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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

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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

Dear Colleagues,

This past month marked a huge milestone when the Department of Medicine endorsed a new Practice Plan. This plan, which replaces the 12-year old plan, is an important document for physicians and our health partners. It helps ensure we are running our Department in a way that promotes productivity, and encourages transparency. This latest plan also introduces new ways in which we can be accountable from a quantity perspective – as required in our Clinical/Academic Funding Plan - while also placing new emphasis on the quality of our work. As we implement the practice plan over the remainder of this fiscal year we will be working with all divisions to develop objective metrics that reflect the valuable clinical and non-clinical work you are all doing.

Throughout the summer, we will continue the work of our next strategic plan. Our working and advisory groups are currently focused on getting a clear view to our working environment today and into the future. We are meeting with all our health partners – other Department Heads, NSHA, Dalhousie, IWK, Doctors Nova Scotia, colleagues in PEI and New Brunswick, family physicians and more – to seek their perspective on the greatest opportunities for the Department to advance health-care, education and research. With this landscape, we will meet with each of you through your divisions in September and October to shape the strategic priorities that best fit into that landscape. We are fortunate to have an Advisory Committee

guiding us through this process to help ensure we are focused yet attuned to system-wide priorities. We welcome comments and suggestions on the strategic planning from all Department members at any time during this process. You can feel free to contact me or our Strategic Planning facilitator, Wayne Marsh (wmarsh@ns.sympatico.ca) with your ideas. Wayne will anonymise all feedback.

You will see in this issue that our Department has a lot to celebrate. We are delivering quality care while producing high-profile research findings and delivering top notch education. Don't miss out on the success of Research Day and look for who we celebrated at this year's annual Spring Party.

I continue to be impressed – on a daily basis – with the depth of expertise, professionalism and talent within our Department. I wish you all a safe and fun summer.

Warm regards,

Christine Short, MD, FRCPC (C), FACP

Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University

District Chief, Department of Medicine, Central Zone, Nova Scotia Health Authority

Associate Professor of Medicine, Dalhousie University



PALLIATIVE WELCOMES 1ST RESIDENT



It's official. On July 1, the Division of Palliative Medicine welcomed its first Royal College resident **Dr. Caitlin Lees**. Dr. Lees completed her MD at McMaster University

in 2013 and recently completed her Internal Medicine residency and Clinician Investigator Program at Dalhousie University. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada approved the two-year residency program in March 2018.

“Our goal is to ensure we are providing the very best palliative medicine training for the Maritime Provinces and beyond,” said **Dr. David Dupere**, Palliative Medicine Division Head. “This will help us increase our academic focus and keep pace with the rest of the country in the quality of the palliative care we provide.” Program Director, **Dr. Erin Gorman Corsten**, and Dr. Dupere also expect this program will help attract new physicians to the province in a more competitive way.

MAKING MEDIA HEADLINES

Department of Medicine members are going to experts for local and national media. Each month they consistently help shape media headlines and share their expertise with the public.

This a sampling of the topics media were recently pursued: aspirin equally effective post-op hip or knee arthroplasty (**Dr. David Anderson**), Canada's health leadership obligations (**Dr. Ashley Miller**), research progress in studying Alzheimer's (**Dr. Ken Rockwood**), finding links between bipolar disorder and insulin resistance (**Dr. Tom Ransom**), advocating for improved care for inmates with Hepatitis C (**Dr. Lisa Barrett**), and women's heart health (**Dr. Sharon Mulvagh**). To see more DoM members on local and national TV, radio and in newspapers, visit [In the Media](#).

RESEARCH DAY 2018

On April 19 just over 150 people met at Pier 21 to learn more about the research taking place in the Department of Medicine. Research Day 2018 featured nine podium presentations and 100 posters by Department members, undergraduate students, residents, research fellows, graduate students, and research associates.

Professor Timothy Caulfield, CRC Research Chair in Health Law & Policy at the University of Alberta, was an entertaining and informative guest speaker on the topic of “*Scienceploitation: How Research Is Twisted to Sell Bunk (and How to Fight Back!)*”.

