training and expertise in the stewardship program to help optimize antimicrobial use across the NSHA and lead quality improvement projects to identify interventions that improve antimicrobial use behaviours.



Dr. Chinmoy Chowdhury, Division of General Internal Medicine, completed his five years of residency at Dalhousie and his medical degree at Queen's University. He is marrying his interests in cardiology and GIM and will have the goal of establishing a multidisciplinary perioperative service. He will be splitting his year between Halifax and Hamilton, Ontario where he will receive further training and mentoring in perioperative medicine working with the internationally renowned perioperative program established by PJ Devereaux, a Dalhousie graduate.



Dr. David Clark joined the Division of Nephrology, as a locum tenens, on July 1. Dr. Clark completed his medical degree at the University of Ottawa and residency in both Internal Medicine and Nephrology here at Dalhousie University. He is pursuing subspecialty training in the areas of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Interventional Nephrology at Western University.



Dr. Natalie Cunningham, born and educated in Halifax, will join the Division of Clinical Dermatology and Cutaneous Science on July 31. Dr. Cunningham received her BSc with Distinction from the Faculty of Neuroscience, Dalhousie before completing her MD degree at Dalhousie. She joined the Dalhousie Residency Program in 2012 and completed her Royal College examination in June 2017. Dr. Cunningham is described as the consummate dermatologist and a skilled surgeon with all-round competency in skin diseases. She is keen to help and an unstoppable teacher. She will be taking an active role in pediatric dermatology at the IWK and we look forward to her ongoing participation in our academic teaching program.



Lesley Dagley has been hired as the Department's new Manager of Human Resources. Lesley has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Industrial/Organization Psychology from St. Mary's University and has over 17 years of progressively more responsible roles in human resources both in health care at the Nova Scotia Health Authority and IWK and in the private sector. Most recently, she was a Human Resources Consultant supporting the Department of Medicine and related clinical areas. Lesley has expert knowledge of recruitment, management and retention of employees including coaching and mentoring and has co-developed and co-facilitated education sessions on the topics of performance feedback and performance management.



Dr. Nicholas Forward, Division of Hematology, completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Hematology at Dalhousie. Before completing medical school, also at Dalhousie, he did his Masters in Microbiology and Immunology. Dr. Forward will have a clinical focus in lymphoma and myeloma and will Co-Chair the Lymphoma Tumour Board with Dr. Mary Margaret Keating.



Dr. Simon Houston, Division of Respiriology, brings a highly specialized new skill set in interventional respirology, including endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) guided intrathoracic biopsy and interventional techniques for assessment and management of benign and malignant pleural disorders. Dr. Houston recently completed a clinical fellowship in Interventional Thoracic Surgery under the primary supervision of Dr. Yasufuku at the University of Toronto. He also brings a keen interest in medical education, recently completing the requirements for M.Sc. (Community Health) in health practitioner teacher education at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Kristin Ikeda will join the Division of Neurology in August. She did her neurology training and an Epilepsy/EEG Fellowship in University of Western Ontario. She is completing her Master's degree this month (July 2017) and will bring special expertise in the discipline of epilepsy and EEG. Kristin will have a major clinical appointment, specifically working in the recently opened Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU), and will have research and teaching commitments as well.



Continued...

Dr. Natalie Parks, has joined the Division of Neurology on July 1.



Dr. Parks completed her residency at Dalhousie in 2016 and her Multiple Sclerosis Fellowship with the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Parks brings special expertise in the area on multiple sclerosis and related CNS disorders and has also enrolled for a Master's degree with the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. Dr. Parks will have major clinical role, with some teaching and research activities as well.

Dr. Samuel Searle joins the Division of Geriatric Medicine effective



July 15. Dr. Searle completed his medical degree at Dalhousie University and his residencies in Internal Medicine and most recently geriatric medicine this year. During his medical school career, Dr. Searle has been active in research, receiving awards and publishing nine peer-reviewed papers, including one with over 350 citations. This Truro native, is also a talented singer. He joins us for a one year locum, with plans to travel to the UK to obtain further qualifications in the acute care of the frail elderly in the subsequent years.

