



MEDICINE MATTERS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

HTTP://DOM.MEDICINE.DAL.CA

NO. 4, SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

CARDIOLOGY · CRITICAL CARE · DERMATOLOGY · ENDOCRINOLOGY · GASTROENTEROLOGY · GENERAL MEDICINE · GERIATRIC MEDICINE · HEMATOLOGY · INFECTIOUS DISEASES · MEDICAL ONCOLOGY · NEPHROLOGY · NEUROLOGY · PALLIATIVE MEDICINE · PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION · RESPIROLOGY · RHEUMATOLOGY

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Awards, recognition, appreciation... are not why we do what we do but it is important to acknowledge excellence in all of its many forms.

Spring is a time when formal recognition of many activities is made. The DoM is fortunate to have a number of extraordinary individuals who have been recognized this year.

The annual faculty-resident Spring Party provides an opportunity for the Department to say good-bye to the residents leaving our education program and to acknowledge those who contributed to their education.

The Department strives to recognize the contribution made at all levels. In June the DoM held a support staff appreciation tea, at which time I expressed our thanks to the 150 secretaries, team leads, booking and registration clerks, managers and administrators in the DoM.

Excellence recognition is for exceptional accomplishment and these awards speak to that level of activity in our Department and beyond, and we congratulate all of our award and grant winners. However, anything anyone in our Department does to improve the lives of others deserves a 'special thanks'. Many good things are done without a lot of fanfare, but are equally as important as those that are publicly lauded, as frequently it is the little things that count the most! So keep up the good work and strive for excellence.

R. Allan Purdy

Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University
District Chief, Department of Medicine, Capital District Health Authority

CLINICAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Dr. Tallal Younis, Division of Medical Oncology, has been awarded a five-year Clinical Research Scholar award from Dalhousie University effective October 2008.

Dr. Dietrich Henzler, Division of Critical Care, received a Clinical Research Scholar award through his major appointment in the Department of Anaesthesiology.

COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

Dr. Ratika Parkash, Division of Cardiology, received the Award of Excellence in Clinical Research, and the Award of Excellence in Clinical Practice went to **Dr. Geoffrey Turnbull**, Division of Gastroenterology, at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine Community of Scholars Award Dinner in April.



SPRING PARTY

The annual Department of Medicine Spring Party, held on June 12 at the Prince George Hotel, celebrated the achievements of residents and faculty.



Dr. Allan Purdy presented the 2007 DoM Achievement Award to **Dr. Lynn Johnston**, Division of Infectious Diseases



Dr. Siraj Ahmad, Division of Rheumatology, received the Brian M. Chandler Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education presented by **Dr. Evelyn Sutton**, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie

DoM Excellence in Medical Education Awards 2007

presented by **Dr. Evelyn Sutton**, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie



Dr. David Dupere
Division of Palliative Medicine



Dr. Peter Green
Division of Dermatology



Dr. Robert Horton
Division of Palliative Medicine



Dr. Stephen Beed
Division of Critical Care

MOVING ON



The DoM Spring Party is an opportunity to recognize the Postgraduate Year 3 (PGY3) core Internal Medicine residents who are moving on to subspecialty training, as designed below.

(back row of photo, l-r):

Darrell White, DoM Program Director

Agiela Abdulla, Respiriology, University of Manitoba

Abdulla Aal Ali, Geriatric Medicine, Dalhousie University

Chris Sharpe, Hematology, McMaster University

Gordon Yeung, Nephrology, Dalhousie University

Kim Styles, Cardiology, Dalhousie University

Lori Connors, Allergy & Immunology, McMaster University

Stephanie Snow, Medical Oncology, Dalhousie University

(front row:)

Vikas Chaubey, Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary

Sherief Kamel, Cardiology, Dalhousie University

Julie Price, Medical Oncology, University of Alberta

Kerri Purdy, Dermatology, Dalhousie University

(missing from photo:)

Abdulgani Abonowara, Cardiology, Dalhousie University

Fawaz Al Mutairi, Cardiology, University of Ottawa

The DoM also offers congratulations to our trainees who completed their subspecialty training:

Osama Elkhateeb, Cardiology, will be completing an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at Dalhousie University

Jaroslav Hubacek, Cardiology, is moving to Calgary to complete an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship

Paul Mears, Cardiology, is completing further training at McMaster University for 2008-09 in Echo & Cardiac Imaging Fellowship

Rob Stevenson, Cardiology, is returning to Saint John, New Brunswick, to practice

Dale Clayton, Endocrinology, is now on faculty in the Division of Endocrinology, DoM

Alison Mackay, Endocrinology, is starting a practice in British Columbia

Michael Curley, Gastroenterology, is a part-time faculty member in the DoM, with a community-based practice in Halifax.