Congratulations to the Research Day award recipients:

BEST UNDERGRADUATE PRESENTATION

John Bartolacci, Undergraduate Student

Supervisor: **Dr. Amanda Vinson**, Division of Nephrology
“Emergency Medical Services for Dialysis Patients: Predictors and Outcomes” (Podium)

BEST CORE RESIDENT PRESENTATION

Dr. Alex Legge, PGY3/CIP

Supervisor: **Dr. John Hanly**, Division of Rheumatology
“Constructing and Validating a Frailty Index as a Novel Measure of Health Status in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)” (Podium)

BEST SUB-SPECIALTY RESIDENT PRESENTATION

Dr. Keigan More, PGY4 Nephrology

Supervisor: **Dr. Karthik Tennankore**, Division of Nephrology
“Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour in Hemodialysis: Preliminary Data from a Pilot Study” (Poster)

BEST RESEARCH FELLOW/GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION

Clarissa Brisseau, Graduate Student

Supervisor: **Dr. Lisa Barrett**, Infectious Diseases
“Pre-Vaccine Functional and Transcriptome Immune Cell Signatures Associate with Influenza Vaccine Responsiveness in HIV+ Individuals” (Poster)

BEST OVERALL POSTER PRESENTATION

Claire Slavin-Stewart, Undergraduate Student

Supervisor: **Dr. Rob Horton**, Division of Palliative Medicine
“A Feasibility Study of Home-Based Palliative Care Telemedicine in Rural Nova Scotia” (Poster)



Want to see more photos? Visit the [Research section on the DOM website](#) or look for the **Research Update 2018** from the Research Office.

MANAGING PREMATURE ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASES

Dr. Alex Legge, PGY3, was published in the April 2018 CMAJ. Her study “[Managing premature atherosclerosis in patients with chronic inflammatory diseases](#)” showed patients with chronic inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis are twice as likely to develop cardiovascular disease.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our Core IM PGY3s for completing their core training. We wish them well in their specialty training pursuits.

Dr. Rayan Alhazmi
Dr. Mujtaba Alkhalaf
Dr. Faisal Basonbul
Dr. Iain Arseneau
Dr. Edwin Bamwoya
Dr. Rachelle Blackman
Dr. Heather Chambers
Dr. Brandyn Chase
Dr. Chris Green
Dr. Jean-Gregoire Leduc
Dr. Scott Lee

Dr. Jacques Maillet
Dr. Ahmed Mokhtar
Dr. Tyler Mullen
Dr. Pierre O’Brien
Dr. Jennie Parker
Dr. Mehrnoosh Pauls
Dr. Harrison Petropolis
Dr. Mark Robbins
Dr. Kara Robertson
Dr. Lyndsay Sprigg
Dr. Willy Weng

Congratulations to all of our subspecialty residents who completed their Dalhousie Postgraduate Training this year.

PGY6 Cardiology	Dr. Abdulaziz Algethami
PGY6 Cardiology	Dr. JS Daigle
PGY6 Infectious Diseases	Dr. Glenn Patriquin
PGY5 Endocrinology	Dr. Amit Rahalkar
PGY5 Gastroenterology	Dr. Abdulaziz Al Ahmadi
PGY5 Gastroenterology	Dr. Tasha Kuli
PGY5 General Internal Medicine	Dr. Victor Rogovosky
PGY5 General Internal Medicine	Dr. Colin Turner
PGY5 Geriatric Medicine	Dr. Leah Nemiroff
PGY5 Geriatric Medicine	Dr. Alison Rodger
PGY5 Hematology	Dr. Abdulrahim Basendwah
PGY5 Hematology	Dr. Cindy Hickey
PGY5 Medical Oncology	Dr. Jennifer Melvin
PGY5 Neurology	Dr. Sondos Alhindi
PGY5 Neurology	Dr. Adnan Badahdah
PGY5 Neurology	Dr. Ben Whatley
PGY5 Respiriology	Dr. Kathryn Whittemore
PGY5 Respiriology	Dr. Alyson Wong
PGY5 Rheumatology	Dr. Caroline Barry
PGY4 General Internal Medicine	Dr. Chinyere Iwuala
PGY4 General Internal Medicine	Dr. Stephen Walsh

SAINT JOHN RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Congratulations to **Dr. Alexa Smith** who is the new Associate Director for Dalhousie Internal Medicine Residency Training Program in Saint John. Dr. Smith assumed this role effective April 1, where she is working alongside current Site Director **Dr. Eric Grant**. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Dr. Smith will assume the duties of the Site Director, upon Dr. Grant’s retirement.

DR. DANIEL RAYSON SPEAKS AT MAYO CLINIC

On April 12, Dr. Rayson presented to the Mayo Clinic Oncology Society: “The Power of Narrative in Oncology”. The topic spanned a variety of clinical challenges in communication as well as the importance of storytelling, both as a way to communicate more effectively with patients and as a means to process one’s own emotions and stress when dealing with difficult discussions and conversations.