Dr. Allen Tran, Division of General Internal Medicine, completed



his medical degree at the University of Edmonton. He then completed his core training in internal medicine at Dalhousie, followed by GIM subspecialty training. During his residency at Dalhousie he has been very involved in quality improvement initiatives involving the Medical Teaching Unit and the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine Choosing Wisely Campaign. He was an associate chief resident in 2014-2015 for the core internal medicine program and he was co-chief resident for the GIM program in 2016-2017. Allen won the Dr. Elizabeth Mann award for excellence in GIM in 2017, in recognition of his clinical expertise, collegiality, and contributions to the practice of GIM. We welcome Allen to the division and look forward to his continued development as an academic clinician.

We are also pleased to see the following physicians agree to extend their locums:

- Dr. Osama Elkhateeb (Cardiology) – extended until January 2018
- Dr. Jonathan Hebb (Hematology) – extended until December 2017
- Dr. Kelvin Young (Medical Oncology) – extended until June 2018
- Dr. Evan Merrick (Cardiology) – faculty member now extending his profile to include locum services for General Internal Medicine
- Dr. Alex Nelson (Respirology) – extended to March 2018

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES

The collective experience and expertise we are saying good-bye to this summer is phenomenal. We wish our esteemed colleagues all the best as they enjoy this next chapter of their lives



Michelle Baker retired on June 30 after a more than 40-year career in health care. For the last 14 years she has served as a manager in the DOM, heavily involved with HR issues associated with our administrative assistants and having served as a key administrative support to all of the divisions in the department at some time. Known for a calm, logical approach to problems solving and dedication to the DOM, we wish Michelle a long and healthy retirement.



Dr. Ron Gregor's career with the Department and Dalhousie University has spanned over 45 years. In addition to his busy clinical activities he has served on a wide variety of committees and held leadership roles such as the Cardiology Site Chief after the merger of the Camp Hill and old Halifax Infirmary and Program Director for Internal Medicine. As an Investigator of the WHO MONICA project he produced several abstracts and manuscripts. Dr. Gregor has been an outstanding clinician, educator and researcher at Dalhousie University.



Dr. Richard Lodge retires from the Division of Cardiology after 17 years of service with the Department. Dr. Lodge will be known and remembered for his excellent teaching, recipient of the Resident's Choice 'Teacher of the Year' award four times. He served many roles in the division including provincial flow coordinator and Director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. He will be missed, along with his wonderful sense of humor and his love of amusing transcription errors.



After 19 years with the Division of Medical Oncology, **Dr. Mark Dorreen** retired on June 30. Dr. Dorreen played an essential role in bringing stability and helping to grow the division when he served as both Interim and Division Head for 11 years in total. He demonstrated clinical excellence, specializing in breast and gastrointestinal malignancies and soft tissue sarcomas. He was a sought-after advisor and mentor. His booming laugh and easy-going personality will be missed.



While not retiring, we are also saying good-bye to **Dr. Michael Love**, Division of Cardiology. Dr. Love will be relocating and has accepted a position at the University of Manitoba. Best wishes!

Continued...



Dr. Nancy MacDonald retires from the Division of Cardiology after over 35 years of practice. Throughout her career, many – her colleagues and patients alike – have benefitted from her expertise, leadership and clinical competence. In addition to her busy clinical practice she has also held many leadership roles throughout the span of her career including Medical

Director ICU Dartmouth General Hospital, Chair of Metropolitan Cardiac Program on Prevention and Rehabilitation and Director of the Heart and Stroke Foundation Nova Scotia. Nancy and her skill, professionalism and kindness will be missed.



Dr. Paul McIntyre, Division of Palliative Medicine, has retired after a 30-year career. Paul was the first physician with palliative care training in Nova Scotia and was instrumental in establishing the service and served as division head for 11 years. In 2001, he founded the postgraduate training program. In 2008, his contributions were honoured nationally with the

Eduardo Bruera Award (from the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians). Moving into retirement, Paul will be missed for his wealth of knowledge and unwavering dedication to the advancement of palliative care locally and beyond.



Dr. Allan Purdy retired from the Division of Neurology in July after 42-years with the department. He has numerous achievements, including Head/Chief Department of Medicine/CDHA, Head Division of Neurology and Program Director Neurology. His teaching achievements are legendary, having won numerous teaching awards (local, national and

international) and been a mentor for most neurologists in the division. He is an excellent general neurologist, with special expertise in the subspecialty of Headache. Dr. Purdy continues to have a strong presence in the “Headache World”, serving currently as the President of American Headache Society and the Chair of Education for the International Headache Society. We will miss his unique teaching style and wicked sense of humor.

