Sudeep Shivakumar graduated from Queen's University in 2003, and then completed residencies in Internal Medicine and Hematology at Dalhousie. He went on to do a clinical fellowship in thrombosis at the University of Ottawa under Drs. Phil Wells and Marc Rodger, before he returned to the DoM’s Division of Hematology to practice. His interests include medical education and malignancy associated thrombosis.

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The DoM Education Office welcomed Katie Greenwood in the role of Special Projects Coordinator for the Department of Medicine in June of 2010 from her previous position as Clinical Secretary and Education Coordinator for the Division of Hematology. Katie brings her experience in education, her positive attitude and organizational powers to the Education Office, which are a perfect fit for the Education Office team.

Sarah’s presentation was "Pregnancy Associated Liver Disease in Nova Scotia: An Epidemiological Review From 1998-2001"; Dr. McCurdy presented "Assessment of Patient Comfort During Endoscopy. Experience at a Canadian Academic Center", while Dr. Wadhwa reviewed Liver Transplantation in Atlantic Canada: 25 Year Experience. The final talk was by Dr. Berger "An Audit of Adenoma Detection Rate at a Canadian Academic Center".

Dr. Arnold Mitsitski, DoM Research Scientist, was granted a Dalhousie University Research Professorship which is granted to a limited number (15) of Dalhousie faculty members who have achieved distinction in scholarship.

The Dalhousie Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit is the MS Care and Research Centre for Nova Scotia. DMSRU has a leader in MS Care for more than 30 years both nationally and internationally. DMSRU has relocated to the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre to improve service delivery to patients and families.

The new contact information for DMSRU is:

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Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre
1341 Summer Street, and Floor
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Phone: (902) 473-5734
Fax: (902) 425-1512

This is my final contribution to the newsletter. It is also a time for reflection and moving forward. I have been very fortunate to have a mentor career in the field of neurology that spans the time from reviewing plain skull x-rays to determine if the pineal gland was off-center, thus suggesting a mass lesion, to the modern era of MRI scanning, which shows almost textbook pathology of brain lesions. The profound leaps in technological understanding of all bodies, and particularly the nervous system, has been truly amazing. This type of knowledge has transformed the way we practice and deliver medical care.

Along the journey, over the past four decades, I have also learned that science and technology cannot conquer all disorders and diseases. In medicine and its subspecialties there still remains a need for our very human brains to solve problems of diagnosis and treatment, and also to come up with ideas and solutions to help our patients, when science and technology provide no answers or the natural progression of life and its inherent diseases and disorders are beyond the capability of modern medicine.

As I have said in the past, I believe the future of our Department is bright, and exciting new things will continue to occur as time moves forward. Thus, on returning to clinical medicine and teaching, I will watch with great interest the forward trajectory of our Department and its members. It has been a distinct privilege and an honour to lead this Department over the past several years. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to move our Department forward and maintain our excellent reputation in clinical medicine, research and education. Keep up the good work in the best interests of our patients and learners -- as, ultimately, we are all patients at some time in our lives, and we can never stop learning if our profession is to continue to be successful!

Dr. David Anderson has accepted a five-year appointment effective July 1 as Head and District Chief of the Department of Medicine at Dalhousie University and Capital District Health Authority.

Dr. David Anderson is well known within the Department as he is a full professor in the Dalhousie Departments of Medicine, Pathology, and Community Health & Epidemiology. He is a clinical hematologist and a well-established clinical researcher, evaluating the epidemiology and management of thromboembolic disease.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Anderson is Head/Chief of the Division of Hematology, Deputy Head, Department of Medicine, Assistant Dean Clinical Trials Research, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine; and a former Director of DoM Research.

He graduated with distinction from Dalhousie Medical School (class of 1983) and went on to complete a residency in internal medicine in 1986. He followed that with training in hematology, which began at Beth Israel Medical Center at McMaster University in 1989, where he completed a fellowship in thrombosis research.

Angels Among Us

The QEII Foundation’s Angels in Action allows patients and their families to recognize caregivers who make a real difference. Four residents on the MTU during the Christmas break received angel pins at a celebration on February 24 at the bequest of a patient’s grateful family. A contribution is made to the QEII Foundation in their names.
The Division of Respiratory congratulates Dr. Meredith Chissueon on successfully completing her two-year residency in 2010 in the Division of Neurology at Dalhousie. Meredith was the first resident enrolled in the Division of Respiratory’s new Royal College Training Program. She recently completed the Program in December 2010.