AWARD SEASON

Between the Department's Annual Spring Party and the annual Faculty of Medicine Awards, many Department members were applauded and honoured for their service to the Department, Dalhousie University and beyond. Congratulations to all the recipients.



FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Katalin Koller, Geriatric Medicine

"Dr. Koller is a passionate advocate when it comes to educating trainees at all levels about Geriatrics and improving how we care for older adults. She demonstrates compassion in the care of patients and their families and is an excellent role model for learners. She is keen to teach on clinical rotations and learners find her approachable and kind."

Dr. Ravi Ramjeesingh, Medical Oncology

"Dr. Ramjeesingh is an active teacher and researcher and has been an excellent mentor to learners at various levels. He has clearly demonstrated an interest in teaching that is characterized by direct engagement of his learners, mentorship and a dedication to improving the quality of teaching"

Dr. Nabha Shetty, General Internal Medicine

"Dr. Shetty is a highly motivated, decisive, clear-thinking addition to the faculty of General Internal Medicine who is clearly going to continue to provide excellence in research and research education. She has been an extremely important addition to the Division. I think that her commitment to education is exemplary."

OUTSTANDING FACULTY – RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARD

Dr. David Haase, Internist and Infectious Disease Specialist

"Dr. Haase is one of the best staff when it comes to teaching and resident support. He deserves a big thank you for all of his contributions. He has been a role model to us all."

BRIAN M. CHANDLER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Eric Grant, Rheumatology

Dr. Grant has been the driving force and leader behind the vibrant residency training program in Saint John, New Brunswick. He has dedicated more than 20 years to developing and growing the program, leaving an education legacy as he retires in 2018.

2018 DoM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Catherine Kells, Cardiology

Dr. Kells is a long-time member of the Division of Cardiology. She has taken on many roles during her time in the Department from a clinical, academic and leadership perspective. She has been dedicated to achieving excellent care in cardiology for all Nova Scotians and supporting the mission and vision of the Department. Dr. Kells is currently the President of the Canadian Cardiology Society.

25 Year Service Acknowledgements

Dr. Iqbal Bata, Cardiology
 Dr. George Majaess, Physical Medicine
 Dr. Graeme Rocker, Respiriology
 Dr. Paul Sohi, Nephrology

Academic Promotion

Congratulations to
Dr. Karthik Tennankore
 who was promoted to
 Associate Professor, July 1.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Lori Wood, Medical Oncology

This award acknowledges Dr. Wood as an advocate, a role model and in particular for her unwavering commitment to her patients. In addition to providing exemplary care, she makes a point to know the latest research, and above all else, she is always available to her patients, cares for them deeply, and available to them above and beyond the normal call of duty. Dr. Wood also serves on various national bodies including the Kidney Cancer Medical Advisory Board, the Testicular Cancer Canada Medical Advisory Board and the Bladder Cancer Medical Advisory Board.

RESEARCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. R. Lee Kirby, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Dr. Lee Kirby is a long-time contributor to the Department and its research efforts. His primary research interest is the safety and performance of wheelchairs. He heads the team that developed the Wheelchair Skills Program, a low-tech, high-impact program that is increasingly being used in both highly developed and less-resourced nations around the world.

2018 RESIDENT WINNERS

Dr. Mark Robbins, Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education
 Dr. Chris Green, Award for Excellence in Summer Grand Rounds
 Dr. Alexandra Saunders, Outstanding Resident Award, PGY1
 Dr. Eric Pond, Outstanding Resident Award, PGY2
 Dr. Jennie Parker, Angie McGibbon Outstanding PGY3 Resident Award (This award was renamed in honour of colleague Dr. Angie McGibbon who passed away earlier this year.)
 Dr. Curtis Marcoux, Outstanding Academic Performance Award, PGY1
 Dr. Eric Pond, Outstanding Academic Performance Award, PGY2
 Dr. Mark Robbins, Outstanding Academic Performance Award, PGY3

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AWARDS

The Faculty of Medicine singled out various Department of Medicine members during this year's award ceremony.

Award of Excellence in Leadership	Dr. Simon Jackson
Award of Excellence in Education	Dr. Trudy Taylor
Community Teacher of the Year	Dr. Daniel Smyth
Excellence in Patient-Oriented Research	Dr. John Sapp
Dr. Robert C. Dickson Prize	Laura Kerr
Dr. W. H. Hattie Prize	Amye Harrigan

DoM residents took home two of the five 2018 Faculty of Medicine Resident Research Awards:

Best Research Award for Senior Resident	Dr. Opeyemi Fadahunsi
Best Work in Clinical Research	Dr. Keigan More



WELCOME

Welcome to **Dr. Kate Montgomery**, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Montgomery joined us on July 9. She has just completed her residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Andrew Moeller, Cardiology, joins us from the University of Ottawa Heart Institute where he just completed his Clinical Fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation. Dr. Moeller, who joined the Division on July 1, completed his MD and residencies in internal medicine and cardiology at Dalhousie.