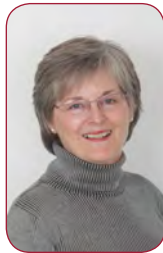


Dr. John Stewart has retired from the Division of Cardiology after 37-years of practice. Dr. Stewart has worked with the Division of Cardiology for most of his career, except for a decade where he worked at the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow. Throughout his career, he has provided exceptional service establishing a large and loyal patient following. He has been a teacher

and mentor to many. He and the significant contributions he made to ambulatory cardiology care and more recently the Consult Service, Pacemaker Clinic and Exercise and MIBI labs will be missed.



Thank you to Dr. Nancy Morrison for serving as Chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee (UMEC) since 2006. Dr. Morrison has now stepped down from this role.



Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Mann for winning the CMA Honourary Membership from Doctors Nova Scotia.



Congratulations to Dr. Geoff Williams for winning the 2017 Patient Choice Award from Doctors Nova Scotia.



Congratulations to Department Chief Financial Officer, Mary Sue Radford, for winning gold at World Seniors Curling Championship in April 2017.



A special presentation at DOM Grand Rounds – DOM Jeopardy 2017 – hosted by Dr. Gord Gubitza was held on June 27th. Two teams, “Formidable Faculty” and “Resplendent Residents” along with audience participation offered great entertainment for everyone. Team members included Volodko Bakowsky, Kevork Peltekian, Nabha Shetty, Allan Purdy, Ahmed Mohktar, Mark Robbins, Teresa Rodriguez and Paul Cameron. Thank you to Dr. Gubitza for mastering this game!



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE RESEARCH • JULY 2017



DoM STRATEGIC RESEARCH INCENTIVE GRANTS

The Department is pleased to announce the creation of a **DoM Strategic Research Incentive Grant** program for 2017-18. The purpose is to further support DoM researchers who are successful in the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund's September 2017 and March 2018 competitions. The Department of Medicine Strategic Plan recognizes research as one of the pillars of the Department of Medicine. Funds were identified by the Department to help implement the Strategic Plan. From those funds, these companion incentive grants were created.

With the agreement of NSHA, the highest ranked application by a faculty member with their primary appointment in the Department of Medicine (NSHA RF Category 2), will be given a \$10,000 award from the DoM in addition to the award from the NSHA Research Fund; and the next highest ranked faculty member with their primary appointment in the Department of Medicine (NSHA RF Category 2), will receive an additional \$5,000 award. These awards are in place for the September 15, 2017, and the March 15, 2018, NSHA Research Fund competitions. The funds must be used to support the member's research program and are not restricted to the budget that accompanies their application to the NSHA competition. There is no separate application process. Application to the NSHA Research Fund competitions Category 2 automatically makes you eligible. <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/discovery-innovation/research-fund>

DoM RESEARCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The 2017 Department of Medicine Research Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Dr. Arnold Mitnitski** at the Spring Party by **Dr. John Hanly**.

Born and educated in Russia, Arnold moved to Montréal in 1992, and joined the Dalhousie Department of Medicine in 2002, where he currently holds a post-retirement position. He is an applied mathematician. As part of a longstanding collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, he is a member of the team that developed an integrated measure of human health known as the Frailty Index (FI), which now has numerous applications in epidemiology, medicine and economics. Dr. Rockwood says "*Arnold is the model of a thoughtful, careful and - most fortunately for me - a patient scholar. He remains an outstanding colleague.*"

Dr. Mitnitski has published over 100 peer reviewed papers and has delivered a number of presentations at national and international scientific meetings. He is a Fellow of the American Gerontological Society, and has received several distinctions, including a prestigious Dalhousie University Research Professorship in 2011. And now the Department is pleased to add the Research Lifetime Achievement Award.



DoM RESIDENT RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Shiru (Lucy) Liu received the Resident Research Excellence Award for 2016-17. **Dr. Lisa Barrett**, Chair of the Resident Research Committee, presented the award to Dr. Liu at the Spring Party.

Dr. Liu has 4 peer reviewed publications (2 as lead author in 2017), two online publications and made six national/international presentations. She was one of the resident representatives on the DoM Resident Research Committee in 2016-17.