Meredith, pictured with Dr. Colin McParland, has built on her residency training to further her career development by competing for and recently being awarded a National Level Clinical Fellowship from the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Congratulations to Meredith on successful completion of her Residency and new Fellowship Award. And congratulations to the Division of Respiratory for successfully launching their new Royal College training program.

- Division of Respiratory

The Department of Medicine’s Research Day was held on Thursday, April 21st, 2010. The afternoon session consisted of 35 oral presentations and in the evening there were 35 poster presentations.

Marion Cornish
Best Core Resident Oral Presentation
Collin Josephson
Best Sub-Specialist Resident Oral Presentation
Arleigh McCreary
Best Sub-Specialty Resident Poster Presentation
Natalie Parks
Best Medical Student Poster Presentation
David Anderson
Resident’s Choice Best Faculty Oral or Poster Presentation

- DoM Research Office

The annual Spring Party on June 9 recognized outstanding educational achievements.

The DoM Excellence in Medical Education Awards went to Dr. Paul Hernandez, Division of Respiratory; Dr. Wanda Hasegawa, Division of Hematology; and Dr. David Simpson, Division of General Medicine.

Among the many deserving resident awards, the Outstanding Resident Award PGY3 went to Dr. Brian Buchanan; the Outstanding Resident PGY4 to Dr. Peter Green, Division of Rheumatology, as well as an accomplished clinician and researcher.

- DoM Education Office

**Achievement**

The 2011 DoM Achievement Award was very deservedly given to Dr. John Hanly, Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Hanly is the Chair of the Dool Financial Management Ctte, and former Head/Chief of the Division of Rheumatology, as well as an accomplished clinician and researcher.

**DoM Spring Party**

**DoM Research Day Awards**

**DoM 2010-11 Grand Rounds Awards**

**Oxall Excellence**

Peter Green, Division of Dermatology “Tanning beds and melanoma: from bench to bedside to ban”

T.L. (Jack) Murray, Division of Neurology “From Lesions to Liberation Therapy: A History of MS Treatments”

Stephanie Snow, Division of Medical Oncology “Talking Ovarian to Death: What We Know and What We Don’t Know About Cell Phones and Brain Tumours”

**Award of Merit**

Don MacIntosh, A Lodging in Memory of Brenda Bailey for the Division of Gastroenterology’s “Colon Cancer Screening in Canada and Nova Scotia: An Update”

**Division of Infectious Diseases**

T. Marrie Lecturer, Dr. Jay Keystone “Illness in the traveller: a trip to an ill near you”

Creating, promoting and delivering high quality medical education, research, administration and health care
Dr. Donald Weaver, Division of Neurology, is receiving well-deserved recognition for his world-class research. His research is mainly on epilepsy and dementia. Within the last two years he has been awarded four of Canada’s most prestigious awards.

In March 2010 Dr. Weaver was awarded a Killiam Research Fellowship. This award is also considered one of Canada’s most prestigious and is designed to recognize and support an eminent Canadian scholar who has established an outstanding research reputation. Dr. Weaver was given this award specifically for his research into the cause and cure of Alzheimer’s disease. Nine are awarded in Canada each year.

The Banatell Award is one of the premier awards given by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering and is awarded for outstanding contributions for innovative design or production activities/process design or multidisciplinary design-directed research or production. Dr. Weaver received this award specifically for his “innovative work in drug design and optimization as well as his pioneering work concerning the concept of ‘micropharma’ and the role of universities in drug discovery.” Dr. Weaver has the rare honour of being one of the few non-chemical engineers to receive the coveted award.

The Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology got in on the act and awarded Dr. Weaver the 2011 CCNP Heinz Lehmann Award in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of research in neuropsychopharmacology in Canada. This award was shared between Dr. Weaver and Dr. Rachel Tyndale of the University of Toronto.

Don is also a busy clinician, and he is stepping down as Chair of the DoM Research Committee after five years.

More Outstanding Neurologists…

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia has named Dr. Timothy Sibbald, Division of Neurology, this year’s recipient of the Gold-Headed Cane Award for Excellence. Awarded by nominations from colleagues, it acknowledges outstanding contributions to medicine in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Jock Murray, Division of Neurology, has been appointed to the Volunteer Committee of the American College of Physicians. The committee coordinates and organizes physicians who contribute their time and talent locally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Murray is a chairman emeritus of the American College of Physicians, the only Canadian to have held this position, and the only chairman to have served two terms.

