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

DoM Excellence in Medical Education Awards 2007 presented by Dr. Evelyn Sutton, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, Education, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie

Dr. Siraj Ahmad, Division of Rheumatology, received the Brian M. Chandler Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Education

Dr. David Dupere
Division of Palliative Medicine

Dr. Robert Horton
Division of Palliative Medicine

Dr. Peter Green
Division of Dermatology

Dr. Stephen Beed
Division of Critical Care
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.

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

Osama Elkhateeb, Cardiology, 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.

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 Medical Student Poster Presentation: Kata Koller
Best Medical Student Poster Presentation: Ciorsti MacIntyre
Best Case Study Presentation: David Shaw
Residents’ Choice Best Oral or Poster: Peter Inkpen

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.

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.
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 Grand Rounds on June 24th, went to:

**Excellence in Presentation**
Dr. Simon Jackson
Division of Cardiology

**Award of Merit**
Dr. Paul Hernandez
Division of Respiratory

**Award of Merit**
Dr. K. Sue Robinson
Division of Hematology

**Presentation Style**
Dr. Sam Minor
Division of Critical Care

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.

**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 interpandemic 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 Respiratory, 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.
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 Ecles, 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.

Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Murray, Division of Dermatology; and Dr. Ross Langley, Division of Hematology; 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.

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.

Dr. Emily Shaw, who was the Acting Head, Division of Gastroenterology with a part-time community-based appointment.

Dr. Stephanie Kaiser, who was the Acting Head, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism., has been named the Head/Chief after completing her nephrology training at the University of Calgary.

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 Anesthesia and Critical Care in Erfurt, Germany, until deciding to move to Halifax. The academic focus of his Critical Care appointment is to establish a Pigs Sepsis Model for training and research purposes.

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Chris Therapy 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.

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 Dow (Education Coordinator), Gilles Roy (Saint John based), Robert Berger (Chief Resident), Colin Struthers, Raif Shaarbaa, Stephanie Carpenter

Front Row: Ciosri MacIntyre, Joe Rigley (Saint John based), Robert Berger (Chief Resident), Colin Struthers, Raif Shaarbaa, Stephanie Carpenter

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. Omille 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.