We wish Lucy all the best as she leaves Nova Scotia to continue her training in the medical oncology subspecialty residency training program at the University of British Columbia.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING DoM RESEARCH DATES

NSHA Research Fund Competition deadline / DoM Strategic Research Incentive Grant	Sep. 15, 2017
Deadline for nominations for the DoM Research Excellence Awards*	Sep. 30, 2017
UIMRF Internal and External Fellowship grant application deadlines*	Oct. 1, 2017
DoM Grand Rounds – Research, presented by Dr. Olga Theou	Oct. 3, 2017
UIMRF Junior, Bridge and Pilot grant application deadlines*	Oct. 15, 2017
DoM Research Evening, Prince George Hotel	Nov. 30, 2017
NSHA Research Fund Competition deadline / DoM Strategic Research Incentive Grant	Mar. 15, 2018
DoM Research Day, Pier 21	Apr. 19, 2018

*Application forms available from kathryn.nelson@nshealth.ca and on the DoM shared drive, DoM Research folder

The Department of Medicine has a research resource orientation for faculty and for our residents. You can find them on the:

- Department website medicine.dal.ca/dom/
- from kathryn.nelson@nshealth.ca
- DoM shared drive in the DoM Research folder
- for residents on [Google/8Faz5o](https://www.google.com/search?q=8Faz5o)

REMINDER: DoM RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS – DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

FOM RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

The Faculty of Medicine presented their resident research awards at a reception on June 8th. Departments were invited to submit their department research day award winning abstracts (27 nominations in total). Five awards were made and we are very pleased that two of the awards went to DoM residents:

Best Overall Award

Dr. Alexandra Legge, PGY3/CIP

Sponsored by CSCI/CIHR (\$1,500)

"A cross-sectional study of habitual physical activity and its determinants among patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)"

Supervisor: Dr. John Hanly

The best overall winner is invited to represent Dalhousie at the Canadian Society of Clinical Investigators meeting to compete in their national resident research competition.

Best Work in Clinical Research

Dr. Heather MacKenzie, PGY3

Sponsored by Dal Medical Alumni Association (\$1,000)

"Frailty and Diabetes in Older Hospitalized Adults: What Drives Outcomes?"

Supervisor: Dr. Barna Tugwell

Drew DeBay, PhD student in the Department of Medical Neuroscience, was the 2017 recipient of the Faculty of Medicine Excellence in Research Award for Graduate Students for his presentation *"Targeting Butyrylcholinesterase for Diagnostic Imaging in Alzheimer's Disease"* relating to work carried out with Dr. Sultan Darvesh.

Two residents enrolled in the Dalhousie Clinical Investigator Program (CIP), **Drs. Caitlin Lees and Alexandra Legge**, have received CIHR Postgraduate Fellowships (\$17,500). Both were also awarded Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF) Scotia Scholar (Masters level) awards of \$2,500.

In addition, in the first year of her CIP, Alex received full government funding for the two-year program and a Faculty of Medicine Killam Postgraduate Award. In 2016, Caitlin received a DoM UIMRF Internal Fellowship Award, a \$20,000 stipend from CIP, and a NSHRF Scotia Scholars award for \$10,000.

Bader Alamri, CIP resident, received a Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation Weldon Travel award for \$2,000 to support attending the Endocrine 2017 Conference in April.

THE KATHRYN ALLEN WELDON RESEARCH CHAIR IN ALZHEIMER RESEARCH

Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, Division of Geriatric Medicine, has been reappointed as the Kathryn Allen Weldon Chair a further 5 years. Dr. Rockwood has held the Chair since its inception in 2002. The mandate of the Chair is to foster a major research initiative in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias which will lead to a better understanding of the causes and treatment of these disorders. Dr. Rockwood's stellar international reputation as leader in this field has brought recognition to his research, the Department and the Research Chair. Among his many accolades, Dr. Rockwood received China's highest award for foreigners, the [China Government Friendship Award](#) in 2016.

\$1.46M CIHR AWARD

Dr. Sultan Darvesh, Division of Neurology, was one of 275 CIHR Project Award recipients. The award, one of nine at Dalhousie University, is the largest grant in Nova Scotia and in the top twelve in Canada.

The project, *"PET and SPECT Probes for the Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease Targeting Cholinesterase Activity"* with co-investigators Steven Burrell and Ian Pottie, has received \$1,457,325 over five years.