Dr. Murray, a Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Medicine, has also been named President of the Robert Pape Foundation, which was founded in 1992 to support programs that relate to arts and medicine. The foundation supports many projects, including the Medical Humanities Program at Dalhousie Medical School and scholarships at NSCAD.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada named Dr. Charles (Chuck) Maxner, Division of (what else) Neurology and the Department of Ophthalmology/Visual Sciences, as their 2010 Mentor of the Year Region 3 (Atlantic Provinces).

The Department was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. William (Bill) McCormick, a retired member of the Division of Neurology. For those who knew him well, Bill was a friend and colleague, a great human being, neurologist and teacher.

The Department lost another valued member, Dr. Earle Reid. From 1965 to the time of his death, Dr. Reid practiced medicine as a specialist in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

Finding New Paths

Congratulations to Dvns. Laurie Mallory and Paige Moohoorse, Division of Geriatric Medicine, whose PATH approach has received one of six Leading Practice recognitions at Capital Health from Accreditation Canada.

Accreditation Canada defines a leading practice as a noteworthy practice demonstrating innovation and creativity, and has a positive impact on services or outcomes for clients and families.

The PATH (Palliative and Therapeutic Harmonization) meets the needs of frail elderly patients with multiple disease diagnoses through comprehensive assessment, clear communication to patients/family, and careful medical decision-making using a standardized approach. The goal of this program is to educate patients and families about how to take current and future health status into account when making health care decisions. One aspect is to help people learn about the potential risks and benefits of surgical and medical treatments.

Exit surveys indicate that, before coming to the PATH clinic, only 75% of the respondents felt they had a complete or very strong understanding of their medical conditions, knew what to expect in the future, were aware of how conditions affect future health and medical decisions, and had what information they need to make good medical decisions. After PATH, 94% of decision makers felt they knew what information was needed for medical decision making. Satisfaction with the process was unanimous.

Almost half (49%) of the patients/families who participated changed their care plan following the PATH process. Several patients opted for treatment at home. PATH physicians also supports individuals as they are dying so they can stay at home. The PATH process shows that providing extensive education to patients and families helps them make more informed decisions.

- by Heather MacLeod, Geriatric Associate

The Department’s best wishes to Dr. Dale Clayton, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Dr. Osama El-Hakeebat, Division of Cardiology, who are leaving the Department in July to pursue other career opportunities.

- by Peter Crofts, Division of Cardiology, retiree June 30.

INSPIRED

There is a new clinical service within Respirology called “INSPIRED” the acronym for Implementing a Novel and Supportive outreach Program of Individualized Care for Patients and Families Living with COPD.

The “INSPIRED” outreach program got underway at the QEII HSC in July 2010 under the direction of the medical director, Dr. Graeme Rocker and Care Coordinator Joanne Young, RRT. “INSPIRED” aims to support both patients and families who are living with COPD in the community setting.

“INSPIRED” brings together a new team of professionals who are available to visit patients during a hospital admission and afterwards in their homes to: 1) provide education and support, 2) help navigate the local healthcare system and gain access to services that can support them, 3) improve communication among all the professionals who are assisting in their care, and 4) provide COPD action plans and access to a 24-hour helpline that should improve the early care of a flare up of COPD.

The goals of this new program of care are to help reduce the frequencies of hospital admissions, lower lengths of stay for those admitted to hospital by providing home support that enables earlier discharges, and improve health and quality of life for both patients and families.

The Division of Respirology congratulates Dr. Meredith Chiasson on successfully completing her two-year residency in the division of Respirology at Dalhousie. Meredith was the first resident enrolled in the Division of Respirology’s new Royal College Training Program. The program completed the Program in December 2010.

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DoM 2010-11 Grand Rounds Awards

OVERALL EXCELLENCE
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“Tanning beds and melanoma: from bench to bedside to ban”

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Don MacIntosh, Am Lending and Brenda Bailey
Division of the Gastroenterology’s “Colon Cancer Screening in Canada and Nova Scotia: An Update”

CREATING, PROMOTING and DELIVERING QUALITY MEDICAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ADMINISTRATION and HEALTH CARE
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