Dr. Jennifer Melvin, Medical Oncology Division, joined us on June 15. She completed both her internal medicine and medical oncology (2018) residencies here at Dalhousie.

Effective April 1, cardiologist **Dr. Osama Elkhateeb**, has joined the Cardiology Division on a permanent basis. Dr. Elkhateeb has been with the Division, as a locum, since November 1, 2016. Before joining the Department, Dr. Elkhateeb was the Director of the Cardiac Center at the King Abdullah Medical City in Holy Capital, Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Elkhateeb is an Associate Professor. He completed his residencies in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Dalhousie.

Effective March 1, **Dr. Ismail Sharif** increased his FTE contribution to the Division of Hematology. Dr. Sharif comes from Hematology/Oncology with the Moncton Hospital. He completed his Hematology fellowship in 2016 and is an Assistant Professor.

On July 9 we welcomed **Matthew Fox** as the Department's Data Analyst. Matthew was previously a Data Specialist with Dalhousie University.

On May 7, **Mary Synette** joined the Division of General Internal Medicine as an Administrative Assistant.

Roger Monk is a casual clerk with the Division of Digestive Care and Endoscopy. Roger started his role on May 10. Roger has over 30 years of experience in the health care system. This [news story shares](#) his philosophy "What you give in life is what you get back". "We're all here for patients and families."

Effective May 22, **Cindy Bergeron**, joined the Division of Endocrinology as an Administrative Assistant. Cindy most recently worked in clerical administration at Twin Oaks Memorial Hospital. Cindy has past experience working in both the division of rheumatology as well as the Education department.

Christa Burton has joined Physician Services as a casual Billing Clerk.

Julee Adams joined the Division of General Internal Medicine as an Administrative Assistant on Feb. 21. Before joining GIM, Julee provided administrative support to the Director of Veterans Services.

FAREWELL

Best wishes to **Dr. Des Leddin**, Division of Digestive Care & Endoscopy, retired on March 31. Dr. Leddin provided 29 years of service to the Department. We also congratulate Des in his new role as the Dean of Medicine, University of Limerick Medical School, Ireland.

Best wishes to **Dr. Virender Bhan** and **Dr. Charles Maxner** who retired from the Division of Neurology in June. Both individuals have made significant contributions in the Department notably in medical education, the MS Clinic, as well as both serving as Division Head. Dr. Chuck Maxner will continue his work in neuro-ophthalmology. **Joanne Slack** will continue her administrative support to Dr. Maxner in neuro-ophthalmology and has moved to the VG Site. Dr. Bhan will be doing some part time work in British Columbia while taking more time with family including his much loved grandchildren.

Best wishes to **Dr. David Haase** who retired from the Division of General Internal Medicine in June. Dr. Haase previously retired from the Division of Infectious Diseases. He leaves with more than 40 years of experience in medical education, patient care and research. Dr. Haase will be deeply missed.

We wish **Kathy Tanner** all the best in her retirement. Kathy joined the Department in 2005. She was a Billing Clerk with Physician Services.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. John Hanly, Division of Rheumatology, received the **Canadian Rheumatology Association's Distinguished Investigator Award for 2018**. The national award was presented to Dr. Hanly for his accomplished personal research career along with the impact his leadership has had locally, nationally and internationally.



Dr. Stephen Phillips was awarded the **Dr. Gerald W. Archibald Gold-headed Cane Award in the Humanities** on June 2. Dr. Phillips was nominated by an interprofessional group of colleagues, who value his team-based approach to clinical care and his integration of the visual arts into his patient care and teaching.



Dr. Thomas Brothers, internal medicine resident, received the **Dr. Jock Murray Award for Resident Leadership in Global Health** for his exceptional leadership in the global health space. The award recognizes a resident who demonstrates outstanding commitment to global health as they advocate for marginalized populations and explore new ways to engage in clinical service, education, and research. [Dr. Brothers' Acceptance Video](#)



SAVE THE DATE



DoM Research Evening – Prince George Hotel – November 8
Medicine Matters – Lord Nelson Hotel – November 23
DoM Christmas Party – Lord Nelson Hotel – December 6
[150th Anniversary Gala Weekend Celebration](#) – Nov. 2-4 Tickets on sale now