

# MEDICINE MATTERS

DoM | DEPARTMENT  
of MEDICINE  
*Improving Lives*

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

NO. 8, FALL & WINTER 2011/12 NEWSLETTER

CARDIOLOGY • CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY & CUTANEOUS SCIENCE • ENDOCRINOLOGY • GASTROENTEROLOGY • GENERAL MEDICINE  
GERIATRIC MEDICINE • HEMATOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASES • MEDICAL ONCOLOGY • NEPHROLOGY • NEUROLOGY  
PALLIATIVE MEDICINE • PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION • RESPIROLOGY • RHEUMATOLOGY

## DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORT



It is with great pride that I present our first Medicine Matters issue since I became Department Head in July 2011. I do want to start my report by thanking Dr. Allan Purdy, for the leadership and guidance that he provided our Department and me personally over the past seven years. I know Allan is pleased to have returned to clinical neurology and he continues to make a great contribution to our Department's activities.

This has been a very busy and challenging year for Department members. Royal College accreditation of our post-graduate programs took place in February 2012. Congratulations are in order to all of our programs for receiving accreditation. Success in the process is a reflection of the excellent educational process that our core and subspecialty programs provide. They also reflect the hard work done by program directors, other faculty and our staff. It is a team effort and I am grateful for the dedication and excellence shown by all.

As is outlined in this newsletter, we also are able to celebrate research successes and recruitment of new faculty to our Department. It is very gratifying to see new Faculty members come to our Department and add to the rich clinical and academic environment that we are developing. You can expect future announcements of additional recruitment to take place in upcoming issues of Medicine Matters.

One current focus of our attention is strategic planning. We have hosted seven focus group sessions to date and have been getting valuable input into future directions for the Department. We will be having a retreat on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to move to the next phase of this work. I hope you that Department members will continue to be engaged as we move forward with this work. Thanks to the strategic planning steering committee for moving this important process along.

Finally I would like to express the Department's deepest condolences to the families of two of our formers members Dr. Sandy Murray and Dr. Earle Reid. Both of these men made considerable contributions

to the care of Nova Scotians and to the education of students and physicians. They were mentors of mine and they will be greatly missed by their families, friends and colleagues.

### David Anderson, MD, FRCPC

*Head, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University  
District Chief, Department of Medicine, Capital District Health Authority  
Professor of Medicine, Community Health & Epidemiology, Pathology*

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

**Dr. Simon Jackson** has accepted the position of Deputy Department Head, Department of Medicine. Dr. Jackson joined the Department of Medicine and the Division of Cardiology of Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine and the QEII Health Sciences Centre in 2003. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Program Director for the Adult Cardiology Training Program; Medical Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program; with interests in diagnostic catheterization, congenital heart disease and pulmonary hypertension. Our thanks to **Dr. Des Leddin**, who stepped down from the position in June.

As of October 1, 2011, **Dr. Kevork Peltikian**, a liver specialist and associate professor of medicine and surgery at Dalhousie Medical School has assumed the Interim Head role for the Division of Gastroenterology.

**Dr. Stephen Couban** was named the Interim Head, Division of Hematology effective July 1, 2011.

The Department has a new Director of Research, **Dr. John Hanly**. Our thanks to **Dr. Don Weaver**, who stepped down as Director.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael West** on his appointment as Assistant Dean, Research - Clinical Trials.

**Dr. John Dornan**, who was the Head of the Department of Medicine, Saint John, has accepted the position of Chief of Staff for the Saint John zone. Dr. Paul Sohi has been appointed Acting Head while a survey/search is undertaken.

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CREATING, PROMOTING AND DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ADMINISTRATION AND HEALTH CARE.

## RESEARCH AWARDS

Below is a list of recent successful grant awardees.

AGENCY	GRANT AWARDEE
CIHR	<b>Sultan Darvesh</b> "Synthesis and Evaluation of Butyrylcholinesterase Ligands as Brain Molecular Imaging Biomarkers for Alzheimer Disease" \$159,466
CIHR	<b>Arnold Mitnitski</b> "Mathematical modeling of fitness and frailty in relation to biological age in individuals and populations" \$130,934
CIHR	<b>Ratika Parkash</b> "Atrial Substrate Modification with Aggressive Blood Pressure Control to Prevent Atrial Fibrillation" \$195,203
NSHRF 2009-2010	<b>Kara Thompson</b> Systematic Review – "Pharmacological treatments to prevent epilepsy following traumatic head injury" \$24,192
Terry Fox Research Award	<b>Stephen Couban</b> Improved assignment to best available therapy for myelodysplasia/acute myeloid leukemia \$100,000
Capital Health Research Fund	<b>Ali Imran</b> Transdermal thyroid hormone delivery – proof of principle study \$11,119
Capital Health Research Fund	<b>Vanessa Meier-Stephenson (PGY2)</b> Vaccination of splenectomized adult patients in Capital Health, Nova Scotia – an audit of our results after implementation of a Peri-Splenectomy Program/Vaccine Kit \$2,572
Capital Health Research Fund	<b>Ratika Parkash</b> An innovative approach to atrial fibrillation \$15,000
Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute Breast Cancer Society of Canada/QEII Foundation Awards for Breast Cancer Research	<b>Tallal Younis</b> "Economic evaluation of primary G-CSF for adjuvant chemotherapy in breast cancer" \$39,617

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Dr. Fred Guy** who retired from the Division of General Internal Medicine in June 2011.