Dr. Darvesh's leading-edge research has garnered him many accolades, including the 2016 DoM Research Lifetime Achievement Award and the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation - Irene MacDonald Sobey Chair in Curative Approaches to Alzheimer's Disease, Faculty of Medicine. Sultan is the Assistant Dean, Research - Clinical Departments, Faculty of Medicine; and Director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank. He holds a number of patents and is a scientific co-founder of Treventis Corporation.

The Canadian Institutes for Health Research continues its process of review and reform. As a result, the Project Grant Competition registration that was to close on May 30, 2017 has been delayed until August 15, with an application deadline of September 15, 2017.

In an effort to balance the success rate between the Foundation Grant (20%) and the Project Grant (10%) programs, CIHR shifted approximately \$25M from the 2016-17 Foundation Grant competition to the fall 2016 Project Grant competition.

As a result of the decision to delay the spring 2017 Project Grant competition, an additional \$100 million was invested in the fall 2016 competition. This allowed CIHR to fund a larger number of highly ranked projects.

To strengthen applications, Dalhousie/NSHA/IWK have enhanced the internal review of CIHR applications.

Contact: carla.ross@dal.ca

Dr. Jennifer Jones, Division of Digestive Care and Endoscopy, received a CIHR Patient-Oriented Research Collaboration Grant for *"Building Capacity to Evaluate and to Understand Access to Inflammatory Bowel Disease Care Through Patient-Oriented Systems Mapping"* for \$24,739 with a matching funds \$25K NSHA Research Fund Award.

Dr. Karthik Tennankore has received a Kidney Foundation of Canada Biomedical research grant for *"Frailty and the Kidney Transplant Wait List"*. (\$50,000)



UIMRF SUPPORTS DoM STAFF

Internal Fellowship Awards:

Scott Kehler, who will join Dr. Ken Rockwood's lab in January 2018, has also received a Dalhousie Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship, an MSSU SPOR Postdoctoral Award (declined), and a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Cindy Forbes, PhD (Dr. Chris Blanchard's lab) – renewal (\$26,813).

Nerissa Campbell, PhD (Dr. Chris Blanchard's lab) – renewal declined in favour of a two-year MSSU SPOR Postdoctoral Award.

Dr. Caitlin Lees, PGY3/CIP – second year of award.

Junior Department Member Awards:

Dr. Amir AbdelWahab, Division of Cardiology (\$50,000)

Co-Applicants: Drs. John Sapp, Milan Horacek

"Validation of a Real-Time Localization Algorithm for Ventricular Tachycardia using a 12-lead Electrocardiogram"

Dr. Doug Hayami, Division of Cardiology (\$50,000)

Co-Applicants: Nick Giacomantonio, Miroslaw Rajda, Tallal Younis, Scott Grandy, Melanie Keats

"Optimized Exercise Training in Breast Cancer Survivors Pilot Study"

Dr. Nathan Lamond, Division of Medical Oncology (\$49,978)

Co-Applicants: Leah Cahill, Tallal Younis, Paige Moorhouse, Stephanie Snow, Derek Wilkie

"Malnutrition and Chemoradiotherapy Outcomes in Locally Advanced Head and Neck Cancer Patients: A Prospective Cohort Study"

DoM SPECIAL AD HOC OPERATING GRANTS

The 2013 Department of Medicine Strategic Plan recognized research as one of the pillars of the Department. Funds were designated to help implement the research goals identified in the Plan. With those funds, a one-time funding opportunity was created. The special ad hoc operating grant competition was held in the fall of 2016 with the goal of improving the competitiveness of DoM researchers in obtaining peer-reviewed national/ international operating grant funding.

Further, the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund agreed to match the DoM funds in Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund competition of March 15, 2017 (up to \$25,000).

Nine letters of intention were received, six of those developed into full applications. Three of those were ultimately funded by the Department of Medicine and Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Dr. Leah Cahill, Howard Webster DoM Research Chair

"Haptoglobin Phenotype and Risk of Incident CVD in the ACCORD Trial" (total with NSHARF matching \$50,000)

Dr. Lisa Barrett, Division of Infectious Diseases

"Developing a Model of Immune Aging in a Prospective Atlantic Cohort" (total with NSHA Research Fund matching \$48,284)

Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh, Division of Medical Oncology

"the PANcreatic Cancer Research platform to Examine biomarkers And Systemic treatment outcomes (PANCREAS)" (total with NSHA Research Fund matching \$49,974)

UIMRF SUPPORTS RIM

The Faculty of Medicine Research In Medicine (RIM) program has the unenviable task of securing funding for summer student placements for all of their first year students. The DoM UIMRF was able to assist with five awards for summer 2017.