Patrick Feltmate, Geriatric Medicine, is starting a practice in Fredericton, New Brunswick

Kata Koller, Geriatric Medicine, is completing further training at McMaster University for 2008-09

Sudeep Shivakumar, Hematology, is staying for July to complete a staff locum, and then moving to Ottawa to complete a fellowship in thrombosis

Maida Balila, Infectious Diseases, is returning to Saudi Arabia to begin practice

Peter Boulton, Neurology, is moving to Abbotsford, British Columbia, in the fall to practice

Emily Shaw, Rheumatology, is a part-time faculty member in the DoM with a community-based practice in Halifax.

CHIEF RESIDENTS

The Internal Medicine Program was fortunate to have **Drs. Julie Price** and **Kerri Purdy** as the Chief Medicine Residents in the 2007-08 academic year. Julie and Kerri helped to plan and implement a stronger training Program, in particular working with the various committees in the Department to assist in planning the phase-in of the new Medical Teaching Unit.

We are equally as fortunate to welcome **Drs. Lisa Barrett** and **Robert Berger** to the Chief Medicine Resident roles as we move into 2008-09. Robert and Lisa have jumped right in and have been instrumental in the implementation of our new MTU structure, in addition to all of their other duties. Robert is a Dalhousie Medical School graduate originally from Cape Breton who takes a keen interest in medical education and leadership for the IM Resident group. Lisa is a Memorial University Medical School graduate, originally from Newfoundland. Lisa has completed her PhD and is currently completing time in the Clinical Investigator Program in addition to her role as co-Chief Medicine Resident.



Chief Residents **Lisa Barrett, Julie Price, Robert Berger, Kerri Purdy**

RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY

The Department of Medicine's annual Resident Research Day was held on April 17th at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Twelve oral presentations were held in the afternoon session. The guest speaker was Dr. Timothy Christie, Director of Ethics Services, Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation, Saint John, New Brunswick.

The evening session included seventeen poster presentations. **Dr. Tallal Younis**, Division of Medical Oncology, presented the state of the art lecture "*Adjuvant systemic therapy in breast cancer: how costs impact treatment decisions?*"

Congratulations to the 2008 DoM Resident Research Day winners:

Best Core Resident Oral Presentation:	Julie Price
Best Core Resident Poster Presentation:	Stephanie Snow
Best Sub-specialty Resident Oral Presentation:	Melissa Andrew
Best Sub-specialty Resident Poster Presentation:	Kata Koller
Best Medical Student Oral Presentation:	Ciorsti MacIntyre
Best Medical Student Poster Presentation:	David Shaw
Best Case Study Presentation:	Peter Inkpen
Residents' Choice Best Oral or Poster:	Julie Price

DoM resident award winners at the May 28th Faculty of Medicine Research Day were **Melissa Andrew**, Division of Geriatric Medicine, the GlaxoSmithKline Award - Best Clinical Research Award, and **Julie Price**, Internal Medicine, the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association Award - Second Prize in Clinical Research Oral Presentation.

The **Dr. I.M. Szuler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Internal Medicine** is given to a 4th year student who, during his/her 3rd year of clerkship in Internal Medicine, best demonstrates personal and academic qualities exemplified by Dr. Szuler. This year's recipient was **Osama Loubani**.

MASTER CLINICIAN SERIES

Dr. Thomas Marrie

Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry,
University of Alberta

“Serendipity”

Tuesday, August 26; 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Royal Bank Theatre, Halifax Infirmary

MTU

Dr. Simon Jackson, Division of Cardiology, has been appointed the MTU Director and **Dr. David Simpson**, Division of General Medicine, the Associate Director. The Department thanks **Dr. Stephen Couban**, Division of Hematology, for his leadership as MTU Service Chief since January 2005. The Department of Medicine Medical Teaching Unit (MTU) underwent significant restructuring, effective June 30th. Two 20-bed units on 8.2 Halifax Infirmary provide quality patient care and education experience for our learners.