**Dr. Michael Love** who is the new incoming President for the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology (CAIC).

**Dr. Louise Parker**, who has been appointed Chair of the CIHR Cancer Research Institute Advisory Board as of September 1.

**Dr. Graeme Rocker**, medical director of the INSPIRED Program, has been approved for hospital funding. The new program was recently awarded the Silver Prize in Capital Health's 2012 Quality Competition.

**Dr. Meredith Chiasson**, PGY6, Fellow of Cystic Fibrosis Canada, St. Michaels Hospital/Dalhousie University successfully passed her Respiriology Sub-speciality Exam, October 2011. She is the first graduate of the Respiriology Postgraduate Training program.

**Gastroenterology:** On September 13 the President of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology presented the Division of Gastroenterology with a recognition award for endoscopy quality assurance.



### 9A Nurses -

The Division of Gastroenterology presented the nurses of 9A with a plaque in recognition of outstanding patient care for GI Service on January 20, 2012.

The Renal Dialysis Unit in Yarmouth was dedicated in the honor of **Dr. Rajinder Parkash** for his 30 years service as an Internist (Spring 2011).

Congratulations to Department of Medicine Internal Medicine Chief Residents **Drs. John Igoe and Jaclyn Flemming** (pictured l-r). The Department thanks the 2010-2011 Chief Residents **Drs. Robert Martin and Ciorsti McIntyre**.



## DR. SHELLY McNEIL RECEIVES \$12M GRANT

Dr. Shelly McNeil is the PI of the Serious Outcomes Surveillance (SOS) Network of the Public Health Agency of Canada/CIHR Influenza Research Network, a 3-year grant from CIHR. She formed the SOS Network to evaluate influenza vaccine effectiveness in the prevention of hospitalization in adults. CIHR funding will end in May 2012 so she submitted an Investigator-initiated proposal to GSK to broaden the network to allow us achieve sufficient power to monitor vaccine effectiveness in patients over the age of 65, to assess influenza burden of disease, to evaluate the impact of

frailty on vaccine effectiveness, and to quantify influenza-associated healthcare utilization and cost. Dr. McNeil has been successful in securing funding of \$12 million over 3 years to undertake these studies from GlaxoSmithKline global and GSK Canada. Co-investigators in the DoM include Drs. Tom Marrie, Melissa Andrew & Todd Hatchette. The project is sponsored by the Canadian Center for Vaccinology, a partnership of Capital Health, the IWK, and Dalhousie.





## DOM GRAND ROUNDS



The Grand Rounds awards were given out on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Our thanks to **Dr. Simon Jackson** who served as Chair of the committee from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2011. The committee is now chaired by **Dr. Ian Epstein**.

Special thanks to **Kathryn Nelson** for all her enthusiasm and support to the Grand Rounds Committee over the past 11 years. **Traci Malley-McBride** now supports the Grand Rounds Committee.



Overall Excellence.....Dr. Peter Green\*  
 Award of Merit..... Dr. Bernie Bradley  
 Award of Merit..... Dr. Desmond Leddin\*  
 Award of Merit.....Dr. Donald MacIntosh  
 Award of Merit..... Dr. Stephanie Snow\*  
 Presentation Style..... Dr. T. J. (Jock) Murray  
 Guest Speaker for the T. Marrie Lecturer .....  
 ..... Dr. Jay Keyston



\* pictured left

**Dr. Peter Green** won the 2010-11 Overall Excellence Award for Department of Medicine Grand Rounds for his presentation: Tanning beds and Melanoma: from bench to bedside to ban.

Medical Jeopardy took place on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The residents won Medical Jeopardy again. Many thanks to **Dr. Gord Gubitz** who designed and emceed the memorable game.



## ANGELS IN ACTION

To be named an “Angel in Action” is a very special recognition awarded by the QEII Foundation. The nomination is made by a patient or family member, who also make a donation to the Foundation in the recipient’s name to honour a specific, exceptional patient care experience or episode.

In 2011, the following DoM individuals and teams were recognized with Angels in Action awards:

- Staff of the 8.2 MTU Interprofessional Team
- Dr. Stephen Couban, Hematologist
- Dr. Lori Wood, Medical Oncologist
- Dr. Ratika Parkash, Cardiologist
- Somer Bergman, Cardiology Secretary
- Dr. Paul MacIntyre, Palliative Medicine

Most recently, Roger Monk, a registration Clerk in Gastroenterology was also recognized as an Angel in Action for his exceptional care and kindness in attending to a patient.

Congratulations to all! Department of Medicine physicians and staff regularly go way above and beyond to provide truly exemplary patient care.