The DoM's endowed Dr. Tom Marrie Summer Scholarship went to **Aleksandra Kajetanowicz**, supervised by **Dr. David Anderson**.

The remaining four UIMRF awards were to:

Joel Bergman, supervised by **Dr. Karthik Tennankore**

Jordan Boudreau, supervised by **Dr. Lisa Barrett**

Eileen Burns, supervised by **Dr. Jennifer Jones**.

Sophie Church, supervised by **Dr. Olga Theou**

We hope these students, as well as all of the other RIM students in the DoM, will find their summer informative and enjoyable.

NSHA RESEARCH FUND AWARDS

In addition to the three awards above, the Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Fund funded the following DoM projects through their spring 2017 competition:

Category 2 (up to \$25,000 for staff):

Dr. Ratika Parkash, Division of Cardiology, with Drs. Chris Blanchard and John Sapp (\$25,000)

"Computer Simulated Atrial Fibrillation Tool to Reduce Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits"

Dr. Ketan Kulkarni, IWK, with Dr. Stephen Couban et al

"Association of the fecal microbiome with gastrointestinal toxicity, bloodstream infections, acute graft-versus host disease (GVHD) and survival in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)" (\$14,040)

Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, Division of Geriatric Medicine, with Dr. Olga Theou (\$25,000)

"Can frailty predict adverse health outcomes in Emergency Department older patients?"

Dr. Paul Hernandez, Division of Respiriology, with Dr. Chris Blanchard (\$24,400)

"Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour in Patients with Chronic Fibrosing Idiopathic Pneumonia"

Cynthia Forbes, PhD, with Drs. Chris Blanchard, Melanie Keast and Tallal Younis (\$24,968)

"Feasibility of an eHealth/ mHealth physical activity and sedentary behaviour change program among Cancer survivors"

Category 3 (up to \$5,000 for trainees):

David Clark – supervisor Dr. Karthik Tennankore (\$5,000)

"Towards a Better Understanding of Measuring Hospitalization in Dialysis: A Cohort Study"

Jason Quinn – supervisor Dr. Karthik Tennankore (\$5,000)

"Diagnostic Phlebotomy Volume and the Need for Blood Transfusion - How much is too much?"

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CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. John Sapp, Division of Cardiology, had the highest rated DoM Grand Rounds presentation in 2016-17 and received the DoM Grand Rounds Overall Excellence Award for the presentation “*Ventricular Tachycardia: From Research to Practice*” he made on behalf of research in October 2016.

The 2017-18 DoM Grand Rounds for research will be presented by **Dr. Olga Theou** on October 3rd.

WITH OUR THANKS

The end of the academic year is a good time to take the opportunity to thank the **DoM Research Committee** for their work in 2016-17. **Drs. John Hanly (chair), Lisa Barrett, Chris Blanchard, Leah Cahill, Peter Hull, Jennifer Jones, John Sapp, Ferhan Siddiqi, Karthik Tennankore, Tallal Younis** and two members who are completing their term on the Committee **Martin Gardner and Chadwick Williams** (NB rep). Special thanks to **Dr. Simon Jackson** for his support, involvement and encouragement. The Committee was busy and productive this year with UIMRF application reviews, the Special Ad Hoc Operating Grant competition reviews, productivity evaluations, DoM Research Day abstract reviews and research excellence awards.

Thanks as well to the **DoM Resident Research Committee**, **Drs. Lisa Barrett (chair), Leah Cahill, Sultan Darvesh, Ian Epstein, Nathan Lamond, Ravi Ramjeesingh, Sudeep Shivakumar, Daniel Smyth, resident reps Bader Alamri and Lucy Liu**. The Committee is in transition as Royal College changes, curriculum changes, etc impact the research aspect of residency training.

DoM RESEARCH DAY 2017

DoM Research Day on April 13, 2017, continued the steady growth of both the number (and quality) of abstract submissions and the number in attendance. In fact, the number of abstracts has doubled since 2011/12 and tripled since 2002!

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH DAY 2017!