GRAND ROUNDS AWARDS

The Department of Medicine 2007-08 Grand Rounds Awards, presented at Rounds on June 24th, went to:

Excellence in Presentation

Dr. Simon Jackson
Division of Cardiology

Award of Merit

Dr. Paul Hernandez
Division of Respiriology

Award of Merit

Dr. K. Sue Robinson
Division of Hematology

Presentation Style

Dr. Sam Minor
Division of Critical Care



Dr. Sam Minor receiving his award from Dr. Simon Jackson, Chair, DoM Grand Rounds Committee

Dr. Laura Finlayson has been named the Head/Chief, Division of Dermatology, effective July 1, 2008.

Dr. Richard Langley, Division of Dermatology, received the Silver Shovel Award at the spring convocation of the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. The award is given to the professor who, in the opinion of the medical class, has had the most impact on their medical careers. In June Dr. Langley also received the Canadian Dermatology Foundation Lectureship award.

Dr. Stephen Couban, Division of Hematology, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Dalhousie University Senate.



Dr. Ormille Hayne, Division of Hematology, received the PARI-MP (Professional Association of Residents in the Maritime Provinces) Excellence in Teaching Award 2007, presented by **Ms. Sandi Flemming**, Executive Director, PARI-MP.

Correction: the Division of Endocrinology/Metabolism article in the Spring 2008 *Medicine Matters* should have identified the ENT physician working with the Endocrine Surgery clinic as **Dr. Joseph Nasser**, not Dr. Bassam.

RESEARCH

Dr. John Hanly, Division of Rheumatology, has received a five-year CIHR operating grant to lead an international inception cohort study of neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The study involves 27 academic centres worldwide and will follow 1,250 recently diagnosed SLE patients for up to 10 years, with the goal of better understanding nervous system disease in SLE. In addition to Dr. Hanly, other members of the Halifax research team are **Ms. Grace McCurdy** (research nurse) and **Ms. Lisa Fougere** (study co-ordinator).

Dr. Dietrich Henzler, Division of Critical Care, received a Lung Association of Nova Scotia grant “Use of newly developed model of analysis of Respirology system pressure-volume curves in animals with acute lung injury during partial ventilator support”.

Dr. Shelly McNeil, Division of Infectious Diseases, a member of the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) Team Grant: Pandemic Preparedness – Influenza Biology, Vaccines, Ethics, Legal & Social Research, has been named co-investigator on the project “optimizing health care worker inter-pandemic vaccine uptake in acute & long term care”.

Dr. Ratika Parkash, Division of Cardiology, has been awarded CIHR Randomized Controlled Trial Mentorship award. This prestigious award will assist her in the development of a trial of angiotensin receptor blockers for the prevention of atrial fibrillation post-ablation.

Dr. Louise Parker, Division of Medical Oncology, the Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division) Population Cancer Research Chair, is the Principal Investigator for the Atlantic Canada section of the Canadian Cancer Cohort Study – called Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow’s Health (PATH). The 5-year, \$7m study with 30,000 Atlantic participants will look at the interplay of environment, lifestyle and genetic risk factors, and develop a cancer control strategy.

Dr. Paige Morehouse, Division of Geriatric Medicine, received a Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF) operating grant “An evidence-based health communication program for driving cessation in dementia”

Dr. Daniel Rayson, Division of Medical Oncology, received a Capital Health Research Fund grant for “A Comparison of Demographic and Clinical-Pathological Characteristics of True Interval and Screen-Detected Breast Cancers Among Participants of the Nova Scotia Breast Screening Program: A Nested Case-Control Study”.

Dr. Graeme Rocker, Division of Respiriology, received a grant from the Lung Association of Nova Scotia “Attitudes in use of low-dose opioids for treatment of dyspnea in advanced COPD: a study of physicians in Nova Scotia”

Dr. Tallal Younis, Division of Medical Oncology, received a research grant from the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation - Atlantic Chapter to support the project “Cost Utility of TC vs AC Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer”.

The Canadian Nurses Association recently celebrated its Centennial. **Ms. Geri Hirsch**, Hepatology Services, received one of their “100 in 100” awards, chosen from nurses across Canada.

LEA C. STEEVES AWARD

Dr. Douglas Sinclair, Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie, presented the Faculty of Medicine Lea C. Steeves Award to **Dr. Tom Ransom**, Division of Endocrinology, for teaching excellence in continuing medical education.



WELCOME TO THE DoM



DALE CLAYTON

Dr. Dale Clayton joined the Division of Endocrinology in July 2008. He is well known to the Department, having completed residencies in Internal Medicine (2003-2006) and Endocrinology (2006-2008) at Dalhousie. Dale holds an MD from Dalhousie as well as a Master of Health Science in Community Health & Epidemiology from the University of Toronto.