## SPRING PARTY



The Department of Medicine Spring Party was held on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Prince George Hotel, Halifax.



## RESEARCH EVENING

The DoM Research Evening was held on November 24, 2011 at the Prince George. Speakers included **Dr. Paige Moorhouse**, **Dr. Anita Mountain**, **Ms. Kara Thompson** and **Dr. Adrian Levy**.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY



The DoM Christmas Party was held on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Halifax Club, Hollis Street.



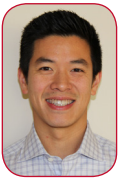
## PHYSICIAN RESOURCE OFFICE



**Jeffrey Dempster** was previously an Associate Professor with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Dalhousie University. He completed the Program of Added Competence in Palliative Medicine with Dalhousie in 2010 and finished a one-year return to service contract in 2011. Dr. Dempster joined the division on August 15, 2011 and the Division of Palliative Medicine is pleased to welcome Jeff as a new faculty member.



**Mary-Margaret Keating** graduated from medical school at Dalhousie University in 2006. She completed her residencies in Internal Medicine in 2009 and Hematology in 2011 both from Dalhousie University. She is based in Dartmouth General Hospital and the Division of Hematology is pleased to welcome Mary-Margaret as a faculty member.



**Tony Lee** received his MD from the University of Toronto in 2004 and completed his Internal Medicine Residency in 2008 and his Adult Cardiology Residency in 2010, both from the University of Toronto where he was Cardiology's Chief Resident in 2009. He finished his Interventional Cardiology Residency with St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto earlier this year, and the Division of Cardiology is pleased to welcome Tony to their Division, and to Nova Scotia.

**Robyn Macfarlane** received her MD from Dalhousie University in 2005. She went on to complete her Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology Residencies from the University of British Columbia in 2008 and 2012. Earlier this year she completed a Genitourinary Tumor Site Fellowship at the BC Cancer Agency. The Division of Medical Oncology is pleased to welcome her back to the province as a faculty member.



**Jeremy Moeller** received his MD from Dalhousie in 2004. He completed his Neurology residency in 2009 from Dalhousie University and was the Division's Chief Resident in 2008. After joining Columbia University Medical Centre from 2009-11 to complete a fellowship in Epilepsy and Clinical Neurophysiology, the Division of Neurology is pleased to welcome Jeremy back to Nova Scotia as a Faculty Member.



**Kerri Purdy** graduated from medical school at Dalhousie University in 2005. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency in 2008 and her Dermatology Residency in 2011, both from Dalhousie University. She was the Department of Medicine's Chief Resident in 2008. Dr. Purdy is now working part time at Atlantic Dermatology Consultants at the Gladstone Professional Building. She also has a non-melanoma skin care clinic combined with the division of Plastic Surgery once a month and a weekly clinic at the hospital. The Division of Dermatology is pleased to welcome Kerri as a faculty member.

**Kimberly Styles** received her MD from Memorial University in 2005, and then completed her residencies in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Dalhousie. She was Chief Resident of Cardiology for 2010-11. The Division of Cardiology is pleased to welcome Kim as a faculty member.



Welcome to **Dr. Nabeel Baseer Samad** - Clinical Associate, joined the Division of Medical Oncology in September, 2011.

## AWARDS

**Dr. Nicholas Giacomantonio** was awarded the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association Young Alumnus award at their gala dinner on October 21. This is a great honor as it recognizes a physician whose work in clinical practice, teaching and/or research is already significant and widely known within the first two decades of their career.

Congratulations on promotions effective July 1, 2011:

### To Associate Professor

Dr. David Dupere  
Dr. Bakhtiar Kidwai  
Dr. Romuald Panek  
Dr. Christine Short  
Dr. Tallal Younis

### To Professor

Dr. Stephanie Kaiser  
Dr. Darrell White  
Dr. Chris Blanchard

25 year service (Meritorious Service Award) plaques were awarded to the following individuals in 2011.

- **Dr. David Bewick**, Saint John
- **Dr. Charles Maxner**, Neurology
- **Dr. Tim Benstead**, Neurology
- **Dr. Alexander (Sandy) MacDougall**, Neurology
- **Dr. Bill Sheridan**, Cardiology
- **Dr. Geoff Turnbull**, Gastroenterology

**Dr. Stephen Workman** received a Professional Kudos award from the Faculty of Medicine Professionalism Committee in June 2011. Professionalism is demonstrated by individuals who show in their actions and interactions with others:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Respect for Others    | • Compassion and Empathy  |
| • Honesty and Integrity | • Duty and Responsibility |

## SAD NEWS



The Department is saddened over the sudden loss of dermatologist, **Dr. Alexander (Sandy) H. Murray** on July 15, 2011. His patients have lost a wonderful, caring physician, and the dermatology community has lost a dear and respected colleague and friend who is greatly missed.



The Department was saddened to hear of the passing of **Dr. Earle Reid** on May 26, 2011. The Department has made a contribution to the ALS Society in his name.