MICHAEL CURLEY

Dr. Michael Curley joined the Division of Gastroenterology following residency training in the Dalhousie University Gastroenterology Training Program and the Dalhousie Internal Medicine Training Program (2003-2006). He obtained his undergraduate education at the University of Prince Edward Island.



PENELOPE POYAH

After graduating from the University of British Columbia in Pharmacology, Penelope worked in R&D for a Vancouver pharmaceutical company. After UBC medical school (2003), she went from coast to coast to do her internal medicine residency at Dalhousie. She is excited to be back and joining the Division of Nephrology after completing her nephrology training at the University of Calgary.



EMILY SHAW

Originally from Dartmouth, Dr. Emily Shaw graduated from medical school at Dalhousie University in 2003. She continued at Dalhousie University to complete an Internal Medicine residency, followed by a fellowship in Rheumatology, finishing in 2008. Emily has joined the Division of Rheumatology and is establishing a community-based rheumatology practice.



TOBIAS WITTER

Dr. Tobias Witter, Division of Critical Care, attended the Medical School of the University of Heidelberg, Germany, graduating in 1999. He trained as an anaesthesiologist in Ingolstadt, Germany, followed by a fellowship in Critical Care in Erfurt, Germany. He was on staff in Anaesthesia and Critical Care in Erfurt, Germany, until deciding to move to Halifax. The academic focus of his Critical Care appointment is to establish a Pig Sepsis Model for training and research purposes.

The more things change...

Dr. Stephanie Kaiser, who was the Acting Head, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism, has been named the Head/Chief.

Dr. Desmond Leddin's term as Head/Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology has been extended six months while the search for a Head/Chief is being conducted.

Dr. Eamonn Eeles, Division of General Medicine, who completed a locum with the Division, has accepted a position with the Division.

Dr. Gabriel (Gaby) Mikael continues in the Division of Gastroenterology with a part-time community-based appointment.



CHRIS THERIAULT

Chris completed his Bachelor of Engineering Degree at Dalhousie University in 2008 within the Industrial Engineering discipline. He received a Diploma in Engineering in 2005 from St. Francis Xavier University. Through a trio of internships, he has gained experience in Industry, particularly in database development. He has joined the DoM Research Office team as a Database Consultant, a resource to DoM research staff. Chris has the ability to create and modify databases for use in research projects. He is also available for data extraction and consulting purposes.

TOM HENNEBERRY

Tom has joined the DoM in the role of Data Manager. He is responsible for the development and maintenance of performance metrics to support the DoM through the management of data extracted from the various software applications employed throughout Capital Health. Tom can be found in the Bethune Building, Room 452.



Other new faces in the DoM are the class of 2008 PGY1s, pictured below at an Orientation BBQ, Dalhousie University Club:



Back Row: Lisa Barrett (Chief Resident), Darrell White (Program Director), Meegan Dowe (Education Coordinator), Gilles Roy (Saint John based), Robert Berger (Chief Resident), Colin Struthers, Raid Shaarabaf, Stephanie Carpentier

Front Row: Ciorsti MacIntyre, Joe Rigley (Saint John based), Casey Clarkson, Mohammed Al-Jawad, Ferhan Siddiqi, Faisal Al Ghamdi, Divya Virmani, Elana Murphy, Rob Martin, Ismail Sharif, Magdalena Drewniak

Familiar faces missing from the DoM – although they might not miss us quite as much as we miss them – as they are enjoying well deserved retirements, are **Dr. Ormille Hayne**, Division of Hematology; **Dr. Jennifer Klotz**, Head/Chief, Division of Dermatology; **Dr. Ross Langley**, Division of Hematology; **Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Murray**, Division of Dermatology; and **Mr. Bob Kanygin**, DoM Data Manager.

Dr. Blair O'Neill, Division Head/Chief, Division of Cardiology, has relocated to Alberta. **Dr. Ata-Ur-Rehman Quraishi** is the Acting Head/Chief, while a search is being conducted.

It was with great sadness the Department learned of the passing of **Mrs. Catherine Flanagan** (nee Beer), 33, in April following a courageous battle with cancer. Catherine was a secretary in the Department of Medicine since 2001, in the Division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and most recently in the Division of Dermatology. Her beautiful smile and gracious manner are greatly missed.